



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

Report for period 1 October to 31 December 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:

- October 1-2, 12-15, 22, 28,29
- November 4, 9-13, 16-20
- December 2,3, 7-10

## 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
- LC10 Training
- LC11 Emergency arrangements
- LC12 Duly authorised persons
- LC14 Safety documentation
- LC19 Construction or installation of new plant
- LC20 Modification to design of plant under construction
- LC23 Operating rules
- LC24 Operating instructions
- LC26 Control and supervision of operations
- LC27 Safety mechanisms, devices and circuits
- LC28 Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing
- 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.

LC11 requires that AWE has adequate arrangements for dealing with any accident or emergency that may arise on each site. ONR observes a demonstration exercise each year at each site to judge the adequacy of those arrangements. ONR observed annual demonstration exercises at both the Aldermaston and Burghfield sites during this reporting period. Overall, the ONR teams judged that the Aldermaston exercise was an adequate

demonstration of the on-site emergency arrangements. The Burghfield demonstration was rated as good, principally due to a strong command and control performance. A small number of low level opportunities for improvement were identified following both exercises, and improved performance against these areas will be monitored by ONR during future exercises. In the spirit of continuous improvement, ONR have suggested that AWE consider ways of increasing the level of challenge that they set themselves when producing future exercise scenarios.

An inspection was undertaken in November on the Burghfield site against LC19 and LC20 on the Mensa new build project. The inspectors judged that the requirements for managing construction of new plant and design changes to plant under construction were being applied to a good standard.

Where improvements were considered necessary following inspections, the licensee made 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.

LC14 requires that AWE make and implement adequate arrangements for the production of safety documents to justify the safety of operations on site. An inspection in October found that AWE was not following its arrangements for the production of a key safety document for the Burghfield site. This was similar to a finding from a previous inspection in July and hence ONR rated the inspection as significantly below standard. In accordance with ONR procedures, the enforcement management model (EMM) was applied to the inspection findings. ONR wrote formally to AWE, requesting confirmation of corrective actions that were put in place to ensure compliance going forward. AWE responded, detailing immediate steps that had been taken to prevent further non-compliance. ONR have planned further engagements on LC14 to seek evidence of conformance.

## **2.2 Other work**

ONR attended the annual review of safety (AROS) meeting with AWE management in October to review safety performance over the previous 12 months. Information was presented that indicated adequate safety performance across the two sites. Some areas of good performance were identified, along with areas where AWE recognises it could improve safety performance. ONR provided some advice and guidance on how evidence to support safety performance claims should be presented at future AROS meetings.

ONR inspectors have engaged with AWE to assess the design and safety justification for enhanced flood defences at a legacy facility on the Aldermaston site. Installation of permanent engineered flood protection measures are due to start in March 2016.

## **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. A justification document to support continued operations is due to be available in early 2016.

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

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