



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Springfields Fuels Limited

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 of the Springfields Fuels Limited Site Stakeholder Group and are available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend the Springfields Fuels Limited Site Stakeholder 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 inspections

The ONR Nominated Site Inspector and other ONR Inspectors conducted interventions on the following dates during the quarter:

July	13 & 23
August	5, 6 & 12
September	9

A meeting of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee was attended at Lancashire Constabulary HQ at Hutton on 2 September, to provide regulatory advice on 'off site' emergency planning matters, followed by participation in a planning meeting, for a combined 'on' and 'off site', (Level One and Level Two) emergency exercise.

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, routine inspections of Springfields Fuels Limited covered the following:

Annual Review of Safety.

On 13 July, a planned intervention was conducted to participate in the Annual Review of Safety & Environment at Springfields, jointly with the Environment Agency, involving the regulators, the Springfields Fuels Limited licensee and the National Nuclear Laboratory Limited tenant organisation.

The licensee and the National Nuclear Laboratory Limited tenant organisation both delivered comprehensive and detailed presentations to ONR and the Environment Agency, demonstrating an acceptable review of the safety and environmental performance over the period April 2014 to March 2015. This facilitated constructive dialogue between the licensee, the tenant organisation and ONR. Following the review meeting, a plant inspection was made at a recently constructed specialised uranic residue processing plant, about to be commissioned, with an acceptable outcome. The licensee had incorporated modern alarm management standards at this new facility.

I concluded that the licensee and the tenant organisation had both presented an open and comprehensive review of safety performance. Overall, the safety performance was concluded to have been of a good standard and the licensee was appropriately implementing measures to deliver further proportionate improvements to the safety performance in 2015/16. The licensee's safety representatives were consulted in the meeting and they continue to make a valuable contribution to the site safety culture.

Disposal of radioactive waste and decommissioning.

At the quarterly regulatory review meeting between the licensee, the regulators and the National Nuclear Laboratory Limited tenant organisation, held on 12 August, the licensee reported continuing acceptable performance in maintaining authorised disposals of low and very low level solid radioactive wastes from the site, as well as an adequate response to a range of other topics of regulatory interest, including the licensee's continuing progress with decommissioning projects and uranic residue processing, funded by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, (NDA). There was the usual useful dialogue between the licensee, the tenant organisation and the regulators, the licensee being receptive to the regulatory advice provided by ONR.

Conventional Fire Safety.

An ONR conventional fire safety inspector conducted a site inspection on 5 August. A plant inspection was made of a residue processing plant currently being commissioned, with a satisfactory outcome, regulatory advice being provided on some fire safety matters. The licensee's progress against a range of wider fire safety matters, including the provision of emergency lighting to modern standards at an enriched uranic residue processing plant, was also inspected. It was concluded that the licensee was making acceptable progress with plant improvements.

Asbestos management.

Two conventional safety specialist inspectors conducted a site intervention on 5 and 6 August, inspecting a number of site facilities, to review the effectiveness of the implementation of asbestos management procedures and requirements against modern standards. The safety representatives were consulted during this intervention. The licensee's implementation of arrangements was found to be adequate in most areas, although there were a number of shortfalls identified by the two inspectors, which resulted in the licensee being required to promptly address some damaged asbestos lagging in one of the facilities inspected, (which the licensee promptly implemented) and, more widely, the licensee was required to conduct a timely review of the asbestos management arrangements, against current asbestos management "approved code of practice" regulatory standards. The licensee readily acknowledged the need for timely improvements arising from this intervention. The regulatory advice provided at the close of the inspection was promptly confirmed in writing by ONR to the licensee. ONR proposes to make a follow up inspection, in 2016, to ensure that the licensee implements the improvements advised by ONR.

General comment.

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

Meetings with the safety representatives.

Meetings continue to be routinely held with the licensee's safety representatives and during plant inspections by ONR inspectors, most recently on 6 August, to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety and welfare at work.

The effective work of the safety representatives continues to make a very valuable contribution to the site safety culture and their engagement with inspectors is valued.

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. The licensee reported some minor events to ONR in this quarter, in compliance with the licensee's arrangements, which were promptly investigated by the licensee, with follow up reports within sixty days of the event being provided to ONR. Given the minor nature of the events reported to ONR during this quarter, they did not warrant further investigation by ONR.

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.

No enforcement notices were issued in this period. No Licence Instruments were issued in this period.

Reports detailing 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 Regulation Matters. This quarterly 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 on-going changes at ONR. For the latest

news and updates from ONR, you can also visit the website and sign up for our e-bulletin:
<http://www.onr.org.uk/index.htm>.

6 CONTACTS

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