

Site Stakeholder Group

Sizewell B Report - December 2011

Save today. Save tomorrow.



Station Director's Report - December 2011

Introduction

On 1 July 2011, we completed the process of changing our company name from British Energy Generation Ltd to EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd. This marks our full integration into EDF Energy and the global EDF nuclear family.

These changes of name do not involve a change of control or any change to the organisation or management structure of the company. There will be no change to the registered company numbers or registered office addresses.

As a result we have changed the branding on all of our communications, including this document and the signage at our sites. We will continue to issue a monthly report, which you can also find on our website www.edfenergy.com.

1. Safety & Environment

Station Safety Performance

During the period of the report there has been:

- No Lost Time Injuries
- No environmental incidents
- No nuclear reportable incidents

2. Generation

Operational update

On Wednesday 16 November EDF Energy took the decision to bring one of the turbines at Sizewell B offline reducing power output to 50%. Turbine generator 2 was brought offline following a steam leak from turbine-related pipe work, which is away from the nuclear area of the site, and investigations are underway. Sizewell B remains safely generating power for around 1 million customers.

Further information will be provided in next month's community newsletter and also at the next Site Stakeholder Group meeting in December.

On 23 October Sizewell B returned to service following its eleventh refuelling outage as planned.

The refuelling outage has seen an additional 1,200 specialist workers on site who have assisted Sizewell B staff, who all live within 25 miles of the power station, complete some 14,000 tasks in addition to refuelling the reactor. By successfully completing these maintenance tasks we further improve the performance of Sizewell B which is already recognised as a world class nuclear power station.

Key achievements during the 50 day outage include the safe replacement of 74 heaters in the pressuriser. Sizewell B made a commitment to replace the heaters in the pressuriser within the next two refuelling outages but has safely accomplished this during just one.

EDF Energy's parent company EDF has worked on a five-year programme to re-design the heaters within the reactors in France and their expertise in this area has helped determine the new model of heater which has been used at Sizewell B.

The intricate work to replace the heaters was tested on a 16 metre x 2 ½ metre replica of the equipment held in an offsite workshop before being successfully completed on the real pressuriser.

During the re-commissioning programme the stations complex protection and back up systems have been fully tested 'end to end' in readiness for return to power.

Further work was carried out by a specialist team of engineers from France who were brought in to replace the internal equipment in the reactor coolant pump, another key part of the site. Completion of such important maintenance tasks helps to ensure continuous delivery of power to over 2 million homes and businesses until the next planned refuelling outage in 2013.

EDF Energy is committed to working with local companies wherever possible and during this refuelling outage at Sizewell B twenty-five local suppliers were able to take a share of contracts with a combined value of up to £3 million, including welding and machinists J T Pegg & Sons from Aldeburgh and precision engineering experts H W Webb Engineering from Bungay.

An estimated additional £20 million is invested in the local community through the accommodation of additional workers and in areas such as salaries.

3. Company Update

Post Fukushima investigations indicate UK nuclear fleet is robust

In October Chief Nuclear Inspector, Dr Mike Weightman published his final report to Government on the events at Japan's Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear site in March. EDF Energy's Chief Executive Vincent de Rivaz said: "Dr Weightman has undertaken a comprehensive, transparent and evidence-based review of the implications for nuclear power in the UK.

"The report demonstrates the importance of strong, expert regulation and will provide valuable input to the process of continuous improvement. We will review his findings in detail and build them into our plans. We have already committed to implementing his recommendations for us in full. We welcome Dr Weightman's reaffirmation that 'UK nuclear facilities have no fundamental safety weaknesses'. He also said that the industry had responded 'constructively and responsibly' and specifically that EDF Energy had shown 'appropriate commitment' to address his recommendations."

Alongside the Weightman Report, EDF Energy has also responded to the EU's stress testing programme. Earlier this year the EU called for a programme of 'stress tests' across the member countries with each nuclear operator submitting details of safety assessments to its nuclear regulators which would be provided in turn to the EU in 2012.

Vincent de Rivaz said: "Our Comprehensive Safety Review has confirmed the safe design of our UK nuclear fleet. The assessment has proved that we are very robust under the most extreme scenarios, even those far beyond what could ever be plausible in the UK – including combinations of flooding, seismic events, fire and extreme weather – and confirmed that the plants would operate safely as they are designed to do. We've taken the scenarios even further – many times beyond the scenarios the plants are designed for in some cases – and found that we would continue to be very robust under these extreme conditions.

"Nonetheless I have said before that this is an industry which learns from experience and seeks to improve its safety continually. As such, the events at Fukushima are already having an impact on the way the nuclear industry operates both now and in the years to come – supporting our drive for continuous improvement in nuclear safety."

