



# Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Sellafield, Calder Hall and Windscale West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group (WCSSG)

Report for period 01 July 2015 – 30 September 2015



ONR acting Chief Nuclear Inspector Richard Savage (centre) visits Sellafield

## Foreword

This report is issued as part of ONR's commitment to make information about inspection and other regulatory activities relating to the Sellafield site available to the public. Reports are distributed quarterly to members for the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group Scrutiny Meetings and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact: [ONREnquiries@onr.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ONREnquiries@onr.gsi.gov.uk)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INSPECTIONS.....	3
2	ROUTINE MATTERS.....	3
3	NON-ROUTINE MATTERS.....	9
4	REGULATORY ACTIVITIES.....	11
5	NEWS FROM ONR.....	11
6	CONTACTS.....	12

## 1 INSPECTIONS

### 1.1 DATES OF INSPECTION

ONR nuclear safety inspectors made inspections on the following dates during this quarter:

<b>Plutonium</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> July					
<b>Thorp</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> July	16 <sup>th</sup> August				
<b>Decommissionin</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> July	14 <sup>th</sup> July	8 <sup>th</sup> August	8 <sup>th</sup> September		
<b>Magnox</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> July	5 <sup>th</sup> August	1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> September			
<b>Infrastructure</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> July	14 <sup>th</sup> July	11 <sup>th</sup> August	8 <sup>th</sup> September	29 <sup>th</sup> September	
<b>Corporate</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> August					
<b>Project Delivery</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> July	12 <sup>th</sup> August	10 <sup>th</sup> September	15 <sup>th</sup> September		
<b>Waste effluent disposition directorate</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> July	16 <sup>th</sup> July	13 <sup>th</sup> August	19 <sup>th</sup> August	23 <sup>rd</sup> September	29 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> September

## 2 ROUTINE MATTERS

### 2.1 Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with:

- The conditions attached by ONR to nuclear site licences 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).

Inspections entail monitoring the licensee's actions in relation to incidents, operations, maintenance, projects, modifications, safety case changes and any other matters that may affect safety on the site. The licensee, Sellafield Limited, 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 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 our inspectors 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.

In this period, routine inspections at Sellafield Limited covered the following:

#### **Sellafield Compliance Intelligence and Enforcement (SCIE) sub programme.**

The SCIE sub-programme's objective is to seek evidence-based confidence that Sellafield Limited is complying with its statutory obligations and that workers and the public are protected from the hazards of the site.

#### **Magnox**

At Magnox, ONR carried out three planned Licence Condition (LC) compliance inspections. At the Fuel Handling Plant, ONR judged that compliance with LC 22 'Modification or experiment on existing plant' was adequate. At Magnox reprocessing plants, ONR judged that compliance with LC 28 'Examination, inspection, maintenance & testing' was adequate in respect of the findings from one inspection and of a good standard in another inspection.

During the period, the Magnox Reprocessing facilities have been undergoing a periodic shutdown. ONR has supported Sellafield Limited's internal regulatory function to deliver a proportionate and targeted assurance plan during the Magnox Reprocessing periodic shutdown. ONR will take this planned work by the internal regulator into account when determining what regulatory activities ONR should undertake during the periodic shutdown and when considering its permissioning of the restart.

Sellafield Limited has continued to make satisfactory progress in regard to improvements in how it ensures all operations at Magnox Reprocessing which may affect safety are carried out in accordance with written instructions, following ONR's Improvement Notice served earlier this year (see below).

#### **Corporate inspection Programme**

ONR has continued to engage with Sellafield Limited over the transition to the new ownership arrangements. ONR is content that the developing plan has remained in general true to the original business case and that the intended new company Board should be designed to be robust and independent. A formal submission to ONR asking for agreement to the change is expected around December. ONR's aim is to ensure that Sellafield Limited manages the transition smoothly with effective internal assurance to address risks.

