



## **Site Stakeholder Group**

Hunterston B Station Director's Report

Period: August to October 2020

## 1. Graphite update

In the period since the September SSG meeting the ONR approved a new graphite safety case for Reactor 4 at Hunterston B, allowing EDF to restart the station's second unit for a period of approximately six months. This followed the permission granted for the return to service of Reactor 3 in August.

Reactor 4 came back online on 27 September meaning the station's two units have both been running, generating low carbon electricity, for the first time since March 2018.

Work continues to set out the scope for the next set of graphite inspections which will take place when the reactors are taken back offline in March (Reactor 3) and April (Reactor 4) 2021.

The final safety graphite safety case, which will support operation of the two reactors until the move into defuelling by January 2022, is due to be sent to the ONR for assessment.

## 2. Defuelling and decommissioning

We continue to engage with the UK Government on a legally binding agreement for defuelling and decommissioning preparations at Hunterston B and the rest of the AGR fleet.

While those discussions are underway we are making good progress in preparing for starting defuelling by January 2022. The defuelling safety cases for the site are advancing well and we have seen some early success in increased fuel movement from one of our other sites.



Heysham 2 recently sent four flasks of spent fuel to Sellafield in a single day. During defuelling the average rate of dispatch for Hunterston B will be four flasks a week; the current average is one flask a week.

The Heysham 2 dispatch was a great demonstration of our ability to dispatch a larger number of flasks

and an achievement to build on.

Our previous SSG report outlined some initial timings for the submission of scoping reports to North Ayrshire Council and a period of consultation for some possible waste and storage facilities.

Following a review of our planning programme, we have paused progress on the scoping reports for the time being, with the intent of continuing engagement with the SSG and other stakeholders in early 2021.

We are keen to engage as widely as possible with the local community and would encourage you to let us know about groups beyond the SSG who may be interested in following the progress of defuelling and post-generation operations at the site.

## 3. Safety and Environment

### Station Industrial Safety Performance

Both reactors were successfully returned to service in August and September with no safety issues.

During the period the Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) increased to 1.5 as a result of two incidents relating to one of our colleagues slipping, which was covered in the previous report, and a scaffolder sustaining an injury whilst dismantling a scaffold. Both events were fully investigated with actions in place to prevent re-occurrence. The actions are focused on risk perception and will be supported by *Safety Leadership* training that has commenced fleet wide for all EDF and contract partner leaders, we are looking to complete the roll out of this training by Q1 2021.

Due to Covid-19 Lloyds Register carried out a delayed annual audit in August, which upon successful completion Hunterston B was awarded 45001 accreditation.

*ZERO Harm Week* ran from the 12 – 16<sup>th</sup> of October and covered a wide range of daily themes including mental health; roles and responsibilities, safety risks, health risks and travel safety which were well received across the EDF fleet. The *iA/ways* campaign has also continued with process safety (August), risk perception (September) and driving/workplace transport (October). On site an enhanced *Leaders in the Field* (LiFE) programme is being piloted to further increase safety surveillances and re-enforce good practices.

Covid-19 measures remain in place with routine meeting of the Site Pandemic Working Group and regular Fleet Pandemic Meetings. These teams review the local arrangements at Hunterston B based on local numbers and continue to reduce interactions on site, maintain social distancing and support other measures to minimise risk. This includes ensuring all non-essential site visits and training are cancelled and numbers on site are managed in light of the company process for risk. These measures are continuously reviewed based on government advice, local restrictions and community numbers.

### **Radiological Protection**

The radiation dose of each worker is assessed individually by an electronic personal dose meter. A computer database keeps records for each worker. Exposure is constantly monitored and ultimately compared with the levels specified in the Ionising Radiation Regulations (2017) which are the UK Health and Safety legislation that applies to work with radiation.

During the reporting period the Collective Radiation Exposure (CRE) was below plan (see table below). Collective doses are pre-planned on expected work for each year based on scheduled maintenance, outages and routine operations. A breakdown of dose received is shown below (along with a comparison of relevant dose statistics).

All work is fully reviewed and justified in order to ensure all doses received were ALARP (As Low As Reasonably Practicable). This involves justifying and optimising the dose, as well as remaining within those dose limits.

