

Meeting: Heysham Local Community Liaison Committee (LCLC)

Meeting Date: Thursday 9th January 2025

Version: 1.1

1. Attendees

- Mike Davies – HY1 Station Director (meeting chair)
- Martin Cheetham – HY2 Station Director
- Giles Kay – HY1 Technical & Safety Manager
- Kate O'Hagan – HY1 Defueling Preparations Manager
- David Shelton – HY1 Environmental Compliance Coordinator
- Steve Bryan – HY2 ESG Group Head
- Charlotte Hall – HY2 Environmental Safety Group (ESG) Industrial Placement
- Kate Stewart – External Communications Adviser
- Sarah Marshall – HY2 Internal Communications and Community Liaison
- Beverley Scott – Heysham Visitor Centre Station Guide
- Chris Caney – Lancashire County Council – Senior Emergency Planning Officer
- Nina Barnes – HY1 ONR site inspector
- David Hackney – HY2 outgoing ONR site inspector
- Shaun McKenna – HY2 incoming ONR site inspector
- Daniele Brannigan – HY1 EA Inspector
- Kate Simpson – HY2 EA Inspector
- Cllr Colin Hartley – Lancaster City Council - Heysham South Ward
- Cllr Margaret Pattison - Lancaster City Council / Lancashire County Council
- Cllr Alan Greenwell - Lancaster City Council - Silverdale Ward
- Kirstie Banks-Lyon – Lancaster City Council - Resilience & Community Safety Officer
- Steven Wood – Employer Engagement Manager - University of Cumbria
- Abi Lucy-Lloyd – Engagement Manager - Lancaster University
- Jon Powell – Head of Enterprise and Innovation Services – Lancaster University
- Daniel Braithwaite – Principle – Lancaster & Morecambe College

2. Introductions

- Mike Davies (MD) introduced himself as the Station Director of Heysham 1 Power Station (HY1) and LCLC chair, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.
- Martin Cheetham (MC) introduced himself as the Station Director of Heysham 2 Power Station (HY2).
- MD led the safety message on the weather and driving conditions.

3. Apologies for absence

- Mark Prada – Editor - Local Choice Magazine
- Carla Brayshaw – Director - Aqua Engineering
- Mo Kelly - Local resident
- Cllr Roger Cleet- Lancaster City Council - Heysham North Ward

4. Actions from last meeting

- Kate O'Hagan to give overview of AGR lifecycle in this meeting

5. Life Extension

- MD shared that in December 2024 HY1's lifetime was extended for a year until March 2027, alongside sister station Hartlepool.
- MD reminded members that this is a rescheduled LCLC (usually in November) to enable the lifetime extension to be discussed.
- The decision to extend the lives of all four of EDF generating stations was taken following a series of EDF executive, board and shareholder meetings. A further review of Heysham 1 and Hartlepool is set to take place, subject to the results of some significant inspection milestones in the coming year.
- The extension is brilliant news and MD shared that he is proud of the work that's been carried out to enable it to happen.
- Announcements of this nature will always be first and foremost based on technical considerations, but MD notes our staff play a huge part in building our reputation.

- MC echoed this positive news, sharing that HY2's lifetime has been extended by two years to 2030, alongside sister station Torness.
- This was undoubtedly fantastic news for our staff, all stations involved, our central functions, our local communities, and UK energy security.
- MC shared that the ambition is for both sites to generate beyond the revised timelines, but a focus will be maintained on making informed and conservative decisions based on the current best available information.

6. Station Directors' (SD) Reports

Heysham 1 Station Director's report - Mike Davies

- MD mentioned that while this report focuses heavily on the seven-month period since the last meeting, he'll use this as an opportunity to reflect on the year.

Safety

- Since the last LCLC meeting in May, there was one significant personal injury where a member of staff injured their back while turning a valve. This was a muscle strain injury sustained whilst positioning themselves for the task and not related to the position or condition of the plant equipment itself.
- MD noted there were 18 accident book entries in 2024, 17 of which were minor.
- On one occasion an operative injured their fingers and required stitches.
- We actively encourage the reporting of any accidents. HY1 safety starts with the small things.
- There were two high potential events, a small piece of concrete fell from a ceiling and an external valve component failed. Both were investigated thoroughly, and improvements made.
- MD mentioned that planning is underway for the 2025 statutory outage in September and highlighted that outages remain periods of higher risk due to extensive work and an increased workforce on site.
- We have set a high bar with our outage safety performance, and our challenge is to maintain that record.
- No significant radiological safety incidents occurred since the last LCLC or in 2024.
- There were no significant environmental events since the last meeting or in 2024.
- During 2024, there were three environmental permit non-compliances. Whilst these events are disappointing, each had very low or no environmental impact. These were thoroughly investigated and self-reported to the environment agency.

