

Minutes of the Hartlepool LCLC Dec 7 2022 Training Centre 2 Hartlepool Power Station

In attendance

In Attendance

Mark Lees – EDF, Station Director Hartlepool Power Station (Meeting chair)
Kirsty Hopkinson, EDF HR Manager Hartlepool Power Station
Sharne Lane, EDF Internal Communications Hartlepool Power Station
Tania Percival, EDF Emergency Preparedness Engineer Hartlepool Power Station
Louise Taylor, EDF Visitor Centre Co-ordinator Hartlepool Power Station
Ross Nuttall, EDF ENSA Group Head Hartlepool Power Station
Jamie Moss, EDF Environmental Safety Hartlepool Power Station
Sarah Clarke, EDF Industrial Safety Support Hartlepool Power Station
Ann Oxley – Teesmouth Field Centre
Clare Shakespeare Watts - Teesmouth Field Centre
Clare Gubbins - Teesmouth Field Centre
Martin Green – Local Resident
Heather Moorhouse – North Yorkshire County Council
Scott Redpath – Office for Nuclear Regulation
Daniel Knight – Freedom
Ken Dixon – Stockton Borough Council
Robin Beach – Hartlepool Borough Council Emergency Planning Lead
Bob Buchan – Hartlepool Borough Council Councillor
Matthew Pardo - EDF External Communications Manager

Apologies received from

Chris Stocks – PD Ports
Jon Davenport – Environment Agency
Stuart Smith – Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Jenn Gant - Hartlepool Borough Council

Introduction



1. After a brief welcome, and introductions, Mark Lees handed over to the Teesmouth Field Centre for the meeting's first substantive update.

Teesmouth Field Centre

2. Clare Gubbins explained that the Teesmouth Field Centre's main concern was recovering from changes forced upon it since the covid outbreak but that the team was now accepting visitors back into the centre.
3. She reported that since covid restrictions were lifted the centre has hosted 37 school groups and 1240 visitors in total.
4. She discussed how important it is for children to have this opportunity to visit because, as some children reported to them, some had never had the chance to visit Teesside's beaches.
5. She thanked EDF for its ongoing support of the field centre.
6. Heather Moorhouse asked what communications were available to advertise the field centre.
7. **ACTION** Jamie Moss said he would discuss communications options.

Hartlepool Power Station update and operations information

8. Mark Lees discussed Hartlepool Power Station safely generating seven terawatt hours of electricity in 2022 – enough to meet the electricity needs of every home in the Tees Valley for six years.
9. He discussed how the station continues to support the country in challenging times, by safely and reliably producing electricity.
10. He said that electricity generation in the UK had changed significantly in recent years. He stressed the intermittency of solar and wind power meant that people were turning to nuclear to help supply the UK. He said that staff at Hartlepool would doubtless end up working at the company's new power stations at Sizewell in Suffolk and Hinkley in Somerset, because that was the way the industry worked. But, he said, others' focus on Hartlepool as a possible location for new nuclear was also very exciting and he reflected that new development posed an exciting opportunity for staff at Hartlepool. He also discussed fluctuating power prices.
11. He told the attendees the station was due to begin defueling in 2024, and that this would take around four years. After this decommissioning would take place and therefore there was still many years of work to be completed at Hartlepool Power Station.

12. He also mentioned how graphite inspections had shown that the station's reactor cores are performing well, meaning there could be a possibility of a lifetime extension. He asked Scott Redpath of the ONR, who agreed this could be a possibility.
13. Heather Moorhouse asked how much of the equipment at station was bespoke.
14. Mark told the meeting a huge proportion of the equipment onsite was standard equipment for a power station.

