



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

Report for period 1st January 2020 – 31st March 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 quarterly to members for the Sizewell Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llic/>).

Site inspectors from ONR may attend Sizewell Site Stakeholder Group meetings 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 safety site inspector undertook planned inspections at Sizewell A on the following dates during the quarter:

- 8 January 2020

1.2 ONR held meetings involving Sizewell A on the following dates during the quarter:

- 8 January 2020

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 Nuclear Industry Security Regulations (NISR) 2003.

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 one routine inspection was carried out. This inspection covered the arrangements made for quality management and to control changes to its organisational structure or resources which may affect safety.

In general, ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site to be adequate in the areas inspected. In addition to the inspection the site inspector met with the safety representatives.

The site inspector continues to monitor progress against improvements previously identified with respect to minor safety issues.

3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events and report significant events to ONR. 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.

Covid-19 pandemic

All of the 12 Magnox Limited (ML) licensed sites have been put into a quiescent safe-state. All decommissioning and radioactive waste handling activities have ceased. This pause in operations has allowed the number of personnel on site to be reduced to a level that some

monitoring and surveillance of plant can be undertaken, such as periodically emptying sumps and checking ventilation systems, and that security can be sustained. The majority of personnel are now working from home. ML wrote to ONR on 26 March 2020 confirming this position. The ML Internal Oversight team has checked independently that the pandemic arrangements have been properly implemented.

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 recent past. ML has not reported any supply chain issues that may affect the sites safe status.

The site inspector is holding regular updates with the licensee 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' (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 during the reporting period.

Reports detailing ONR's regulatory decisions can be found 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)

ONR is continuing to protect society by securing safe nuclear operations during the Coronavirus pandemic. ONR staff continue to work from home, in line with government advice. We have considered our priorities, have deferred non-critical activities, and are carrying out as much of our work as possible via videoconference, phone and email. Our regulatory focus includes assurance, where appropriate, from site licensees that they are applying the public health measures introduced to reduce the spread of coronavirus. A limited number of our inspectors can, as key workers, continue to travel to site as necessary to conduct urgent and essential regulatory inspections. Nuclear sites have been reducing non-essential activities so as to protect staff, infrastructure, and the public. As always, we are regulating those activities to ensure they are carried out safely and securely.

Enforcement Action

ONR served an [Enforcement Notice](#) on Urenco UK Ltd following a fire safety inspection at its Capenhurst Works in Cheshire during December 2019. The notice was issued in response to shortfalls identified in the fire alarm and detection systems at one of the site's facilities.

In February ONR announced that [Sellafield Limited had complied](#) with an Improvement Notice relating to staff training, operating procedures and procedural adherence that they were served with in May 2019.

Regulatory Updates

In January ONR published an update to its [Safety Assessment Principles](#), to incorporate some relatively minor revisions including typographical corrections and updates to reflect changes to the UK's nuclear regulatory framework since 2014.

In February ONR completed Step 3 of the Generic Design Assessment (GDA) of the UK HPR1000 design, and took the decision to progress to Step 4 of the GDA. During Step 3, ONR increased its regulatory scrutiny and undertook a more detailed assessment of the design, focusing on the methods and approaches used by the GDA Requesting Party to underpin their safety and security claims.

In March we published the Quarterly [Statement of Civil Incidents](#) for the period 1 October to 31 December 2019. During this reporting period there were two civil incidents at nuclear licensed sites within Great Britain that met the Ministerial Reporting Criteria as defined within the Nuclear Installations (Dangerous Occurrences) Regulations 1965 and ONR guidance in relation to notifying and reporting incidents and events.

Stakeholder Engagement

On 15 January ONR launched a four-week public consultation on its draft 2025 Strategy. Once agreed, the strategy will set our direction and priorities for the next five years. To support the public consultation we held a webinar for NGOs and other stakeholders in which our Chief Executive, Adrienne Kelbie, and Technical Director, Anthony Hart, gave an overview of the strategy and welcomed questions and comments. The strategy is due to be published in May 2020.

In January, ONR achieved Level 3 Disability Confident (Leader) status, recognising our desire to put people first and create an environment in which everyone can thrive. The government-backed scheme encourages employers to think differently about disability and take action to improve how they recruit, retain and develop disabled people.

In February, we announced the appointment of two new members to the ONR Board. Dr Janet Wilson took up the appointment on 1 April 2020 and Tracey Matthews will take up her appointment on 1 June 2020 – both appointments are for five year terms.

In February more than 70 stakeholders involved in the transport of radioactive material attended a conference organised by ONR's Transport Competent Authority (TCA) team. The event provided a good opportunity for the TCA team to share their expectations on compliance with regulations governing the transport of radioactive material.

6 CONTACTS

Office for Nuclear Regulation
Redgrave Court
Merton Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 7HS

website: www.onr.org.uk
email: contact@onr.gov.uk

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