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| ONR site report  EDF – Hartlepool |



ONR site report

EDF - Hartlepool

**Report for period**: 1 April – 30 June 2025

**Authored by**: Nominated Site Inspector

**Approved by**: Superintending Inspector

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Foreword

This report is issued as part of our 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 Hartlepool Local Community Liaison Committee and are also available on our website: [www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/llcssg-reports](http://www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/llcssg-reports).

Our site inspectors usually attend Hartlepool 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 us via email at [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk).

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# Inspections

## Date(s) of inspection

Our site inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 April – 30 June:

* 2 April
* 20 - 22 May
* 29 May
* 3 - 4 June
* 23 – 26 June

# Routine matters

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

In this period, routine inspections Hartlepool covered the following:

* examination, maintenance, inspection and testing
* management of operations including control and supervision
* staff training, qualifications and experience
* radiological protection
* conventional (non-nuclear) health and safety

During this period the following inspections were undertaken to provide supporting evidence to support our consent for the restart of Hartlepool unit one following a planned statutory outage:

**Graphite inspection**

On 2 April our specialist inspector attended site to inspect the adequacy of graphite (reactor core) inspections, and the sentencing of graphite data collected against the requirements of Licence Condition 28 (Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing).

This inspection specifically focused on the pre-outage activities for the calibration of the graphite core examination, inspection and trepanning equipment.

Some areas for minor improvement were noted during the inspection. These do not impact nuclear safety therefore the inspection was rated Green.

**Workplace transport**

On 20 May our specialist inspector attended site to inspect how the licensee is managing the risks of workplace transport during the statutory outage at Hartlepool. This focused on the risks to pedestrians from vehicles on the licenced site. The inspection involved a day on site reviewing the workplace transport assessment and visiting those areas on site that the assessment identified as high risk. Workplace traffic was targeted as an area to focus on as during outages personnel and vehicle movements on site increase.

Our inspector noted some minor areas of improvement that will be followed up during routine engagement. The inspection was rated as Green.

**IRR17 - Outage and HASS**

On 21-22 May our specialist inspector attended site to inspect compliance with the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) with regard to dose management/dose restriction during the statutory outage and arrangements in relation to the use and storage of high activity sealed sources (HASS). This included review of arrangements, documentation and plant walkdown.

Our inspector judged that compliance with those aspects of IRR17 reviewed was demonstrated, and that outage dose exposures are well controlled, and an inspection rating of Green (no formal action) was appropriate.

**Control and supervision of contractors**

On 21 May our inspector attended site to review the arrangements and implementation for the control and supervision of safety related operations/activities conducted by contractors.

The inspection included discussions with managers and contract personnel, as well as sampling company specifications and records.

From the evidence sampled it was evident that the station has made and implemented adequate arrangements for the control and supervision of contractors. Therefore, an inspection rating of Green was merited.

**Electrical Engineering (examination, maintenance, inspection and testing)**

On 21 May our inspector attended site to gain regulatory confidence in the station's implementation of their electrical examination, inspection, maintenance and testing arrangements as part of the unit one statutory outage inspection work.

Based on the evidence sampled our inspector was satisfied that station has adequately implemented their arrangements, and therefore rated the inspection Green.

**Mechanical Engineering (examination, maintenance, inspection and testing)**

On 3-4 June our inspectors attended site to undertake a mechanical engineering examination, inspection, maintenance and testing compliance inspection during the unit one statutory outage.

Based on the evidence sampled, our inspector was satisfied with the station's arrangements. Therefore, an inspection rating of Green was merited.

**Control and Instrumentation (examination, maintenance, inspection and testing)**

On 23-24 June our inspectors attended site sample statutory outage work related to control and instrumentation equipment. Our inspectors found the majority of activities sampled had been satisfactorily completed or were on schedule to be completed. Shortfalls were identified relating to inspections being accepted whilst out of tolerance but this was subsequently addressed by site. During the plant walkdown shortfalls were also identified regarding the timeliness of resolving some plant leaks and tooling used for relay maintenance.

Based on the evidence sampled an inspection rating of Amber is merited. Regulatory issues have been raised to track and manage corrective work for the shortfalls observed. None of the shortfalls identified posed a risk to nuclear safety or have a direct impact on our consent for unit one to return to service.

**Structural Integrity (Examination, maintenance, inspection and testing)**

On 24-26 June our inspector attended site to sample the licensee’s arrangements for examination, inspection, maintenance, and testing expectations from a structural integrity perspective.

Based on the evidence sampled our inspector judged that the station was compliant with these arrangements and an inspection rating of Green was merited.

**Other routine matters**

**Security**

No formal security inspections took place during this period. However, we have had regular engagements with site regarding security. From these engagements we have no security concerns regarding the adequacy of the security arrangements in place on the station. Security arrangements are kept under constant review.

**Enhanced attention**

The nominated site inspector attended meetings with Hartlepool staff to discuss progress with the station’s plan for addressing the shortfalls that resulted in the site being place in enhanced regulatory attention.

Members of the public who would like further information on our inspection activities during the reporting period can view site inspection records on our website: [www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/inspection-records](http://www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/inspection-records).

Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk).

## Other work

Our inspectors attended a number of engagements in support of the unit one statutory outage throughout May and June.

# Non-routine matters

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. Our 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:

On 14 May an operator opened a wrong valve on a steam system causing the release of high pressure, high temperature steam into a local tundish. This resulted in elevated noise levels and a localised steam release. The operator sustained some hearing damage and the event has been reported to us under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013. Our inspectors are investigating.

On the 3 June there was an unplanned and automatic shutdown of unit 2. This was the result of a loss of external grid supplies following the trip of generator transformer 2 (one of two onsite). Generator Transformer one was out of service as part of the planned unit one statutory outage work. Power for essential services was provided by on-site backup systems. The station initiated a site incident and the EDF Central Emergency Support Centre was set up to support the offsite response. The station prioritised reinstating generator transformer one to reconnect with the grid which was successfully done on 8 June.

This has initially been classified as an INES level 1 event. Our inspectors are continuing to engage with site to follow up to this event prior to unit 2 returning to service.

# Regulatory activity

We may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, we issue regulatory documents, which either permit an activity or require some form of action to be taken. These are usually collectively termed licence instruments but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an enforcement notice.

* The following licence instruments, enforcement notices and enforcement letters have been issued during the period:

**Table 1: Licence instruments and enforcement notices issued by ONR during this period**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Type | Reference | Description |
| 25/04/25 | Improvement notice | IN-24-15 | Failure to produce a suitable and sufficient risk assessment following the identification of a defective light fitting |
| 04/07/25 | Improvement notice | IN-25-17 | Relating to the Steam event of 14 May |
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Reports detailing the above regulatory decisions can be found on our website: [www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/project-assessment-reports](http://www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/project-assessment-reports).

# News from ONR

For the latest updates and information on our work, please subscribe to our regular email newsletter, ONR News, at [www.onr.org.uk/news/newsletter](https://www.onr.org.uk/news/newsletter/).

# Contacts

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# References

**There are no sources in the current document.**