



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Hinkley Point B Power Station

Report for period 01 October 2014 – 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 of the Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend the Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group 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

1. The ONR nominated site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the quarter:
 - 30 September to 2 October
 - 28 to 31 October
 - 25 to 27 November
 - 9 December
 - 16 to 18 December
2. In addition, ONR specialist inspectors undertook inspections on the following dates during the quarter:
 - 30 October to 2 October
 - 25 to 27 November

2 ROUTINE MATTERS

2.1 Inspections

3. 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).
4. 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.
5. In this period, inspections of Hinkley Point B covered the following:
 - Staff training, qualifications and experience.
 - Operating rules and operating instructions.
 - Safety mechanisms devices and circuits.
 - Examination, maintenance, inspection and testing.
 - Leakage and escape of radioactive material and radioactive waste.
 - Commissioning.
 - Control and supervision of operations.
 - Modifications or experiment on existing plant.
 - Emergency arrangements.
 - Meeting of the Site Stakeholder Group.
 - Meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Consultative Committee.
6. These inspections were carried out against ten licence conditions.
7. In addition, the following activities were undertaken:

- System inspection: instrument air and turbine overspeed protection.
 - Information exchange meetings on events on site including progress with the gas turbine fuel oil tanks, installation of new gas circulator fire detection and suppression system, performance of turbine alternator 7, preparations for Reactor 4 outage, new Nitrogen plant, high level feedback from recent WANO (World Association of Nuclear Operators), Hunterston B gas circulator event, ONR issues database review and the new flexible permissioning arrangements.
 - Follow up on events on site including Nitrogen pipework failure, on site radiography and removal of the interim package boilers.
8. Details of these inspections can be found in the Hinkley Point B Intervention Reports located at <http://www.onr.org.uk/civil-nuclear-reactors/operating-reactors.htm>
9. In general, ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements to be at least adequate in the areas inspected. The instrument air and turbine overspeed protection systems were judged to adequately fulfil the requirements of the safety case. However, where improvements were considered necessary, the licensee made satisfactory commitments to address the issues, and the ONR nominated site inspector will monitor progress during future visits. Where necessary, ONR will take formal regulatory enforcement action to ensure that appropriate remedial measures are implemented to reasonably practicable timescales.

3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

10. 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 two non-routine events during the period:
- On 11th November the site experienced an Electrical and Mechanical safety rules event associated with work to remove the redundant Interim Package Boilers. The licensee has begun an investigation to identify the root cause of the event.
 - On 12th November 2014 radiography was taking place within the Radiological Controlled Area (RCA). A small shielding deficiency led to a higher than expected barrier dose outside of the RCA. No one was overexposed and the only person in the area was a health physics monitor who received a total dose of 3 micro Sieverts. The licensee has begun an investigation.
11. The ONR nominated site inspector will continue to interact with site on these matters as necessary.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

12. ONR inspectors 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' (LI's), but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may issue Enforcement Notices to secure improvements to safety. During the period of this report one licence instrument was issued:
- Extension of Hinkley Point B Reactor 4 Operating Period. The periodic shutdown (also known as a statutory outage) of nuclear reactors operated by NGL is a requirement of Licence Condition 30. At Hinkley Point B, statutory outages are undertaken at three-year intervals in accordance with the approved maintenance schedule preface. One purpose of these shutdowns is to inspect and maintain systems, structures and components, particularly when these activities cannot be carried out when the reactor is at power. The Licensee requested an extension (of up to 46 days) to the current operating period and provided a safety submission that provided the nuclear safety justification for the extension. The primary safety claim was that the nuclear safety systems would not incur any significant decrease in their reliability or functionality, and

there would be no significant increase in risk as a result of the deferral of the statutory outage. The Licensee's request includes examples of the nuclear safety benefits of deferring the outage. ONR assessed the request and concluded that the licensee had made an adequate justification for an extension of Hinkley Point B Reactor 4's operating period. Licence instrument 545 was issued to reflect this.

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

5 NEWS FROM ONR

14. 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 on-going 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>).

6 CONTACTS

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