



May 2022

Dungeness Site Stakeholder Group – EDF report



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Station Director's Message – May 2022

It is now almost a year since EDF announced Dungeness B would enter its defueling phase with immediate effect. A huge amount has happened in that time as our teams onsite have risen to the enormous challenge of steering the station towards the next step of its life, defueling.

Perhaps the most significant matter for us as a team, was the ONR lifting the enhanced regulation status. The regulator put Dungeness B into enhanced regulatory attention in 2018 due to identified shortfalls in the management of plant condition in relation to requirements of the safety case, and underlying shortfalls from expectations of leadership and culture at an operating nuclear power plant.

Since then the team at Dungeness has worked hard to turn things around. In 2019 we launched a performance improvement programme designed to transform the station's business, operational performance and safety culture. Twelve months later we launched Professional To The Core, our fleet leading behavioural improvement programme. And in February this year, ONR issued a letter confirming that Dungeness B could exit enhanced regulatory attention and return to a routine level of attention for safety.

This turn around was no easy feat and the fact it was achieved so quickly is a tribute to the dedication and hard work of TeamDungeness.

Storm Eunice

In February Storm Eunice hit Dungeness hard. However extensive preparatory work, including securing multiple parts of the station, meant that damage was limited.

Defueling

Work continues to prepare Dungeness B's safety case for defueling. As I'm sure you're aware because Dungeness B had planned to operate for several further years, work on development of the station's defueling safety case was not as advanced as some of EDF's other sites.

Usually it takes several years to prepare a station like ours for defueling. Thanks to the determination of those onsite, and the support of our technical colleagues at Barnwood, we remain on course to deliver those preparations and start defueling inside two years. We know it will take the ONR considerable time to assess our safety case but at this point we intend to submit it to the regulator by the autumn.

In February our long planned £37m full pre-defueling outage got underway. Part of this work includes significant work on the fuelling machine. This piece of equipment is what will enable the station to take the nuclear fuel out of the reactors so it is critical that it is in the best possible condition before our defueling works begin.

To prepare for this outage, every member of Team Dungeness was required to complete specific training so we were all as ready as we could be. Work on the fuelling machine started in earnest in April, when we had completed preparatory works and started to embark on the significant technical aspects of the outage. The work continues. Alongside this vital work the teams have also delivered a station wide outage which has seen them undertake major projects on our boilers, on the gas circulators and complete more than 7,000 tasks across the station.

Coronavirus

Over the past months we have continued to be vigilant to the risks of coronavirus. When appropriate we encouraged social distancing and mask wearing, on occasions where distancing could not be maintained, and our careful approach meant we avoided any significant impacts on day-to-day operations.

As restrictions started to be eased earlier in the year we have followed suit. Although our teams are now working largely restriction free we continue to closely monitor the local situation and to take advice from company medical professionals, and colleagues at other stations, to minimise risks where we can.

Beach feeding

Every year the station contracts a company to replenish the bund in front of the station which is shifted by the natural movement of the tides and storms through the year. The 2021/22 season saw the contractors move 19,000m³ of shingle inside 5 months. Planning is underway for the 2022/23 season.

Environmental events

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

Safety

We measure our safety performance against industry top tier indicators, including nuclear reportable events, environmental events and staff and contract-partner recordable injuries. There have been no lost time events recorded at Dungeness B since our report in November.

Dungeness B staff meet the Prime Minister



Three Dungeness B staff were called up to fly the flag for our industry at a special meeting with the Prime Minister.

In March Boris Johnson gathered representatives of the UK nuclear industry at Downing Street to discuss the UK's energy future and to understand more about the benefits a career in working in nuclear power can bring. The Prime Minister also asked to meet a number of apprentices from EDF sites.

Rebecca Godden, a fourth year Electrical Maintenance Apprentice from Lydd, Conor Raine, also an Electrical Maintenance Apprentice and from Lydd, and Apprentice Co-ordinator and Maintenance Team Leader Stuart Gallagher all travelled to central London for the event.

The trio did the station, company and industry proud and I'm delighted they had the opportunity represent us at the heart of Government in such a special event.



John Benn
Station Director
May 2022