



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Hunterston B

Report for period 01 January 2016 to 31 March 2016

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 Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group (SSG) and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llic/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Hunterston 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

1. The ONR nominated site inspector made inspections, supported where appropriate by specialist inspectors, on the following dates during the quarter:

6 – 7 January 2016
26 – 28 January 2016
16 – 18 February 2016
16 – 18 March 2016
21 – 23 March 2016

2. ONR's civil nuclear security inspectors undertake quarterly inspections at Hunterston B. The quarter 1 planned inspection was undertaken on:

15 – 17 February 2016

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 etc. (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, routine inspections of Hunterston B covered the following:

- Training
- Operating instructions
- Safety mechanisms
- Emergency arrangements
- Incidents on the site
- Operating instructions
- Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing
- Leakage and escape of radioactive material and radioactive waste

6. In general, ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements to be adequate in the areas inspected. However, where improvements were considered necessary, the licensee made satisfactory

commitments to address the issues, and the 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.

7. In addition to our compliance inspections based on the conditions attached to the nuclear site licence, ONR inspectors are now inspecting the operating reactors based on safety related systems. Each site has a safety case that demonstrates how it operates safely. For advanced gas cooled reactors, each of approximately thirty key systems will be inspected against the claims made upon them by the safety case. The aim is to systematically inspect all the significant safety related systems within a five-year cycle (six per year). ONR believes that this will provide more robust assurances of the site's safe operation and how the safety case is being implemented.
8. During this quarter, there were two system based inspections undertaken, during which inspectors examined boiler feed and reactor shutdown systems. In both instances, ONR considered that the requirements of the safety case were being adequately fulfilled.
9. On 17 March 2016, ONR observed the station's annual demonstration of its onsite emergency arrangements, as required under Licence Condition (LC) 11 arrangements, Exercise Dunlop. ONR considered the exercise to have constitutes an adequate demonstration of the onsite emergency arrangements.

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.
11. During this period, ONR was notified by Bureau Veritas, acting as a competent person under the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations (2000), in relation to a pressure test vessel that had inadequate pressure relieving protection. Bureau Veritas has a statutory obligation to report such matters to ONR as the relevant enforcing authority. ONR was satisfied from subsequent enquiries that the station had made safe the equipment and had conducted an appropriate investigation. ONR has written to the station to seek assurances that appropriate lessons will be learned.
12. A Superintending Inspector met with executive representatives and councillors of North Ayrshire Council on 6 April 2016; he presented ONR's independent perspective of the licensee's recent observations of three cracks in the Reactor 3 graphite core.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

13. 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 issue Enforcement Notices to secure improvements to safety.
14. ONR issued a Licence Instrument on 31 March under Licence Condition 23(5), granting approval to modify an approved operating rule.
15. No Enforcement Notices were issued during the period.

5 NEWS FROM ONR

Chief Nuclear Inspector appointment

ONR announced the appointment of Dr Richard Savage as its new Chief Nuclear Inspector (CNI) to lead our regulatory activity. Richard is a Chartered Engineer with an extensive background in nuclear safety and regulation. He served as Head of the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator, Ministry of Defence, before being appointed to ONR as a Deputy Chief Nuclear Inspector in 2013. He was Acting CNI since Dr Andy Hall's retirement in November 2015.

ONR Strategic Plan 2016-2020

In March, ONR published its Strategic Plan covering 2016-2020. The plan sets out the factors that will influence our work and the assumptions we have made about regulating the nuclear sector in the next few years, as well as how we deliver the commitments we have made to the public, ministers and government, licensees, dutyholders and our staff. The plan was laid in Parliament on 22 March and can be viewed on the ONR website.

Regulation Matters magazine

Insight into ONR's work as an independent regulator of the nuclear industry can be found in Regulation Matters. This quarterly online publication (<http://www.onr.org.uk/regulationmatters.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. For the latest news and updates from ONR, you can also visit the website and sign up for our e-bulletin: <http://www.onr.org.uk/index.htm>.

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