

Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

Site Report for Heysham Power Stations

Report for period 1 April – 30 June 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 Local Community Liaison Committee and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend the Heysham 1 and 2 Local Community Liaison Committee 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:

Heysham 1

19 – 21 April

25 – 26 May

14 – 16, 29 – 30 June

Heysham 2

20, 27, 29 April

12 - 13, 17 May

8 - 9, 23, 28 - 29 June

In addition, our specialist inspectors were involved in interventions on the following date during the report period:

Heysham 1

Multiple visits associated with Reactor 2 statutory outage inspections

Heysham 2

27 April

12 – 13 May

8 - 9, 28 - 29 June

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 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 Heysham stations covered the following:

- examination, maintenance, inspection and testing (Heysham 1 and 2)
- management of operations including control and supervision (Heysham 1 and 2)
- staff training, qualifications and experience (Heysham 1 and 2)
- modifications to plant, equipment and safety cases (Heysham 2)
- Limits and conditions of Operation (Heysham 2)
- emergency preparedness (Heysham 1 and 2)
- incidents on the site (Heysham 2)
- radiological protection (Heysham 1)
- periodic shutdown (Heysham 1)
- conventional (non-nuclear) health and safety (Heysham 1)
- fire audit (Heysham 1 and 2)

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.

In this period, other routine matters at Heysham stations covered the following:

- equipment reliability reviews (Heysham 1)
- regulatory issue progress (both sites)
- outage and start-up meetings (Heysham 1)
- end of generation planning (Heysham 1)
- organisational learning (Heysham 1)
- Leadership and Management for Safety (Heysham 2)

- Refuelling safety case and modifications (Heysham 2)

Heysham 1 Reactor 2 Statutory Outage

The Heysham 1 Reactor 2 outage commenced on 14 March. Our specialist inspectors carried out numerous inspections and other assessment activities during this period to establish that:

- requirements set out in the Station’s Plant Maintenance Schedule (PMS) have been complied with;
- work has been carried out in accordance with arrangements for identified Structures, Systems and Components to the required quality by competent persons;
- safety issues identified during the reactor outage have been adequately addressed with suitable and sufficient justification provided to allow a regulatory judgement to be made that start-up of the reactor is safe.

We provided consent to restart Reactor 2 on the 16 May. Further details can be found within our project assessment report for the Reactor 2 outage which will be published on our website.

Joint site Level 1 Exercise “HERCULES”

On the 30 June a joint security and safety Level 1 exercise was conducted. We considered the exercise provided sufficient challenge to test the implementation of emergency arrangements at both stations. Additionally, the joint site scenario required both sites to respond in a coordinated manner. Overall we noted:

- there was a strong focus on nuclear safety and security throughout the demonstration
- there was effective communication between the numerous key roles across both sites, leading to a common picture and understanding of the developing situation
- a small number of observations, where the implementation of emergency arrangements could be enhanced and improved, were identified for the stations to consider

2.2. Other Work

Both site inspectors attended the local site stakeholder group on 10th June. We also held periodic meetings with safety representatives, to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety and welfare at work.

Make-up Shield Heysham 2

Heysham 2 continues to adjust to a new operational rhythm as a result of a safety case anomaly being identified on the Fuel Machine in February 2021. This followed an investigation relating to a carbon dioxide interspace on the fuelling machine make-up

shield unexpectedly depressurising whilst preparing for operation at Heysham 2. The anomaly has meant that the safety case for low power refuelling is challenged and so the site is now shutting down each reactor every few months to refuel in depressurised conditions.

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.

Heysham 1 and 2

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.

- The following LIs, Enforcement Notices and Enforcement letters have been issued during the period:

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

Date	Type	Ref. No.	Description
16 May 2022	Licence Instrument	637	Consent to restart Heysham 1 Reactor 2

Reports detailing the above 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

6. Contacts

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