



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

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 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:

8 & 29 September 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.

### Conventional health and safety

On 8 September ONR's Conventional Health & Safety Inspector for the site held a meeting and site inspection, including a discussion on the licensee's arrangements for dealing with radioactive asbestos waste. The inspection concluded that the licensee's arrangements for managing non-nuclear health and safety on the site appear excellent, in particular in relation to transport safety, working at height, manual handling and decommissioning procedures. ONR observed much evidence that the licensee strives to attain and maintain best practice standards across many areas and topics. Observations for improvement were communicated in relation to testing frequency of fail-to-safety components, and nitrile glove use and suitability.

## Records management, qualifications and experience, and control and supervision

On 29 September the site inspector carried out an inspection of the licensee's arrangements for records management (licence condition 6), the provision of duly authorised and other suitably qualified and experienced persons (licence condition 12) and the control and supervision of operations (licence condition 26). The conclusion of the inspection was that good practice was demonstrated in many areas resulting in effective control and supervision of operations, and the licensee has effective arrangements for making and preserving records. Possibilities for closer alignment of the arrangements with regulatory guidance were discussed, and the licensee agreed to consider how this could be achieved.

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

On 26 August the site hosted an initial familiarisation visit for ONR's Deputy Chief Inspector for Decommissioning, Fuel & Waste including a tour of selected site facilities focusing on intermediate level waste (ILW) storage within the Materials Handling Centre, and current decommissioning projects in redundant and legacy source manufacturing facilities. The site tour showed that good progress in decommissioning had been achieved since the previous inspection on 24 & 25 June and, although the site tour was not a formal inspection, the impression gained by ONR staff was that the licensee was maintaining its previously-observed apparently high standards of organisation, planning, housekeeping and operations, appearing to be an exemplar in many aspects of radioactive waste management and decommissioning. The tour also provided an opportunity to follow up on a recent notification of problems with couplings to air-fed suits (see below): the couplings had all been replaced with an improved version.

## 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 14 July, on their return to the distribution company from the Grove Centre, empty containers that had previously contained radiolabelled pharmaceutical stock material were discovered to have fallen over in transit. The licensee reported that the containers were undamaged and improvements to the transport arrangements have been implemented.
- On 23 July the licensee notified ONR that it could not locate an empty container shielded with depleted uranium. After an extensive investigation and search the container was discovered in a storage area on site, and the licensee reported that it is in the process of reviewing documentation and labelling procedures to prevent a recurrence.
- On 5 August a failure of air suit operation components was observed during pre-operational checks when a short length of airline would not couple with the main airline reel, preventing a normal air flow. Operations ceased, and investigations with the manufacturer and supplier resulted in the replacement of the couplings.

- On 11 September the licensee notified ONR that a pallet of packages containing iodine-131 capsules transported off site was initially accompanied by the paperwork relating to another similar delivery to be made that day. The error was not noticed until after the vehicle had left the site, but before delivery had been made. The driver returned the packages to the site, and the licensee has confirmed that the packages were secure and undamaged. ONR is in the process of investigating this incident.

#### 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.

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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Published 10/14

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