



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

Report for period 1 July to 30 September 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:

- July 1,2,8,9,13-16, 20-23, 27-29
- Aug 7,8, 24-26
- Sept 3, 14-17, 30

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 36 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 quarter, routine inspections of Aldermaston and Burghfield covered the following licence conditions (LC):

- LC7 Incidents on the site
- LC8 Warning notices
- LC10 Training
- LC12 Duly authorised persons
- LC14 Safety documentation
- LC15 Periodic review
- LC16 Site plans, designs and specifications
- LC19 Construction or installation of new plant
- LC20 Modification to design of plant under construction
- LC21 Commissioning
- LC23 Operating rules
- LC24 Operating instructions
- LC26 Control and supervision of operations
- LC32 Accumulation of radioactive waste
- LC34 Leakage and escape of radioactive material and radioactive waste

ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements to be adequate in the majority of the areas inspected. Evidence of good practice was identified in decision making relating to the control of decommissioning operations.

Where improvements were considered necessary, the licensee made satisfactory commitments to address the issues, and the inspectors will monitor progress during future

visits. If necessary, ONR will take formal regulatory enforcement action to ensure that appropriate remedial measures are implemented to reasonably practicable timescales.

LC34 Leakage and escape of radioactive material and radioactive waste requires that at all times, so far as is reasonably practicable, radioactive material and waste is adequately contained so that it cannot leak or otherwise escape. A repeat LC34 compliance inspection in a legacy facility in August found that historical radioactive contaminated oil is being stored in a manner that was judged to be significantly below standard. In accordance with procedures, ONR considered its regulatory options, including taking formal regulatory action. Following engagement with ONR, AWE have produced and agreed to deliver a plan to address this issue to bring the storage arrangements for the contaminated oil up to an adequate standard. ONR inspectors will continue to engage with AWE to ensure that this plan is delivered as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Higher Activity Waste

ONR served an Improvement Notice on the AWE for failing to demonstrate that its long-term strategy for managing Higher Active radioactive Waste reduces the future risk to the public and employees so far as reasonably practicable. The Improvement Notice requires AWE to propose options to ONR by 30 September 2016 for how it will manage all Higher Active radioactive Waste in a way that closes this compliance gap.

AWE has responded to ONR proposing how they will meet the requirements of the Improvement Notice. ONR consider that delivery of these proposals will meet the requirements of the notice and ongoing regulatory interventions will monitor progress to consider the adequacy of work completed.

2.2 Other work

ONR inspectors have engaged with AWE to assess the design and safety justification for temporary enhanced flood defences at a legacy facility on the Aldermaston site. ONR will continue to engage with the developing design and safety justification for a planned permanent engineered enhancement.

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.

Nil this quarter.

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 have written formally to AWE seeking assurance that the risks posed by operations at the Burghfield site are as low as reasonably practicable pending completion of the delayed PRS2 site safety case.

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

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