



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

Report for period 1st October to 31st December 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:

28th to 30th October
8th to 11th December

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

29th to 30th October

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

6th to 8th October

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
- modifications to plant, equipment and safety cases
- examination, maintenance, inspection and testing
- operating rules and instructions

During this quarter reactor 1 concluded its three-yearly statutory outage. The outage was 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 in August and September 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

The results of these inspections were favourable; ONR gave a Consent for the reactor to operate for a further three years.

A full system inspection was conducted of the auxiliary fuel store facility.

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 took the decision to shut-down the reactors at the Hartlepool site (and the second units, Reactor 2 at Heysham 1) in August 2014. 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 allowed NGL to undertake inspections of all of the boilers in each of the reactors and to fit equipment that allowed in situ monitoring of the condition of the boiler spines. The results of the examinations were favourable and following the submission of a safety justification for continued operation, ONR issued an agreement to operate Hartlepool reactor 1 and 2 at a reduced boiler spine temperature.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

ONR 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. The following LIs were issued in this quarter:

- Licence Instrument No 549, 21st November 2014. An agreement under arrangements made under LC 22 for reactor 1. This agreement permitted EDF NGL to operate reactor 1 following submission of a satisfactory safety case for the boiler spine cracking issue.
- Licence Instrument No 550, 21st November 2014. An agreement under arrangements made under LC 22 for reactor 2. This agreement permitted EDF NGL to operate reactor 2 following submission of a satisfactory safety case for the boiler spine cracking issue.

- Licence Instrument No 548, 21st November 2014. A Consent to restart Hartlepool Reactor 1 under LC 30(3). The Consent permits restart of the reactor following satisfactory completion of the 2014 statutory outage to allow operations for a further period of three years until its next statutory outage.

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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