



# Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Annual Site Report for GE Healthcare Ltd, Grove Centre, Amersham

Report for period 1 October 2014 – 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 above site available to the public. Reports are distributed quarterly to members for the Grove Centre Local Liaison Committee and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llic/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend the Grove Centre 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.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

## 1 INSPECTIONS

### 1.1 Dates of inspection

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

18 March 2015  
28 April 2015  
29 & 30 June 2015  
16 September 2015

An ONR Specialist Inspector undertook an inspection of arrangements for the safe transport of radioactive materials on the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2015.

In addition, ONR Security Inspectors completed four inspections during the period.

## 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.

### **Nuclear Safety Committee & Decommissioning of C-Bench**

On 29<sup>th</sup> April ONR carried out an inspection of the licensee's arrangements for the Nuclear Safety Committee (NSC) under Licence Condition 13. On the basis of the evidence of our observations of the proceedings of the committee, we formed the view that the committee gave valuable and high quality advice to the licensee. We considered that the operation of the committee was likely to provide a strong contribution to the safety performance of the company.

The visit also collected information to assist ONR in its decision to permission the proposed activities in a safety case for the decommissioning of a contaminated legacy radioactive source production facility on the site.

## **Warning Notices (LC 8), Instructions to Persons on Site (LC 9), Site Plans Designs & Specifications (LC 16) and Operational Records (LC 25).**

On 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June ONR carried out an inspection into the above Licence Conditions (LC). During our inspection we made a number of minor observations (e.g. signage relating to external evacuation routes and muster points and an annual review of the site plan and schedule to ensure it remains current). The licensee responded positively to our observations. Overall the licensee was able to demonstrate that their arrangements were adequate and were being implemented in a way that we judged they had been able to demonstrate compliance with the Licence Conditions inspected.

The minor observations identified will be followed up through normal regulatory business.

## **Emergency Arrangements**

The licensee performed a demonstration exercise of their emergency arrangements on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The scenario was challenging and required the deployment of multiple teams to deal with the incident. Although there were some minor learning points it was our judgement that the demonstration was a successful and adequate test of GEHC's implementation of its emergency arrangements.

## **Waste Management**

The licensee provided an update on their strategy for the on-going safe storage of radioactive waste. Development work and packaging trials are currently being undertaken. The need for the licensee to continue to be aware of the national waste strategy was highlighted by ONR. We concluded that we were content with the proposed development of waste storage.

## **ONR Fire Safety**

On 24<sup>th</sup> June an ONR specialist fire safety Inspector inspected the fire safety provisions on the site. A number of improvements were identified which were promptly addressed by the licensee.

## **Annual Review of Safety**

The Annual Review of Safety was held on 18<sup>th</sup> March and covered both licenced sites operated by GE Healthcare Ltd.

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. 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**

Nothing to report

### 3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

Licencees 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. The licensee reported some minor events to ONR in compliance with the licensee's arrangements, which were promptly investigated by the licensee. Follow up reports are provided to ONR within 60 days. Given the minor nature of the events reported to ONR they did not warrant further investigation by ONR.

### 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.

No LIs or Enforcement Notices were issued during the period.

### 5 NEWS FROM ONR

#### **Retirement of the Chief Nuclear Inspector**

Dr Andy Hall, the first Chief Nuclear Inspector to hold this statutory office, announced his decision to retire from ONR in November 2015 and until his retirement he is taking a period of compassionate leave for personal reasons. The ONR Board, with the approval of the Secretary of State, has appointed Dr Richard Savage as Acting Chief Nuclear Inspector, pending a process to fill the role on a permanent basis. Richard was previously Head of the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator before joining ONR in his current role as a Deputy Chief Nuclear Inspector.

Insight into ONR's work as an independent regulator of the nuclear industry can be found in ONR's Regulation Matters. The online publication (<http://www.onr.org.uk/regulation-matters.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. 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>).

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