

Answer to Question 1.13.4

To put this into context for the examiner I was on site a few years ago, coincidentally performing a QAL 2 monitoring exercise on a Site CEMs, when there was a large explosion on the Site. Not caused by either myself or my Company activities I hasten to add. In fact I haven't done an internet search recently, but last time I did the HSE hadn't released its report into the cause.

Unfortunately 4 people lost their lives that night.

I was on the other side of a hill on site and around half a mile away when the blast wave passed over the CEMs shed. It felt like it lifted the entire shed off the ground.

Since that day I've looked at life very differently. I tend to look for worst case scenarios. It often called Risk Assessment.

Bearing in mind that I have a full time job and a life to continue to lead and don't really have time to sit and read hundreds of pages of text that surround this application and the planning process, (it's a full time job in its own rite).

I note that the application states that the site would be exempt from the COMAH regulations as there isn't enough gas stored at the Site. Can the applicant clarify what level is needed to qualify for COMAH and how close that they are to the threshold?

I further note on Drawing 5105324-WRX-DRG-410 that shows the proposed Plant connections to the National Gas Transmission System and the proposed electrical export connection to the Marchwiell Substation on the Industrial estate (I'm aware that there is a more up to date proposed connection to Legacy) there is the following statement:

"It is assumed that all works will be carried out by a competent contractor working, where appropriate, to an approved method statement."

I would have thought that working to a method statement / safe system of work would be mandatory under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, and not assumed. Perhaps WPL can clarify?

I have concerns that this Plant is directly connected to National Gas Transmission System and having asked WCBC for more detail on the proposed connection I am informed that the gas won't be odorised, it will be in liquid form and at a pressure of 70Bar. In other words it's a high pressure gas line. I ask if there is a leak at either the Above Ground Installation, within the pipeline itself or at the Plant how will the residents of Is y Coed be warned? We are living downwind of this system.

I would also like to know what security measures will be in the place at the Above Ground Installation and proposed Plant. Currently the connecting lane to the proposed AGI site appears to be used for dog walking and horse riding and so currently doesn't seem that secure.

I note that during the police federation convention this year, that John Apter, stated that his members (the police) are "sitting duck" in rural areas. The link below suggests that armed response could be up to 70 miles (1 hour or more away) and it further suggests that gas Plant area legitimate terrorist targets.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-36308970>

I further note that only a few months ago a gas pipeline was fractured in Kent by a contractor carrying out routine maintenance work whilst working to a safe system of work.

<http://www.itv.com/news/meridian/story/2016-05-28/major-gas-explosion-at-building-site-in-kent/>

I believe the pipeline was operating at medium pressure and only 6 inch in diameter.

Furthermore I note that Didcot B Power Station, the gas fired one, suffered a fire in its cooling system and that fire engines from 3 counties had to attend to deal with the incident.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-29684205>

Assuming the Plant gets Built I would like to know, if there were to be a “major event” what would the blast radius be.

I would also like to know what level of Public liability insurance will WPL carry.

Will there a disaster fund?

If so, is it ring fenced?

I have asked WCBC some of these questions about the pipeline and the proposed Plant. They have referred me back to yourself.

Perhaps WPL can clarify / answer my questions.

Given that the proposed site was originally chosen on the basis that it was for a 1200MW scheme and has now been down scaled to up to 299MW I have to ask was any consideration given to selecting a smaller site within the industrial estate and away from local housing and the school?

Kind regards,

Chris Briggs

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Rural police 'sitting ducks' in UK terror attack

17 May 2016 | UK

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Armed police could be up to 70 miles away from a terrorist attack, the Police Federation says

Police officers in rural areas fear they would be "sitting ducks" in the event of a terrorist gun attack in the UK, a Police Federation chairman says.

A national shortage of armed officers could leave police in isolated areas "unarmed and vulnerable", John Apter, head of the Hampshire branch warned.

Figures revealed the number of firearms officers in England and Wales last year fell to its lowest level since 1987.

