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

Report for period 1 January – 31 March 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 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

The ONR site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the report period:

- 16 to 18 February.

In addition, remote inspections were undertaken on the following dates during the report period:

- 9 February to 1 March.
- 15 March to 1 April.

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 this period, routine inspections of Sizewell B covered the following:

- Fuel operability and fuel debris removal.
- Fuel route plant.

In preparation for refuelling outage 17, system-based inspections were carried out on select items of fuel route plant (the fuel building crane, pond fuel handling machine and containment building polar crane) and on the tools and processes used to remove fuel debris.

The purpose of fuel operability and fuel debris removal inspection was to support the ONR assessment of the Sizewell B Cycle 18 reload safety case, which the licensee uses to justify the safe operation of the reactor for the period of operation following the Sizewell B periodic shutdown. Specifically, the intervention focused on the licensee's implementation of its arrangements for visual inspection of fuel assemblies for foreign

material during offload, for retrieval of any such foreign material when appropriate and for determining the operability of fuel assemblies on which foreign material was once observed by visual inspection. The intervention was led by a specialist inspector, who judged from the information sampled, discussions with licensee staff, and records inspected that the licensee's implementation of its arrangements was adequate to meet the requirements of the relevant licence conditions and was commensurate with the need to reduce risks so far as is reasonably practicable.

The purpose of the fuel route inspection was to determine compliance against key licence conditions and, ultimately, to determine whether the safety case requirements of the equipment concerned were being adequately implemented, and that the safety systems and structures were fit for purpose and will fulfil their safety functional requirements. The inspection was carried out by a team of specialist inspectors, who concluded that, based on the evidence sampled, the safety case requirements were being met. Some areas for improvement were noted, a regulatory issue was raised regarding inconsistencies between competency records held locally by an individual's team leader, and those held by the licensee's central training function. The site inspector will monitor progress with this regulatory issue.

Except where otherwise reported, ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements to be satisfactory in the areas inspected. Where improvements have been identified, the licensee has made a commitment to address those issues, and ONR inspectors will closely monitor progress during future site inspections. Where necessary, ONR will take formal regulatory enforcement action to ensure that appropriate remedial measures are implemented to reasonably practicable timescales. 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 on our website www.onr.org.uk .Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email contact@onr.gov.uk.

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.

One LI was issued during the period. A licence instrument was issued in October 2020 to approve amendments to the Sizewell B's on-site emergency plan, to enable the site to comply with the new REPPIR 19 regulations. An error was discovered in this plan regarding the emergency controller's authorisation to direct persons on-site to take stable iodine tablets. At Sizewell B, unlike other EDF sites, the company medical

officer authorises the emergency controller to direct persons on the site to take stable iodine; the plan was amended to reflect this. As the on-site emergency plan is approved by ONR, this error could not be corrected without the corrected plan subsequently being approved by ONR. The opportunity was also taken to amend another section of the emergency plan, at the request of the local authority, to reflect the title of the off-site emergency plan.

Table 1
Licence Instruments and Enforcement Notices Issued by ONR during this period

Date	Type	Ref No	Description
11/03/21	Approval	559	Approval of Amended Sizewell B Nuclear Licensed Site Emergency Plan

Reports detailing the above 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)

We are continuing to obtain assurance that nuclear site licensees 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. As COVID-19 restrictions change, our focus is on the preparedness for the weeks and months ahead and maintaining safe and secure operations. Our latest position can be found on our website.

Enforcement Action

In January, we agreed to extend two Improvement Notices served on the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), recognising the good progress made so far. The Notices, which were served in June 2019, relate to the way the company controls changes to organisational structure and resources which may affect safety.

In January, we served an Improvement Notice on Sellafield Ltd following a number of electrical safety incidents across the site. While we are satisfied that Sellafield Ltd is currently meeting the high standards expected with regards to nuclear safety, as a regulator we require sustained improvements in the area of electrical safety.

In February, we served an Improvement Notice on Morgan Sindall Construction and Infrastructure Ltd after workers came close to striking a live high voltage electric cable during excavation work at the Sellafield site. Nobody was harmed in the incident on 7 October 2020, and there was no impact on the public or the environment. However, the incident posed a serious risk to workers who were operating within one metre of the 11kV cable.

Regulatory Updates

In March, we published a response on our website to a BBC report relating to Sellafield. We were naturally concerned to hear the claims, particularly any suggestion that staff have been subjected to racist abuse of any kind. As a regulator, if we had any concerns or evidence that bullying and harassment was impacting safety at the site, we would take robust action to ensure this is addressed as a matter of urgency.

In March, we published an article about how we responded to the serious nuclear accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in 2011 to mark the 10th anniversary.

In March, we gave EDF permission for Reactors 3 and 4 at Hinkley Point B power station to return to service for a limited period of operation. Permission for Reactor 3 will allow it to operate to a core utilisation of 17.55 terawatt days, while permission for Reactor 4 is to operate to a core utilisation of 17.3 terawatt days, which equates to two periods of approximately six months operation for each reactor.

Stakeholder Engagement

In February, we encouraged interested parties to take part in a Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) survey about building and maintaining trust between nuclear safety regulators and the stakeholders they engage with.

In February, we provided an update about the leadership structural changes we initially announced in December 2020. Under existing contractual arrangements, current Chief Executive Adriènne Kelbie CBE was always expected to step down as her extended term of office comes to an end in January 2022. Mark Foy will step into the new combined role on 1 June 2021, when the new leadership structure will come into full effect.

In February, we announced that we had appointed Donald Urquhart to the newly-created role of Executive Director of Operations, which will form part of our new leadership structure. As Executive Director of Operations, Donald will be responsible for leading our regulatory work.

In March, we announced that as part of our new leadership arrangements, we had appointed three new deputy chief nuclear inspectors (DCIs) to our regulatory and senior leadership teams: Jane Bowie, Paul Dicks and Steve Vinton, currently all senior superintending inspectors at ONR. All three new DCIs have a strong track record of delivering regulation across the organisation, and will help us maintain a focus on our Strategy 2020-25.

6 CONTACTS

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