In July and August, ONR completed a joint exercise to gather views and experiences of Sellafield staff concerning systemic factors of leadership, culture and management. The findings and response are being discussed with Sellafield management.

Sellafield Limited has responded constructively to ONR's letter requiring improvements to the investigation of events on the site. Sellafield has responded to ONR setting out a positive programme that will include improved training of investigators and measures to ensure the appropriate level of attention and resource is applied to investigations.

### **Infrastructure**

During this quarter ONR inspected Sellafield Limited's compliance against LC 11; emergency arrangements, in the National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL) central laboratory.

This facility is operated by NNL as a tenant on the site, but Sellafield Limited retains responsibility for compliance against the site licence conditions as the licensee. Representatives from both Sellafield Limited and NNL were involved in the inspection.

The facility provided an emergency exercise demonstration as part of the inspection, with good command and control evident, personnel effectively discharging assigned roles, and managed from good emergency response facilities. However, ONR identified some areas for improvement regarding the management of the emergency preparedness and response function.

ONR also inspected Sellafield Limited's compliance against LC 32; accumulation of radioactive waste, in the NNL central laboratory. Although the facility has generally good procedures and processes for managing and minimising radioactive waste, ONR advised that the facility should ensure that the identified backlog of low level waste is processed as soon as reasonably practicable.

ONR undertook an inspection against the ionising radiations regulations 1999 in the Analytical Services laboratory on site. This inspection was undertaken in response to a contamination event within this laboratory during June 2015. While ONR did not consider there was an imminent threat to the radiological safety of workers or the public, ONR did identify several areas that challenged the licensee's compliance with its legal duties under these regulations. ONR was reassured by the fact that Sellafield Limited has employed new personnel in management and radiological protection positions who recognised the shortfalls and are committed to implementing the necessary improvements. ONR will actively monitor the delivery of these improvements.

ONR also inspected Sellafield Limited's compliance against its arrangements for the site wide compressed air system within the Utilities organisation. This inspection targeted LC 24; operating instructions, LC 26; control and supervision of operations, and LC 28; examination, inspection, maintenance and testing. ONR considered Sellafield compliance to be adequate across these licence conditions, and a number of areas of good practice, and areas for improvement were identified. ONR also noted the recent installation and commissioning of two new containerised compressors on the site, which had been previously agreed as necessary to provide contingency and resilience for this important site-wide service.

During the quarter ONR also undertook a system based inspection (SBI) targeting adequate containment of radioactive substances within the Analytical Services laboratory. ONR judged Sellafield Limited's level of compliance to be adequate across a number of licence conditions, and a good standard was demonstrated regarding compliance with LC 27: safety mechanisms, devices and circuits. ONR, however, identified a specific shortfall relating to the civil and structural inspection of this ageing facility. ONR will monitor progress against this shortfall. ONR has also continued to engage with Sellafield Limited to assess and secure improvements to the firefighting arrangements on the site, with a focus on nuclear resilience.

### **Plutonium Management**

During this quarter, a System Based Inspection (SBI) was held on the Plutonium Management Facility (North) (PMF (N)) Finishing Line 5 (FL5) Glove Box and Into Cell Plutonium Leak Detection Systems. This system is responsible for detecting any leakage of plutonium from the plant into a glove box or into the cell areas outside of the glove boxes before sufficient material can collect to cause a criticality. The intervention concluded that the protection system for controlling the risks of leakage and escape of nuclear material met the requirements specified for it in the safety case. However, the inspection revealed that there were some specific fault sequences in the safety case where the licensee's arrangements were considered to be below an adequate standard. Sellafield Limited was informed of this at the close out meeting and has responded positively.

A project inspection was also held during September to review progress against ONR's current regulatory issues and Sellafield Limited's development of a programme of work to underpin safe and effective operations of the PMF(N) facilities through to their end of operations. Sufficient evidence was provided to demonstrate adequate progress towards resolving these issues and implementing the plan.

