



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

Report for period 1 April – 30 June 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 to members of 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 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.

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## 1 INSPECTIONS

### 1.1 Dates of inspection

ONR inspectors undertook interventions at Hartlepool Power Station on the following dates during the report period:

- 9 – 13 April
- 14 – 18 May
- 25 – 29 June

## 2 ROUTINE MATTERS

### 2.1 Compliance 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 2017 (IRR17) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99).

The inspections entail monitoring the licensee's (EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd (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, routine inspections of Hartlepool Power Station covered the following:

- staff training, qualifications and experience;
- organisational changes;
- modifications to plant, equipment and safety cases;
- incidents on the site;
- management of operations

In general, ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements to meet the legal requirements 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.

No system based inspections (SBI) were undertaken in this quarter; in line with the five-year plan for SBIs and the 2018/19 site inspection plan. Two SBIs are planned for the next reporting period.

### 2.2 Other work

The site inspector held a planned meeting with a site safety representative to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety and welfare at work.

ONR internal hazards, chemistry and control & instrumentation specialists attended the site in order to support ONR's assessment of the third periodic safety review of Hartlepool Power Station. ONR expects to make a decision on the adequacy of the licensee's review in January 2019.

The site inspector attended the Hartlepool Emergency Planning Consultative Committee to observe the interactions of the licensee with appropriate external stakeholders with regards to emergency planning matters.

### 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.

There were no such matters or events of significance during the period.

### 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 take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an Enforcement Notice.

In June 2018, ONR issued Licence Instrument 565 agreeing to the implementation of modifications related to operation of the Hot Box Dome with elevated temperatures.

The hot box dome is a welded steel structure within each of the Hartlepool reactors. It forms the pressure boundary between the lower temperature, higher pressure re-entrant gas above the reactor core and the higher temperature, lower pressure reactor outlet gas in the upper plenum of each reactor. The hot box dome is covered with a layer of insulation to prevent its degradation.

A trend of increasing dome temperatures attributed to deterioration of the insulation led the licensee to undertake a range of mitigating measures, but it believes that hotbox dome temperatures could exceed the current temperature limit (380°C) within the remaining life of the reactors. In order to avoid a reduction in reactor power or changes to the reactor operating conditions that could have an adverse effect on the boilers, the licensee sought permission to operate with an increased temperature limit (390°C).

ONR assessed the thermal analysis and structural integrity assessments provided by the licensee, finding them to be acceptable. ONR has raised two regulatory issues relating to the licensee's commitments for contingency planning, but ONR considers these issues can be resolved as part of normal regulatory business.

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

Date	Type	Ref No	Description
4 June 2018	Licence Instrument - agreement	565	Agreement to implementation of modifications related to the operation of the Hot Box Dome with elevated temperatures.

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

## 5 NEWS FROM ONR

### Stakeholder Engagement

- On 9 May we held our ONR annual Industry Conference, with the theme - ‘Public Safety – everyone’s responsibility.’ Delegates from more than 45 different organisations attended and we were delighted that Richard Harrington, Parliamentary under Secretary of State, Minister for Business and Industry, was able to join us to deliver a keynote speech. The conference provided us with an opportunity to engage directly with senior representatives from across industry and government on a number of topical and strategic issues affecting the sector.
- As part of our continued stakeholder engagement work, we welcomed finance professionals from a number of nuclear site licensees and dutyholders to seminars in London and Birmingham in June. Led by our Finance Director, Sarah High, we hosted the seminars to provide the industry with a better understanding of our charging methodology, the principles we apply, and how the charging process works. To accompany the seminars we have also published a new booklet – [How we charge for Nuclear Regulation](#) – which is available on our [website](#).
- The next ONR/NGO engagement forum will take place on 11 October in London. This is a forum to discuss strategic, cross-cutting regulatory matters. Site specific matters are normally addressed via Site Stakeholder Groups. We are always keen to engage with a range of stakeholders and groups on nuclear safety and security issues, so if you do represent a nuclear-interest Non-Governmental Organisation and are not already involved through our forum or via a Site Stakeholder Group, then please get in touch with the ONR Communications team for further details, via [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk)

### Regulatory News

- A delegation from ONR, led by Chief Nuclear Inspector Mark Foy, supported the UK’s contribution to the 6th Joint Convention review meeting in Vienna. Bringing together 78 countries from around the world, the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management is the world’s leading international forum for ensuring society and the environment are protected from hazards arising from spent fuel and radioactive waste. Further details can be found on the [IAEA website](#).
- In August, Mark Foy will host a webinar on the outcome of the UK report to the joint convention. Further details on how to sign up for the webinar will be advertised on our website and social media channels over the coming weeks.
- We have notified Sellafield Ltd of our intention to prosecute the company for offences under Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act (1974). The charge relates to an incident on 5 February, 2017, at a facility which handles special nuclear materials, which resulted in personal contamination to a Sellafield Ltd employee. The decision to prosecute follows an ONR investigation into the incident
- In May we awarded the contract for delivery of the UK Nuclear Safeguards Information Management and Reporting System (SIMRS) IT system to Axis 12 Ltd. The IT system is necessary for us to establish a domestic safeguards regime after the UK’s withdrawal from the Euratom Treaty. The government has now launched the consultation on Nuclear Safeguards Regulation, further details can be found on our [website](#).

## **Corporate News**

- In May we published a self-assessment exercise to update on how well our activity currently aligns with the Regulators' Code, which came into effect in April 2014 to provide a framework for how regulators should engage with those they regulate. The full report is available on our [website](#).
- In June we published our Annual Report and Accounts highlighting the extent of our regulatory activities. During the 17/18 year over 1,000 inspections were carried out across 36 licensed sites and transport dutyholders, ensuring the required standards of safety and security were met to protect the public and workers. The full report is available on our [website](#).
- In July we published our second [gender pay report](#). The organisation-wide results show that ONR has a mean gender pay gap of 35.2%, which is wider than last year, although it is broadly similar to the rest of the UK nuclear industry and anticipated given our workforce profile, and that of the industries from which we have historically recruited. ONR is committed to addressing this issue and continues to focus on improving diversity and inclusion.
- Our Chief Executive, Adrienne Kelbie, has agreed a three-year contract extension, taking her term of employment to January 2022.

## **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: [ONREnquiries@onr.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ONREnquiries@onr.gsi.gov.uk)

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Published 07/18

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