



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Site Report for Sizewell B

Report for period 01 April – 30 June 2020

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 to members for the Sizewell SSG and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Sizewell SSG meetings where these reports are presented 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

There were no inspections made during the report period 1 April to 30 June, due to restrictions in place because of the coronavirus pandemic.

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 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 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.

Because the coronavirus pandemic resulted in restrictions to travel during the reporting period, and because there were no urgent or essential regulatory matters that necessitated a site intervention, no compliance inspections were carried out during the period. Instead, the site inspector worked remotely to monitor the performance of the site by:

- Initiating increased dialogue with site management, the licensee's independent nuclear safety assurance function, and trade union safety representatives to develop a consistent picture of the measures put in place to manage the safety of both the workforce and the plant.
- Observing the meetings and working groups the licensee established to assess the coronavirus pandemic and manage the response, including the pandemic lead team meeting (which co-ordinated the site's response) and maintenance requirements review group (which managed the impact of potential or actual staff and supply chain shortfalls on safety-significant maintenance activities).
- Monitoring the minimum staffing levels required to deliver an adequate response in the event of an accident or emergency on the site.

Consequently, the site inspector considers that the site has managed its response to the pandemic during the period in a manner that, so far as is reasonably practicable, protected its own staff and ensured that there was no degradation in nuclear safety.

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.

There were no such matters or events of significance during the 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' (LIs), but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an Enforcement Notice.

No LIs, Enforcement Notices or Enforcement letters were issued during this period.

5 NEWS FROM ONR

5.1 Covid 19

ONR is continuing to protect society by securing safe nuclear operations during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. Our staff continue to work from home, in line with government advice, with a limited number of our inspectors, as key workers, travelling to site as necessary to conduct urgent and essential regulatory inspections. ONR's latest position can be found on our website.

5.2 Enforcement Action

ONR served an Improvement Notice on EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd (EDF Energy) for contravention of the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations (2000) at Heysham 1 Power Station. The notice was served after shortfalls were discovered in the examination and inspection of the Reactor 1 pressure vessel at the Lancashire plant. EDF Energy must comply with the Improvement Notice and complete the eleven overdue examinations by 18 December 2020.

ONR has granted an extension to an Enforcement Notice served on Urenco UK Ltd, recognising the good progress made so far. The notice was issued in late December 2019, following a fire safety inspection at the Capenhurst Works in Cheshire, which revealed shortfalls in the fire alarm and detection systems at one of the site's facilities. Urenco UK Ltd must comply with the requirements of the extended notice by 30 September 2020.

5.3 Regulatory Updates

ONR received an application for a nuclear site licence from NNB Generation Company (SZC) Limited, to construct and operate two EPR TM reactors, at its proposed development in Sizewell, Suffolk. We will now assess the application, partly informed by our previous assessment of the EPR TM at Hinkley Point C – including using the relevant lessons from that assessment, while focusing on aspects specifically relevant to Sizewell C.

Whilst we are satisfied that the application is sufficiently complete to proceed to assessment stage, there is still a lot of work to do – and we do not expect to reach a decision until at least the end of 2021.

6 CONTACTS

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