Home Secretary Theresa May spoke at the Police Federation conference earlier.

The federation, which represents constables, sergeants and inspectors in England and Wales, is holding its annual conference in Bournemouth.

They paused during speeches on Tuesday morning to hold a minute's silence to remember the 96 victims of the Hillsborough tragedy.

Do police have firepower to tackle gun menace?

Speaking to BBC Radio 4's File on 4, Mr Apter said armed officers could be more than 70 miles away if an attack was launched in a rural location.

Some rural and coastal areas include potential terrorist targets - including energy and power plants.

Nuclear power plants in Britain are guarded by the Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC), whose officers are routinely armed, while firearms officers of the Ministry of Defence Police are responsible for facilities such as the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston in Berkshire.

"Being realistic, if a firearms unit was coming from the middle of the county you are still talking about 30 miles away - you are not talking about a few minutes," he said.

"There would be an understandable delay.

"If a firearms unit is the other side of the county they could be 70 miles away so you are talking a significant distance.



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Explosion at Estuary View in Whitstable

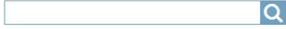
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by KentOnline reporter multimediasdesk@thekmgroupp.co.uk [Twitter] [Facebook] 27 May 2016

Parts of Whitstable remain sealed off today following a major gas explosion which left two people injured. Fire crews worked tirelessly throughout the night to control the blaze which erupted just after 10pm last night.

One man was taken to hospital while another was treated at the scene.

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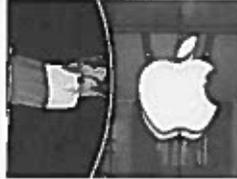
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Didcot Power Station fire investigation underway

AN investigation is underway after a fire broke out at Didcot B Power Station last night.



A major fire has broken out at Didcot B Power Station (SWNS)

More than 25 firefighters tackled the blaze in Oxfordshire, as flames ripped through a cooling tower.

Residents living nearby were advised by police to keep their windows and doors closed as smoke billowed from the nearby building.

Such was the scale of the blaze that as well as crews from Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service other firefighters from neighbouring services have been drafted in.

Officials said officers will visit the scene this morning and are likely to remain there throughout the day.



Residents living nearby were advised by police to keep their windows shut.

Natural gas powered Didcot B opened in 1997 and generates up to 1,360 MWe of electricity - enough to power a million homes. Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service sent one of its tumbler ladders from High Wycombe Fire Station, some 30 miles from Didcot to assist. White Thames Valley Police South and Vale along with the National Police Air Service (NPAS) also attended.

Around 12 fire crews attended the facility at around 9pm, but that number doubled as the flames took hold.

However, officials at the RWE npower owned site - who carry out regular safety drills - managed to shut down the site quickly to stop the incident turning into an inferno.

As firefighters tackled the major blaze, onlookers posted pictures of the power station with orange flames stretching in to the night sky.

Simon Perry tweeted "power station tonight ... Stay safe all, challenging job!" Other Twitter users sent well wishes to the firefighters tackling the blaze.

Marcus Champan tweeted: "Wow, Didcot power station on fire! I hope my mates in the fire brigade will be ok." While Lou Fraser added: "The Didcot Power station is on fire. Hope no one gets hurt."



Firefighters and 20 fire engines were at Didcot B Power Station (SWNS)

It is not clear how the fire started, but officials have ruled out arson or terrorism.

A spokesman for RWE npower said: "We can confirm that no one is injured which is clearly the most important thing and also that the fire is now under control.

"Obviously the plant has been shut down."

The spokesman added it was "too early to say" how much damage had been caused.

Energy Secretary Ed Davey said: "First, I want to thank the emergency services who are at Didcot working to tackle the blaze.

"I've been reassured by National Grid that there is no risk to electricity supplies.

"I will be keeping in touch with the relevant authorities throughout. My priority is to understand the cause of the fire and get the affected unit back generating electricity as soon as it's safe to do so."

