Email Message

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Sent: 07/08/2009 at 17:30
Received: 07/08/2009 at 17:30
Subject: HPB ADW Leak Follow Up

[redacted]
Further to our earlier email exchanges the following is the reactive statement relating to the water leak from ADW valve in the gas bypass plant that BE has prepared today in case of press enquiries.

Media Response Note:

During the night of 25 July 2009 two British Energy employees visited the gas bypass plant control room at Hinkley Point B to carry out valve position checks as part of the preparation process to put carbon dioxide gas into reactor 3. Reactor 3 was shutdown for its statutory outage and was depressurised to air.

A valve was being checked when it began to discharge demineralised water. The two individuals inserted a bung into the open pipe but in the process were sprayed with the water. The water was not contaminated with radioactivity but was dosed with lithium hydroxide so that it was mildly alkaline. The water treatment is similar to that found in a typical central heating system.

The two individuals withdrew and called for the assistance of an Occupational First Aider. They washed their eyes and mouth with saline water and showered. As a precaution the two employees were taken to Musgrave Park Hospital by ambulance for further assessment. After a period of observation they were discharged, having required no further treatment. One individual returned to work and the other, having finished his work, went home.

It was likely that about 400 litres of water came out of the pipe - some went on the floor but most was caught in containers. The water on the floor was easily mopped up. The valve was replaced the following day.

Backgound information:

This incident is unrelated to the contamination event of 16 July 2009 also in the gas bypass plant area. The two BE employees were not engaged in any clean up operation following this earlier incident, but carrying out other duties concerned with preparations to return the reactor to service.

Regards.
[redacted]

[redacted]
Technical and safety support, Hinkley Point B power station, British Energy - part of EDF Energy

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