



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Low Level Waste Repository

Report for period 1 July – 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 West Cumbria Sites Stakeholders Group Low Level Waste Repository Working Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lwc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend West Cumbria Sites Stakeholders Group Low Level Waste Repository Working Group 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 Site Inspector and other ONR inspectors conducted interventions on the following dates during the quarter:

July	1 st , 22 nd
August	26 th
September	10 th , 11 th , 29 th

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.

In this period ONR Specialist Inspectors carried out a systems based inspection (SBI) of the LLWR Site Electrical System to assess the system's performance against its safety function and to review the adequacy of actions taken, at a site wide level, on loss of power. Licence Conditions considered during the inspection included Licence Conditions LC 10 (Training), LC 23 (Operating rules), LC 24 (Operating instructions), LC 27 (Safety mechanisms, devices and circuits), LC 28 (Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing) and LC 34 (Leakage and escape of radioactive material and radioactive waste). The ONR Specialist Inspectors considered that LLWR has adequate arrangements to ensure that the Site Electrical System is maintained and operated in accordance with the safety case and the site's arrangements. The Inspectors also considered that the nuclear safety case arguments placed on the Site Electrical System are limited and are not significantly compromised by foreseeable loss of power scenarios. Although a number of areas for improvement were noted (which will be followed up in future visits/discussions) the ONR Specialist Inspectors concluded that LLWR Site Electrical System adequately fulfils the requirements of the safety case.

The ONR Site Inspector carried out a follow up inspection on the ONR inspection of the LLWR Licence Condition 10 "Training" and LC12 "Duly authorised and other suitably qualified persons" carried out in November 2014. Overall, the ONR Site Inspector considered that LLWR had adequately considered the issues raised during the original inspection and had embarked on a number of initiatives to address them. LLWR are continuing to develop and revise their arrangements and a detailed inspection of the revised LLWR LC10 and LC12 arrangements will be included in the future ONR LLWR inspection plan.

2.2 Other work

During the period, the ONR Site Inspector continued interactions with LLWR on the site Emergency Arrangements. LLWR is progressing work to address the areas of improvement identified from the “Theta 8” Level 1 Demonstration Emergency Exercise undertaken in June 2015. The ONR Site Inspector will witness a planned exercise in the LLWR emergency exercise programme to review the progress made by LLWR in addressing the points raised from the “Theta 8” exercise.

Discussions continued on the LLWR Plutonium Contaminated Materials (PCM) Decommissioning Project work. ONR seeks LLWR to sustain the recent progress made on the decommissioning programme and the ONR Site Inspector will continue to inspect the progress made on the Magazine decommissioning work during future site visits.

ONR continues to discuss with LLWR the options for the interim storage of PCM drums arising from the decommissioning project pending the resolution of the issues associated with the availability of suitable transport containers. In addition discussions continue regarding the options relating to the number of “legacy” drums currently stored within the LLWR drum store facility.

In addition during the reporting period updates have been obtained on various other aspects of operations on the LLWR site. None of the matters discussed were considered to require immediate regulatory action. However a number of aspects will be discussed further with LLWR during planned interventions with the site within the next reporting period.

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.

Information on the non routine matters and events that occurred on the LLWR site during the report period has been provided to ONR. ONR considers that LLWR has adequately investigated the events and taken appropriate measures to address issues arising. However, a number of actions being undertaken by LLWR to address some of the issues raised will be followed up by the ONR Site Inspector during the next report 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.

The following LIs and Enforcement Notices (Table 1) have been issued during the period:

Table 1
Licence Instruments and Enforcement Notices Issued by ONR during this period

Date	Type	Ref No	Description
			None issued this report period

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

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.

Regulation Matters magazine

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>).

Office of Nuclear Regulation

Redgrave Court

Merton Road

Bootle

Merseyside

L20 7HS

website: www.onr.org.uk

email: ONREnquiries@onr.gsi.gov.uk

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