



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

Report for period 1 April to 30 June 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/llc/>).

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.

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1 INSPECTIONS

1.1 Dates of inspection

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

- 7 to 10 April
- 15 to 16 April
- 12 to 14 May
- 19 to 22 May
- 16 to 19 June

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;
- staff training, qualifications and experience;
- new plant construction and commissioning;
- emergency preparedness;
- incidents on the site;
- operating rules and instructions;
- quality assurance and records;
- modifications to plant, equipment and safety cases;
- emergency preparedness;
- radioactive leak detection.

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 submitted the REPIR Reports of Assessment updates to ONR 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 continues to investigate the licensee's failure to meet the requirements of the licence instrument and will consider enforcement action in accordance with ONR's enforcement policy.

2.2 Other work

The nominated site inspector attended the planned meeting of the local liaison committee on the 4 June.

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:

Off-site Discovery of non-AWE Radioactive Source

ONR was notified of an event involving the discovery of a Caesium source on domestic property, and more specifically its subsequent receipt onto the Aldermaston licensed site. ONR are aware that AWE are investigating this, are confident that it did not originate from AWE and are aware that the Environment Agency is leading activities regarding the disposal of the source.

Fire Detection Systems

In our LLC report for January to March 2014 we reported that we were following-up AWE's response to two events relating to the operability and availability of building fire alarm and detection systems. During April to June ONR has been kept informed of progress with these issues and has discussed with the company the improvement programme it proposed for the medium and longer-term effective management of these systems. ONR will continue to ensure progress using appropriate measures.

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 the way that it communicates enforcement action against licensees. With immediate effect, ONR will issue a press release to key journalists to communicate issue of prohibition notices (on the day the notice is issued), and improvement/other notices (after any applicable appeal period). The press release will be published on the news centre of the ONR website and via twitter, and will be reiterated in ONR's Quarterly News.

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

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