

# Meeting: Heysham Local Community Liaison Committee (LCLC)

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Start time:** 09:30

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## 1. Attendees

- Giles Kay (GK) – EDF Heysham 1 (Chair)
- Martin Cheetham (MC) – EDF Heysham 2
- Andy Pyle (AP) – EDF Heysham 2
- Steve Bryan (SB) – EDF Heysham 2
- Kate Stewart (KS) – EDF
- Andy Cruxton (AC) – EDF Heysham 2
- Leah Grundy (LG) – EDF Visitor Centre
- Tim Pickering (TP) – EDF Heysham 1
- Chris Caney (CC) – Lancashire County Council
- Nina Barnes (NB) – Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Heysham 1 inspector
- Shaun McKenna (SMC) – Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Heysham 2 inspector
- Daniele Brannigan (DB) – Environment Agency – Heysham 1 inspector
- Jon Davenport (JD) – Environment Agency – Heysham 2 interim inspector
- Cllr Louise Belcher (LB) – Lancaster City Council
- Cllr Colin Hartley (CH) – Lancaster City Council
- Cllr Alan Greenwell (AG) – Lancaster City Council
- Cllr Jason Wood (JW) – Lancaster City Council
- Cllr Paul Hart (PH) – Lancaster City Council
- Cllr Roger Cleet (RC) – Lancaster City Council
- Ken Murray (KM) – Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC)
- Kate Houlden (KH) – Like Technologies
- Mo Kelly – (MK) Local resident
- Sally Macalpine – (SM) Country Land and Business Association (CLA)

## 2. Introductions

- Giles Kay (GK) introduced himself as the Acting Station Director (SD) of Heysham 1 Power Station (HY1), and meeting chair, welcomed everyone and opened the in-person meeting.
- Martin Cheetham (MC) introduced himself as the Station Director (SD) of Heysham 2 Power Station (HY2).

## 3. Safety message

- GK delivered the safety message about how we look after our safety and comfort in hot weather and during travel.

## 4. Apologies for absence

- GK stated a number of apologies had been received and that these would be tied up in the minutes.

Apologies received from:

- Jon Powell – Lancaster University
- Kirstie Banks-Lyon - Lancaster City Council
- Mark Swanton – EDF
- Abi Lucy-Lloyd - Lancaster University
- Steven Wood – University of Cumbria
- Mark Prada – Local Choice Magazine
- Beth Owens – EDF
- Carla Brayshaw – Aqua Engineering

## 5. Actions from last meeting

- Chris Caney (LCC Senior Emergency Planning Officer) to give a presentation and overview of the offsite emergency plan at this meeting.
- Kate Stewart (EDF) to share Inside Nuclear documentary filmed at HY2. Confirmed complete

## 6. Station Directors' (SD) reports

### Heysham 1 Station Director's report: Giles Kay - Technical and Safety Manager (Acting SD)

#### Safety

- Since the last LCLC meeting our top tier safety performance has been positive with zero reportable environmental events, fire ignition events, nuclear events or radiological events.
- There was one industrial safety injury in March where an operative suffered a muscular injury to their back while operating a concertina door. An investigation was conducted and a plan to resolve put in place.
- GK expressed the importance of reporting all accidents and near misses and shared his pride for the strong safety and reporting culture on site.
- In 2025 so far, there have been three accident book entries, one being the industrial safety injury mentioned and the other two being minor in nature.
- Planning is well underway for our R2 statutory outage in September. We have set a very high bar with our outage safety performance, which is viewed as world class. We're proud of this and it will continue.
- We continue to invest in our plant and safety. Last year we invested £750k to improve drainage and resurface our main car park.
- The total collective radiation dose to workers in 2024 was within target and for 2025 remains on target.
- GK touched on the recent control rod trepanning (sampling work) and reported no resulting safety issues.
- There have been no significant radiological safety incidents on site in 2025.
- There have been no environmental events since the last meeting. It has been over 13 years since the station's last significant environmental event.
- In April, the station completed the replacement of firefighting systems containing C8 fire foam. The newer systems reduce risk of leakage and are a lower environmental hazard.
- Later in the year we're rolling out environmental awareness sessions, supported by the EA site inspector.

#### Emergency preparedness

- Since the last LCLC we've successfully demonstrated our license condition emergency arrangements twice.
- We have begun Level 2 exercise preparations with Lancashire County Council which is planned for January 2026. This will be testing our Off-site Emergency Response Plan.

