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| ONR Site Report  EDF Energy – Hinkley Point B |



ONR Site Report

EDF Energy - Hinkley Point B

**Report for period**: 1 July – 31 December 2024

**Authored by**: Nominated Site Inspector Hinkley Point B

**Approved by**: Head of Regulation

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Foreword

This report is issued as part of our 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 Hinkley Point A and B Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR [website](https://www.onr.org.uk/publications/publication-search/?type=lLCSSGReportPublication).

Our site inspectors usually attend Hinkley Point A and B Site Stakeholder Group 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 us via email at contact@onr.gov.uk.

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# Inspections

## Date(s) of inspection

Our site safety inspector and specialist inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 July to 31 December 2024:

* 18 July
* 10 – 12 September
* 20 November

Our site security inspectors made inspections on the following dates:

* 19 November

# 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);
* regulations made under HSWA74, for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99); and
* The Nuclear Industry Security Regulations 2003 (NISR).

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 Hinkley Point B covered the following:

* emergency arrangements;
* management of change;
* ionising radiation regulations;
* operational records / safeguards; and
* emergency equipment.

**Emergency arrangements**

On 18 July 2024, our safety inspectors evaluated a demonstration of the station’s emergency arrangements. The emergency exercise was judged to be an adequate and effective challenge to the emergency response arrangements required under Licence Condition 11. As with all exercises, some learning opportunities were identified – in this case involvement of the blue light services in exercise planning.

**Operational records/safeguards**

On 10 September 2024, our inspectors carried out an inspection of the operational records associated with the defuelling of reactor 4. The inspection sampled the quality plans and records collated by the station to demonstrate that all the fuel elements had been removed from reactor 4.

From the sample inspected, we judged that Hinkley Point B had followed their quality plans and produced suitable and sufficient operational records to demonstrate that the fuel from the channels inspected had been removed.

We judged that Hinkley Point B had met the legal requirement for compliance with LC25 – operational records, and relevant sections of the Nuclear Safeguards Regulations 2019.

**Management of change**

On 11 and 12 September 2024, our inspectors attended site to discuss the station’s proposals for the Hinkley Point B overarching Management of Organisational Change (MoC) proposal for the introduction of the deconstruction organisation at the site. This precedes planned transfer of the site to ownership by Nuclear Restoration Services. The overarching MoC does not enact any change itself but provides the basis for the development of a series of department-by-department enacting MoCs.

We provided comments on these draft documents and will review the final overarching MoC to inform our regulatory footprint for the enacting MoCs which will follow.

**Ionising radiation regulations**

On 12 September 2024 our inspectors attended site to inspect Hinkley Point B’s arrangements and their implementation for compliance with the Ionising Radiation Regulations. The inspection involved a review of documentation, technical discussions and a plant walkdown.

The inspection team considered that Hinkley Point B has adequate arrangements for the production and implementation of Radiation Risk Assessments, Local Rules, training relevant to radiation protection, arrangements for controlled areas, the appointment of Radiation Protection Advisers, source accountancy and the radiation monitoring of designated areas. Therefore ONR judged that Hinkley Point B had met the legal requirement for compliance with the Ionising Radiation Regulations 2017.

**Emergency equipment**

On 20 November 2024, our safety inspectors carried out an inspection of the station’s emergency equipment. The inspection reviewed arrangements for emergency equipment and sampled the availability, maintenance and security of that equipment. This was achieved through a combination of sampling records and documented arrangements and through inspection of facilities. Overall, the sites arrangements and their implementation adequately satisfied regulatory expectations regarding safety and security. Throughout the inspection a number of areas of both good practice and minor opportunities for improvement were observed that have been shared with site.

**Security**

There is nothing of significance to report from security inspections carried out during this period.

Members of the public, who would like further information about our 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).

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

## Other work

Our site inspectors and our Operating Reactors Heads of Regulation attended the Annual Review of Safety Security Safeguards and Environment meeting on 17 July 2024

Our site inspector attended an onsite health and safety committee meeting on 12 September 2024. Subsequently they had a further meeting with committee members on 19 November 2024.

# Non-routine matters

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. Our inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee’s response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

On the 1 October 2024 we were informed about a low level surface contamination marginally above permitted limits being discovered. The discovery was made during a routine radiological survey of a fuel flask containing spent fuel prior to its dispatch from the Bridgend railhead. The flask was returned to site for investigation and decontamination. We are satisfied that there was no risk to the public or the environment and that the licensee has taken appropriate corrective action and identified learning from this event.

# Regulatory activity

We may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, we issue 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.

We received an application for consent from EDF to decommission under the Nuclear Reactors (Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning) Regulations 1999.

We have received a request to approve a revised copy of Hinkley Point B’s Emergency Arrangements.

# News from ONR

For the latest news and information from us, 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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