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| ONR Site Report  EDF – Hartlepool Power Station |



ONR site report

EDF - Hartlepool Power Station

**Report for period**: 01 January – 31 March 2025

**Authored by**: Site Inspector

**Approved by**: Superintending Inspector

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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 Hartlepool Local Community Liaison Committee and are also available on our website: [www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/llcssg-reports](http://www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/llcssg-reports).

Our site inspectors usually attend Hartlepool Local Community Liaison Committee 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 2025:

* 8 – 9 January
* 28 – 30 January
* 25 February
* 26 – 28 March

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# 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 Hartlepool Power Station covered the following:

* examination, maintenance, inspection and testing
* staff training, qualifications and experience

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](http://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](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk).

**Local Community Liaison Committee**

The ONR site inspector attended the Hartlepool LCLC meeting in January 2025. They provided a summary of the content of the previous quarterly report to the attendees and was available to answer questions from the committee members.

**Outage Intentions Meeting**

The ONR site inspector and outage project inspector attended the Reactor 1 outage intentions meeting. EDF provided an update on the status of their preparations for the upcoming statutory outage which is due to commence in April 2025. The station will be required to apply for a Licence Instrument on completion of the outage from ONR prior to restarting the reactor.

**Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER)**

The inspection focused on compliance with the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) at Hartlepool Power Station (HRA). This was demonstrated through discussions with station staff, reviewing station processes, as well as observing physical control and management of work equipment at site.

We considered that the station demonstrated it had adequate arrangements in place in relation to the maintenance and the inspection of work equipment. In addition, we considered that it had adequate arrangements to ensure that only persons with appropriate information, instruction and training were able to access and use work equipment. Based on our sample inspection, we rated the stations implementation of the arrangements for the provision and use of work equipment to be ‘Green’.

**Post Trip Logic Sequencing Equipment system based inspection (SBI)**

The reactor post trip logic system is a critical control and instrumentation based system that automatically operates essential plant in sequence to provide reactor cooling following a reactor trip to control temperature and remove decay heat. This includes establishing appropriate gas circulation, cooling water flow and, if necessary, backup electrical power supplies.

We conducted a system-based inspection of the post trip logic system which involved pre-inspection sampling of documentation, on-site discussion with relevant EDF personnel and a plant-walkdown including review of procedures.

We judged that the post trip logic system was being adequately managed to fulfil its safety function defined in the safety case. We issued a rating of ‘Green’ for the inspection.

## Other work

During the period, our site inspector held routine meetings with station staff to monitor the performance of the site by:

* Reviewing the current plant status and all open regulatory issues associated with Hartlepool Power Station with the Technical and Safety Support Manager.
* Meeting on a weekly basis with the site-based Independent Nuclear Assurance team to ensure the internal regulator function remains effective and verifying information provided by the station.

# 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 particular note during the period were:

**Enhanced Regulatory Attention:**

The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has moved Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station operated by EDF into enhanced regulatory attention for safety.

We have made the decision based on evidence gained from ongoing targeted engagements at the site which have identified areas where improvements are required.

The change in regulatory attention level does not relate to EDF’s recent decision to extend the operating lifetime of the station, which is subject to ongoing safety standards being demonstrated.

The enhanced regulatory attention level reflects the effort we are using to influence improvements in areas including conventional health and safety, the number of site incidents and the production of nuclear safety cases.

Our inspections and assessments at Hartlepool continue to support the regulatory view that the station remains safe to operate.

We place sites into enhanced attention to achieve improved performance in specific areas, which is a key part of our role as an independent regulator.

EDF has already submitted a performance improvement plan to us to address the areas we identified as requiring improvement at the site. We have reviewed this plan and are confident it will address our outlined concerns.

With our enabling regulatory approach, we are committed to working with the licensee to ensure all these issues are addressed.

Regulatory attention levels are set by us and are assigned based on our assessment of overall performance, considering a broad range of safety and operational issues that a site is addressing.

# 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 the above regulatory decisions can be found on our website: [www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/project-assessment-reports](http://www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/project-assessment-reports).

# 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](https://www.onr.org.uk/news/newsletter/).

# Contacts

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