

Hinkley Point B power station

March 2019 monthly report

Introduction

This is our latest monthly report, sharing news with our local community stakeholder groups and local councils. This forms part of our commitment to being an open and transparent business. These reports are also available to all members of the public at www.edfenergy.com. This newsletter covers

February 2019.

Safety update

We measure our safety performance against top tier indicators, including nuclear reportable events, environmental events, and staff and contract partner recordable injuries. It is now over twelve years since we experienced a nuclear reportable event, over nine years since our last environmental event, over three years since the last employee lost time incident, and over one year since our last contract partner lost time incident.

Working at height prosecution

On Friday 1 February EDF Energy attended a sentencing hearing at Taunton Crown Court where the company was fined £200,000 plus legal costs relating to an incident at Hinkley Point B in April 2017, which resulted in injury to a Doosan Babcock Ltd employee – as reported in previous newsletters.



This followed an earlier hearing at which the company had submitted a guilty plea to a prosecution brought by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. The incident was an industrial health and safety matter involving a fall, and was not associated with any radiological risk to workers or the public.

After the hearing, Hinkley Point B's Station Director, Peter Evans, said "Firstly, I am very pleased that the person involved in the accident continues to recover. We pride ourselves on the safety of our operations; it is at the heart of everything we do. However it is clear from this incident that we failed to live up to our own high standards.

"We fully accept the decision of the court and we are sorry that this incident happened. Safety remains our overriding priority and nobody should come to work to be hurt. We are a company that cares about everyone working at our sites and will do everything we can to learn lessons and to stop this happening again."



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Station generation

Reactor 3 / turbine 7 has been on-line since 9 June 2018, and operated at nominal full load throughout February.

Reactor 4 automatically shutdown on Sunday 17 February following a loss of condenser vacuum. (Note: - the function of the condenser is to turn steam back into water after it has been through the turbine, and this water is then used again in the boilers). The loss of condenser vacuum was caused by an anomalous valve actuator pressure setting, and the unit was safely returned to service on Thursday 21 February. This shutdown was rated as level 0 on the International Nuclear Event Scale (below scale and of no safety significance). Events on a nuclear site are rated according to the International Nuclear Event Scale (INES), which is rated from 0 to 7, with 7 being the highest.

Apart from this short shutdown and the desynchronisation of turbine 8 on 7 February to release static friction in the generator rotor windings following bearing vibrations, reactor 4 / turbine 8 has operated at nominal full load throughout the period.

Statutory outage to begin on Friday 8 March

Looking ahead, we are planning to shutdown reactor 3 in early March to commence its statutory outage. A statutory outage happens once every three years for each reactor, and essentially it is a huge maintenance and inspection programme. One thousand extra workers will be joining our usual workforce, with the outage scheduled to last around ten weeks. Together, they will carry out 12,000 separate pieces of work – each carefully planned during the last two years of preparation. In addition to standard maintenance and the installation of new equipment and plant, the extensive programme of work will also include detailed inspections inside the graphite bricks that make up the reactor's core. As always the outage is planned in advance with the National Grid to ensure that there is no impact on the national electricity supply.

Station news



New leadership room opens

A new leadership room at Hinkley Point B has been formally opened by Station Director, Peter Evans.

The room, which is located at the front of the reception building, was commissioned following feedback from a series of leadership continuing training sessions which took place in 2018. The purpose of the room is to provide leaders with a space where they can talk amongst themselves, work along-side their peers and spend some time together.

At the formal opening, Des Uminski, Hinkley Point B's Technical and Safety Support Manager, said: "This is a fantastic facility which we are really lucky to have, and it is a room that can be used by the many talented people on site to discuss and debate their leadership experiences."

Hinkley Point B featured on national radio

In February BBC Radio Five Live presenter, Nihal Arthanayake, visited the site and recorded interviews with Hinkley Point B employees in advance of a live broadcast from Hinkley Point C planned for the following day.

The broadcast formed part of a long term focus on energy issues in the UK and covered topics including: nuclear as part of our energy mix, innovations, training and skills and the economic benefits of HPC.

Community news

Sponsorship and Donations

EDF Energy continues to support local charities and organisations. Since the last meeting, beneficiaries have included:-

- Arthritis Care, Bridgwater & District
- Bridgwater College Academy
- Bridgwater Half Marathon
- Bridgwater Operatic Society
- Bridgwater Pantomime Society
- Bridgwater Parent Support Group
- Carhampton Recreational Group
- Inland Waterways Association
- Kilve Village Hall
- Marion Evered Trust
- Musgrove Park Hospital (Triscombe Ward)
- Rhode Lane Wanderers FC
- Surviving Winter
- Sydenham Netball Club
- Westfield United Reformed Church
- Weston Hospice



Company news

Smart technology supports independence

EDF Energy and Howz have joined forces to launch a non-intrusive [smart home monitoring system](#) that uses movement sensors, smart plugs and Internet of Things (IoT) technology to give anyone the ability to live independently for longer.

Research commissioned by EDF Energy and Howz also helped shed a more positive light on the 70+ generation by showing that an overwhelming majority want to maintain their independence in later life, and key to achieving this is sticking to a routine

Determined to empower the over 65s, the two companies recently launched their monitoring system which is designed to recognise a routine, and send alerts when the user starts to deviate from their normal day, a common tell-tale sign that something might not be quite right.

Béatrice Bigois, Managing Director, Customers for EDF Energy said: "We can all identify those parts of the day that are just second nature to us, like that morning cup of tea or the trip to the shops.

"For this older generation, being able to maintain these routine activities has a beneficial impact on their feeling of independence.

"Working with Howz we can identify a daily routine and use this as a way to monitor health and wellbeing, ultimately supporting that all important independence."



Next community meeting

The next Site Stakeholder Group meeting will be held on Friday 8 March 2019 from 10:00 hours to 13:00 hours at Hill House, Otterhampton.

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