

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.

It has been a challenging 12 months for us all as we have lived with the threat of the Coronavirus Pandemic, and I hope you are continuing to stay safe and well during these extraordinary and unprecedented times.

Since the last Site Stakeholder Group meeting back in October, we have further enhanced our COVID-19 mitigation arrangements at the power station and we have introduced additional measures to keep the site, our workforce and the community safe. We are continuing to work very closely with the company and our trade unions, and we have a unified and consistent approach in tackling the threat of the virus.

From the start of the Coronavirus pandemic, EDF and in particular the Generation part of the business has been industry leading in forward planning, preparing our sites, protecting our emergency arrangements, introducing testing processes, and investing in the technology to enable people to work remotely where they can. The company has also invested in two mobile LAMP (Loop-mediated Isothermal Amplification) laboratories at Torness and Sizewell B. Each has a processing capacity of up to 700 tests a day with a quick turnaround of results. Here at Hinkley Point B and immediately after the Christmas holiday period, we took the conservative decision to make use of these facilities and we conducted precautionary COVID-19 testing on all of our staff and contract partners working at the site. Undertaking a testing programme of this magnitude was a huge investment, and it was an additional measure we felt was worthwhile as it offered reassurance to all power station workers and their families.

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. We have a responsibility to maintain the nuclear safety status of our plant and protect our emergency arrangements, as well as helping 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.

With our safety performance, I am pleased to report the station has not suffered any top tier safety events throughout 2020 and this has continued into 2021. It has now been over fourteen years since the station's last nuclear reportable event and eleven years since the last environmental event and 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 five 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. On 11 November 2020, a restricted work injury occurred after a member of staff tripped on a grating walkway joint whilst accessing the Breathing Air training facility during a training exercise. The injured person stumbled onto their right knee causing bruising and a jarred back. Subsequently, the knee became swollen overnight and the individual worked from home the following day. I am pleased to report the individual has since made a full recovery and returned to the workplace later that month. In addition, since the last meeting there have been six minor first aid injuries at the site, all of a very minor nature.

Both of the station's reactors remain on extended shutdowns following graphite inspections. As reported previously, the results from the graphite inspections (27 channels in reactor 4 and 36 channels in reactor 3) were within expectation, and we submitted a new and detailed safety case (SS2) to the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) at the end of 2020. This revised safety case reflects the findings from these graphite inspections and includes the results from other analysis and modelling. To give the ONR further time to complete its work reviewing this safety case, earlier this month we reforecast our return to service dates. Subject to ONR approval, we aim to restart reactor 4 on 21 March and reactor 3 on 25 March.

During this extended outage period, we have been taking the opportunity to carry out additional maintenance and investment activities on the plant. We also made a commitment to ONR to fully drain, inspect and refurbish our back up feed system (BUFS) tanks during this double reactor outage and before we return to service. The role of the two BUFS tanks is to give us defence in depth with our operational arrangements and they provide the site with a reliable source of water for reactor cooling in the unlikely event of an emergency. Due to their significance, the only time this work can be completed is when both reactors are offline. The tanks have now been inspected in accordance with the current EEMUA 159 (Engineering Equipment and Materials Users Association) guidelines for above ground storage tanks. These guidelines specify the rigorous inspection routines, methodology, maintenance and refurbishment activities to be used to ensure such tanks are fit for purpose. EDF has worked with one of its contract partner companies, Altrad, which has provided specialist resource on the project. All of the inspection and refurbishment work has now been successfully completed on tank 2, and we will complete tank 1 after the end of generation. We are operating with defuelling in mind, and both of these tanks are fit for purpose until the end of generation and after all fuel has been removed from the reactors.

As you know, at end of last year EDF made the decision that Hinkley Point B will move into the defuelling stage of its life no later than 15 July 2022. This decision has brought clarity about the future to our people, business partners and the local community. It also signifies the generation end point for this power station after more than 45 years of quietly powering the nation with low carbon electricity.

Hinkley Point B has made a major contribution to the UK since it first synchronised to the national grid back in February 1976, and since then it has produced enough electricity to power every home in the UK for three years. It has also produced more than 300 TWh (terawatt-hours) of electricity – the largest amount generated by any nuclear power plant in the UK. Over its lifetime this station has helped the UK avoid the emission of millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide. I have been working at this power station for over a decade now, and without doubt my time at Hinkley Point B has been the most enjoyable of my career. As SSG members you have also been a central part of the station's journey and success over the past few years, and I know our openness, transparency and valued dialogue will continue as we approach and enter defuelling. Inevitably there was some sadness at the site following the announcement and there has been a recognition there is much change to come at Hinkley Point B over the coming months, however this is a moment to be proud of what we have achieved over the years.

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.

