



June 2021

Dungeness Site Stakeholder Group – EDF report



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1. Station Director's Message – June 2021

Defueling

You will all be aware by now that early in June EDF took the decision to move Dungeness B into defueling with immediate effect.

I know this announcement will have come as a surprise to many of you as, since the station came offline in 2018, we have been consistently saying that we hoped we would return the station to service within a matter of months.

And we had hoped to be able to do just that. Throughout this long period offline I have been constantly impressed by the determination of Team Dungeness to overcome issues. We have developed bespoke engineering solutions to challenges not experienced at any other nuclear plant in the world, we have persevered through a global pandemic and we have overcome issues we had not expected to face.

But we have not been able to overcome all of these challenges. Recent detailed analysis of the plant further highlighted additional station-specific risks within some of our key components, including parts within our fuel assemblies.

Unfortunately, even after many months of investigations, tests and modelling we could not guarantee that further works would resolve these challenges. Without this guarantee we have had to make the hard decision, to enter defueling.

This is the right decision for the plant because although it's a disappointment, and no-one is more disappointed about this than I am, nuclear safety will always be at the heart of what we do. It has driven everything this power station has achieved over many decades and throughout this long outage period.

I have stressed to all of our staff that each and every one of us must be proud of the huge amount of personal and professional effort that we have given to try to restart our reactors safely and compliantly. I am personally so proud to have been a part of Team Dungeness through this incredible journey – we could not have given any more of ourselves to try and return our reactor units to operational service.

The decision to move into defueling is the beginning of the next chapter in Dungeness B's story. Now that we have certainty on our future, we will be able to fully plan our defueling phase, a job that I expect to take several years, and one which will require many, many jobs for many, many years. I honestly could not wish for a more determined, flexible and resilient team to do this with.

Although this is the end of an era it's important to remember what Dungeness B has given The Marsh, Kent and the country. It has generated enough energy to power every home in Kent for more than 50 years. It has helped the UK avoid the emission of more than 50m tonnes of carbon dioxide. And it has provided a vital source of well-paid jobs for decades. These jobs, and locally awarded contracts, have meant that the station has put

more than £2bn into the economy here. This power station has made a massive difference to Kent and the UK and I hope you feel as proud as I do about that.

As a site we are looking back with pride and moving forward with heads held high as Team Dungeness.

Coronavirus

Over the past months we have continued to be vigilant to the risks of coronavirus. We continue to enforce social distancing and mask wearing across the site. Our careful approach has meant we have avoided any significant impacts on day-to-day operations.

We continue to take advice from company medical professionals, and colleagues at other stations, on measures proportionate to the risk seen in local areas.

Operations

We have begun our long planned 42 day fuel route outage. We are also planning the Reactor 21 statutory outage, which is due early 2022. It's important to remember that the defueling decision is about our long term future. In the meantime everything else we do to ensure Dungeness B runs smoothly, and crucially, safely, is continuing. Our teams will carry on maintaining the plant and completing upgrades where appropriate to ensure we are in the best state we can be when the full defueling work begins.

I'm delighted to be able to report that Dungeness has, in recent months, hugely improved in a number of key nuclear performance metrics.

In May we received the Fire Safety Focus Indicator (FSFI) score and for the first time in UK nuclear fleet history Dungeness was top of the table.

This was due to the success of an internal working group which for two years has constantly challenged staff to consider fire safety enabling the station to achieve the highest position in the UK Nuclear Generation fleet for fire safety performance.

Dungeness B is also now the leading site within EDF based on how its staff work to reduce unforced errors, which can impact the power station's performance.

Not only that we have also, as a station, significantly, improved our industrial safety score.

I believe all this improvement is down to the success of our excellent Professional To The Core performance programme. This scheme, which has been running right across station for 14 months, has brought focus to the job at hand, prompted us to review our actions while also bringing out the best in our teams.

2. Environmental events

Since the last report to the SSG in February 2021 there have been no environmental events to report.

3. Safety

We measure our safety performance against industry top tier indicators, including nuclear reportable events, environmental events and staff and contract-partner recordable injuries. Since the last report to the SSG in February 2021 there have been no safety events to report.

5. Company news

On June 23 EDF formally signed a contract with the Government to carry out the defueling of the UK AGR fleet.

The company's objective is safe and effective delivery of fuel-free reactors, ready for decommissioning by the NDA. EDF's unique experience of AGR technology, combined with Magnox and NDA experience in decommissioning, will deliver the best value to the UK taxpayer.

The deal is important because by 2030, all seven of EDF's AGR nuclear power stations will be at various stages of decommissioning.

4. Community relations

With our ongoing works and also the ongoing coronavirus issue, the focus at Team Dungeness has been very much on keeping everything going smoothly and safely. However some of our teams have also done their bit to raise money for our corporate charity.

At present everyone across the company is raising money for Prostate Cancer UK. My hope is that as the pandemic eases more of the traditional fundraising can resume. Our Materials Technician Jenn Tibbenham refused to let the pandemic slow her fundraising down and in May completed a fire walk for Prostate Cancer UK. Dashing across red hot coals saw her raise more than £200 for charity.



John Benn
Station Director
February 2021