Office for Nuclear Regulation

ONR site report

EDF Energy – Sizewell B

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Report for period: 1 January – 31 March 2026

Authored by: Nominated Site Inspector

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/llcssg-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.

Contents

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 2026:

20 – 22 January
10 February
24 – 26 February
17 – 19 March

ONR specialist inspectors also made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 January – 31 March 2026:

21 January
10 February
17 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:

- Control and supervision of operations;
- Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing; and
- Accumulation of radioactive waste, and leakage and escape of radioactive material and radioactive waste.

Licence condition 26 'Control and supervision of operations' compliance inspection

This was a planned inspection to judge the licensee's compliance against LC 26 (Control and supervision of operations) in order to gain confidence that the licensee is maintaining responsibility for, and control over, the activities on its site which impact nuclear safety.

LC 26 requires the licensee to ensure that no operations are carried out which may affect safety except under the control and supervision of suitably qualified and experienced persons appointed for that purpose by the licensee.

This inspection involved sampling and observation of activities on the site including:

- Shift staff handover activities and start of shift brief;
- Delivery of shift focus briefings;
- Setting to work / pre-job briefs for specific jobs; and
- Control and supervision of operations at the workface for the Operations and Maintenance Teams.

ONR's expectations in ONR's Technical Inspection Guide (TIG) on LC 26 (NS-INSP-GD-026 Issue 6.2) was used as the basis to form our compliance judgement.

Overall, based upon the sample during the inspection we were satisfied that Sizewell B is compliant with LC26 with regard to handovers, setting to work and control and supervision of operations at the workface for operations and maintenance teams. We were content to rate LC26 as Green (no formal action) with no regulatory issues raised.

Licence condition 28 ‘Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing (EIMT)’ compliance inspection

This was a planned inspection to verify that the licensee is effectively managing the maintenance activities related to its ageing civil structures. Appropriate management and asset care of civil engineering systems is crucial since inadequate risk control may result in significant consequences for nuclear safety. The inspection assessed whether maintenance schedule tasks and identified defects are being addressed in a timely manner. It evaluated if these activities were being prioritised appropriately, taking into account the significance and urgency of each issue.

During the inspection we sampled ongoing and recent civil engineering remediation work to confirm proper maintenance, adequate oversight, and sufficient recordkeeping by the dutyholder.

The inspection considered the adequacy of the licensee's arrangements made in relation to the following civil engineering structures, systems and components:

- Reserve Ultimate Heat Sink Building (RUHS)
- Control Building
- Circulating Water Structures (CWS)
- Sea Defences

ONR's expectations in ONR's Technical Inspection Guide (TIG) on LC 28 (NS-INSP-GD-028 Issue 9.1) was used as the basis to form our compliance judgement.

We judged that the licensee's arrangements in relation to examination, inspection, maintenance and testing (EIMT) routines and associated defect management were adequate to manage nuclear and radiological risks.

From the evidence sampled and the civil engineering structures inspected we judged that the licensee has adequately demonstrated its compliance with Licence Condition 28.

Additionally, we concluded that defects are being managed promptly and adequately prioritised with due consideration given to both the importance and urgency of each matter.

Overall we rated LC28 as Green (no formal action) with no regulatory issues raised.

Licence condition 32 ‘ Accumulation of radioactive waste’ and licence condition 34 ‘Leakage and escape of radioactive material and radioactive waste ‘ compliance inspection

This was a joint radioactive waste themed inspection with the Environment Agency.

This planned inspection aimed to judge the licensee's compliance with LC32 and LC 34. The inspection sampled evidence to judge whether:

- The rate of production and total quantity of radioactive waste accumulated on the site is minimised so far as is reasonably practicable (LC 32); and
- So far as is reasonably practicable, radioactive material and radioactive waste on the site is at all times adequately controlled or contained so that it cannot leak or otherwise escape from such control or containment (LC 34).

For the LC 32 element of the inspection, we sampled the licensee’s arrangements for the management of radioactive waste, including the supporting Radioactive Waste Management Cases, operational practices, storage arrangements, and the tools used to forecast, track, and manage waste arisings. The licensee demonstrated that appropriate arrangements are in place to minimise, as far as is reasonably practicable, the rate of production and accumulation of radioactive waste, and to ensure that waste is adequately recorded, packaged, and stored. The waste storage areas we inspected were well maintained and in good condition, with appropriate controls and within storage limits. The licensee also demonstrated effective planning for waste management for the upcoming statutory reactor outage, including contingency arrangements to prevent undue accumulation.

We observed the storage of low level radioactive waste resins awaiting a long-term management strategy decision, which is currently delayed due to external cement supply chain challenges. Storage was covered by an adequate safety case but we reminded the licensee of the need to progress with the strategy to resolve the disposability issues in advance of the next resin change-out campaign. We observed other wastes stored on the site that are subject to issues with disposability to the Low Level Waste Repository, leading to extended accumulation on the site.

For the LC 34 element of the inspection, we sampled the site’s leak reduction programme, leak management arrangements, and their implementation on plant. The licensee demonstrated a structured, risk-based approach to classifying, monitoring, and remediating radioactive leaks, supported by appropriate governance,

performance metrics, and maintenance arrangements. During a plant walkdown, all leaks we observed were adequately contained, appropriately classified, and subject to planned repair where reasonably practicable. In addition, the outage plans we sampled showed that the licensee has made effective preparations for LC 34 compliance by including scheduled maintenance activities for leaks and the availability of the liquid radwaste systems required to support the outage activities.

We identified minor weaknesses with administrative controls, specifically the accuracy of some waste inventory records and the status of defect tags on plant, however, these issues did not present a safety concern and were acknowledged by the licensee.

ONR's expectations in ONR's Technical Inspection Guide (TIG) on LC 32 (NS-INSP-GD-032 Issue 8.1) and LC 34 (NS-INSP-GD-034 Issue 7.1) were used as the basis to form our compliance judgements.

Overall based on the evidence sampled, we judged the licensee to be implementing adequate arrangements for minimising, so far as is reasonably practicable, the rate of production and the total quantity of radioactive waste accumulated on the site, and for recording the waste accumulated. We also judged that radioactive material and waste is adequately controlled and contained. We therefore rated both licence conditions ‘Green’ (no formal action) with no regulatory issues raised.

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 ONR - Email newsletter - 'ONR News'

6. Contacts

Office for Nuclear Regulation
Redgrave Court
Merton Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 7HS
Website: www.onr.org.uk
Email: contact@onr.gov.uk

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References

There are no sources in the current document.