HPC Community Forum 19th May 2022

Stuart Moffatt, Holford Parish Council

Note: If you have any comments or questions that you would like to be raised with EDF then please contact Stuart Moffatt on 07739 159313.

# Highlights on Progress Update

Unit 1. The first dome was lifted out of Bunker 5 in March, enabling installation of ventilation and emergency sprinkler systems. The dome measures 13.8m high, 46.8m diameter and weighs 237 tonnes, was constructed from 26 steel panels and was lifted into place by Big Karl, the big yellow crane.

Tunnelling. The Beatrice tunnel boring machine completed its main drive for tunnel at the end of March. Both intake tunnels are now bored, and grouting work of the tunnel inner surfaces is ongoing. Beatrice, now retired, will rest in peace in situ underneath the Bristol Channel.

Unit 2. One of the largest concrete pours has taken place on the Unit 2 turbine hall in early May. 3,880 m3 was poured as part of the foundations for the Reactor 2 turbine hall which will support the retaining walls, steel superstructure and the turbine generator table that will house the steam turbine and generator.

Energy Minister Greg Hands opened HPC’s new Simulator and Training building. Boasting commanding views over the site, this permanent building features 2 full scope simulators and classrooms to train reactor operators and is already being made use of by pre-operations and commissioning teams.

Combwich Wharf has started taking deliveries. Learning outcomes from this has led to further improvements to be made to increase flexibility (with regards to dependency on tide times) and efficiency. A “barge in barge” delivery system was considered and rejected, leading to an alternative plan to install prefabricated concrete blocks in the wharf area.

# Safety

On 4 March, a scaffolder fell from approximately 5m height which was reported in the local press. Fortunately, this worker miraculously suffered only minor injuries and was back at work following a trip to hospital by the on-site emergency services. Whilst this was not a nuclear incident, it was voluntarily reported to the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). As a result of an ONR enquiry, shortfalls have been identified and processes improved across the industry to avoid a repeat incident.

# Discussion Highlights

Thanks were made by the chairman to Erl Promgren for his valuable contribution to the EDF forum over several years.

Light pollution. Satellite images show that more light is emitted by HPC than Bristol Airport. EDF are continuously trying to minimise light pollution and aim to ensure that all lights are directed downwards with the use of baffles and deflectors. There are occasionally instances where strong lights are pointed above the horizontal, for example by new contractors. Any such occurrences should be reported to EDF so that they can address any new problems.

Two of the world’s largest floating cranes will be used in tandem to install the intake and outfall heads that will connect with the cooling water tunnels. Scheduled for later this summer, these large floating cranes could be worth looking out for.