HORIZON NUCLEAR POWER

FUTURES

Inspiring a generation

Becky Smale

Senior Mechanical Engineer

Age 29

What's your current role?

I am a Mechanical Engineer, responsible for reviewing design documents for some of the mechanical components which will be installed in the new power station. I have to make sure that the design of the components is correct so that pumps, valves and machinery will be built to high quality standards and will work correctly and safely when they are installed.

What did you study when you were at school and what qualifications do you have?

At school I studied Maths, Physics and Biology A-levels which gave me the qualifications I needed to study a BEng in Mechanical Engineering at Loughborough University. I originally wanted to study Automotive Engineering but my grades weren't quite high enough. I'm glad now though because Mechanical Engineering has provided me with a great start to my career.

Your career path so far...

At Loughborough University I took a placement year with a cable manufacturing company, where I learnt about materials testing of cables to ensure they're fire-proof and durable.

After university I started with Magnox North and had the opportunity to try a variety of roles. I was involved in a major project at Wylfa Power Station to re-route a large pipe carrying seawater to the site and spent four years at Oldbury Power Station looking after the cranes and machinery used to refuel and defuel the reactors.

Whilst working at Magnox I completed an MSc in Nuclear Science and Technology, which helped me become a Chartered Engineer.

How did the knowledge you've gained through previous roles help you to get your job at Horizon?

My broad experience of different roles and sites whilst working at Magnox gave me a good grounding as a Mechanical Engineer. I use the experience I gained in maintenance and inspection to help me ensure that the projects I am working on for Wylfa Newydd will also operate safely.

What are your top tips for somebody who wants a job in the nuclear industry?

- Find out what kind of job interests you and study subjects that will help you get the right qualifications.
- Learn to be professional. By looking, acting and working in a professional way people will have confidence in you.
- Don't be afraid to ask! If you don't know something always ask for help rather than guessing.

Where do you see your career in 10 years' time?

I would like to be a Head of Department within Engineering, preferably at Wylfa Newydd and working towards my ultimate ambition of becoming Engineering Manager.

Find out more at: **www.horizonnuclearpower.com/futures**