



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

Report for period 01 January 2015 – 31 March 2015

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. The ONR nominated site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the quarter:
 - 13 – 15 January.
 - 17 – 19 February.
 - 23 – 27 February.
 - 17 – 19 March.
2. In addition, ONR specialist inspectors undertook inspections on the following dates during the quarter, mainly with regard to the reactor 4 statutory outage:
 - 14 January (control of major accident hazards (COMAH) inspection with Environment Agency and Health & Safety Executive).
 - 10 - 11 February (QA & human factors).
 - 10 -11 February (mechanical engineering).
 - 11-12 February (graphite).
 - 17-18 February (radiological protection).
 - 24 February (electrical).
 - 4 - 5 March (control & instrumentation).
 - 5 March (radioactive waste).
 - 11-13 March (structural integrity).
 - 18 - 19 March (reactor 4 start-up meeting).
 - 25 - 27 March (readiness inspection new Nitrogen system).

2 ROUTINE MATTERS

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).
 - 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:
 - Incidents on the site.
 - Training.
 - Duly authorised and other suitably qualified and experienced persons.
 - Management systems.
 - Modification or experiment on existing plant.
 - Control and supervision of operations.
 - Examination, maintenance, inspection and testing.

- Periodic shutdown.
 - Accumulation of radioactive waste.
 - Organisational capability.
 - Conventional safety (pressure system safety regulations, working at height etc.).
 - Emergency arrangements.
 - Meeting of the Site Stakeholder Group.
 - Meeting of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee.
6. These inspections were carried out against nine licence conditions.
7. In addition, the following activities were undertaken:
- **Statutory outage:** Licence condition 30 requires the reactors to be shut-down periodically for examination, maintenance, inspection and testing and for plant upgrades to be implemented. In order to return the reactor to power the licensee requires Consent from ONR and to inform that decision, ONR carries out a series of inspections to ensure that:
 - a) The outage is safely managed and appropriately regulated.
 - b) That significant issues raised during the inspections are either addressed prior to the conclusion of the outage (wherever possible), or an acceptable plan is made to address the issue beyond the outage.
 - c) That the required work activities are safely delivered, enabling ONR to respond to the licensee's request to start up the reactor on completion of the statutory outage.
- ONR assigned inspectors from several specialism areas to assess the outage, including: management systems & human factors, civil engineering, radiological protection, mechanical, electrical, structural integrity, graphite core, control & instrumentation, radioactive waste management and site inspection oversight.
- **System inspection:** no system inspections were carried out in this period. This was deliberately planned to avoid conflicts with the statutory outage. All of the system inspections were completed to plan earlier in the year.
 - **Information exchange meetings:** progress with the gas turbine fuel oil tanks, performance of turbine alternator 7, new Nitrogen plant, hot standpipes, pressure systems safety regulations, implementation of enhanced emergency arrangements on site and review of the ONR issues database.
 - **Follow up on events on site:** Nitrogen pipework failure, on site radiography, removal of the interim package boilers, fuelling machine and auxiliary steam system isolations.
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. ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements to be at least adequate in the areas inspected.
10. 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

11. 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 three non-routine events during the period:

- Technical Specification non-conformance event associated with handling of fuel at buffer store without both cooling fans available.
 - One significant near miss when hot water was ejected from an isolated open pipe into a cover on an auxiliary steam system.
 - A level 2 Safety Rule event where a working party went to a confined space on the wrong plant.
12. The ONR nominated site inspector will interact with NGL on these matters as necessary.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

13. 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 two licence instruments were issued:
- Update to Hinkley Point B non-fuel dropped load safety case to enable vessel entry during the deployment of selected in-core inspection equipment. After due consideration, ONR chose to issue an acknowledgement of this report under its new flexible permissioning arrangements.
 - Consent for re-start of Hinkley Point B. Following assessment and inspection of matters arising in relation to the 2015 periodic shutdown of Hinkley Point B Reactor 4, ONR was satisfied that the licensee’s justification to start-up the reactor and operate for a further period of three years was adequate, and that consequently a Consent to start-up the reactor was granted.
14. Reports detailing ONR regulatory decisions can be found on the ONR website at <http://www.onr.org.uk/pars/>.

5 NEWS FROM ONR

15. 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>).

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