EDF Torness Power Station

Minutes of the fifty- third meeting of the Torness local liaison committee held via Teams on 25 March 2025.

Members in attendance

Russell McLauchlan, City of Edinburgh Council
Councillor Chas Booth, City of Edinburgh Council
Councillor Denis Dixon, City of Edinburgh Council
Councillor John Greenwell, Scottish Borders Council
Councillor Aileen Orr, Scottish Borders Council
Lee Wright, East Lothian Council
Graeme Marsden, East Lothian Council
Councillor Donna Collins, East Lothian Council
Jane Young, Midlothian Council
Alasdair Swan, Dunbar Community Council
Suzie Fletcher, East Lammermuir & Cockburnspath Community Council
Diane Hamilton, Scottish Government
James Wyllie, National Farmers' Union for Scotland
Isabelle Watson, Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Samaneh (Sam) Nouraei, ONR
Andrew Lanigan, Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Paul Forrest, Torness Station Director
Alastair Brockie, Torness Technical and Safety Support Group
Ashleigh Dickson, Torness Community Liaison Officer
Fiona McCall, EDF External Communications Manager

652. Membership
Apologies for absence
Councillor Hal Osler, City of Edinburgh Council
Councillor Russel Imrie, Midlothian Council
Charles Veitch, City of Edinburgh Council
Councillor Norman Hampshire, East Lothian Council
MSP Paul McLennan East Lothian Council
Councillor Helen Laing, Scottish Borders Council
Jim Fraser, Scottish Borders Council
Kirsty McCrae, Scottish Ambulance Service
Quintin Donald, Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department
Richard Othieno, Lothian Health
Garry Douglas, Fire Scotland
Scott Kennedy, East Lothian Council
David Rankin, Torness INA
Calum Jefferies, Police Scotland
Lynn Crothers, East Lothian Council

Members' replacements
Councillor Chas Booth replaced Councillor Steve Burgess, Edinburgh City Council
Samaneh Nouraei replaced Shaun Mckenna as the ONR Site Inspector
David Rankin, Torness INA joined the station
Caroline Rodgers replaced Sharon Saunders, East Lothian Council
Calum Jefferies replaces Ross Smith, Police Scotland

653. Minutes of previous meeting
The minutes of the previous meeting of the committee were approved and accepted as an accurate record.
The actions placed on the station from the previous meeting:

- Hold a visit for Councillors – this happened in October 2024.
- Torness public meeting in Dunbar in October 2024.
- Councillor Alexander had requested information on the apprenticeship, and this was sent out.

654. Matters arising
None.

655. Station overview
EDF has continued to invest in the nuclear fleet over the past year, allowing it to support UK energy security. Since acquisition in 2009 EDF has invested around £8 billion to extend lifetimes and improve reliability. Without EDF's investment in, and stewardship of, the nuclear fleet there would be one generating nuclear power station today (Sizewell B), not five, and nuclear would contribute only 3% of the UK's power generation. This would have meant more reliance on gas and imports, as well as higher energy prices for customers and more carbon in the atmosphere.

Over the past 16 years the UK's nuclear fleet has generated more than 240TWh, (+35%) more electricity than anticipated through life extensions and better operational performance. That is enough zero carbon electricity to power every UK home for more than two years.

Nuclear output in 2024 was 37.3TWh, the same as 2023's output, and almost four times more than expected when EDF acquired the fleet in 2009. The plan is to sustain this output, which is around 13% of the UK's electricity generation, until at least 2027.

While output has dropped from a high point in 2016 of 65TWh from eight power stations, the fleet still plays an integral part in supporting UK energy security.

This is especially true when demand is high, and renewables output is low due to weather conditions. The nuclear fleet's contribution to UK energy security goes beyond the reliable production of clean electricity, it also has a key role in providing inertia to maintain grid stability. Grid stability is becoming increasingly important as the power system decarbonises and conventional thermal plants, like coal and gas, are being replaced by renewable generation.

