



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

Report for period 1 April – 30 June 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 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

ONR inspectors carried out inspections on the following dates during the quarter:

- 18-21 April;
- 26-28 April;
- 8-11 May;
- 22-24 May.

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, our inspection activities were mainly connected to the statutory 'outage of Torness Reactor 1, a carefully planned period when the reactor was shut down to allow for extensive examination, testing and maintenance of the plant. The inspections covered the following:

- Licence Condition 28 – Examination, Inspection, Maintenance and Testing;
- Licence Condition 30 – Periodic Shutdown;
- Licence Condition 26 – Control and Supervision of Operations.

In addition to our program of site licence compliance inspections, ONR also undertakes system based inspections which are focused on the site's critical safety systems and structures identified in licensees' safety cases. There were no systems based inspections during this period.

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, although that was not considered necessary in this quarter.

2.2 Other work

During the reporting period ONR undertook significant on-site interventions and carried out specialist assessment activities associated with the three-yearly periodic shutdown of Torness Reactor 1. This is discussed further in Section 4 below.

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.

During this period there was an event reported to ONR following the manual shutdown of Torness Reactor 2 in April. This was a precautionary manual shutdown taken by the operators following the automatic closure of a valve which led to the interruption of steam flow through the turbine. The inadvertent closure of the valve had been caused by maintenance activities being carried out on the control equipment associated with the turbine governor. The reactor shutdown systems operated safely and the reactor was subsequently restarted two days later. ONR supported the conservative decision making that had been demonstrated by the operators and noted that they were subsequently praised by the site's own management for taking the right decision to shut the reactor down promptly.

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.

In this quarter, ONR issued a Licence Instrument under Licence Condition 30(3) to consent to the restart of Torness Reactor 1 following its statutory outage period. This was issued following ONR's assessment of matters such as the adequacy of maintenance and testing carried out during the outage and the consequential safety of restarting the reactor, details are in Table 1 below.

Table 1
Licence Instruments and Enforcement Notices Issued by ONR during this period

Date	Type	Ref No	Description
06/06/2017	Licence Instrument	LI 553	Consent to restart Torness Reactor1 under LC 30(3).

The Project Assessment Report produced detailing this regulatory decisions will be published on the ONR website at <http://www.onr.org.uk/pars/>.

5 NEWS FROM ONR

ONR Chair awarded CBE

In the Queen's Birthday Honours announced in June, the 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

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

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