



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

Report for period 1 April to 30 June

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:

26 – 27 April 2017

20 – 22 June 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.
4. In this period, routine inspections of Hunterston B covered the following:
 - Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing
5. This inspection focused upon the examination, inspection, maintenance and testing of tanks and buried pipework systems on the site. In general, ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements to be adequate. 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.
6. 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.
7. During this quarter, two system based inspections (SBIs) were undertaken on the station. The first was an inspection of the ponds and flasks which was carried out on 26 - 27 April 2017. This inspection focused upon how the site ensures safe operations of the fuel pond, which included an examination of its arrangements to maintain the required chemistry limits required for the safe storage of irradiated fuel. As part of this

SBI we sampled the maintenance and operation of the flask handling crane. The ONR inspection team considered that the system was being maintained and operated in accordance with the requirements of the safety case.

8. The second SBI undertaken was an inspection of the fuel assemblies system which was carried out on 20 – 21 June 2017. This inspection covered a number of significant aspects associated with the fuel route, with particular emphasis being paid by ONR in how the station demonstrates that the nuclear safety claims of the fuel plug unit and fuel stringer throughout their assembly, loading into the reactor, operation and removal etc. are satisfied. The ONR inspection team judged that the system was being maintained and operated in accordance with the requirements of the safety case.
9. NON-ROUTINE MATTERS
10. None during this period.

3 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. During this quarter, ONR issued Licence Instrument number 557 on 19 May 2017, acknowledging the Paper of Principle related to the Neutron Flux Detector Programme, in accordance with arrangements made by the station under LC 22(1).
13. No Enforcement Notices were issued during the period.

4 NEWS FROM ONR

ONR Chair awarded CBE

- In the Queen's Birthday Honours announced in June, Chair of the Office for Nuclear Regulation, Nick Baldwin, was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire for services to nuclear safety and security in Britain and to the charitable sector.

Regulatory Research Report published

- ONR has published its annual regulatory research report which describes the research activities we have conducted in the past year.
- The report includes case studies showing how our research strategy has helped support our regulatory approach, and helps to inform the development of best practice. It can be viewed at www.onr.org.uk/research

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