



Office for
Nuclear Regulation

Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Site Report for Torness Power Station

Report for period January to March 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 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

The ONR nominated site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the quarter:

- 13-16 January 2020
- 2-5 March 2020

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 (EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd (EDF 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, inspections were undertaken on the following themes:

- Systems-based inspection of civil engineering protection from external hazards
- A 'Level 1' emergency demonstration exercise (Licence Condition 11);

Systems-based inspection of civil engineering protection from external hazards

This Systems-based inspection focused on the civil engineering aspects of the sea defences, flood protection and drainage system at Torness. All of these protection systems had been reviewed and improved by Torness since the last such inspection in 2015, together with the safety case elements concerning flood risk. The inspection team were satisfied with the improvements made and the standards that they found.

Emergency exercise 'Pluto' (Licence Condition 11)

This exercise was a 'level 1' designed to demonstrate the emergency response capability to EDF assessment teams and to ONR. EDF NGL have a programme of exercises across the power station that simulate a range of types of emergency. 'Pluto' simulated an extreme weather event and included the need to deploy back-up equipment from EDF stores off-site. This was a challenging exercise to simulate or to deal with but the ONR and EDF teams concluded that the station coped well, and the exercise was rated 'green'. ONR also noted continued improvement in aspects of emergency response performance compared to past exercises, and an existing 'regulatory issue' (matter for follow-up by the regulator) was closed.

2.2 Other matters

In March 2020 the station hosted an annual review of security, environment and safety. This is an opportunity for the station to present to regulators its view of performance and progress to SEPA and ONR for discussion. The station's review was thorough and agreed by the regulators as an accurate reflection. As always, this review helps to inform the regulators in planning future interactions with the station.

March also saw a visit to Torness by the ONR Divisional Director for Operating Facilities. He explained the ONR's priorities and regulatory approach to topical issues, discussed matters of current interest at the station and toured the site. He left with a favourable impression of the professionalism with which safety is being managed there.

3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

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.

During this quarter the following were reported:

- A fault with operation of a gas circulator occurred during testing in Reactor 1, causing a slight temporary drop in power. The cause was identified and repaired. No action was required by ONR.
- Two members of staff attended site at the end of March with Covid-19 symptoms. They were advised to safely isolate at home, as were those they had been in contact with. Their work area was deep-cleaned.

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.

There are none to report for Torness over this period.

4.1 Periodic Safety Review (PSR)

ONR carried out a review of the Heysham 2 and Torness periodic safety review (PSR) during January 2019 to January 2020. ONR concluded that NGL has carried out an adequate periodic safety review and a decision letter was forwarded to the stations at the end of January 2020.

ONR's decision letter agreed that NGL's arrangements for PSR have been followed and an adequate review of the station's nuclear safety case and safety management arrangements has been undertaken. The review did not identify any significant nuclear safety threats that would impact on station's operations for the period through to end of generation, currently 2030 for Heysham 2 and Torness stations.

ONR's assessments of the Heysham 2 and Torness PSR3 submission were considered thorough and systematic. ONR's assessment findings supported NGL's conclusion that no serious nuclear safety threats existed in continued operation of Heysham 2 and Torness power station. However, a key outcome of ONR's assessment of PSR3 and the graphite safety cases is our intention to continue to challenge EDF NGL to ensure that it demonstrates

that operations of the four reactors remain safe as the graphite cores age. Fundamental to this is the continuing requirement for EDF NGL to undertake regular inspections and analysis of the graphite core to demonstrate that they remain within the limits and conditions defined within the safety cases. ONR identified seven findings in its assessment work, which NGL will close out within agreed timescales with ONR.

4.2 Licence Instrument 558 – Specification to submit HASS returns to ONR

A Specification under Licence Condition 25 was sent to Torness by ONR requiring records of movement of high-activity sealed source (HASS) to be submitted to us five-yearly rather than annually as previously. This follows changes to requirements under European law and does not affect ONR’s powers to require information it needs for its purposes at any reasonable time. Further information on requirements concerning HASS can be found on our website: www.onr.org.uk/hass.htm.