- In May a small discharge of radioactive particulate was detected from a radioactive discharge stack. The discharge was well within permitted limits and had minimal offsite dose impact.
- In June a leak from a buried foul water line on the site was identified. The leak impacted only the local buried ground and posed no offsite environmental impact. Subsequent work to inspect the rest of the underground network has largely been completed with further work continuing into 2025.
- In August there was a small chemical leak from a tanker delivering Dimethylamine (DMA). The leak was contained and diluted with wash water to the local sump before being discharged through the site drainage network. With the high levels of dilution there was no environmental impact.
- We are permitted to discharge DMA in significantly larger quantities, but not as a result of a leak. An investigation was completed and improvement actions identified.
- It's been over 12 years since the station's last significant environmental event, a record we are very proud of, and we look forward to continuing this high standard.

Emergency Preparedness

- MD explained that since the last LCLC a full shift exercise programme has been completed. This forms part of our yearly exercising calendar which will conclude following our Peer Assessed and ONR Level 1 Demonstration in early 2025.
- In the last month we have invested £180k in new firefighting PPE as part of our continued facilities and equipment programme and we donated our old kit to a charity who will repurpose the fire equipment to countries in need of support.

Generation and outages

- MD noted that following the valve failure in December last year (that was discussed at the previous meeting) and the resulting impact on generation early in the year, we have had good operational performance since both units returned to service.
- During this period, we successfully delivered a planned refuelling outage on Unit 2 in just over 18 days, versus an initial plan of 14 days.
- This was followed by one on Unit 1 in September and we safely returned to power in 21 days, ahead of the original plan of 24 days.
- With this positive performance since March, 5TWh of safe, reliable generation was successfully achieved on 11th November. That is enough to power 1.2 million homes.
- We started our final planned refuelling outage on Unit 2 on 25th November. This required work to be carried out in the National Grid substation (by National Grid) which extended the initial planned duration to 18 days.
- During the outage we identified turbine valve high temperature fasteners that needed to be replaced, delaying the return to service date to January.

WANO

- WANO Peer Review in July: We had more than 25 peers (experts from WANO and other nuclear power stations across the world) visit the station for three weeks to observe work, attend meetings and interview people on site to identify gaps to excellence and good practice.
- We received six AFIs (areas of improvement) – a reduction from the 11 we received on the last visit in 2020.
- The WANO team collectively recognised the significant improvements delivered since and this feedback is recognition of how much we've developed in recent years.
- As well as AFIs the peer review also sees WANO award 'strengths', of which we were given three. This can lead to us hosting benchmarking visits and helping other sites who are seeking to address shortfalls associated with these topics.

People

- HY1 continues to recruit, supporting early career pipelines and experienced people with existing skills.
- We have had approximately 40 new EDF starters join the station in 2024.

- In November, we held our second careers event of the year aimed at early careers schemes. Over 230 people attended, and the event was a great success.
- We continue to form relationships with local colleges and universities to develop our own employees and widen their skillset for the future.
- Engagement with the North West Nuclear Hub, to support the National Nuclear Strategic Plan for Skills.
- This is a collaborative joint-working approach with civil/defence nuclear organisations and education providers to strengthen skills within the sector.

Outreach

- The Visitor Centre remains very busy and the demands for visits are high.
- In the last few months of 2024, the main focus for the Visitor Centre was to have made contact with all local secondary schools, with a view to organising tours, attending assemblies and careers fairs.
- There have also been many visits from schools – both primary and secondary – local and further afield, universities and other large groups, as well as the EDF CEO.
- Some exciting events have taken place including the apprentice open day, ‘bring your family member to work’ days, and there are lots more planned for this year.
- Visitor Centre staff will attend Lancashire Science Festival and will host a trip from a group of French foreign exchange students.
- Staff also showed their festive spirit, delivering Christmas cards (written by station staff) and chocolates to local care homes in December.

