



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

Report for period 1 July - 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 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 nominated site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the quarter:

24 – 26 August
8 – 9 September
14 – 17 September
30 September

ONR dry fuel store project inspector, specialist inspectors and fire safety inspector made inspections on the following dates during the quarter:

6 – 7 July
28 – 29 July
18 August
9 – 10 September

The ONR superintending inspector - operating reactors visited the station on the following dates during the quarter:

8 – 9 September

2 ROUTINE MATTERS

2.1 Inspections at Sizewell B

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 Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
- the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003

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, the following licence condition compliance inspections were undertaken against the Dry Fuel Store (DFS) project:

Licence condition 10: Training
Licence condition 12: Duly authorised persons
Licence condition 21: Commissioning
Licence condition 24: Operating instructions
Licence condition 27: Safety mechanisms devices and circuits
Licence condition 26: Control and supervision of operations

EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd (EDF NGL) is in the process of constructing a DFS facility on the Sizewell B licensed site. During this period ONR undertook three separate inspections to gather safety documentation to support its regulatory decision-making in relation to the DFS activities at Sizewell B. Future licence Instruments giving ONR's approval of DFS safety case operating rules (limits and conditions identified in the interest of safety) and; also, its consent to commence active commissioning will be required. The three inspections were supported by ONR specialist inspectors including structural integrity, radiological protection, fuel handling and human factors.

These inspections undertaken during the construction and commissioning phase help to build on ONR's assessment work to date of the safety claims and justification presented in the DFS stage submission 1 safety case. Overall, the inspections found the licence condition arrangements to be adequately implemented for the management of this project. A number of minor areas for improvements were identified; however, the licensee has given its commitment to address the issues raised and the ONR project inspector will monitor progress during future inspections.

In this period, the following routine licence condition compliance inspections were undertaken:

Licence condition 7: Incidents on the site

Licence condition 11: Emergency arrangements

Licence condition 27: Safety mechanisms

Licence condition 28: Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing

The arrangements sampled found comprehensive processes in place for the notification, recording, investigation and reporting of incidents occurring on the site.

The annual emergency arrangements review and meeting was considered to be thorough and demonstrated an adequate level of performance of the site emergency arrangements and independent oversight.

The LC27 inspection undertaken found the arrangements to be adequate to ensure that plant is not operated, inspected, maintained or tested unless suitable and sufficient safety mechanisms, devices and circuits are properly connected and in good working order.

The inspection found well defined arrangements for the regular and systematic examination, inspection, maintenance and testing (EIMT) of all plant which may affect safety. These arrangements cover both technical specification requirements and also other safety related plant. From the evidence seen and the discussion held with station personnel, the arrangements sampled for compliance with LC28 were judged to be adequate.

Overall, the inspection found the licence condition arrangements to be 'adequate' with no regulatory issues being raised.

In addition to ONR's 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. Each of these inspections considers the relevant licence conditions below:

Licence condition 10: Training

Licence condition 23: Operating rules

Licence condition 24: Operating instructions

Licence condition 27: Safety mechanisms

Licence condition 28: Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing
Licence condition 34: Leakage and escape of radioactive material and radioactive waste

During the reporting period, the following system was inspected:

- Fuel handling and storage

This system based inspection was carried out by an ONR specialist fuels inspector and the ONR nominated site inspector for Sizewell B. The principal function of the fuel storage system is the safe on-site storage of new and irradiated nuclear fuel and control components. The fuel handling system provides safe handling of fuel assemblies and control components from the time of receipt of new fuel on site, to the transfer of irradiated fuel into interim storage (in the future Dry Fuel Store) on the site. The fuel storage facility is located within the fuel building and provides on-site storage for both new and irradiated fuel assemblies. The fuel storage facility protects, cools, shields and maintains new and irradiated fuel assemblies in a sub-critical array of fuel storage racks and provides an efficient basis for safe and reliable fuel handling operations.

The systems were found to meet the requirements of the safety case and are being adequately maintained and operated. No significant regulatory issues were identified by ONR against the systems. A number of observations of low nuclear safety significance were made during the inspections. These have been captured for corrective action under the licensee's arrangements and will be monitored for progress by ONR on a routine basis.

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

The ONR fire safety inspector conducted an inspection of fire safety at Sizewell B power station that focused on the themes of fire safety management and practical fire safety provision. Issues reported at the previous fire safety inspection in quarter 3, 2014 were reviewed against the expected progress. A tour of selected facilities was undertaken which was followed up with a meeting with principal management. A number of areas for further improvements were identified as part of this intervention, which will be followed by ONR until confirmed as closed out by the licensee.

Overall the general fire safety arrangements on site were judged to be Adequate and to confirm that compliance with the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 is being achieved.

Further details of ONR's intervention records can be found at <http://www.onr.org.uk/intervention-records>.

2.2 Other work

The ONR superintending inspector - operating reactors attended the station mid-cycle review of safety. This review was considered to be comprehensive and demonstrated positive commitment by the licensee to ensuring safety, security and environmental protection is properly managed at the site.

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. There were no such matters or events of significance to report during this period.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

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. No such activity was undertaken during this period.

Reports detailing regulatory decisions can be found on the ONR website at www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/pars.

5 NEWS FROM ONR

Retirement of the Chief Nuclear Inspector

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 Ministry of Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator before joining ONR in his current role as a Deputy Chief Nuclear Inspector.

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/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. 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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