



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Hinkley Point B

Report for period 1 July to 30 September 2017

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 Hinkley Site Stakeholder Group (SSG) and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Hinkley 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:

11 - 14 July 2017
08 – 10 August 2017
05 – 07 September 2017

2 ROUTINE MATTERS

2.1 Inspections

2. 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).
3. 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.
 - System Based Inspections
4. 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. Each of these system based 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
5. During this quarter, two system based inspections (SBIs) were undertaken at the station.
 - (i) SBI – 17. Gas Circulators

6. This inspection focused upon Gas Circulators (GCs) and covered the licensee's arrangements to ensure that GCs are able to perform their safety duties if called upon. The purpose of the gas circulators is to provide forced gas circulation that removes heat generated in the reactor and transports it to the heat removal systems (boilers and boiler feed flows) during normal operation and for removing residual decay heat when a reactor is shut-down. As part of this intervention ONR undertook a plant walk down of the GC system and individual elements, including the reactor core annulus and the GC maintenance facility. The ONR inspection team considered that the system was being maintained and operated in accordance with the requirements of the safety case.
- (ii) SBI – 29, Diverse Shutdown and Hold down systems
7. The diverse shutdown & hold down systems at Hinkley Point B are designed to provide multiple means of safely shutting down the reactor and in certain conditions utilising the nitrogen injection system to maintain the shutdown status. As part of this intervention ONR undertook a plant walk down of the system and individual elements, including the Monitoring and Marshalling room, tertiary store, nitrogen plant and the gas circulator hall. The ONR inspection team considered that the system was being maintained and operated in accordance with the requirements of the safety case.
- Annual Review of Safety (ARoS) 2017
8. On 14 July 2017, ONR attended the Annual Review of Safety (ARoS) at Hinkley Point B licensed nuclear site. The ARoS is a key meeting held between the licensee and the ONR, with the objective of reviewing the station's safety and operational performance throughout the past year and looking forward at planned improvement activities that will be implemented in the forthcoming year and beyond.
9. The ARoS was undertaken in accordance with EDF Energy's internal process and was compatible with ONR guidance document NS-INSP-GD-058 (http://www.onr.org.uk/operational/tech_insp_guides/index.htm). This requires inspectors to review station performance over the reporting period and obtain reports on planned improvements and significant projects considered necessary in the next period or in the longer term to gain assurance of continued safe operation.
10. ONR is content with the licensee's balanced assessment of its safety performance and provided feedback during the session.
11. NON-ROUTINE MATTERS
- On the 12th of April 2017, a Doosan Babcock employee fell through a skylight whilst undertaking work on the Gas Turbine house control room roof at the Hinkley Point B licensed site. The injured party (IP) suffered injuries to his back as a result of the fall. ONR's investigations to date have resulted in the serving of Improvement Notices on EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd (NGL) and Doosan Babcock Ltd on 30th June 2017. Both companies have until 31 January 2018 to satisfy the requirements of the notices. Senior executives from both companies have attended ONR's offices in Bootle to present their respective improvement plans to meet legal requirements. ONR's investigations remain on-going.

3 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

12. 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.

13. No Licence Instruments were issued during this period.

4 NEWS FROM ONR

- ONR Chief Nuclear Inspector, Dr Richard Savage, has announced he will be stepping down after two years in the role for family reasons. ONR has appointed Mark Foy, current Director of our Operating Facilities, as Acting Chief Nuclear Inspector (CNI) with effect from 30 October. ONR expects to appoint a permanent Chief Nuclear Inspector towards the end of 2017, subject to ministerial approval.
- ONR will soon launch its new newsletter containing the latest news and developments from across the organisation. If you would like to receive this, please subscribe on the ONR website.

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