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| ONR Site Report  Hartlepool Power Station |



ONR Site Report

Hartlepool Power Station

Report for period: 1 October – 31 December 2022

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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 Hartlepool Local Community Liaison Committee and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Hartlepool 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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# Inspections

## Date(s) of Inspection

ONR inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 October to 31 December 2022:

* 18 – 19 October;
* 1 – 2 November;
* 15 November;
* 28 November – 1 December.

# Routine Matters

## 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 Hartlepool power station covered the following:

* examination, maintenance, inspection and testing;
* management of operations including control and supervision;
* emergency preparedness;
* incidents on the site;
* organisational changes;
* conventional (non-nuclear) health and safety.

**LC7 – Incidents on site**

This planned LC 7 compliance inspection reviewed the arrangements at Hartlepool power station in line with expected practice. A sample of recent investigations was utilised to evidence that suitable processes are in place to demonstrate compliance with LC7. The inspection conluded that Hartlepool power station have suitable arrangements in place for; notifying, reporting, recording, and investigating incidents on site. We also observed improvements in staffing levels within the performance improvement department from previous inspections which resulted in an ONR regulatory issue. This will be followed up on in a seperate inspection in January 2023.

**Annual Review of Safety**

The purpose of this intervention was for ONR and the Environment Agency to attend the Hartlepool Annual Review of Safety, Security and Environment (ARoSE).

Prior to the ARoSE meeting both ONR and site Independent Nuclear Assurance carried out inspections of relevant parts of the site with station staff.

Areas inspected during the site ARoSE included:

* Emergency facilities building;
* Auxiliary boiler house;
* Cooling Water Pump house;
* Gas Turbine house;
* Gas Circulator Maintenance Facility (external only);
* Co2 plant;
* New Secondary Shut Down plant;
* Pile cap;
* Ponds areas;
* Turbine hall.

The intervention provided a useful exchange of information between the station and ONR and the Environment Agency.

**Emergency Arrangements for Defuelling Sites**

This intervention was undertaken in support of ONR’s approval of the Hunterston B emergency plan. The inspection sampled information contained in the generic emergency plan for a defueling site, emergency handbook and supporting documents against the requirements of REPPIR 19 which were considered to be adequate.

**Level 1 Security Exercise**

This intervention comprised the evaluation of a Level 1 Regulator Evaluated Demonstration Exercise, Exercise BANSHEE. This intervention was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 (as amended) and against the approved Security Plan.

The demonstration of Exercise BANSHEE was rated as ‘adequate’ by ONR.

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](http://www.onr.org.uk./intervention-records) on our website [www.onr.org.uk](http://www.onr.org.uk).

Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk).

## Other Work

During the period the site inspector held routine meetings with station staff to monitor the performance of the site by:

* Reviewing the current plant status and all open regulatory issues associated with Hartlepool power station with the Technical and Safety Support Manager.
* Meeting on a weekly basis with the site-based Independent Nuclear Assurance (INA) team to ensure the internal regulator function remains effective and verifying information provided by the station.
* Engaging with site safety representatives to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety and welfare at work.
* During this reporting period the site inspector undertook a number of intelligence gathering activities and plant visits including engagement with members of the site’s senior leadership team.

# 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:

**Operation outside technical specifications – Reactor Power:**

During Reactor 1 start-up, following an off-load refuelling outage, when raising load it was identified that reactor thermal power had been increased to a level above that which was allowable for the control rod position at the time. Following the identification of the error in the reactor power the Central Control Room took immediate action (as required in Tech Spec 2.1.2) to reduce thermal power to below the maximum allowable limit. The station has started an investigation into the incident which will be reviewed by ONR. This incident did not present a risk to the public.

# 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.

Licence Instrument 575 was issued to Hartlepool to defer the Reactor 2 statutory outage until 31 July 2023.

* 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 |
| 24/10/2022 | Licence Instrument | LI 575 | Reactor 2 outage deferral |
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Reports detailing the above regulatory decisions can be found on the ONR website at <http://www.onr.org.uk/pars/>.

# News from ONR

For the latest news and information from ONR, please read and subscribe to our regular email newsletter ‘ONR News’ at [www.onr.org.uk/onrnews](http://www.onr.org.uk/onrnews).

# Contacts

Office for Nuclear Regulation

Redgrave Court

Merton Road

Bootle

Merseyside

L20 7HS

website: [www.onr.org.uk](http://www.onr.org.uk)

email: [Contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:Contact@onr.gov.uk)

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