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| ONR Site Report  EDF Energy – Sizewell B |



ONR Site Report

EDF Energy - Sizewell B

**Report for period**: 1 April – 30 June 2024

**Authored by**: Nominated Site Inspector

**Approved by**: Head of Operating Reactors

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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 (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

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.

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# Inspections

## Date(s) of inspection

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

3 – 4 April

1 – 2 May

7 – 9 May

29 – 30 May

The ONR Chair, Chief Nuclear Inspector and Head of Operating Reactors made an inspection on the following date during the report period:

11 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 Sizewell B covered the following:

* control and supervision of operations;
* staff training;
* emergency preparedness and emergency planning;
* outage preparations
* periodic safety review and long term operation
* nuclear site re-licensing and land transfer

**Control and supervision of operations**

The morning and afternoon Main Control Room (MCR) shift handovers were inspected. The Shift Managers and MCR Supervisors provided thorough situational and future focus briefings to the whole of their shift operations teams.

Work week planning was also inspected where future maintenance activities planned for three, nine and thirteen weeks’ time were discussed, activity by activity, to determine what challenges and risks to delivery were evident and what measures were required to ensure successful completion. I noted professional, open and engaged dialogue was demonstrated by all present. I noted that attendees clearly understood the nuclear safety significance of the various plant items requiring scheduled maintenance.

The activities of the Work Execution Centre (WEC) during the handover of ongoing work to the Duty WEC duly authorised person (DAP) from the MCR Supervisor and within the WEC itself was inspected. We noted that the Duty WEC DAP is a post held following time served as an MCR Supervisor which is an appointed position. It was evident that the Duty WEC DAP was a suitably qualified and experienced person with significant plant knowledge.

We were content, from the sample of activities inspected, that the licensee carried out no operations which affected safety except under the control and supervision of suitably qualified and experienced persons appointed for that purpose by the licensee.

In this period, other routine Sizewell B matters covered the following :

**Staff training**

As Sizewell B Technical Specifications (tech specs) differ from the rest of the EDF fleet we decided to attend an introductory 3 day internal course to gain a greater understanding of their application. Fundamentally the tutors explained to candidates that the correct application of tech specs not only ensures compliance with LC23 ‘Operating rules’ but also ensures compliance with LC28 ‘Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing’ through the introduction of specified surveillance requirements and surveillance programmes.

The 3 day course ended with a 2 hour assessment where candidates had to achieve an 80% pass mark. The assessment was suitably challenging and provided us with assurance that participants (who on this occasion were mainly from design authority and maintenance planning functions) were provided with sufficient entry level knowledge of the application of tech specs to assist them in their roles.

**Emergency preparedness and emergency planning**

During routine interventions, the following were inspected:

* Alternative Access Control Point (AACP) (located within the RCA)
* Main Access Control Point (ACP)
* Emergency Control Centre (ECC)
* Auxiliary Shutdown Room (ASR) (which also provides plant state indication) should the main control room be untenable.
* The offsite Emergency Response Centre (opened in ~2012 which included storage and maintenance facilities for EDF’s (post Fukushima learning) deployable back up equipment (DBUE); district survey facilities; backup ECC)
* A shift exercise
* Annual emergency planning performance review meeting

From the sample inspected, we were content with the facility conditions and emergency preparedness at the site.

**Outage preparations**

The outage intentions meeting for refuelling outage #19, commencing in October, was held during the period. We will continue routine interactions on outage readiness until the outage commences.

**Periodic safety review**

Our assessment of the third periodic safety review (PSR) for Sizewell B remains ongoing. Our decision on the adequacy of the PSR is due in January 2025. During this reporting period a number of interventions with the licensee have been undertaken by our specialist inspectors to assist in their assessment work.

**Long term operation**

The licensee has requested us to 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 have agreed to review their proposal, consistent with our enabling philosophy. This review remains ongoing.

**Nuclear site re-licensing and land transfer**

During this reporting period our specialists have been assessing a re-licensing proposal associated with a small parcel of land transfer from Sizewell A to Sizewell B. There is no nuclear safety significance to this work but legally administrative in nature.

## Other work

The site inspector attended the site stakeholder group in May and briefed those present with a summary of recent interventions.

Members of the public, who would like further information on our inspection activities during the reporting period, can view site Intervention Reports at [ONR Intervention Reports](https://www.onr.org.uk/publications/publication-search/?type=inspectionRecordPublication) on our website [www.onr.org.uk](http://www.onr.org.uk).

Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk).

# 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.

There were no such matters or events of significance during the period.

# 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.

* No LIs, Enforcement Notices or Enforcement letters were issued during this period.

Reports detailing the above regulatory decisions can be found on the ONR 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 [ONR - Email newsletter - 'ONR News'](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.onr.org.uk%2Fonrnews%2Findex.htm&data=05%7C02%7CDavid.Prescott%40onr.gov.uk%7C7bc120c0ca2c449b79e708dc976507ea%7C742775df807748d681d01e82a1f52cb8%7C0%7C0%7C638551707393441549%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=VqfXm7l9byba73391V%2BSMitph%2Fa%2B%2BiuSNtR7ieoxo%2B4%3D&reserved=0).

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