### Generation / outages

- We began 2025 with R2 in outage.
- On March 21st we identified a boiler tube leak on one of the boilers. We plan to investigate and repair the leak and return the boiler to service during our next planned refuelling outage.
- On R1, we have safely and successfully delivered our Lifetime Outage and we hope to extend the generating lifetime of the station beyond its current date of March 2027.
- During this outage we exchanged one of our gas circulators and two gas circulator jacking oil pumps.
- Following return to service, we suffered a steam leak on a valve which resulted in a three-day outage to enact the repair, returning to service on 29th March. We have remained at power since that date.
- We have produced more than 2TWh of safe, reliable generation against a plan of 2.1TWh.

### Key visits since the last LCLC

- We have had visits from numerous senior members of the company.
- In May we are being visited by the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) to look at the progress made since the WANO peer review in 2024.

### People

- HY1 continues to recruit and broaden our visibility in the local community, supporting early careers as well as people with existing skills.
- We have had approximately 20 new EDF starters join the station in 2025.
- We continue to form relationships with local colleges and universities to develop our own employees and widen their skillset for the future.
- We continue with our commitment towards diversity, inclusion and wellbeing. Multiple events have been held on site in support of these areas.
- The station has been running a work experience programme for students to join us.

### Community and outreach

- GK referred to pre-circulated community report and welcomed comments and feedback.
- 1036 people (144 groups) were welcomed for a tour at the Visitor Centre between January and May 2025.
- Each year the stations collectively contribute £20k to local charities and good causes.
- We've supported a number of organisations so far in 2025, including The Dukes Theatre in Lancaster, two teams of cheerleaders competing in an international competition and Heysham Atoms u11's rugby team.

### Questions

- MK asked about the plans for decommissioning and what the process will look like.
- GK explained that we will take learnings from other stations that are further along in their lifecycle, like Hunterston and Dungeness. GK reassured that it will be important to keep the staff updated on any plans that we have going forward. He reiterated that we have a Current Accounting Life (CAL) date in place at present (2027), and that we will not extend this date unless we can prove that it is deemed safe to do so.
- GK added that many of our systems are still required and need to perform reliably post-generation, with only a small percentage no longer needed (i.e. generator, turbine plant). Based on this, we require a strong workforce going forward and will continue to invest in our plant to maintain its reliability longer term.
- GK added that it may be worth bringing extra team members to a future meeting to help with any questions re decommissioning.
- MC made a point re HY2. He explained that we have been very open with the staff on HY2 and that a document has been developed for all staff on what to expect through defueling and decommissioning.
- Andy Pyle (HY2) explained that the staff we have are well trained and have a certain skill set. We are looking at how we can use those skills when entering the next stages of the stations' life and exploring how staff can be retrained for future capabilities.
- GK was asked by AG (LCC) about the different types of outages. He explained the differences between a statutory outage (essentially an MOT for the reactor), an inspection outage and a refuelling outage.

## Heysham 2 Station Director's report: Martin Cheetham

### Key events

- Since the last LCLC there have been no top-tier environmental events, nuclear events or radiological events and no significant personal injuries or lost time accidents.
- MC noted that it has been an extremely busy time due to the R7 statutory outage from January – May.
- On 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025, during the outage there was a significant steam leak during R7 testing. This was investigated, the cause found, and the issue resolved.
- On 15<sup>th</sup> Jan, R8 experienced an automatic shutdown. An investigation is ongoing to determine the cause.
- In February during the outage, unusually high moisture readings were observed on R7. The cause was traced and has now been resolved. There was no impact to the safety case.
- In February during inspections of the secondary shutdown system, minor shortfalls in weight were found in 6 out of the 8 boron bead hoppers. The shortfall in weight was minor and did not affect nuclear safety margins. The issue has been investigated and resolved.
- In March a review of fuel handling under off-load depressurised refuelling conditions identified the need to review our approach in the low likelihood event of managing potential radioactive deposits in our decay store. A safety case amendment is planned and operations continue as normal.
- In March during work on R7, a steam turbine pipework inlet stud failed during tightening. Testing showed the material hardness was outside of tolerance. The stud was replaced with checks conducted on the remaining studs. A safety case anomaly was raised and the risk to our safety cases was judged to be low and within acceptable limits. The industrial safety risk was also deemed low.
- MC reiterated how it has been a busy time for the station and how events such as these reflect why we continually test and challenge our plant and assess integrity. We are more likely to experience these events during a stat. outage when we are actively looking for defects and carrying out in-depth inspections.

### High potential events

- Four high potential events were recorded since the last LCLC. MC talked through each one. There were no injuries as a result of these events and learning was obtained.
- Two of the events were due to plant failure and not individual shortfalls. Both behavioural events have a link to working at height and risk assessments.

### Accident book entries

- There have been 15 entries in the accident book since our last meeting. All accidents were minor.
- MC reiterated the importance of reporting accidents and near misses.