Other Plant Matters

15. Jamie Moss told the meeting it has been almost 10 years since the last tier one environmental event.
16. He told how since the last meeting there had been two Environment Agency inspections, one covering management of waste and another on the monitoring of waste. The station was fully compliant for both.
17. Jamie Moss explained how the station uses Taprogge balls. How the balls are used in pipework to clean surfaces and how these can sometimes wash up on neighbouring beaches following backwash events.
18. He passed around samples of the Taprogge balls so attendees could see what they look like.
19. He said if a discharge of balls occurs there is an alarm to notify the station, and that the station reacts to this, carrying out two daily beach walks to collect any balls that wash up.
20. He explained how there was no release of these in November following a backwash that occurred.
21. Jamie explained how he, as part of the station's environment group has a meeting with Natural England three times a year to discuss environmental issues through the partnership for nature.
22. Mark then discussed some minor injuries, neck strains and leg injuries that had occurred onsite since the previous meeting.
23. Martin Green questioned these and asked if there had been more than usual and if so, if there was a reason for this. Mark responded that most were avoidable, and some were behaviour related.
24. Tania Percival spoke to the group about emergency planning. She mentioned the different exercises carried out since she has had taken over the role, including lockdown exercises and a Level 1 exercise, which received a rating of adequate from the ONR.
25. She also mentioned, in response to a question raised at the last meeting, that EDF regularly tests emergency scenarios around flask transports.

26. Robin Beach of Hartlepool Borough Council then discussed national exercises which have taken place involving Hartlepool. He said the exercises focussed on emergencies prompted by high tides and blackouts. Responses to such events involve Cleveland Police, NHS England, among other partners, and would often require the use of satellite phones. He referenced previous exercises testing how emergency responses could be delivered during an electricity blackout and said a further test was due to be staged in March 2023.
27. Ross Nuttall mentioned that health physics monitors are on call 24/7 if any radiation monitoring was required and that all of those trained have carried out RADS SAFE training. RADS SAFE is a series of arrangements in which specialists in radiological safety can be called upon to help emergency services deal with radiation incidents.

28. Kirsty Hopkinson, HR Manager, talked about the number of staff onsite, explaining there are approximately 500 EDF staff and 200 contract partners.
29. She explained that over the last two years there had been a shortfall in recruitment and the total number of employees onsite.
30. To rectify this shortfall, there have been 45 new starters in 2022 with another 25 expected in 2023.
31. She told the meeting the station is preparing for the end of its generating life by carrying out formal conversations with employees. The results indicate that 98% want to stay in Hartlepool - the other 2% were mainly staff that will retire.
32. Heather Moorhouse asked about the apprenticeship programme at Hartlepool and Kirsty explained that the station would be continuing with the programme from next year.
33. Louise Taylor talked about the visitor centre re-opening on Wednesday and Thursdays. She said that it has had 42 visits so far, with 250 guests.
34. She also said that the Crucial Crew, as raised at the last meeting, was due to restart in 2023 with the station opening the visitor centre doors for the event once again in the summer.

Regulatory Issues

35. Scott Redpath spoke about how it has been a busy year for the ONR and station with many changes in personnel.
36. He mentioned that most inspections carried out by the ONR had been rated green. However, he said, the station's Pressure System Safety Regulation (PSSR) compliance was rated red when inspected in March. This ultimately resulted in ONR issuing the station an improvement notice. Scott added that since then the station has worked hard in dealing with the issue and that it is

now compliant with PSSR. The ONR will carry out another inspection in April to ensure the station is compliant.

37. He also spoke about the deferral of the statutory outage from November 2022 to June 2023.
38. He ended by speaking about the recent Level 1 exercise. This was based around a terror threat to the station. Mark described the exercise as a challenging scenario and said it was impressive how well the station performed as a team.

AOB

39. Martin Green asked about the station selling Fair Trade products in order that Hartlepool could continue to hold Fair Trade Town status.
40. **ACTION** Louise Taylor would see if the canteen could provide Fair Trade catering in future.
41. Matthew Pardo discussed the Terms of Reference circulated for the group. They were adopted. He also discussed results of a survey of members at the meeting about future meetings. He said responders to the survey favoured keeping the

meetings at the power station, meeting twice a year, during office hours with a mix of physical and online meetings. Future meetings could be considered at other locations, as raised as an action during the previous meeting, and other organisations, notably the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, could be invited to future meetings to explain how they will interact with the station and the group in the future.

42. During the course of the meeting, other actions created at the last meeting were individually addressed. 1) Sarah Clarke of EDF was taking minutes and 2) The offer to run a tour for members of the LCLC was repeated with members urged to consider their availability for a tour in the spring.
43. Mark Lees thanked participants for attending and closed the meeting.