

Hartlepool monthly report

August 2014

Introduction

We would like to welcome you to the August 2014 monthly report for Hartlepool power station. These reports are available to all members of the public on <http://www.edfenergy.com> and on the Hartlepool Borough Council website, together with copies of the minutes from our Local Community Liaison Council meetings. We are keen to hear the views of our local communities. We recognise that good communication is a two-way process and we welcome your feedback and comments.

Safety

Operational safety

On 11 August EDF Energy reported that the four nuclear reactors at its Heysham 1 and Hartlepool power stations would be shut down to allow a detailed programme of boiler inspections to take place.

This precautionary measure was taken after the discovery of a defect on a component known as a boiler spine at Heysham 1. Hartlepool power station was also shut down because both stations share the same unique design with each of its 16 boilers supported by this boiler spine component.

For full details, please visit: <http://newsroom.edfenergy.com/News-Releases/EDF-Energy-update-on-Heysham-1-and-Hartlepool-Power-Stations-2e5.aspx>

Environmental safety

There were no environmental incidents in August.

Minor Injuries

The site had six minor injuries to contract partners and staff during August.

Although they were all considered minor, the site takes safety very seriously and each incident will be investigated fully to see if they can be avoided in the future.

Plant status

Hartlepool has two advanced gas cooled reactors with a net generation capacity of 1180 MWhs

- Early August a decision was made to shut down both units in response to findings at our sister station Heysham 1
- Unit 1 shut down four days ahead of the planned maintenance shutdown on 12 August
- Unit 2 shut down 11 August

Station output

Hartlepool generated enough electricity to power 67,688 average UK homes for a year and avoided 188,838 tonnes of CO2 emissions.

Visitor centre

The visitor centre tours have been suspended due to the double reactor shutdown. However, there were 74 drop in visitors in August and 241 future bookings have been made.

August has been a quiet time for visitors to both the visitor centre and the Teesmouth Field Centre, due to the school holidays.

Teesmouth Field Centre looks forward to welcoming their first school party in September, whilst bookings for station tours can be arranged from October onwards. Please contact Louise Corser on 01429 853582 or email hartlepoolsitetours@edf-energy.com for availability and further information.

Craft activities at the visitor centre

Various activities have been arranged with our colleagues from Hartlepool Borough Council's Parks & Countryside Wardens team during the summer holidays.

The sessions concluded with a 'Make your own bat box' was held at the centre on Friday 29 August 2014.

Other events are scheduled for later in the year including;

- Monday 27 October - Boggarts & Brooms for Halloween at 10:00-11:30 and 13:00-14:30 £2.50 per person to cover cost of materials and spaces limited so booking essential.
- Wednesday 10 December - Christmas Garlands at 17:30 £10.00 per person to cover cost of materials (including donation to Marie Curie) and spaces limited so booking essential.

All events to be held in visitors centre. Please contact Louise Corser on 01429 853582 or email hartlepoolsitetours@edf-energy.com to book your session.

Education

EDF Energy has a fantastic, free education programme called 'The Pod'.

<http://www.jointhepod.org/> is an interactive website for teachers, community group leaders and children. It has free lesson plans, practical activities, assemblies, films, games and information - all with cross curricular links.

All of the resources are aimed at 4 to 14 year olds and cover the topics of energy, waste, water, transport, biodiversity and climate science. Future campaigns include 'Sustainable September', 'Out with the old, in with the new' and 'Energy month'.

Would you like to enhance your schools curriculum, combining the 'Pod' with a visit to the power station?

Please contact Louise Corser on 01429 853582 or email hartlepoolsitetours@edf-energy.com for availability and further information.

EDF Energy 2012 Legacy Fund Awards

EDF Energy's 2012 Legacy Fund awarded £3,100 to Hartlepool Junior Cricket Club to purchase a bowling machine and support coaching costs.

Alan Smith, Chairman of Hartlepool Junior Cricket Club said "The support from EDF Energy is a massive boost for junior cricket at Hartlepool Cricket Club who currently field junior teams at u-9, u-11, u-12, u-13, u-15 and u-17. The acquisition of a bowling machine has already shown benefits in the development of many young cricketers and will continue to do so in years to come."



The grant from EDF Energy will also help the club to further develop England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) qualified coaches to ensure that young players develop their skills and are encouraged to participate and enjoy the sport of cricket. As a club we are extremely grateful to have benefited from the EDF Energy 2012 Legacy Fund."

Hartlepool Helping Hands Community Fund Awards

The following groups were awarded small donations under the stations Helping Hands Community Fund Awards:

- Hartlepool's Lesbian, Gay & Bi-Sexual Transgender Youth Groups, Family Fun Day on 23 August 2014 at Kingsley School.

- Greatham Sports Field Association
- St Hild's Secondary School, Hartlepool, Mean Green Electric Machine
- Kensington Court Residents Group, Hartlepool

We look forward to welcoming a group from Kensington Court Residents Group in November for a station tour.

EDF Energy Charity Partner - Marie Curie Cancer Care

Marie Curie Cancer Care became our charity partner in January 2013 and since that time, staff and contracting partners at Hartlepool have worked together to raise funds for this worthwhile cause.

