

Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

Site Report for Hinkley Point B Site

Report for period 1 January to 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 Hinkley Point B and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lrc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Hinkley Point B 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 specialist inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period:

- 8 March 2022 (LC11)
- 9 to 10 March (Conventional Safety)

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 etc 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 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 Hinkley Point B Power Station covered the following:

Emergency Preparedness

This inspection covered LC11 (Emergency Arrangements). The aim of the inspection was to gain assurance that the dutyholder has graded and proportionate preparations in place to respond to any emergency. We sampled the local arrangements for LC11 relevant to interactions with external organisations, command and control and shift handover.

The site was broadly compliant with the requirements of LC11 sampled. Some minor areas for improvement were identified which the dutyholder may wish to pursue, but none of these warranted a formal issue being raised. The inspection was rated as 'green'.

Conventional Safety

The inspection was conducted to provide regulatory confidence in HPB's arrangements against two high risk industrial safety areas, the management of asbestos containing materials (ACMs) and the health and safety management of construction work. These are both relevant to the station's transition into end of generation (EOG). The inspection also sought an update from the station on progress with their fixed plant machinery guarding improvement work

Based on the samples inspected, the ONR inspectors judged that HPB demonstrated adequate ACM management arrangements against relevant good practice. As a result, an intervention rating of Green (no formal action) was allocated. Verbal advice was given in some areas including in relation to resilience around the Asbestos Coordinator role and the asbestos improvement plan. A level 4 regulatory issue was raised to monitor progress.

Based on the samples inspected, the ONR inspectors judged that HPB demonstrated adequate health and safety management arrangements for construction work. As a result, an intervention rating of Green (no formal action) was allocated. Verbal advice was given in some areas, including in relation to aspects of CDM 2015 training and construction health and safety resource.

2.2. Other Work

Although there continues to be risks from the coronavirus pandemic during the reporting period visits to site have now returned to normal. ONR will continue to monitor the situation and adapt its approach as necessary.

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.

Reactor Trips

During the period there were a number of automatic and unplanned reactor trips. These included an automatic trip of R3 following high salt contamination of 400kV insulators and an unplanned manual trip of R4 for the same reason. There was a further automatic trip of R3 due to low pressure on a turbine 7 intermediate pressure governor valve, which was unrelated to the first two trips. In all cases the reactor shutdown safely and post-trip cooling was established. Although this is a larger than normal number of trips in a short period the causes were not, in the inspector's opinion, as a result of reduced standards. The ONR site inspector will continue to monitor the situation during the last few months of generation.

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.

- Two Licence Instruments were issued this period.
- No 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
21/03/2022	Agreement	LI566	Application for Agreement, LC22(1) ENGINEERING CHANGE–Defuelling Essential Shutdown Reactor Safety Case, EC363701, NP/SC 7781
21/03/2022	Agreement	LI567	Application for Agreement, LC22(1) ENGINEERING CHANGE –Defuelling Fuel Handling Essential Safety Case, EC363993, NP/SC 7786

These agreements allow the reactors to be defuelled after the end of generation. In broad terms the first case details the safety of the reactors while defuelling is carried out and the second details the safety of the defuelling process.

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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