



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

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

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Winfrith 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.

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1 INSPECTIONS

1.1 Dates of inspection

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

4, 5, 6 November 2014

An ONR human and organisational capability specialist inspector made an inspection on the following dates during the quarter:

10-11 December 2014 (organisational capability inspection)

ONR control & instrumentation, fault studies, mechanical engineering, radioactive waste and radiological protection specialist inspectors made an inspection on the following date during the quarter:

6 November 2014 [Steam Generating Heavy Water Reactor (SGHWR) decommissioning]

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 Winfrith covered the following:

- safety mechanisms, devices and circuits (Licence Condition 27);
- organisational capability (Licence Condition 36).

For Licence Condition 27 I considered two topics Research Sites Restoration Limited's (RSRL's) compliance arrangements and implementation of the arrangements. I judged that the position met the intent/ requirements of the safety case and the required safety standards.

For Licence Condition 36 the specialist inspector also considered RSRL's compliance arrangements and implementation in relation to RSRL's management of the transition to a new Parent Body Organisation (PBO), Cavendish Flour Partnership (CFP), on 1 September 2014. The specialist inspector judged that the position met the intent/requirements of the organisational safety case and the required safety standards. However, an improvement issue was noted and recorded in ONR's issues database. This related to RSRL demonstrating to ONR that it understands and is managing the resource demand arising from

PBO consolidation phase activities so as not to be detrimental to its day-to-day licensed undertakings. This issue is being followed up by the ONR specialist inspector as part of his work associated with the re-licensing of the Harwell and Winfrith sites to Magnox Limited (see the “news from ONR” section for further information”).

More information on all of these routine inspections is in the Executive Summary of ONR Intervention Records which are published on our website <http://www.onr.org.uk/intervention-records/2014/index.htm>.

2.2 Other work

I attended the Winfrith SSG meeting on 4 November 2014.

I 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.

I held a routine review of ONR issues for Winfrith, RSRL corporate and Harwell whilst at Harwell in December.

Together with ONR civil engineering, mechanical engineering, radioactive waste, radiological protection, fault studies, control and instrumentation inspectors, and the Environment Agency, I held a meeting and plant tour on 6 November 2014 to discuss RSRL's Preliminary Safety Report for SGHWR core segmentation. Core segmentation is a significant activity in the SGHWR decommissioning programme. The purpose of this meeting was to define ONR's future regulatory strategy for the project and provide information to enable release of a hold point in relation to the project. The release was required to allow RSRL to commence the detailed design of core segmentation and radioactive waste processing plant. I released this hold point in January 2015.

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.

Matters and events of particular note during the period were:

- During the quarter, an event was reported in which a failure of a valve in the Arish Mell shore valve house on 2 December 2014 led to the release of radioactive effluent from the site onto the foreshore. Since the release occurred off the nuclear licenced site, the Environment Agency has taken the regulatory lead for this event. The environmental impact of the release was negligible. RSRL's investigation has now been completed and I will follow up the event at site. The objectives of my follow will be to satisfy myself that a thorough investigation has been undertaken and that appropriate lessons have been learned that are relevant to operations on the site. I will provide an update in my next SSG report.

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.

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

Date	Type	Ref No	Description
23/9/2014	Variation to the Site Licence	No 4	The Variation introduces, for Winfrith, amendments to Licence Conditions 1 and 3. Since the same amendments have been made to all nuclear site licences, more information is provided in “News From ONR” below. The Variation was granted on 23 September 2014 and came into force on 1 October 2014.

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>).

Amended Licence Conditions

Amendments have been made to licence conditions 1 and 3.

Licence Condition 1 (LC1, interpretation) provides a set of definitions. ONR decided to amend the definition of “radioactive material” and “radioactive waste” to ensure they are consistent with ONR’s regulatory requirements. The changes were necessary because other legislation, to which the licence conditions were linked, had amended the definitions. LC1 was further amended to add a definition of ‘property transaction’, made necessary by the introduction of the new LC3 (see below), and a definition of “ONR”.

Licence condition 3 (LC3, control of property transactions) requires the licensee to make and implement adequate arrangements to control property transactions on licensed nuclear sites. LC3 was prescriptive and required the licensee to obtain ONR permission (“consent”) before it let, conveyed, assigned or transferred any part of the licensed site to a third party. It made no allowance for the nuclear safety significance of transactions. Changes in the nature of the nuclear industry, with an increasing presence of contractors or other third parties on licensed sites, have resulted in growing numbers of LC3 applications, many of which have little or no nuclear safety significance. This has imposed an unintended regulatory burden on licensees and is an inefficient use of ONR’s specialist resource and time. The principal change is to require the licensee to make and implement adequate arrangements that control all property transactions affecting the site and include provision for the classification and management of all property transactions according to their safety significance and their impact on the licensee’s control of the site.

ONR’s licence condition handbook has been updated and is available via the ONR website at <http://www.onr.org.uk/silicon.pdf>.

Application to Relicence the Harwell and Winfrith Nuclear Licensed Sites

On 1 September 2014, CFP took control of two separate site licence companies: Magnox Limited and RSRL. As the next stage of organisational change, on 28 November 2014 Magnox Limited applied to ONR to relicence the RSRL Harwell and RSRL Winfrith sites into a

single site licence company alongside the ten Magnox reactor sites. ONR is currently conducting a targeted and proportional assessment of this application in accordance with its publication 'Licensing Nuclear Installations'. Organisational capability is a particular focus of ONR's assessment. Additional but more limited ONR work streams include safety cases, licence condition compliance arrangements, decommissioning strategies, plans and programmes and consultation.

6 CONTACTS

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