

Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

Site Report for Torness Power Station

Report for period 01 July – 30 September 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 Torness 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 carried out licence condition (LC) inspections on the following dates during the report period 01 July – 30 September 2022:

5 - 7 July

18 August

12 - 14 September

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 to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, routine inspections of Torness covered the following:

- Incidents on the site;
- Training;
- Operating Rules;
- Operating Instructions;
- Safety Mechanisms, Devices and circuits;
- examination, maintenance, inspection and testing;
- Leakage and escape of radioactive material and radioactive waste;
- Organisational capability;

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 addition to the routine inspections above, the following interventions were also carried out by Torness during the period 01 July – 30 September 2022:

- 17 August – Observed internal shift exercise;
- 6 September – Information gathering intervention on a defective steam pipe leak;
- 6 September – Information gathering intervention on an incident which occurred whilst training on emergency equipment;

2.2. Other Work

Shift emergency exercise observation – 17 August 2022

During the Torness Level 1 emergency exercise demonstration in March 2022, shortfalls were observed in station meeting a number of their exercise objectives. ONR raised a regulatory issue seeking improvements and will observe the remainder of the shift exercises to ensure the shortfalls have been addressed. The August 2022 shift exercise is the first to be observed by ONR, with a further exercise being observed on 05 October 2022. Following this a review of the improvements implemented by Torness will be undertaken to consider close out of ONR's regulatory issue.

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:

Emergency equipment training incident – 31 August 2022

An incident occurred during emergency equipment training where 3 shift operators sustained injuries which including sprains, bruising and a bone fracture. Two RIDDOR reports were submitted to ONR, further information gathering from site inspector has resulted in an enforcement decision record to be produced to establish what (if any) enforcement action may be undertaken.

Turbine Crossover pipework steam leak – 23 August 2022

During reactor 2 start-up following the statutory outage, a steam leak was identified, and the conservative decision was made to reduce reactor 2 power to half load for conventional safety reasons. Torness subsequently assessed the defective pipework and made the decision to increase power incrementally after introducing a number of conventional safety control measures. ONR raised a number of reservations with site regarding raising the power.

The Site inspector scheduled a visit to station to gather further information on the conventional safety control measures in place and to follow up on ONR's reservations. Prior to the site inspectors visit, Torness informed ONR that the steam leak had further degraded, and reactor 2 power had been reduced again. On 18 September reactor 2 entered a forced shutdown to repair the defect, on the 27 September reactor 2 was restarted with the defect repair being successful.

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 nuclear site license requires the licensee to periodically shutdown to enable examination, inspection, maintenance and testing (EIMT) to take place. At Torness, reactor periodic shutdowns are every three years, as specified in the Maintenance Schedule preface. Reactor 2 periodic shutdown commenced on the 7 May 2022 and Consent for start-up was issued by ONR on 25 July 2022.
- No enforcement notices or enforcement letters were issued during this period.

Table 1: Licence Instruments and enforcement notices issued by ONR during this period

Date	Type	Ref. No.	Description
25 July 2022	Consent	LI 565 - TOR71448N	Consent to re-start Reactor 2 at Torness Power Station following statutory outage.

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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