



# Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for TORNESS

Report for period 1 October – 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 Torness Local Liaison Committee and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llic/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Torness Local Liaison Committee 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, accompanied by ONR specialist inspectors, carried out inspections on the following dates during the quarter:

- 12 to 16 October
- 2 to 6 November
- 16 to 20 November

## 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 the 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 inspections covered the following:

- Instructions to persons on site
- Operating rules
- Operating instructions
- Operational records
- Meeting with Torness station safety representatives
- Meetings with EDF's internal nuclear assurance function
- Incidents on the site
- Emergency arrangements, including annual emergency arrangements meeting
- Safety mechanisms, devices & circuits
- Accumulation of radioactive waste
- Review of ONR issues database with the licensee

One of this quarter's compliance inspections examined Torness' external flood protection and recent flood resilience enhancements. This inspection was the first of a series of planned fleet-wide external flood based inspections following resilience improvements and lessons learnt from the Fukushima accident in Japan in March 2011.

Also, a system based inspection was performed by the ONR site inspector and two specialist inspectors to review compliance with site licence conditions for the operation, use and maintenance of ponds and flasks.

In both cases, Torness was found to be compliant with regulatory requirements, and 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 ONR 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.

## **2.2 Other work**

ONR's specialist inspectors held a follow-up meeting with EDF on 10 December. This followed the observation of a number of cracks within the outer peripheral graphite blocks of the reactor core, which were observed during planned outage inspection activities.

These blocks are positioned at the periphery of the core, away from the active core which contains fuel channels, and are a unique feature to both Torness and Heysham 2 reactors.

The objective of the meeting was to review EDF's proposals and progress against commitments made by the licensee to undertake further assessment and, where appropriate, inspections to better understand the cracking mechanisms within the outermost shielding blocks.

ONR provided further clarification on its regulatory expectations concerning future inspections and monitoring to be carried out on graphite blocks and also on the level of technical substantiation required to provide an unequivocal demonstration of the ongoing safe operation of the 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.

On 14 December, Torness reported that reactor 2 was safely shut down as a result of an unplanned automatic trip, and that the station is undertaking a significant adverse condition investigation to understand the root cause of the trip and the actions needed to prevent a recurrence. As part of routine site inspection activities, the site inspector followed up this event and was satisfied that the licensee's response to this event was adequate.

## **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 licence instruments or enforcement notices were issued during this quarter.

## **5 NEWS FROM ONR**

### **Chief Executive**

ONR's new Chief Executive, Adrienne Kelbie joined the organisation on 18 January 2016. Adrienne was previously the Chief Executive of the Disclosure and Barring Service, and prior to this has 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](http://www.onr.org.uk).

Further 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/documents/2015/regulation-matters-december-2015.pdf> reports on the key themes and developments in each of ONR's regulatory programmes and provides an update about the ongoing changes at ONR. For the latest news and updates from ONR visit the website <http://www.onr.org.uk/index.htm> and sign up for our e-bulletin (<http://www.onr.org.uk/ebulletin/index.htm>).

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