



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Chapelcross

Report for period 1 July – 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 above site available to the public. Reports are distributed quarterly to members for the Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group meetings and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to enquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR.

1 INSPECTIONS

1.1 Dates of inspection

The ONR site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the quarter:

- 12–14 August
- 3–5 September

Two inspectors from HSE's Construction Division inspected the site on 3 September.

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);
- 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 Chapelcross covered the following:

- modifications to plants and processes;
- radioactive waste management;
- warning notices.

In general, ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements to be adequate in the areas inspected. Following inspection, the site inspector required that some improvements were made to the low level waste handling facility. The licensee has made a satisfactory commitment 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.

Annual Safety Review Meeting: The meeting for 2014 was held in August, and was preceded by a general inspection of the site. The licensee's safety performance and plans were discussed.

Inspection of Construction: The inspectors from HSE's Construction Division looked at control of contractors, asbestos stripping, and compliance with the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations.

2.2 Other work

Site Stakeholder Group: the site inspector attended the quarterly meeting of the Site Stakeholder Group (SSG), where he made a short presentation and answered questions.

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.

A store at Chapelcross contains waste from the plant that used to extract tritium from material irradiated in the site's reactors; this waste contains residual tritium. In July, the licensee reported that the amount of tritium routinely discharged from that store had increased. Moreover, the discharge being subject to limits in an Authorisation granted by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), it seemed likely that one of those limits would be breached. Magnox Ltd had begun investigations to discover the cause of the increase. ONR and SEPA therefore decided to make a joint inspection in September. Having first assessed the licensee's safety case before the visit, we inspected the building and its equipment. We inspected and discussed the tests that Magnox Ltd had done. We inspected arrangements, instructions, and records associated with maintenance of the building and its equipment, and the records made to show that staff who perform and supervise this work have been suitably trained.

We concluded that despite recent increases, aerial discharges of tritium from the store have been and remain of negligible significance to health and the environment. We stated this conclusion at the meeting of the SSG in September. (Soon afterwards it was confirmed that the predicted breach of the Authorisation had in fact occurred.) We found no plausible explanation for the increases. Magnox Ltd's investigations have been extensive but are still inconclusive. The discharges from the store are a small fraction of the site's total aerial discharge of tritium; nevertheless, it is desirable that both Magnox Ltd and the regulators continue to seek an explanation.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

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

5 NEWS FROM ONR

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>).

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