



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Urenco UK Limited Capenhurst

Report for period 1 January – 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 above site available to the public. Reports are distributed quarterly to members of the Urenco UK Limited Local Liaison Committee and are available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend the Urenco UK Limited 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 Site Inspector and other ONR Inspectors conducted interventions on the following dates during the quarter:

January	8 & 23
February	6, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 25
March	3, 4, 5, 6, 13, 19 & 27

The Chief Executive Officer of ONR visited the licensed site on 31 January. An ONR Deputy Chief Inspector and an ONR Superintending Inspector visited the site on 6 February. The Managing Director of Urenco UK Limited met with the ONR Chief Executive Officer and the ONR Chief Inspector at Bootle on 31 March.

2 ROUTINE MATTERS

2.1 Inspections

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. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, routine inspections of the Urenco UK Limited licensed site covered the following:

Nuclear Safety Case.

Aspects of the nuclear safety case, justifying the nuclear chemical process being proposed at the Tails Management Facility, were inspected by ONR and HSE – Hazardous Installations Directorate, (HID), inspectors, at a meeting held with the licensee on 8 January. The licensee readily agreed to develop part of the nuclear safety case, in order to prepare a justification for the preferred choice of chemical process.

ONR and HSE-HID inspected aspects of the nuclear safety case methodology being used by the licensee at a site meeting and facility inspection held on 4 March.

The licensee provided an update to the regulators across a range of nuclear safety matters relating to the ongoing construction of the Tails Management Facility at a site meeting on 6 March.

ONR inspected the implementation of the nuclear safety case at the largest enrichment facility on 25 February, with an acceptable outcome.

Emergency Preparedness.

Following ONR observation of the Level One ('on site') emergency exercise held on 26 September 2013, it was agreed that some aspects of the licensee's emergency response capability warranted redemonstration to ONR. Partial redemonstration exercises were observed on the site on 23 January and 3 March, in order to demonstrate fully these aspects to ONR, to an adequate standard.

An inspection of the management of the 'on site' fire and rescue service capability was held on 13 February, with an acceptable outcome.

ONR Radioactive Materials Transport Programme, (RMT).

ONR RMT is in the process of relicensing a number of package designs, which are crucial to the licensee's business. These relate to uranium hexafluoride transport. ONR RMT has held a number of discussions with the licensee and their supply chain to progress these matters. ONR RMT conducted an audit of the radioactive materials transport arrangements, of both Urenco UK Limited and also of Capenhurst Nuclear Services limited, (a tenant company on the Urenco UK Limited licensed site), on 10, 11 and 12 February. The outcome of the inspection was that the Urenco UK Limited arrangements were deemed by ONR to be adequate subject to five corrective actions, agreed with the licensee, the Capenhurst Nuclear Services Limited arrangements being deemed as adequate.

There was a recent failure of a lifting lug, on a French manufactured uranium hexafluoride transport package, at a facility in France. In response, the licensee was found to be clearly aware of this issue and appropriately reviewing the manufacturing records of similar transport packages stored and used at Capenhurst. The use of transport packages manufactured by the company that had produced the package with the failed lifting lug had been appropriately embargoed by the licensee, pending further detailed investigations, being conducted in close cooperation with other users of this particular type of transport package.

Fire Safety.

An ONR fire safety specialist inspector made inspections of the site on 13 February, 13 March and 27 March, the latter visit inspecting the licensee's management of fire safety risks at the Tails Management Facility, currently under construction on the licensed site. The licensee continues to be receptive to the regulatory advice provided by ONR on a range of conventional fire safety matters.

Conventional Industrial Safety inspections.

On 4 and 5 March, an ONR conventional industrial safety inspector and a HSE Occupational Hygiene inspector inspected a range of site facilities, including cooling tower equipment, inspecting the implementation of arrangements to control legionella risk, with a generally positive outcome. On 19 March, the ONR project inspector and HSE specialist construction safety inspectors conducted an inspection of construction activities at the Tails Management Facility.

General comment.

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 site inspector 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.

2.2 Other work

Meetings with the safety representatives.

Meetings are routinely held with the licensee's team of safety representatives and during plant inspections by ONR inspectors, to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety and welfare at work.

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 promptly informed of relevant minor events during this period.

On 13 February, the Ministry of Defence announced that five nuclear facilities across the UK had been identified as potential sites to store waste from disused nuclear powered submarines. One of these sites was the Urenco UK Limited licensed site, at facilities operated by the Capenhurst Nuclear Services Limited tenant organisation. A public consultation on the possible sites will take place in late 2014 and no decisions will be made until this process is completed. The site selected will be used as an interim storage site for submarine reactor components until after 2040, when the UK's geological disposal facility is planned to come into operation. Further details are available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/possible-nuclear-storage-sites>. This topic was discussed at a site meeting between the regulators and the Capenhurst Nuclear Services Limited tenant organisation on 13 March.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

ONR inspectors, specialist inspectors and HSE 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 enforcement notices were issued in this period. No Licence Instruments were issued in this period:

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

5 NEWS FROM ONR

5.1. 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 at (<http://www.onr.org.uk/ebulletin/index.htm>).

- 5.2. 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.
- 5.3. 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.
- 5.4. 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.

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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