Differences between the actual and planned dose can be down to a range of factors including changes to the work programme, development of new techniques for carrying out work that will result in a lower dose and the deployment of new equipment. In this case the reduced work programme resulted in the actual dose being lower than the predicted.

<b>Radiation Dose to workers (Aug 2020 to Oct 2020)</b>	
Planned collective dose	10.2 man.mSv
Actual collective dose	8.1 man.mSv

	<b>Employee</b>	<b>Contract Partner</b>
Total Dose	5.8 man.mSv	2.3 man.mSv
Average individual dose	0.02 mSv	0.01 mSv
Highest individual dose	0.74 mSv	0.18 mSv
Individuals	375	265

Chest X-ray	Transatlantic Flight	CT scan	Average UK annual dose to public	EDF Energy Dose Restriction Level	UK legal dose limit for radiation workers
0.014mSv	0.08mSv	2.0mSv	2.6mSv	10mSv	20mSv

#### Explanatory notes:

- mSv: milliSieverts (SI unit of dose received by an individual)
- man.mSv: The collective dose for a group of workers (i.e. the total of the doses received by each member of a group).

### **Environmental Safety**

There have been no significant environmental events in the period.

Work is underway to make a repair to the primary containment for the aqueous discharge line. This line carries the permitted aqueous discharges from our operations, including the laundry, off site. Routine checks of an on-site manhole showed elevated levels in the secondary containment. The secondary containment is intact and there is no evidence to suggest any loss to the environment. Discharges have been limited but are able to continue under controlled conditions with no detriment to the environment. SEPA has been informed.

Radioactive gaseous and aqueous discharges arising from normal plant operations remain at levels well below those authorised by SEPA, with both reactors returning to service in September 2020.

The programme of off-site environmental monitoring and radiation surveys in the district has continued throughout the period and demonstrates that the radiological discharges from the station have a negligible impact on the local environment. Reports are made monthly and quarterly to SEPA, detailing the samples and results of analysis performed.

Work to process and package solid low level wastes has continued in the period as part of normal operations and consignments have been made to our regular partners.

### **Emergency Arrangements**

Emergency exercises and training have resumed at the site, in an adapted form. Our normal exercise programme sees workers come together on site during mustering and in emergency control centres making social distancing challenging. With the approval of the ONR, the 2020 assessed programme was cancelled to protect staff during the pandemic.

However, to ensure staff are maintaining their skills shift emergency exercises have resumed. The first exercise since the start of the pandemic took place in October. Two have now been held with three more to take place before the end of 2020. The exercises have been limited in scope (using simulations) and with reduced participation, where possible, to facilitate social distancing. Exercises are being conducted under Covid-19 restrictions, with risk assessments and additional precautions in place.

EDF is continuing to support work to ensure timely compliance with Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2019. The local authority published the Hunterston Off-Site Plan on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 which completes the Hunterston B REPPiR compliance activities and this utilises an interim DEPZ.

EDF has, as required, provided technical advice on the minimum distance necessary for the site's Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) to allow the local authority to make a decision on the appropriate area. There is no change to the risk profile at any nuclear site across the UK with the assessment based on continuous improvement and enhancements to the robust arrangements that are already in place. The Hunterston site Emergency Plan will be re-issued once the local authority make their final determination of the DEPZ, which is expected later this year/Q1 2021.

#### **4. Generation**

Since synchronising to the grid on 31 August Reactor 3/Turbine Generator 7 has operated continuously with one period of reduced load for refuelling in October.

Reactor 4/Turbine Generator 8 has been operating at optimum power since returning to the grid on 27 September.

#### **5. People**

The second round of Aspirational Conversations took place in September and October, following last year's initial round. These conversations take place between the line manager and individual and give every EDF employee the opportunity to talk about their aspirations and intentions for the future. This may be retirement, retraining to stay at site, moving to a role in another location or finding a position outside the business. The information will be used to support our employees by answering questions raised and to help inform the resource planning up to and through defuelling for Hunterston B and other locations.

Two training courses have also been developed in collaboration with the People Development team and Employee Relations Team. In September, the Managing Change workshop took place virtually over three two-hour sessions. It took place via Zoom and it covered topics such as understanding how to engage teams through change, building trusting relationships and communication. In October, a Leaders Policy training session took place virtually via Skype led by the HR Policy and Practice Manager.

