



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

Report for period 1 January- 31 March 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 Sizewell sites stakeholder group and are available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lrc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Sizewell sites stakeholder group 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:

7 – 9 January 2014
28-30 January 2014
3 – 6 February 2014
5 – 6 March 2014
25 – 27 March 2014

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 compliance inspections of covered the following:

Licence condition 32: Accumulation of radioactive waste

Licence condition 33: Disposal of radioactive waste

Licence condition 34: Leakage and escape of radioactive material and radioactive waste

In addition to our program of site licence compliance inspections, we are now inspecting operating reactors based on safety related systems. Each site has a safety case, which identifies the important aspects of operation and management required for maintaining safety. For Sizewell B, the key systems important to nuclear safety will be inspected against the requirements of the safety case. We plan to inspect all the safety significant systems over a five-year period. ONR considers that this will provide additional assurance that operations on the site are safe.

During the reporting period, the following systems were inspected:

- Emergency diesel generators
- Site communication systems used to support delivery of the emergency plan

Overall, the licence compliance arrangements were found to be adequate and it was judged that they were being implemented appropriately. 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.

Mid cycle safety review meeting

The purpose of this meeting was for the station to present details of its safety performance since the start of operational cycle 13 in June 2013. Prior to the meeting, a plant inspection visit was made to the following areas; Emergency diesel generators, main control room, emergency pumping systems, radioactive waste facility, fuel storage pond turbine hall and external site areas.

During the plant inspection tour, we noted the generally high standard of housekeeping across the site. However, there were a number of areas identified requiring improvements, although none of these were considered significant nuclear safety issues, these were pointed out and recorded by the station and will be monitored during subsequent site inspection visits.

I am satisfied that at the meeting station staff presented a comprehensive and balanced report of safety performance at Sizewell B. ONR is satisfied that safety performance at the station has been adequate since the start of operational cycle 13.

2.2 Other work

The ONR site inspector and specialist structural integrity inspector attended the Sizewell sites stakeholder group. ONR gave a presentation to the group on international operating experience following the discovery of hydrogen-flakes in the Belgian reactor pressure vessels at Doel and Tihange. In addition, ONR inspectors explained the basis of the assessment report supporting the regulatory decision not to bring forward the inspection of the Sizewell B reactor pressure vessel and that the safety case for operation is unaffected by events at the Belgian reactors.

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:

On the 1 March 2014, a fault was identified on an emergency charging pump. The emergency charging system is one of two systems that are installed at Sizewell B to provide reactor coolant pump seal injection and boration capability. On discovery of the fault, the station acted promptly to rectify the fault on the pump and return it to service. The ONR site inspector will be following up this event and will report any significant findings to the stakeholder group.

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.

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>).

ONR is changing

On 1 April 2014, the ONR was established as a Public Corporation under the Energy Act 2013. The Energy Act 2013 sets out the legal framework for regulation of GB nuclear sites by the ONR. In addition, the ONR has the powers to regulate conventional health and safety on GB nuclear sites. ONR now has its own logo, which will be used on all documents and other external communication media. Other notable changes include a new website and publication of an Annual Plan for 2014/15.

6 CONTACTS

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