



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Springfields Fuels Limited

Report for period 1 October – 31 December 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 Springfields Fuels Limited Site Stakeholder Group and are available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend the Springfields Fuels Limited 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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INSPECTIONS	3
2	ROUTINE MATTERS.....	3,4,5
3	NON-ROUTINE MATTERS.....	6
4	REGULATORY ACTIVITY	6
5	NEWS FROM ONR.....	6
6	CONTACTS.....	6,7

1 INSPECTIONS

1.1 Dates of inspection

The ONR Nominated Site Inspector and other ONR Inspectors conducted interventions on the following dates during the quarter:

October	7, 13, 14 & 15
November	13 & 21
December	18

On 13 November, the nominated site inspector participated in the Springfields Site Stakeholder Group, held at Ashton, near to the site.

On 24 November, the ONR Chief Executive Officer and the Deputy Chief Inspector responsible for the regulation of a range of licensed sites including Springfields Fuels Limited, met with the licensee's Managing Director and others at Springfields.

On 8 December, the nominated site inspector participated in the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee meeting held at Lancashire Police HQ, Hutton, to provide regulatory advice on a range of 'off site' emergency planning matters.

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 Springfields Fuels Limited covered the following:

Nuclear Safety Case.

For activities at Springfields, a key component of the licensee's nuclear safety case relates to the implementation of measures to prevent a breach of nuclear criticality safety controls. On 13 November, the licensee provided information to the nominated site inspector regarding the management of a temporary change to criticality safety controls, during the chemical processing of a batch of uranic residue materials. The licensee's arrangements for safely managing this change were considered to be acceptable.

At a site meeting on 21 November, an ONR specialist mechanical engineering inspector discussed aspects of the nuclear safety case for the processing of uranium hexafluoride at Springfields, with an acceptable outcome.

Emergency Preparedness.

On 7 October, the nominated site inspector met with the licensee to discuss the licensee's work relating to the closure of Fukushima Report Recommendation FR 6. The licensee had previously provided ONR with supporting information. Further work on aspects of emergency planning related to this recommendation was now being addressed by the Nuclear Emergency Arrangements Forum, (NEAF), involving all nuclear licensees. Springfields actively participates in this nuclear industry forum.

On 13 November, at the request of the licensee, the nominated site inspector and a specialist fire safety inspector provided regulatory advice at a review of the scope of the work of the 'on site' Fire & rescue team, including their valuable contribution across a range of fire prevention matters.

The Off Site Emergency Plan for the Springfields site is prepared by Lancashire County Council and has recently completed a planned three yearly review, incorporating regulatory advice from ONR. The revised Plan also applied experience from real minor events at Springfields, in order to improve arrangements for communications with stakeholders off the site. This significantly revised Off Site Emergency Plan was implemented on 1 December 2014.

Disposal of radioactive waste.

At a site meeting on 7 October, the licensee reported to ONR continuing acceptable performance in maintaining authorised disposals of low and very low level solid radioactive wastes from the site.

On 14 & 15 October, an ONR specialist inspector participated in a joint inspection of the licensee's radioactive waste management arrangements, led by the Environment Agency. ONR provided regulatory advice to the licensee during this inspection, which had an acceptable outcome.

Organisational Capability.

On 31 March 2014, the licensee had informed ONR and the workforce that the closure of the uranium hexafluoride production plant, and its supporting facilities, had been brought forward from 2016, such that production operations ceased at the end of August 2014. The plant is now completing the process of having the radioactive materials cleaned out, before being placed into 'Care and Maintenance' in early 2015. The facility is to be maintained for a possible restart of uranium hexafluoride production, at a future medium term date. Aspects of the licensee's redeployment of staff, together with the implementation of site wide staff reductions, associated with the closure of these facilities, were discussed with the nominated site inspector at a quarterly regulatory review meeting on 7 October. ONR currently remains content with the licensee's management of the nuclear safety aspects of these organisational changes.

Leadership and Management for Safety.

On 18 December, the nominated site inspector reviewed aspects of the licensee's approach to managing 'Leadership & Management for Safety' (LMfS) topics at Springfields. ONR

concluded that the licensee was adequately implementing and auditing a range of LMfS measures, including implementing measures to further enhance the site nuclear safety culture.

ONR Transport Compliance & Transport Permissioning.

ONR regulates radioactive materials transport through the Transport Compliance and Transport Permissioning sub-programmes, within the Cross-ONR Programme. ONR has had ongoing engagement regarding relicensing a number of package designs, which are crucial to the licensee's business. These relate to uranium dioxide powder, uranium hexafluoride (UX30), and AGR fuel transport containers. ONR Transport inspectors have held a number of discussions with the licensee and their supply chain to progress these matters. Bilateral engagement between the ONR Transport inspectors and both the licensee and Uranium Asset Management Limited, at all levels, is judged to be good. There have been no 'on site' interventions by ONR Transport during this period.

ONR Safeguards.

Euratom inspections, accompanied by ONR safeguards, were carried out on 23 September to 2 October (this was the annual Physical Inventory Verification), 21 to 23 October, 7 November, 18 to 20 November and 16 to 18 December. No significant safeguards issues were raised. The Euratom weigh scale was successfully installed and commissioned in the Hex Plant. Further progress has been made with plans to install an Enhanced Data Acquisition System in the Oxide Fuels Complex. This is currently planned for early February 2015.

Springfields Site Stakeholder Group.

The nominated site inspector participated in the meeting of the Springfields Site Stakeholder Group, held near the site on 19 November. Recent ONR interventions at Springfields were reported and a number of verbal queries on the two most recent quarterly reports from ONR were addressed at this meeting, including explaining aspects of how ONR conducts interventions at the Springfields licensed site.

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. On 18 December, the nominated site inspector reviewed seven medium term regulatory issues relating to Springfields, closing out three of those issues. The licensee was also taking measures which should enable the four current remaining regulatory issues to be closed out during 2015, which was acceptable to ONR. 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 continue to be routinely held with the licensee's 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.

The exemplary work of the safety representatives continues to make a valuable contribution to the site safety culture.

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.

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 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

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>).

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

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, 2015

If you wish to reuse this information visit www.onr.org.uk/copyright for details.

Published January 2015

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