

# Heysham Power Stations Specific Q&As.

## Previous Detailed Emergency Planning Zone

### **What did the previous REPIR detailed emergency planning zone for the site look like?**

In 2002, the ONR determined the REPIR off-site Emergency Planning and prior information area to be a circular area of radius 1km around the EDF Heysham Power Stations site. This was revised in 2009 by Lancashire County Council, to ensure that the DEPZ did not spilt local communities and ensured the inclusion of vulnerable groups immediately adjacent to the existing DEPZ. Ease of action of emergency responders and the distribution of public information was also taken into account, along with ensuring the DEPZ followed natural boundaries such as roads, rivers, footpaths to aid identification and understanding of the zone.

### **What are the arrangements for emergency situations?**

Details of these arrangements are contained in Lancashire County Council's off-site emergency plan which can be found at:

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/emergency-planning/emergency-plans/reppir-plans.aspx>

In light of the re-determination of the detailed emergency planning zone and the requirements of the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2019 (REPIR), Lancashire County Council will prepare a revised off-site emergency plan to cover the Heysham Power Stations.

## New Detailed Emergency Planning Zone

### **What is a REPIR detailed emergency planning zone?**

A REPIR detailed emergency planning zone is the area around a nuclear site where the local authority is required to have a plan in place for protecting the public in the event of an off-site nuclear emergency. Under the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2019 (REPIR), the local authority has the statutory duty to set the detailed emergency planning zone for sites in this area where there is a risk that an accident could lead to an off-site release of radiation.

### **Which part of the emergency plan is Lancashire County Council redefining?**

Lancashire County Council is redefining the area where, in consultation with other key responders and the operators, there has to be an off-site emergency plan to protect the public in the unlikely event of a radiation emergency.

The determinations are supported by detailed assessments of the risks provided by the operator and defining the area requires careful judgement based on practical and strategic emergency planning considerations.

### **Why did the regulations for determining detailed emergency zones change? Were they inadequate before?**

The regulations changed to incorporate the requirements of the 2013 Basic Safety Standards Directive. This directive incorporates important lessons learned from nuclear and non-nuclear accidents (such as the Fukushima Daiichi incident) as well as recent standards agreed at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). The opportunity was also taken to incorporate learning from the implementation of the REPIR regulations in 2001 and the regular review and testing of emergency plans.

**Why has Heysham Power Stations detailed emergency planning zone changed?**

These are positive changes in the interests of public protection and safety. The new detailed emergency planning zone allows for better emergency management of the area and will ensure enhanced arrangements are put in place to protect vulnerable groups and the general public around the site.

**Are you doing this because you have identified a greater risk?**

No. the risk at the site remains the same. The changes to the area are part of the process of improving the existing off-site emergency planning arrangements as per REPPiR 19.

The changes to the area improve existing off-site emergency planning arrangements across the UK to provide enhanced protection to the public. Lancashire County Council has proportionately applied the principles as detailed in Regulation 8 of REPPiR 19 in regarding to the shape of the boundaries of the detailed emergency planning zone. This will ensure enhanced arrangements may be put in place to protect vulnerable groups and the general public around the site.

**How does this affect the area?**

As per Regulation 8(1) and the supplementary guidance, the DEPZ should only be extended due to the local geographic, demographic and practical issues. Due to the change in the Minimum Distance Area as identified in the Consequence Report (based on improving public protection as outlined in REPPiR 19) by the site operator, the following changes have been agreed:

- The DEPZ to follow the two Minimum Distance Areas as identified by Site Operator in the Consequence Report, out to Seaward as this follows good practice recommended by Regulator.
- Increase the DEPZ north of site which allows for a smooth connection between seaward side to land; following the coastal footpath onto the road network (Headlands Road, Barrows Lane & Smithy Lane). From the road network, the revised DEPZ follows a clearly visible boundary line (footpath onto Delamere Road & Combermere Road) through the estate in Heysham Village.
- Agreed to include Trumacar Primary School within the DEPZ and continue to follow a clearly visible natural boundary onto the A589 which connects to the A683 at the roundabout.
- Due to the difficulty in finding a clear natural boundary it was agreed to follow Tradebe Solvent Recycling Ltd Public Information Zone (PIZ). This follows A683, turning right at the roundabout onto Imperial Road.
- Increase the DEPZ south from Imperial Road to Main Ave and follow a clearly visible footpath through Middleton Nature Reserve. The DEPZ would continue through the nature reserve and then onto Carr Lane.

