



November 2022

Dungeness Site Stakeholder Group – EDF report

Station Director's Message – November 2022

I'm Gavin Lancaster and in October I was appointed Station Director at Dungeness B. My sincere thanks go to John Benn who has now departed for an exciting opportunity abroad. His work here at station and with this SSG will be a tough act to follow.



It is great to be back here at Dungeness. I'm sure some of you will recall I was Plant Manager here from 2019-2021 and led the efforts to bring the station back online. In mid 2021 I was seconded to EDF's Sizewell B Power Station to assist with efforts to resolve a technical problem hampering the station's return to service.

After that I moved to run the West Burton A coal fired power station in Nottinghamshire. It was an interesting environment to work in and provided the opportunity for lots of learning. I've arrived back at Dungeness B at a vital time. Our defueling preparations are well in hand, those works are underpinned by an amazing performance by the team here to get us plant ready for defueling and we are reshaping our teams to reflect the new ways we'll have to work to deliver defueling.

It is a fascinating time to be here at Dungeness and I'm looking forward to meeting you all once again.

Technical updates

Safety case

- As you all know, to run operations at a nuclear site requires a safety case from the Office for Nuclear Regulation. Preparing a safety case for defueling operations is a significant piece of work which usually takes several years. We at Dungeness B have completed preparing the case inside two years. It's something we are extremely proud of. Our safety case is now with the ONR for consideration. We remain hopeful we can have the case approved and start defueling operations next year.

Outage update

- In February we embarked on our pre-defueling outage. This piece of work was created to get us plant ready for defueling. Since we started we have worked on our gas circulators, boilers and the fueling machine – with most of the major works now complete. In total the team has completed more than 15,000 separate tasks and the plant is looking good.

Staff

- As well as being plant ready for defueling we need to be people ready. Since arriving at site I've been holding regular business briefings for our teams so everyone is aware precisely what needs to be done for us to be ready for the challenges ahead. But we also need to ensure that our people are ready – as a consequence we have held specific conversations with everyone on plant to identify what they want from Dungeness B and to ensure we have the right people in the right roles. This also allows us to identify areas where we may need to fill roles in the future.

Coronavirus

- We have continued to be vigilant to the risks of coronavirus. 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. We have also encouraged our staff to ensure they get the flu vaccine this year. With warnings from healthcare professionals that this could be an unusual flu season it is vital we are as protected as we can be.

Environmental events

- The station received a warning letter from the Environment Agency in October following commissioning tests of a small generator and boiler. The station had been given 48 hours to complete these tests but issues during the testing period meant further running was required, taking the issue outside of the agreed EA permitted time. There was no environmental impact from this event but the station has worked with the Environment Agency to ensure the necessary controls are put in place to prevent repeats of this.

Safety

- We measure our safety performance against industry top tier indicators, including nuclear reportable events, environmental events and staff and contract-partner recordable injuries. In June a contractor suffered a foot injury whilst working in the main cooling water (MCW) pumphouse. As we do with all such incidents, we are working with ONR to investigate and learn lessons from the event.

Gavin Lancaster
Station Director
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