

Community Forum 14 May 2020

Extract from the Meeting Note – Draft for Members.

Pre-submitted question:

3.5

“How is EDF going to join/connect the cooling water tunnels 33 metres below the floor of the Severn Estuary, 3 kilometres out, with the cooling water intake heads which are 1 metre above the sea bed? A seemingly very tricky feat of engineering with the tunnelling machines abandoned under the sea bed?” - submitted by Allan Jeffery, Green Party

David Eccles (DE) first questioned the basis of the question with regards to it being ‘tricky’. DE said that the job is undertaken by highly experienced professionals who undertake these procedures successfully and safely more often than one would imagine.

The Head units will be transported across the Bristol Channel by barge and lowered onto the seabed with two of the largest offshore cranes in the world in a tandem lift. Once on the seabed a shaft will be connected in the central shaft opening of the Head unit and dewatered. This shaft will remain protruding above the sea at all tidal ranges, stopping any water entering the excavation area. An excavator will then be placed in the shaft and excavate down to the level of the tunnel below. The head unit will be placed slightly off centre of the tunnel, and the team will create a horizontal tunnel to connect to the main tunnel structure, which has been created by the TBM, to the vertical shaft from the Head.

Afternote - Diagram of the offline connection:

