



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

1 April – 30 June 2021

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/llc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group meetings and will 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>).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | |
|----|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | INSPECTIONS | 3 |
| 2 | ROUTINE MATTERS..... | 3 |
| 3 | NON-ROUTINE MATTERS..... | 4 |
| 4 | REGULATORY ACTIVITY | 4 |
| 5. | NEWS FROM ONR..... | Error! Bookmark not defined. |
| 6. | CONTACTS..... | 6 |

1 INSPECTIONS

1.1 Dates of inspection

ONR made visits to the Hunterston A (HNA) site on the following dates: -

- 8 - 10 June 2021

Some of the inspections were carried out with inspectors from the licensee's internal regulatory organisation and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA).

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);
- The Energy Act 2013;
- The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HSWA74); and
- Regulations made under HSWA74, for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) 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, ONR carried out the following planned inspections at HNA:

Licence Condition (LC) Compliance Inspections: - Compliance Inspections focus on single LC compliance sampled from areas across the site. Each area may include multiple systems. The LCs inspected during this period were: -

- LC4 Restrictions on nuclear matter
- LC5 Consignment of radioactive materials & waste
- LC8 Warning notices
- LC25 Operational records
- LC32 Accumulation of radioactive waste
- LC34 Leakage & escape

For the LC Compliance inspections, 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 other 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.

3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

Licencees 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 significant safety matters of note during this period.

Covid-19

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic all 12 of Magnox Ltd.'s licensed sites have put arrangements in place to ensure their workplaces are COVID-19-secure sites. The sites have returned to a new "normal" with many staff combining working from home and at site as appropriate, with project work restarted to ensure the safe and timely decommissioning of these sites.

Emergency preparedness is being maintained through a duty cover team at each site in accordance with ONR approved emergency arrangements. These arrangements include the provision to call in additional personnel and the emergency services onto site to assist ML staff. These plans have been regularly rehearsed and observed by ONR inspectors during emergency exercises in the past.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

ONR may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site Licence Conditions (LC) 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.

No LIs or Enforcement Notices were issued to HNA 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

Below are summaries of key activities over the last three months. Further detail is available on our [website](#).

Covid-19 (Coronavirus) (ONR position)

We are continuing to obtain assurance that nuclear site licencees and other dutyholders are adequately resourced to continue to safely and securely carry out their activities. We remain satisfied with industry's response at this time and there has been no significant change to dutyholders' safety and security resilience.

All licensed sites are required to determine minimum staffing levels necessary to ensure safe and secure operations and contingency arrangements in the event that these levels are not met. This condition is specifically designed to ensure that industry can adequately manage and control activities that could impact on nuclear safety and security under all foreseeable circumstances, including pandemics.

Although ONR staff continue to work primarily at home, (carrying out as much of our work as possible via videoconference, phone and email), we are carefully and progressively increasing our site footprint. We continue to assess our on-site presence in line with government guidelines and our business needs, ensuring we have a balanced portfolio of on-site inspections and interventions, that are important to support effective regulation across our purposes.

Our latest position can be found on our [website](#).

Enforcement Action

- In April, we announced that EDF [complied](#) with a Direction we served on 14 December 2020, under the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations (2000). This followed an inspection, at which found a number of pressure system components at Heysham 1 Power Station were overdue their scheduled examination.
- In May, we agreed to [extend an improvement notice](#) served on EDF in September 2020, recognising the progress made so far. The notice was served after some of the equipment used to measure reactor power at Heysham 2 was incorrectly configured. We judged that Heysham 2 is able to operate safely, and that additional time to demonstrate the required improvements will not pose a risk to safety. EDF must now comply with the improvement notice by 31 July 2021.
- In June, we announced that Rolls-Royce Submarines Ltd (RRSL) had [complied](#) with an improvement notice served on 29 May 2020. The notice was served after RRSL operators brought 21 units of fissile material into the facility – which exceeding the limit defined within the safety case and set out in the Criticality Control Certificate for the facility.

Stakeholder Engagement

- In April, we published an [article](#) introducing our newest board member, Jean Llewellyn, who joined us in October 2021, as security lead. Jean brings with her a wealth of experience, including serving as a non-executive director on the board of the World Institute for Nuclear Security since 2018 – which has given her a good understating of the global security challenges facing the nuclear industry.
- In May, we issued our e-bulletin '[ONR News](#)' to subscribers. This issue included farewell reflections from our outgoing chief executive, a leadership update, further information on our COVID -19 response, and the results of our latest stakeholder survey. You can sign up for our e-bulletin [here](#)
- On 1 June, we [announced](#) the full implementation of our new leadership structure. Mark Foy is now our combined Chief Executive and Chief Nuclear Inspector. He is supported by Sarah High as Deputy Chief Executive, and Donald Urquhart as Executive Director of Operations.
- In June, we published our new [Corporate Plan for 2021/22](#), which sets out our key priorities to protect the public by securing safe nuclear operations.
- In June, our State System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material (SSAC) project - which saw ONR become the UK's national nuclear safeguards

regulator from 31 December 2020, was [shortlisted for a national award](#) in the Project Management Institute’s UK National Project Awards in the ‘Project of the Year (Public Sector)’ category.

Nuclear safeguards are measures to verify that countries comply with international obligations not to use nuclear materials from civil nuclear programmes for non-peaceful purposes.

All our latest news is available on our website www.onr.org.uk.

6. CONTACTS

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Published 07/21