### **Decommissioning**

During this period, ONR undertook a planned inspection, jointly with the Environment Agency (EA), against LCs 4 and 32. This looked at the adequacy of Sellafield Limited's arrangements for bringing nuclear matter onto the site, its storage, minimising the rate of production and total quantity of radioactive waste accumulated and for keeping records of the waste stored. With regard to LC 4, it was ONR's opinion that these arrangements are below standard and did not meet our expectations. Sellafield Limited has agreed an action with ONR to address the identified shortfall. With regards to LC 32, it was ONR's opinion that the findings from this inspection were adequate. ONR, however, considers that the management of Intermediate Level Wastes presents an ongoing risk to progress with high hazard and risk reduction activities. ONR has, therefore, raised a regulatory issue relating to the management of decommissioning wastes supporting high hazard and risk reduction to ensure appropriate Sellafield Limited focus and oversight.

ONR also undertook two System Based Inspections during this period. The first one focused on the air system serving the Magnox Swarf Storage Silos (MSSS). This system was considered to meet the requirements of the safety case and that implementation of Sellafield Limited's compliance arrangements was adequate for LC 10 Training, LC 23 Operating Rules, LC 24 Operating Instructions, LC 27 Safety Mechanism, Devices and Circuits and LC28 Examination, inspection maintenance and Testing. Although adequate overall, there were opportunities to improve Sellafield Limited's alignment with the relevant ONR guidance. Sellafield Limited has committed to address these areas and ONR will monitor progress during future visits.

The second inspection focused on the steam system serving the First Generation Magnox Storage Pond Effluent Discharge Tank (FGMSP EDT). This system was considered to meet the requirements of the safety case and that implementation of Sellafield Limited's compliance arrangements was

adequate for LC 10 Training, LC 27 Safety Mechanism, Devices and Circuits and LC 28 Examination, Inspection maintenance and Testing. ONR, however, considered that compliance with LC 23 Operating Rules and LC 24 Operating Instructions was below standard. ONR identified the need for improvements in the arrangements for the substantiation of some Safety Related Equipment (SRE) and the quality of some of the Operating Instructions for the FGMSP EDT steam system. Two regulatory issues were raised against these findings. Sellafield Limited's has committed to address the shortfalls identified and ONR will monitor progress.

ONR attended the regular Level 4 quarterly meeting to review Sellafield Limited's environmental, safety, health and quality performance. ONR considers that performance has remained adequate. ONR was pleased with work undertaken by Sellafield Limited's assurance team with its Major Projects Division and encouraged consideration of its application across the site.

ONR attended a meeting to review the progress Decommissioning Division had made on addressing its maintenance backlog. ONR is pleased the backlog is now reducing. Sellafield Limited provided evidence of operating unit, divisional and site-wide reporting arrangements and performance data that demonstrates the attention this matter is now receiving. ONR has therefore closed our regulatory issue on maintenance backlog and will monitor progress through Level 4 quarterly meetings.

Sellafield Limited has made commendable progress against the remaining outstanding Level 4 regulatory issues, enabling several to be closed. Three new regulatory issues were raised during this period.

### **Waste and Effluent Disposition**

As part of the sub-division of inspector responsibility at the Sellafield licensed site, the Waste and Effluent Disposition Directorate (WEDD) site inspector regulates all relevant activities within the following operational parts of the site:

- a. Highly Active Liquor Evaporation and Storage Operating Unit (HALES OU).
- b. High Level Waste Plants Operating Unit (HLWP OU).
- c. Effluent and Encapsulation Plants Operating Unit (E&EP OU).
- d. Solid Waste Operating Unit (Solid Waste OU).

Within this quarter, ONR undertook planned compliance inspections in HALES OU against LC 7 reporting of events, LC 22 modification of plant, and LC 26 control and supervision. From these inspections, a good standard of compliance was noted against LC 26, and an adequate standard against both LC 7 and LC 22.

ONR also undertook planned compliance inspections in Solid Waste OU against LC 26 control and supervision and LC 32 waste minimisation. From these inspections, an adequate standard of compliance was noted against both LC 26 and LC 32.

