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 to members of the Hartlepool Local Community Liaison Committee and are also available on the ONR website (http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Hartlepool Local Community Liaison Committee meetings where these reports are presented 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

ONR inspectors undertook interventions at Hartlepool Power Station on the following dates during the report period:

- 15-17 July
- 12-16, 20-23, 27-29 August
- 3-4, 10-11, 25-27 September

2 ROUTINE MATTERS

2.1 Compliance 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 etc. Act 1974 (HSWA74); and
- regulations made under HSWA74, for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99).

The inspections entail monitoring the licensee’s (EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd, NGL) 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 of Hartlepool Power Station covered the following:

- examination, maintenance, inspection and testing;
- management of operations including control and supervision;
- incidents on the site;
- radioactive waste management;
- organisational changes;
- quality assurance and records;
- conventional (non-nuclear) health and safety.

Members of the public, who would like further information on ONR’s inspection activities during the reporting period, can view site Intervention Reports at www.onr.org.uk/intervention-records on our website www.onr.org.uk. Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email contact@onr.gov.uk.
2.2 Reactor 2 Outage

ONR has undertaken a significant number of compliance inspections (see above) at Hartlepool Power Station in connection with the statutory outage, which began on 10 August 2019 and is scheduled to run until mid-October 2019. In order to restart Reactor 2, NGL requires ONR’s consent to do so. ONR informs its judgement in this matter through the inspection and assessment programme undertaken and production of an overarching Project Assessment Report.

Inspectors from a wide variety of specialist disciplines have been involved during the statutory outage. Compliance inspections were undertaken by specialists from specialisms including: Control & Instrumentation, Electrical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Radiological Protection, Graphite, Structural Integrity and Conventional Health & Safety. ONR’s judgement, once completed, will be available on our web site through publication of the Project Assessment Report.

2.3 Annual Review

The licensee’s Annual Review for Hartlepool power station was held on 16 & 17 July, attended by the ONR superintending inspector for operating reactors and regulators from the Environment Agency. As agreed between ONR and the licensee at the last annual review in December 2017, approximately 18 months had passed since the previous review. This delay was necessary to enable the site’s annual review to align with the production of a corporate overview report. Future reviews are expected to revert back to a 12-monthly basis now that the alignment has been established.

The licensee presented its assessment of safety performance on the site since the previous review and identified its priorities for continuous improvement for the next 12 months. ONR considered that the licensee’s assessment was sufficiently comprehensive and had identified appropriate areas to improve its nuclear safety performance.

2.4 Other Work

During the period, the site inspector:

- Reviewed the open regulatory issues associated with Hartlepool with the Technical and Safety Support Manager. Generally, good progress is being made on the majority of issues; some delays are evident with lower priority issues, but at present, we have no significant concern.
- Met with safety representatives at a Health and Safety committee, to support the representative’s function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety and welfare at work.
- Met on a monthly basis with the site-based Independent Nuclear Assurance team to ensure the internal regulator function remains effective and to align our activities (where possible) to secure optimal oversight.
3 NON-Routine MATTERS

3.1 Events

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.

Matters and events of particular note during the period were:

- **2019/658 – Emergency Health Physicists**
  Hartlepool power station has a baseline requirement for four emergency health physicists. Due to retirements, there are only two emergency health physicists to undertake the role. The ONR site inspector has discussed the matter with the station and determined that the station has taken appropriate temporary action to ensure sufficient coverage in the short term, by reaching an agreement with Heysham 1 power station to supply emergency health physics cover, should it be needed. Additional Hartlepool-based role holders are expected to be in place by November (making three) and December (making four).

- **2019/609 – Reactor Vessel Flood Detection System (RVFDS)**
  The RVFDS is designed to detect an increasing quantity of water (from an assumed boiler leak) in the base of the reactor. An isolation to the RVFDS was applied in error, causing the station to enter a 36-hour action condition. Whilst maintenance was planned on the RVFDS (which required the isolation), it was not planned to be undertaken in the 36-hour window. This was recognised and the isolation was removed after approximately nine hours. The ONR site inspector judged that nuclear safety was not directly affected, since reactor 2 was already shutdown and thus both the number of boilers in service (and quantity of water flowing through them) was greatly reduced. Since this was an outage-only task, the site inspector was satisfied that the task would not have been prompted by the maintenance system had the reactor been in service. The human error aspects are being investigated by the station and the ONR site inspector will review this once complete.

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 take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an Enforcement Notice.

No LIs, Enforcement Notices or Enforcement letters were issued during this period.
NEWS FROM ONR

5.1 Enforcement Action

A summary of enforcement action is provided below. Further detail is available on our website.

- On 19 July we served Improvement Notices on the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) relating to the way the company undertakes risk assessments for organisational change which may affect safety.
- Following a court hearing on July 23, 2019 at Plymouth Magistrates’ Court, Devonport Royal Dockyard Ltd (DRDL) was fined £666,667 and ordered to pay costs of £27,611.82. It follows an incident in September 2018 involving a crane at the Devonport 9 Dock facility. During a lifting operation to disassemble a stack of test weights, the weights became detached and fell towards a worker, narrowly missing him. This was a conventional health and safety incident and there was no nuclear or radiological risk to workers or the public.
- On 20 August 2019 we provided EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd with permission for Reactor 4 at Hunterston B to return to service for the next period of operation. Permission is for up to 16,025 terawatt days, which is approximately four months operation.
- Recognising the good progress made so far, on 16 September 2019 we agreed to extend two Improvement Notices issued to EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd (EDF) from the original compliance date of 16 September, 2019, to 16 December, 2019. The notices were served in January 2019 following an incident at Heysham 1 power station. We have been closely monitoring the work to comply with both notices and will continue to do so to ensure full compliance.

5.2 Regulatory Updates

- We have revised our Licencing Nuclear Installations guidance. The revised guidance replaces the 4th edition, published in January 2015. The key changes to the guidance have been made to reflect legal changes as a result of the introduction of new legislation and to include reference to updated processes and procedures.
- Together with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) we have published a new Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) and guidance to assist dutyholder compliance with the new Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2019 (REPPiR).

5.3 Stakeholder Engagement

- On 18 September we held our Finance Industry Seminar which brought together finance colleagues from licence holders to discuss how we plan and forecast our charges, as part of our drive to be open and transparent about how we charge for the regulatory services we provide.
- On the week commencing 23 September, we attended an OECD Nuclear Energy Agency Workshop on Stakeholder Involvement: Risk Communication, as part of a UK contingent which included other regulators, government bodies, supply chain representatives and attendees from nuclear interest and pressure groups. The workshop explored how best to communicate radiation risk and how to ensure stakeholder involvement and participation. Further details about this event can be found here: https://www.oecd-nea.org/civil/workshops/2019/stakeholder/
- On the week commencing 16 September we attended the 63rd International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference in Vienna. The annual General Conference is an opportunity for all IAEA Member States to jointly consider matters related to the IAEA’s ongoing work, budget and priorities.
This year, over 3000 participants attended, including delegates from 152 of the IAEA’s 171 Member States.

5.4 Corporate News

- On 10 July we published our gender pay report for 2018/19. We are committed to improving diversity by promoting and maintaining an inclusive working environment and are pleased to report positive shifts in the gender pay gap indicators, where our mean gap of 27% has reduced by 8.2% since our second report in 2017/18.

All our latest news is available on our website www.onr.org.uk.

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