

Hinkley Point B power station

March 2017 monthly report

Introduction

This is our latest monthly report, sharing news with our local community stakeholder groups and local councils. This forms part of our commitment to being an open and transparent business. These reports are also available to all members of the public on www.edfenergy.com website. This newsletter covers **March 2017**.

Safety update

We measure our safety performance against top tier indicators, including nuclear reportable events, environmental events, and staff and contract partner recordable injuries. It is now over ten years since we experienced a nuclear reportable event and over seven years since our last environmental event.

During March colleagues from one of our contract partners, Workplace Solutions, celebrated (see right) after achieving over one million hours without suffering a lost time accident at Hinkley Point B power station.



Station generation

Reactor 3 / turbine 7 operated at nominal full load throughout the month.

Reactor 4's planned interim maintenance and graphite inspection programme which started on 24 February 2017 (reported in last month's newsletter), was completed on 13 March 2017. During the two week programme, 18 channels were successfully inspected in the reactor core to confirm its expected safe condition. During reactor start up activities on 13 March 2017 a vacuum perturbation caused the reactor to be manually shutdown and the station entered a forced outage. During the 25 day long forced outage a tremendous amount of investigatory activities, fault finding work and testing took place into the vacuum disturbances and pipework excessive movement, and the unit returned to power on 10 April 2017.



Station News

Des appointed as Hinkley Point B's Technical and Safety Support Manager

Following Peter Higginson's retirement, Des Uminksi has been appointed as the station's new Technical and Safety Support manager. Des has worked at the Hinkley Point site for 30 years, and previous positions include Reactor Systems Group Head and Fuel Route Manager.

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Community news Staff Fundraising

Hinkley Point B employee, Paul Humphries, raised over £1,000 for a local charity after first dyeing and then shaving his hair. Paul, who works in Site IT Services, raised the money for St Margaret's Hospice, Taunton.

Conserving critically endangered wildlife at Hinkley Point B

EDF Energy's Hinkley Point B power station has joined forces with local environmental groups to help protect critically endangered eels on the Somerset Levels. It is part of a huge programme of work which is underway across Europe to help restore eel populations by restoring wetlands and removing barriers to the eels' traditional migration routes.

The new and established wetlands of the Somerset Moors and Levels are ideal habitat for eels, however, the hundreds of sluices used to manage water levels act like walls for eels migrating in and out.

EDF Energy's funding has helped to provide a new fish pass to enable baby eels to get into and colonise the 20 hectares of prime habitat at Catcott Fen from the nearby River Huntspill. The eels will grow there for between eight and 20 years before migrating back to sea to spawn.



Amy Barwood, Hinkley Point B's environmental co-ordinator, said: "New European legislation is helping to protect dwindling eel populations and we were delighted to be able to do our bit by providing a fish pass."

The European Eel, once thriving across Europe and the UK, is currently classified as 'critically endangered' as their numbers have declined by about 90% over the past 40 years. This is due to a number of reasons – mainly climate change, destruction of wetland habitat and overfishing in some places.

The eel has an extraordinary life cycle. It starts as eggs in the Sargasso Sea near Bermuda and spends 18 months floating on ocean currents towards the coasts of Europe and North Africa. It enters rivers and lakes and spends anything from 5 to 20 years feeding and growing into adult eels. It then returns to sea and swims 3000 miles for over a year back to spawn in the Sargasso Sea.

This was a partnership project involving EDF Energy, The Sustainable Eel Group, Somerset Wildlife Trust, Berry & Escott and the Environment Agency.

Company news

Minister finds 1,000 reasons to visit Hinkley Point C for National Apprenticeship Week

Skills and Apprenticeships Minister Robert Halfon MP congratulated EDF Energy for the work it is doing to create apprenticeships for the Hinkley Point C nuclear power station.

Around 1,000 apprentices will be taken on during the construction of Hinkley Point C as part of the 25,000 job opportunities available across a whole range of careers such as engineering, design, steel-fixing, commercial, catering and construction.



The Minister was speaking during a visit to the 140 hectare construction site to mark the beginning of National Apprenticeship Week.

Mr Halfon said, “National Apprenticeship Week is the highlight of the apprenticeships year – it showcases the best of the best and celebrates the positive impact apprenticeships and traineeships have on learners and employers. There really has never been a better time to be an apprentice. I congratulate EDF Energy for getting involved, giving people a chance to climb the ladder of opportunity and get on in the world of work.”

EDF Energy sets out progress at Hinkley Point C new nuclear power station

Six months after contracts were signed for Hinkley Point C in Somerset, EDF Energy set out the progress made at the site. This includes confirmation that concrete has been poured for the power station galleries. The galleries are a network of connected tunnels which will carry cabling and pipes. They will be some of the first permanent structures on the site.

The concrete pour is a great achievement for the project team and followed the first consent for construction granted by the independent regulator, the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). EDF Energy is committed to delivering HPC to the highest standards of safety and quality while working continuously to learn and improve as the project moves forward.

Other progress includes:

- Start of construction of a 500m temporary jetty in the Bristol Channel allowing 80% of the aggregate to be brought in by sea rather than by road.
- Construction of a store which can contain 57,000 tonnes of aggregate.

- Excavation of 3 million cubic metres of soil and rock to prepare the ground for the power station buildings.
- Construction of the first two tower cranes.
- Work to build 15 on-site accommodation buildings for more than 500 workers has begun.
- Good progress is being made on the sea wall which will provide a barrier between the power station and the coastline.
- A spray batching plant has been built to produce a finer quality of concrete which will be sprayed to secure slopes at the site.

Hinkley Point C will relaunch the nuclear construction industry in the UK. It will provide 25,000 job opportunities and 1,000 apprenticeships with many of the jobs going to people living in Somerset. With 64% of the project spend going to the UK, HPC is already delivering significant benefits to the economy in the South West and other parts of the country. £435m of contracts have been signed so far with businesses in the region.

The power station is a vital part of the UK's low carbon energy future and will provide enough reliable electricity to meet 7% of the UK's future electricity needs.

New hi-res video and photographs showing some of the main areas of construction work at HPC are available in our online media library [here](#) or by accessing www.edfenergy.com.

Next local community meeting

The next Site Stakeholder Group meeting will be held on Friday 23 June 2017 from 10am to 1pm at The Canalside, Bridgwater.

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