ONR also undertook a planned compliance inspection in E&EP OU against LC 7 reporting of events. From this inspection, an adequate standard of compliance was noted against the LC, with a number of areas of good practice noted, and some areas for improvement that the licensee has committed to addressing.

ONR also undertook a System Based Inspection (SBI) within Solid Waste OU, which focused on the implementation of safety claims relating to the ventilation system within the Waste Treatment Complex (WTC). WTC is a characterisation and compaction facility for 200 litre drums that contain Plutonium Contaminated Material (PCM) prior to longer-term storage on site. Whilst ONR noted that the safety claims made against the system were adequately implemented, there were a number of

minor issues relating to procedural use, adherence and effective definition of the safety equipment boundary which the licensee has undertaken to address.

During this quarter, the licensee has, within all Operating Units within WEDD, examined the extent to which each facility complies with the site-wide arrangements that control temporary modification to the plant. For HLWP, Solid Waste, and HALES OUs, ONR is now satisfied that the evidence sampled indicates that those facilities implement the formal arrangements adequately. For E&EP OU, additional regulatory intervention continues.

## **THORP**

During this quarter, ONR undertook planned licence compliance inspections against LC 11 emergency arrangements, LC 22 modifications or experiment on existing plant, LC 24 operating instructions, LC28 examination, inspection, maintenance and testing and LC 36 organisational capability.

Compliance with LCs 11 and 22 was found to be adequate with no significant areas for improvement identified. It was pleasing to note that THORP had made significant progress with ensuring that site-wide emergency arrangement improvements are integrated into local plant level improvements.

Regarding LC 22, ONR was pleased to identify that Sellafield Limited has implemented a very effective process for the control of temporary software modifications.

Inspection against LC 24 identified that Sellafield Limited has made significant improvements regarding the setting and re-enforcing of standards to procedural use and adherence within its maintenance teams. ONR however, concluded that this had not been achieved with the same consistency in the facility's operations teams.

In ONR's inspection against LC 28 THORP provided adequate evidence that maintenance included on the plant maintenance schedule (that most important to safety) was being well controlled with no overdue maintenance. ONR, however, observed a significant backlog of lower safety significant, normal plant maintenance. As such, ONR informed Sellafield Limited that improvements in the way this backlog is managed are required.

THORP's compliance with LC 36 fell short of that expected by ONR. Sellafield Limited was able to demonstrate that where implemented, its management of change process was carried out to high standards and rigour. However, THORP had failed to explicitly assess a potential reduction in organisational capability due to a number of staff moves/post reductions. Sellafield Limited was informed of ONR's findings in THORP and has requested that an appropriate assessment is now completed.

ONR also held a routine quarterly regulatory review meeting with the THORP lead team in conjunction with the Environment Agency. THORP was able to demonstrate a good understanding of key areas of regulatory focus and demonstrated a positive approach to addressing our issues.

## **2.2 Other work**

### **Project Delivery sub-programme**

The ONR Project Delivery sub programme regulates the programmes, projects and activities, associated with the delivery of high hazard and risk reduction on the Sellafield site.



This includes projects in the legacy ponds, legacy silos, decommissioning, high level waste and infrastructure areas of the site. In addition to regulating these areas, the sub programme also has a number of improvement themes, aimed at encouraging Sellafield Limited to accelerate risk and hazard reduction, namely;

- Prioritisation
- Use of resources
- Removal of blockers
- Removal of diversions and distractions
- Incentivisation
- Fit for purpose solutions.
- Risk Appetite
- Communications

Key points from ONR's interventions with the licensee during this quarter were:

Legacy Ponds: ONR remains encouraged with the progress that Sellafield Limited continues to make on risk and hazard reduction in the legacy ponds.

During this quarter Sellafield has continued to export canned fuel from the Pile Fuel Storage Pond. During October the last remaining fuel cans were removed. This is a considerable hazard reduction achievement for this facility. ONR is pleased with the rate of progress given the number of challenges that this project has had to overcome.

