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| ONR Site Report  EDF Energy – Sizewell B |



ONR Site Report

EDF Energy - Sizewell B

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

**Authored by**: Nominated Site Inspector

**Approved by**: Head of Operating Reactors

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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 Sizewell SSG and are also available on the ONR website (<https://www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/llcssg-reports/>).

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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# Inspections

## Date(s) of inspection

The ONR site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 October – 31 December 2024:

15 – 17 October

29 – 31 October

5, 18 - 21 November

ONR specialist inspectors also made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 October – 31 December 2024:

22 – 24 October

29 – 31 October

5 November

The ONR Head of Regulation also made an inspection on the following date during the report period 1 October – 31 December 2024:

5 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); 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 and assessments of Sizewell B covered the following:

* outage specific inspections
* periodic safety review and long term operation

**Outage**

Sizewell B’s refuelling outage no.19 commenced at the beginning of October. The reactor was safely shutdown with no post trip issues reported.

During the outage we made specific inspections and assessments covering the following topics:

* fuel and core
* structural integrity
* control and instrumentation
* maintenance standards

The purposes of our inspection and assessment activities during this periodic shutdown were to establish that:

* The examination, inspection, maintenance and testing (EIMT) requirements specified in the Sizewell B’s maintenance schedule in support of LC 30 have been complied with;
* EIMT had been carried out by suitably qualified and experienced persons (SQEP), with an appropriate level of supervision and quality assurance in place, commensurate with equipment’s safety function;
* Safety issues identified during the reactor outage had been adequately addressed with suitable and sufficient justification provided to allow a regulatory judgement to be made that start-up of the reactor was safe and will remain safe until the next periodic shutdown.

We considered that the licensee delivered an outage that was safely managed and completed the required safety related work activities. We were satisfied that the licensee’s justification to start-up the reactor and operate for a further period was adequate, and consent to start-up the reactor was granted.

The outage was completed and the reactor was safely returned to service at the beginning of December.

**Periodic safety review**

Our assessment of the third periodic safety review (PSR) for Sizewell B remains ongoing. Our decision on the adequacy of the PSR is due in January 2025. During this reporting period, a number of interventions with the licensee have been undertaken by our specialist inspectors to assist in their assessment work.

**Long term operation**

The licensee has requested that we conduct a review of their work to assess the technical and safety issues associated with extending the operational lifetime of Sizewell B by 20 years to 2055. While we do not have a formal role in determining the generating lifetime of a power station (this is the licensee’s responsibility), we have agreed to review their proposal, consistent with our enabling philosophy. This review remained ongoing 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 Inspection 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

There is no other work to report.

# 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.

On 4 September 2024, we were notified of an incident that occurred during the construction of the new outage store where a construction contractor had sustained a foot injury following the failed lift of a staircase stringer.

We inspected the scene of the incident on the 11 September 2024 and commenced preliminary enquiries. These enquiries continued during this reporting period.

# 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 following LIs, enforcement notices and enforcement letters have been issued during the period:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Type | Reference | Description |
| 26/11/2024 | Licence Instrument | LI 563 | Consent to start up the Sizewell B reactor |

# News from ONR

For the latest news and information from ONR, please read and subscribe to our regular email newsletter ‘ONR News’ at <https://www.onr.org.uk/news/newsletter/>.

# Contacts

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# References

**There are no sources in the current document.**