



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

Report for period 01 October 2015 to 31 December 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 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:

12 – 15 October 2015
21 – 23 October 2015
24 – 26 November 2015
14 – 16 December 2015

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

13 – 15 October 2015

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
 - The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 etc. (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:
 - commissioning
 - periodic shutdowns
 - operating instructions
 - control and supervision of operations
 - construction or installation of new plant
 - 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, there were no system based inspections undertaken.

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. Reactor 3 was successfully and safely shutdown on 2 October 2015 for its three-yearly periodic shutdown, as required under Licence Condition (LC) 30. ONR undertook routine inspections during the course of the shutdown and issued consent to restart the reactor on 30 November 2015.
11. ONR was formally notified by EDF Nuclear Generation Limited ('NGL') the licensee that during the course of the periodic shutdown, a type of age related cracking in graphite, known as a 'key-way' root crack, had been discovered in three bricks of the graphite core of Reactor 3 at Hunterston B. The 'key-way' root cracks were revealed by NGL as part of the routine inspections that are undertaken during three-yearly periodic shutdowns of the reactor. This type of cracking is an anticipated phenomenon that has been predicted by detailed analysis and substantial testing carried out by the licensee.
12. On the basis of the safety justification provided by NGL, ONR issued its consent to restart Reactor 3 on the basis that, if necessary, NGL would shut down after six months of operation to undertake further core inspections. This condition will apply unless NGL provides further evidence to justify safe operation up to a maximum of 12 months. ONR inspectors are continuing to engage with NGL on this matter and will consider such an extension in May 2016 as the end of the six month operating period approaches.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

13. 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.
14. ONR issued a Licence Instrument on 23 December 2015, giving approval to an amendment to the preface to the plant maintenance schedule under LC 28(5), in addition to extensions to intervals under LC 28(7). The amendments relate to largely administrative changes that reflect developments in the company licence compliance arrangements.
15. No Enforcement Notices were issued during the period.

5 NEWS FROM ONR

Chief Executive

Adrienne Kelbie joined ONR as Chief Executive on 18 January 2016. Previously, Adrienne was the Chief Executive of the Disclosure and Barring Service, and prior to this had a varied career including periods as Deputy Chief Executive in a local authority and as Director of Operations responsible for national and international funding at the Big Lottery Fund.

Chief Nuclear Inspector

ONR is currently recruiting for its Chief Nuclear Inspector. The Chief Nuclear Inspector has the key role in providing assurance on the effectiveness of the UK's nuclear regulatory system to the ONR Board, ministers, licensees and the British public and will represent ONR nationally and internationally. The closing date for applications was Sunday 17 January 2016 and the recruitment campaign has now progressed to the next stage. Further updates on the recruitment campaign will be published on our website www.onr.org.uk.

Regulation Matters magazine

Insight into ONR's work as an independent regulator of the nuclear industry can be found in Regulation Matters. This quarterly online publication (<http://www.onr.org.uk/regulationmatters.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. For the latest news and updates from ONR, you can also visit the website and sign up for our e-bulletin: <http://www.onr.org.uk/index.htm>.

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