



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

Report for period 1 April to 30 June 2020

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

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Site Stakeholder Group 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

1. There were no on-site inspections made during the report period 1 April to 30 June, due to restrictions in place because of the coronavirus pandemic.

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 2017 (IRR17) 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. Because the coronavirus pandemic resulted in restrictions to travel during the reporting period, and because there were no urgent or essential regulatory matters that necessitated a site intervention, the site inspector worked remotely to monitor the performance of the site by:
 - a. Initiating increased dialogue with site management and the licensee's independent nuclear safety assurance function to develop a consistent picture of the measures put in place to manage the safety of both the workforce and the plant.
 - b. Observing the meetings and working groups the licensee established to assess the coronavirus pandemic and manage the response, including the site pandemic working team meeting (which maintained and overview of the site's response) and maintenance requirements review group (which managed the impact of potential or actual staff and supply chain shortfalls on safety-significant maintenance activities).
 - c. Monitoring the minimum staffing levels required to deliver an adequate response in the event of an accident or emergency on the site.
5. Consequently, the site inspector considers that the site has managed its response to the pandemic during the period in a manner that, so far as is reasonably practicable, protected its own staff and ensured that there was no degradation in nuclear safety.

3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

6. 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.

3.1 Exercise Demonstrations

7. ONR have conducted a review of the practicalities of undertaking emergency exercise demonstrations during the current COVID19 pandemic restrictions. Decisions were made to cancel a safety related exercise due to take place in September 2020 and reschedule the Hinkley Point B level 2 emergency exercise from 30th March 2021 to a future date, which has yet to be determined, in line with a request from the local authority.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

8. 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 Licence Instruments were issued or enforcement action taken during this period.

4.1 Hinkley Point B Emergency Plan

9. REPP19 has prompted the requirement for the review and amendment of the on-site, and off-site emergency plans. Following the Hinkley Point B review and subsequent updates to the emergency plan, the station sought ONR's approval of the Hinkley Point B station Emergency Plan in April 2020 under LC11 arrangements. ONR provided a response in June to the request, highlighting that the description of the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) in the revised submission has been omitted. ONR have requested that Hinkley Point B ensure the on-site emergency plan is re-submitted containing the new DEPZ information within the final version. ONR are expecting the re-submission of the Hinkley Point B emergency plan in July 2020.

5 NEWS FROM ONR

Covid – 19

ONR is continuing to protect society by securing safe nuclear operations during the Covid-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. Our staff continue to work from home, in line with government advice, with a limited number of our inspectors, as key workers, travelling to site as necessary to conduct urgent and essential regulatory inspections. ONR's latest position can be found on our [website](#).

Enforcement Action

ONR served an Improvement Notice on EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd (EDF Energy) for contravention of the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations (2000) at Heysham 1 Power Station. The notice was served after shortfalls were discovered in the examination and inspection of the Reactor 1 pressure vessel at the Lancashire plant. EDF Energy must comply with the Improvement Notice and complete the eleven overdue examinations by 18 December 2020.

ONR has granted an extension to an Enforcement Notice served on Urenco UK Ltd, recognising the good progress made so far. The notice was issued in late December 2019, following a fire safety inspection at the Capenhurst Works in Cheshire, which revealed shortfalls in the fire alarm and detection systems at one of the site's facilities. Urenco UK Ltd must comply with the requirements of the extended notice by 30 September 2020.

Regulatory Updates.

ONR received an application for a nuclear site licence from NNB Generation Company (SZC) Limited, to construct and operate two EPR™ reactors, at its proposed development in Sizewell, Suffolk. We will now assess the application, partly informed by our previous assessment of the EPR™ at Hinkley Point C – including using the relevant lessons from that assessment, while focusing on aspects specifically relevant to Sizewell C.

Whilst we are satisfied that the application is sufficiently complete to proceed to assessment stage, there is still a lot of work to do – and we do not expect to reach a decision, until at least the end of 2021.

6 CONTACTS

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