



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

Report for period 1 July to 30 September 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:

- July 11-15, 20, 22-24, 26
- August 15-18, 22, 23, 31
- September 3, 12-15, 19, 20, 28

## 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 at Aldermaston and Burghfield covered the following licence conditions (LC):

- LC6 Documents, records, authorities and certificates
- LC12 Duly authorised and other suitably qualified and experienced persons
- LC14 Safety documentation
- LC19 Construction or installation of new plant
- LC20 Modification to design of plant under construction
- LC21 Commissioning
- LC25 Operational records
- LC32 Accumulation of radioactive waste
- LC33 Disposal of radioactive waste
- LC35 Decommissioning

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

Where improvements are considered necessary following inspections, ONR may consider whether regulatory enforcement action is appropriate to ensure that remedial actions are taken in reasonably practicable timescales.

In September 2016, ONR carried out a follow-up LC14 inspection on the production of the 10 yearly Periodic Review of Safety (PRS) for the Burghfield site. This inspection was undertaken to follow up on concerns raised during a previous LC14 inspection in 2015 where

ONR found AWE to be non-compliant with its arrangements for the production and governance of key safety documentation. Again, in September ONR inspectors found that AWE had not been compliant with its LC14 arrangements when producing key safety documents. ONR is therefore considering its overall findings against LC14 using formal procedures to decide on proportionate regulatory action.

## **2.2 Other work**

ONR is progressing with its assessment of the 10 yearly PRS submission for a legacy manufacturing facility on the Aldermaston site, and is working towards a regulatory decision date in March 2017.

AWE submitted its 10 yearly PRS documentation for the Burghfield site in September, for which the regulatory decision date will be September 2017.

ONR has continued to engage with AWE regarding the ongoing technical assessment work that AWE is undertaking in support of a revised Burghfield Report of Assessment that is required under the Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations (REPPiR).

## **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.

ONR was informed of an incident that occurred at the end of June on the Aldermaston site where a sub-contract worker had damaged a live buried 415V power cable during excavation work that was being undertaken as part of a decommissioning project. The cable damage caused a loss of power to an adjacent facility which was then evacuated. There were no injuries caused to any persons by the incident. In accordance with procedures, ONR inspectors visited site to undertake follow-up enquires, including a review of AWE's investigation into the incident and its proposed actions to prevent recurrence. Based on information gained during these enquiries, the inspectors have determined that a formal ONR investigation is an appropriate regulatory response to this incident. ONR has written to AWE informing it of this line of action, and also requesting confirmation that AWE is taking appropriate actions to prevent recurrence pending the outcome of the ONR investigation.

## **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.

On 30 September, ONR closed out the Improvement Notice (IN) that it had previously placed on AWE regarding the management of Higher Activity Waste (HAW) on the Aldermaston site. ONR will continue to engage with AWE on a forward HAW work programme to deliver hazard and risk reduction.

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

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