Sellafield Limited has informed ONR that an identified Key Decommissioning Milestone associated with the Pile Fuel Storage Pond Drum Filling Plant (DFP) project will now be delayed into the next financial year due to a risk with sludge characteristics being realised. This issue will affect the project schedule; however ONR remains content with how Sellafield Limited is reviewing options to minimise the impact on the schedule.

ONR previously reported progress on the transfer of sludge from the First Generation Magnox Storage Pond; this is currently experiencing commissioning difficulties which are being investigated by Sellafield Limited. ONR is monitoring the active commissioning progress of the Sludge Processing Plant, which will support bulk retrievals of sludge in the next financial year.

Legacy Silos: In response to Sellafield Limited's request for our agreement to commence installation followed by inactive commissioning of the Silo Emptying Plant (SEP)2 and SEP1 in the Magnox Swarf Storage Silo, ONR has carried out assessment and inspection interventions before granting a Licence Instrument to permit these activities.

ONR has also permissioned certain Magnox Swarf Storage Silo composite crane operations, The safety case for this includes a number of lifts which will support future retrieval operations from this facility. Following assessment by ONR specialist inspectors, regulatory confidence has been gained in Sellafield Limited's approach and controls, sufficient to enable ONR to lift the associated permissioning hold point.

ONR remains concerned that Sellafield Limited has not adequately integrated the hazard reduction schedule for the Pile Fuel Cladding Silo (PFCS). However, from ONR's interactions with the project over the quarter, there appears to be an improving picture in developing the integrated programme.

Decommissioning: As reported in the last quarter, ONR remains concerned with Sellafield Limited's rate of delivery and management of risks associated with the Head End Stack demolition project. During this period ONR has stressed the importance of timely delivery of this project while continuing to manage safety risks appropriately. This is a significant hazard reduction project and ONR is working

to encourage Sellafield Limited to adopt a fit for purpose solution to achieve a timely outcome, whilst still maintaining appropriate standards of nuclear safety.

High Level Waste Plants: Sellafield Limited has measured the evaporator base thickness of Evaporator C; this was a key activity in underpinning the Evaporator C continued operations case. ONR is currently assessing Sellafield Limited's submission; however the measured base thickness was considerably more than anticipated, which will be an important factor in our eventual decision.

Infrastructure: As previously reported, ONR was disappointed that Sellafield Limited had remaining open recommendations, findings and considerations with regard to completing the first phase of its post-Fukushima resilience improvements. ONR is currently considering the appropriate regulatory response to our concerns regarding the timeliness of implementing these improvements; this will conclude in October.

ONR has continued to engage with Sellafield Limited over the need to secure long term provision of analytical services for the Sellafield site. This is necessary to support the safety of ongoing operations, and specifically, hazard and risk reduction across the site. ONR has also continued to engage with Sellafield Limited to secure the reduction in the legacy waste presently stored within the analytical services facility, and is pleased with initial progress.

Magnox Reprocessing Separation Plant: The Magnox Reprocessing Separation Plant (MRSP) has an important role within the UK nuclear industry until circa 2020, as it supports a number of UK national risk and hazard reduction programmes, including the UK Magnox Operating Programme (UK MOP). If the MRSP is not available to reprocess spent Magnox fuel, there would be significant knock-on effects on a number of other nuclear facilities which would result in safety and security issues. Continued operation of the MRSP is fundamental to ongoing risk and hazard reduction on the Sellafield site.

In June 2015 ONR issued an Improvement Notice (IN) in relation to LC 24 'Operating Instruction' breaches related to events on the site over the previous 14 months. Since the IN was served there have been further related events reported at the MRSP.

In July 2015 ONR approved a revised regulatory strategy for the MRSP which recognised the strategic importance of the plant, the age (and design) of the plant, and that events such as those that led to ONR's Notice will likely continue to occur until the improvements Sellafield Limited is making become properly embedded. This revised regulatory strategy will be managed by the Project Delivery sub-programme going forward, and will be implemented from October.

