



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

Report for period 1 October – 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 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:

October	21 st , 28 th
November	18 th , 19 th
December	2 nd

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 the ONR Site Inspector carried out an inspection focussed on the LLWR arrangements for Licence Condition 6 "Documents, records, authorities and certificates" but also covered aspects of the LLWR arrangements for Licence Condition 25 "Operational records". Overall the ONR Site Inspector considered that the arrangements were adequate and no significant issues were raised from the inspection although some areas for improvement are recognised by LLWR. The ONR Site inspector will follow up on the on-going LLWR work in this area during future site interventions.

The ONR Site Inspector witnessed the LLWR Emergency Exercise "Theta 9" during this reporting period. The ONR Site Inspector sought to observe a number of aspects of the LLWR response which were not considered to have been adequately demonstrated (due to exercise scenario management problems) during the ONR observed Level 1 Demonstration Emergency Exercise "Theta 8" held in June. The ONR Site Inspector considered that the "Theta 9" exercise did allow LLWR to demonstrate their emergency capabilities in those areas affected by the problems that occurred during the "Theta 8" Demonstration Exercise. The ONR Site Inspector observed some areas of good practice, however a number of areas of improvement were noted. The observations and lessons learnt from exercise "Theta 9" are being followed up with LLWR.

Also during this report period a follow up inspection was undertaken to the Licence Condition 22 "Modification or Experiment on existing plant" inspection carried out in January 2015. This inspection focussed on the work undertaken by LLWR to address the issues raised during the original inspection. Overall, the ONR Site Inspector considered that LLWR had made

significant progress in addressing the issues raised during the initial inspection and had been proactive and positive in planning and implementing relevant work programmes. It is planned that further inspections will be programmed into the ONR 2016/17 LLWR inspection plan to follow up the progress made by LLWR.

2.2 Other work

During the period discussions were undertaken on the LLWR Emergency Arrangements Capability Map Matrix. All licensees have been required by the UK Government to respond to a standard question set on various aspects of emergency response capability. LLWR has now compiled their response and ONR is currently assessing the information provided.

ONR/LLWR 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. ONR also 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. Discussions were also undertaken regarding the options for dealing with the number of “legacy” drums currently stored within the LLWR drum store facility and on the future strategy relating to the number of sealed radioactive sources currently held by LLWR.

In addition during the reporting period, updates have been obtained and discussions held 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 report 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

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>).

Chief Executive

Adrienne Kelbie has been appointed Chief Executive of ONR and will take up the appointment on 18 January 2016. Adrienne is currently the Chief Executive of the Disclosure and Barring Service, and prior to this has had a varied career including periods as Deputy Chief Executive in a local authority and as Director of Operations responsible for national and international funding at the Big Lottery Fund.

6 CONTACTS

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