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| ONR Site Report  EDF – Hartlepool Power Station |



ONR Site Report

EDF - Hartlepool Power Station

Report for period: 1 October – 31 December 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:

* 3-4 October
* 7-9 November
* 28-30 November
* 5-7 December

# 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;
* management of operations including control and supervision;
* staff training, qualifications and experience;
* emergency preparedness;
* incidents on the site;
* organisational changes;
* conventional (non-nuclear) health and safety; and
* security.

**Level 1 exercise**

In October Hartlepool Power Station conducted their annual Level 1 exercise. This exercise was scheduled as a security exercise and was assessed by ONR and EDF’s Emergency Arrangement Review Team. ONR assessed the exercise as ‘not adequate’ and as such a redemonstration will take place in quarter one 2024. The shortfalls identfied in the exercise will be reviewed by the station and evidence that these have been addressed will need to be demonstrated to ONR.

**Annual review of safety security and the environment**

During November Hartlepool Power Station held the annual review of safety, security and the environment. This meeting coincided with a planned visit to Hartlepool by ONR’s Chief Executive & Chief Nuclear Inspector. During this visit ONR inspectors discussed a range of topics with EDF staff including:

* Ageing management and investment programme (noting lifetime extension decisions);
* Nuclear site health and safety (conventional safety);
* Threats to generation/performance issues;
* Health of the organisation (staffing, recruitment and management into defueling);
* Plant lifetime extension (challenges and implications e.g. resulting modifications, time at risk arguments);
* Outage Safety performance;
* Fuel route throughput improvements/defueling preparations;
* Extreme ambient temperature (EAT) response and wider strategy for meteorological hazard mitigation; and
* Graphite inspection programme and preparedness for keyway root cracking/other adverse findings.

**Peer assessed exercise**

ONR inspectors observed the station’s peer assessed excercise in November. ONR observed aspects of the response at the central control room simulator, emergency control centre and access control point. ONR noted positive aspects of the response with respect to:

* leadership, command and control;
* decision making;
* situational awareness; and
* engagement and integration of emergency services.

ONR’s observations were broadly consisted with those of the site INA team and the licensee’s internal assessment team.

Overall, ONR considered that the site response was adequate and was content that the licensee had self-identified appropriate learning points to allow the station to improve.

**Electrical 415V event**

ONR conducted an intervention at Hartlepool Power Station following the identfication of unterminated 415v cables on site. ONR inspectors visited site and reviewed the output from the station’s own investigation. ONR considered that the failure to adequately manage the risk presented an unnaceptable risk to station staff. As such ONR will issue an enforcement letter to ensure that the station take appropriate actions to prevent future occurences of this type of event and will monitor the completion of the actions from their own investigation.

**LC36 Inspection**

ONR inspectors reviewed the current baseline staffing numbers expected at Hartlepool and sampled various departments to gather evidence that resourcing and experience levels are being adequately managed. During a 2021 inpsection ONR inspectors rated LC36 at Hartlepool as ‘amber’ due to a number of shortcomings relating to organisational capability. During update meetings held with station staff in 2022/23, and this inspection, ONR inspectors were content that compliance gaps had been adeqautely dealt with and this inspection was rated as ‘green’. ONR inspectors will continue to monitor staffing levels at site to ensure they adequately meet the requirements for safe operation.

**Systems based inspection - buildings, structures and infrastructure**

**Fire systems and fire safety inspection**

This was a planned systems based inspection at Hartlepool Power Station. Fire hazards, if not controlled, can present risks to safety (nuclear and conventional) including common cause failure of safety systems. It is therefore important that the risks from fire are suitably controlled. This inspection considered both nuclear and life fire safety and was undertaken to determine whether fire risks at site are suitably controlled. The inspection focussed on areas of the Reactor Building, Turbine Hall, Light Workshop/Stores/Procurement building, Services Block, Gas Turbine House, Amine Dosing Plant with the greatest nuclear and conventional fire risks.   
   
The inspection assessed the implementation of arrangements for managing life fire risks by reviewing compliance against the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (FSO) and compliance against the requirement of Licence Conditions LC10 Training, LC27 Safety Mechanisms, Devices & Circuits & LC28 Examination, inspection, maintenance, and testing. All Licence Conditions were rated as ‘green’.

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).

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.

# 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:

**Reserve feedwater Incident**

On 3 November 2023, the off-site reverse osmosis water supply became unavailable. This resulted in reserve feedwater stock levels falling whilst the issue was rectified. The station entered Operational Alert to ensure resource and staff were available to prioritise and manage the situation. The reverse osmosis supplies were promptly restored, and feedwater tank levels were recovered. ONR continues to engage with site regarding this event. There was no risk to members of the public or workers from this event.

**Unterminated 415V cable**

This event is covered in section 2.1 above.

# 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.

# 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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