Site Stakeholder Group

Hunterston B Station Director's Report

Period: February 2021 to April 2021

1. Defuelling and decommissioning

We continue to engage with the UK Government on a legally binding agreement for defuelling and decommissioning preparations at Hunterston B and the rest of the AGR fleet and anticipate conclusion of that agreement in the coming period.

At a site level, we have been working closely with a range of stakeholders, including the regulator, to identify and agree the primary activities required to start defuelling the reactors following the end of generation. This includes the delivery of two new defuelling safety cases along with a number of related plant modifications to enhance reliability. These activities will be the focus of the Defuelling Preparations Programme over the coming months.

2. Safety and Environment

Pandemic Response arrangements in response to Covid-19

Each of our UK sites is assigned a pandemic risk rating which is dependent upon the Covid-19 infection rates on site or in the surrounding local area. The ratings have a five stage tiered approach; with 1 being the lowest and 5, the highest. Each risk level has a suite of actions that we can enact to help prevent further risk.

On Wednesday 21 April, following consultation with the Fleet Incident Management Team, in conjunction with the company doctor, Hunterston B moved from Risk Rating 3 to Risk Rating 2.

Enhanced control measures continue to apply on site including:

- An appropriate face covering must be worn in all internal areas at all times, with the exception of:
  - those exempt for medical reasons
  - when at a work site where social distancing can be maintained
  - when seated at a table to eat or drink
- New criteria for self-isolation applies. This is based on key symptoms as defined in the updated Company Policy, in addition to the Government mandated self-isolation criteria.
- Visitors to site and travel to other locations is restricted.

This is being kept under review should escalation to Risk Rating 3 be required.

Station Industrial Safety Performance

The current industrial safety focus, on site and across the fleet, is on Risk Perception in response to themes from safety events last year.

Safety leadership training for all EDF and contract partner leaders and team safety meetings are being carried out on the theme with topics being covered like Asbestos Management, Outage Safety, Fire Safety and PPE.

The Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) at site remains around 1.6 as a result of two incidents in 2020. Both events were fully investigated with actions focused around risk perception put in place to prevent re-occurrence.
Work is taking place on maintaining building fabric with a cross-functional working group set up to review our building structures and make improvements to protect against building fabric damage from adverse weather.

In April, Lloyds Register Quality Assurance (LRQA) attended site to undertake the annual review of our arrangements. Re-certification was successfully retained for all areas assessed and new certification gained for another.

Radiological Protection

The radiation dose of each worker is assessed individually by an electronic personal dose meter. A computer database keeps records for each worker. Exposure is continuously, monitored and ultimately compared with the levels specified in the Ionising Radiations Regulations (2017) which are the UK Health and Safety legislation that applies to work with radiation.

During the reporting period the Collective Radiation Exposure (CRE) was below plan (see table below). Collective doses are pre-planned for each year based on scheduled maintenance, outages and routine operations. A breakdown of dose received is shown below (along with a comparison of relevant dose statistics).

All work is fully reviewed and justified in order to ensure all doses received were ALARP (As Low As Reasonably Practicable). This involves justifying and optimising the dose, as well as remaining within those dose limits.

Differences between the actual and planned dose can be down to a range of factors including changes to the work programme, development of new techniques for carrying out work that will result in a lower dose and the deployment of new equipment. In this case, the reduced work programme resulted in the actual dose being lower than the predicted.

Radiation Dose to workers (Feb 2021 to April 2021)		
Planned collective dose	16.0 man.mSv	
Actual collective dose	5.08 man.mSv	
	Employee	**Contract Partner**
Total Dose	3.82	1.26
Average individual dose	0.010	0.005
Highest individual dose	0.21	0.06
Individuals	375	229

Chest X-ray	Transatlantic Flight	CT scan	Average UK annual dose to public	EDF Energy Dose Restriction Level	UK legal dose limit for radiation workers
0.014mSv	0.08mSv	2.0mSv	2.6mSv	10mSv	20mSv

Explanatory notes:

- mSv: milliSieverts (SI unit of dose received by an individual)
- man.mSv: The collective dose for a group of workers (i.e. the total of the doses received by each member of a group).

Environmental Safety

There have been no significant environmental events in the period Feb 2021 to April 2021.

Radioactive gaseous and aqueous discharges arising from normal plant operations remain at levels well below those authorised by SEPA, with each reactors being shutdown alternately for graphite inspection work.

The programme of off-site environmental monitoring and radiation surveys in the district has continued throughout the period and demonstrates that the radiological discharges from the station have a negligible impact on the local environment. Reports are provided monthly and quarterly to SEPA, detailing the samples and results of analysis performed.

Work to process and package solid low level wastes has continued in the period as part of normal operations and consignments have been made to our regular partners.

Emergency Arrangements

A peer-assessed exercise, which tested the response to a counter-terrorism scenario, took place in March in preparation for May's Level 1 assessed exercise. All command centres and responders performed well, although one of the areas for improvement identified was the preparation for the Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams' arrival on site.

Shift emergency exercises were cancelled in Q1/Q2, with the exception of one in February which was executed with skeleton command centres. The programme will recommence in Q3 with five exercises taking place before the end of the year.

