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| ONR Site Report  EDF - NGL – Hartlepool Power Station |



ONR Site Report

EDF - NGL - Hartlepool Power Station

Report for period: 1 April – 30 June 2023

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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

The ONR site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 April to 30 June 2023:

* 25 – 27 April
* 22 – 24 May
* 20 – 22 June
* 27 – 29 June

# 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;
* staff training, qualifications and experience;
* modifications to plant, equipment and safety cases;
* plant construction and/or commissioning;
* organisational changes;

**LC28 – Pressure System Safety Regulations**

This inspection sampled improvements in the arrangements at Hartlepool power station in managing Pressure Systems Safety Regulations (PSSR) requirements across site following identified shortfalls in 2022 which resulted in a RED rating (demand improvement). During this inspection ONR inspectors were satisfied that sufficient improvements were evident and demonstrated satisfactory control regarding PSSR. This inspection was rated GREEN (no formal action).

**LC36 – Organisational Capabilty**

ONR held a series of meetings with Hartlepool staff to evidence progress against a regulatory issue that was raised after an LC36 inspection in December 2021 was rated AMBER (seek improvement). This regulatory issue recorded significant shortfalls in the licensee’s implementation of arrangements for the management and control of organisational change. ONR inspectors were satisfied that appropriate imrovements have been implemented by Hartlepool and recommended closure of the regulatory issue.

**LC30 – Periodic Shutdown**

This inspection targeted Hartlepool's arrangements for statutory outage preparation. EDF NGL's arrangments for outage preparation contain a series of milestones that should be completed prior to a statutory outage commencing. ONR sampled evidence associated with the 2023 statutory outage preparations for milestone closure, changing of milestone dates and also discussed operational experience from recent outages. From the evidence sampled ONR were satisfied that EDF NGL had closed out milestones in compliance with their arrangements and that Hartlepool was taking appropriate action to address a weakness that had been identified in the arrangements. We were also of the opinion that learning from previous outages was being implemented at Hartlepool. This inspection was rated GREEN (no formal action).

**Extreme Ambient Temperature Inspection**

During July 2022 the UK experienced extreme ambient temperatures (EAT) which challenged the design basis of Hartlepool power station. EDF entered the safety case anomalies process (SCAP) due to EAT shortfalls and have since produced a Justification for Continued Operation (JCO). This inspection at Hartlepool aimed to review the implementation of the approved JCO unfortunately this had not been completed at the time of our inspection. We therefore conducted an inspection that reviewed the temporary EAT arrangements as well as the stations management of seasonal readiness. ONR inspectors concluded that a further site inspection would be required once the EAT JCO has been implemented at Hartlepool. This will take place later in 2023.

During the inspection ONR inspectors raised a regulatory issue regarding the usage of portable air conditioning units (PACUs) on site. ONR did not consider these had been deployed in compliance with LC22 arrangements and as such a rating of AMBER (seek improvement) was issued relating to LC22. An Enforcement letter will be issued in relation to this compliance gap.

**Systems Based Inspection - Buildings, Structures and Infrastructure**

No Systems Based Inspections took place during this reporting period.

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 (TSSM).
* 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 intelligence gathering activities and plant visits including engagement with members of the site’s senior leadership team.
* Attendance at the Emergency Arrangements Review Meeting

# 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:

On 1st April 2023, a pipework failure from the TG2 turbine hall sump discharge pipework resulted in water spraying the Unit 2 generator blue phase voltage transformer cubicle. The resulting impact caused some electrical equipment to trip, and anomalous readings being shown in the Central Control Room (CCR). A decision was taken to trip Unit 2 and Operational Alert was entered with the Emergency Control Centre (ECC) being setup to support the response. The station subsequently completed a root cause investigation into this event. The incident presented no risk to the public, but ONR will need evidence that the actions have been adequately closed out and are subject to ongoing oversight by the nominated site inspector.

# 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.

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

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