



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Springfields Fuels 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 Springfields Fuels Limited Site Stakeholder Group and are available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend the Springfields Fuels Limited 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 inspections

The ONR Nominated Site Inspector and other ONR Inspectors conducted interventions on the following dates during the quarter:

April	28
May	4
June	9, 16 & 22

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 Springfields Fuels Limited covered the following:

Emergency arrangements.

On 4 May, I observed aspects of the licensee's operation of the Alternative Emergency Control Centre, (established on the advice of ONR as a 'post Fukushima recommendation') during an 'on site' exercise, observed by ONR inspectors, which also included participation by the emergency services. Some useful learning points arose from the full operation of this relatively new facility, readily acknowledged by the licensee, which are being addressed.

On 9 June, I inspected the implementation of the licence condition 11 emergency arrangements, meeting with the licensee, to agree the scope of the forthcoming Level One ('on site') emergency exercise and then to conduct a site inspection of the extended and refurbished Emergency Control Centre. The facility has recently been extended and the layout improved, which will enhance the licensee's capability to manage an emergency on the site. I concluded that the licensee had made worthwhile improvements to the Emergency Control Centre.

Counterfeit, Fraudulent and Suspect Items, (CFSI).

On 9 June, I inspected aspects of the licensee's licence condition 17 (Management Systems), to discuss the licensee's implementation of arrangements to address potential CFSI. I reviewed aspects of the licensee's implementation of arrangements to guard against CFSI being introduced into the operating facilities and also into reactor fuel components. I found

good evidence that the licensee was well aware of the CFSI topic and had implemented measures to reduce the likelihood of CFSI arriving at the site. Some regulatory advice was provided to enable the licensee to further strengthen the robustness of the licensee's arrangements against CFSI. Overall, I concluded that the licensee had implemented adequate arrangements to address the topic of CFSI, with further minor improvements being advised at this intervention.

Disposal of radioactive waste and decommissioning.

At the quarterly regulatory review meeting between the licensee, the regulators and the National Nuclear Laboratory Limited tenant organisation, held on 22 June, the licensee reported continuing acceptable performance in maintaining authorised disposals of low and very low level solid radioactive wastes from the site. A range of other topics of regulatory interest were discussed, including the licensee's continuing progress with uranic residue processing, funded by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, (NDA). The longevity of future legacy uranic residue processing operations, largely funded by NDA, continues to be discussed with the licensee's Managing Director. It was disappointing to learn that the current NDA funding for site decommissioning projects and legacy uranic residue processing, both of which reduce hazards on the site, had been curtailed by NDA, resulting in the postponement of the decommissioning and demolition of some redundant facilities for a period of three years. This topic will continue to inform future ONR site interventions.

Fire Safety.

On 16 June, a site intervention was made by ONR fire safety specialist inspectors, to assess the progress of a number of required improvements identified at the January 2016 intervention. The licensee's recently introduced Fire Action Database (FAD) and its links to the site 'dashboard' were inspected. A meeting was also held with the licensee's recently appointed Fire Safety Officer. It was concluded that the newly introduced FAD and 'dashboard' would enhance the licensee's arrangements for addressing fire safety issues, including the plant manager ownership of actions arising from the licensee's audits.

ONR Radioactive Materials Transport.

No interventions during this quarter.

ONR Safeguards.

Routine inspections have been carried out during the period, with no significant safeguards concerns raised.

A wash up meeting was held in June at ONR, involving the licensee, Euratom and attendees from the Department of Energy in the USA, to discuss the 'Enhanced Data Acquisition System', a potential future safeguards device, which had undergone extensive testing at Springfields. Experience gained and lessons learned during the trial were fed back to the designers, who are now looking to improve the equipment for use in routine application. Both Euratom and the USA Department of Energy expressed appreciation for the licensee's positive contribution to the project.

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 routinely held with the licensee's safety representatives and during inspections by ONR inspectors, to support their function of representing employees and by giving advice on matters affecting their health, safety and welfare at work.

Springfields Site Stakeholder Group.

On 28 April, I participated in the Site Stakeholder Group meeting, held on the site, reporting on recent ONR interventions at Springfields. I addressed some queries from the Stakeholder Group members on emergency planning matters, which continue to be periodically inspected by ONR at emergency exercises. I commented that the licensee was receptive to regulatory advice and continued to share good practice on a broad range of nuclear licensing and safety topics, with a number of other licensees.

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. 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. Springfields Fuels Limited sits within this programme.

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

6 CONTACTS

Office for Nuclear Regulation
Redgrave Court
Merton Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 7HS
Website: www.onr.org.uk
Email: ONREnquiries@onr.gov.uk

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