

# Hunterston B monthly report

## January 2015

### Introduction

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.

### Station output

Both unit 7 and unit 8 were operating throughout the month of January

### Safety

- The station had no lost time incidents (LTIs) for EDF Energy staff during the reporting period and has achieved 2,512 LTI free days up to 31 January 2015, that's more than six years.
- The station had no lost time incidents (LTIs) for contracting partner staff during the reporting period and has achieved 2,500 LTI free days up to 31 January 2015, that's more than six years.
- The station had no emergency service call outs during January.
- There were no medical treatments during the month.
- The station had no environmental events during the month and has gone 1,934 days without an environmental event, that's more than five years.

### Station news

#### **From birds to bats there is something for all wildlife enthusiasts in the habitat around Hunterston B nuclear power station**

Most people who think of Hunterston B nuclear power station will picture a big grey industrial plant producing enough electricity to power more than 1.7 million homes. But there is more to this well known landmark than meets the eye. It has just been awarded the Biodiversity Benchmark by the Wildlife Trust for all the hard work done to protect and enhance the unique and diverse wildlife around the North Ayrshire site.

The EDF Energy power station is right next to Southannan sands which is a site of special scientific interest (SSSI) and is teeming with all kinds of special wildlife. The sands are important for their intertidal

sandflats and dwarf eelgrass beds. They also support a variety of wildfowl and waders such as curlews, oystercatchers and shelducks.

Hunterston B employees have created a new pond which has proved very popular with teal in the winter.

A number of bird and bat boxes have also been put up and there has been work done to control some of the invasive, non- native species of plant like Himalayan Balsam and Rhododendron.



Hunterston B station director Colin Weir is pleased with the award, “The wildlife survives here thanks to the employees at Hunterston B who work closely with North Ayrshire Council, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Hunterston Estate. Together we ensure these fantastic birds and plant life are looked after properly, so people can enjoy the area for years to come.”

Peter Dorans, Corporate Relations Manager for The Wildlife Trusts said “I am delighted that we are able to recognise the fantastic work that EDF Energy has done at Hunterston B nuclear power station. Wild places and our ability to access them are vital to our wellbeing. This award just goes to show that with partnerships and careful management wildlife can thrive, even alongside key energy infrastructure.

“Our assessor was particularly impressed with the work that EDF Energy has done with local farmers to enable them to add to the efforts on site. This site completes the set; every EDF Energy Nuclear Power Station has now achieved The Wildlife Trusts Biodiversity Benchmark. This is no mean feat, it’s a tough standard so very well done to everyone involved”

Fiona Fisher, operations officer for Scottish Natural Heritage said: “It’s great to see the work carried out by EDF Energy to improve the diversity of wildlife habitats at Hunterston and the wider contribution that this makes to biodiversity in North Ayrshire. We hope that other businesses are inspired to follow this example of good practice.”

Christine Blythe, EDF Energy’s biodiversity manager said, “We are very pleased with this fantastic award. Hunterston B is home to some special and rare wildlife. We are committed to protecting and enhancing biodiversity working in partnership with other conservation organisations and this award recognises our work in fulfilling that commitment.”

## Company news

### EDF Energy announces 10 more years for Dungeness B

EDF Energy has extended the expected life of its Dungeness B nuclear power station by ten years. This means it is due to continue generating low carbon electricity until 2028, producing enough power each year to supply the equivalent of 1.5m homes.

The decision has been made possible by a £150m investment programme to extend the life of the station. It comes after extensive reviews of the plant's safety cases and work with the independent nuclear regulator, the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). The station will also be subject to continuing independent safety reviews by the ONR.

Improvement projects at Dungeness B have already included a £75m upgrade to control room computer systems and £8m on enhanced flood defences.

The life extension at Dungeness B is part of a wider EDF Energy programme to extend the lives of its eight nuclear power stations.

Based on the expected life extensions, all seven AGR stations will be operating in 2023 when the new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point C is due to be commissioned, subject to a final investment decision.

### **EDF Energy invests £40M in maintenance programme at Hinkley Pont B**

One thousand extra workers have joined the workforce at Hinkley Point B for its planned maintenance shutdown.

This team will carry out 12,000 separate pieces of work – each carefully planned during the last two years of preparation.

The extensive programme of work will also see inspections inside the reactor, as well as installation of new equipment at the plant. The biggest projects include replacing two large gas circulators which help cool the reactor, as well as replacing blades on the turbine which is used to turn steam into low carbon electricity.

The maintenance periods known as 'statutory outages' take place every three years and are planned in advance with the National Grid to ensure that there is no impact on the national electricity supply. Hinkley Point B's other reactor is due to continue operating normally throughout the period.

Hinkley Point B station director, Mike Harrison, said: "This inspection and investment programme has been carefully planned over the last two years and will enable us to continue safely generating low carbon electricity at Hinkley B for many years to come."

### **Next local community meeting**

The next Site Stakeholder meetings (SSG) is on 5 March 2015.

This meeting will take place in Laurieston Hotel in Ardrossan Lunch will be at 1 pm, followed by the meeting at 1.30 pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend, and these meetings will be advertised in the local press.

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## Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
Unit	A unit refers to one of the reactors at the power station and its generating turbine
Nuclear reportable event or incident	Nuclear reportable events are events reported to the Office of 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.