Finally, a big thank you to those of you who sent good luck messages and donations for my 26-mile

static charity row which I successfully completed on my 60th birthday for Prostate Cancer UK. As a proud Welshman being sponsored to do part of the row wearing an England rugby shirt made it that bit harder but I persevered and was thrilled to complete the challenge in just under four hours. Prostate Cancer UK is a vital charity raising money to support men with cancer and to undertake vital research into the illness and I'm delighted to have been able to personally raise over £9,400 for the cause and completely overwhelmed by the support people have given me. This is not how I ever imagined spending my 60th birthday but I honestly could not think of a better way than raising money for this important cause.

2. Environmental update

Despite the pandemic, all compliance monitoring and reporting has been maintained as required.

In our last report, we identified a number of anomalies with the first shipment of spent desiccant (radioactive waste) we sent to a specialist radioactive waste processing facility in Dorset back in September for final disposal. In response to this event, in December the Environment Agency issued the station with a Warning Letter for non-compliances with the site's Radiological Substances Regulations permit. We are taking this event, and the corresponding regulatory action very seriously, and we have completed a thorough internal investigation to identify the root causes and are making good progress with the identified corrective actions.

Our discharges remain at historically low levels reflecting the operational status of the power station.

During this period we have continued to openly report all environmental issues onsite. There have been a small number of minor oil leaks associated with plant maintenance. These leaks were all contained by the site's protective containment 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 of environmental interest are recorded and trended to determine the potential for improving our business activities.

3. Emergency arrangements

Working safely through the pandemic continues to dominate activity. The ongoing mitigations and controls in place to protect the healthy, protect the vulnerable and operate safely, while maintaining a safe workplace, are constantly being reviewed against the ever-changing circumstances of the pandemic.

Routine precautionary COVID-19 testing of shift and emergency scheme staff is in place with samples despatched to one of the two testing laboratories EDF has setup at Torness and Sizewell B. This testing process provides a quick turnaround of results and provides confidence to staff that the station remains a safe place.

Since the last report, there have been no instances of any emergency services being called to the site.

Where possible and with appropriate COVID-19 safety measures applied, emergency scheme training has continued. Planning for the 2021 shift exercise season is underway with the majority of the five shift exercises taking place in June. We will also be holding a Level One Emergency Exercise on Thursday 16 September and a security exercise on Wednesday 21 July. These exercises will be witnessed by members of the ONR and may involve the attendance of the emergency services. It is possible that the site siren will sound for these exercises.

4. Production statistics

For the period 16 October 2020 to 15 February 2021:

TWh (terawatt-hour) Production:

>	Reactor 3	0.00
>	Reactor 4	0.00

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

Number of flasks despatched: None.

Source: station records.

5. Station Events

On 2 December whilst carrying out control rod maintenance activities in the Active Maintenance Facility (AMF), technicians were supporting incoming checks of a control rod which had been removed from the reactor. Control rods consist of several segments each one linked with an articulating joint which allows some movement between segments. During preparations for an individual drop test, the bottom segment of one control rod was found to be stuck in the articulated position. The technicians attempted to straighten the segment with the remote manipulators, in line with normal articulation checks, and during this operation the bottom section of the control rod detached and dropped into the storage tube. A full investigation has been completed, and preliminary findings have indicated the joint was not the material specified in the design and has therefore failed prematurely.

Each reactor contains 81 control rods and under all operational conditions, the safety case for Hinkley Point B requires only a minimum of 26 control rods to be fully inserted into the reactor core to safely shutdown the reactor. Since the event, the station has undertaken a comprehensive examination of video footage taken from previous control rod removals and exchanges (48), and embarked on an inspection programme of control rod articulation joints in both reactors (10) and no further issues have been identified. We have informed ONR of the event, and we have kept them updated as our investigations have progressed. A safety case has been produced to support the return to service.

6. Staff

- > 504 full-time EDF employees

- > 8 EDF apprentices plus 11 ex-Horizon apprentices
- > 12 agency staff
- > 200 full-time contract staff

7. Community relations

Site visits

Due to the Pandemic and COVID-19 restrictions, site tours were suspended in March 2020. This position is regularly reviewed, and we will continue to monitor and comply with Government guidance to keep our people and the local community safe.

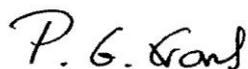
Sponsorship and Donations

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

- > The Trussell Trust
- > Changing Lives Charity
- > 'The Gift of Giving' – Homeless Shoebox Appeal
- > Bridgwater Wolves Under 8s Football Club
- > Wembdon Youth Cricket Club

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 £13,204 for the popular charity. Since EDF launched its partnership with Prostate Cancer UK back in January 2020, the company has raised over £108,024.

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

Peter Evans