

Sizewell B power station

Monthly Newsletter Issue 575

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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. These reports are available to all members of the public on www.edfenergy.com.

Whilst we will do our best to always use plain English, talking about our business sometimes involves specific terminology, and you will find a glossary of any terms used at the end of each monthly report.

Safety

During the period of the report there have been:

- No Lost Time Injuries (LTI)
- No environmental incidents
- No nuclear reportable incidents

Station output

The station has operated at around full power during this period.

Please click on the link below that provides a daily update of the status of our eight nuclear power stations. The link will show which nuclear reactors are in service and what they were generating at the time the information was updated. You can also see which reactors are out of service, what the reasons are and when we expect them to return to service. In addition, we have included the expected timing of the next statutory outage of each nuclear reactor.

<http://www.edfenergy.com/energy/power-station/daily-statuses>

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.



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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 Point 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.”

Sizewell B and the Community

Sizewell B Safe to operate for another 10 years

The UK’s nuclear power stations have to renew their license to operate every 10 years and Sizewell B has received the regulator’s approval for continued safe operation.

The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has approved the Periodic Safety Review of the safety case for Sizewell B. This allows the UK’s only Pressurised Water Reactor (PWR) to operate for a further 10 years.

The industry regulator confirmed Sizewell B meets its safety case to continue delivering low carbon power to over 2million customers until 2025 and the station is already working on the case for the next ten years to ensure operation to at least 2035. This is the station’s current stated lifetime although two years ago EDF Energy expressed its aim to extend its life for 20 years beyond that to 2055.

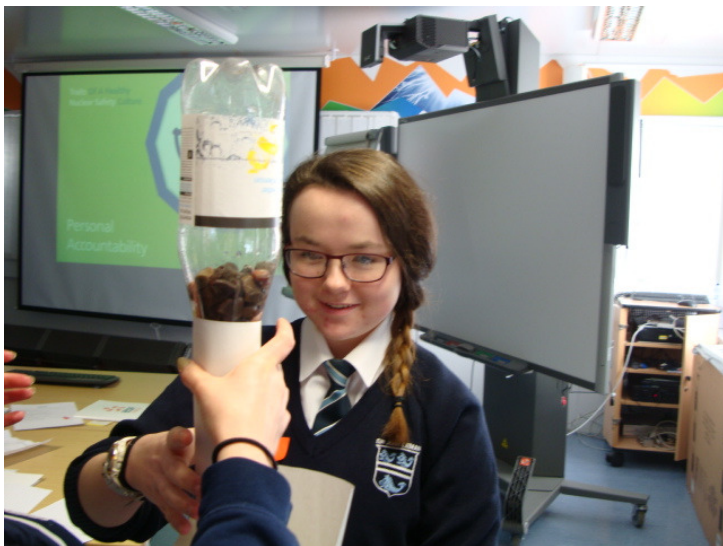
A Periodic Safety Review (PSR) is carried out every 10 years at all nuclear power stations in the UK.

The PSR is a look back at the operation of the station over the last ten years and a look forward at processes to manage safe operations for the next ten years. The review also looks at the experiences of other nuclear stations around the world to see if lessons can be learned.

This is the second PSR to be carried out at Sizewell B. The PSR highlighted opportunities for improvement which will be programmed into the station’s enhancement plans. This work will be part of the maintenance tasks carried out every 18months when the station is brought offline to refuel.

EDF Energy inspires girls to choose engineering – as new research shows change needs to happen

Pupils from Alde Valley Academy and Sir John Leman High Schools in Suffolk have taken part in a pilot workshop at Sizewell B designed to encourage more females into science and engineering roles.



The Year 10 and 11 pupils took part in the workshop to gain a better understanding of the range of jobs on offer for students with good qualifications in Science Technology and Maths (STEM) subjects. The pilot was launched as new research into women in engineering is released. The report, 'Igniting change: building the pipeline of female leaders in energy' found that that 5% of executive board seats are currently held by women while 61% of leadership boards have no women present at all.

EDF Energy believes that a diverse and inclusive workforce is critical to the performance of the business. In an industry which remains dominated by men, EDF Energy's work to encourage more women into scientific, technical and leadership roles is showing progress.

Women employed in the UK business represent 32% of all employees with 26% of management being women, and 10% female senior leaders. So there is still a way to go in ensuring greater gender balance at the top although the UK business met EDF Group's global target of 30% of women in the talent pipeline for 2014.

Sizewell B is highlighted in the national report as an example of setting a good practise by launching primary school visits to the power station and showing girls the range of roles science and engineering can lead to.

During the workshop held at Sizewell B visitor centre the pupils were set a task to challenge their maths and engineering skills. The pupils worked together in teams to design and build a structure that could hold a weight. They were able to 'buy' simple products such as paper, tape and scissors to assist with the project. Female apprentices and technicians from Sizewell B were also on hand to support the pupils.

Other schools interested in working with nurturing STEM subjects at school through partnerships with EDF Energy are encouraged to contact the Sizewell B visitor centre at sizewellbtours@edf-energy.com.

A copy of the report can be found at - www.pwc.co.uk/oilgas/publications/powerful-women

Next local community meeting

The next Sizewell Stakeholder Group meeting will take place on Thursday 5 March 2015 at 10:00 hrs at the Riverside Centre Stratford St. Andrew. Any member of the public is welcome to attend.

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If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail please contact Niki at the above address.

Term	Definition
Nuclear reportable event or incident	Nuclear reportable events are events reported to the Office for Nuclear Regulation in compliance with EDF Energy's nuclear site licences.
Lost time injury	Lost Time Injury is an absence of one day or more resulting from an injury incurred during an accident - generally in UK industry a less stringent three day or more criteria is used.
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.
Unit	A unit refers to one of the reactors at the power station and its generating turbine