

Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

Site Report for Dungeness B

Report for period 1 January – 31 March 2022

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 for the Dungeness site stakeholder group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Dungeness site stakeholder group 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

The ONR site inspector and other specialist inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 January – 31 March 2022.

10 – 14 January

7 – 11 February

22 – 23 February

8 – 9 March

29 – 30 March

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 inspections entail monitoring the 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 Dungeness B covered the following:

- examination, maintenance, inspection and testing;
- management of operations including control and supervision;
- staff training, qualifications and experience;
- emergency preparedness;
- incidents on the site;
- radioactive waste management;
- quality assurance and records.

Members of the public who would like further information on ONR's inspection activities during the reporting period can view site Intervention Reports at www.onr.org.uk/intervention-records on our website www.onr.org.uk .

Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email contact@onr.gov.uk.

2.2. Other Work

Change of site inspector

At the end of the reporting period, I have commenced the handover of the Dungeness B site to a new site inspector. This change is being implemented in support of ONR's policy of periodically rotating inspectors between sites and/or projects.

Preparations for Defueling

ONR continues its engagement with the site as it continues its preparations to enter the defuelling phase, where fuel will be progressively removed from the reactor cores. In support of this ONR will formally permission the station's defuelling safety case towards the end of the year and is performing a series of targeted inspections to inform its permissioning decision.

Safety representatives engagement

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

Intelligence gathering

During this reporting period the site inspector undertook a number of intelligence gathering activities and plant visits. This included engagement with members of the site's senior leadership team.

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 late 2018 Dungeness B was placed into enhanced regulatory attention. This was because ONR identified that improvements were required in the areas of leadership, behaviours, safety culture, management of plant condition and in the station's safety case.

ONR set three clear criteria for Dungeness B where progress needed to be made and sustained in order to be considered for a return to a routine level of regulatory attention:

- Establish the leadership and culture necessary for sustained safe and reliable operation;
- Ensure the plant is in a suitable condition to meet reliably its safety functional requirements and the assumptions of the safety case;
- Ensure an adequate safety case is in place that clearly informs decisions and practice at the station.

Following a sustained period of enhanced oversight and inspection, ONR has judged that Dungeness B has made sufficient progress to warrant the return back to routine oversight.

Dungeness B has previously announced the fact that it will not be returning to power and will be seeking to defuel its reactors. Whilst the exit from enhanced regulatory attention is to be welcomed, further work is required (and is already being taken) by Dungeness B to ensure that it is ready for entry into the defuelling phase of operation.

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.

- No LIs, Enforcement Notices or Enforcement letters were issued during this period.

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

| Date | Type | Ref. No. | Description |
|------|------|----------|-------------|
| n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

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 information from the Office for Nuclear Regulation, please read and subscribe to our regular email newsletter 'ONR News' at www.onr.org.uk/onrnews

6. Contacts

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