In November, Torness was crowned as the most productive low carbon generator in Scottish history, as its output surpassed that of Hunterston B (297TWh). It has reached this milestone in 36 years, around a decade quicker than Hunterston B.

Through its UK Nuclear Operations business, EDF is due to pay around £1 billion in taxes for 2024, including over £400 million through the Electricity Generator Levy (EGL).

Around 5,000 people are directly employed in the operating fleet, across 10 UK locations. Planned investment in the five generating stations is forecast to be £1.3bn over the 2025-27 period, to support the objective to safely maximise generation.

Reactor 1 Outage
In April we took Reactor 1 offline for its statutory outage, which takes place every three years. This statutory outage is like an MOT for the unit, allowing work to be carried out that cannot take place while the reactor is at power.

Over the 10 weeks around 800 additional workers joined the 750 strong site team to deliver the outage.
Some of the largest jobs during the outage, included a turbine rotor exchange, gas circulator exchanges and graphite core inspections. One of our key objectives during the outage has been zero harm; our collective focus on this resulted in 0 reportable nuclear events, 0 reportable environmental events, 0 fire ignition event and 0 reportable contamination events we did however have two Accident Book entries which were restricted work injuries (TRIR). The first accident the operator was moving a trolley and whilst moving backwards he tripped over a brick and sprained his ankle, the second accident a rigger was lifting a load, and the chain hit some lagging which hurt his thumb. The isolated areas where colleagues incurred harm during their work activities is an area where we as a station can learn for future periods of intensive work.

These were the only two accidents over the Stat outage.

LIFE Extension
In December 2024 we were delighted to be able to announce further life extension for Torness from 2028 to 2030.

We also announced further life extensions for three other generating AGR stations. Following a detailed review process, it was confirmed that Heysham 1 and Hartlepool would generate for one year longer, until 2027, and Heysham 2 along with Torness would have its lifetime extended by two years to 2030.

As well as helping Britain achieve its 2030 clean power targets this decision also supports the jobs of more than 800 staff and contractors working at Torness.

Keeping the existing fleet running for longer will also help preserve valuable skills that will be critical as the UK seeks to re-build its nuclear capability. We have had three graphite inspection outages since our last meeting and are currently in one. Results are in line with our predictions and modelling which enabled us to announce life extension.

As the graphite in the core ages, we expect to see changes develop, including cracking in some of the bricks. This does not affect day-to-day generation, but we need to be able to demonstrate that during an extreme seismic event, larger than the UK has ever recorded, that we would be able to immediately to shut the reactor down. We also need to ensure the fuel is always able to move in and out of the reactor freely. The results of the inspections revealed nothing that would challenge either of those requirements.

We continue to update and refine our modelling based on the information we gather from every inspection so that we know what to expect in future outages.

New Build
Hinkley Point C in Somerset is moving ahead. HPC is moving away from civil engineering site to mechanical, electrical and HVAC site. Th skillset of labour is changing.

The Hinkley Point C project is showing the benefits new nuclear development can bring to an area. Hinkley Point C has now trained 1,320 apprentices and 23,500 jobs have been created on the project so far. It has seen £5.3 billion spent in the Southwest alone, smashing the original target of £1.5 billion, and £14.5 million has been provided to local groups through the project's community fund.

Mr Alastair Swan: Is 2030 the last date or could you extend further?

Mr Paul Forrest: We will keep it under review. As the graphite in the AGR reactors ages we will see changes, including cracking in some of the bricks that make up the reactor as well as weight loss. We carry out regular inspections to monitor the condition of the graphite. Cracks do not affect day-to-day generation at the site, what we need to be able to demonstrate is that during an extreme seismic event, larger than the UK has ever recorded, that we would be able to shut the reactors down.

Mr Swan: Does HPC have the same skilled labour that you will need to decommission the site? If it is a challenge for HPC now it could also be a challenge for Torness in the future?

