



# Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield

Report for period 1 January to 31 March 2015

## Foreword

This report is issued as part of ONR's commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the Aldermaston and Burghfield sites available to the public. Reports are distributed quarterly to members for the Local Liaison Committee and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Aldermaston and Burghfield 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 inspectors carried out inspections on the following dates during the quarter:

- January 9, 12-16, 20
- February 4, 5, 9-12, 16
- March 9-13, 23

## 2 ROUTINE MATTERS

### 2.1 Inspections at Aldermaston and Burghfield

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. Inspectors seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, routine inspections of Aldermaston and Burghfield covered the following:

- emergency preparedness and response;
- operating rules and instructions;
- examination, maintenance, inspection and testing;
- staff training;
- new plant construction;
- radioactive leak detection;
- accumulation of waste;
- Nuclear Safety Committee;
- incident reporting;
- record keeping;
- safety case production;
- periodic review of safety;
- decommissioning.

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 inspectors 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.

### **Higher Activity Waste**

In 2007, ONR issued a licence instrument to AWE that required the reduction in volume and encapsulation of 1000 drums of intermediate level waste by February 2014. As reported at previous LLC meetings, the licence instrument has now expired without its requirements being met. ONR continues to investigate the licensee's failure to meet the requirements of the licence instrument and will consider enforcement action in accordance with ONR's enforcement policy.

### **Emergency Planning Zones**

ONR has assessed the information provided by AWE regarding the on-site hazards and the need for an off-site emergency plan of defined minimum radii around the sites. ONR is now considering communities and natural boundaries within and close to these radii in order to define a zone for West Berkshire Council to implement an emergency plan.

### **Hazard Reduction**

AWE achieved a significant hazard reduction closing out a long standing regulatory issue, by completing transfer of legacy materials from an ageing facility to more suitable storage.

## **2.2 Other work**

The ONR nominated site inspector for the AWE licensed sites attended the planned meeting of the local liaison committee on the 11 March.

## **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.

There were no matters and events of particular note during the period.

## **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.

- ONR informed AWE that the conditions of Improvement Notice 2012/ONR/SB/001 have been complied with. This Notice related to improvements to the structure of a facility building on the AWE Aldermaston site.

Reports detailing regulatory decisions can be found on the ONR website at <http://www.onr.org.uk/pars/>.

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