



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Site Report for Harwell

Report for period 1 October – 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 Harwell Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llic/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend the Harwell 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

During this quarter, inspections by the ONR site inspector were made on:

- 3, 16 and 17 October 2018
- 29 November 2018
- 12 and 13 December 2018

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 (TEA13);
- 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 purpose of the inspections is to monitor 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 to ensure legal compliance. During inspections, the inspector seeks to judge the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

The routine inspections of Harwell focused on the following aspects:

- LC 13 Nuclear Safety Committee
- LC 14 Safety Documentation
- LC 17 Management Systems
- The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2009
- The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012

ONR generally judged the site arrangements in response to safety requirements to be adequate in the areas inspected. Where improvements were considered necessary, the licensee made satisfactory commitments to address the issues. The site inspector will monitor progress during future visits and where necessary, ONR will take formal regulatory enforcement action to ensure that appropriate remedial measures are implemented to reasonably practicable timescales.

2.2 Other work

The ONR project inspector for the Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant delicensing project continues to meet with the project staff at Harwell, supported by ONR specialist inspectors.

The site inspector, supported by specialist inspectors, continues to engage with the Waste Encapsulation Plant project team to ensure that adequate regulatory oversight is maintained to permission the plant into active commissioning.

3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

Licensees are required to have arrangements in place to respond to non-routine matters and incidents on the site. ONR inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

An enforcement letter regarding the consignment of Novapak Type B packages without a valid Certificate of Approval was issued to Magnox Limited on 24th October 2018. This is the subject of an ONR regulatory issue and the site inspector will continue to monitor progress during future visits to ensure that appropriate remedial measures are implemented to reasonably practicable timescales. There is currently no safety impact as the packages were withdrawn from service pending future approval by the ONR Transport Competent Authority for use.

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

5 NEWS FROM ONR

For the latest news and updates from ONR, please visit the ONR website and sign up for our e-bulletin (<http://www.onr.org.uk/ebulletin/index.htm>). ONR News for this period is:

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
- 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.

All our latest news is available on our website www.onr.org.uk

6 CONTACTS

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