Mr Forrest: Yes, it is possible and would impact on pace.

Mr Chas Booth: Question about life extension, maybe for ONR and SEPA. What is the process for life extension – have ONR and SEPA approved the life extension by 2 years?

Mr Forrest: We are regulated by ONR, SEPA and OFGEM from a commercial perspective. OFGEM require us to provide a best estimate and what you see with the 2 years is a best estimate. In terms of approval, we require approval from ONR to restart after every outage and safety cases around graphite require ongoing approval.

Ms Samaneh (Sam) Nouraei: Although Torness states its extension aspiration it doesn't require formal permission from ONR, but it does require valid safety cases for continued operation under the Site Licence. They need updating to accommodate ambitions which include equipment reliability, people etc. We carry out routine regulations and inspections regime.

Ms Isabelle Watson: SEPA don't seek approval but do need the station to have compliance under existing regime.

Mr Booth: Can you clarify, EDF announces intention to extend to 2030, but it is kept under constant review and compliance with safety requirements from ONR.

Ms Nouraei: Yes

656. Zero Harm
Mr Alastair Brockie spoke to the reports in the pack.

Our aim is to have zero harm to our people and Nuclear Safety is our overriding priority.

With our strong focus on safety, we have a very tight definition of harm, so we report even the very minor injuries, for example a back injury or a cut to the hand. All events are investigated to ensure we learn from them and are treated seriously.

2024 performance was strong from Nuclear Safety point of view. We keep a close eye on plant performance, the year before we did have few challenges around gas circulator performance but that was resolved. All planned outages executed safely, our safety cases continue to be reviewed and updated. In 2024 we worked on graphite safety vases we continue to invest in plant to make sure Nuclear Safety is preserved. This is to address life extension not shortfalls.

On industrial safety we had three accidents to staff. We take them seriously even though no one was seriously injured. (ankle sprain, stitches in thumb and another hand injury) they all happened in first half of year, and we are now coming up to nine months without any accidents.

Under environmental safety it was a good year, nothing was released in breach of our permits. We do also keep close track of compliance with permits SEPA issue. One event is a technical non-compliance, we have eight backup diesel generators on site and during testing one emitted dark smoke for more than the permitted 15 minutes.

Overall, very strong performance but we do continue to seek learning from all events.

Emergency Preparedness
Torness has a comprehensive emergency plan to cater for situations which present an immediate risk to the public, our staff, the environment or the power station plant. Off-site aspects of the plan are deployed in conjunction with East Lothian Council and the emergency services.

There have been no site events whereby the emergency arrangements were invoked since the last meeting.

We continued with normal programme of emergency exercises, with a range of scenarios including site security issues, fire events, casualty recovery and treatment, and confined space rescues. On 12 March we held a successful demonstration of our arrangements to the ONR during our Level 1 exercise.

Mr Brockie thanked the East Lothian Council, emergency services and partner agencies for their support during exercises and throughout the year.

We work very closely with East Lothian Council as they hold the offsite plan. During 2024 Level 2 Exercise Puma was held out of Penston House, it had a range of scenarios including plant anomalies, site security issues, casualty recovery and treatment.

Mr Lee Wright: Add to Alastair's comments. We are updating the offsite plan and going through partner agencies to capture learning from Exercise Puma.

Mr Booth: Alastair said three accidents, Paul said two – explain the discrepancy.

Mr Brockie: We had three accidents to staff (two outage and one non-outage). They were: ankle sprain, stitches to a thumb and another hand injury where a carpet fitter cut his hand with a Stanley knife.

Ms Donna Collins: Will you do any emergency exercises that involve members of public like you did long time ago?

Mr Brockie: This could in a Level 2 exercise which isn't due until 2027 so doubt the scope has been planned.

Ms Collins: Would be handy to do it again now that we have Resilience groups.

