

## **EDF Energy Torness Power Station**

### **Minutes of the forty eighth meeting of the Torness local liaison committee held via Zoom on Thursday, 25 June 2020.**

#### **Members in attendance**

Councillor Denis Dixon, City of Edinburgh Council  
Councillor Gavin Corbett, City of Edinburgh Council  
Sandy Baptie, East Lothian Council  
Lynn Crothers, East Lothian Council  
Councillor Russell Imrie, Midlothian Council  
Brian MacFarlane, Emergency Planning, Scottish Borders Council  
David Ward, Fire Scotland  
Alasdair Swan, Dunbar Community Council  
James Wyllie, National Farmers' Union for Scotland  
Isabelle Watson, Scottish Environment Protection Agency  
David Gurney, Scottish Government  
Kirsty McCrae, Scottish Ambulance Service  
Shaun McKenna, ONR  
Lorraine Jay, Civil Nuclear Constabulary  
Robert Gunn, Torness Station Director  
Alastair Brockie, Torness Technical and Safety Support Group  
Brian Hood, Torness Site Head of Security  
Ashleigh Dickson, Torness Community Liaison Officer  
Fiona McCall, EDF Energy External Communications Manager

#### **612. Welcome**

Mr Robert Gunn welcomed everyone present to the forty eighth meeting of the Torness local liaison committee and went round the call and asked everyone to introduce themselves to the meeting. Mr Gunn introduced himself as station director.

#### Agenda Items:

1. The meeting started with the daily safety message
2. Actions – Fiona McCall updated the meeting on previous actions
3. Robert Gunn talked through the station director's pack.

#### **613. Apologies for absence**

Robbie Beattie, City of Edinburgh Council  
Paul Young, City of Edinburgh Council  
Councillor Maureen, Child City of Edinburgh Council  
Russell McLauchlan, City of Edinburgh Council  
Deputy Provost Margot Russell, Midlothian Council  
Jane Young, Midlothian Council  
Councillor Sue Kempson, East Lothian Council  
Councillor Norman Hampshire, East Lothian Council  
Councillor Paul McLennan, East Lothian Council  
Councillor Helen Laing, Scottish Borders Council  
Councillor Sandy Scott, Scottish Borders Council  
Kevin Craig, Cockburnspath Community Council  
Julia Harrison, East Lammermuir Community Council  
Calum Jefferies, Police Scotland  
Nicola Page, Police Scotland  
Quintin Donald, Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department  
Lorna Paterson, Borders Health  
Richard Othieno, Lothian Health

#### **Members' replacements**

Chief Superintendent Lesley Clark and Inspector Colin Brown retired from Police Scotland  
Ewan Young, Scottish Government has been replaced with James Fox

Councillor Steve Burgess, City of Edinburgh Council has been replaced with Councillor Gavin Corbett  
Peter Mullins, ONR has been replaced with Shaun McKenna  
Julia Harrison has replaced Martin Fife, East Lammermuir Community Council  
We welcome Kirsty McCrae, Scottish Ambulance Service to the LLC

#### **614. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the forty seventh meeting of the committee were approved and accepted as an accurate record.

#### **615. Matters arising**

None.

#### **616. Station overview**

2019 was a fantastic year. We safely generated over 10 TWh of low carbon electricity and it was the station's best performance since we started generating more than 31 years ago. We powered over 2.67 million houses. This is the equivalent of 13.5% of all households in the UK or all the households in Scotland.

We shut down one of our reactors on Tuesday, 23 June due to a valve issue. Reactor 2 came off-line after a 552 day operating run, the unit's second longest, bringing to an end a 1205 day cumulative run across the two reactors. We expect the unit to be back online within the next week following repairs.

We had a few changes to our management team during 2019. We bid farewell to our plant manager, Paul Forrest, who moved to Hunterston B as station director. Tam Al Bishawi, Torness operations manager, has been appointed as plant manager. Tam has a wealth of management and plant experience, having worked in numerous roles at both Torness and Sizewell B. We also welcomed Jamie McKenzie onto the management team as fuel route manager.

Mr Gunn announced that he would be moving to Sizewell B in the autumn and his successor would be announced after the recruitment process.

