



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Hartlepool Station

Report for period 1st July to 30 September 2014

Foreword

This report is issued as part of ONR's commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the above site available to the public. Reports are distributed quarterly to members for the Hartlepool Power Station Local Community Liaison Council and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Hartlepool Power Station Local Community Liaison Council meetings and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR.

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1 INSPECTIONS

1.1 Dates of inspection

The ONR site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the quarter:

1st to 4th July
22nd to 24th July
19th to 22nd August
2nd to 4th September
23rd to 25th September

The ONR Operating Reactor Delivery Lead attended site on the following date during the quarter:

22nd to 23rd July

Specialist Inspectors made visits on the following dates during the quarter:

3rd to 4th July
11th August
12th August
26th to 27th August
27th to 28th August
3rd to 4th September
15th to 16th September
16th to 17th September
22nd to 24th September

2 ROUTINE MATTERS

2.1 Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with:

- the conditions attached by ONR to the nuclear site licence granted under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65) (as amended);
- the Energy Act 2013
- the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HSWA74); and
- regulations made under HSWA74, for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 (IRR99) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99).

The inspections entail monitoring licensee's actions on the site in relation to incidents, operations, maintenance, projects, modifications, safety case changes and any other matters that may affect safety. The licensee is required to make and implement adequate arrangements under the conditions attached to the licence in order to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, routine inspections of station covered the following:

- staff training, qualifications and experience
- incidents on site
- emergency preparedness;
- management systems
- modifications to plant, equipment and safety cases

- examination, maintenance, inspection and testing;
- operating rules and instructions;
- safety mechanisms
- management of operations including control and supervision;
- organisational capability

During this quarter reactor 1 was shut down for its three-yearly statutory outage. The outage is an opportunity for Hartlepool to inspect, test and maintain components that are difficult to access during operation at power. The outage was closely monitored by ONR staff; twelve ONR specialists visited Hartlepool to inspect the progress and results of the outage work in the following areas:

- Reactor pressure vessel inspections
- Reactor structural components
- Reactor core (graphite) inspections
- Steam pipework
- Radioactive waste
- Fire safety
- Mechanical components
- Instrumentation
- Electrical systems
- Quality assurance

Provided the results of these inspections are favourable, ONR will give a Consent for the reactor to operate for a further three years.

The Hartlepool annual review of safety was attended by the ONR Operating Reactor Delivery Lead, the nominated site inspector and a secondee from the Department of Energy and Climate Change. ONR concurred with the station's self-assessment with strong performances in operating rule compliance and training, and commendable work done in response to the Japanese earthquake; although there is some scope for further improvement in the emergency scheme manning, and some back up equipment. Following a number of events involving small fires; ONR continues to pursue improvements in supervision and event investigations.

A full system inspection was conducted of the solid and gaseous radioactive waste systems.

In general, ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements to be adequate in the areas inspected. However, where improvements were considered necessary, the licensee made satisfactory commitments to address the issues, and the site inspector will monitor progress during future visits. Where necessary, ONR will take formal regulatory enforcement action to ensure that appropriate remedial measures are implemented to reasonably practicable timescales.

3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. ONR inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

Matters and events of particular note during the period were:

In response to the identification of unexpected cracking in the region of one of the key structural welds on a boiler spine of Heysham 1 Reactor 1, EDF NGL has taken the decision to shut-down the reactors at the Hartlepool site (and the second units, Reactor 2 at Heysham 1). The shutdowns were a precautionary measure as previous ultrasonic tests had not

indicated the existence of similar cracks in the boiler spines of these reactors. The shutdowns will allow NGL to undertake inspections of all of the boilers in each of the reactors and to fit equipment that will allow in situ monitoring of the condition of the boiler spines. Through its on-going interventions and dialogue, ONR will continue to monitor EDF NGL's response and the extensive work being carried out to allow the reactors to return to service safely. ONR will formally permission the reactors return to service.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

ONR inspectors, specialist inspectors and HSE inspectors may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, ONR issues regulatory documents, which either permit an activity or require some form of action to be taken; these are usually collectively termed 'Licence Instruments' (LIs), but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may issue Enforcement Notices to secure improvements to safety.

- No LIs or Enforcement Notices were issued during the period.

Reports detailing the above regulatory decisions can be found on the ONR website at <http://www.onr.org.uk/pars/>.

5 NEWS FROM ONR

Insight into ONR's work as an independent regulator of the nuclear industry can be found in ONR's Quarterly News. The online publication (<http://www.onr.org.uk/onr-quarterly-report.htm>) reports on the key themes and developments in each of ONR's regulatory programmes and provides an update about the ongoing changes at ONR. <http://www.onr.org.uk/index.htm>. For the latest news and updates from ONR visit the website and sign up for our ebulletin (<http://www.onr.org.uk/ebulletin/index.htm>).

6 CONTACTS

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