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| ONR Site Report  EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd – Heysham Power Stations |



ONR Site Report

EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd - Heysham Power Stations

Report for period: 1 April to 30 June 2024

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Approved by: Head of Operating Reactors

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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 Heysham Local Community Liaison Committee (LCLC) and are also available on our website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

Our site inspectors usually attend LCLC 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 inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period from 1 April to 30 June 2024:

**Heysham 1**

23-24 April  
10, 14, 16-17 May  
4, 20, 26-27 June

**Heysham 2**

17, 23-24 April

21-23 May

3-4,5, 6, 28 June

In addition, our specialist inspectors were involved in interventions on the following dates during the report period:

**Heysham 1**

23-24 April  
16-17 May  
20, 26-27 June

**Heysham 2**

23-24 April

1, 8, 21-23 May

3-4, 6 June

# Routine Matters

## Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with:

* the licence conditions (LC) 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 the Heysham Power Stations covered the following:

**Both stations**

* Extreme Ambient Temperature themed inspection. This inspection was focussed on the implementation of the arrangements to ensure that both stations, both separately and together, are prepared for the hazards that arise during periods of extreme hot weather. This includes the changes to the arrangements as a result of improvements in the safety case following the extreme hot weather that affected the UK in July 2022. We judged that, overall both stations were adequately prepared and we rated LC23 (Operating rules) and LC24 (Operating instructions) as ‘GREEN’ (no formal action).
* Security inspections that covered both stations. There were two security inspections during the period covering the joint site’s drug and alcohol testing arrangements and a review of physical security arrangements. No significant issues were identified during either inspection and ‘GREEN’ rating were awarded.

**Heysham 1**

* Failed Fuel Management themed inspection. This inspection was focussed on the implementation of the arrangements for the management of failed fuel (i.e. where the stainless steel cladding surrounding the fuel pellets is non-longer gas tight). We looked at the implementation of the safety case steps to try to prevent fuel failures occurring, as well as the systems and arrangements to detect, contain, manage and safely transport it when failures do arise. We judged that, overall, the station was adequately managing failed fuel and we rated LC23 (Operating rules), LC24 (Operating instructions) and LC 34 (Leakage and escape of radioactive material and radioactive waste) as ‘GREEN’ (no formal action). Unrelated to the inspection theme we identified an electrical safety shortfall in an instrumentation cabinet and took action (through a regulatory issue) to ensure that this was remedied.
* Reactor Shutdown systems-based inspection (SBI). This SBI focussed on the secondary (nitrogen gas injection) and tertiary (boron bead injection) shutdown systems. These can shutdown the reactor in the event that the primary system (control rods) are insufficient or unsuccessful. We made an overall regulatory judgment of ‘GREEN’ (no formal action) against the system and rated the following individual LCs also as ‘GREEN’: LC10 (Training), LC23 (Operating rules), LC24 (Operating instructions), LC27 (Safety mechanisms, devices and circuits) and LC28 (Examination, Inspection, Maintenance, and Testing).

**Heysham 2**.

* Maintenance Standards. This theme based inspection sampled a number of maintenance and project activities being carried out on site to assess compliance with the station’s own arrangements and compliance against aspects of LC28 (Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing) and LC26 (Control and supervision of operations). It included a selection of Electrical/C&I/Mechanical based tasks and looked at workplace standards. No significant issues were raised and so awarded ‘GREEN’ ratings against LC28 and LC26 compliance. However, a series of observations and pieces of advice were given to the site, to which they have provided constructive responses. These will be actioned as needed to enhance their arrangements.
* Emergency Preparedness Level 1 Demonstration Exercise. The exercise scenario, ‘Zeus,’ was security focussed, involving an external attack on the site. The demonstration was successful, although there were lessons to be actioned in relation to casualty handling and use of emergency services. A ‘GREEN’ rating was awarded against LC11, as no significant issues were identified.

In this period, other routine matters at the Heysham stations covered the following:

* regulatory issue progress;
* emergency exercise preparations;
* routine event follow-ups including any conventional health and safety events;
* meeting with safety representatives;
* daily plant status, refuelling preparations and progress;
* oversight of any graphite inspection data;
* plant walkdowns;
* conventional (non-nuclear) health and safety; and
* defuelling preparations readiness (Heysham 1).

Members of the public, who would like further information on 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

The Heysham 1 and 2 site inspectors have regular contact with the trades-union appointed safety representatives at both stations to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety and welfare at work.

# 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.

There were no matters or events of particular note during the period.

# 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 have been issued during the period:

# 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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