

# Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

## Site Report for Hunterston B

**Report for period 1 July – 30 September 2022**

### **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 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 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

The ONR site inspectors and specialist inspectors made inspections at the Hunterston B (HNB) site on the following dates during the report period 1 July – 30 September 2022:

- 12 – 14 July 2022
- 16 – 18 August 2022
- 20 – 22 September 2022

# 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 etc 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 Fire (Scotland) Act 2005;
- The Nuclear Industries Security Regulations (NISR) 2003;
- The Nuclear Safeguards (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (NSR19).

The inspections entail monitoring the 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 HNB covered the following:

- LC 35 - Decommissioning;

- Safeguards / LC 25 - Basic technical characteristics assessment and accountancy control plan and operational records inspections
- LC 10 - Training
- LC 22 - Modification or experiment on existing plant

For the LC Inspections the site inspector and specialists judged that the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety and safeguards requirements were adequate. The decommissioning inspection established that EDF was not following its authorised LC 35 arrangements for governance of the decommissioning planning. This shortfall affects all EDF sites and therefore ONR has initiated enforcement action against the EDF corporate centre. The inspection of training applied to new fuel route operators confirmed that the training plan was appropriate and that all individuals had completed the classroom aspects of the fuel route training programme. Adequate supervision was in place to ensure that the new fuel route technicians can complete the additional on-the-job training requirements. The safeguards inspector confirmed that operating and accounting records are sufficiently underpinned to have confidence in the declared safeguards reports. The inspection also confirmed that the arrangements and procedures used to demonstrate reactor fuel channels are free of irradiated fuel are adequate. The LC 22 inspection confirmed that arrangements and procedures used to isolate and retire redundant plant are appropriate and that the programme is being managed well.

Members of the public, who would like further information on ONR's inspection activities during the reporting period, can view site Intervention Reports at [www.onr.org.uk/intervention-records](http://www.onr.org.uk/intervention-records) on our website [www.onr.org.uk](http://www.onr.org.uk). Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk).

## 2.2. Other Work

The site inspector held periodic meetings with safety representatives and the EDF internal regulation team, to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety and welfare at work and to provide internal challenge on nuclear safety matters.

## 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.

Licence Condition (LC) 7 requires licensees to make and implement adequate arrangements for the notification, recording, investigation and reporting of incidents occurring on the site. During this period, the site inspector reviewed incidents that met the criteria for routine reporting to ONR. The site and specialist inspectors also

sampled the station's follow up reports and corrective actions. From the evidence sampled, the inspector was satisfied that the events reported during the period, had been adequately investigated and appropriate event recovery actions identified. Matters and events of particular note during the period were:

- On 14 July and 3 August 2022, two events were reported with the pond skip manipulator crane. The skip manipulator crane is used in the pond to place fuel elements in skips and then to load skips into transport flasks when they are located in the pond flask bay area. On the first occasion, an empty skip was being moved, when a component on the crane, which was located at an incorrect position, caused a collision with the pond wall. The second event occurred when a skip loaded with fuel elements, failed to stop at the auto stop location at the entrance to the pond flask bay area. Whilst damage was caused to the travel limit switch, the fuel was undamaged and the flask manoeuvred to a safe location. These events have been investigated and were attributed to increased utilisation of the skip manipulator crane during defuelling operations. The damaged equipment has been replaced, actions are in place to improve the reliability of the limit switches and an enhanced maintenance and inspection regime introduced. No members of the public or workers were placed at increased risk from these events.

## 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 including issuing an Enforcement Notice.

- No LIs, Enforcement Notices or Enforcement letters were issued to the station during this period. (Enforcement letter issued to EDF Corporate centre in relation to LC35 arrangements.)

Reports detailing previous regulatory decisions can be found on the ONR website at <http://www.onr.org.uk/pars/>.

## 5. News from ONR

For the latest news and information from the Office for Nuclear Regulation, please read and subscribe to our regular email newsletter 'ONR News' at [www.onr.org.uk/onrnews](http://www.onr.org.uk/onrnews)

## 6. Contacts

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Published 11/22

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