Mr James Wyllie offered his congratulations.

##### **a. Zero Harm**

Mr Alastair Brockie spoke to the reports in the pack.

Our aim is to have zero harm to our people. Torness's nuclear safety performance is at best ever levels. There have been no nuclear reportable events for over eight years. The station has also gone over eight years without a significant environmental event. That is all very positive progress.

With our strong focus on safety we have a very tight definition of harm so we report even the very minor injuries, for example a back injury or a cut to the hand. All events are investigated to ensure we learn from them and are treated seriously.

#### **Emergency Preparedness**

The 2020 emergency exercise timetable has been disrupted by Covid-19. We did carry out the Level 1 exercise in March which was deemed an "adequate" demonstration. The counter terrorism and Level 2, offsite plan exercise, have been deferred with the permission of the ONR.

The remaining internal practice exercises will take place. Thanks given to the emergency services for their support during exercises.

The March exercise was the first time we have exercised our Beyond Design Basis equipment, which is housed at Bellshill.

We brought pods to site and successfully connected them to demonstrate we have the knowledge and skills to cope with a scenario where everything on site fails.

Mr Sandy Baptie confirmed that ELC Chief Executive had written to ONR to request the postponement of Exercise Centaurus (Level 2 exercise) which will now take place in the spring of 2021.

Mr Shaun McKenna commented that the exercise will go ahead but the format may be different depending on the situation with Covid-19 and may be more of a desktop exercise. A decision will be made closer to the date.

### **Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2019 (REPPIR 19)**

Mr Baptie spoke about the changes to Emergency Preparedness and Public Information. The changes to the REPPIR legislation and the additional responsibilities that now fall on local authorities. These include the determination of the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) and of an Outline Planning Zone (OPZ), out to 30km, which didn't exist before and the duty for warning and informing.

DEPZ – outcome had to be submitted by November last year and ELC complied with that. Based on EDF's consequence report and the PHE report which followed that. Both documents have been uploaded onto ELC website. The decision made by the council management team was to keep the DEPZ at 3km, which is well above the EDF recommended minimum. Unless there is an appetite for change there is no need for change.

The OPZ is an information gathering exercise. No change to risk but learning from Fukushima advised local authorities gather as much information as possible so that it's available. That was meant to be included in the offsite plan during May. Due Covid-19, the Chief Executive wrote to ONR to ask for guidance on timelines and was advised there was a six month leeway on receiving the information. We have until November to complete the plan and confident it will be completed.

On warning and informing the public we have started the process of working with EDF in issuing the calendar for those in the 3km DEPZ. Public will not notice a difference, it's an added responsibility for the local authority that is being completed with the support of EDF and other partners.

Mr Baptie opened for questions and comments.

Cllr Gavin Corbett raised the issue of graphite after having read through the previous year's minutes. He asked about the different design of the graphite core, whether it made cracking more likely and over what timescale this could occur.

Mr Brockie explained that the different design did not make keyway route cracking (KWRC) more likely. The graphite has broadly the same properties as the other AGRs and we expect the KWRC to emerge and occur in the same way. The specific feature at Torness and Heysham 2 does mean that when KWRC does happen that there may be an added complication. The main issue with KWRC is to make sure that the control rods go in to shut down the reactor and that has been demonstrated without difficulty at Torness. The seal ring groove wall issue is being investigated and assessed and may affect the movement of the fuel in the reactor, if it did occur.

Mr Gunn talked about the project teams working locally and at fleet level to look at graphite.

Cllr Corbett acknowledged the challenges of dealing with a complex issue in a Zoom meeting but asked about timelines for occurrence.

Mr Brockie explained that the expectation of when KWRC may happen has been updated within the last couple of years. Have taken the information from Hunterston and applied that to our models and forecasts. It's on the horizon and will be a feature of the inspections we carry out.

Mr Gunn highlighted that every time the reactors are taken off there is a programme of inspections carried out, we take samples of the graphite and check the fuel channels. We haven't seen any KWRC yet but we will use the inspections to identify this. We are also doing work with rigs to model the condition of the core.

