

Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Site Report for Hinkley Point C

Report for period 01 April – 30 June 2021

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 Hinkley Point C community forum and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lhc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Hinkley Point community forum 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

Dates of inspection

ONR inspectors including ONR warranted Health and Safety Executive Construction Division inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period at the Hinkley Point C (HPC) construction site:

- 27 April
- 04 May
- 22 June
- 23 – 24 June

2 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 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 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 the HPC site covered the following:

- plant construction and/or commissioning;
- emergency preparedness;
- incidents on the site;

- quality assurance and records; and
- conventional (non-nuclear) health and safety.

During the reporting period, ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements to be satisfactory in the areas inspected. Where improvements have been identified, the licensee has made a commitment to address those issues, and ONR inspectors will closely monitor progress during future site inspections. Where necessary, ONR will take formal regulatory enforcement action to ensure that appropriate remedial measures are implemented to reasonably practicable timescales. 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.

ONR's site interventions will include increasing focus on NNB GenCo (HPC) Ltd's ability to adequately control construction and installation at the HPC site

Other work

ONR continues its engagement with the project via regular site visits and meetings at NNB GenCo (HPC) Ltd's office locations across the following themes:

- Design and Safety Case
- Organisational Capability
- Conventional Health and safety and fire safety
- Security

These inspections are providing ONR with valuable intelligence on the progress NNB GenCo (HPC) Ltd is making to continue developing its competence and capability to manage the design, procurement, and construction of HPC.

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:

- Covid-19

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic NNB GenCo (HPC) Ltd has taken a number of steps aimed at ensuring effective social distancing and other control measures in accordance with Public Health England and industry guidance. ONR continues to engage with NNB GenCo (HPC) Ltd and its internal regulator to ensure that appropriate social distancing measures are in place, including ensuring that any relaxation of restrictions in accordance with government guidelines are managed appropriately.

Following the short pause in site attendance at the start of year, ONR has maintained a regular site presence supplemented by a number of remote inspections. Site presence is anticipated to increase progressively towards the end of the year as the site starts the transition from a predominantly civil engineering focused project to one which includes significant installation activities.

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 and other lower-level regulatory communications such as enforcement letters.

- No LIs were issued during the period.
- No Enforcement Notices (Improvement or Prohibition Notices) were issued during the period.
- ONR issued one enforcement letter during the period. This letter identified that improvements were required to ensure that NNB GenCo (HPC) Ltd's quality arrangements in relation to pools, tanks, sumps and liners are consistently and effectively implemented.

5 News from ONR

Insight into ONR's work as an independent regulator of the nuclear industry can be found in ONR's Regulation Matters. The online publication (<http://www.onr.org.uk/regulation-matters.htm>) reports on the key themes and developments in each of ONR's regulatory programmes and provides an update about the ongoing changes at ONR. For the latest news and updates from ONR visit the website and sign up for our ebulletin (<http://www.onr.org.uk/ebulletin/index.htm>).

Covid-19 (Coronavirus) (ONR position)

We are continuing to obtain assurance that nuclear site licensees and other dutyholders are adequately resourced to continue to safely and securely carry out their activities. We remain satisfied with industry's response at this time and there has been no significant change to dutyholders' safety and security resilience.

All licensed sites are required to determine minimum staffing levels necessary to ensure safe and secure operations and contingency arrangements in the event that these levels are not met. This condition is specifically designed to ensure that industry can adequately manage and control activities that could impact on nuclear safety and security under all foreseeable circumstances, including pandemics.

Although ONR staff continue to work primarily at home (carrying out as much of our work as possible via videoconference, phone and email), we are carefully and progressively increasing our site footprint. We continue to assess our on-site presence in line with government guidelines and our business needs, ensuring we have a balanced portfolio of on-site inspections and interventions, that are important to support effective regulation across our purposes. Our latest position can be found on our [website](#).

Enforcement Action

- In April, we announced that EDF [complied](#) with a Direction we served on 14 December 2020, under the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations (2000). This followed an inspection, at which found a number of pressure system components at Heysham 1 Power Station were overdue their scheduled examination.
- In May, we agreed to [extend an improvement notice](#) served on EDF in September 2020, recognising the progress made so far. The notice was served after some of the equipment used to measure reactor power at Heysham 2 was incorrectly configured. We judged that Heysham 2 is able to operate safely, and that additional time to demonstrate the required improvements will not pose a risk to safety. EDF must now comply with the improvement notice by 31 July 2021.

- In June, we announced that Rolls-Royce Submarines Ltd (RRSL) had [complied](#) with an improvement notice served on 29 May 2020. The notice was served after RRSL operators brought 21 units of fissile material into the facility – which exceeding the limit defined within the safety case and set out in the Criticality Control Certificate for the facility.

Stakeholder Engagement

- In April, we published an article introducing our newest board member, Jean Llewellyn, who joined us in October 2021, as security lead. Jean brings with her a wealth of experience, including serving as a non-executive director on the board of the World Institute for Nuclear Security since 2018 – which has given her a good understating of the global security challenges facing the nuclear industry.
- In May, we issued our e-bulletin ‘ONR News’ to subscribers. This issue included farewell reflections from our outgoing chief executive, a leadership update, further information on our Covid-19 response, and the results of our latest stakeholder survey. You can sign up for our e-bulletin here (<http://www.onr.org.uk/ebulletin/index.htm>).
- On 1 June, we announced the full implementation of our new leadership structure. Mark Foy is now our combined Chief Executive and Chief Nuclear Inspector. He is supported by Sarah High as Deputy Chief Executive, and Donald Urquhart as Executive Director of Operations.
- In June, we published our new Corporate Plan for 2021/22, which sets out our key priorities to protect the public by securing safe nuclear operations.
- In June, our State System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material (SSAC) project, which saw ONR become the UK’s national nuclear safeguards regulator from 31 December 2020, was shortlisted for a national award in the Project Management Institute’s UK National Project Awards in the ‘Project of the Year (Public Sector)’ category. Nuclear safeguards are measures to verify that countries comply with international obligations not to use nuclear materials from civil nuclear programmes for non-peaceful purposes.

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