



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Hunterston B

Report for period 01 October 2014 to 31 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 Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group [SSG] and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lrc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Hunterston SSG 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

1. The ONR nominated site inspector made inspections, supported where appropriate by specialist inspectors, on the following dates during the quarter:

06 – 08 October 2014
28 – 31 October 2014
19 – 21 November 2014
27 – 28 November 2014
15 – 16 December 2014

2. ONR's civil nuclear security [CNS] inspectors undertake quarterly inspections at Hunterston B. The Quarter 4 planned inspection was undertaken on:

04 – 05 November 2014

2 ROUTINE MATTERS

2.1 Inspections

3. 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 [although the Energy Act acquired Royal Assent in December 2013, inspectors did not commence regulation under that Act until 01 April 2014.
 - 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).
4. 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.
5. In this period, routine inspections of Hunterston B covered the following:
 - training;
 - commissioning
 - periodic review
 - operating instructions;
 - organisational capability
 - safety mechanisms, devices and circuits;
 - restrictions on nuclear matter on the site
 - examination, inspection, maintenance and testing.

6. 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.
7. In addition to our compliance inspections based on the conditions attached to the nuclear site licence, ONR inspectors are now inspecting the operating reactors based on safety related systems. Each site has a safety case that demonstrates how it operates safely. For advanced gas cooled reactors, each of approximately thirty key systems will be inspected against the claims made upon them by the safety case. The aim is to systematically inspect all the significant safety related systems within a five-year cycle (six per year). ONR believes that this will provide more robust assurances of the site's safe operation and how the safety case is being implemented.
8. During this quarter, ONR undertook an inspection of the turbine over-speed protection system and newly installed back-up cooling system. Inspectors judged that these systems met the requirements of the safety case, and compliance with associated Licence Conditions was judged to be adequate with the exception of Licence Condition 28 [Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing]. In this case, inspectors judged associated safety mechanisms to be of degraded physical condition and that existing examination and inspection arrangements for this system are below standard. ONR inspectors will follow-up this matter during routine inspection in Quarter 1, 2015.

3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

9. 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.
10. The nominated site inspector reviewed Hunterston B's investigation into the failure of two gas circulators that occurred on 02 September 2014. The investigation undertaken by the station was judged to be comprehensive and prompt in its undertaking. ONR was satisfied that there was negligible impact on continued cooling capability in Reactor 4 whilst it was shutdown. ONR has written to Hunterston B on 31 October 2014 to seek assurances that corrective measures will be undertaken within reasonably practicable timescales; the nominated site inspector has judged the proposed timescales to be appropriate and will follow-up progress during routine inspection in June 2015.
11. ONR was made aware on 25 December 2014 of the station's decision to shut-down Reactor 4 due to the failure of an air supply line to a pneumatic valve. The nominated site inspector's preliminary enquiries confirmed the reactor had been safely shut-down, and safely returned to service on 28 December 2014.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

12. ONR 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.
13. ONR inspectors undertook a detailed inspection on 21-22 November 2014 to evaluate the readiness of the station's new Nitrogen supply system that will provide enhanced

seismically qualified diverse-hold-down capability to both reactors in the event of a major seismic incident. Inspectors were satisfied that commissioning has progressed safely and in a timely manner. Pending completion of remaining commissioning activities and completion of outstanding safety case documents, Hunterston B is on-target to request agreement from ONR to implement the new system in spring 2015.

14. No Enforcement Notices were issued during the period.

5 NEWS FROM ONR

15. 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>).

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Published 10/14

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