### Improvements to our working at height arrangements

- MC commented that we continue to have working at height near miss events.
- We have enhanced our working at height training material and increased the practical element of it. A workshop has been arranged to push for consistent standards and approach when working at height.

### Improvements to our safety performance

- MC noted that the recently completed statutory outage was our most successful in terms of safety.
- Zero significant personal injuries or lost time accidents occurred and only seven of the 15 accident book entries recorded so far this year were outage related.
- MC expressed that this is an excellent performance considering the number of staff on site daily, working long hours in a high-risk environment.

### WANO

- MC noted and expressed the importance of focussing on the WANO peer review set to take place in July, later this year. We welcome their feedback to share best practises and identify areas for improvement.

### Wellbeing

- “Wellbeing Wednesdays” were put in place weekly during the stat. outage. Free soup and hot chocolate were provided in the canteen, providing an opportunity for staff to connect with the wellbeing team.
- Weekly safety briefs included time for teams to reflect on their mental wellbeing.
- Mental Health Awareness Week gave us a chance to hold a range of wellbeing activities.
- We regularly host Andy’s Man Club on site – a men’s suicide prevention charity.

### Radiological safety

- Radiological safety performance remains at a very high standard.
- We undertook a significant amount of planned radiological work in our recent stat. outage. Overall, our performance is in line with predictions made at the start of the year.

### Environmental safety

- A good environmental performance has been noted so far this year.
- No permit breaches have occurred since our last LCLC meeting.
- Since the last LCLC repairs have been done to the R7 station transformer regarding the fluorinated greenhouse gas leaks.
- No SF6 leaks on Heysham 2 have been recorded since the last LCLC.
- Our oil cooler tube nest replacement programme has continued throughout the stat. outage on R7.
- A new combustion installation permit was issued in December 2024 and will be carrying out upgrades to provide a long-term assurance of compliance.
- Radioactive discharges from the site have remained low.
- No incidents surrounding the disposal of radioactive waste from site were recorded.
- It has been ten years since the station’s last significant environmental event.

### Emergency preparedness

- The 2024/2025 emergency exercise season has been successful. The theme was “Nuclear Emergency”.
- The last exercise prior to this LCLC meeting involved 1,350 staff and contract partners across both sites including various emergency services.

### Outages

- R7 was undergoing a routine statutory outage between January and May of this year. This was a success with the reactor safely reconnecting to the grid on 3<sup>rd</sup> May.
- MC commented on staffs’ fantastic efforts.
- In April, R7 was shut down for routine refuelling. The outage was completed safely without issue.

### Generation

- So far in 2025 HY2 has generated 1.6TWh of low-carbon electricity for the grid.
- In the next 12-18 months, we hope to pass the record for lifetime generation for a UK nuclear power plant.

### Key visits to Heysham 2

- We have hosted a number of senior members of the company and industry stakeholders.
- WANO peer review – July 2025.
- MC noted that the results from WANO’s peer review will hopefully reflect our best practices and strengths and we welcome any areas for improvement identified by WANO.

### People

- Since the last LCLC five apprenticeships have been offered, they will start in September 2025.
- Seven industrial placements will also be joining us for 12 months from September.

## Questions

- AG (LCC) asked whether there were eight reactors in total. MC clarified that there were four reactors at Heysham. Two on each station, MC noted that he understands the confusion with HY2 having R7 and R8.
- AP (HY2) explained that even though we have Reactors 1 and 2 (R1 and R2) on HY1 and Reactors 7 and 8 (R7 and R8) on HY2, there are no reactors 3, 4, 5 or 6 at the site, but 3,4,5 and 6 are the names of the backup generators for HY1, so HY2's reactors were named 7 and 8 to avoid any overlap.
- MC was asked whether the shutdown experienced by R8 on the 15<sup>th</sup> January due to a fault on the National Grid was a rare occurrence. MC said that on this occasion it was due to an issue with a connection to the grid while they (NG) were carrying out testing. He commented that it is rare and updated that connection has been stable ever since. MC added that the plant reacted as it should have and within its design.
- AP (HY2) commented that we are working with the NG and taking on board any recommendations they may have to help limit and mitigate any similar issues in the future.
- MC was asked who organises WANO peer reviews and whether the results are made public. MC clarified that they are organised by WANO and conducted every three years, though the findings are not available to the public. However Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) reviews organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which are similar, are readily available. OSART visited HY2 in 2023, and their report that was published last year is available to access via our website.
- AP (HY2) reiterated the importance of such evaluations. GK added that they act to prevent huge events and issues from occurring through the sharing of best practices across the industry.
- MK asked why the trip that occurred in January was so “dramatic” and whether this is due to the age of the plant. MC explained that sometimes unplanned trips are due to needing to complete tasks outside of the scheduled outage times, which require us to go into a forced outage, and other times they are the result of the plant's safety systems automatically shutting down a reactor. He clarified that these trips are not related to the age of the station and that we are investing more than ever into our plants. MC added that we have an extensive Lifetime Programme team that's responsible for safely delivering the current lifetime ambitions and establishing extension pathways, but nuclear safety remains our overall priority.
- MC explained that the shutdown in question was a trip from “full load” which is not a common occurrence, and this is what caused more visible steam and noise than usual. AP will cover this further on this agenda.
- GK offered reassurance to members that we (SDs), like members, and like hundreds of others who work at this site, live in this community, and we wouldn't seek to operate these stations if it wasn't safe.
- There was further discussion on notifications to the public about the potential for noise, with members noting improvement in communication in recent months. AP responded that we are happy to hear this and are currently exploring a number of options to further enhance and streamline the process.
- KS reiterated that we would continue to give advanced notice of planned trips to our community contacts. and added that we work as quickly as possible to get an update out via the media to reassure the public when there is an unplanned event, which we cannot give advanced notice of.

