

# Wylfa Nuclear Power Station

## Environmental Statement Pre-Application Opinion



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**Nuclear Reactors (Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning)  
Regulations 1999 (as amended)**

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**NUCLEAR REACTORS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR DECOMMISSIONING) REGULATIONS 1999 (as amended)**

**THE EXECUTIVE'S PRE-APPLICATION OPINION AS TO THE PROPOSED FORMAT AND CONTENT OF AN APPLICATION FOR EIADR CONSENT TO DECOMMISSION WYLFA NUCLEAR POWER STATION**

**Issue**

- 1) Magnox Ltd has asked the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to provide a pre-application opinion on the proposed format and content of an application for consent to decommission Wylfa Nuclear Power Station under the Nuclear Reactors (Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning) Regulations 1999 (as amended; EIADR).

**Background**

- 2) The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), as an agency of the HSE, is the enforcing authority for EIADR. EIADR grants consent to projects to decommission nuclear power stations and nuclear reactors. An application for consent includes primarily an Environmental Statement (ES), which presents an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), for the project. The information to be included in an ES is referred to and specified in Schedule 1 of EIADR and can be found in appendix 2. The application is subject to extensive stakeholder consultation before consent is granted.
- 3) EIADR provides for the applicant to seek opinion from key stakeholders on what should be included in their application and ES, a so-called pre-application opinion (PAO), before making the application.
- 4) Wylfa obtained a PAO in 2007 and EIADR consent to decommission in March 2009. The consent provided for the decommissioning project to start within 5 years of this date. However, due to extended electricity generation Wylfa is not expected to shut-down completely and begin decommissioning until around September 2014. By this time, the current consent will have expired, requiring Wylfa to obtain a new consent.
- 5) Wylfa has asked HSE to provide a PAO regarding their new application for consent. To inform this Wylfa submitted a 'Desktop review' scoping report, which lays out the proposed format and content for their application. In short, the proposal is to build upon their original application with its associated ES, updating it as appropriate to reflect changes and developments since the original application was made. The resultant application for consent will then comprise the original ES and the desktop review, which together will provide a comprehensive environmental impact assessment for the decommissioning project.

**Consultation**

- 6) HSE has consulted with statutory consultation bodies (as specified in regulation 2 of EIADR). The list of consultees is provided in Appendix 1. All consultees provided comments during the consultation process.

- 7) Consultees were generally satisfied with the proposed approach to build upon and update the original application and ES. A number of issues were highlighted that should be considered in the ES. These have been considered and incorporated, as appropriate, into HSE's opinion. All responses have been copied in full to the licensee.

### **HSE's opinion on the format and content of an application for EIADR consent**

- 8) The Wylfa scoping report presents the proposed format and content of an application submitted to HSE as an application for EIADR consent. The proposed approach is to conduct a 'desktop review' to thoroughly review the original ES to bring it up to date, review the proposed decommissioning methods and mitigation measures to be used and address any contemporary issues. HSE accepts this as an appropriate and pragmatic approach.
- 9) After due consideration of the desktop review and taking into account comments received from consultees, HSE has identified below a number of specific points and issues that should be addressed in the general update of the ES. It is noted that these should be considered in conjunction with the previous PAO, which contains still pertinent opinion and advice.
- a) The desktop review will appropriately review the environmental impact of the decommissioning work and the required mitigation measures to avoid or minimise any environmental impacts. As indicated in the scoping report it is essential to consider where technology and approaches may have moved on since the original ES was created to ensure that best practice is utilised for the decommissioning works and mitigation measures etc.
  - b) In relation to mitigation measures it is important that their effectiveness can be judged. The desktop review should consider where it may be necessary to collect or generate baseline/background data for reference and later comparison as the decommissioning work is underway, for instance to establish background levels of dust and noise on site. Similarly, plans for regular or periodic surveys, e.g. for ecology or wildlife, should be considered.
  - c) The desktop review will appropriately consider the potential impact of the decommissioning project at Wylfa with other large-scale projects on Anglesey. This will mainly cover the likely adjacent development of the proposed new nuclear power station but should also cover other developments such as those that form part of the Anglesey Energy Island Programme, as appropriate. The consideration should include issues such as:
    - i) Potential for combined and cumulative impact with these other projects
    - ii) Potential synergies between the projects, for instance in traffic management or utilisation of share facilities such as the marine offloading facility planned for the proposed new nuclear power station
    - iii) Socio-economic impacts, such as the impact on local jobs, impact on the Welsh language and tourism
- Wylfa are encouraged to work with these other projects where possible to share intelligence, best practice and environmental data etc, although it is acknowledged that the extent to which this can be done may be limited due to commercial or legal reasons.
- d) There should be a review of the regulatory framework and legislation that applies to the decommissioning project to identify any revised or new legal duties or responsibilities etc. A side-by-side comparison of current and 2009 legislation in a table might be a particularly effective way to present this. Similarly, there are a number of other plans and strategies of relevance to major projects on Anglesey that may be considered in the review as appropriate, examples may include:

- i) The Anglesey Landscape Strategy Update 2011
- ii) Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Plan (2009-14)
- iii) Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

10) A non-technical summary of the desktop review should also be provided as part of the application (as indicated in EIADR schedule 1).

