



# Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Torness Power Stations

Report for period 1 October 2017 – 31 December 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 of the Local Community Liaison Committee and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend the Torness Local Community Liaison Committee 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 on the following dates during the quarter:
  - 16-21 October 2017
  - 14-16 November 2017
  - 12-14 December 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 (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 Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
  - the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003
3. 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.
4. In this period, the following routine inspections were undertaken:
  - An inspection on the theme of Control and Supervision, including arrangements to comply with Licence Conditions: 12, 23, 24, 25, and 28, and Regulation 5 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work (MHSW) Regulations 1999;
  - A compliance inspection of LC 32 – Accumulation of Radioactive Waste.
  - An inspection on the theme of Engineering Governance, including arrangements to comply with Licence Conditions 12 and 17.

#### Control and Supervision

5. This inspection looked at how Torness controls and supervises operations and maintenance activities undertaken on the Station, with particular emphasis on the interfaces between operations and maintenance. Such inspections are being carried out by ONR at all operating reactor stations.
6. A team of ONR inspectors on site examined these matters through meetings, interviews, plant inspections and reviews of documents. On the basis of our sample we found that Torness complied with the relevant conditions of the Licence and MHSW Regulations. We also found that there was clear evidence of improvement in the control, supervision and culture of maintenance work over the previous 12 to 18 months. We made a number of minor observations concerning further potential improvements that could be made.

## LC32 - Accumulation of Radioactive Waste

7. The LC32 inspection was carried out jointly with the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA). We undertook a walk-down of the Active Solid Waste Building (ASWB), observing good standards of housekeeping and maintenance. We observed evidence of good control of waste production and storage, and noted the development of an improved radioactive waste inventory recording tool. We also inspected EDF NGL's corporate and station LC32 compliance arrangements and their implementation by examining station records; all records were found to be adequate.

## Engineering Governance

8. This intervention evaluated engineering governance with particular focus on the Fleet Engineering Equipment Reliability process. It used structured discussions with Torness Engineering Department System Engineers, Group Heads and Senior Manager together with observations from plant walk-downs and System Review Boards. Key focus areas were:
  - Engineering capability;
  - Compliance with company's engineering practices and processes;
  - Effectiveness of risk management, mitigation and resolution;
  - Coordination of engineering between Station and Corporate Centre.
9. The ONR team concluded that Torness Engineering Department had adequate governance processes in place in the management of resource levels, resilience, capability and equipment reliability processes. We advised Torness of opportunities to enhance process adherence and governance in system reviews and plant walk-downs.
10. Further inspections at Torness look at the key technical systems important to nuclear safety. These are inspected against the requirements of the safety case. We plan to inspect all the safety-significant systems over a five-year period, completed in March 2018. ONR considers that this will provide additional assurance that operations on the Torness site are safe. Each of these system 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
11. During the reporting period, there was one safety related system inspected:

## Solid and Gaseous Radioactive Waste Systems

12. This inspection was carried out jointly with the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA). The areas we focused on in particular were:
  - High Activity Debris Vaults;
  - Reactor gas by-pass plant;
  - Reactor gas ventilation system.

13. We judged from the information sampled, station staff interviewed and the plant inspected that the Solid and Gaseous Radioactive Waste Systems adequately met the requirements of the associated safety cases.

## 2.2 Other work

14. The period included a number of other interactions between ONR and Torness, including follow-up of matters raised during previous inspections. This included a follow-up visit by ONR civil engineering specialists of the work by contractors, under the supervision of the site, to test and maintain the steel tendons of the concrete reactor pressure vessel. Good standards were found.
15. Also of interest to local stakeholders was a meeting with East Lothian Council and EDF to discuss the ONR draft 'determination' of the offsite emergency planning area around Torness Station, made under the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001. ONR explained that applying ONR principles will mean moving away from a simple circle around the site to an area bounded by natural features (such as roads and rivers) which should make it easier for emergency responders on the ground to control access. The ONR process for making these determinations is described on our website in Technical Assessment Guide 82:  
[www.onr.org.uk/operational/tech\\_asst\\_guides/index.htm](http://www.onr.org.uk/operational/tech_asst_guides/index.htm)

## 3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

16. The Torness nominated site inspector reviews incidents that meet the criteria for routine reporting to ONR under the site's Licence Condition 7 arrangements. The site inspector samples the station's follow up reports and corrective actions. From the evidence sampled, the inspector was satisfied that these incidents had been adequately investigated and appropriate event recovery actions identified. In addition the site inspector held meetings with the Torness independent nuclear assurance inspector and had ONR issues follow-up meetings.

## 4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

17. 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.

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

Date	Type	Ref No	Description
N/A			No Licence Instruments or Enforcement Notices were issued during the period

Reports detailing the above regulatory decisions can be found on the ONR website at <http://www.onr.org.uk/pars/>.

## 5 NEWS FROM ONR

### New Build:

#### New Nuclear Power Station Design Approved

18. The UK Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (UK ABWR), designed by Hitachi-GE, is suitable for construction in the UK, the regulators confirmed following completion of an in-depth assessment of the nuclear reactor design. The Office for Nuclear Regulation, the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales, the regulators who undertake the Generic Design Assessment of new reactor designs, are satisfied that this reactor meets regulatory expectations on safety, security and environmental protection at this stage of the regulatory process. ONR has issued a Design Acceptance Confirmation and the environment agencies have issued a Statement of Design Acceptability to Hitachi-GE.

#### Step 2 of Nuclear Reactor Assessment

19. We also announced in November 2017 that we are progressing to the next phase of our assessment of the General Nuclear System Limited (GNS) UK HPR1000 nuclear reactor technology. This means we will now begin the technical assessment phase. Additionally, all members of the public can give their views and find out more information about the design by going to UKHPR 1000 website at [www.ukhpr1000.co.uk](http://www.ukhpr1000.co.uk)

### Other news:

#### ONR Response to BEIS Impact Assessment

20. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has recently published its Impact Assessment of the Nuclear Safeguards' Bill and that makes reference to ONR's regulation. We contacted BEIS to clarify two points within the document as part of our ongoing constructive engagement with them to develop a domestic safeguards regime as part of exiting Euratom. The first is that ONR regulates the nuclear industry; it does not provide services to it. Secondly, the Government's policy has developed since the assessment was undertaken and the intention is to put in place a regulatory framework which is as robust and as comprehensive as Euratom. This means that we are not in a position to identify potential efficiencies in our regulatory approach at this stage. As we support BEIS in its development of secondary legislation, we will provide advice to the Government to inform the anticipated impact assessment for nuclear safeguards regulation.
21. 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>).

## 6 CONTACTS

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