Mr McKenna said he hoped Cllr Corbett could take comfort from the fact that as an independent regulator there is a lot of work going on in the graphite area. The ONR has specialist inspectors who are engaging with the Central Technical Organisation at Barnwood. We are fully engaged with the issue and continually monitoring.

### **b. Strong Finance and Ethics**

Mr Gunn highlighted the outages at Dungeness and Hunterston B as having a commercial impact on results and gave a summary of the main renewables, nuclear new build and customers' business, including the NNG offshore wind project and developments in electric vehicles and our partnership with Royal Mail.

#### **c. Better for Customers**

We continue to focus on delivering outstanding customer experience. EDF came second out of 40 energy companies when ranked for customer service by Citizen's Advice (July-September 2019) and our Trustpilot score is 4.3/5. EDF wants to be a leader in helping people switch to low carbon transport. In a joint venture with Legal and General Capital, we acquired Pod Point one of the country's largest electric vehicle charge-point companies.

#### **d. Leading Decarbonisation**

Torness was awarded the Biodiversity Benchmark by the Wildlife Trusts for all the hard work done to protect and enhance the unique and diverse wildlife around the East Lothian site. In 2019 the station received continued certification. This recognises the site's commitment to protect and enhance biodiversity on the land that we manage. Torness is one of only four sites in Scotland, and the only one in East Lothian to hold the Biodiversity Benchmark.

We are very proud of our Peregrine falcons who have been rearing chicks at the power station for more than 20 years. Staff can keep an eye on their progress via a web-cam. She reared two chicks in 2019 and we are once again seeing an increased interest in the nest site.

Mr Brockie commented that the information in the station director's report is a summary of the information presented to the technical subgroup. The technical sub-group meet twice a year and they recently met in February 2020 where the various reports (radioactive waste management, operational district survey results and on-site radiological conditions) were discussed in detail. We have the detailed reports if anyone wishes to have a copy. If you would like more information please contact Ashleigh Dickson.

We have a relatively small amount of waste stored on site; only about 10% of our onsite storage capacity is used and we have a process of periodically sending waste away for incineration or other disposal routes.

We have a preference for recycling; we separate out waste and send things like metal away for cleaning and recycling. As a result we keep our solid waste and arising's to landfill minimal.

On dose to workforce; the figures show how low the dose is. By design the AGRs are a low dose design and that means that we are well able to stay within not just the government legal limits but the company limit which is tighter.

Mr Alastair Swan ask about the venting of gaseous discharges. Torness vents a certain quantity of radioactive waste to the atmosphere - the total released is said to be 'within permitted limits'. Are such releases programmed and, if so, is the prevailing wind direction taken into account before any such venting occurs, so as to minimise the risk of anything being carried towards Dunbar, the nearest large population centre?

Mr Brockie said the information on pages 16 and 17 presented the overall picture on discharges to sea and air. I think your registered question was around whether we did anything about timing of discharges to air. We don't as they are more or less continuous; we have a constant need for ventilation in the building so there is a vent up the stack. We do sampling of the venting to assess amount of radiation and that's all presented in the report. The prevailing wind is from the SW so will tend to disperse out to North Sea but it's not something we make provision for. What goes into the air from Torness is quite dilute and we do surveys every quarter about what we can find in the local area. You may have seen the cloth collectors at points around the site. These get checked every quarter and it's rare to pick up any activity. The chance of anything reaching Dunbar is actually very small.

Mr Brockie went on to say that a report which is a useful reference is the Radiation in Food and the Environment (RIFE) report which is available on the SEPA website and shows all the information for Torness as well as other sites it shows that the dose to a member of the public is almost below the limit of what is measurable.

Mr Wyllie remarked that he sits on the technical subgroup and said that the figures are interrogated by the group and fall below the levels permitted. He also commented that these figures tie in very well with East Lothian Council's own separate monitors.

Ms Isabelle Watson said that SEPA would carry out a dose assessment on the limits set and have own independent monitoring which breaks down samples from all sites and is published on RIFE. There are also air samplers that run continuously at Innerwick, Cockburnspath and East Barns.

