



Hartlepool Power Station Local Community Liaison Committee Minutes of meeting held in Training Room 9, Training Centre 2 on Wednesday, May 28 2025



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Attendees

Andrew Auty – Technical Safety and Security Manager EDF Hartlepool Power Station (Meeting chair)

Mark Lees – Station Director EDF Hartlepool Power Station

Duncan Bain - Human Resources EDF Manager Hartlepool Power Station

Sharne Lane – Communications EDF Hartlepool Power Station

Jamie Moss – Environmental Monitoring Coordinator EDF Hartlepool Power Station

Lee Dodgson - Emergency Preparedness Engineer EDF Hartlepool Power Station

Robin Beach - Emergency Preparedness Engineer EDF Hartlepool Power Station

Keeley Potter – Visitor Centre Coordinator EDF Hartlepool Power Station

Matthew Pardo – EDF Communications

Pete Fear – EDF Business Development Manager Hynamics

Ann Oxley - Teesmouth Field Centre

Martin Green - Local resident

Scott Redpath - Office for Nuclear Regulation

Tim Shurmer - Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit

Laura Kyle – North East Procurement Organisation

Stephen Smith – Greatham Parish Council

David Coupe – Middlesbrough Borough Council

John Kabuye – Middlesbrough Borough Council

Peter Gavigan - Middlesbrough Borough Council

Michelle Bendelow – Stockton Borough Council

Paul Rowling – Stockton Borough Council

Apologies

Chris Stocks - PD Ports

Andrew Tickle – Hartlepool Borough Council

Jon Davenport – Environment Agency

Clare Shakespeare-Watts – Teesmouth Field Centre

Clare Gubbins – Teesmouth Field Centre

Gil Parker – Alice House Hospice

Introduction

1. Andrew Auty opened the meeting and led a discussion around how safety signage can be most effective.
2. He then noted that previous meeting actions, to bring a representative of the Tees Green project to the meeting and confirm that the power station maintained an effective public notification system for planned plant events, had been closed off.

Power station operations

3. Hartlepool Power Station Director Mark Lees spoke about the ongoing statutory outage. He said one day the previous week there had been 1300 people onsite inside a 24-hour period. The station usually has no more than 400 people at any one time.

4. He explained that since the January meeting Hartlepool Power Station had experienced two boiler tube leaks. He explained the boilers' function within the power station and said problems with them could be nuclear safety concerns. As such the station shut down the reactor for between 25-30 days and undertook a significant piece of work to plug the leak. He said that the work was about careful care of the plant but also about safeguarding its future. He noted this crack was 0.4mm long but even small defects require attention.
5. He then spoke about the outage works' programme noting one project involved replacing a 75-tonne rotor within one of the station's steam turbines and another considered changing a gas circulator pump. He then referenced inspections that would take place during the outage.
6. Martin Green sought clarity from the previous meeting's minutes. He said he understood that trepanning work within the reactor core sampled graphite from the control rod channel and that no samples were taken from the actual control rods. Mark Lees agreed and said the differentiation should be noted in these minutes.
7. Mark Lees went on to discuss injuries sustained during the outage. He reflected on someone who tripped while completing generator rotor work and required stitches in his hand but that the injured party was back at work before his shift finished. He then referenced an incident in which a drum was dropped, though not breached, while being lifted. Mark said no-one was hurt in that event, as all staff had followed safety rules and were sufficiently far from the drum when it fell. Andrew Auty added that a site investigation into the incident was ongoing.
8. Talk then turned to an event in mid-May in which a site operator who was supposed to be working on systems on the shutdown reactor instead worked on the reactor which was at power. The individual was exposed to high noise and left the area. He suffered an inflamed ear from the incident and was, at the time of the meeting, recovering at home.
9. Mark Lees then spoke about the Office for Nuclear Regulation's (ONR) decision to put the station into Enhanced Regulatory Attention. He said the ONR acknowledged Hartlepool Power Station was designed in a certain way but that it wanted to see improvements on safety margins and that it also expected to see more focus on managing the condition of the plant as it aged. He then said the ONR had also pointed to recent safety events at the site saying that more work needed to be done to drive such events out.
10. Martin Green observed there was no unifying theme in the ONR's approach to which Mark Lees reflected they all involved people at Hartlepool Power Station. He added that the station had a duty to the community to operate as safely as it could.
11. Scott Redpath explained how the ONR determined that Hartlepool should be in enhanced attention. He said the agency needed to see the power station was learning lessons from events and stressed that the station would not see much change from the inspection arrangements but that there would be certain things being carefully looked at. He concluded that ONR had been provided with an improvement plan by EDF which appears to cover all the areas of concern. ONR will be reviewing this in detail with EDF to ensure it will deliver the desired improvements and that the programme was being adequately resourced.

