



Office for
Nuclear Regulation

ONR Site Report

EDF Energy – Sizewell B

ONR Site Report

EDF Energy - Sizewell B

Report for period: 1 January – 31 March 2025

Authored by: Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: Head of Operating Reactors

Issue: 1

Published: May 2025

Record reference: 2025/15514

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 Sizewell SSG and are also available on the ONR website (<https://www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/lcsg-reports/>).

Site inspectors from ONR 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 ONR.

Contents

1. Inspections 4

2. Routine matters 5

3. Non-routine matters..... 8

4. Regulatory activity 9

5. News from ONR 10

6. Contacts 10

References..... 11

1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of inspection

The ONR site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 January – 31 March 2025:

14 – 16, 21 – 23 January

25 – 27 February

11 – 13, 25 – 27 March

ONR specialist inspectors also made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 January – 31 March 2025:

14 – 15, 21 - 22 January

25 – 26 February

11 – 12, 25 - 26 March

The ONR Director of Regulation and Head of Regulation also made an inspection on the following date during the report period 1 January – 31 March 2025:

11 March

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:

- Safeguards
- Residual heat removal systems
- Dry Fuel Store systems
- Seasonal readiness
- Supply chain

Safeguards

Our nuclear safeguards inspectors conducted a nuclear safeguards compliance inspection. The purpose of this inspection was to seek evidence in support of EDF's compliance with the Nuclear Safeguards (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (NSR19).

Based on the sample inspected, we judged that EDF are adequately implementing the arrangements described in their accountancy and control plans and are compliant. We also judged that EDF are implementing their arrangements for competence management and computer modelling for the generation of accountancy data in-line with regulatory expectations.

However, we found shortfalls in compliance for the tracking, control and accountancy of non-fuel qualifying nuclear material (QNM is any material containing plutonium, uranium or thorium) and physical inventory taking (PIT) arrangements and records.

We generated two regulatory issues to track the timely improvement of these administrative arrangements.

Residual Heat Removal System

The Residual Heat Removal System (RHRS) is a system utilised during plant shut down operations to remove the decay heat from the core and reduce the temperature of the reactor coolant. It also serves as part of the emergency core cooling system.

The aim of this inspection was to determine whether the structures, systems and components associated with the RHRS and associated support systems are able to adequately fulfil their safety duties (safety functional requirements) associated with the claims made within the safety case and to examine the adequacy of implementation of EDF's spares management arrangements.

Overall, based on the sample of evidence and plant walkdown, some minor areas for improvement were identified but these did not impact the delivery of the safety functions of the system. Therefore, we considered an overall inspection rating of Green (No Formal Action) for this system to be appropriate.

Dry Fuel Store

The aim of this inspection was to establish whether the structures, systems and components associated with dry fuel storage activities at Sizewell B are able to adequately fulfil their safety duties (safety functional requirements) associated with the claims made within the safety case.

From the evidence sampled during this inspection we judged that the dry fuel store structures, systems and components are able to fulfil their safety duties in line with the safety case. Therefore, we considered an overall inspection rating of Green (No Formal Action) for this system to be appropriate.

Seasonal Readiness

This was a planned inspection of the implementation of operational arrangements for seasonal, severe weather and marine impact preparations ("Seasonal Readiness"). The purpose of this activity is to ensure that risks associated with seasonal hazards are being adequately managed by EDF. Seasonal readiness arrangements include routine and other preparations (e.g., defects and asset maintenance) intended to mitigate risks associated with predictable summer and winter conditions.

We inspected the adequacy of implementation of EDF's seasonal readiness arrangements against relevant licence conditions. Overall the inspection was rated

Green (No Formal Action) as no compliance gaps or significant issues were identified, based on our sample.

Supply Chain

The aim of this inspection was to examine the adequacy of the quality management system to provide continuing confidence that EDF are maintaining suitable and sufficient oversight of operational processes.

The inspection also considered the quality of processes that inform the continuing suitability of management system arrangements, including the management of corrective actions, assurance that SQEP persons are facilitating quality management activities and the adequacy of implementation of applicable organisational learning.

From the sample of evidence inspected we judged that EDF had adequately demonstrated it had made and implemented adequate quality management arrangements.

Overall the inspection was rated Green (No Formal Action) as no compliance gaps or significant issues were identified, based on our sample.

Periodic safety review

Our assessment of the third periodic safety review (PSR3) for Sizewell B was completed during this reporting period. The full project assessment report has been published on our website.

A total of 15 regulatory assessments were carried out. These assessments included familiarisation visits to Sizewell B, inspection of plant, requests for additional information and meetings with EDF staff.

In total we have identified 16 regulatory findings which require EDF to carry out further work including developing proposals for the resolution and close out of these findings within agreed timescales. These shortfalls required us to issue of an enforcement letter.

We have not identified any immediate safety concerns that would require shutdown of Sizewell B. If any anomalies are identified by the licensee during the work required to address the shortfalls in the PSR3 we have confidence in the licensee's safety case anomalies process.

Long term operation

The licensee has requested that we conduct a review of their work to assess the technical and safety issues associated with extending the operational lifetime of Sizewell B by 20 years to 2055. Whilst we do not have a formal role in determining the generating lifetime of a power station (this is the licensee's responsibility), we agreed to review their proposal, consistent with our enabling philosophy.

We advised that should EDF decide to proceed with LTO we would encourage the licensee to engage with ONR on the programme of work required. This will allow identification of appropriate points for early engagement, further opportunities to provide regulatory advice and assist with the development of an ONR inspection strategy which aligns with relevant good practice for LTO programme deliverables and milestones. This is consistent with ONR's enabling philosophy.

Members of the public, who would like further information on ONR's inspection activities during the reporting period, can view site Inspection Records on our website: www.onr.org.uk.

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. ONR inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

On 4 September 2024 we were notified of an incident that occurred during the construction of the new outage store where a construction contractor sustained a foot injury following the failed lift of a staircase stringer.

We inspected the scene of the incident on the 11 September 2024 and commenced pre-liminary enquiries. We concluded our enquiries and issued an enforcement letter to EDF who under the Construction Design and Management Regulations 2015 were appointed as the principal contractor and have responsibilities to ensure the safe working, coordination and cooperation between contractors take place.

4. 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:

Date	Type	Reference	Description
7 January	Enforcement Letter	ONR-EL-24-38	The Construction Design and Management Regulations 2015
28 January	Enforcement Letter	ONR-EL-24-43	Sizewell B Power Station Periodic Review of Safety: ONR Enforcement Letter and Decision Letter

5. News from ONR

For the latest news and information from ONR, please read and subscribe to our regular email newsletter 'ONR News' at <https://www.onr.org.uk/news/newsletter/>.

6. Contacts

Office for Nuclear Regulation
Redgrave Court
Merton Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 7HS
website: www.onr.org.uk
email: Contact@onr.gov.uk

This document is issued by ONR. For further information about ONR, or to report inconsistencies or inaccuracies in this publication please [email contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk).

If you wish to reuse this information visit:

<https://www.onr.org.uk/access-to-information/copyright/> for details.

For published documents, the electronic copy on the ONR website remains the most current publicly available version and copying or printing renders this document uncontrolled.

References

There are no sources in the current document.