

Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

Quarterly Site Report for

TORNESS

Report for period 1 January - 31 March 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 Torness Local Liaison Committee and are also available on the ONR website (http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/).

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:

- 18 to 22 January
- 23 to 26 February (joint inspection with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, SEPA)
- 14 to 18 March

#### **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:

- Training
- Operating rules
- Operating instructions
- Safety mechanisms, devices & circuits
- Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing
- Leakage and escape of radioactive material and radioactive waste
- System safety case judgement
- Safety documentation
- Modification or experiment on existing plant
- Control & supervision of operations
- Meeting with Torness station safety representatives
- Meetings with EDF's internal nuclear assurance function
- Events on the site
- Review of ONR issues database with the licensee

One of this quarter's Licence Condition (LC) compliance inspections was carried out jointly with SEPA's nominated site inspector for Torness, and focused on the implementation of the station's arrangements to the tritiated effluent line replacement project. Overall, we were

satisfied with the outcome of this joint inspection, and ONR and SEPA jointly re-emphasised the environmental, nuclear safety and reputational importance of ensuring the successful replacement of the tritiated effluent line.

Three system based inspections were also performed by the ONR site inspector and specialist inspectors to review compliance with site licence conditions for the operation, use and maintenance of reactor safety systems, turbine overspeed protection and instrument air systems. All three systems were found to be compliant with the requirements of the safety case.

#### 2.2 Other work

ONR's specialist and site inspectors held a routine progress meeting with EDF on 3 March 2016. 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 in September 2015. 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. ONR also outlined its expectations on the level of technical substantiation required to support the future safe operation of the reactors.

On 23 March, the nominated site inspector for Torness reviewed the new strategic coordination centre (SCC) at Penton House, Macmerry, where existing council buildings are being converted to bring them up to the standards required of a modern fully-functioning SCC. These new facilities will replace the current SCC at Cockenzie, which is due to close shortly but will remain fully functional and available until the new facilities have been commissioned. East Lothian Council is aiming to test and bring the new SCC facilities on line in June 2016.

During the same visit, the site inspector also participated in the six-monthly Torness emergency planning consultative group meeting. This meeting was followed by an extendibility workshop, during which the practicability and merits of extending countermeasures were reviewed.<sup>1</sup>

#### 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 16 March 2016, Torness reported that reactor 2 was safely shut down following an unplanned manual trip which resulted from pump maintenance activities. The station is undertaking a significant adverse condition investigation to understand the root cause of this event 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 with the licensee's response.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This workshop follows the recent request by HM and Scottish Governments to local authorities to undertake an assessment of their capabilities to extend their current arrangements for nuclear emergencies. Post-Fukushima, the HM Chief Inspector's final report concluded that the existing emergency arrangements in the UK were fit for purpose, but in the spirit of continuous improvement, the UK's arrangements for extending countermeasures beyond the detailed emergency planning zone (DEPZ) should be examined.

#### 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 Nuclear Inspector appointment**

ONR announced the appointment of Dr Richard Savage as its new Chief Nuclear Inspector (CNI) to lead our regulatory activity. Richard is a Chartered Engineer with an extensive background in nuclear safety and regulation. He served as Head of the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator, Ministry of Defence, before being appointed to ONR as a Deputy Chief Nuclear Inspector in 2013. He was Acting CNI since Dr Andy Hall's retirement in November 2015.

# ONR Strategic Plan 2016-2020

In March, ONR published its Strategic Plan covering 2016-2020. The plan sets out the factors that will influence our work and the assumptions we have made about regulating the nuclear sector in the next few years, as well as how we deliver the commitments we have made to the public, ministers and government, licensees, dutyholders and our staff. The plan was laid in Parliament on 22 March and can be viewed on the ONR website.

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 <a href="http://www.onr.org.uk/documents/2015/regulation-matters-december-2015.pdf">http://www.onr.org.uk/documents/2015/regulation-matters-december-2015.pdf</a> 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 <a href="http://www.onr.org.uk/index.htm">http://www.onr.org.uk/index.htm</a> and sign up for our e-bulletin (<a href="http://www.onr.org.uk/ebulletin/index.htm">http://www.onr.org.uk/ebulletin/index.htm</a>).

# 6 CONTACTS

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