

Minutes of the Hartlepool LCLC June 15 Training Centre 2 Hartlepool Power Station

In attendance

Mark Lees – EDF, Station Director Hartlepool Power Station (meeting Chair)
Andrew Shirley – EDF Technical, Safety and Support Manager Hartlepool Power Station
Kirsty Page – EDF Industrial placement Hartlepool Power Station
Jaime Moss – EDF Environmental Compliance Lead Hartlepool Power Station
Andrew Wilson - EDF Quality Manager Hartlepool Power Station
Louise Gwynne Jones – EDF Defueling Communications Lead
Fiona McCall – EDF, External Communications Manager
Matthew Pardo – EDF, External Communications Manager
Martin Green – Local resident
Chris Stocks – Deputy Harbour Master Tees and Hartlepool PD Ports
Robin Beach – Hartlepool Borough Council Emergency Planning Team
Harlan Watson - Hartlepool Borough Council Emergency Planning Team
Bob Buchan – Hartlepool Borough Council
Ann Oxley – Teesmouth Field Centre

Apologies received from

Joanne Liddell – English Martyrs’ School, Hartlepool
Daniel Knight – Freedom
Scott Redpath – Office for Nuclear Regulation
Jon Davenport – Environment Agency
Ken Dixon – Stockton Borough Council
Michael Ward – Hartlepool Borough Council
Mike Young – Hartlepool Borough Council
Heather Moorhouse – North Yorkshire County Council
Tracy Fowler – North East Ambulance Service
Jennifer Gant - Hartlepool Borough Council



Introduction

1. Hartlepool Power Station Director Mark Lees started the meeting explaining he had attended similar meetings at four of the company's power stations and understood each site took its own approach to such meetings. He stressed he wanted to use the meeting to demonstrate the company, and power station's, commitment to public transparency regarding its operations and he thanked all those who'd taken the time to attend or offer their apologies for non-attendance.
2. Mark, who was appointed to the role in April, introduced himself to the meeting noting that former Station Director Craig Dohring had taken up a new role with Hinkley Point C. Mark told the meeting he'd spent several years working on Hartlepool's sister station at Heysham in Lancashire.
3. He also said that Martyn Butlin had left EDF and that meant from now on future community/media contact would be handled by Matthew Pardo and Fiona McCall from the company's Communications team.
4. **ACTION** Mark committed the station to ensure all future meetings would be minuted.

Hartlepool power station operational update

5. Mark then took attendees through the pre-meeting circulated Station Director report. The report covered the outage undertaken in late 2021/early 2022 in which an unanticipated boiler tube leak was detected, this had slowed the station's return to service.
6. He also said work on the station's fuel route had been completed during the outage. He reported that over the previous 18 months there had been challenges to the station's fuel route operations but that work during the outage had put the site in a much stronger position.
7. He informed the meeting that the station's next statutory outage was due in November 2022 but after talks with the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), had been postponed until July 2023.
8. Mark told the meeting the outages brought in hundreds of workers to the area which would provide an economic boost to accommodation providers and restaurants.
9. Robin Beach asked the date of the outages, noting that the Tall Ships were due in Hartlepool Marina between 6-9 July, an event expected to bring thousands of additional visitors to the area. He said it may be advantageous to ensure the outage period does not cover that same time frame.

10. Cllr Buchan reported that other historic buildings in Hartlepool were presently being refurbished and by 2024 could provide further, valuable accommodation to those visiting the town.
11. Mark Lees reported that so far this year Hartlepool Power Station is the best performing of the UK's Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor fleet.
12. Chris Stocks asked what the future was for Hartlepool Power Station.
13. Mark replied that the company was discussing the plant's future with site staff. That Hartlepool had just under two years of generation left and that the company paid out over £40m in wages every year to more than 700 staff working at the site. He said after generation there was expected to be four years of defueling work and following that decommissioning of the site. By the time that work starts there will have been more than 50 years of nuclear operations in Hartlepool and that there would be hundreds of staff needed at site to decommission the plant. He told the meeting all of this was being discussed with staff, 70% of which live within 15 miles of site.
14. Jamie Moss told the meeting a planning and consents team had recently been set up by EDF to look at the long-term plans for the site. He said there would be considerable work, including surveying site and the local ecology, undertaken as part of those wider works.
15. Andrew Wilson told the meeting at the end of generation the site's risk profile would drop significantly and that the site's defueling team would also be considering other steps that could be taken, for example reducing oils onsite, to further reduce risks the site poses.
16. Martin Green agreed decommissioning work was skilled.
17. Mark Lees said Magnox was keen that EDF manages staff appropriately so that they can make the most of the site's unique skills base to decommission the site.
18. Fiona McCall told the meeting EDF was already working closely with Magnox on how sites make the transition from operational to decommissioning sites, and that Hunterston was the UK fleet's lead and learn site for such collaboration.
19. Mark told the meeting there were almost 500 EDF staff working at Hartlepool now and that there would be a need for almost 400 until the site is handed over. He said there would be no 'cliff edge' as regards job number changes and that people onsite would learn new skills which could be used all around the world.
20. Cllr Buchan asked how long it would take to fully decommission the site and level buildings.
21. Mark Lees told the meeting it would likely be 15-18 years from now before the initial stages of decommissioning were complete.

