



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

Report for period 01 April 2016 to 30 June 2016

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 enquire 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:

6 – 7 April 2016
13 – 14 April 2016
23 – 26 May 2016
13 – 15 June 2016

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

10 – 12 May 2016

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:
 - Training
 - Commissioning
 - Safety documentation
 - Marking of the site boundary
 - Control and supervision of operations
 - 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 also inspect operating reactors against 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, one system based inspections was undertaken, during which inspectors examined the buffer store system. In this instance, ONR considered that the requirements of the safety case were being adequately fulfilled.
9. On 22 June 2016, ONR observed the station's annual demonstration of counter-terrorism response, in accordance with the requirements of the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 (as amended).

3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

10. 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.

During April 2016, the licensee shutdown Reactor 4 to undertake planned inspections of eighteen graphite core fuel channels. The main purpose of this outage was to gain more data and information on the graphite core ageing process, following discovery of cracks in two of the bricks in Reactor 4 in 2014, and three bricks of the graphite core of Reactor 3 in November last year. ONR was made aware by EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd (NGL) of the discovery of two additional cracked bricks as a result of keyway root cracking

The inspections carried out during this outage monitored the two cracks discovered in 2014 to identify any increase in size. NGL confirmed to ONR that there has been no significant increase in their size since the last outage, although two cracks were identified, which is expected as the reactor continues to operate. ONR was satisfied from the current safety case and analysis provided by NGL that the reactor is safe to operate until its next outage in September 2017.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

11. 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.
12. ONR issued Licence Instrument No.554 on 28 April 2016 under Licence Condition 23(4), granting approval to implement a new single operating rule relating to conditions and limits of operation necessary in the interests of safety. All previously approved operating rules were withdrawn as part of this approval. The revised approach will still require the licensee to seek ONR's agreement to any significant changes whilst allowing any minor changes, typically of an administrative nature, to be undertaken by NGL.
13. No Enforcement Notices were issued during the period.

5 NEWS FROM ONR

Chief Nuclear Inspector's annual statement

ONR published its Annual Report and Accounts 2015/16 on 7 July. As well as reporting on ONR's performance, the report includes the Chief Nuclear Inspector's annual statement, which provides a judgement on the regulatory attention necessary for each licensed site, dependent on the level of hazard and risk posted by the facility. The Annual Report and Accounts can be viewed on the ONR website.

New regulatory structure

ONR has recently reviewed its organisational arrangements to ensure that our regulatory structure is appropriately focused to deliver front-line regulation over the next few years. To maintain effective and proportionate regulation, and to address potential and actual imbalances in the current workloads of the programmes, we have created three nuclear safety programmes, each led by a Deputy Chief Inspector. These programmes are:

- A new reactors programme dealing with design assessment, licensing and construction of civil reactors.
- An operating facilities programme dealing with operating reactors, defence sites and other operating facilities.
- A Sellafield, decommissioning, fuel and waste programme dealing predominantly in decommissioning and waste.

You can view ONR's [organisational structure](#) and full [regulatory structure](#) on our website.

Chief Nuclear Inspector Summary Plan for 2016/17

The CNI Summary Plan outlines high level regulatory milestones to deliver ONR's Strategic Plan to 2020 and ONR's approach to the delivery of safety and security regulation across the UK's nuclear reactors and facilities. It was published on 11 July and is available on the ONR website.

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