Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

Site Report for

Sizewell B

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 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 01 April to 30 June:

- 14 to 15 April;
- 19 to 21 April;
- 24 to 26 May (radwaste inspection with EA);
- 14 to 16 June (EPCC, LC07 event follow-up).

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 Sizewell B covered the following:

- management systems;
- incidents on the site;
- radioactive waste management;
- safeguards.

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.

Management systems

In conjunction with the ONR site inspector for Sizewell C, the site inspector for Sizewell B carried out an inspection of Sizewell B's arrangements for managing the potential impact of the Sizewell C project, which aspires to build two pressurised water reactors on a site immediately to the north of the site. The intervention considered both the hazards to Sizewell B posed by construction activities on the proposed Sizewell C site, and the potential hazards caused by the design of the Sizewell C reactors. In particular, this intervention considered Sizewell B's arrangements for licence condition (LC) 02 (marking of the site boundary) and LC 17 (management systems).

The inspectors held discussions with staff from both Sizewell B and the Sizewell C project team, sampled process documentation and operational records, and walked the northern boundary of the Sizewell B site. Overall they were satisfied that Sizewell B had processes in place to ensure that the site boundary was adequately marked, and that those markings were adequately maintained; further, they were satisfied that Sizewell B had adopted processes and procedures, which have formal standing in its management system, that support it in managing the risks to the Sizewell B site posed by the Sizewell C project.

Incidents on the site

The site inspector carried out an inspection of compliance with LC 7 (incidents on the site), with a focus on events that had previously been reported to ONR. He confirmed by reading investigation reports for the reported events, and interviewing the report authors, that appropriate direct and root causes are identified along with contributory factors; where human error is identified as a cause, the factors leading to the human error are appropriately considered; and the results of the investigations are used to develop corrective actions, to be implemented in a timely fashion to avoid any recurrence of the incidents.

Radioactive waste management

The purpose of the radioactive waste management intervention was to assess the licensee's compliance with the requirements of LC 23 (operating rules), LC 10 (training) and LC 34 (leakage and escape of radioactive material and radioactive waste) as they relate to the liquid radwaste system. Part of the intervention was carried out jointly with the Environment Agency's lead inspector for the site. The site inspector reviewed the licensee's documentation; held discussions with staff (various individuals from the environmental support group, a control room supervisor, an operations engineer and an operations technician); and undertook a plant walkdown. He concluded that the limits and conditions of the safety case were clearly captured in environmental specifications (E-Specs) and complied with either through the provision of either engineered measures or a combination of indications, alarms and operator actions; that the training provided to duly authorised persons, engineers and technicians was of a high standard, and captured the limits and conditions of the safety case well; and that licensee was meeting ONR's expectations for the prevention, mitigation and detection of leakage of radioactive material from the system.

Safeguards

The purpose of the safeguards intervention was to gain assurance that the Nuclear Material Accountancy System (NuMAS) at Sizewell B is fit for purpose and is implemented in a proportionate and appropriate manner, as required by regulation 6 of the Nuclear Safeguards (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (NSR19). The inspectors held discussions with relevant staff, undertook a plant walk-down, and examined a sample of relevant records (including NuMAS records, fuel movement records, and training records), judging NuMAS against the Fundamental Safeguards Expectations detailed in ONR Guidance for the Assessment of Nuclear Material Accountancy, Control and Safeguards. On the basis of the evidence sampled, the inspectors concluded the

NuMAS system at Sizewell B is fit for purpose and is implemented in a proportionate and appropriate manner. The arrangements surrounding NuMAS are implemented adequately, and deliver their functions as claimed within Sizewell B's Accountancy and Control Plan.

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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.

No LIs, Enforcement Notices or Enforcement letters 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

6. Contacts

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