



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

Report for period 1 July to 30 September 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 4

5 CONTACTS 5

1 INSPECTIONS

1.1 Dates of inspection

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

- 14 to 17 July, 24 July and 29 to 31 July
- 5 to 6 August, 12 to 13 August, 18 to 21 August and 27 August
- 15 to 18 September and 29 to 30 September

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;
- staff training, qualifications and experience;
- new plant construction and commissioning;
- operating rules and instructions;
- radioactive leak detection;
- marking of the site boundary;
- control of operations;
- accumulation of waste;
- decommissioning;
- Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999.

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.

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 ONR site inspector for Burghfield licensed site attended the planned meeting of the local liaison committee on the 17 September.

Several members of ONR's inspection team for AWE attended the routine Annual Review of Safety at Aldermaston on 30 September.

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.

There were no matters and events of particular note during the period.

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.

- LI 528 – agreement to modifications associated with the existing warhead.

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

5 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 08/14

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.