Torness monthly report
January 2015

Introduction

We are keen to hear the views of our local communities. We recognise that good communication is a two way process and we welcome your feedback and comments. While we will do our best to always use plain English, talking about our business sometimes involves specific terminology, and you will find a glossary of any terms used at the end of each monthly report.

Safety

- The station had zero lost time incidents (LTI) during the reporting period and EDF Energy staff have had 2,204 free days up to 30 January (more than 6 years) and contract partners have had 203 LTI free days up to 30 January.
- The station had no emergency services call outs during January
- There were three minor first aid injuries at the station in January
- The station had no environmental events during January and has gone 1,445 days without an environmental event (almost 4 years)

Station output

Reactor 1 and reactor 2 were both operational for the whole month.

One flask containing spent fuel was safely transported to Sellafield for reprocessing during the period.

Station news

From unusual birds to beautiful butterflies and wildflowers, there is something for all wildlife enthusiasts in the habitat around Torness nuclear power station.



Most people who think of Torness nuclear power station will picture a big grey industrial plant producing enough electricity to power more than two million homes. But there is more to this well known landmark than meets the eye. It has just been awarded the Biodiversity Benchmark by the Wildlife Trusts for all the hard work done to protect and enhance the unique and diverse wildlife around the East Lothian site.

The EDF Energy power station is right next to the Barns Ness Coast which is a site of special scientific interest (SSSI) and is teaming with all kinds of special wildlife. You can regularly see yellow wagtails catching insects in the grass verges of the roads next to the station. In fact the birds even breed here.

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Two years ago new nest boxes were quickly occupied by some tree sparrows and in the spring there are some very special guests, a pair of peregrine falcons raising their young. During winter the inter-tidal areas of Skateraw Bay attract wading birds like curlews, redshanks and oystercatchers.

It is not just about the birds though. There are wildflowers like northern marsh orchids, bird's-foot-trefoil and knapweed in the grasslands around the station. There are at least 16 species of butterfly to be seen as well, including the wall brown and small heath species.

Torness nuclear power station director, Paul Winkle is thrilled with the award, "This wildlife survives here thanks to the employees at Torness and with the help of East Lothian Council's biodiversity team and the countryside ranger service. We work closely together to ensure these fantastic birds and plant life are looked after properly and will be here for people to enjoy for years to come.

"I would recommend a good walk along the Torness coastal walkway which runs between Skateraw Bay and Thorntonloch to see some of this fantastic wildlife. The walkway is part of the John Muir Link footpath."

Peter Dorans, corporate relations manager for The Wildlife Trusts said "I am delighted that we are able to recognise the fantastic work that EDF Energy has done at Torness. Wild places and our ability to access them are vital to our wellbeing. This award just goes to show that with partnerships and careful management wildlife can thrive, even alongside key energy infrastructure.

"Our assessor was particularly impressed with the work that EDF Energy has done with local farmers to enable them to add to the efforts on site. This site completes the set, every EDF Energy Nuclear Power Station has now achieved The Wildlife Trusts Biodiversity Benchmark. This is no mean feat, it's a tough standard so very well done to everyone involved"

Christine Blythe, EDF Energy's biodiversity manager said, "We are very pleased with this fantastic award. Torness is home to some special and rare wildlife. We are committed to protecting and enhancing biodiversity working in partnership with other conservation organisations and this award recognises our work in fulfilling that commitment.

The Biodiversity Benchmark enables organisations across the country to assess the standard of their conservation management, improve their environmental management procedures and demonstrate their commitment to enhancing biodiversity in support of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. It is composed of a set of detailed requirements which an organisation must be able to meet.

All seven of EDF Energy's nuclear power station sites across the UK have now been awarded the Biodiversity Benchmark

Company news

EDF Energy announces 10 more years for Dungeness B

EDF Energy has extended the expected life of its Dungeness B nuclear power station by ten years. This means it is due to continue generating low carbon electricity until 2028, producing enough power each year to supply the equivalent of 1.5m homes.

The decision has been made possible by a £150m investment programme to extend the life of the station. It comes after extensive reviews of the plant's safety cases and work with the independent nuclear regulator, the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). The station will also be subject to continuing independent safety reviews by the ONR.

Improvement projects at Dungeness B have already included a £75m upgrade to control room computer systems and £8m on enhanced flood defences.

The life extension at Dungeness B is part of a wider EDF Energy programme to extend the lives of its eight nuclear power stations.
Based on the expected life extensions, all seven AGR stations will be operating in 2023 when the new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point C is due to be commissioned, subject to a final investment decision.

EDF Energy invests £40M in maintenance programme at Hinkley Point B

One thousand extra workers have joined the workforce at Hinkley Point B for its planned maintenance shutdown.

This team will carry out 12,000 separate pieces of work – each carefully planned during the last two years of preparation.

The extensive programme of work will also see inspections inside the reactor, as well as installation of new equipment at the plant. The biggest projects include replacing two large gas circulators which help cool the reactor, as well as replacing blades on the turbine which is used to turn steam into low carbon electricity.

The maintenance periods known as 'statutory outages' take place every three years and are planned in advance with the National Grid to ensure that there is no impact on the national electricity supply. Hinkley Point B's other reactor is due to continue operating normally throughout the period.

Hinkley Point B station director, Mike Harrison, said: "This inspection and investment programme has been carefully planned over the last two years and will enable us to continue safely generating low carbon electricity at Hinkley B for many years to come."

Next local community meeting

The Local Community Liaison Council meeting will be held on 19 March 2015 at Torness power station.

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Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
Nuclear reportable event or incident	Nuclear reportable events are events reported to the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) in compliance with EDF Energy's nuclear site licences.
Environmental event or incident	Environmental events arise from wastes or discharges above permitted levels or breaches of permitted conditions.
Outage	A period during which a reactor is shut down. The periodic shutdown of a reactor including for maintenance, inspection and testing or, in some cases,

	for refuelling is known as a planned outage. In the UK, some planned outages are known as statutory outages and are required by the conditions attached to the nuclear site licence needed to operate the station. Unscheduled shutdown of a reactor for a period is known as an unplanned outage.
Unit	A unit refers to one of the reactors at the power station and its generating turbine.
LTI	When a member of staff injures themselves at work, and is absent from work for one day or more, this is referred to as a lost-time incident (LTI)