Throughout November, the Station Director is speaking to each department and carrying out a virtual All Staff briefings. These are covering a range of topics such as recognising the work involved in the Reactor 3 and Reactor 4 start-up along with Covid-19 and defuelling updates.

Through work with the Generation Wellbeing Group we are introducing Mental Health First Aiders to Hunterston B. These volunteers will be trained by the Electrical Industries Charity and will be promoted on site to make people aware who is there if they wish to have a conversation. Mental Health First Aiders are there to listen non-judgementally and if required signpost to further help and support.

#### **6. Company Update**

##### **Graduation day for site apprentices**

Four Hunterston B workers are celebrating after graduating from their EDF apprenticeships.

Adam Bednall (24) from Kilwinning, Nicola Connell (24) from Largs, Caitlin Grant (20) from Irvine and Craig Walker (22) from Troon were presented with graduation certificates at a special socially distanced ceremony at the power station after successfully completing their four-year advanced modern apprenticeship with the company.

Dougie Graham, Maintenance Group Head, who presented them with certificates, said: "Times are challenging for everyone just now so it's good for us, as a station, to have something to celebrate.

"Many of EDF's management team started off their careers as apprentices so the value of learning about the business as well as developing a trade is clearly invaluable.

"It always gives me great pleasure and pride to see our apprentices develop during their time training.

"I would like to congratulate Adam, Nicola, Caitlin and Craig on graduating and for being a credit to EDF, Hunterston B and their communities. They have achieved so much over the past four years it is only right that we celebrate their achievements".



It was a double celebration for Caitlin, after she was also named as Hunterston B's apprentice of the year.

"Being awarded apprentice of the year for Hunterston B is an honour," said Caitlin.

"It feels like all my hard work and efforts have been recognised and I am really proud of myself. I am especially pleased to be able to share this honour with all the young women in my life in the hope it shows them they can achieve whatever they want in any career path as long as they work hard and persevere.

"I can't thank everyone enough who has helped me over the last four years during my time at HMS Sultan and my colleagues at Hunterston, I am so grateful for their support."

## New Station Director for Torness

Torness power station in East Lothian has a new Station Director after the previous holder moved on to a role in the South of England.



Tam Al-Bishawi stepped in as Acting Station Director when Robert Gunn announced he was to take charge at Sizewell B in Suffolk and has since been confirmed in post.

Tam has been with EDF since 2004, when he joined as a graduate trainee engineer, and has spent his time with the company in various roles at Torness and Sizewell B. In 2019, he was promoted to Plant Manager at Torness and has delivered best ever operational and safety results.

Tam said: "It's a real privilege to take on the role of Station Director at one of the UK's best performing nuclear power stations. I want to ensure that the site continues to safely generate enough low carbon electricity for up to 2.1 million homes a year and I know I have a great team here who will support me in doing this."

Robert Gunn leaves Torness for Sizewell B after spending 29 years at the site, including the last two and half of those as Station Director.

Robert said: "I'm looking forward to a new challenge in a new part of the country but I will miss the team at Torness who really are some of the top professionals in the industry."

During his 29 years at Torness, the site has generated enough low carbon electricity to power around 70 million homes and the carbon avoided compared to gas generation is the same as taking 41.9 million cars of the road.

### **EDF Renewables continues to expand solar interests**

EDF Renewables is planning to develop a 49.9 MW solar farm at Tye Lane near Bramford, which will be capable of generating enough low carbon electricity for the domestic needs of 9,690 households annually.

A number of ecological and other feasibility surveys have been carried out and the company is now consulting with local people about the proposal ahead of submitting a planning application before the end of this year.

Following the purchase of the Codling Wind Park of the east coast of Ireland to company has increased its investment in the country by acquiring Wexford Solar Limited which includes eight solar projects with around 100 MW of capacity across the country.

For more information about anything in this report or other station issues, contact:

Fiona McCall, External Communications Manager

Tel: 01355 846281

E-mail: [fiona.mccall@edf-energy.com](mailto:fiona.mccall@edf-energy.com)

Emma Horne, Visit Coordinator

Tel: 01294 826157

E-mail: [emma.horne@edf-energy.com](mailto:emma.horne@edf-energy.com)