#### General:

During this quarter, ONR has continued to embed our regulatory strategy for Sellafield:

- A conference was held in July to help embed the collaborative working messages across the Sellafield site which has been adopted between the six key organisations sharing the common objective of accelerating high hazard and risk reduction on the site. This conference highlighted key messages from all the organisations and shared case studies where accelerated risk and hazard reduction had been achieved.
- ONR has supported key messages at the relevant WCSSG sub-groups, related to the:
  - Six month extension, granted by ONR to Cumbria County Council, to revise its emergency plans for the area surrounding the Sellafield site. This follows a major revision to the area which requires detailed emergency planning (from 2 km to between 6 and 7km).

- Increase in risks during the installation of the SEP machines at MSSS (an activity justified given its necessity to enable bulk waste retrievals from the plant) and the mitigations in place to offset these risks.
- ONR holds a monthly Regulatory Interface Meeting (RIM) with Sellafield Limited where ONR discusses all aspects within its regulatory remit. This includes nuclear safety, security, conventional safety, safeguards and transport safety.

### **3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS**

#### **Annual Regulatory Review**

In June, ONR attended Sellafield Limited's Annual Regulatory Review. This replaces the former Annual Review of Safety, which has been reformatted to work at higher level and to recognise that ONR's remit is broader than just nuclear safety. The new format, at which nuclear security, conventional safety, radioactive transport safety, nuclear materials accountancy and safeguards were also discussed, was welcomed by all parties.

At the meeting, ONR was generally in agreement on where the successes and learning points from the past year had been and what Sellafield Limited had identified as its priorities going forward.

The only exception to this was in regard to Sellafield Limited's late delivery of its post-Fukushima Chief Nuclear Inspector's Report commitments, which ONR considers to be a priority, but which did not feature strongly in Sellafield Limited's 2015 to 2016 objectives.

ONR welcomed the reduction in nuclear events over the past year and that inspection ratings also indicated an improving nuclear safety trend but stressed that needs to focus on improving its conduct of operations, e.g. compliance with Operating Instructions, noting the Improvement Notice (IN) served recently at Magnox Reprocessing. This will need better and more focussed strong leadership from Sellafield Limited's managers. ONR also welcomed the progress Sellafield Limited has made over the past year in developing and implementing more effective internal regulation.

With regard to decommissioning projects, ONR continues to be pleased with progress with the legacy ponds but stressed the need to keep focussed on delivery of the project to dismantle the First Generation Magnox Reprocessing Stack.

Emergency Planning and Resilience has been an area of mixed delivery over the past year; while there have been important improvements in the resilience of the site's electricity supply, we noted the importance of completing the delivery of post-Fukushima resilience improvements at the site.

ONR also welcomed the improvements seen in this year's demonstration Emergency Exercise and we suggested that next year's demonstration exercise ought to be against a severe accident scenario.

With regard to conventional health and safety (CHS), ONR was generally satisfied that Sellafield Limited presented an accurate picture of its performance during the past year. ONR was pleased that Sellafield Limited had recognised the need to focus on closing identified gaps in its ownership for CHS at the middle management level (including plant managers), and embedding the right skills in the right individuals in the right areas.

ONR advised Sellafield Limited that ONR considers it has robust governance arrangements for both the receipt and consignment of transported radioactive material, commending the company for good practices witnessed in regard to the management of cuboid flasks.

With regard to Nuclear Material Accountancy and Safeguards, ONR considered Sellafield Limited's review to be an accurate reflection of its improved performance over the past year. ONR was satisfied with the priority areas the company had identified going forward. ONR agreed with Sellafield Limited that its most pressing Safeguards issue is to provide a credible and substantive explanation for the ongoing Nuclear Materials Accountancy (NMA) anomaly in Magnox Reprocessing.

