



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

Report for Quarter 4; 1 October 2017 – 31 December 2017

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

Site inspectors from ONR attend Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group meetings according to the Intervention Plan (normally annually for Hunterston A) and can respond to any questions when there. Otherwise, any person wishing to enquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR (<http://www.onr.org.uk/feedback.htm>)

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1 INSPECTIONS

1.1 Dates of inspection

The ONR Site Inspector attended Hunterston A site on the following dates: -

- 11 – 14 December 2017

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 Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HSWA74);
- The Energy Act 2013; 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 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 inspections at Hunterston A comprised one System Based Inspection (SBI) carried out on the Wet Intermediate Level Waste Retrieval and Encapsulation Plant (WILWREP) currently undergoing commissioning. An SBI typically samples compliance against specified Licence Conditions (LC) whilst focussing on the safety of the identified system, in this case WILWREP. The specified LCs are: -

- LC10 Training
- LC23 Operating rules
- LC24 Operating instructions
- LC27 Safety mechanisms, devices and circuits
- LC28 Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing
- LC34 Leakage and escape of radioactive material and radioactive waste

Five Compliance Inspections were also performed. Compliance Inspections focus on single LC compliance, sampled from areas (which may include multiple systems) across the site: -

- LC6 Documents, records, authorities and certificates
- LC10 Training
- LC12 Duly authorised and other suitably qualified and experienced persons
- LC17 Management systems
- LC25 Operational records

Under the SBI WILWREP was found to adequately fulfil the requirements of the Safety Case.

For Compliance Inspections in relation to LC6, LC10, LC12, LC17 and LC25 ONR judged that no formal action was required by the site in regard to the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements.

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 meeting with safety representatives, to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety and welfare at work.

3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and incidents. ONR inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements. There were no matters of significance to report during this period.

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' (LI), but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may issue enforcement notices to secure improvements to safety.

No LIs or Enforcement Notices were issued to Hunterston A within the reporting period.

Reports detailing regulatory decisions are available on the ONR website at <http://www.onr.org.uk/pars/>.

5 NEWS FROM ONR

5.1 New nuclear power station design approved

The UK Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (UK ABWR), designed by Hitachi-GE, is suitable for construction in the UK, the regulators confirmed following completion of an in-depth assessment of the nuclear reactor design. The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales, the regulators who undertake the Generic Design Assessment of new reactor designs, are satisfied that this reactor meets regulatory expectations on safety, security and environmental protection at this stage of the regulatory process. ONR has issued a Design Acceptance Confirmation (DAC) and the environment agencies have issued a Statement of Design Acceptability (SoDA) to Hitachi-GE.

5.2 Step 2 of nuclear reactor assessment

We also announced on 16th November that we are progressing to the next phase of our assessment of General Nuclear System Ltd's UK HPR1000 reactor technology. This means we will now begin the technical assessment phase. Additionally, all members of the public can give their views and find out more information about the design by going to UKHPR 1000 website at <http://www.ukhpr1000.com>

5.3 ONR response to BEIS impact assessment

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has recently published its Impact Assessment of the Nuclear Safeguards' Bill and that makes reference to ONR's regulation. We contacted BEIS to clarify two points within the document as part of our ongoing constructive engagement with them to develop a domestic safeguards regime as part of exiting Euratom. The first is that ONR regulates the nuclear industry, it does not provide services to it. Secondly, the Government's policy has developed since the assessment was undertaken and the intention is to put in place a regulatory framework which is robust and as comprehensive as Euratom. This means that we are not in a position to identify potential efficiencies in our regulatory approach at this stage. As we support BEIS in its development of secondary legislation, we will provide advice to the Government to inform the anticipated impact assessment for nuclear safeguards regulation.

5.4 Regulation Matters

Insight into ONR's work as an independent regulator of the nuclear industry can be found in ONR's Regulation Matters. The 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 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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