New Nuclear Build progress

On 31 October EDF Energy delivered a Development Consent Order to the Infrastructure Planning Commission to build and operate a new nuclear plant at Hinkley Point and to construct various associated developments in the surrounding area. The IPC now has up to 28 days to decide whether or not to accept the submission, after which time it becomes a live application. Until then, EDF Energy remains available to provide the IPC with any clarification that might be necessary. The IPC will only publish the application documents after the application has been formally accepted. Acceptance of the

application would signal the start of the IPC's examination process when people and organisations will have an opportunity to view the documentation, register their interest and make representations.

If the application is accepted by the IPC, EDF Energy would embark on a public information exercise, highlighting its proposals and explaining how to access the documentation and the next steps in the IPC process.

4. Sizewell B news

Sizewell B apprentices get off to a flying start

Sizewell B power station's 2011 apprentices enjoyed a week of team building in the Lake District before setting off to HMS Sultan which is a world class training centre in Portsmouth.

The 16 apprentices from Sizewell B will join 52 other successful candidates from EDF Energy's other nuclear power station sites for the first two years of the four-year apprenticeship. They will return for on-site training for the final two years.

Each of the new starters participated in the week's activities which included orienteering, craft building, high wire climbing, team building and problem solving.

After the week-long programme in the Lakes the group was taken south to see their superb modern rooms and excellent training facilities.

Sizewell B's latest apprentices will tackle engineering training and also life skills at HMS Sultan. Away from the classroom the apprentices will enjoy excellent sports and leisure facilities under the watchful eye of the centre's own team.

Earlier this year the recruitment process started with the station receiving hundreds of applications.

This takes Sizewell B's total current apprentices to 50, with 15 currently training on site full-time. In addition, the station now has 35 apprentices in the first and second year at HMS Sultan in Portsmouth.

Jim Crawford added: "We just get this batch settled in and the recruitment process for 2012 starts. And with HMS Sultan as a key part of the programme we are expecting many applications."

5. Community

Leiston Christmas Lights

Sizewell B, amongst other generous contributors, has provided funding towards new Christmas lights for Leiston which will adorn the streets from Saturday 3 December when the town will celebrate with a traditional Christmas fair.

Jim Crawford, Station Director said: "EDF Energy is delighted to help fund new Christmas lights for Leiston town centre this year. We have over 500 employees at Sizewell B power station, many of whom were brought up in Leiston, so this sponsorship means a lot to them.

"Sizewell B prides itself on being embedded in the local community and we know local people wanted new lights for the town this Christmas so we were only too happy to help."

Phase one of the lights have been purchased already and will light up the High Street with phase two planned for next year when funds will be sourced to light the Sizewell Road.

Paul Roshier, Vice Chairman of the LBA "As you wander through the streets in Leiston it is obvious that businesses are investing in their premises despite tough trading, with many shop fronts and buildings newly decorated. The planned introduction of CCTV will help keep the levels of petty damage and vandalism in the town low, or even reduce them

further. The enhancement of the Long Shop visitor attraction will promote Leiston's industrial heritage, which makes it unique in the area, and bring even more people to the town and the Christmas lights will truly be the 'icing on the cake'."

Powering up the search for 'The Apprentice'

EDF Energy has launched the 2012 recruitment campaign search for tomorrow's most talented engineers to join the company's Advanced Nuclear Apprentice Scheme.

To assist in this recruitment campaign on **Saturday 3 December** there will be an Apprentice Information Day held at **Sizewell Sports and Social Club**, presentations will take place at **10.30am and 2.30pm**. This will be an opportunity for young people and their families to come along and meet with some of Sizewell B's apprentices and to find out about the scheme, how to submit applications and what benefits and opportunities are available.

The company is looking to recruit in the region of 80 people to join the apprenticeship programme. The lucky group that make it through the selection process will spend four years in training to attain an Advanced Modern Apprenticeship Certificate in Engineering and an ONC/HNC and also an NVQ Level 3.

The first two years of the programme will be spent at the Royal Naval base at HMS Sultan near Portsmouth, Hampshire. The academic and workshop training programme will ensure each apprentice gains the necessary introduction to engineering and initial skills development. Part of the programme also covers the development of 'life skills' and confidence and communication. The apprentices will also have the chance to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme to provide a further challenge and help them work together as a team.

Whilst at HMS Sultan the apprentices will receive support from a dedicated development team and a 24 hour residential care team. They will also have access to leisure facilities that offer a fantastic opportunity to experience a wide range of sporting activities or to study, relax and unwind in the evening and at the weekends. A full time EDF Energy Apprentice Manager is also on hand to support the apprentices throughout their first two years of training. All meals and accommodation are provided during the first two years, along with a number of paid journeys home.

Candidates should have 5 GCSEs or Standard Grades (or equivalent) at grade C or above (including Maths, English Language and Science). We are seeking male and female apprentices from a diverse variety of cultural backgrounds to help deliver the low carbon energy the country needs for today and tomorrow.

For further details and to apply please visit the apprenticeship section of the EDF Energy careers website at: www.edfenergy.com/apprentices

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