

ONR site report

EDF Energy – Sizewell B

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Report for period: 1 April – 30 June 2025

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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 Sizewell SSG and are also available on our website: www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/lcssg-reports.

Our site inspectors usually attend Sizewell SSG 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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1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of inspection

The ONR site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 April – 30 June 2025:

14 – 16 April

20 – 22 May

3 – 4 June

ONR specialist inspectors also made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 April – 30 June 2025:

15 April

20 - 21 May

4 June

2. Routine matters

2.1. 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 and assessments of Sizewell B covered the following:

- A Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) compliance inspection;
- A combined LC 10: Training, LC 12: Duly authorised and other suitably qualified and experienced persons and LC 36: Organisational capability inspection; and
- A routine emergency training exercise.

LOLER

The aim of the inspection was to sample evidence to demonstrate dutyholder compliance with the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) by confirming how the site manage risks associated with lifting operations and use of lifting equipment (including accessories).

The inspection targeted the implementation of recent changes to the EDF company specification in relation to the categorisation of lifting operations. Rather than having basic and complex lifts, EDF have also introduced the category of an intermediate lift. This change brought the company specification in line with the British Standard (BS7121-1).

The inspection involved a day on site which primarily consisted of a site walk-down. Documents associated with the inspection were inspected prior to the visit to enable more time to efficiently sample site practices. The site walk down sampled:

- the lifting stores
- the dry fuel store
- the cooling water pump house
- engagement with fork lift truck operatives

The site were able to demonstrate they understood what satisfied the requirement for an intermediate lift, how they are identified, and what was required for those lifts identified as intermediate. Through sampling lifting equipment on site we were satisfied that appropriate procedures were in place to ensure that only equipment that had been subject to thorough examination could be used. In addition we noted that these procedures only allowed competent people access to the lifting stores. The site have a competent LOLER advisor who was able to demonstrate the procedures that are in place and answer questions confidently in relation to the procedures.

Based on the sample interaction with staff we were able to confirm that the rigging store maintenance team leader held the necessary competencies and resources to adequately manage the loan tool store. We were also able to confirm that a contractor had carried out their point of work risk assessment prior to carrying out a lifting operation and they were able to demonstrate they had completed their pre-use checks on the fork-lift truck.

We noted that the site have arrangements in place to track and monitor lifting equipment category A defects. However there was no such system for the tracking of category B and category C defects. As such it was not clear whether defects had appropriately been rectified. The tracking of such defects would also allow station to trend where defects are arising. We raised a regulatory issue to track this shortfall and follow up.

Based on our sample, the site have adequately adopted the relevant good practice within BS7121-1. No significant shortfalls in relation to lifting arrangements were identified. Therefore, in our judgement, in relation to LOLER, the site are compliant and a rating of green (no further action) is appropriate

LC10, LC12 and LC36 compliance inspection

The aim of this inspection was to examine the site arrangements to maintain adequate organisational capability and competence as per requirements of Licence Conditions 10 (Training), 12 (Duly authorised and other suitably qualified and experienced persons) and 36 (Organisational capability).

For the purposes of Licence Condition (LC) 36, we focused on the update of the site reference nuclear baseline (RNB), its justification, management of organisational vulnerabilities and risks, and on nuclear baseline roles.

We noted that the site had adequately updated its 2018 RNB into a site-specific nuclear baseline by suitably applying the management of change process, consolidating previous organisational changes including the introduction of the Single Integrated Delivery Organisation, allocating intelligent customer roles and using the management of change process to make further changes to the RNB as needed. We found only minor discrepancies, e.g. some post training profiles not yet allocated and contribution to nuclear safety to be fully considered in the categorisation of the Periodic Safety Review lead post, which the site had already committed to resolve.

We noted that the site is adequately justifying its nuclear baseline by considering a relevant range of performance indicators, such as human resource metrics, organisational capability metrics, and business performance metrics. The annual baseline statement report has also improved. We provided advice on how the site could further formalise how the performance indicators are used in line with the updated fleet-wide LC36 compliance arrangements.

We noted that the site is adequately managing its organisational vulnerabilities and risks by keeping a satisfactory baseline resource position, adopting the revised fleet-wide Organisational Capability Risk Assessment tool, and enhancing governance and data driven oversight of organisational capability. We also found that there is good understanding and ownership of the nuclear baseline by the department team leaders. We found that adequate mitigating actions were set out for specific vulnerabilities that were identified in the analysis.

We noted that the site-specific review of nuclear baseline roles is in progress. Once completed, the site intends to review its required baseline numbers and use the management of change process to change the number of role allocations as needed. This process will also address existing misalignment in role definitions between fleet and station. We were satisfied with the approach that the site has taken which recognises the importance of this work in providing an ongoing means of managing baseline role definitions, allocations and compliance position.

For the purposes of LC10 and LC12, we found that the site has clearly articulated its training process while recognising the importance of continuous training. The personnel that we sampled were 'in-ticket' and the training dashboard demonstrated improvements in performance metrics. We found that local working practices around management of Suitably Qualified and Experienced Person (SQEP) matrices, training programme requirements and links demonstrate ownership over site specific training and SQEP requirements. These SQEP matrices and resource planning enable managers to understand resource planning and overall capability for the Maintenance team that we sampled. We found that similar goals for capturing and demonstration of resource capability plans are in development for the Engineering team.

The site acknowledges that some training programmes need to be adjusted to reflect that recruitment has been broader recently, e.g. graduates or non-nuclear specialists. Our findings regarding management of SQEP information and adequate demonstration of experience are already covered in the existing fleet-wide regulatory issue.

Therefore, we considered an overall inspection rating of Green (No Formal Action) for this system to be appropriate.

Shift emergency exercise

One of the routine shift team emergency exercises was selected to enable us to gather intelligence on the measures the site implement to train, mentor, coach and appoint emergency scheme members and importantly embed the learning from previous local and fleet wide emergency exercises.

We observed the exercise pre-brief (delivered to circa 100 exercise participants, observers and umpires) where expectations were clearly explained.

The exercise was suitably challenging with a duration of approximately three hours and involved a full site muster and requiring the deployment of teams to all the control centres from the control room simulator, emergency control centre and access control point where incident response teams are briefed, deployed and their wellbeing managed.

Overall we were provided with demonstrable assurance that the site continue to fully commit to emergency scheme training. No regulatory actions were generated.

Members of the public who would like further information on our inspection activities during the reporting period can view site inspection records on our website: www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/inspection-records.

Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email contact@onr.gov.uk.

2.2. Other work

There is no other work to report.

3. 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 such matters or events of significance during the period.

4. 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 but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an Enforcement Notice.

No licence instruments, enforcement notices or enforcement letters were issued during this period.

Reports detailing regulatory decisions can be found on our website:

www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/project-assessment-reports.

5. News from ONR

For the latest updates and information on our work, please subscribe to our regular email newsletter, ONR News, at www.onr.org.uk/news/newsletter.

6. Contacts

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References

There are no sources in the current document.