

# Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

## Site Report for Sizewell B

**Report for period 1 January - 31 March 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 Sizewell SSG and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lrc/>).

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.

## Table of Contents

1. Inspections .....	3
2. Routine Matters .....	4
3. Non-Routine Matters.....	6
4. Regulatory Activity .....	7
5. News from ONR.....	8
6. Contacts .....	8

# 1. Inspections

## 1.1. Dates of Inspection

The ONR site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 January to 31 March:

- 18 to 20 January

In addition, on 16 March, the chairs of ONR, the Environment Agency, and the Health and Safety Executive visited Sizewell B.

## 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 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 January, a systems-based inspection was carried out on a combination of the diesels and essential electrical supplies systems that support the function of the electrically driven auxiliary feedwater pump motors, to judge the systems' performance against their functions as claimed in the safety case. The inspection was carried out by a mechanical engineering specialist inspector and an electrical engineering specialist inspector, with support from a nuclear associate and the nominated site inspector. The inspection team concluded that Sizewell B could adequately demonstrate that it had arrangements to ensure that the combination of the diesels and essential electrical systems that support the function of the electrically driven auxiliary feedwater pump motors are inspected, maintained and operated in accordance with the safety case. The arrangements examined complied with the licensee's legal duties on the areas sampled during the inspection.

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

In March, the chairpersons of ONR, the Environment Agency, and the Health and Safety Executive visited Sizewell B to discuss future working and collaboration on safety and environmental matters. They spent time at Sizewell B itself, and also viewed the land adjacent to the existing Sizewell B station where NNB Generation Company (SZC) Ltd is seeking a site licence to construct and operate twin EPR reactors.

### 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.

Matters and events of particular note during the period were:

- On 15 December 2021, EDF SA (the operator of the French fleet of pressurised water reactors) informed ASN (the French nuclear safety regulator) that it had identified stress corrosion cracking on the elbows of the pipes connecting the safety injection system to the reactor's main primary cooling system at one of its nuclear power plant.

Although the design of the French reactors is different from Sizewell B (which an American design), ONR nevertheless wrote to EDF NGL (the operator of Sizewell B) requiring it to demonstrate that Sizewell B is safe to continue to operate in light of the issues identified in the French reactors.

EDF NGL responded with a justification which we considered provided sufficient evidence to support operation of Sizewell B until the next refuelling outage. Our judgement was based on the information to date indicating the non-critical nature of the defects identified in France, the confidence derived from the Sizewell B manufacturing records, the low likelihood of simultaneous multiple failures and the capability of the reactor safety systems to mitigate failures if they did occur.

ONR continues to hold regular meetings with EDF NGL to assess further information from the French fleet as it becomes available, and to discuss the scope of work that will be required in the next refuelling outage to demonstrate the safety of operation beyond that point.

## 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 or Enforcement Notices were issued during this period.

## 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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