Questions

- MD was asked what the statutory outage for and is it on both units.
- MD replied that it is planned to commence on 15/09/25 and will be 80 days in duration, it won't be both units, the other unit will still be generating.
- Giles Kay (HY1 Technical and Safety Manager, HY1) added that an outage is a bit like an MOT on your car, we do the work so we can extend the life of the plant and generate for longer.

Heysham 2 Station Director's report – Martin Cheetham

Safety

- Since the last LCLC meeting in May, there were three high potential events.
- Nobody was injured and they were immediately investigated, Equipment that was the same or similar to the equipment involved in the events was inspected at other stations across the fleet.
- These events were all found by personnel on walkdowns which is an excellent example of our strong reporting culture, which we continue to encourage.
- MC noted that we have recorded 18 entries in the accident book since our last meeting in May, all of a minor nature, including small hand abrasions and sprains.
- During the last meeting, we spoke about the increasing trend in working at height events at HY2. We responded by developing a working at height roadshow for all our plant touching teams. I am pleased to report that we have seen a significant improvement in this area since.
- We launched phase two of ‘Our Safety Essentials’ campaign in October last year, just before we held a full week of safety initiatives as part of our Zero Harm Week.
- Wellbeing continues to be an essential element of our health and safety strategy.
- Our outage in January will mean long days for our workers with time away from family and friends, especially for our transient workers from further afield. We have a full plan of wellbeing events ready to be implemented to support our workforce.
- There were no significant radiological safety incidents since the last meeting.
- There were no significant environmental events since the last meeting.
- There were some minor environmental permit breaches in 2024.

- In March 2024, a monthly report of radioactive discharges was sent to the Environment Agency late, resulting in a technical breach of our permit. We have now changed our process to prevent reoccurrence.
- We have had three fluorinated greenhouse gas leaks from high-voltage switchgear. The most significant of these were on our Unit 7 and Unit 8 Generator Transformers, both of which have now been repaired.
- In July 2024 we found corrosion on one of our auxiliary boiler discharge stacks during a routine inspection. There was no impact on discharges, and we have now made repairs to the stack.
- In November we reported an over-dosing issue with ammonia in our feedwater. We are confident that there was no environmental impact from this event and will be sharing the output of our investigations with the Environment Agency this month.
- It has been over nine years since the station's last significant environmental event, and we look forward to continuing this level of environmental performance.

Emergency Preparedness

- MC highlighted the successful completion of all the Shift Training Exercises was completed between September and October 2024.
- The theme for the 2024 / 25 exercise programme is 'Nuclear Emergency' with scenarios testing the stations' ability to respond to nuclear emergencies with the potential to impact both station personnel and more widely, members of the public.

Generation and outages

- In June, we reached a big generation milestone of 300TWh of safe, reliable generation since we first started generating in 1988.
- The only site in the UK to have produced more is Hinkley Point B in Somerset which ended generation on 311TWh in 2022.
- In 2024, we had three Off-Load Depressurised Refuelling Outages and two Graphite Inspection Outages. The results from the Graphite Inspection Outages were within our expectations.
- Our thirteenth statutory outage on Reactor 7 starts on 13th January. We will invest £35m to support future generation. This will be supported by an additional 800 transient contract partners joining our workforce for that period.
- At 20:12 on the 23 December both units experienced a low frequency grid disturbance. Following a turbine trip, an unplanned automatic trip occurred on Unit 7, which shut down safely. Unit 8 remained at power.
- National Grid confirmed that they had experienced a bus bar fault at Penwortham Substation in Preston, which caused the grid disturbance.
- Unit 7 was safely synchronised at 23:15 on 27 December and has remained at power since. It will be shut down as planned for the statutory outage in January.

Key visits to Heysham 2 since last LCLC

- MC highlighted some visits to HY2 that had taken place since the last meeting.
- Lord Hunt – Nuclear Minister: Following the positive life extension news, we welcomed Lord Hunt, the Minister of State at the Department for Nuclear Energy and Net Zero (DESNZ) to site.
- As part of his visit, he asked to meet with some of our external stakeholders, including Lizzi Collinge MP, the Vice President of the Lancaster and Morecambe Chamber of Commerce, and representatives from some of our local suppliers to discuss the Heysham power stations' contribution to the local economy.
- Following the roundtable, Lord Hunt and his team had a tour of the plant, where he had the opportunity to meet with the management team, and apprentices.
- ONR Chief Nuclear Inspector, Climate Change inspection: Heysham 2 conducted a two-day inspection focussing on Climate Change. This review assessed preparedness and regulations regarding climate change and followed a similar inspection that took place at our Sizewell B station earlier in 2024.
- The ONR specifically acknowledged some good practices, recognising the strengths of our meteorological hazards programme and the Climate Adapt UK initiative when compared to other UK licensees. The continuous investment into the site was noted.

