



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

Report for period 1 October to 31 December 2014

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

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Sizewell SSG 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 site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the quarter:

- 3 to 6 November
- 8 to 11 December

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 1999 (IRR99) 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 Sizewell A covered the following:

- Emergency preparedness and response equipment: the ONR site inspector inspected the site's provision and maintenance of equipment against the requirements of the approved emergency plan;
- Incidents on the site: the ONR site inspector inspected the site's adherence to its arrangements for compliance with Licence Condition (LC) 7 (event notification, investigation and reporting) in a recent event (described in last quarter's report) involving the shipping of redundant heat exchangers to a metal recycling facility in Germany.

In general, ONR judged that the arrangements made and implemented by the site met the required safety standards.

In November ONR inspected the licensee's arrangements for demonstrating the all fuel has been removed from the site. ONR concluded that it was unlikely that any fuel remained on the site, marking a significant reduction in the risk presented by the site. The reduction in risk will allow the site to make a number of changes to its arrangements and organisation, which will be reported in future SSG reports.

On 10 December ONR attended the licensee's annual review of safety, security and environmental performance. The licensee presented its performance for the preceding year in an open and honest fashion. ONR concurred with the licensee that the site's performance had been generally good, with the highlight being the safe completion of defueling ahead of schedule. However, there have been incidents within the period, the most significant of which was the fall from height of a contractor in August 2014. The licensee has taken the event seriously, learning the lessons and promulgating these across the licensee's organisation.

2.2 Other work

Cavendish Fluor Partnership (CFP) assumed full control as the Parent Body Organisation (PBO) of the Magnox Ltd and Research Sites Restoration Limited nuclear site licence companies on 1st September 2014.

On 28 November, ONR received an application to relicense the Harwell and Winfrith sites into a single site licence company alongside the ten Magnox sites. ONR is currently assessing this application in accordance with the criteria contained in its publication 'Licensing Nuclear Installations'. The application includes a proposal to introduce a common Board and Executive structure, which is being trialled in a period of shadow working between 1 December 2014 and Spring 2015. ONR is conducting a targeted and proportionate assessment of the applicant's organisational capability, including an examination of the Board and Executive changes.

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.

There were no such matters or events of significance during the period

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

4.1 Licence Instruments and Enforcement Notices

ONR may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site LCs, 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 issue Enforcement Notices to secure improvements to safety.

The following LIs have been issued during the period:

- LI 510, withdrawing approval of the licensee's last remaining operating rule (related to the control of criticality) for the site on the basis that all fuel has now been removed from the site, and criticality is therefore impossible;
- LI 501, agreeing to the extension of maintenance intervals specified in the site's nuclear maintenance schedule, provided they are controlled in accordance with the procedures specified in the approved maintenance schedule preface.

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

Date	Type	Ref No	Description
15/12/2014	Withdrawal	510	Withdrawal of approval of operating rules
16/12/2014	Agreement	501	Agreement to extension of maintenance intervals

Reports detailing the above regulatory decisions can be found on the ONR website at <http://www.onr.org.uk/pars/>.

4.2 Amended Licence Conditions

Amendments have been made to LCs 1 and 3.

LC 1 (interpretation) provides a set of definitions. ONR decided to amend the definition of “radioactive material” and “radioactive waste” to ensure they are consistent with ONR’s regulatory requirements. The changes were necessary because other legislation, to which the LCs were linked, had amended the definitions.

LC 3 (control of property transactions) requires the licensee to make and implement adequate arrangements to control property transactions on licensed nuclear sites. LC 3 was prescriptive and required the licensee to obtain ONR permission (“consent”) before it let, conveyed, assigned or transferred any part of the licensed site to a third party. It made no allowance for the nuclear safety significance of transactions. Changes in the nature of the nuclear industry, with an increasing presence of contractors or other third parties on licensed sites, have resulted in growing numbers of LC 3 applications, many of which have little or no nuclear safety significance. This has imposed an unintended regulatory burden on licensees and is an inefficient use of ONR’s specialist resource and time. The principal change is to require the licensee to make and implement adequate arrangements that control all property transactions affecting the site and include provision for the classification and management of all property transactions according to their safety significance and their impact on the licensee’s control of the site.

ONR’s LC handbook has been updated and is available via the ONR website at <http://www.onr.org.uk/silicon.pdf>.

5 NEWS FROM ONR

Insight into ONR’s work as an independent regulator of the nuclear industry can be found in ONR’s Quarterly News. The online publication (<http://www.onr.org.uk/onr-quarterly-report.htm>) reports on the key themes and developments in each of ONR’s regulatory programmes and provides an update about the ongoing changes at ONR. <http://www.onr.org.uk/index.htm>. For the latest news and updates from ONR visit the website and sign up for our ebulletin (<http://www.onr.org.uk/ebulletin/index.htm>).

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Published 01/15

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