

From: Contact ONR <Contact@onr.gov.uk>

Sent: 06 August 2021 11:55

To: [REDACTED] >

Cc: Contact ONR <Contact@onr.gov.uk>

Subject: HPGE202108035 - Safety incident at Taishan - ONR response - 6 August 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 2 August. Please find our response below which I hope offers some further clarification.

We have not been given access to or requested the data that EDF S.A. in France may have seen. The data is likely to be restricted to the Taishan project and ONR has no vires over access to such data. Furthermore, the data will have only provided an estimated number of failures, which can't be determined with certainty or the causes of failure identified until after the reactor has been shutdown.

As reported in the press, Taishan Unit 1 has recently been shutdown for inspection of the fuel. It is therefore important to allow the inspection to complete and the root causes of any failures to be identified. It is too early to speculate on this until after the inspections and analysis of the inspection data has been completed.

Once the information is available to NNB GenCo we will discuss the detailed findings from the Taishan fuel inspections with Hinkley Point C (HPC) and Sizewell C (SZC) to consider if there are any implications for the EPR reactors in the UK. We will also continue to engage with the relevant regulatory authorities in China, Finland and France, for example through the Multinational Design Evaluation Programme (MDEP) or directly, to ensure we all have a consistent understanding and discuss any learning for all the EPR's. Given that fuel is not expected to be delivered to the HPC site for a number of years, we are currently confident that if any modifications are necessary these will be able to be made prior to start of operation of the EPR in the UK. Our current permissioning strategy is such that NNB GenCo will not be able to bring fuel onto site or indeed load fuel into the reactor without our permission, which will have to be supported by an adequate safety justification. This will include consideration of any operational experience gained from the other EPR's, that is available up to that point.

Regarding GDA, the end of the GDA design was the starting point for HPC and the current HPC design is the starting point for SZC, which has already taken on board learning from the other EPR's since the end of GDA, and we would expect future learning to be considered and, if necessary, modifications made. It is not required to go back to GDA given the significant regulatory scrutiny of the HPC design and its evolution since GDA. Instead, post any decision to grant a nuclear site licence, SZC will be regulated through the licence conditions attached to the nuclear site licence. This will require SZC to seek our permission to start certain activities, for example the start of nuclear safety related construction (the first pour of safety classified reinforced concrete for buildings is important for nuclear safety) and other activities throughout construction and commissioning. As part of this the licensee is required to submit an adequate safety case to us which will include justification for relevant

operational experience, for example from Taishan. The initial safety case for SZC is currently understood to be the pre-construction safety report, which once submitted will be reviewed by us to inform our decision whether to allow SZC to start construction. It is through this ongoing development of the safety case and our permissioning regime that the licensee will have to demonstrate that SZC meets the highest levels of safety.

There is currently no intention to renew the DAC as this is not required for the SZC project. As explained above, the SZC design will be assessed through our programme of inspections and assessment of the safety case, required to allow the licensee to start certain activities.

I hope this information is helpful and answers your questions but please get back in touch via contact@onr.gov.uk should you need anything further from us.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]



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