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| ONR Site Report  Torness Power Station |



ONR Site Report

Torness Power Station

Report for period: 01 July–30 September 2023

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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 Torness site stakeholder group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Torness site stakeholder meetings where these reports are presented and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR.

Contents

[1. Inspections 4](#_Toc164175684)

[2. Routine matters 5](#_Toc164175685)

[3. Non-routine matters 7](#_Toc164175686)

[4. Regulatory activity 7](#_Toc164175687)

[5. News from ONR 9](#_Toc164175688)

[6. Contacts 9](#_Toc164175689)

# Inspections

## Date(s) of inspection

The ONR site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the report period 01 July–30 September 2023:

* 12–13 July
* 08–09 August
* 19–20 September

# Routine matters

## 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 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 Torness power station covered the following:

* Incidents on the site;
* Training;
* Duly authorised and other suitably qualified and experienced persons;
* Emergency arrangements;
* Modifications or experiment on existing plant;
* Operating rules;
* Operating instructions;
* Safety mechanisms, devices and circuits;
* Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing; and
* Organisational capability.

Overall, the findings from the compliance inspections were good. Further information and clarification is being sought through an ONR regulatory issue associated with LC36 (Organisational Capability). The regulatory issue requires the management of change (MoC) for offload depessurised refuelling (ODR) to be reviewed, ensuring the MoC is all-encompassing, the correct categorisation criteria is applied and the scope of the organisational change is adequately defined.

Torness carried out a review and updated the MoC which adequately adressed the actions within the ONR regulatory issue associated with the inspection. ONR submitted the regulatory issue for closure in December 2023.

There were no findings from the inspections that could significantly undermine nuclear 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 Publication search | Office for Nuclear Regulation (onr.org.uk)

Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk).

## Other work

In September 2023, the deputy chief inspector of ONR’s Operating Facilities division visited Torness as part of a programme of routine site engagements. During the engagement a plant walkdown was undertaken, focusing on the challenges of ageing plant and equipment. This highlighted some key improvements being undertaken to ensure reliability for the remainder of station life.

The deputy chief inspector attended meetings with station management, where topics of discussion included organisational capability, staff retention, station end of generation predictions (including staff engagement) and industry-wide challenges.

The Torness nominated site inspector observed shift exercise training during this quarter. The purpose of this was to ensure some minor gaps identified following the level 1 demonstration exercise were being addressed and included within Torness’s exercise training programme.

ONR has progressed early engagement with Torness on the reactor 1 statutory outage, which is scheduled to commence April 2024.

# 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.

Matters and events of note during the period were:

**Reactor 1 condensate polishing plant acid leak (July 2023):** An operator was injured while returning an acid dilution tank to service following maintenance on an inlet valve. On opening an upstream valve, a volume of acid sprayed from the tank inlet valve over the operator’s left hand and arm. The operator was wearing the normal PPE for the area and made immediate use of the emergency shower nearby. The operator did suffer chemical burns to the arm.

Torness made the area safe and restricted access to the area. Torness industrial safety carried out an assessment of the area and limited access, enhancing control measures until an internal investigation was conducted. The incident was reported as a dangerous occurrence to the HSE.

The internal investigation highlighted a number of improvements and an associated action plan to address shortfalls. The improvements identified include conducting a full hazard operability study of the system to identify engineering improvements, reviewing the adequacy of governance and oversight of operator burdens and plant defects, and conducting a review of maintenance instructions associated with valves on the system.

Following the review of the Torness internal investigation, ONR has raised a regulatory issue associated with this incident and will track improvement actions through to completion.

# Regulatory activity

ONR may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, ONR issues regulatory documents that 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, such as issuing an enforcement notice.

The following LIs, enforcement notices and enforcement letters have been issued during the period:

* An enforcement letter was issued to Torness to address compliance shortfalls associated with Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and LC28 (Examination, Inspection, Maintenance and Testing). The fire safety shortfalls were identified in the administration, welfare, workshop and stores building complexes.

ONR has raised a regulatory issue associated with the enforcement letter and will track progress to ensure improvements are adequately implemented.

**Table 1: Licence instruments and enforcement notices issued by ONR during this period.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Type | Ref. no. | Description |
| 17 July 2023 | Enforcement letter | ONR-EL-23-012 | Fire safety non-compliances in administration, welfare, workshop and stores building complexes at Torness. |
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Reports detailing the above regulatory decisions can be found on the ONR website at [www.onr.org.uk/pars](http://www.onr.org.uk/pars).

# News from ONR

For the latest news and information from ONR, please read and subscribe to our regular email newsletter ‘ONR News’ at [www.onr.org.uk/news/newsletter](http://www.onr.org.uk/news/newsletter).

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