

Site Stakeholder Group Report

Peter Evans, Hinkley Point B Station Director
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1. Safety and station issues



On behalf of the team at Hinkley Point B, thank you for giving me the opportunity to present my report and operational update.

I hope you are continuing to stay safe and well during these uncertain and extraordinary times. Who could have predicted during our last meeting back in February, things would turn out as they have and it would be our last face-to-face meeting of the year.

As I reported in an update sent to the Site Stakeholder Group on 8 June 2020, we first put our Pandemic response plans into place in January as a precautionary measure to the COVID-19 situation. Since then we have been working with the company and the trade unions to keep everybody safe and protect the site's emergency arrangements.

As well as following Government advice and guidance, you will be pleased to hear we have implemented a large number of additional preventative countermeasures to protect the workforce. These include:

- Formation of a Site Pandemic Working Group
- Remote working and split shift arrangements
- Partnership working arrangements with the company and occupational health on policy
- Determining the level of risk associated with our vulnerable and high-risk employees
- Enhancing hygiene and cleaning arrangements
- Introducing social distancing measures across the site
- Installation of thermographic cameras at the site entrance
- The purchase of COVID-19 immunity test kits
- Regular communications to station workers
- Producing return to work briefs and videos
- Established a 'new normal'
- Reminders on the importance to regularly use human performance tools
- Promotion of the 'Alongside You' portal to support wellbeing of our employees
- The purchase of a COVID-19 testing machine
- Establishing governance and oversight arrangements

This list is by no means exhaustive, and it gives you a flavour of some of the things we are doing to keep everyone safe. Despite the threat of COVID-19, we must not lose sight of the fact that Hinkley Point B continues to play a very important role in the country's critical national infrastructure, even with both units off line, and we have a responsibility to maintain the nuclear safety status of our plant and protect our emergency arrangements as well as help Britain towards net zero. Moving forward, we will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation both locally and nationally, and we are ready to adjust our arrangements as and when necessary.

Along with everybody at Hinkley Point B, I was desperately sad about the tragic passing of one of our own employees from COVID-19 back in April. It was a very difficult time for the whole Hinkley Point B family, and at the time we both offered and provided support to the individual's working colleagues and family.

In terms of our safety performance, I am pleased to report the station has not suffered any top tier safety events since our last meeting back in February. We measure our safety performance against top tier indicators and I am pleased to report that it has been over fourteen years since the last Nuclear Reportable Event at the power station, and over eleven years since the last environmental event. This fleet leading performance is comparable to some of the best performing nuclear power plants in the world. In terms of industrial safety, it has now been four and a half years since the station's last lost time incident to a member of staff, and over one year since the last lost time incident to a contract partner. Since the February meeting, there have been 11 minor first aid injuries at the site, all of a very minor nature.

As you are aware, both reactors at Hinkley Point B are currently shutdown following planned maintenance and graphite inspection programmes (reactor 3 was shutdown on 8 June 2020 and reactor 4 on 21 February 2020). I am pleased to report the results from the graphite inspections we undertook on both reactor cores (27 channels in reactor 4 and 36 channels in reactor 3) were within expectations and confirm the graphite is behaving exactly as experts predicted it would. We are now working on a new and detailed safety case which reflects the findings from these inspections and includes the results from other analysis and modelling to operate throughout 2021 and 2022. This new safety case needs to be vigorously reviewed and assessed by our regulator (Office for Nuclear Regulation), and to allow sufficient time for this to happen, we have moved our planned return to service dates for both units back to early next year. Based on our current estimates, reactor 4 will return to service on 26 February 2021 and reactor 3 on 12 March 2021. During this extended period, we will be taking the opportunity to carry out additional maintenance. At previous SSG meetings, I have explained how we have always known and understood the graphite that makes up the cores of our reactors change over time, and it's part of the normal ageing process of our reactors. We have invested over £200 million on the graphite research programme which benefits from the expertise of our team of specialists, as well as academics at several leading UK universities.

Station output for the period between 17 February 2020 to Thursday 15 October 2020 was 0.798 TWh (one terawatt equals 1,000,000 megawatts: one terawatt-hour represents one hour of electricity consumption at a constant rate of 1TW).

At an SSG Extraordinary General Meeting on Friday 31 July 2020, we indicated that we were intending to submit a scoping report to the local planning authority ahead of making a formal application for consent to build waste facilities on site at Hinkley Point B. While we still intend to make this application, the timing is under review and as soon as we have a new schedule agreed, I will let you know the timing.

In early August, Hinkley Point B successfully hosted an insight review by the Inspector General for Nuclear Safety and Radioprotection (IGSNR) and his team. Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and associated travel quarantine restrictions, a large proportion of this three-day review was conducted remotely via Skype. Two IGSNR team members, who are based in the UK, were present at the site throughout, and at the end of the review, the team gave positive feedback on everyone that was interviewed and the organisation. Simplification was one of the main themes to come out of the review, and we will continue to look at ways we can streamline and simplify our processes.

Auditors from Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance (LRQA) remotely completed their ninth annual LRQA surveillance at Hinkley Point B recently, and recommended the station's certification continues against the management system standards for Quality (ISO 9001:2015), Environment (ISO 14001:2015),

Occupational Health and Safety (OHSAS 18001:2007) and Asset Management (ISO 55001:2014).