Mr Brockie: The Resilience groups stood up during Storm Éowyn (UK's most powerful windstorm for over a decade) and we found it useful and effective, which was real practice.

Mr Swan: I'm more sceptical about these Resilience groups if you look at Heathrow for example. Have you challenged and satisfied yourselves?

Mr Brockie: We have forum called Torness Emergency Planning Consultative Committee which meets every 6 months. As well as Emergency Services, Scottish Water, Met Office and other parties are also involved so I'm impressed with the level of interest, and we do bring them in (Level 2) so yes, I'm happy.

Mr Wright: There is publicly available copy of offsite plan which includes partner agencies.

Ms Fiona McCall: Whilst we (EDF and Council) design the Level 2 exercise we are challenged by ONR.

Mr Paul Forrest thanked Emergency Services.

New Nuclear, Customers, Renewables and People
Ms Ashleigh Dickson spoke to the reports in the pack.

657. New Nuclear
Hinkley Point C is powering ahead and is First nuclear reactor for a generation is fitted to British power station There is a new video, and pictures show operation to fit the first of two reactors, the installation is major step forward in the fit out of the Somerset power station.

658. Customers
The supplier continued to be Britain's biggest supplier of electricity by volume, serving a record number of large business meter points.

To support its vulnerable customers, EDF set aside £29m to help those most in need over winter, including providing customers with electric goods such as kettles, air fryers and slow cookers via its Warm Winter shop, which helped 14,355 customers last year. EDF also helped 50,000 customers with support including debt advice, income maximisation, energy efficiency advice, debt clearance and financial assistance payments in 2024. This was in addition to the £140m spent on ECO and GBIS schemes in 2024 as well as £49m on the Warm Home Discount.

659. Renewables
EDF Renewables UK has continued to grow across all technologies in 2024 and has a clear goal of reaching 10 GW by 2035. Its current operating capacity is 1.7GW.

We continue with construction of the 450 MW Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) offshore wind project, 15km off the coast of Scotland which started generating power in October 2024 and will be fully operational in 2025.

660. Our People
Our Visitor Centre is growing from strength to strength and welcomed 3000 visitors in 2024. As well as offering guided tours of the operating site, the visitor centre aims to catch people's imaginations and provide an introduction to the nuclear industry by using hands-on displays and interactive aides.

We held numerous themed events (Easter egg hunt, summer fun, Halloween etc) which are free for families to enjoy.

Over 2024 we engaged with a record number of young people, future employees and our community and through the visitor centre, career events, STEM workshops, charity work and local community groups.

These interactions are only possible because station volunteers give up their time to help promote the company, inspire the next generation or help a charity. They dedicate their time and skills, putting on events and activities, that make a huge difference to our company culture and our commitment to doing right by each other. We held a Girls into STEM event in November, where a group of nearly 50 girls enjoyed a tour of the station, as well as getting the chance to take part on various workshops. We are doing our best to break down barriers to improve our diversity.

The station continues to recruit to plan and currently has 527 full time employees. Our training programmes are in excellent shape and are working with our leaders at all levels to strengthen leadership and accountability. Torness currently has 14 recruits in our four-year Advanced Nuclear Apprentice Scheme and one chemistry apprentice.

Our people are a corner stone of EDF. At Torness, we have a great record of regularly seeking feedback from our employees and responding to it. Every year MyEDF, our annual employee engagement survey, is an opportunity to listen to our employees' views and act on what they say. In 2024, 83% of our employees took the opportunity to tell us what they think and help shape the direction of our business. Our overall engagement score had increased and 97% of staff told us that safety is a priority for everyone.

Charity work with our partner Alzheimer Scotland continues.

Mr Swan: How much does Torness generate?

Ms Dickson: We generated 7,967GWh of zero carbon generation for 2024, which is enough zero carbon electricity to power 2.4 million homes. Not only did we meet our business plan, but we were crowned as the most productive zero-carbon energy asset in Scotland's history since we were first connected to the grid in 1988. In February 2025 we marked 300TWh lifetime generation which is enough to power Scotland for 36 years.

