



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

Report for period 1 October to 31 December 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/lc/>).

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:

- October 1, 11, 13-16, 23, 29-31
- November 10-14, 15, 18, 27
- December 1-5, 9-11, 15, 17

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;
- control of operations;
- accumulation of waste;
- emergency preparedness and response;
- Nuclear Safety Committee;
- organisational capability.

In general, ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements to be adequate in the areas inspected. Where improvements were considered necessary, the licensee made satisfactory commitments to address the issues, and the inspectors will monitor progress during future visits. If 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 (LI) to AWE that required the reduction in volume and encapsulation of 1000 drums of intermediate level waste by February 2014. As reported at previous Local Liaison Committee (LLC) meetings, the LI has now expired without its requirements being met. ONR continues to investigate the licensee's failure to meet the

requirements of the LI and will consider enforcement action in accordance with ONR's enforcement policy.

Emergency Demonstration Exercises

In order to comply with the requirements of Licence Condition 11 (LC11), all licensees should periodically demonstrate their emergency arrangements to ONR. AWE demonstrated their arrangements during separate exercises during the quarter for Aldermaston and Burghfield sites. During these demonstration exercises ONR judged that the fundamental requirements of LC11 were met but some specific shortfalls were identified. ONR has received assurances that these shortfalls were promptly remedied.

Emergency Planning Zones

ONR has assessed the information provided by AWE regarding the on-site hazards and the need for an off-site emergency plan of defined minimum radii around the sites. ONR is now considering communities and natural boundaries within and close to these radii in order to define a zone for West Berkshire Council to implement an emergency plan.

Periodic Safety Reviews

AWE has proposed a modified Periodic Safety Review (PRS) submission programme to ONR, whereby safety significant systems are assessed against modern standards and improved wherever reasonably practicable. This programme aims to provide earlier remediation of identified shortfalls and to smooth out future submissions to enable better resourcing. However, where modified PRS submission timescales have slipped, ONR has required AWE to continue to fully justify facility operations during any slipped periods.

2.2 Other work

The ONR nominated site inspector for the AWE licensed sites attended the planned meeting of the LLC on the 17 December.

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.

ONR was notified by AWE of an injury to a worker falling from a ladder and requiring hospital treatment during the quarter. ONR's investigation into this incident is on-going.

There were no other 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 movement of legacy material.

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

5 CONTACTS

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