



Hartlepool Power Station Local Community Liaison Committee Minutes Wednesday, December 6



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Attendees

Mark Lees – EDF, Station Director Hartlepool Power Station (Meeting chair)
Kirsty Hopkinson – EDF HR Manager Hartlepool Power Station
Sharne Lane – Internal Communications Hartlepool Power Station
Andrew Wilson – Quality Management Group Head Hartlepool Power Station
Louise Taylor – Visitor Centre Co-ordinator Hartlepool Power Station
Steven Tomlinson – Tech and Safety Manager Hartlepool Power Station
Jamie Moss – Environmental Safety Hartlepool Power Station
Sarah Clarke – Industrial Safety Support Hartlepool Power Station
Matthew Pardo – EDF External Communications Manager
Ann Oxley – Teesmouth Field Centre
Martin Green – Local Resident
Robin Beach – Hartlepool Borough Council Emergency Planning Lead
Gil Parker – Alice House Hospice
Jon Davenport – Environment Agency
Sarah Dunn – Environmental Safety Hartlepool Power Station
Bob Buchanan – Hartlepool Borough Council
Stephen Smith – Greatham Parish Council
Michelle Bendelow – Stockton Borough Council

Apologies

Scott Redpath – Office for Nuclear Regulation
Chris Stocks – PD Ports
Lesley Miller – Cleveland Police

Introduction

1. Hartlepool Power Station Director Mark Lees discussed the day's safety message, on expectations when using absorbent matting, there was a good discussion around this.
2. The actions from the previous meeting were discussed, and both were closed out.

Station Director Update

3. Mark spoke about how the still growing interest in the nuclear sector and how the industry was expected to continue growing over the coming years.
4. He discussed how the Hinkley Point C project in Somerset continues to progress and how EDF is also pushing for the development of a replica project at Sizewell in Suffolk.
5. He went on to discuss extensive external interest in Hartlepool as a site for nuclear new build. He said that investors, developers and politicians were all interested to visit the site and see what could be done on the sites that are available. He added that the Government continues to assess the best

options for new nuclear, and has recently set to work assessing a shortlist of companies interested in developing smaller scale reactors.

6. He then spoke about the busy six month period for the power station and the teams that work here. He focussed on the recently completed statutory outage on Reactor 2. This regularly scheduled maintenance period had been substantially extended in scope after the company extended the lifetime of the station in March.
7. Mark reported that the works had lasted a total of 110 days, finishing in late October, because there had been more work to do and because during the outage issues had been identified with parts of plant that needed attention before return to service. Also during the outage period the station had not had as many contract partners onsite as had been required. Together these issues meant that extra time and effort was required to return Reactor 2 to service.
8. It was also reported that significant investment had been made in the plant during the outage, more than £9m on a new turbine, to allow the power station keep generating until March 2026.

Safety and staffing

9. During this section Technical and Safety Manager Stephen Tomlinson also discussed the outage and how during the period there had been 700 extra people on site, and over 16,000 tasks completed.
10. He mentioned some minor events that occurred, which were mainly due to situational awareness, and three more serious accidents, all of which could have been avoided.
11. Stephen also spoke about the outage safety team that was specifically created for the outage and the substantial value the team brought to the period, with their daily safety walks and making themselves available to answer any queries.
12. HR Manager Kirsty Hopkinson mentioned how this was the first outage for 100 EDF employees at Hartlepool Power Station.
13. She spoke about plans for 2024 recruitment and how EDF will be employing skilled staff, apprentices, graduate and industrial placements.

Environment

14. Jamie Moss of the Environmental Safety Group discussed that it has now been 10 years and 11 months since the last major environmental event at the station.
15. He told the meeting how during the recent statutory outage period there was an Environment Agency inspection on solid radioactive waste, but that the company was awaiting the final report.
16. He discussed initiatives being undertaken at the station recent to further boost the company's net zero credentials. He also updated on how recently accumulated marine wastes go to an anaerobic digestion plant.