World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) review and visit

22. Mark reported that WANO visits sites every four years but every two years come for a further assessment. He said 17 nuclear experts from around the world came to Hartlepool and identified area which, if fully addressed, would make the site among the highest performing nuclear stations in the world.
23. The inspectors found three strengths and eight areas for improvement. After discussion around some of these areas Martin Green congratulated the station for the outcome of the inspection.

Prime Minister's visit

24. Mark discussed the visit of the Prime Minister in early May. He discussed the comments made by the Prime Minister about the station's prospective lifetime and that, for the time being, the site remains focussed on delivering electricity until March 2024.
25. He also reflected on potential plans for new reactors at Hartlepool. He said that following the Prime Minister's visit interest in new nuclear development at Hartlepool had increased. He said the site was on a Government list for future nuclear development, that land is available for development, that there are supportive communities and highly skilled nuclear staff – he said the area ticks a lot of boxes for some kind of nuclear development. He said he couldn't guarantee new nuclear but that interest in Hartlepool had increased. He also reflected that Hartlepool is surrounded by a high number of process industries which could utilise heat and steam generated by an Advanced Modular Reactor (AMR) if one were built here.

Other plant matters

26. Andrew Shirley reported on a number of minor injuries, back strains, shoulder injuries, which had occurred since the previous meeting. He said the most serious incident involved a staff member being sent to hospital with a cut finger – however no ambulances had needed to attend site since the previous meeting.
27. Jamie Moss reported it had been 3,436 days, nine years four months, since the last Tier One environmental event at site. He said work was ongoing to work collaboratively with other industries and that a tree had been planted onsite to mark the Queen's Jubilee.
28. Andrew Wilson reported on site exercises that had been completed since the last meeting and that a peer assessed exercise run in March had been described as adequate by the ONR.
29. Robin Beach of Hartlepool Borough Council reported on Exercise Hydra in May, the first major face-to-face radiation emergency exercise staged in the UK since 2020. He said all major elements were tested, strategic delivery, tactical delivery,

- media and scientific advice and that the test was considered an appropriate test of the offsite plan.
30. Martin Green asked what arrangements had been made to test the emergency response to an incident involving a flask.
 31. **ACTION** Mark Lees agreed that at the next meeting EDF staff would report back how flasking emergency scenarios were tested.
 32. Andrew Wilson described the site's recent arrangements for operating while coronavirus continued to circulate in the community. He said present rates onsite were consistent with those observed in the community.
 33. Mark Lees said he was proud that Hartlepool has continued to provide electricity to the country throughout the period of the pandemic. He said such delivery was a testament to everyone at Hartlepool Power Station.

Regulatory issues

34. Although neither the ONR or the EA were able to send representatives to the meeting the organisation's reports were discussed. The meeting heard about an incident in which a control rod was lowered into an offline reactor – the event posed no risk as the reactor was offline. The next shift team noticed the anomaly when they started their shift. Because such an incident is outside of EDF's procedures, an investigation was launched and ONR was informed.

Teesmouth Field Centre and community issues

35. Ann Oxley reported that Teesmouth Field Centre has operated for fifty one years at the site and been accommodated in the HPS Visitor Centre since 2013. Because school groups had been unable to visit the Field Centre during the Covid pandemic, the two staff had been taking out environmental workshops to Primary Schools over a wide area from Northallerton to Peterlee, Darlington to Saltburn as well as Middlesbrough, Stockton and Hartlepool.
36. She reported that in late May the team received news the power station visitor centre would soon reopen and that school groups could again visit the facilities. However some schools reported it was easier for the centre team to visit them than for the school group to come to Teesmouth and use the Field Centre, so some outreach sessions are still continuing at present. A return to the normal programme is planned for September onwards.
37. She thanked EDF for its ongoing support of the field centre.
38. Robin Beach asked if the station would be supporting the Crucial Crew again.
39. **ACTION** Mark Lees said that over the coming weeks station communications staff would look at what support could be provided.
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41. **ACTION** Mark Lees said public tours of the power station were not restarting yet but it may be appropriate, covid allowing, to restart them soon and for the LCLC to do a tour.

Future meetings

42. Mark Lees said the next meeting would be held on **Wednesday, December 7**. He said he was flexible about location and had seen some similar meetings held in the community have more successful public interactions.
43. Robin Beach said previous meetings held elsewhere had drawn in more participants.
44. **ACTION** Mark Lees agreed to review the location for the next meeting, find somewhere suitable in the community and ensure the LCLC membership was aware where it would be held.
45. Mark Lees thanks participants for attending and closed the meeting.