



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield

Report for period 1 January to 31 March 2014

Foreword

This report is issued as part of ONR's commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the Aldermaston and Burghfield sites available to the public. Reports are distributed quarterly to members for the Local Liaison Committee and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llic/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Aldermaston and Burghfield Local Liaison Committee meetings and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INSPECTIONS	3
2	ROUTINE MATTERS	3
3	NON-ROUTINE MATTERS	4
4	REGULATORY ACTIVITY	5
5	NEWS FROM ONR	5
6	CONTACTS	6

1 INSPECTIONS

1.1 Dates of inspection

The ONR inspectors carried out inspections on the following dates during the quarter:

- 9 & 10 January
- 13 to 17 January
- 22 & 23 January
- 27 to 29 January
- 6 February
- 10 to 14 February
- 17 to 20 February
- 10 to 14 March
- 18 & 19 March
- 26 March

2 ROUTINE MATTERS

2.1 Inspections at Aldermaston and Burghfield

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 Act 1974 (HSWA74); and
- regulations made under HSWA74, for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 (IRR99) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99).

The inspections entail monitoring 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. Inspectors seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, routine inspections of Aldermaston and Burghfield covered the following:

- examination, maintenance, inspection and testing;
- safety systems;
- management of operations including control and supervision;
- staff training, qualifications and experience;
- new plant construction and commissioning;
- emergency preparedness;
- safety documentation and periodic review;
- incidents on the site;
- radiological protection;
- operating rules and instructions;
- radioactive waste management;

- quality assurance and records;
- organisational changes;
- decommissioning;
- industrial safety.

In general, ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements to be adequate in the areas inspected. However, where improvements were considered necessary, the licensee made satisfactory commitments to address the issues, and the inspectors will monitor progress during future visits. Where necessary, ONR will take formal regulatory enforcement action to ensure that appropriate remedial measures are implemented to reasonably practicable timescales.

Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001

These regulations require nuclear site operators to review, on a three yearly basis, the potential for emergencies that may affect the local population. AWE plc is currently preparing the REPPIR Reports of Assessment updates due in June 2014.

Higher Activity Waste

In 2007, ONR issued a licence instrument to AWE that required the reduction in volume and encapsulation of 1000 drums of intermediate level waste by February 2014. As reported at the March LLC meeting, the licence instrument has now expired without its requirements being met. ONR is investigating the licensee's failure to meet the requirements of the licence instrument and will consider enforcement action in accordance with ONR's enforcement policy.

Change to ONR nominated site inspector

After a period of four years, there will be a new ONR nominated site inspector for the AWE sites. The new inspector will introduce him/herself to the committee members at the next meeting in June.

2.2 Other work

The nominated site inspector attended the planned meeting of the local liaison committee on the 26 March.

3 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.

Matters and events of particular note during the period were:

Fire Detection Systems

During the period covered by this report there were two events reported by AWE relating to the operability and availability of building fire detection systems. The company is investigating potential common factors that might apply to the wider aspects of fire detection system management. ONR has been kept informed of progress with these issues and the company has provided assurance that its immediate review of system status has shown that all detection systems are functional. ONR will require that the company's medium and longer-term actions ensure proper and effective management of all the installed systems and will ensure progress using appropriate measures.

Submarine Dismantling Project – MoD Provisional Shortlist of Potential ILW Storage Sites

ONR is aware of MoD's publication of its provisional shortlist of potential sites for the interim storage of intermediate level waste (ILW) arising from its Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP) and of its stakeholder pre-engagement period. All of the potential sites are covered by existing nuclear site licences issued under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 and are therefore subject to the conditions of the site licence and to safety regulation by ONR. ONR has no view on the suitability or otherwise of any of the potential sites. We will consider any specific proposals for SDP ILW storage in accordance with site licence arrangements when such proposals are presented to ONR. Regulation of the safety of the storage of waste at any of the sites will be through the existing legal arrangements.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

ONR inspectors may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, ONR issues 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 issue enforcement notices to secure improvements to safety.

- No LIs or enforcement notices were issued during the period.

Reports detailing regulatory decisions can be found on the ONR website at <http://www.onr.org.uk/pars/>.

5 NEWS FROM ONR

ONR is changing

On 1 April 2014, ONR was established as a Public Corporation under the Energy Act 2013. As a result of our change in legal status, the way that we operate will evolve as we make use of the flexibility that the new status affords us. The Energy Act 2013 clarifies the legal framework for regulation of GB nuclear sites and the responsibility now rests firmly with ONR.

In addition, the legislative changes give ONR the powers to regulate conventional health and safety. This change to legislation will give us the necessary powers to continue to provide efficient and effective regulation of the nuclear industry, holding it to account on behalf of the public.

To support the launch of ONR as a Public Corporation, ONR has its own logo which will be used on all documents and other external communication media. Other changes include a new enforcement policy statement, a new website and email addresses, a new Annual Plan 2014/15, new warrants for inspectors, and new ONR branded personal protective equipment.

Insight into ONR's work as an independent regulator of the nuclear industry can be found in ONR's Quarterly News. The online publication (<http://www.onr.org.uk/onr-quarterly-report.htm>) reports on the key themes and developments in each of ONR's regulatory programmes and provides an update about the ongoing changes at ONR. <http://www.onr.org.uk/index.htm>. For the latest news and updates from ONR visit the website and sign up for our ebulletin (<http://www.onr.org.uk/ebulletin/index.htm>).

6 CONTACTS

Office for Nuclear Regulation
Redgrave Court
Merton Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 7HS

website: www.onr.org.uk

email: ONREnquiries@onr.gsi.gov.uk

This document is issued by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). For further information about ONR, or to report inconsistencies or inaccuracies in this publication please visit <http://www.onr.org.uk/feedback.htm>.

© Office for Nuclear Regulation, 2014

If you wish to reuse this information visit www.onr.org.uk/copyright for details.

Published 05/14

For published documents, the electronic copy on the ONR website remains the most current publicly available version and copying or printing renders this document uncontrolled.