



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Low Level Waste Repository Limited

Report for period 1 April – 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 above site available to the public. Reports are distributed quarterly to members of the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholders Group Low Level Waste Repository Working Group and are available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lrc/>).

The site inspector from ONR usually attends the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholders Group Low Level Waste Repository Working 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 conducted interventions on the following dates during the quarter:

April	20
May	None
June	8

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 implementation.

In this period, routine inspections of Low Level Waste Repository Limited (LLWR) covered the following:

Licence condition 35, Decommissioning.

On 20 April and 8 June, I participated in the periodic meetings between the licensee and the regulators. At the latter meeting, with the Head of Site and other staff, the licensee reported the delivery of planned progress with key decommissioning projects, (monitored by ONR as formal regulatory issues) and was continuing to reduce the hazards on the site. I was content with the decommissioning progress reported by the licensee on this occasion.

One new regulatory issue was raised, relating to the licensee's progress with enhancing the integrity of the site water supplies, following a recent report by the licensee on the robustness of the site water supplies. The issue will be inspected by an ONR fire safety specialist inspector. The licensee continues to address the improvement of the site infrastructure.

Participation in the West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group LLWR Working Group meeting.

On 20 April, the nominated site inspector provided information on recent ONR interventions, at the meeting of the West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group LLWR Working Group, held near to the site. I commented on the ONR priority for the site being the key decommissioning projects, confirming that ONR was currently content with the rate of progress being achieved

by the licensee with the range of decommissioning projects. A query was raised by a County Councillor regarding site emergency planning at LLWR, in view of the extended Sellafield site off site emergency planning area. The LLWR site emergency arrangements already encompass the effect of the change at Sellafield and continue to be routinely inspected by ONR inspectors at site emergency exercises.

ONR Radioactive Materials Transport.

One minor transport event was reported to ONR, regarding a missing weld on a package used to carry low level waste.

On transport package permissioning, the licensee is arranging the procurement of new NOVAPAC packages (Package Type GB2729 A and B), used to ship radioactive materials. ONR Transport assessment for the approval for this package is ongoing. ONR Transport will be conducting inspection of the manufacture and testing of the packages in due course.

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 held with the licensee's safety representatives during inspections by ONR, to support their function of representing employees and by giving advice 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. 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

Chief Nuclear Inspector's annual statement.

ONR published its Annual Report and Accounts 2015/16 on 7 July 2016. As well as reporting on ONR's performance, the report includes the Chief Nuclear Inspector's annual statement, which provides a judgement on the regulatory attention necessary for each licensed site, dependent on the level of hazard and risk posted by the facility. The Annual Report and Accounts can be viewed on the ONR website.

New regulatory structure.

ONR has recently reviewed its organisational arrangements, to ensure that our regulatory structure is appropriately focused to deliver front-line regulation over the next few years. To maintain effective and proportionate regulation, and to address potential and actual imbalances in the current workloads of the programmes, we have created three nuclear safety programmes, each led by a Deputy Chief Inspector. These programmes are:

A new reactors programme, dealing with design assessment, licensing and construction of civil reactors.

An operating facilities programme, dealing with operating reactors, defence sites and other operating facilities.

A Sellafield, decommissioning, fuel and waste programme, dealing predominantly in decommissioning and waste. Low Level Waste Repository Limited sits within this programme.

You can view ONR's [organisational structure](#) and full [regulatory structure](#) on our website.

6 CONTACTS

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