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| ONR Site Report  Torness Power Station |



ONR Site Report

Torness Power Station

Report for period: 1 April – 30 June 2024

Authored by: Lead Site Inspector

Approved by: Superintending Inspector

Issue No.: 1

Publication Date: August 2024

ONR Record Ref. No.: 2024/32249

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 of the Torness site stakeholder group and are also available on our website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

Our site inspectors usually attend Torness site stakeholder 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](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk).

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# Inspections

## Date(s) of Inspection

Our site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 April – 30 June 2024:

14 – 15 May

22 May

13 – 15 June

# 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 Torness power station covered the following:

* Training
* Operating Rules
* Operating Instructions
* Controland Supervision of Operations
* Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing
* Periodic Shutdown

Overall the findings from the compliance inspections were positive with no significant shortfalls. A number of observations were made during the inspections where advice was provided to station.

There were no findings from the inspections that could significantly undermine nuclear safety.

Members of the public, who would like further information on our inspection activities during the reporting period, can view site Intervention Reports at <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 Torness reactor 1 statutory outage was undertaken between April and June 2024. Our specialist inspectors carried out a number of inspections, predominantly to ensure maintenance schedule and statutory requirements compliance to support our consent for the restart of reactor 1 on completion of the scheduled works.

We attended a Torness internal regulator led early outage safety review between 22 and 26 April 2024. This safety review was conducted in the early stages of the reactor 1 statutory outage and is undertaken to identify potential safety performance issues and themes. During the safety review, actions are placed on station management representatives to ensure safety performance is maintained for the duration of the statutory outage.

We attended the reactor 1 start-up meeting, which included a plant walk down, and a series of presentations where regulators have the opportunity to ask questions and respond to the material presented to support startup of reactor 1 following statutory outage. The walkdown and presentations were very thorough and informative. Pending successful completion of the statutory outage programme we found no issues that would prevent consent to restart reactor 1.

# 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.

Matters and events of note during the period were:

**April 2024 –** during a lifting (lowering) operation to remove a valve during the reactor 1 statutory outage, a lagging box adjacent to the load route weighing 7.5kg unexpectedly fell from height of approximately 1.8m. The lagging box struck a member of the working party’s hand which was being used to lower the load with a chain block, this resulted in an injury to the left thumb.

The injured person was taken to EDF site occupational health for basic first aid and was then transported to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. After clinical assessment, the diagnosis was an open fracture to the individuals left hand. Due to the individual sustaining an injury, the incident was reported to us as required under RIDDOR and an EDF internal investigation is being carried out which will be shared with us.

**April 2024 -** during routine floor block reinstatement of the decay store, an operator sustained an injury to their lower leg and ankle when reversing a pallet truck. The injured person had tripped backwards over a row of removed floor blocks sitting on a pallet designated for the task, briefly trapping their foot between the rear of the pallet truck and the pallet/row of blocks.

The injured person was assessed by an on-site first aider and the station nurse before being taken to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary A&E. The injured person sustained significant bruising. The incident was reported to us as required under RIDDOR and an EDF internal investigation is being carried out which will be shared with us.

**May 2024 –** operators were carrying out a lifting operation using an ‘A’ frame, the associated lifting procedure asks for a floor plate to be removed prior to the ‘A’ frame being positioned, and lifting activities commencing. During the positioning of the ‘A’ frame, one of the wheels inadvertently rolled into the open hole that resulted in the apparatus tipping over.

There was no personal injury sustained, the area was made safe immediately by the working party, the event was reported to the working party’s team leader and an embargo of work in the area was implemented. The incident was reported to us as required under RIDDOR and an EDF internal investigation is being carried out which will be shared with us.

# 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.

* The following LIs, enforcement notices and enforcement letters have been issued during the period,
* The Torness reactor 1 statutory outage was undertaken between April and June 2024, ourspecialist inspectors carried out a number of inspections to ensure maintenance schedule and statutory requirements compliance to support our consent for restart of reactor 1 on completion of the scheduled works.
* Non-compliances were identified during an inspection in May 2023 and a subsequent enforcement letter was issued to Torness to implement fire safety improvements in the admin, stores and workshop areas of site.

Progress is being made regarding the fire safety improvement work. However, timescales for completion of the improvement work continue to slip and we are loosing confidence in the timely delivery of the fire safety improvements.

We have re-emphasised the importance of timely implementation of the fire safety improvements and have issued a further enforcement letter seeking assurance that the remaining improvements will be completed within the timescales of the project delivery programme.

We have escalated the associated regulatory issue to level 2 ensuring senior management oversight. We will continue to track progress of the fire safety improvements through targeted interventions and will hold senior management to account ensuring the timely implementation of the fire safety improvements in the admin, stores and workshop areas at Torness.

**Table 1: Licence Instruments and enforcement notices issued by ONR during this period**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Type | Ref. No. | Description |
| 13 June 2024 | Licence Instrument  Consent | TOR71465N Consent No.567 | Consent to restart reactor 1 at Torness following statutory outage. |
| 26 June 2024 | Enforcement letter | ONR-EL-24-4 | Shortfalls in implementing arrangements for life fire safety in Torness admin, stores and workshop areas. |
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Reports detailing the above regulatory decisions can be found on our 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).

# Contacts

Office for Nuclear Regulation

Redgrave Court

Merton Road

Bootle

Merseyside

L20 7HS

website: [www.onr.org.uk](http://www.onr.org.uk)

email: [Contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:Contact@onr.gov.uk)

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