



Kathryn James

Lead Chemist

Age 43

What's your current role?

I'm the Lead Chemist at Horizon. My main role is to develop and manage all the chemistry aspects of the design for the new power plant. I also ensure we meet all the legal requirements relating to chemistry as we plan, build and eventually operate Wylfa Newydd.

To do this I work closely with Engineers, Project Managers and Environmental specialists on any aspects of chemistry related to the plant design and the permits we have to apply for.

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

I studied A-level Biology, Chemistry and Maths and then completed a Foundation Course. I decided to continue these subjects at University and gained a degree in Applied Biology with Chemistry from Plymouth University. During my working career I've also been able to undertake an MSc in Environmental Management.

Your career path so far...

After University, I became a Teacher and spent five years teaching science in secondary schools. However, I wanted to get into a chemistry role in industry and was fortunate to get a job as a Chemist at Oldbury Power Station. Working for Magnox gave me the opportunity to gain experience in different roles such as Environmental Co-ordinator, Safety Case Engineer and Site Chemist.

The different experiences and knowledge I developed meant I was able to get the role of Lead Chemist at Horizon so now I'm involved in the planning of a new nuclear power station.

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

My time at Oldbury gave me a wide range of experiences on an operational power station and the opportunity to learn from others. As a Chemist I was able to work with a variety of teams and see how chemistry links with all the different parts of a power generation business. I also had the opportunity to visit other nuclear plants worldwide, learn from their good practice and identify opportunities for improvements at my own plant. I have brought all this experience to Horizon with me.

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

- Think about the subjects you're good at and enjoy – you'll always do better if you focus on those areas.
- Talk to people within the nuclear industry to discover which roles you may be best suited for – you'll be surprised at the huge range of roles on offer.
- Be open to opportunities which may come your way.

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

I see myself working for Horizon, with responsibility for a team of Chemists and Technicians at an operational Wylfa Newydd.