



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Sizewell A

Report for period 1st January 2021 – 31st March 2021

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

Site inspectors from ONR may attend Sizewell 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 safety site inspector undertook planned inspections at Sizewell A on the following dates during the quarter:

16th March 2021

1.2 ONR held virtual meetings with Sizewell A on the following dates during the quarter:

- 26th January 2021
- 23rd February 2021

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 2017 (IRR17) 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

In this period one routine inspection was carried out. This covered the modifications or experiment on existing plant at the site under Licence Condition 22. The implementation of the licensee's arrangements was generally found to be adequate, and the inspection was given a Green rating by the site inspector. Additionally, a brief inspection of training for the Licence Condition 11 Emergency Arrangements was carried out. This was also rated as Green.

The site inspector also undertook a walk-down around the reactor-controlled area with the Site Director. General housekeeping showed signs of deterioration in some places since the last inspection and ONR are seeking some improvement in these areas.

3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events and report significant events to ONR. 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 may take other forms. In addition, inspectors may issue Enforcement Notices to secure improvements to safety.

No formal regulatory activity took place during the reporting 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

Below are summaries of key activities over the last three months. Further detail is available on our [website](#).

Covid-19 (Coronavirus) (ONR position)

- We are continuing to obtain assurance that nuclear site licensees and other dutyholders are adequately resourced to continue to safely and securely carry out their activities. We remain satisfied with industry's response at this time and there has been no significant change to dutyholders' safety and security resilience. As COVID-19 restrictions change, our focus is on the preparedness for the weeks and months ahead and maintaining safe and secure operations. Our latest position can be found on our [website](#).

Enforcement Action

- In January, we agreed to extend two [Improvement Notices](#) served on the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), recognising the good progress made so far. The Notices, which were served in June 2019, relate to the way the company controls changes to organisational structure and resources which may affect safety.
- In January, we served an [Improvement Notice](#) on Sellafield Ltd following a number of electrical safety incidents across the site. While we are satisfied that Sellafield Ltd is currently meeting the high standards expected with regards to nuclear safety, as a regulator we require sustained improvements in the area of electrical safety.
- In February, we served an [Improvement Notice](#) on Morgan Sindall Construction and Infrastructure Ltd after workers came close to striking a live high voltage electric cable during excavation work at the Sellafield site. Nobody was harmed in the incident on 7 October 2020, and there was no impact on the public or the environment. However, the incident posed a serious risk to workers who were operating within one metre of the 11kV cable.

Regulatory Updates

- In March, we published a response on our [website](#) to a BBC report relating to Sellafield. We were naturally concerned to hear the claims, particularly any suggestion that staff have been subjected to racist abuse of any kind. As a regulator, if we had any concerns or evidence that bullying and harassment was impacting safety at the site, we would take robust action to ensure this is addressed as a matter of urgency.
- In March, we [published](#) an article about how we responded to the serious nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in 2011 to mark the 10th anniversary.

- In March, we gave [EDF permission](#) for Reactors 3 and 4 at Hinkley Point B power station to return to service for a limited period of operation. Permission for Reactor 3 will allow it to operate to a core utilisation of 17.55 terawatt days, while permission for Reactor 4 is to operate to a core utilisation of 17.3 terawatt days, which equates to two periods of approximately six months operation for each reactor.

Stakeholder Engagement

- In February, we encouraged interested parties to take part in a [Nuclear Energy Agency \(NEA\)](#) survey about building and maintaining trust between nuclear safety regulators and the stakeholders they engage with.
- In February, we provided an update about the [leadership structural changes](#) we initially announced in December 2020. Under existing contractual arrangements, current Chief Executive Adrienne Kelbie CBE was always expected to step down as her extended term of office comes to an end in January 2022. Mark Foy will step into the new combined role on 1 June 2021, when the new leadership structure will come into full effect.
- In February, we announced that we had appointed [Donald Urquhart](#) to the newly-created role of Executive Director of Operations, which will form part of our new leadership structure. As Executive Director of Operations, Donald will be responsible for leading our regulatory work.
- In March, we announced that as part of our new leadership arrangements, we had [appointed three new deputy chief nuclear inspectors](#) (DCIs) to our regulatory and senior leadership teams: Jane Bowie, Paul Dicks and Steve Vinton, currently all senior superintending inspectors at ONR. All three new DCIs have a strong track record of delivering regulation across the organisation, and will help us maintain a focus on our Strategy 2020-25.

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

6 CONTACTS

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

website: www.onr.org.uk
email: ONREnquiries@onr.gov.uk

This document is issued by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). For further information about ONR, or to report inconsistencies or inaccuracies in this publication, please visit <http://www.onr.org.uk/feedback.htm>.

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