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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 2023

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Approved by: M Webb, Delivery Lead 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 Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Hinkley Point 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 ONR.

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# Inspections

## Date(s) of Inspection

The ONR site inspector and specialist inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 July – 31 December 2023:

1 – 3 August

12 – October

19 – 20 September

ONR transport inspectors made inspections on the following dates:-

20 – September

ONR site security inspectors made inspections on the following dates:-

26 – 27 September

22 – 23 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 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:

* Higher activity radioactive waste
* Emergency arrangements
* Fuel route.

**Higher Activity Radioactive Waste**

On the 1 and 2 of August 2023, ONR inspectors observed an Environment Agency inspection of Higher Activity radioactive Waste (HAW) at Hinkley Point B. HAW is defined as that currently planned for deep geological disposal, and on the advanced gas cooled reactor sites this includes some low level waste and intermediate level waste. The Environment Agencies are the UK regulators for disposal of waste, and so management of radwaste on nuclear sites is of interest to all regulators.

No immediate concerns were identified by ONR in the management of HAW in accordance with the nuclear site licence. However, advice was provided for consideration as plans for deconstruction and transfer to Nuclear Restoration Services develop. The areas of advice covers; waste arrangements, record retention, regulatory engagement and maintenance of existing waste facilities.

**Emergency Arrangements**

As part of the optimisation of the emergency arrangements on site the station has also reviewed the safety case documents and identified the associated fault sequences relevant to a defueling station. These have then been used to identify an appropriate exercise matrix for future years training. ONR inspectors reviewed the exercise matrix on site on the 12 October 2023 and judged that it met the legal requirement for compliance with LC11 - emergency arrangements.

**Fuel Route**

On 19-20 September 2023, ONR inspectors undertook a system based inspection of the fuel route to judge the adequacy of the implementation of the safety case for the Hinkley Point B fuel route.

This intervention sampled the training records of a number of fuel route operators, the adherence to the written operating instructions and identified limits and conditions as well as the maintenance of the key safety mechanisms.

From the areas sampled ONR judged that Hinkley Point B had adequately implemented the off-load depressurised defueling safety case for the fuel route. A number of minor shortfalls were identified during the inspection relating to record keeping and plant condition.  These were accepted and addressed by the station promptly and followed up by the ONR site inspector.

**Transport**

On the 20 September 2023, the site inspector and ONR specialist transport inspectors observed a demonstration of EDFs response to a transport incident local to the Hinkley Point B site.

The EDF emergency response to a transport incident is managed by their corporate centre in Gloucester with support provided by the nearest nuclear site. The purpose of this exercise was to test the EDF corporate response and, because of the defined location, that of Hinkley Point B.

Overall, ONR judged that the exercise met the legal requirements but, as with all exercises a number of learning points were identified. The learning points relevant to Hinkley Point B related to familiarity of the station’s role in a transport incident. This will be taken forward as part of the station emergency exercise training.

**Security**

During this period ONR security inspectors carried out an inspection of the examination, inspection, maintenance and testing of the site security systems. ONR judged that the inspection met the legal requirements with no significant shortfalls identified.

ONR security inspectors also carried out an inspection of the adequacy of the security arrangements during fuel movements. No significant shortfalls were identified.

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

The ONR site inspector attended the site stakeholder group meetings held on 24 February 2023 and 30 June 2023.

# 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.

In January 2023 ONR became aware of a lack of manual fire alarm call points and automatic detection in the Charge Hall at Hinkley Point B (HPB). This issue had been identified by the station a number of years previously but had not been acted upon. When this omission was realised the station put in place interim arrangements whilst a long term solution was designed.

ONR specialist inspectors carried out an inspection of the change hall and judged that this shortfall was a contravention of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Consequently ONR issued an enforcement letter requiring the station to provide the charge hall with appropriate fire detectors and alarms.

A suitable fire detection and alarm system has now been designed and implemented within the Hinkley Point B charge hall restoring legal compliance and addressing the requirements of the enforcement letter.

# 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:

LI 573 – Approval of the Hinkley Point B Nuclear Power Station Defueling Emergency Plan

**Table 1: Licence Instruments and Enforcement Notices Issued by ONR during this period.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Type | Ref. No. | Description |
| 09/11/23 | Licence Instrument | LI 573 | Approval of the Hinkley Point B Nuclear Power Station Defueling Emergency Plan |

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).

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