



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Hinkley Point B Power Station

Report for period 01 July 2015 – 30 September 2015

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 of the Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lrc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend the Hinkley Point Site 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. The ONR nominated site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the quarter:
 - 13 – 16 July.
 - 27 – 30 July.
 - 10 – 13 August.
 - 24 – 27 August.
 - 7 – 10 September.
2. In addition, ONR specialist inspectors undertook inspections on the following dates during the quarter:
 - 26 - 27 July (system based inspection – fuelling machine).
 - 11 - 12 August (system based inspection – control rods).
 - 8 – 9 September (system based inspection – no break electrical supplies).

2 ROUTINE MATTERS

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.
 - The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HSWA74).
 - 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, inspections of Hinkley Point B covered the following:
 - Incidents on the site.
 - Management systems.
 - Periodic shutdown.
 - Operational records.
 - Meetings of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee.
6. These inspections were carried out against four licence conditions.
7. In addition, the following activities were undertaken:
 - **System based inspections:** Three system based inspections (SBI) were carried out during the period. SBI involve scrutiny of the safety case and supporting documentation to determine the adequacy of the implementation of the Licensee's arrangements as part of licence condition compliance. These inspections are generally undertaken with the support of specialists within ONR

or external support contractors and are informed through a review of the safety case (including supporting references and records), discussions with station specialists, plant inspection, and sampling of documents and records. We concluded that the arrangements and their implementation associated with the following systems:

- The fuelling machine
- Control rods
- No-break electrical supplies

met the requirements of the safety cases which were judged to be satisfactory.

- **Information exchange meetings:** Progress with the new nitrogen plant, unplanned trip of reactor 3, gas turbine fuel oil tanks, performance of turbine alternator 7, hot standpipes, pressure systems safety regulations, implementation of enhanced emergency arrangements on site, a collaborative site visit with representatives of the Polish nuclear regulator and a review of the ONR issues database were discussed.

8. Details of these inspections can be found in the Hinkley Point B Intervention Reports located at <http://www.onr.org.uk/civil-nuclear-reactors/operating-reactors.htm>
9. ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements to be at least adequate in the areas inspected.
10. However, where improvements were considered necessary, the licensee made satisfactory commitments to address the issues, and the ONR nominated 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

11. 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. There was one significant non-routine event during the period:
 - An unplanned trip of Reactor 3 occurred on 16th August 2015. This was the first unplanned trip since 2012 and was associated with an overspeed test on Turbo-alternator 7. The plant was safely shutdown but one control rod (which happened to be a Super Articulated Control Rod) failed to fully insert. This has now been exchanged and full operability has been confirmed. The control rod assembly has been removed from reactor and an investigation has revealed the presence of foreign material which may have adversely affected the braking performance of the control rod. The investigation is not yet complete and the ONR nominated site inspector will continue to monitor progress.
 - A significant near miss event was reported to the last SSG meeting. This involved the ejection of a closure unit from a buffer storage tube which was being lifted out by the charge hall crane from a de-pressurised buffer storage tube. There were no nuclear safety implications, no fuel was involved and nobody was injured. ONR concerns were addressed in the EDF Nuclear Generation Ltd (NGL) internal investigation and we have continued to review NGL progress to enhance its operational procedures.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

12. 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' (LI's), but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may issue Enforcement Notices to secure improvements to safety. One licence instrument was issued in this period to enable the new Nitrogen plant to be brought into full operational service. This represents a significant milestone for the station.
13. Reports detailing ONR 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 Regulation Matters. The online publication (<http://www.onr.org.uk/regulation-matters.htm>) reports on the key themes and developments in each of ONR's regulatory programmes and provides an update about the on-going 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>).

14. Dr Andy Hall, the first Chief Nuclear Inspector to hold this statutory office, announced his decision to retire from ONR in November 2015 and until his retirement he is taking a period of compassionate leave for personal reasons. The ONR Board, with the approval of the Secretary of State, has appointed Dr Richard Savage as Acting Chief Nuclear Inspector, pending a process to fill the role on a permanent basis. Richard was previously Head of the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator before joining ONR in his current role as a Deputy Chief Nuclear Inspector.

6 CONTACTS

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