

16 April 2015

Dear LCLC member,

### **Heysham 1 ONR Improvement Notice**

As you were previously notified, on Monday 16 March a pipe failed on one of Heysham 1's CO<sub>2</sub> plants, leading to the release of CO<sub>2</sub>. A site incident was declared to enable us to muster and account for all our staff. This was in line with our emergency arrangements, which as you know we routinely practice and no one was harmed.

Both reactors on station were not impacted by the event and have continued to generate electricity as normal.

Since this event, both the station and our regulator, the Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR), have been investigating the cause of the leak. This investigation has shown that the pipe work was caused by corrosion.

As a result of the regulator's preliminary investigation, the ONR has issued an Improvement Notice to EDF Energy and Heysham 1 Power Station, in relation to this incident. The Improvement Notice asks me to consider whether the arrangements for the maintenance and inspection of the East CO<sub>2</sub> Plant are adequate.

Following the incident the station has carried out inspections using 'non-destructive testing' on all the pipe work related to East CO<sub>2</sub> plant and additionally on our other West CO<sub>2</sub> plant. No further issues have been identified. Once all our internal investigations are complete we will replace the failed pipe work and return the plant to service, once it is safe to do so.

Across EDF Energy we have also checked similar pipe work on CO<sub>2</sub> plants in our other nuclear power stations and no further issues have been identified.

As with any incident of this type, we look to not only fix the problem, but to also independently investigate what the cause of the failure was and how we can learn from this event. We then share this learning across the station, company and wider industry. We carry out this investigation with support from our own internal regulation team and share with the ONR.

The site will have six months to comply with the notice, although I am confident that we will address the issues and demonstrate more than adequate maintenance and inspection arrangements are in place, well in advance of this time period.

I will update you further at the next Local Community Liaison Committee meeting and also update you on progress with our statutory outage on Unit 2, which began this week. This is one of our regular three yearly statutory shut down periods, which we carry out every

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three years on each reactor to complete essential off-load maintenance, testing and inspections.

If you have any questions please contact Ann-Marie Brown, Community Liaison lead on 01524 868855 or email [annmariebrown@edf-energy.com](mailto:annmariebrown@edf-energy.com) or contact Martyn Butlin on 01524 863563 via our Visitor Centre.

Be safe

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ian C D Stewart'.

Ian Stewart  
Station Director  
Heysham 1