Confirmation of the redetermination of the DEPZ has been received. The Hunterston On-Site Emergency Plan has been reviewed and approved by ONR for approval.

3. Generation

Reactor 3/Turbine Generator 7 operated continuously until 5 March when it was safely shut-down for a planned graphite inspection outage. Following regulatory approval, the unit was returned to service on 23 April for a final six month run.

Reactor 4/Turbine Generator 8 operated continuously until 26 March when it was safely shut-down for a planned graphite inspection outage. The plan remains to return the unit for a final six month run before end of generation by 7 January 2022. This will be subject to graphite inspections within expectations.

4. People

We have launched a physical People Hub which hosts similar information to the online version. The new hub offers the benefit of meeting space, tablets and computers and is an area away from the working environment where people can access information to help them to make informed choices as they prepare for the future.

At the start of May, Paul Forrest briefed staff via Skype on the generic defuelling structures. Department Managers have carried out further briefings with their departments to talk through the structures and answer department specific questions.

During the reporting period we received the results of the Employee Engagement Survey (EES) and the Nuclear Safety Culture Survey (NSCS).

The NSCS results improved in every area except two, which remained the same. The EES results showed a similar picture which is positive in the context of the end of generation announcement and the impact of Covid-19. Managers have analysed department results and briefed their teams. Each department has an agreed action plan (which includes employee feedback) and will continue to focus and monitor the plans throughout the course of the year.

There have been some Management Team appointments in the last couple of months with Yvonne Moreland appointed as Finance Manager and Allison Adamson as the Technical and Safety Manager. These changes have been managed in accordance with our Management of Change process.

5. Company Update

Hunterston B manager finds his pedal power

A senior manager at Hunterston B power station has completed an impressive charity challenge to raise money for EDF's charity partner Prostate Cancer UK.

Plant Manager Joe Struthers, 42, took on a virtual cycle and raised more than £2600 in the process.

Joe, who lives in Largs and has worked at Hunterston B since 2000, began his cycle on 30 November with the aim of paying a virtual visit to eleven EDF sites across the UK - a total of 2291km.

The virtual tour took him from North Ayrshire to Lancashire then on to Gloucestershire, followed by Somerset, Kent, Suffolk, Nottinghamshire and County Durham then back home via East Lothian and South Lanarkshire.

Joe completed the challenge at the power station on 4 March with support from colleagues via Skype and additional fundraising took place on site with a dress down day and gate collection.

Joe said: "To give context, I am not a cyclist, in fact I don't even particularly enjoy cycling! At the start, I was unfit, and keen to lose some of the weight I put on during the first lockdown, so an exercise challenge seemed like a great idea at the time.

"As well as improving my own health and wellbeing, I wanted to raise as much money as possible for Prostate Cancer UK. The effects of prostate cancer on individuals and families is absolutely devastating, so I'm keen to do anything I can to raise awareness, and to raise money to help fund lifesaving research and support services."

In total, Joe spent 69 hours in the saddle to complete the challenge.

EDF is in the second year of its three year partnership with Prostate Cancer UK. One in 8 men will be diagnosed with the disease in their lives. The charity funds research and provides support for those affected.

Torness reactor back online following £25m outage

One of the reactors at Torness power station is back generating low carbon electricity following a successful maintenance period.

Reactor 1, at the EDF station, has returned to service following a £25m investment programme during which more than 14,000 separate pieces of work were carried out.

A number of important projects were successfully completed including the replacement of the low-pressure turbine rotor, turbine valve inspections and detailed inspections of the graphite core.

At its peak, more than 850 people were present on site including visiting contractors. Despite this, both industrial and Covid safety were maintained.

Covid was a particular focus of this outage, which had been postponed from summer 2020 to allow for better arrangements to be introduced nationally and at site.

EDF acted early to introduce stringent protective measures including social distancing, mandatory face masks, thermographic cameras and working from home, where possible, which have helped keep on-site rates consistently low.

The company also invested in mass testing capability and required visiting contractors to register a negative test before entering site as well as at least weekly testing for all those working there.

Station Director, Tam Albishawi, said: "Outages are always planned scrupulously to ensure they run well and we took the same approach to managing Covid during an outage.

"As well as putting in place a strict testing regime, we ensured the enforcement of social distancing, regular hand washing and mandatory mask wearing on site. I am glad that the measures we put in place kept rates so low keeping people on site and in the community safe.

"In addition to tackling the usual big maintenance projects the team have also inspected the reactor's graphite core as part on an on-going inspection programme happening at each of our station and these checks have confirmed that all is as expected.

"Everyone involved worked really hard to make sure we were able to deliver one of our best ever outages and I am delighted that the unit is back online and helping Britain achieve net zero."

In 2020 Torness power station generated enough low carbon electricity to power 2.6 million homes; that is more than the number of households in Scotland. The station employs more than 500 full time staff and around 250 full time contract partners to ensure the safe reliable generation of electricity.

For more information about anything in this report or other station issues, contact:

Fiona McCall, External Communications Manager
Tel: 01355 846281 E-mail: fiona.mccall@edf-energy.com

Emma Horne, Visit Coordinator
Tel: 01294 826157 E-mail: emma.horne@edf-energy.com