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| ONR Site Report  Torness Power Station |



ONR Site Report

Torness Power Station

Report for period: 1 January – 31 March 2024

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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 Torness Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR 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 January – 31 March 2024:

16 - 17 January

13 – 15 February

27 – 28 February

26 – 27 March

# 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:

* Incidents on the site
* Emergency arrangements
* Safety mechanisms devices and circuits
* Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing
* Accumalation of radioactive waste
* Leakage and escapeof radioactive waste
* Annual review of safety and security

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 about 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)](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 annual review of safety and security (AROSS) was held in February 2024. This is an event where station management meet safety, security and environmental regulators to present a self-critical analysis of the performance of the site over the past twelve months and identify priorities for improvement.

The AROSS included a plant walk down, and a series of presentations where regulators have the opportunity to ask questions and respond to the material presented. We were content that a true reflection of site was presented and there was open and honest discussion between regulators and Torness management.

In March 2024 we continued to track progress of the fire safety improvements being implemented in the Torness admin, stores and workshop areas. This work is being undertaken in response to a non-compliances issue identified during one of our inspections in May 2023 and a subsequent enforcement letter we issued.

A specific project team has been established at Torness to carry out the fire safety improvements, utilising specialist external resources to carry out fire safety surveys and undertake the physical improvement works.

Progress is being made regarding the fire safety improvement work. However, accessibility to complete some improvement work have caused delay and timescales for completion of the improvement work to slip. We have re-emphasised the importance of timely implementation of the fire safety improvements. We are seeking assurance that the remaining improvements will be completed within the timescales of the project delivery programme.

We have a regulatory issue to track progress of the fire safety improvements and will continue to monitor improvement being implemented through site interventions.

In November 2023 it was reported that during a routine maintenance test run a main diesel generator tripped, this was following connection to the Reactor 2 electrical board. The diesel generator tripped after being synchronised for approximately 40 minutes. Local alarms were evident which initiated the switchgear to trip.

Torness investigated the fault using the technical fault finding process with input from EDF’s central engineering teams and specialist contractor to ascertain and identify the cause of the fault.

In March we followed up on this incident and have engaged with the event recovery and central engineering teams at the site. Torness have concluded their fault finding and forensic testing, which showed that the incident was caused by a defective oil feed line which starved the governor. Extent of condition checks will be conducted on the remaining diesel generators.

We continue to receive routine updates, the effected components are currently being replaced and the diesel generators are expected to be returned to service in April 2024.

# 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:

**Reactor 2 power drift in December 2023 –** On 24 December 2023 at approximately 5.06pm , Reactor 2 drift power was noted to have suddenly reduced by approximately 15MWth. At the same time an alarm initiated for PQ78 control rod at lower end limit and rod position low. The rod position was checked and PQ78 was at 4.2% withdrawn. No other anomalies were noted, drift power recovered to the same level as before the minor transient as all other control rods remained under auto control.

Channel Gas Outlet temperatures were surveyed for any high readings and nothing was noted. All other control loops remained on auto, no other transients were observed. PQ78 was selected to test/trim and driven to 10% in order to clear computer auto control lower limit. PQ78 was re-engaged on auto and picked up controlling as expected.

We are content with the immediate actions taken. Torness are conducting an internal investigation into the incident to identify the root cause. We will await the Torness internal investigation outcome prior to any further follow up.

# 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:

None issued in this reporting period.

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 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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