Mr Gunn moved on the page 18 of the report and mentioned the Podpoint and Pivot Power electric vehicle charging acquisitions. EDF acquired a majority stake in Pod Point, one of the largest electric vehicle (EV) charging companies in the UK.

He referred to page 20 of the report and the NNG wind project and the importance of the project for the renewables business and also spoke about the closure of Cottam last year as part of the company's move away from coal.

Cllr Denis Dixon asked when the NNG project was due to come online.

Mr Gunn indicated it was around 2023.

Cllr Dixon asked for confirmation of when Torness is due to end generation.

Mr Gunn confirmed 2030 subject to checks.

#### **e. Excellence in Nuclear**

Mr Gunn reiterated his earlier point about the positive performance of the station over the past year.

#### **Nuclear New Build**

Mr Gunn talked about the good progress at the HPC site even during the pandemic with work only slowing slightly and milestones still being met.

He highlighted that Sizewell C would be an exact copy of Hinkley Point C, should it progress.

#### **f. People as a Force for Good**

Referring to page 24 of his report Mr Gunn talked about our diversity and equality work and the efforts to improve the number of female apprentices in the programme.

Ms Fiona McCall talked about the work of Torness in the community.

The Visitor Centre welcomed more than 6,000 visitors for the first time last year including the 30,000<sup>th</sup> visitor. Highlighted series of events at the centre focussed in encouraging women into STEM careers including a number of students and lecturers from Edinburgh College.

Staff were active in "Helping Hands" activities where time is allocated for them to go out in to the community and do volunteer work like supporting local Scout Groups.

EDF's corporate charity partnership with Breast Cancer Now came to an end after three years and over the course of that time Torness raised more than £22,000. The new partnership is with Prostate Cancer UK.

Our Visitor Centre is currently closed due to Covid-19 to ensure no additional footfall to site but will look to reopen it later in the year. The guides have been redeployed elsewhere on site.

Donations have been given to local groups during the Covid-19 response which were outlined in the report including Aberlour, First Step Musselburgh, CrossReach, and Dunbar Foodbank.

Mr Baptie thanked for the help and assistance given by site to support East Lothian Council's resilient communities' event which was attended by 100+ people.

There was a five minute comfort break during which Cllr Corbett and Cllr Denis Dixon left the meeting due to other business commitments.

## **617. Regulatory updates**

### **ONR**

Mr McKenna introduced himself having taken on the site inspector role from Mr Peter Mullins on 1 April.

He highlighted that the ONR's site quarterly reports are available on their website. These outline the inspections carried out.

He said in 2019/20 a number of inspections, including systems based inspections had been carried out. Compliance across the board has been green and from ONR's perspective it's a good performing station. The Level 1 exercise conducted in March was rated as green. It was an adequate demonstration. There was a long standing regulatory issue on manual musters which was closed out. Good to see the deployment of the Beyond Design Basis kit and it was well executed.

One systems based inspection in March on flooding and one a few weeks ago on electrical systems. All rated green. The systems provided the safety functions needed to support the safety case.

Covid-19 has had an impact on inspections. Some have been deferred but we have continued with a number of inspections and have done these remotely.

Would like to give people comfort that we haven't stopped doing inspections in their totality. Ratings have all been green for the past 12 months but urge station not to become complacent.

Mr Gunn also gave a reminder of the internal independent audit team based at site that doesn't report into the station and its role in supporting the regulators.

### **SEPA**

Ms Watson told the meeting that over the past year inspections had continued on both the radioactive and non-radioactive areas.

Levels of compliance were very good as they have been in past years and the site rated "excellent" for radioactive substances control last year.

Towards the end of 2018 there was a joint inspection carried out with the Internal Nuclear Assurance (INA) team looking at gaseous sampling. Some improvements were identified which have largely been implemented over the past year.

Whilst she had not on site since March there have been regular updates with teams on site including the Environmental Safety Group and INA and regular updates from the Barnwood centre. Expect to be back on site towards the autumn.

SEPA's monitoring programme has been impacted slightly as our contractor hasn't been able to access site to collect samples but the site has continued to take district samples.

