



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

Report for period 1 July 2015 – 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 Winfrith Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Winfrith 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 inspection

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

13 – 15 July 2015
20 August 2015
21 – 23 September 2015

A civil engineering specialist inspector attended site on 13 - 14 July. This was to assist the site inspector to carry out a system based inspection on the Steam Generating Heavy Water Reactor civil structures.

ONR's Decommissioning, Fuel and Waste Programme director and one of ONR's non-executive directors made a familiarisation visit to Winfrith on 20 August 2015

Two ONR nuclear safety inspectors, observed a Level 1 emergency exercise (named "Gannet") on 22 September 2015.

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, a system compliance inspection on the Steam Generating Heavy Water Reactor civil structures was completed. System inspections are focused on the site's critical safety systems and structures and are derived from the licensees' safety cases.

This inspection included:

- Training
- Operating rules
- Operating instructions
- Safety mechanisms, devices and circuits
- Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing
- Leakage and escape of radioactive material and radioactive waste

In addition; compliance inspections were carried out against:

- Restrictions on nuclear matter on the site
- Consignment of nuclear matter

- Decommissioning;
- Organisational changes

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.

2.1.1 Annual Review of Safety for Harwell and Winfrith

The licensee's Annual Review of Safety for Harwell and Winfrith was held at Harwell on 6 August 2015 and was attended by the site and project inspectors. The licensee provided a report of its safety performance at both sites during the last year and identified improvements to be carried out this year. The ONR inspectors considered the report to be sufficiently self-critical and the licensee identified appropriate areas for improvement.

2.1.2 Level 1 Emergency Exercise (Named "Gannet")

On 22 September 2015 an ONR team assessed Level 1 emergency exercise "Gannet". 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 areas for improvement were identified.

2.2 Other work

The site inspector held a periodic meeting with safety representatives, to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety and welfare at work.

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 or events 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 or Enforcement Notices were issued during the period.

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. <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>).

6 CONTACTS

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