



# Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Dungeness A

Report for period 1 October 2018 – 31 December 2018

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

Site inspectors from ONR may attend Dungeness Site Stakeholder Group 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 planned inspections on the following dates during the quarter:

- 5 - 6 December 2018

### 1.2 ONR held meetings with Dungeness on the following dates during the quarter:

None

## 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);
- 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 Nuclear Industry Security Regulations (NISR) 2003.

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 conditions attached to the licence in order to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

The inspection in December was focussed on the operation of the sludge and resins retrieval plant via inspections of; Operating Instructions; Examination, Inspection, Maintenance and Testing, and Accumulation of Radioactive Waste. It was supported by the ONR Magnox Ltd. corporate inspector and a radiation protection (RP) specialist inspector. The Corporate inspector reviewed the site asset condition and the RP specialist inspector reviewed the likely dose burden of the demolition work.

The inspections were specifically targeted at the processing of the sludge and resins, as this is the only operational radioactive waste retrievals process on the site. There have been a number of incidents with the equipment which attracted attention from both ONR and the Environment Agency. ONR provided regulatory advice and has monitored the progress of the plant through active commissioning. The plant has entered operation and the operating procedures incorporate the learning from the commissioning of the system and provide for the safe operation of the plant. The plant has been operating safely since the transition to operational status.

The waste related inspection also considered the wider issues of minimising waste and providing appropriate waste routes for the site. Processing of the waste (particularly the asbestos containing materials) had been creating issues with the availability of suitable waste processing routes and the reliability of its segregation. The proposal to accelerate some of the decommissioning work to mitigate asset degradation issues would result in an increase in the amount of waste to be processed. ONR is monitoring the waste strategy to ensure it is adequate to deal with any potential future arisings.

Dungeness A has completed the installation of new Reactor Controlled Area access arrangements and is aligning the site for the next phases of decommissioning which will likely see a change in the site decommissioning strategy.

### 3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events and report significant incidents to ONR. ONR inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements. During this period there were no significant matters to report.

### 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' (LI) but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may issue Enforcement Notices to secure improvements to safety.

There have been no formal notices or LI issued during this period.

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

### 5 NEWS FROM ONR

#### October:

- We welcomed the [publication](#) of the key review of operational safety performance at Torness nuclear power station, published by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the UK government. The report highlights eight areas of good practice at Torness and offers proposals for further improvements, which we fully support.
- Following our decision to prosecute, EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd and Doosan Babcock Ltd pleaded guilty to offences at Hinkley Point B under the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, section 3(1) and the Work at Height Regulations 2005, Regulation 4(1) respectively. The incident was a conventional health and safety matter, with no radiological risk to workers or the public. [A sentencing date](#) has been set for 1 February 2019 at Taunton Crown Court.

#### November:

- Following a rigorous procurement process, we appointed six nuclear supply chain organisations to our new [Technical Support Framework \(TSF\)](#). The new TSF, which came in to effect on 1 November 2018, has been established to provide a renewed and modernised framework for procuring technical support. We use this technical support to obtain, for example, expert technical assessments, access to specialist software or modelling, or access to niche skill sets that we do not retain in-house.

- The revised Nuclear Safety Directive introduced a European system of Topical Peer Review in 2017 and every six years thereafter. We played a leading role in the preparations for the first European ‘Topical Peer Review’ on Ageing Management of Nuclear Power Plants and welcome the publication of the [first peer review report](#) by the European Nuclear Safety Regulator Group. We are pleased that a number of our experts made a valuable contribution to the exercise alongside 16 European countries as well as Norway, Switzerland and Ukraine. The UK report was authored jointly between ourselves, EDF Nuclear Generation Ltd and EDF-NNB GenCo.
- [The Atomic Weapons Establishment \(AWE\) was fined £1 million](#) after admitting offences under Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act (1974). The incident, which occurred on 27 June 2017 was a conventional health and safety matter and there was no radiological risk to workers or the public. The prosecution was the result of our investigation into the incident.
- In conjunction with the Environment Agency, we announced the completion of our [initial high level scrutiny](#) of the UK HPR1000 reactor design.
- We provided NNB Genco (HPC) Ltd (NNB GenCo) with [consent](#) to commence the unit 1 Nuclear Island concrete pour at Hinkley Point C (HPC). We also hosted our third webinar to explain our permissioning role for the Nuclear Island concrete pour at HPC and to provide information on our work to ensure that the new nuclear power station is built to the standards expected in the UK. Amongst others, a number of Site Stakeholder Group members joined the webinar and we received excellent feedback. We are planning further webinars on various topics in 2019. If you would like to find out more, please contact the ONR Communications team at [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk)
- After 16 years of decommissioning work, Bradwell became the first of the Magnox nuclear power stations to receive our permission to enter into a period of “care and maintenance”.
- The nuclear safeguards regulations which will enable ONR to set up the domestic safeguards regime following Euratom withdrawal, were laid in Parliament. The Government published the details, [alongside its response and the feedback to consultation on the draft regulations on its website](#).

## December:

- [Court proceedings continued](#) in our [prosecution of Sellafield Ltd](#) for offences under Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act (1974).
- Reactor 3 at Hunterston B remains offline after being shut down following a routine inspection into cracks in its graphite core, in March 2018. [Cracking of the graphite bricks in Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors](#) such as Hunterston B is expected as the reactors age. However, the number of cracks found during the inspection of Reactor 3 has led to the licensee, EDF Nuclear Generation Limited, carrying out further inspections of the core. Reactor 4 at Hunterston B was taken offline in October for an inspection of its graphite core. EDF Energy

has submitted a safety case for Reactor 4 and is preparing one for Reactor 3. We will assess both safety cases to determine whether the reactors are safe to return to service. Neither reactor may restart without our consent, which we will give only if it is safe to do so.

- The Government published a [Written Ministerial Statement](#) on implementing Geological Disposal, announcing the publication of its [Working With Communities](#) policy and the launch of a consent-based process to find a site to host a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). While we have no formal role in identifying the site for a GDF, any future facility will need to meet the high standards of safety and security required of a licensed nuclear site.

For the latest news and updates from ONR, you can visit our website and sign up for our e-bulletin: <http://www.onr.org.uk/index.htm>.

## 6 CONTACTS

Office for Nuclear Regulation  
Redgrave Court  
Merton Road  
Bootle  
Merseyside  
L20 7HS

website: [www.onr.org.uk](http://www.onr.org.uk)  
email: [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk)

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