Mr Forrest: We have a huge drive on getting youngsters interested in STEM subjects

Mr John Greenwell: Are you still taking on apprentices?

Mr Forrest: Yes, we take on roughly four a year and our contract partners take them on as well. Torness currently has 14 recruits in our four-year Advanced Nuclear Apprentice Scheme and one chemistry apprentice.

661. Regulatory Updates

SEPA
Ms Isabelle Watson, SEPA continue with compliance inspections. Every year we carry out environmental sampling programme (grass, shellfish, water, etc.). The RIFE report is available on the SEPA website. We look at in depth results at the LLC technical subgroup meeting.

RIFE report available https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radioactivity-in-food-and-the-environment-rife-reports

SEPA also took part in Exercise Puma.

There were some issues last year regarding shredders which have been sorted.

We will soon be publishing results of the Habit survey, which was held couple years ago, don't believe there were any major changes.

The F Gas and Ozone Substances Depleting team issued the station with an enforcement notice to ensure the repair of some switchgear that contains a compound called SF6, a potent greenhouse gas, and repairs are progressing to correct timescales.

Mr Chas Booth: Can you tell me more about the delay to waste processing?

Mr Brockie: A shredder was broken but it is now fixed so it just means there was a delay to the waste leaving site, there is capacity to hold the waste onsite. We minimise the volume of waste by compacting it. Bags of

clothing, gloves, soft items for example. They have slight radioactive element to them, we put them through a shredder to compact them. The machine broke down in Spring last year and it is an unusual piece of kit, so spares took a while, which coincided with the stat outage which means we accumulated more waste than usual, but it is all back in order now.

Mr Booth: You said a few months, please be more specific

Mr Brockie: Don't now exact dates but will feedback to you.

Follow up email to Mr Booth:
The low-level solid waste compactor was out of service from April to October 2024. This meant that our routine arisings of compactable solid waste - such as used clothing, filters and other items which cannot readily be decontaminated – were not able to be processed at the usual rate and had to be stored in our waste facility for slightly normal than longer. No limits were breached, and the backlog has now been cleared.

ONR
Ms Sam Nouraei introduced herself. She has recently taken over from Shaun McKenna who is now at Heysham 2. I have regulated Hinkley Point C and Sizewell C. We have been developing our intervention and assessment strategy for the year.

Areas for focus aging management and working on how we carry on routine regulator oversight. Intervention plan for year has been agreed and ONR planning round starts in April.

Over the period we have conducted inspections on training, suitably qualified and experienced individuals for the job, operating rules, examination inspecting and testing. From compliance point of view, they were all positive with no significant shortfalls – green rating. Have provided advice and guidance and the station is proactive is dealing with it and deal with improvements. We do track them.

662. Any other business
- Nothing from Torness
- We will have another public meeting at back end of the year and dates will be distributed
- Next LLC meeting March/ April 2026.

Mr Swan: I am interested in hearing about Renewable energy. The NNG team say they will 10GWh by 2035 – is that 800 fields to replace Torness? The fields have a big impact on the local community. They are a fraction of what you produce from nuclear.

Graeme Marsden: Think you are mixing up figures, I don't know about NNG, Berwick Bank are aiming 4GWh annual capacity.

Mr Brockie: Don't confuse capacity and volume. Berwick Bank (not online yet) will be eight times bigger than NNG windfarm. It will have a larger maximum capacity than Torness, when you take into account load factor from wind vs our baseload, I would expect Berwick Bank to produce about the same as Torness in a year.

663. Date of next meeting
During 2024 we held a public meeting at Hallhill and propose to do so again in October/ November
Action – Ashleigh to send out possible dates for a public meeting and next LLC meeting

Proposed public meeting dates – 30 October or 5 November
LLC Meeting – 24 March or 1 April

Vote here for dates