## 7. Overview of reactor trip process - Andy Pyle (HY2 Technical and Safety Manager)

- AP gave a short presentation on how an AGR works including our safety procedures during shutdown.
- It was highlighted that the plant always acts as designed to during shutdown. The banging noise that can sometimes be heard during a trip is caused by valves opening so that steam can be released.
- This steam is separate from reactor systems and has no adverse effect on the environment.
- This process is to be expected and is safe, even if loud. Examples were shown of how other stations look and sound when they shutdown to demonstrate it is to be expected and is not unique to Heysham.
- No other stations have residents living in such close proximity and we want to be good neighbours.
- AP added that we attempt to send out advanced warnings of expected plant trips, but we are open to ideas as to how we can offer further reassurance.
- AP asked if any questions from members – none raised.

## 8. Environment Agency (EA) – Site inspectors’ reports

- DB and JD (EA) asked if everyone had read the pre-circulated report. Questions were welcomed.
- AG (LCC) asked for an indication of SMR progress in reality. AP (HY2) responded that the gov’t must go through a process and firstly confirm potential locations for SMRs. JD can provide updates if needed.

## 9. Lancashire County Council (LCC) – Emergency planning

- CC (LCC) presented an overview with examples of past level 2 exercises and the 27 agencies involved.
- CC (LCC) gave a verbal summary of the report and asked if any questions. None raised.
- LCC is working with relevant agencies inc. EDF on how information is communicated to the public.
- CC (LCC) asked if any questions. RC (LCC) commented that the public was not notified in previous exercises. CC (LCC) advised that this was a conscious decision made, but going forward they are looking into ways they could potentially do this, without affecting the ‘real-life scenario’ of the exercise.
- CC added that for exercises whether on-site or off-site, we are testing the agency responses rather than notifying the public as we don’t want to disrupt those living or working locally to the power station. Some businesses close by may get notified beforehand in the event of emergency services presence at site.
- Notification to the public and other businesses such as schools is something that will always be considered but must be balanced against the aims and objectives of the exercises we conduct.

## 10. Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) – Site inspectors’ reports

- NB and SMC (ONR) referred to the pre-circulated reports. They both gave a verbal summary of the key points within the reports, most of which was covered by the SDs. Questions were welcomed.
- TP (HY1) added comment on the importance of the ONR reports and GK reinforced that a questioning attitude from staff is always encouraged to ensure we can always work at a high standard.

### Questions

- MK questioned the word “anomaly” that was used within the report. MK asked why the nuclear risk was deemed as “low” if the graphite safety case required an update. MC explained that this is a modelling issue, that requires alignment with our recent inspections and operations are unaffected. AP (HY2) clarified that the sampling inspection work was within the bounds of the safety case and safety standards were met.
- MK asked if the lifetime goal for HY2 being 2030 is “over-optimistic”. MC responded that lifetime dates are forecasts, based on the best available information and precise dates will be determined by the results of regular inspections and how those results are interpreted within EDF and by the ONR.
- JW (LCC) asked if there is potential to extend the lifetime of the station. MC responded that our ambition is to generate beyond these revised forecasts at all of the generating AGRs, but we will continue to take informed and conservative decisions, keeping nuclear safety as our over-riding priority.
- MC reiterated that we are always cautious and if anything takes us outside the bounds of our safety cases then we would not look to extend this date further. MC added that if safety is not compromised then yes, there is potential to extend this date.

## 11. Review of any actions from this meeting

- Newly elected County Councillors to be added to membership
- Update on National Grid and station lifecycle planning to be provided at a future meeting

## 12. Next meeting

- Next meeting confirmed as Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November. Attendees thanked and meeting closed.