We reached our Company wide fundraising target of £300,000 in just 15 months of the three year partnership.

Over the summer, Bryan O'Donoghue, John Wood, and Aaron Dorner, a team of Hartlepool power station engineers, took on a coast to coast challenge in France. They started on the Atlantic coast, in Saint Jean De Luz and finished on the Mediterranean coast in Argelès sur Mer. They raised over £2,500 for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Future fundraising events to follow including our third Marie Curie Charity Golf Day at Seaton Carew Golf Club on Monday 20 April 2015. Contact Louise Corser on 01429 853582 for more details.



Natural England – Mike Leakey

In marked contrast to the preceding months, this August proved to be the coolest for over a decade, yet our monthly rainfall total remained slightly below average; indeed, this has been the driest summer on Teesside since 2006.

Record numbers of seals were noted on 22 August, when 99 harbour seals were counted at Greatham Creek. Sadly, a dead pup was reported here the same day. The body was recovered and the subsequent post mortem revealed that the likely cause of death was an infected wound in the gullet probably caused by an ingested fish hook. However, not all the news was bad: the nineteenth harbour seal pup of the season was noted on 24 August having previously escaped detection.

This summer's programme of nine post-breeding tern surveys at Seaton Snook was completed. Terns were present on seven of the nine occasions with a peak count of 396 birds on 21 July (236 Sandwich, 159 common, 1 little) and a mean count of 168.5 birds. Recreational events and any

resulting disturbance were recorded on all nine visits. Eight actual disturbance events affecting terns were recorded during six of the nine visits and all but one of these disturbance events involved dogs off leads.

The August Wetland Bird Survey count took place on 10 August and it was especially encouraging to see that 19 species – among them 104 dunlin and 23 redshank – were already using the Greatham North managed realignment site (now to be known as the “Saltern Wetlands”), which was flooded as recently as May.

The children’s story book about our common terns, entitled ‘Migration Day’ was launched with a series of readings across Hartlepool’s public libraries on 18 to 22 August. Back on the Reserve itself, a group of ten hardy souls had braved the unseasonal elements to attend a very instructive ‘Snook History’ guided walk.

Timber preservative was applied to four NNR signs and five volunteers did an excellent job in clearing ragwort from the pony enclosure at North Gare.



Grey seal with harbour seals (Photo courtesy of D Britton)

Company news

New Nuclear Research on the Sizewell Coast

A team of marine engineers working on the Sizewell C project will gather fresh data from the seabed via a series of geophysical surveys, tests and shallow boreholes along the Sizewell shoreline and out to sea.

As part of the work sediment cores will be removed from the sea-bed for laboratory analysis.

This work will provide essential geotechnical information for ongoing design studies for the cooling water infrastructure and the Marine Offloading Facility (MOLF) needed for the proposed new power station.

The work will be carried out from boats in front of the Sizewell site.

EDF Energy's Response to Ofgem Investigation into Complaint Handling

EDF Energy has agreed to pay £3m to benefit vulnerable customers following an Ofgem investigation into the company's complaint handling during the final stages of introducing a new customer service IT system in 2011.

Despite careful planning and investment in resources to manage the transition of the new system over an 18 month period, some EDF Energy customers experienced long call waiting times in the latter part of 2011.

As soon as the problems emerged, following a number of unforeseen technical system problems, EDF Energy suspended the transfer of customer accounts into the new system. Actions were taken to resolve these technical problems and hundreds of additional staff were recruited to restore service levels.

Update on Coastal Flooding Defence Improvements at Dungeness B

Dungeness B power station is undertaking a number of improvements to its coastal flooding defences, investing around £5 million so far.

The works began in 2013 and are to upgrade the existing flooding defences to cover more extreme events that are statistically very unlikely to occur in the U.K., ones that might happen only one in every 10,000 years.

The station has just put in a planning application for the final phase of the project; a rock armour wall behind the shingle bank which we hope to be completed by the end of 2014.

Next Local Community Meeting

The date of the next Local Community Liaison Council meeting will be held on 11 December and members of the public are very welcome to join the meeting. If you would like to attend, please contact Louise Corser via email at hartlepoolsite@edfenergy.com

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Glossary of terms:

Term	Definition
Nuclear reportable event or incident	Nuclear reportable events are events reported to the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) in compliance with EDF Energy's nuclear site licences.
Environmental event or incident	Environmental events arise from wastes or discharges above permitted levels or breaches of permitted conditions.
Outage	A period during which a reactor is shut down. The periodic shutdown of a reactor including for maintenance, inspection and testing or, in some cases, for refuelling is known as a planned outage. In the UK, some planned outages are known as statutory outages and are required by the conditions attached to the nuclear site licence needed to operate the station. Unscheduled shutdown of a reactor for a period is known as an unplanned outage.
Boiler Spine	Just as your spine centrally supports the main parts of your body, the boiler spine centrally supports the mass of the boiler (around 140 tonnes), including all the boiler tubes (feed inlet, main boiler, reheat, superheater, water and pressurised steam).
Unit	A unit refers to one of the reactors at the power station and its generating turbine.