People

- We got involved in the national marine conservation society's beach clean. Two teams over two days took to Half Moon Bay and Middleton Sands clearing waste from the beaches. More than 20 full bin bags of waste were removed from the coastline.
- We hosted some 'bring your child to work' days which enabled our staff's children to see what it's like at their parents and carers' work place.
- Members of our team volunteered at the EDF-sponsored Paris Olympics and Paralympics,
- One of our Apprentices, AJ, who was recently awarded apprentice of the year, also attended a reception at 10 Downing Street to meet the Prime Minister.
- HY2 continues to actively recruit in the local community and as Mike mentioned, it's great that we hosted another careers day to showcase the opportunities available within our industry.

Charity

- Our fleetwide corporate charity is Alzheimer's Society - so far, we have raised over £20K, and both Heysham sites have contributed to this through fundraising events.
- More locally, we continue to support worthy causes in the area. Throughout 2024 we sponsored or donated £20K to local organisations across the two sites, including Baylight Festival, More Music, Armed Forces, Heysham Allotments, RNLI, Community First Responders, Heysham Christmas Lights, EggCup.
- Our key focuses for sponsorship and donations are organisations that support education, local community, environment, and activities for young people.

Questions

- DB (LMC) raised a question about whether there are challenges for the nuclear industry in terms of staff available and staff needed. MC replied that there is a nuclear baseline to operate safely and highlighted that EDF has gone above this baseline to ensure more than adequate staffing at all times.
- We are always looking to improve and promote diversity across the sector, so we are proactive about promoting STEM careers through outreach, and work hard to inspire the next generation of workers to seek jobs in the nuclear industry.

7. Overview of AGR Lifecycle- Kate O'Hagan

- KOH gave an overview of AGR lifecycle which included a timeline for defueling and transferring to NRS.
- KOH mentioned generation dates are subject to change based on the outcome of regular inspections.

Questions

- DB (LMC) asked about skills, re-training and job opportunities in all the stages of the lifecycle. KOH said a high level of staff is needed to fill lots of different roles, so training and re-training would be required.
- SW (University of Cumbria) asked about land ownership at the end of generation, KOH replied that the necessary land that is EDF owned will be transferred to the NRS and Government.
- ALL (Lancaster University) asked whether the latter stages of the lifecycle would require a new workforce and/or training for the existing workforce. KOH responded that we take learnings from other stations in the fleet that have been through the process, like Hunterston and would certainly be looking to retrain/relocate our workers. NRS would need a workforce so retraining may be required.

8. Environment Agency- pre-circulated, verbal summary

- DB and KS (EA) asked if everyone had read the pre-circulated paper and gave a verbal summary of the key points in the report. They gave an opportunity for questions. No questions were raised.

9. Emergency Planning Report pre-circulated, verbal summary

- CC (LCC) gave an overview of the report and asked if any questions. None raised. He added that LCC is working with other councils towards an alignment on how information is communicated to the public.
- CC added that planning for the LCC Level 2 exercise with EDF, which will take place early next year, is currently underway.

10. Office of Nuclear Regulators Site Inspectors' Reports

- NB (ONR) referred to the previously circulated reports and asked if there were any concerns or questions. None raised.
- DH (ONR) referred to the previously circulated reports and asked if there were any concerns or questions. None raised. Welcomed SMC as incoming ONR inspector for HY2.

11. AOB

- MC took the opportunity to thank DH (ONR) for his hard work and time as ONR Inspector for Heysham 2 and welcomed SMC (ONR). He also welcomed DB (HY1 EA Inspector) to the LCLC meetings.

12. Review of any actions from this meeting

- Chris Caney (LCC Senior Emergency Planning Officer) to give presentation at next meeting.
- KS to share inside nuclear link: behind the scenes documentary filmed at HY2

13. Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be in May, date to be confirmed and circulated.
- The meeting was closed and all were thanked for their contributions and time.