



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Hinkley Point A nuclear licensed site

Report for period 1 January – 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 for the Hinkley Point 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

The ONR site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the quarter:

- 22-26 February 2016
- 22 March 2016

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 Hinkley Point A covered the following:

- Update on the nuclear baseline;
- Accumulation and disposal of radioactive waste;
- Leakage and escape of radioactive material and radioactive waste;
- Emergency arrangements contingency exercise demonstration.

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.

2.2 Other work

The site inspector held a periodic meeting with safety representatives, to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety and welfare at work.

Hinkley Point A provided ONR and the Environment Agency with an update on the findings from the elution trial. Elution holds the possibility of drawing radioactive matter contained in the surface coatings of fuel ponds and fuel skips into the pond water. The radioactive matter can then be filtered out of the pond water and treated for long-term safe storage. The process holds the possibility of reducing radiation doses to workers, reducing the volumes of intermediate level waste and reducing the integrated cost of radioactive waste management associated with the fuel ponds and their furniture.

Hinkley Point A also provided ONR and the Environment Agency with an update on Magnox Ltd proposals for treating and storing intermediate level waste pond skips.

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.

- Hinkley Point A reported three non-routine matters and events to ONR during this period.
 - Loss of liquid from a redundant waste hold-up tank
 - External fault on the site's phone exchange
 - Release of airborne activity detected on static air samplers located in an adjacent area.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

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.

- Magnox Ltd requested amendment of its arrangements made under LC6(1) and 6(2). ONR was satisfied that the proposed arrangements adequately address expectations set out in ONR inspection and assessment guidance and withdrew the approvals of the generic record preservation period.
- 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, duty holders 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/regulation-matters.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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