

# Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

## Site Report for Torness Power Station

**Report for period 01 April – 30 June 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 Local Community Liaison Committee and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend the Torness 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

The ONR site inspector carried out licence condition (LC) inspections on the following dates during the report period 01 April – 30 June 2022:

18 May

22 June

In addition, ONR specialist inspectors were involved in interventions to support the Reactor 2 statutory outage on the following dates during the report period:

4 May

10 – 11 May

16 – 17 May

16 – 19 May

24 May

7 June

8 – 9 June

14 – 16 June

15 – 16 June

16 – 17 June

## 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 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 to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, routine inspections of Torness covered the following:

- management of operations including control and supervision;
- periodic shutdown;
- examination, maintenance, inspection and testing;
- fire safety; and
- security.

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](http://www.onr.org.uk/intervention-records) on our website [www.onr.org.uk](http://www.onr.org.uk). Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk).

In addition to the routine inspections above, the following interventions were also carried out Torness during the period 01 April – 30 June 2022:

- Reactor 2 early outage safety review led by EDF internal regulator department;
- Reactor 2 start-up meeting; and
- Torness safety/security learning opportunity for exercise demonstrations (desk top exercise).

## 2.2. Other Work

### **Safety Representatives meeting**

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.

### **Off-Load Depressurised Refuelling**

Torness continues to adjust to a new operational rhythm as a result of a safety case anomaly being identified on the Torness Fuelling Machine in early 2021. This followed an investigation relating to a carbon dioxide interspace on the fuelling machine make-up shield unexpectedly depressurising whilst preparing for operation at Heysham 2. The anomaly has meant that the safety case for low power refuelling is challenged and so the site is now shutting down each reactor every few months to refuel in depressurised conditions.

## 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:

### **Decay heat boiler header tank minimum level reached – 7 May 2022**

After Reactor 2 was tripped for a planned statutory outage, the decay heat system 300 tonne head tank level was noted to fall below the lower limit for decay heat system operability. Coincidentally it was noted that the decay heat condenser/head tank overflow was running despite the condenser level being at normal working level. The make up to the head tank appeared normal. To resolve the issue operators reduced the decay heat boiler flows and the tank level recovered to above the lower limit within 15 minutes.

Subsequently an investigation into the incident was undertaken which identified an anomaly with the anti-syphon arrangement on the system. This resulted in the implementation of a modification to the anti-syphon arrangement.

### **Technical Specification breach - 18 May 2022**

Reactor 2 was shut down for statutory outage when during a routine maintenance task of electrical switchgear, a secondary cooling tower fan motor required to be inspected. The fan was part of the claimed cooling ensuring compliance with a technical specification.

The switchgear was released for testing; when isolated no valid technical specification tables existed for Reactor 2 and the associated technical specification. The testing

revealed that the secondary cooling tower fan motor was not operable and therefore a return to valid technical specification tables by returning the fan was not an option. A defence in depth meeting identified that returning the air ingress prevention valves to service would open alternative compliance options. This approach was taken and Reactor 2 was able to return to technical specification condition.

### **Unplanned isolation of 415V essential electrical board – 7 May 2022**

Reactor 2 was shut down for statutory outage and, following shift handover at around 08:30hrs, numerous alarms were received in the control room relating to a quadrant boiler valve. The duty shift team immediately investigated and discovered a 415V essential board incomer isolator open, with no indication, labels, or caution tags, of why or who might have performed the action.

Supplies were restored and plant status checked as compliant. Investigations confirmed that no switching had taken place by duty shift operations or outage operation teams. Other teams were in the Radiation Controlled Area (RCA) but not in the immediate vicinity of the board or isolator.

The reason for the isolation of the board was not identified, however a site safety stand down was undertaken to re-enforce the standards and expectations regarding plant configuration control.

## 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			

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](http://www.onr.org.uk/onrnews)

## 6. Contacts

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