



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

Report for period 1 April – 30 June 2017

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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INSPECTIONS	3
2	ROUTINE MATTERS	3
3	NON-ROUTINE MATTERS	4
4	REGULATORY ACTIVITY	4
5	NEWS FROM ONR	5
6	CONTACTS	5

1 INSPECTIONS

1.1 Dates of inspection

ONR inspectors undertook interventions at Hartlepool Power Station, on the following dates during the quarter:

- 10 – 13 April
- 15 - 19 May
- 26 – 30 June

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 of the power station covered the following:

- Organisational Learning
- Radiological protection

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 system based inspections of the following systems:

- Fuel storage pond and flask handling facility
- Fire detection, suppression and barriers

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

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During this period a team of ONR inspectors observed an exercise designed to demonstrate Hartlepool power station's arrangements for dealing with a security incident. Armed officers from the Civil Nuclear Constabulary participated in the exercise, which was intended to demonstrate the command and control arrangements across the site. ONR judged that the exercise was an adequate demonstration of the site's response to a counter terrorism incident. A number of learning points were observed by the ONR inspection team which were accepted by the licensee and will be monitored by the ONR security inspector during future inspections.

In April, NGL identified corrosion related defects within one of the station's backup cooling system storage tanks. NGL developed a safety case to remove the affected tank from service to enable repairs to be carried out. ONR inspectors examined this safety case and undertook an inspection of the power station to confirm that the condition of the alternative water storage tanks was acceptable. We concluded that NGL's claims that water could be obtained from alternative water sources to supply the backup cooling system were supported by appropriate evidence and; therefore, ONR was able to grant its permission for this work to be undertaken.

2.2 Other work

The site inspector attended the Hartlepool Local Liaison Committee on 21 June 2017 and provided a verbal update regarding ONR's regulatory activities relating to the site.

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 April, NGL reported that a small fire had occurred during a test run of a stationary diesel engine within the high pressure back-up cooling system (HPBUCS) house. This was the second minor fire to occur within the HPBUCS house, caused as a result of diesel fuel leaks, within the past 12 months. A further minor diesel leak was reported by NGL in June. ONR inspectors undertook follow-up enquiries following each of these incidents. We concluded that the fires, which were extinguished either by installed fire suppression systems or by operators using portable fire extinguishers, had not impacted upon the nuclear safety of reactor operations. However, ONR's inspections identified a number of minor shortcomings regarding the licensee's maintenance procedures, technical oversight and quality assurance. ONR has written to NGL to seek improvements in these areas.

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.

- No LIs or Enforcement Notices were issued during the period.

5 NEWS FROM ONR

5.1 ONR Chair awarded CBE

In the Queen's Birthday Honours announced in June, Chair of the Office for Nuclear Regulation, Nick Baldwin, was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire for services to nuclear safety and security in Britain and to the charitable sector.

5.2 Regulatory Research Report published

ONR has published its annual regulatory research report which describes the research activities we have conducted in the past year. The report includes case studies showing how our research strategy has helped support our regulatory approach, and helps to inform the development of best practice. It can be viewed at www.onr.org.uk/research

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>).

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