



COCKENZIE POWER STATION COMMUNITY INFORMATION



OVERVIEW

Cockenzie Power Station is a coal-fired generating plant situated at Prestonpans in East Lothian, on the south shore of the Firth of Forth.

The station, with its landmark twin chimneys each 149 metres tall, has an installed capacity of 1,200 megawatts (MW)

comprising four 300 MW units.

Opened in 1968, Cockenzie continues to play a vital strategic role in

securing the nation's energy supply by operating flexibly in the market to meet peak and seasonal demand for electricity.

WORKING TO BE A "GOOD NEIGHBOUR"

ScottishPower Energy Wholesale's commitment to working with local communities is enshrined in our environmental principles.

Our aim is to be regarded as a good and trusted neighbour, demonstrating environmental care in the communities in which we operate.

Forging close links with our neighbours and consulting with them on our development plans helps us to develop relationships based on mutual understanding.

Cockenzie Power Station is located in the heart of the East Lothian's Three Harbour villages of Port Seton, Cockenzie and Prestonpans.

The station has a proactive approach to community relations and staff meet regularly with representatives from Port Seton, Cockenzie and Prestonpans to discuss operations and developments.

The station also works closely with local organisations, charities and schools. Station tours are offered to groups by prior arrangement and Cockenzie takes part in annual "Open Doors" days.

CONTACT US

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■ A remote noise monitoring station at the coal plant

Cockenzie is striving to reduce the impact of nuisance noise on nearby residential areas.

Plant improvements have reduced the likelihood of occurrences, while new smart technology is improving our response times to incidents.

Our aim is to reduce the number of noise complaints by continuously improving and refining our noise management techniques.

A key focus for our staff has been the station's 124 safety valves that vent pressurised steam to the atmosphere – creating noise as a result.

These are critical protection devices to prevent damage to

MINIMISING NOISE DISTURBANCE



■ Monitoring site noise levels

the station and using them is a legal requirement.

A recent survey identified that safety valves lift, to reduce pressure in the system, creating noise, just 0.03% of the time that the units are in operation.

Each valve is fitted with a silencer to reduce noise and thermocouple devices that alert control staff to a valve lifting, allowing early remedial action to be taken.

New, more effective silencers have been fitted to several key valves following a review of their performance.

Meanwhile, to improve our knowledge of noise patterns, monitoring stations on site feed back information to our specialist staff.

These help us investigate every complaint and keep the complainer informed.

IMPROVED DUST MANAGEMENT

Large quantities of coal and biomass materials are used as fuel at Cockenzie – while ash is produced as part of the combustion process.

Our staff take various measures to minimise the risk of dust from these materials affecting neighbouring households.

Water mist sprays at the fuel stores and ash lagoons dampen down the materials in dry weather, making it less likely dust will be whipped up by the wind or vehicle traffic.

A mobile water bowser can also be deployed while wheel washes clean-up lorries before they join public roads.

At the lagoons, a chemical sealant is applied to the ash to form a fine crust that also minimises wind-borne dust.

Our staff continue to refine



■ Mobile bowser in operation



■ A lorry at the wheel wash

coal stock management processes and measures like profiling – to streamline the stockpile – monitoring wind speed and direction, and careful management of fuel deliveries, have reduced the number of dust complaints.



DUST FLAKES ACTION

Cockenzie is working to remedy the nuisance arising from dust flakes that may escape to the atmosphere from the station stacks.

In 2009, the station's east stack and ductwork were cleaned to help reduce the likelihood of dust flakes arising. A trial was also carried out of a fuel oil additive that will improve combustion during start-up and shut-down operations, to reduce soot deposits.

AT THE HEART OF THE EAST LOTHIAN COMMUNITY

Cockenzie Power Station supports a wide range of local groups, charities and events with donations from a station charitable fund.

In 2009, almost £1400 was distributed to 14 good causes, mostly within the communities of Preston Pans, Cockenzie and Port Seton.

Many of the donations were given to youth and sports organisations and organisations caring for the vulnerable.

Seton Boys Football Club received £250 while Cockenzie Power Station donated £50 to sponsor Preston Lodge RFC's annual rugby tournament.

Preston Pans District Disabled Bowling Club and Haddington Bowling Club both received £50 while Preston Pans Yachting Club was given £40.

A payment of £50 helped Preston Pans Infant Nursery School to organise a Christmas Bazaar while £100 was given to Ross High Special Needs School and Tranent Children's Gala benefited from £50.

Other recipients included Olivebank Child and Family Centre (£40); Carefree Kids, Arthritis Care and Cross Reading Counselling (all £50); Ward 8 Endowment Fund (£100); and Deaf Action, Group 212 HCPT and Diabetes UK (all £150).

SEPA ASSESSMENT

Cockenzie's environmental performance and management came under increased scrutiny during 2009 as part of SEPA's Compliance Assessment Scheme (CAS).

The scheme is a more rigorous method of assessing an operator's compliance with Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) permits and other authorisations and licences.

The CAS end-of-year rating for Cockenzie was "good" while the rating for Musselburgh Lagoons was "excellent".

■ *Cockenzie environment co-ordinator Craig Yorkston with Lynne Schroder, of Prestongrange Arts Festival*



Cockenzie Power Station has in recent years been a hub of the East Lothian art community.

Each summer since 2006, the station has hosted a major exhibition as part of the Three Harbours Arts Festival. Works by several local artists are displayed in the canteen while at night the station's twin chimneys are illuminated by spotlights.

Organisers have praised Cockenzie's help in making the annual festival a success. Adele Conn, of Prestongrange Arts Festival, said: "The power station

SUPPORTING LOCAL ARTS

venue is superb – it is such an iconic image on the East Lothian coastline."

Each year hundreds of people attended the event.

Schoolchildren from East Lothian and Edinburgh view the paintings and sculptures while learning about energy production.

In summer 2008 violinist Tasmin Little launched the Festival by performing inside Cockenzie's No.1 chimney.

It's not the first time Cockenzie has been a canvas for artists. Local painter Andrew Crummy painted a 122ft by 10ft mural on the station boundary wall to illustrate the site's history.

Andrew said: "Cockenzie's double chimneys form part of the region's identity. The station is an architectural icon and, in my mural, I've aimed to celebrate that."



■ *Violinist Tasmin performs*



A FOCAL POINT FOR COCKENZIE VILLAGERS

A giant mill ring has become a village focal point in Cockenzie and a symbol of the burgh's close links with energy production.

The mill ring, from Cockenzie Power Station's coal mills, is 10 feet in diameter and weighs about seven tonnes.

It's been erected on its end and flanked by six 28-inch diameter mill balls that each weigh about a tonne (pictured left) to create a unique meeting point for villagers by the banks of

the Firth of Forth.

Staff from the station and contractors Doosan Babcock gave their time for free to organise, prepare and construct the focal point for Cockenzie and Port Seton in Bloom.

The ring and balls saw service in the station's coal mills, being used to grind and pulverise the coal into a fine powder before it is burned in the station's furnaces. Instead of being sold as scrap, the equipment, after its

decommissioning, was set aside as the centrepiece of the community project.

The display has been polished and lacquered by Doosan Babcock staff so that it shines like silver. Villagers have welcomed the amenity, which provides a place for people to sit with views across Cockenzie Harbour towards Fife.

The structure has also been praised highly by the judges from the Beautiful Scotland contest.