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

Date	Type	Ref No	Description
10/01/2020	Specification	558	Specifications for EDF Nuclear Generation Ltd to submit HASS records to ONR

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

5 NEWS FROM ONR

Below are summaries of key activities over the last three months. Further detail is available on [our website](#).

Covid-19 (Coronavirus) (ONR position)

- ONR is continuing to protect society by securing safe nuclear operations during the Coronavirus pandemic. ONR staff continue to work from home, in line with government advice. We have considered our priorities, have deferred non-critical activities, and are carrying out as much of our work as possible via videoconference, phone and email. Our regulatory focus includes assurance, where appropriate, from site licensees that they are applying the public health measures introduced to reduce the spread of coronavirus. A limited number of our inspectors can, as key workers, continue to travel to site as necessary to conduct urgent and essential regulatory inspections. Nuclear sites have been reducing non-essential activities so as to protect staff, infrastructure, and the public. As always, we are regulating those activities to ensure they are carried out safely and securely. ONR’s latest position [can be found on our website](#).

Enforcement Action

- ONR served an [Enforcement Notice](#) on Urenco UK Ltd following a fire safety inspection at its Capenhurst Works in Cheshire during December 2019. The notice was issued in response to shortfalls identified in the fire alarm and detection systems at one of the site’s facilities.

- In February ONR announced that [Sellafield Limited had complied](#) with an Improvement Notice relating to staff training, operating procedures and procedural adherence that they were served with in May 2019.

Regulatory Updates

- In January ONR published an update to its [Safety Assessment Principles](#), to incorporate some relatively minor revisions including typographical corrections and updates to reflect changes to the UK's nuclear regulatory framework since 2014.
- In February ONR completed Step 3 of the Generic Design Assessment (GDA) of the UK HPR1000 design, and took the decision to progress to Step 4 of the GDA. During Step 3, ONR increased its regulatory scrutiny and undertook a more detailed assessment of the design, focusing on the methods and approaches used by the GDA Requesting Party to underpin their safety and security claims.
- In March we published the Quarterly [Statement of Civil Incidents](#) for the period 1 October to 31 December 2019. During this reporting period there were two civil incidents at nuclear licensed sites within Great Britain that met the Ministerial Reporting Criteria as defined within the Nuclear Installations (Dangerous Occurrences) Regulations 1965 and ONR guidance in relation to notifying and reporting incidents and events.

Stakeholder Engagement

- On 15 January ONR launched a four-week public consultation on its draft 2025 Strategy. Once agreed, the strategy will set our direction and priorities for the next five years. To support the public consultation we held a webinar for NGOs and other stakeholders in which our Chief Executive, Adrienne Kelbie, and Technical Director, Anthony Hart, gave an overview of the strategy and welcomed questions and comments. The strategy is due to be published in May 2020.
- In January, ONR achieved Level 3 Disability Confident (Leader) status, recognising our desire to put people first and create an environment in which everyone can thrive. The government-backed scheme encourages employers to think differently about disability and take action to improve how they recruit, retain and develop disabled people.
- In February, we announced the appointment of two **new members to the ONR Board**. Dr Janet Wilson took up the appointment on 1 April 2020 and Tracey Matthews will take up her appointment on 1 June 2020 – both appointments are for five year terms.
- In February more than 70 stakeholders involved in the transport of radioactive material attended a conference organised by ONR's Transport Competent Authority (TCA) team. The event provided a good opportunity for the TCA team to share their expectations on compliance with regulations governing the transport of radioactive material.

6 CONTACTS

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This document is issued by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). For further information about ONR, or to report inconsistencies or inaccuracies in this publication, please visit <http://www.onr.org.uk/feedback.htm>.

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