### **Presentation**

- 11) This opinion will be presented to all consultees listed in Appendix 1 and will be displayed at the HSE's Knowledge Centre, HSE Local Area Office and local public libraries listed in Appendix 3.
- 12) Alternatively, the opinion is available on the Internet at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/consult.htm>

### **The next stages of the EIADR process**

- 13) It is expected that the licensee will progress with the production of the desktop review and submit this as an application for EIADR consent. This application will then be subject to a 90-day public consultation prior to HSE being able to grant consent for the decommissioning project described. It is expected that the new consent will be issued before the current consent expires and before Wylfa ceases generation.

### **Contact Information**

- 14) EIADR Team, Office for Nuclear Regulation, 4N.1 Redgrave Court, Bootle, L20 7HS; E-mail: [EIADR-Wylfa@hse.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:EIADR-Wylfa@hse.gsi.gov.uk)
- 15) General information on EIADR can be found at [www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/eiadr.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/eiadr.htm)

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Consultees on the desktop review scoping report**

#### ***Statutory Consultation Bodies***

Countryside Council for Wales

Environment Agency Wales

Isle of Anglesey County Council

## APPENDIX 2

This Appendix describes the general content of an environmental statement as required by EIADR (detailed in schedule 1 of EIADR), together with some elaborations detailing HSE's expectations. It is expected that an application for consent will adequately address all of these issues.

### SCHEDULE 1

#### INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

##### PART I

*(which substantially reproduces the provisions of Annex IV of the Directive)*

1. Description of project, including in particular:

— a description of the physical characteristics of the whole project and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases,

— a description of the main characteristics of the production processes, for instance the nature and quantity of the materials used,

— an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation and other similar matters) resulting from the operation of the proposed project.

2. An outline of the main alternatives studied by the licensee and an indication of the main reasons for his choice, taking into account the environmental effects.

3. A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed project, including in particular, population, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the inter-relationship between the above factors.

4. A description of the likely effects of the proposed project on the environment, which should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the project, resulting from:

(a) the existence of the project;

(b) the use of natural resources;

(c) the emission of pollutants, the creation of nuisances and the elimination of waste, and the description by the licensee of the forecasting methods used to assess the effects on the environment.

5. A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.

6. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 5 of this Part.

7. An indication of any difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered by the licensee in compiling the required information.

## **PART II**

*(which substantially reproduces Article 5.3 of the Directive)*

8. A description of the project comprising information on the site, design and size of the project.

9. A description of the measures envisaged in order to avoid, reduce and, if possible, remedy significant adverse effects.

10. The data required to identify and assess the main effects which the project is likely to have on the environment.

11. An outline of the main alternatives studied by the licensee and an indication of the main reasons for his choice, taking into account the environmental effects.

12. A non-technical summary of the information mentioned in paragraphs 8 to 11 of this Part.

### **APPENDIX 3**

The PAO can be obtained from the following locations.

#### **Health and Safety Executive**

Knowledge Centre  
Redgrave Court  
Merton Road  
Bootle  
L20 7HS

Email: [knowledgecentre@hse.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:knowledgecentre@hse.gsi.gov.uk)

Website: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/consult.htm>

#### **Health and Safety Executive**

Knowledge Centre  
Wrexham Area Office  
Unit 7 & 8 Edison Court  
Ellice Way  
Wrexham Technology Park  
Wrexham  
LL13 7YT

#### **Amlwch Library**

Parys Road  
Amlwch  
LL68 9EA

Telephone: 01407 830145

#### **Holyhead Library**

Newry Fields  
Holyhead  
LL65 1LA

Telephone: 01407 762917

**Cemaes Bay Library**

Glascoed Road  
Cemaes Bay  
LL67 0HN

Telephone: 01407 711025

**Llangefni Library**

Lon-y-Felin  
LL77 7RT

Telephone: 01248 752095

**Bangor Library**

Ffordd Gwynedd  
Bangor  
Gwynedd  
LL57 1DR

Telephone: 01248 353479

**Caernarfon Library**

Pavillion Road  
Caernarfon  
Gwynedd  
LL55 1AS

Telephone: 01286 675944

