



# Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Harwell

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 Harwell Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lrc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Harwell Site Stakeholder Group meetings and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire 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:

7 - 11 July 2014

ONR Radiation Protection inspectors undertook inspection of compliance with Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999, Regulation 8 on:

1 – 3 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 etc. 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 Harwell covered the following:

- incidents on the site;
- emergency preparedness; and
- radioactive waste management.

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.

Research Sites Restoration Limited (RSRL) provided an update on progress with its improvement programme that has been delivering revisions to arrangements for incident reporting and investigation. The work is now complete and the benefits being realised. It is evident that the improvements that RSRL has progressively been implementing during the past 18 months are now working. RSRL is judged to have established and implemented arrangements to a good standard.

RSRL rehearsed its emergency arrangements through its annual demonstration emergency exercise. The scenario was considered more challenging than previously developed by RSRL. An ONR fire safety specialist inspector and an ONR Magnox site inspector supported

ONR's inspection of this exercise. Overall the exercise was judged to be adequate with some areas identified as above expectations.

Inspection of waste management arrangements were deemed adequate although some areas for improvement were identified for handling Very Low Level Waste (VLLW). RSRL has been requested to commit to ensuring that all VLLW waste is stored and managed to its revised arrangements by 30 September 2014. Waste management within the Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant (LETP) facility is significantly improved and has established a suitable benchmark for other areas of the site to aspire to. Discussions on making ILW waste passively safe concluded that RSRL's current strategy to commence encapsulation by 2018 remains reasonable, subject to clear understanding of the risk reduction that would result. RSRL will review this position and confirm details to ONR in due course.

Inspections were undertaken by ONR radiation protection inspectors as part of ONR's Control of Occupational Radiation Exposure (CORE) project, which assesses compliance with Regulation 8 of Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 (IRR99), which is concerned with the restriction of exposure to ionising radiations so far as is reasonably practicable (SFAIRP). It was concluded that the Licensee is complying with its duties under Regulation 8 but identified several matters with the Site to further improve its arrangements.

## 2.2 Other work

### Interaction with Safety Representatives

The site inspector held a periodic meeting with safety representatives, 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.

### Unsafe Working at Height

During inspection on site the ONR nominated site inspector witnessed a contractor working unsafely at height. The individual was involved in the construction of a temporary building due to store VLLW radioactive waste from RSRL decommissioning activities. The individual concerned, a contractor to RSRL, was witnessed to be standing on the middle rail of a scissor lift while working at a height of approximately 20 to 25 feet. At the time two RSRL staff who had been accompanying the ONR inspector on another topic also observed this activity. The work was stopped and RSRL asked to pursue the matter directly with the individual and his supervisor. I spoke briefly to the contractor's site supervisor who confirmed that he had warned the individual about this practice earlier in the day. RSRL has subsequently confirmed that an incident has been raised and investigation will be undertaken. The individual concerned has been stopped from working on site and the project. RSRL will keep ONR informed of the outcome of its investigation.

### Change of ONR Nominated Site Nuclear Safety Inspector

From the 1 October 2014, the nominated site nuclear safety inspector will change. The new inspector intends to attend the next SSG meeting in December 2014, and he will introduce himself to the group during the meeting.

## 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 collectively termed 'Licence Instruments' (LIs). In addition, inspectors may issue Enforcement Notices to secure improvements to safety.

The following LI has been issued during the period:

**Table 1**  
**Licence Instruments and Enforcement Notices Issued by ONR during this period**

Date	Type	Ref No	Description
15/7/14	Variation to the Site Licence	No 1	RSRL applied to ONR for a Variation of its nuclear site licence at Harwell to exclude two areas of land from the licensed nuclear site.  The Variation was granted on 15 July 2014, to come into force on 25 July 2014. The report detailing ONR's decision to grant the Variation is at <a href="http://www.onr.org.uk/pars/2014/harwell-14-003.pdf">http://www.onr.org.uk/pars/2014/harwell-14-003.pdf</a> .

## 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>).

## 6 CONTACTS

Office for Nuclear Regulation  
Redgrave Court  
Merton Road  
Bootle  
Merseyside  
L20 7HS

website: [www.onr.org.uk](http://www.onr.org.uk)  
email: [ONREnquiries@onr.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ONREnquiries@onr.gsi.gov.uk)

This document is issued by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). For further information about ONR, or to report inconsistencies or inaccuracies in this publication please visit <http://www.onr.org.uk/feedback.htm>.

© Office for Nuclear Regulation, 2014

If you wish to reuse this information visit

[blocked::blocked::BLOCKED::http://www.hse.gov.uk/copyrightwww.onr.org.uk/copyright](http://www.hse.gov.uk/copyrightwww.onr.org.uk/copyright) for details.

Published 11/14

*For published documents, the electronic copy on the ONR website remains the most current publically available version and copying or printing renders this document uncontrolled.*