



FIFOOTS POINT POWER STATION

Customer:	ABB / GE
Site Owner:	Atlantic Energy Services
Approx. Value:	£3M+

FSD undertook to survey the existing boiler and turbine instrumentation and controls with a view to refurbishment and a subsequent return to service.

An early decision was taken to replace the existing Boiler Automatic Control Equipment with an up to date Distributed Control System (DCS), and the Burner Management System (BMS) was similarly upgraded. All the existing boiler instrumentation was found to be in a well maintained condition, although in some cases it was approaching 40 years old, and a programme of refurbishment began.

An earlier control equipment upgrade in 1985 was used as the interface between the existing, but ageing, boiler instrumentation and the incoming DCS. All existing instrumentation and plant were assessed as to their long-term operational viability and a process of overhaul requirements was prepared.

It is a tribute to the original manufacturers, and the maintenance team on the original plant, that of all the many varied components to be refurbished, the mortality rate was less than five per cent. In addition, of the numerous manufacturers who were contacted, as little as three components were found to be obsolete.

In the investigations to build up a spares portfolio, the original suppliers were contacted, most of which had the original manufacturing records in their archives. Where manufacturers had ceased to manufacture they had either continued to hold spares or had handed the operation to a cottage industry born out of the need for product support. Some support was even received from experts brought out of retirement and some working from home in workshops.

New instrumentation and controls were fitted to the new Low Nox Burners and this equipment was connected to both the new and existing BMS.

Similar works were undertaken on the steam turbines and associated common plant where the existing control and equipment was generally found to be in good repair.

A number of systems on the turbines were upgraded to meet with modern standards.

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