### **Plutonium finishing and storage**

Work has been continuing to investigate the minor leakage from the 22" duct on the roof of the PMF (N) facilities. This work has revealed that the duct is in poor condition and the emphasis has shifted from repairing the duct to decommissioning and removing it. A programme of work is being prepared to effect the removal but is complicated by several other high priority issues affecting the duct location. ONR intends to monitor the duct removal work to ensure adequate standards of nuclear and conventional safety are maintained.

Work is also continuing on investigating the corrosion in the Sellafield Product and Residue Storage facility (SPRS). An ONR corrosion specialist has been assigned to monitor progress on this work. So far the work on this issue has been aimed at better understanding the corrosion process and the implications it may have to the future long term operation of the store. Sellafield Limited plans to undertake a manned entry into one of the empty cells to gather samples in September.

### **High Level waste plant operating unit**

During this quarter, HLWP OU reported a failure to adequately maintain safety equipment to the required periodicity.

When ONR followed up this event at site, we judged that the particular event had a minimal safety impact on plant, but that it indicated a potential site-wide issue which the licensee would need to both confirm and address.

Also during this quarter, HALES OU reported a failure to adequately control plant access. When ONR followed up this event at site, we judged that the particular event again had no safety impact on plant, but it did indicate a potential for loss of control of work on plant which the licensee recognised, and has committed to address.

### **Sellafield Limited complies with Improvement Notice at Fuel Handling Plant**

In November 2013 ONR issued Sellafield Limited with an Improvement Notice as a result of shortfalls in the handling of internal fuel flasks within the Fuel Handling Plant. These issues, which were identified by Sellafield Limited itself, related to concerns about the level of protection provided to employees and others against the risk of inadvertent exposure to ionising radiation.

In September 2014 ONR agreed to extend the due date for making these improvements in view of the progress Sellafield Limited had made and because ONR was satisfied the company was doing all that was reasonably practicable to address the shortfalls. Sellafield limited has now completed the necessary improvements and ONR has confirmed the Improvement Notice has been complied with.

## **4 REGULATORY ACTIVITIES**

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.

During this quarter, ONR issued the following formal regulatory documents:

**Licence Instruments and Enforcement Notices Issued by ONR during this period**

**Sellafield limited - Sellafield (and Calder Works) – Nuclear Site Licence no. 31G**

Date	Type	Ref No	Description
3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2015	Enforcement	SEL77551R	Ionising Radiation Regulations 1999 (As amended) Subject: Radioactive Sources Control Arrangements
20th July 2015	Enforcement	SEL77554	Licence Condition 11, Emergency Arrangements - Adequacy of emergency arrangements within the Medium Active Evaporation and Thermal Denitration Plant
11 August 2015	Enforcement	SEL77556	Improvement Notice 1/2013/ONR/MK/001
25 <sup>th</sup> September 2015	Agreement	SEL77557N	Agreement to commence installation and inactive commissioning of SEP2 and 1 mobile caves in MSSS

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

## 5 NEWS FROM ONR

Insight into ONR’s work as an independent regulator of the nuclear industry can be found in ONR’s [Regulation Matters](#). The online publication 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 visit the [website](#) and sign up for our [bulletin](#).

## 6 CONTACTS

Office for Nuclear Regulation  
Redgrave Court  
Merton Road  
Bootle  
Merseyside  
L20 7HS  
Website: [www.onr.org.uk](http://www.onr.org.uk)  
Email: [ONREnquiries@onr.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ONREnquiries@onr.gsi.gov.uk)

This document is issued by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). For further information about ONR, or to report inconsistencies or inaccuracies in this publication please visit <http://www.onr.org.uk/feedback.htm>.

© Office for Nuclear Regulation, 2015

If you wish to reuse this information visit [www.onr.org.uk/copyright](http://www.onr.org.uk/copyright) for details.

Published

*For published documents, the electronic copy on the ONR website remains the most current publicly available version and copying or printing renders this document uncontrolled.*