12. Mark Lees stressed to the meeting it was important that EDF maintained a safe plant, regardless of how old it was. He discussed the life of the plant saying the station was due to generate until 2027 but that he was already telling staff it will not be able to generate forever, warning that the life-limiting factor in future generation was the state of the reactor core's graphite.

Safety

13. Andrew Auty discussed safety issues at the power station since the previous meeting. He said first aid incidents can include events such as someone scratching their face putting on a lanyard or cutting their finger while tying shoelaces. He discussed an event in which a scaffolder received a burn to the neck after exposed electrical wiring was not isolated and then sparked near him. He said the ONR gave the power station an improvement notice for the incident.

ONR update

14. Scott reported that since the last meeting all the inspections undertaken by ONR onsite had been green ratings and that inspectors would be focussing on both the statutory outage and the station's efforts to secure permission to return to service, following that work. He then spoke about the electrical incident detailed by Andrew Auty and said there needed to be no unnecessary risk exposures to anyone working onsite.

Environment update

15. Jamie Moss said it had been 12 years since the last tier one environmental event. He then went through material presented in the pre-meeting report.

Emergency planning

16. Robin Beach said that the power station's exercise season would resume in the autumn and this year would consider cyber threats.
17. Tim Shurmer said there had recently been a major test of the Hartlepool Power Station Offsite Nuclear Emergency Plan, which is owned by Hartlepool Borough Council, and said information about the test was still being gathered so he would give feedback at the next meeting.

People update

18. Duncan Bain, the new Human Resources Manager at Hartlepool Power Station introduced himself. He spoke about the number of people working onsite during the outage and about site apprentice recruitment events run earlier in the year. He added that the station team was thinking more about what EDF can do to help Teesside youngsters looking for work in engineering.

Visitor Centre and fundraising update

19. Hartlepool Power Station Visitor Centre Co-ordinator Keeley Potter told the meeting that even with the outages, the team had welcomed more than 1150

visitors to the site. She said the team had taken part in outreach activities and workshops to flag ongoing work. She then flagged the fundraising efforts of Christine Neil, whose tireless onsite fundraising had led to another £2885 donation to Hartlepool's Alice House Hospice. She also mentioned that Seaton Carew Cricket Club, Cleveland Scout Group and a young team of Seaton Carew footballers had all been presented with cash donations from the power station. Keeley also flagged that the site would be running a fundraising golf day for Alice House Hospice later in the summer.

Tees Green

20. Pete Fear, who works with EDF company Hynamics, gave a presentation about plans for a hydrogen facility south of the Tees. He explained that EDF had been looking at low carbon hydrogen generation for about 25 years and had made significant investments over the past decades. Pete said the company proposed to create hydrogen through electrolysis, a process which separates hydrogen and oxygen from water, utilising nuclear or renewable energy power sources. That low carbon hydrogen could then be used to decarbonise heavy industry, large transport or to develop synthetic eFuels. He said Teesside was a good place to develop the project as there were a number of companies in the area actively looking for suppliers of 'green' (when produced using renewables) or 'low carbon' (when produced using nuclear) hydrogen. Pete explained that the company is developing a multi-phase scheme at Wilton and has long term plans to be a key partner in the Teesside area's decarbonisation targets.

Teemouth Field Centre (TFC)

21. Ann Oxley gave the field centre report and said interest from youngsters, from primary schools up to sixth formers, remains high. She spoke about how the Environment Agency had awarded the scheme more than £4000 for a seashore community project. She also reported that work was ongoing in the area to develop oyster beds and grow seagrasses.
22. Stephen Smith spoke about work ongoing to create new environments in the area around Greatham, suitable for seagrasses to flourish.

Next meeting

23. Andrew Auty said the next LCLC would be held at 10am on November 26 once again in Training Room 9 of Training Centre 2. He thanked attendees and closed the meeting.