Sizewell Stakeholder Group

Sizewell B report – January 2022

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1. Safety performance and staffing

Station Safety Performance

We measure our safety performance against top tier indicators, including nuclear reportable events, environmental events, and staff and contract partner recordable injuries. During the period of the report there have been:

- One recordable injury
- No nuclear reportable incidents
- No environmental incidents

On Friday 16 April 2021, during plant manoeuvres, a leak of hot water developed on a seawater cooling system heat exchanger in the Turbine Hall Basement, in the non-nuclear area of the power station.

Two individuals involved in alignment of the system were impacted by the leak, one of the individuals was transported to hospital as a precaution, was released shortly after and returned to work a few days later. The area was quarantined to facilitate a thorough investigation to understand the cause and identify actions to mitigate re-occurrence.

Staffing at Sizewell B

We currently have **529** EDF staff this includes **14** Apprentices, **2** Industrial placements, **5** Technical Trainees, and **8** Visitor Centre staff and 250 year round contracting partner's.

2. Operations

Sizewell B returns to service following refuelling outage

In August, Sizewell B power station returned to service following its planned refuelling and maintenance outage. The reactor and Turbine 2 at the power station were synchronised to the national grid at 08:01hrs on Sunday 22 August 2021, and Turbine 1 at 00:01hrs on Tuesday 24 August, returning the station to generating at full capacity.

As the station is returned to service, a number of tests are carried out where you may see and hear steam being released into the atmosphere. The steam is from clean water systems and does not present any threat to the public or the environment.

The power station was brought offline for planned refuelling and maintenance work which began on 16 April 2021. During that time a third of the fuel was replenished and thousands of maintenance tasks have been completed.

The station delayed the start of this particular outage and reduced the scope of work and number of contractors required because of the pandemic. However, significant work completed included replacing 15 thermal sleeves under the reactor pressure vessel head, maintenance of the steam turbines and generators, and routine servicing of valves, pumps, and motors, together with a full suite of testing to recommission the station and supply clean electricity for 2.5million people for another operating cycle.
Thermal sleeves are components which are located above the reactor in the pressure vessel head and provide no significant nuclear safety related function. In this instance, we found a worn thermal sleeve and we inspected all other thermal sleeves, as was already planned during this refuelling outage.

In line with normal practice, when the maintenance and refuelling work is complete at Sizewell B, we submitted a safety case to our independent Regulator, the ONR, seeking permission to restart which was only granted when the regulator was satisfied that it is safe to do so.

3. Sizewell B and community news

Dry fuel storage at Sizewell B

During routine sampling of spent fuel at Sizewell B an anomaly was identified in the form of a pin hole in the cladding of one fuel pin in one of the stainless steel dry storage canisters.

The fuel is safely contained inside the sealed steel canister which is located inside the fuel storage building on site and meets all station and regulatory requirements for storage.

We will continue to monitor the situation whilst our fuel experts on site work through the plan for resolving the issue. There is no threat to the safety of our employees, the public or environment, and the cask remains safely contained within our existing purposed built fuel storage facility.

Our independent regulator, the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and the Environment Agency, has been fully briefed.

Testing of Sizewell B Emergency Arrangements

Sizewell B will be testing our emergency arrangements again throughout 2022.

During the tests of our emergency arrangements we will need to sound our internal sirens - which you may hear and there may also be increased visibility of the emergency services during this time. EDF's Emergency Response vehicles, held at the Emergency Response Centre in Leiston, may also be used during these times.

We would like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience these tests may cause, but would stress that these are internal sirens for Sizewell B staff only and there is no need for you to take any action.

The exercises to test our emergency arrangements will be carried out on the following dates in 2022:-

- 27 April
- 04 May
- 01 June
- 08 June
- 20 July
- 07 September
- 14 September
- 21 September
- 19 October

Relocated Facilities at Sizewell B

A planning application was submitted to East Suffolk Council in Nov 2020. This planning application did not require developing in Pill Box Field and utilised brown field land from Sizewell A. This revised application was approved by East Suffolk Council in February 2021.

At present we are undertaking preliminary works and awaiting the discharge of planning conditions by East Suffolk Council.

Initial Construction works are expected to commence in the spring 2022.

Power station beds to help Suffolk's most vulnerable this winter

Suffolk based charity, Access Community Trust (ACT), has welcomed the donation of 100 beds, sleeping bags and pillows from Sizewell B power station.

The bedding will be used by ACT and other charities for the homeless that they work alongside.

Sizewell B brought the bedding as part of our business continuity plans in response to the pandemic. Fortunately, these were not used and our employees did not have to remain on site for long periods of time.

4. Company News

Decision taken to move Dungeness B into defuelling operations

EDF has decided to move Dungeness B nuclear power station in Kent into the defuelling phase with immediate effect.

Since September 2018 the station has been in an extended outage in which EDF has been managing a range of unique, significant and ongoing technical challenges that are not found at the other six AGR power stations. Although many have been overcome, new detailed analysis has further highlighted additional station-specific risks within some key components, including parts within the fuel assemblies.

As a result, EDF has taken a decision not to restart the plant but to move it into the defuelling stage. The final generation of electricity in 2018 means the plant ran for 10 years longer than its original design life, and in line with expectations when it was acquired by EDF in 2009.

Since it came online in 1983, Dungeness B has generated enough low carbon energy to meet the needs of every home in Kent for more than 50 years. The station has also helped the UK avoid the emission of almost 50m tonnes of carbon dioxide and contributed more than £1bn into the Kent economy.

Construction began at Dungeness B in 1967. It was to be the first of a new wave of UK nuclear power stations and has a design not copied anywhere else in the UK fleet. The plant connected to the electricity grid in 1983. The original design life was 2008 and this was extended following investment in the plant at that time and subsequently. In 2016 Dungeness had its best ever year, generating enough energy to meet the needs of some 2 million homes.

Defuelling is the first stage of decommissioning a nuclear power station and a process which involves continued use of EDF's uniquely experienced teams, and specialist supply chain companies, preserving an important source of jobs in Kent and the surrounding area.

Zero-carbon electricity generation ends at Hunterston B

Electricity generation at Hunterston B nuclear power station, in North Ayrshire, is ending after almost 46 years.

Since the station came online in 1976 it has produced enough zero-carbon electricity to power every home in Scotland for nearly 31 years. The carbon avoided by the station, when compared to gas generation, is like taking every car off Scotland's roads for 19 years.

Reactor 4 at the EDF-run site was shut down at midday on 7 January 2022; 45 years, and 11 months after the station started producing electricity.

EDF has been consulting with staff about their futures for the past two years. The majority of staff indicated they would like to continue working at Hunterston B. Every member of staff who said they wanted to stay has been successful in securing a role through defueling.

Some staff have been supported to move to other EDF sites and some have opted to retire.

The station's other unit, Reactor 3, was taken off line in November 2021.

Both reactors will now undergo a statutory outage to make sure they are ready for defueling. Defueling is when all the nuclear fuel is removed from the reactors and safely transported by rail to Sellafield for storage. It is expected that defueling at Hunterston B will take around three years.

Under the terms of a contract agreed with UK Government in June 2021, EDF will carry out defueling at all seven of the UK's Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor (AGR) stations before the sites are transferred to the NDA for its subsidiary Magnox to continue with decommissioning.

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