## **618. Any other business**

Mr Swan asked about stocks of potassium iodide tablets in the community. He wanted to know if quantities had been up scaled at the police station to reflect the increase in Dunbar population. He also asked when do they expire and who is responsible for checking this?

Mr Baptie thanked Mr Swan for the question and made an open offer to community groups to answer any questions they have about emergency planning matters that take place off the nuclear site and extended an offer to attend any meetings if people had questions or concerns.

Mr Baptie reminded the group that within the 3km DEPZ that every house is issued with potassium iodide tablets and instruction leaflets, which is now a local authority responsibility supported by EDF.

Outside the 3km, the police station holds a stock as does Dunbar Lifeboat Station and the Scottish Ambulance Service. The stock does acknowledge the rise in population and within Scotland there is a stockpile for Hunterston/Torness. There is a national stock as well but would take about an hour to get to Torness. The gap has been identified and EDF is in the process of sending East Lothian Council 15,000 tablets which the council will retain in strategic points.

EDF advises tablets would only be needed within 1km, we have a 3km zone so it's extremely unlikely that Dunbar would ever need to have these tablets but we are confident if that did happen there would be adequate stocks.

### **619. Covid-19**

Mr Brockie referred to a newsletter sent out with the meeting pack. EDF measure are what would be expected. Emphasis on social distancing and hygiene/ cleaning. In circumstances where working closely can't be avoided masks are mandatory.

Company has a well-developed pandemic plan – started exercising scenarios in February.

Biggest change was to move working patterns of staff. We moved people to a week on site/a week off site which reduced the footfall on site. Laptops were provided for those who could work from home.

We are in the process of bringing footfall back up. Have made some modifications to meeting and mess rooms and reallocating some accommodation from training to briefing rooms etc to bring us back to near normal.

We anticipate that when Scottish Government enters Phase 3 we will look to bring people back to normal working.

There is a team on site inspecting what we are doing to ensure its best practice and input from staff representative and health and safety committee.

Mr McKenna commented that ONR has had oversight of measures and there's been a positive message from staff. Station has dealt with it well and there has been adequate challenge.

Mr Swan observed that while measures have been taken that there has been a sensitivity locally about the number of people who would come to the area for the planned outage and ensuring they comply with government guidance.

Mr Gunn echoed the concerns and agreed to come back to the topic during the wider discussion about the outage.

*Torness shared a video on pandemic measures onsite*

Ms Lynn Crothers commented on the good practices demonstrated in the video.

Mr Brian MacFarlane asked for an update on the TSCC (Torness strategic coordination centre) at Penston House, would it be used for an offsite emergency under Covid 19 measures.

Mr Baptie replied that he had been in discussions with Police Scotland on whether it should be used as is or virtually. The decision was taken to make use of the TSCC and maintain social distance guidelines. All agencies would be asked to only bring essential personal and maintain high levels of hygiene, social distance and wear masks.

### **620. Torness outage**

Reactor 1 is due to be taken off line on Friday, 24 July 2020 for around eight weeks for its statutory outage. More than 500 extra workers will join the station for the maintenance period, which is known as a "statutory outage". EDF carries out a statutory outage on each of its reactors every three years.

Due to Covid 19 we have two options – postpone to 2021 or carry on with reduced scope.

It is not straightforward to move it but we have submitted the case to ONR. If we have to carry out the outage this year we will do so in a safe manner and apply all restrictions. It will more than likely take longer but we will ensure we have all Covid 19 mitigations in place.

Mr McKenna said ONR understand why the station wants to defer and have received the justification and there is an incredible amount of work going on behind the scenes as they work their way through the justification.

Mr Swan said it is a difficult time for the hotels. We hope you will let us know as soon as you have a decision.

Mr Gunn said he would let the committee know as soon as we had a decision.

**621. Coastal walkway**

We had to close part of the walkway in the winter due to cladding coming loose in bad weather. We are going ahead with repairs and the walkway will open shortly.

**622. Date of next meeting**

**WEDNESDAY 24 MARCH 2021 via zoom**

**10:00 -12:00**

Mr Robert Gunn thanked all attendees for dialling in and closed the meeting.