17. This supports energy production, and in doing so offsets further UK CO2 releases.
18. Jamie also spoke about EDF securing re-certification of its biodiversity benchmark and that there were no station specific observations from the national audit process.
19. Jamie also discussed the issue of Taprogge balls on Tees' beaches. He explained the station's work to retrieve the balls. He also discussed working with the Environment Agency, other Government agencies and the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust to further understand where balls are being found and to support EDF's efforts to recover the balls.

Emergency preparedness

20. Andrew Wilson discussed emergency preparedness and said 2023 had been a successful year.
21. Over the 12 month period there has been 13 emergency exercises, seven of which were during the outage, there was one Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) assessed exercise and one EDF fleet assessed exercise, which the ONR also attended.
22. He mentioned several scenarios tested during exercises, including incidents involving fires, issues to do with the station's fuel route and tests of security arrangements. He stressed the site continues to enjoy good support from all emergency services.
23. Martin Green asked if there was any training on offsite flask emergency scenarios. Andrew Wilson commented that this element of the arrangements is tested but not publicised by EDF as it is not an EDF exercise. Robin Beach also commented that RADSAFE, the arrangements for radiation incidents while materials are in transport, training is carried out across the North East.
24. **ACTION** Andrew Wilson to check with EDF fuel route if the company holds seal pressure testing equipment onsite.

Community engagement

25. Louise Taylor told the meeting how the station marked the power station's fortieth birthday in August, with both on and offsite events.
26. She spoke about how the visitors centre celebrated 10 years of being open in November, and how in that time 18,000 people have visited, with 1,000 people alone in 2023.
27. She mentioned how over the course of the year Hartlepool Power Station and staff have donated £25,000 to charities including the Teemouth Field Centre, Alice House, Andy's Man's Club and to a number of sporting groups.
28. Gil Parker from Alice House said a massive thank you to EDF for all of the company's support.

29. Louise also said EDF supports national charity Prostate Cancer UK and that the company had collectively raised more than £600,000 for the charity since 2020.

Environment Agency

30. Jon Davenport discussed how, apart from the Taprogge ball releases, there had been no reportable/notifiable environmental incidents since the last meeting and that the station's discharges had been consistently within permitted limits.
31. He mentioned that the station however has been non-compliant with data sent to the EA, with mistakes on documents sent through.
32. He also spoke to the group about how parts of the station's equipment had been impacted by sprats and the EA is working with the station to look into ways of deterring the fish from station systems in the future.
33. He spoke about Taprogge balls, and the station's ongoing work to deal with ball releases when they occur.
34. He said that the positive changes to radioactive waste management practices earlier in the year were seen as good practice and were resilient to the stress-testing of the stat outage.
35. He mentioned that the EA and the Food Standards Agency have just published the most recent RIFE Report (Radioactivity In Food and the Environment) on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk), detailing the impacts from nuclear sites' discharges on people and the environment.
36. Martin Green asked if other Sites have Taprogge issues. Jon answered that Hartlepool is the only nuclear site that uses these balls, but that other sites in the North East do use something similar.
37. Jamie Moss commented that EDF had recently had approval for dive teams to attempt to collect the balls from the seabed, and that this approach will be trialled in the future.

Teesmouth Field Centre

38. Ann Oxley told the meeting about a stall they had at the Tall Ships event where they spoke to over 700 people.
39. She commented that from September to the end of November 2023 the centre had 889 pupils and 129 adults visit. The centre also had eight bookings for December and Leeds RSPB annual visit will also take place during the month.
40. Finally, she thanked EDF for their support as sponsorship allows the centre to keep running.

41. AOB

42. Robin Beach mentioned a smell of gas around the Hartlepool area and told the meeting how there is an ongoing investigation to work out where this is coming from.
43. There was discussions on the next meeting, which is due to be held on the 5th June 2024, and the possibility of this being held externally. **ACTION** Matthew Pardo will look into this.
44. Mark Lees thanked participants for attending and closed the meeting.