The DEPZ Determination was completed in March 2020 and the report outlining the changes is available on the following link:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/emergency-planning/emergency-plans/reppir-plans/>

**What are the next steps?**

The local authority has 6 months (or other time which the regulator has agreed in writing), to develop an appropriate REPPiR off-site emergency plan. Until that revised plan is completed, all existing arrangements remain in place to protect the public.

**Public Interest**

**What duties does the operator have to ensure public protection in the event of a radiation emergency at its site?**

Nuclear site operators have arrangements in place to respond to any accident or emergency arising on the site. The operator's arrangements complement the wider emergency plan that the local authority has to put in place for the detailed emergency planning zone and outline planning zone.

**Is the information used to determine a REPPIR off-site emergency planning zone publically available?**

The local authority publishes its determination reports to explain how the off-site emergency planning area decisions are made.

**What happens to people outside the REPPIR off-site emergency planning zone?**

To plan for emergencies, it is necessary to identify the areas for which planning is required. Regulation 8 places a duty on the local authority to determine the detailed emergency planning zone as discussed in other Q&As. The determination of outline planning zones on certain sites is set out in Regulation 9. Outline planning supplements detailed planning providing mitigation against very low probability events potentially not considered in the design.

For members of public who are within an Outline Planning Zone, you can further information on Lancashire County Council website. A link is provided below:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/emergency-planning/emergency-plans/reppir-plans/>

The Food Standards Agency is responsible for defining any area that may be subject to food advice and restrictions.

**Does this mean that some people now included in the new area have been at risk all of this time without being considered?**

No. It means that this existing good practice has been formalised and that additional factors have been considered in order to improve emergency planning arrangements.

**Is REPPIR the only law in place to protect the public in the case of a nuclear emergency?**

No. See below:

- Under nuclear site licence conditions, licensed sites have to have an Office for Nuclear Regulation approved emergency plan to respond to any accident or emergency arising on the site.
- Emergency planning by local authorities is required by the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.
- Emergency arrangements in relation to food stuffs etc. is carried out by the Food Standards Agency.

**Why am I now included in the detailed emergency planning zone?**

The application of the requirements of REPPIR 2019 for detailed emergency planning zones provides improved emergency planning for those living and working in the vicinity of \*site\*. This helps to ensure that the risks to the public from a radiation emergency are low. Emergency information will be provided to homes and businesses in this area once the emergency plan for the new area has been revised.

**Where can I find more information about what I need to do in the event of an off-site nuclear emergency?**

People living with the detailed emergency planning zone will be provided with information by Lancashire County Council. Further details can be found at:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/emergency-planning/emergency-plans/reppir-plans/>

**Will this announcement affect the price of my house?**

Lancashire County Council is not aware of any evidence to suggest that properties within detailed emergency planning zones are valued more or less than neighbouring properties outside of it.

**Will this revised detailed emergency planning zone have implications for planning applications and development control?**

Local planning policies remain as the starting point for the determination of any planning application received. This includes a process of determining each application on its merits in consultation with a number of agencies.

**Information regarding Tradebe Solvent Recycling Ltd**

**What are the COMAH Regulations?**

The HSE's Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) 2015 Regulations helps operators of establishments, local authorities and emergency planners to prevent and mitigate the effects of major accidents involving dangerous substances. Tradebe Solvent Recycling Ltd is classed as Upper Tier COMAH Establishment under the Regulations.

**What duties does the operator have to ensure public protection in the event of a chemical emergency at its site?**

Upper Tier COMAH Establishments have arrangements in place to respond to any accident or emergency arising on the site. The operator's arrangements complement the wider emergency plan that the local authority has to put in place for the public information zone.

**What is the Public Information Zone?**

Very similar to the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone in REPIR, a COMAH Public Information Zone is the area around an Upper Tier COMAH Site where the local authority is required to have a plan in place for protecting the public in the event of an off-site COMAH Incident. Under the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH), people who live and work in the immediate vicinity of the site (known as the Public Information Zone) must be sent prior information on what to do in the event of an offsite incident.

**Why am I receiving information from two different sites?**

Some people living and working in the near locate near are now the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone for Heysham Power Stations and also within the Public Information Zone for Tradebe Solvent Recycling Ltd. Tradebe Solvent Recycling Ltd will continue to send you the relevant prior information as they have requirements under the Control of Major Accident Hazards (2015) Regulations and Lancashire County Council will continue to send prior information to ensure compliance with Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2019 (REPIR).