



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield

Report for period 1 April to 30 June 2016

Foreword

This report is issued as part of ONR's commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the Aldermaston and Burghfield sites available to the public. Reports are distributed quarterly to members for the Local Liaison Committee and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Aldermaston and Burghfield Local Liaison Committee 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 inspectors carried out inspections on the following dates during the quarter:

- April 10-14, 18-19
- May 9-13, 18, 31
- June 6-9, 28, 29

2 ROUTINE MATTERS

2.1 Inspections at Aldermaston and Burghfield

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 36 conditions attached to the licence in order to ensure legal compliance. Inspectors seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this quarter, routine inspections of Aldermaston and Burghfield covered the following licence conditions (LC):

- LC7 Incidents on the site
- LC10 Training
- LC11 Emergency arrangements
- LC12 Duly authorised and other suitably qualified and experienced persons
- LC13 Nuclear safety committee
- LC23 Operating rules
- LC24 Operating instructions
- LC26 Control and supervision of operations
- LC27 Safety mechanisms, devices and circuits
- LC28 Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing
- LC32 Accumulation of radioactive waste
- LC34 Leakage and escape of radioactive material and radioactive waste

ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements to be adequate in the majority of the areas inspected.

Where improvements were considered necessary following inspections, the licensee made commitments to address the issues, and the inspectors will monitor progress during future visits. If necessary, ONR will take formal regulatory enforcement action to ensure that appropriate remedial measures are implemented to reasonably practicable timescales.

2.2 Other work

ONR specialist inspectors attended site in February to undertake a formal investigation regarding an AWE employee who received an electric shock in October 2015. The investigation identified a number of failings in the management and control of electrical work on the Aldermaston site. The findings of ONR's investigation were considered against the ONR Enforcement Management Model (EMM). ONR recognised that AWE had undertaken their own investigation which had identified similar failings, and that an improvement action plan was being developed. Taking that into account, ONR sent an enforcement letter to AWE, detailing the actions expected for a range of improvements required to prevent recurrence. ONR inspectors also met with senior AWE managers to inform AWE of the seriousness of the failings and to agree on a way ahead to deliver improvements in safety. Further inspections will be undertaken to confirm that these improvements are embedded in appropriate working practices and procedures.

ONR has previously written to AWE seeking assurance that the risks posed by operations at the Burghfield site are as low as reasonably practicable pending completion of the delayed ten yearly periodic review of safety (PRS2) of the site safety case. AWE has produced an interim justification to support continued operations on the Burghfield prior to the full PRS2 documents being submitted to ONR in September 2016. ONR inspectors visited the Burghfield site at the end of May and carried out a high level review of the interim justification prior to the PRS2 submission in September. No areas of immediate concern were identified from the documents that were reviewed by ONR.

ONR inspectors have continued to engage with AWE to inspect the construction of a rainwater flood relief trench at a legacy facility on the Aldermaston site. Construction is progressing well and is on target for planned completion at the end of August 2016. ONR inspectors are holding regular meetings with AWE in relation to ONR's ongoing assessment of the delayed PRS2 for this legacy facility, which was submitted in March 2016.

A team of ONR inspectors observed the annual Level 1 emergency demonstration exercise on the Aldermaston site in May. The exercise scenario contained an increased level of challenge when compared to previous years. Strong performances were observed in some of the command and control roles, and overall ONR judged that AWE demonstrated their emergency arrangements to a good standard.

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.

Nil this quarter.

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 LIs were issued by ONR during this reporting period.

As discussed above, an enforcement letter was written to AWE in April 2016 detailing expectations of improvements that are to be made regarding management and control of electrical work activities.

ONR inspectors have been engaging with AWE with respect to the evidence it has submitted for close out of an extant Higher Activity Waste (HAW) Improvement Notice, which requires AWE to complete its process for recommending options to take forward as part of the future HAW programme and to demonstrate that its recommended options for the passivation and storage of its legacy and future HAW reduce the risk potential so far as is reasonably practicable throughout its anticipated storage life.

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

5 CONTACTS

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