2. Environmental update

Despite the pandemic, all compliance monitoring and reporting has been maintained as required, with only minimal disruption to analysis that requires the use of commercial laboratories. Recently the Environment Agency has completed an audit of our COVID-19 environmental arrangements, after which we received a positive endorsement of the significant effort placed in improving the station's resilience and in maintaining compliance.

Our first shipment of spent desiccant (radioactive waste) was completed in September. This was sent to a specialist radioactive waste processing facility in Dorset prior to its ultimate disposal. Following the transfer, anomalies were identified in the transport compliance paperwork and in the measured weights of each of the drums containing the spent desiccant. These anomalies affected the transport category for the consignment (controlled by the Transport of Dangerous Goods regulations) as well as the total activity recorded for the shipment. We are undertaking a full investigation into this event and are in discussions with the Environment Agency on the degree and nature of any non-compliance with the relevant Environmental Permit.

At the last SSG meeting I explained the circumstances regarding Hinkley Point B exceeding the Quarterly Notification Level (QNL) for C-14 gaseous discharges. Due to the operational restrictions on reactor 4, gaseous discharges have fallen more quickly than originally predicted and we are back within the QNL earlier than expected.

During the period we have continued to openly report all environmental issues on-site. There have been a small number of minor oil leaks associated with plant maintenance. These leaks were all contained by the site's protective plant and were subsequently cleaned up. None of these leaks resulted in a loss of oil to the environment.

No other events of environmental significance were recorded during the reporting period. As per normal process, all events on site that are of environmental interest are recorded and trended to determine the potential for improving our business activities.

3. Emergency arrangements

The ongoing Pandemic mitigation arrangements have dominated activity since the last report. In order to satisfy the mandatory requirements of some ongoing Emergency Scheme training such as breathing apparatus (BA) and First Aid, our trainers working with Industrial Safety, developed a training programme that enabled this to be completed safely while observing COVID-19 controls and then achieving full compliance. These adapted training methods were shared with other sites to help them with their own training.

On behalf of the fleet the station also demonstrated its arrangements for COVID-19 testing arrangements should there be an outbreak of the virus at Hinkley Point B. The exercise was a success, and we received good feedback from independent observers.

Since the February meeting, there have been three ambulances called to the site for individuals who have been taken ill at work. The fire service also attended the site on 19 May due to alarms raised by a fault on a Pressure Vessel Cooling Water (PVCW) pump which overheated, tripped in-service, and then activated the foam fire protection system.

On 2 March we took part in a helicopter evacuation exercise on the invitation of Avon & Somerset Police. This was an RAF-led exercise and simulated the safe evacuation of 60 power station staff via three helicopters in two tranches.

The new Radiation (Emergency Preparedness & Public Information) Regulations 2019 have been implemented, and a new off-site emergency plan (owned by Somerset County Council) has been issued, along with the simultaneous reissue of the site Emergency Plan. As part of this work, some minor changes have been made to the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) boundary, with the main highlights being: the arbitrary 3.5km line used to classify the DEPZ is now from the centre of 'B' station and not 'A' station, and the inclusion of six properties in Stogursey.

Before COVID-19 lockdown restrictions were introduced, we had completed our annual shift exercise season. The radiological scenario simulated an out-of-hours response to site by standby teams, and provided valuable learning for the organisation and other key participants.

4. Production statistics

For the period 17 February 2020 to Thursday 15 October 2020:

TWh (terawatt-hour) Production:

> Reactor 3	0.766
> Reactor 4	0.032

Number of channels re-fuelled on both units: None due to both units being shutdown

Number of flasks despatched: 19

Source: station records.

Reactor 3 was returned to service on Friday 10 April after a 41 day forced shutdown following an emergent water leak on the mulsifyre fire suppression system. The initial fault, which occurred on 27 February, affected all four mulsifyre pumps and the reactor was manually shutdown as per the technical specification requirements. Great cross-company working between the site and the design authority, structural integrity and civil design teams, helped not only to repair the original defect, but also to complete safety case related modification work on the decay heat system, which required the engineering and installation of restraints.

5. Staff

- > 493 full-time EDF Energy employees
- > 8 EDF Energy apprentices plus 9 ex-Horizon apprentices
- > 12 agency staff
- > 200 full-time contract staff

6. Community relations

Site visits

Due to the Pandemic and COVID-19 restrictions, in March we stopped hosting guided tours to the Hinkley Point B site. We also closed our visitor centre in Bridgwater's Angel Place shopping centre during the national lockdown, and as EDF was planning to move the centre later this year, we took the decision not to reopen it. In the meantime and as planned, the ownership and management of the visitor centre has been transferred to Hinkley Point C, and we are working with our new nuclear build colleagues to ensure the company's new state of the art visitor centre at Cannington Court is ready for this coming winter. Tours to both Hinkley Point B and Hinkley Point C are suspended until further notice, and opening arrangements will be reviewed again towards the end of the year.

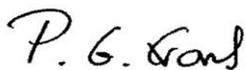
Sponsorship and Donations

EDF Energy continues to support local charities and organisations. Since the last meeting, beneficiaries have included:

- > Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival
- > Musgrove Park Hospital (High Dependency Unit)
- > Rhode Lane Wanderers Youth Football Team

Charity fundraising

Staff and contract partners at Hinkley Point B are continuing to raise money for EDF's charity partner, Prostate Cancer UK. Currently the power station tops the fundraising league of all EDF locations after raising and banking £3,942.77 for the popular charity. Since EDF launched its partnership with Prostate Cancer UK back in January 2020, the company has raised over £42,000.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'P. G. Evans'.

Peter Evans