



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Hartlepool Power Station

Report for period 1 October to 31 December 2015

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 for the Hartlepool Local Community Liaison Committee and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Hartlepool Local Community Liaison Committee meetings and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR.

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1 INSPECTIONS

1.1 Dates of inspection

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

- 12 – 16 October
- 23 – 27 November
- 9 December
- 16 – 18 December

Other ONR warranted inspectors undertook interventions on the Hartlepool nuclear licenced site on the following dates during the quarter:

- 13 – 15 October
- 24 - 27 November
- 9 December
- 17 December

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 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 at Hartlepool power station covered the following:

- Incidents on site and arrangements for use of operating experience
- Site plans
- Control of station chemistry
- Working at height
- Workplace transport
- Safety documentation

In addition to our program of site licence compliance inspections, ONR also undertakes system based inspections which are focused on the site's critical safety systems and structures and are derived from the licensees' safety cases. During the period, ONR performed a system based inspection of the following system:

- CO2 processing and blowdown

In general, ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements to be adequate in the areas inspected. We judged that the equipment

examined during our system based inspection met the requirements of the nuclear safety case. However, where improvements were considered necessary, the licensee made satisfactory commitments to address the issues, and the site inspector will monitor progress during future visits. Where necessary, ONR will take formal regulatory enforcement action to ensure that appropriate remedial measures are implemented to reasonably practicable timescales.

Details of these inspections can be found in the Hartlepool intervention records located at: <http://www.onr.org.uk/civil-nuclear-reactors/operating-reactors.htm>.

2.2 Other work

2.2.1 Emergency Exercise JUNO

The site's annual level 1 emergency exercise took place in November. The exercise, which involved participants from the emergency services as well as EDF Nuclear Generation Limited's (EDF NGL) own staff, was designed to demonstrate Hartlepool power station's capability to deal effectively with an emergency incident. The exercise was observed by a team of ONR inspectors who concluded that the exercise was a successful demonstration of the site's emergency arrangements.

2.2.2 Boiler spine cooling modifications

As discussed in previous ONR quarterly reports, in 2014 a cracked region was discovered on a boiler spine at Heysham 1 Reactor 1, which is of a similar type of boiler design to those installed at Hartlepool power station. Both reactors at Hartlepool have been operating at reduced power, pending further work to improve the long term safety case position for operation of the boilers.

EDF NGL has completed the installation of modifications at Hartlepool Power station designed to reduce the temperature of the boiler spines in the region where cracking was discovered at Heysham 1.

EDF NGL sought permission to return both reactors at Hartlepool (and at Heysham 1 Reactor 2) back to full power, following installation of the boiler spine cooling modifications. Following a review of these safety cases, ONR issued Licence Instruments 554 and 553 acknowledging the safety cases for Hartlepool Reactor 1 and 2 respectively. Both of these permissioning activities were subject to the reactors being operated to achieve a 10°C temperature reduction on the relevant boiler spine weld, while in-service data was gathered to further validate the effectiveness of the boiler spine cooling modifications.

3 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 particular note during the period were:

- In December, during a planned outage of Reactor 1 EDF NGL identified a defective weld in an instrument penetration installed in one of its boilers. The incident did not result in any adverse consequences and was provisionally classified as level 1 (an anomaly) on the International Nuclear Event Scale. The ONR site inspector has undertaken further enquiries into circumstances surrounding the incident and is satisfied that NGL has responded appropriately to the discovery. ONR will review EDF NGL's internal investigation to confirm that the appropriate learning is identified from this incident.

- During the quarter, a number of minor incidents were reported to ONR by EDF NGL in which plant was identified as being misaligned. One of these incidents, in which a Hot Gas protection door was found to be open was provisionally classified as level 1 (an anomaly) on the International Nuclear Event Scale. The ONR Site Inspector has undertaken further enquires and is satisfied that NGL has responded appropriately to these incidents. The company has developed a programme to enhance the site's performance in relation to configuration management. ONR will monitor implementation this programme during routine site inspection activities.

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.

The following LIs and Enforcement Notices have been issued during the period:

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

Date	Type	Ref No	Description
27 November 2015	Acknowledgement	LI 553	Acknowledgement of NP/SC 7738: Safety case for return of Hartlepool Reactor 2 to full power following implementation of the spine cooling modification.
9 December 2015	Acknowledgement	LI 554	Acknowledgement of NP/SC 7742: Safety case for return of Hartlepool Reactor 2 to full power following implementation of the spine cooling modification.

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

5 NEWS FROM ONR

5.1 Chief Executive

Adrienne Kelbie joined ONR as Chief Executive on 18 January 2016. Previously, Adrienne was the Chief Executive of the Disclosure and Barring Service, and prior to this had a varied career including periods as Deputy Chief Executive in a local authority and as Director of Operations responsible for national and international funding at the Big Lottery Fund.

5.2 Chief Nuclear Inspector

ONR is currently recruiting for its Chief Nuclear Inspector. The Chief Nuclear Inspector has the key role in providing assurance on the effectiveness of the UK's nuclear regulatory system to the ONR Board, ministers, licensees and the British public and will represent ONR nationally and internationally. The closing date for applications was Sunday 17 January 2016 and the recruitment campaign has now progressed to the next stage. Further updates on the recruitment campaign will be published on our website www.onr.org.uk.

5.3 Regulation Matters magazine

Insight into ONR's work as an independent regulator of the nuclear industry can be found in ONR's Regulation Matters. The online publication (<http://www.onr.org.uk/regulation-matters.htm>) reports on the key themes and developments in each of ONR's regulatory programmes and provides an update about the ongoing changes at ONR. <http://www.onr.org.uk/index.htm>. 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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