



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for GE Healthcare Ltd, Grove Centre, Amersham

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 Grove Centre available to the public. Reports are distributed quarterly to members for the Grove Centre Local Liaison Committee and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llic/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend the Grove Centre 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 made inspections on the following dates during the quarter:

26 March 2014

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, on 26 March 2014 ONR carried out a routine system-based inspection of the radiation protection safety function underpinning GE Healthcare's proposed arrangements for decommissioning of the Senior Caves facility. The inspection examined the systems, structures and supporting elements that deliver the radiation protection function underpinning GE Healthcare's proposed arrangements for decommissioning of the Senior Caves facility. We inspected the condition and working order of the engineering features and examined how the licensee is proposing to ensure the effectiveness of these through meeting its obligations under Licence Conditions 12, 14, 23, 24, 27, 28 and 34 in the context of providing and maintaining an adequate containment safety function.

The proposed radiation protection system / structures inspected were found to be suitable and sufficient, in apparent good working order and arrangements had been made to maintain them in a good condition. Our visual inspection of the engineering and interlocks within the Senior Caves facility, the open and informative nature of the responses from its staff, and our rating of adequate to good compliance with the licence conditions inspected against, gave us confidence that GE Healthcare has a high level of competency, the project is being managed well and safety is being given the highest priority. We agreed that although a small number of minor inconsistencies were apparent in the paperwork, it is difficult to fix on any particular concern. The inspection did not give rise to any issue that would prevent GE Healthcare from proceeding to the active commissioning stage, pending completion and internal approval of the safety case.

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

ONR attended GE Healthcare's annual review of safety and environmental protection covering its Amersham and Cardiff sites on 27 March 2014. The annual review meeting considered a report of GE Healthcare's performance in 2013, and discussions focused on key points including:

- Integration of the management of Amersham and Cardiff nuclear operations into the Grove Centre's organisational structure
- New senior site safety and environmental personnel
- Decommissioning at Amersham

ONR provided feedback to GE Healthcare on our impression of the licensee's performance over the year:

- At Amersham, we observed good performance at inspections and the demonstration emergency exercise, and very good progress in and towards decommissioning of redundant facilities.
- Overall, our impression was of two well-run sites, striking a good balance in meeting requirements across the various regulatory frameworks.

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 events on the licensed site during this period, including:

- On 18 February 2014, two packages containing radioactive fluorine-18 were transported with information missing from the hazard labels and delivery notes, and incorrectly showing zero radioactivity on the van manifest reports. GE Healthcare's subsequent review of past shipments identified four other packages which had been incorrectly labelled as having zero radioactivity since May 2012. The licensee has implemented corrective actions relating to modifications to procedures and forms aiming to prevent recurrence of this problem.
- On 7 March 2014, the licensee discovered a small caesium-137 sealed radioactive source during routine monitoring of a sack for non-radioactive waste. The licensee determined that the source would have been collected with waste from its Drytec technetium generator returns and recovery area, and the source is believed to have fallen out of one of the boxes containing a returned generator from a customer. Due to the large number of customers it has not been possible to identify the origin of the source. ONR followed up on this incident at the annual review of safety, and is content with the licensee's investigation and response to the incident. The source has been stored safely and securely, and GE Healthcare has written to its customers reiterating that no additional items should be included with returned Drytec generators.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

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

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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