



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

Report for period 1 April - 30 June 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 of the Harwell Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llic/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Harwell Site Stakeholder Group meetings and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to enquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR.

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1 INSPECTIONS

1.1 Dates of inspection

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

20, 21, 22, 23, 24 April
14, 15 May
29, 30 June

A new site nuclear safety inspector took over responsibility for Harwell on 1 July. The incoming nuclear safety site inspector participated in the inspections on 14, 15 May and 29, 30 June.

The incoming site nuclear safety inspector, the ONR Civil Nuclear Security inspector for Harwell and an emergency planning and response specialist inspector made an inspection on 25 June to review the Magnox Limited Harwell emergency arrangements capability map.

A team of three ONR nuclear safety inspectors, including the incoming and outgoing site nuclear safety inspectors, observed a Level 1 emergency exercise (named “FOXGLOVE”) on 30 June.

An ONR radiation protection specialist inspector made an inspection on 29 June to progress an ONR issue raised during a previous inspection.

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 Licence Conditions (LCs) 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 compliance inspections of Harwell covered the following:

- LC7 incidents on the site;
- LC22 modification or experiment on existing plant;
- LC25 operational records (the clause relating to radioactive material);
- LC32 accumulation of radioactive waste;
- LC33 disposal of radioactive waste;
- LC34 leakage and escape of radioactive material and radioactive waste.

In general, ONR judged that the arrangements made and implemented by the site met the intent of the safety case and the required safety standards and only minor improvements were considered necessary. These will be taken forward as part of future routine engagements.

2.1.1 Radioactive Waste Management Joint Environment Agency/ ONR Inspection

The Environment Agency, Harwell lead internal nuclear regulator and the outgoing site nuclear safety inspector undertook a radioactive waste management joint Environment Agency/ ONR inspection. In relation to LCs, this focussed on LC32, LC33 and LC34. The clause of LC25, dealing with records of the amount and location of all radioactive material was also considered. Implementation of these LCs was inspected at the Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant (LETP) and at B220. We concluded that management of radioactive waste at both LETP and B220 was good and that at both locations, accumulation of radioactive waste was being minimised.

2.1.2 Level 1 Emergency Exercise (Named “FOXGLOVE”)

On 30 June an ONR team assessed Level 1 emergency exercise “FOXGLOVE”. This emergency exercise was intended to demonstrate the site's arrangements, under LC11 “emergency arrangements”, for dealing with any accident or emergency arising on the site and their effects.

ONR judged that the exercise provided an adequate demonstration of the site's arrangements and capability. During its observations of the emergency exercise, the ONR team identified a number of good points and a number of areas for improvement. Three areas for improvement were identified. ONR has written to site providing all its observations and requesting a reply, which provides a review of the three areas for improvement, and the site's proposed corrective actions.

2.2 Other work

Both the incoming and the outgoing site nuclear safety inspectors attended the Harwell SSG meeting on 15 May.

Both the incoming and the outgoing site nuclear safety inspectors held a routine review of ONR issues for the Harwell and Winfrith sites.

The outgoing site nuclear safety inspector held a routine meeting with the internal regulator for the Harwell and Winfrith sites. Evidence was provided of good alignment between the internal regulator's arrangements and the [“Independent Oversight. A Nuclear Industry Good Practice Guide”](#) published on behalf of the Nuclear Industry Safety Directors Forum. We discussed the internal regulator's 2015/16 programme. This was considered to be proportionate since it has taken into consideration a number of factors identified from implementation of the 2014/15 programme, including expected major changes to organisational structure and management system and insufficient independent assessment of security arrangements.

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 such matters of significance during the period.

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 have been issued during the period.

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>).

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