



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Urenco UK Limited Capenhurst

Report for period 1 January – 31 March 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 Urenco UK Limited Local Liaison Committee and are available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend the Urenco UK Limited 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 Site Inspector and other ONR Specialist Inspectors conducted interventions at Capenhurst on the following dates during the reporting period:

January	6, 26 & 28
February	2, 3, 5, 10, 16, 23 & 24
March	3, 23 & 30

A meeting was held at the ONR Head Office at Bootle on 18 January, at the request of the licensee, for ONR to provide regulatory advice on conventional health and safety matters at Capenhurst.

An ONR Deputy Chief Inspector visited Capenhurst on 5 February, to discuss training matters relating to the Safety Director's Forum.

As part of the planned periodic rotation of ONR Nominated Site Inspectors, a handover was conducted to the new ONR Nominated Site Inspector in February.

2 ROUTINE MATTERS

2.1 Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with (but not exclusively):

- 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), The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 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, routine inspections of the Urenco UK Limited licensed site covered the following:

Nuclear Safety Case.

Nuclear safety cases are in place for the enrichment facilities at Capenhurst. Nuclear safety cases are kept live by short term reviews, with a full periodic review by the licensee, normally every ten years. The licensee has been reviewing the nuclear safety cases for the enrichment facilities and has proposed a revised programme for the periodic review of safety cases, which will incorporate recent developments in safety case methodology. This is currently deemed acceptable as the licensee has complied interim nuclear safety cases, in conjunction with an associated engineering improvements programme.

Joint intervention with the Environment Agency to inspect a decommissioning project.

A joint intervention with the Environment Agency (EA), was conducted to inspect a site decommissioning project.

It was evident from the intervention that CNS (a tenant organisation on the Urenco UK Limited nuclear licensed site at Capenhurst), has made progress with the decommissioning project demonstrating an understanding of the contamination characteristics of the area. ONR concluded that there had been adequate progress with the project, in compliance with Licence Condition (LC) 34 (Leakage and escape of radioactive material and radioactive waste).

Joint intervention with the Environment Agency to inspect asset care and maintenance.

A joint compliance intervention was conducted in February, with the EA, to inspect aspects of asset care and maintenance by the licensee. The implementation of arrangements at a sample of each of the facilities was undertaken. The licensee acknowledged a range of areas for improvement in their asset management and provided evidence of an improvement programme to address the areas identified. Overall, the inspection provided regulatory confidence that the assets were being managed and maintained, but recognised there was a significant amount of work, time and investment required, to implement the proposed asset management improvement programme. The regulators jointly sampled aspects of the CNS asset management arrangements and followed these up with site inspections. The CNS LC 28 (Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing) arrangements had recently been reviewed and updated. The new arrangements were implemented and judged to be adequate, comprehensive and in line with regulatory expectations.

Compliance with The Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999.

A planned inspection to examine Control of Radiation Exposure (CORE) across a number of licensed sites (under Regulation 8 of the Ionising Radiations Regulations, IRRs 1999), was undertaken in February. An ONR radiation protection specialist inspected aspects of the licensee's arrangements for the monitoring of the direct radiation dose (neutron and gamma) arising from the Capenhurst site, and to assess the adequacy of the Licensee arrangements for estimating radiation doses to the public. It was concluded that the licensee had adequate arrangements in place for the management and oversight of radiation fields measurable around its site. The license also had adequate arrangements in place to ensure that public exposure to direct radiation shine arising from activities on the site was ALARP.

Tails Management Facility, (TMF) Project.

A planned LC21 compliance intervention of the licensee's and tenant's commissioning arrangements was carried out on 18 February. This provided significant regulatory confidence in the readiness of the organisation to undertake inactive commissioning of the TMF.

Safety Case for the Legacy Cylinder Facility (LCF).

A significant new nuclear facility, the Legacy Cylinder Facility, is planned to be constructed and operated by the CNS tenant organisation, on the licensed site. The LCF facility is currently being designed. The purpose of this facility is to decant and purify the contents of the "Legacy Hex Tails" (uranium hexafluoride) into modern transport containers. The uranium hexafluoride contents will then be transported to the TMF, for deconversion to a more stable, less hazardous, oxide powder form of uranium, U₃O₈. There is a commitment to commence the deconversion of the Legacy "Hex Tails" uranium hexafluoride by 2020 at <http://www.nda.gov.uk/publication/storage-strategy-for-nda-owned-uranium-hexafluoride-tails-2010/>.

ONR Radioactive Materials Transport.

ONR Transport Inspectors witnessed an offsite transport emergency exercise where Urenco were required to respond. This tested both Urenco and the Cheshire Emergency Services.

Minor observations were made, but ONR was pleased the exercise covered the clean-up phase/remedial work as well.

Conventional Industrial Safety inspections.

The ONR investigation into the live 11 kV cable strike event has been concluded during this quarter, ONR concluding that no enforcement action was warranted.

There have been a number of minor incidents on the TMF construction site, relating to conventional health and safety, which have been promptly reported to ONR.

General comment on the interventions in this quarter.

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 has 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 are routinely held with the licensee's team of safety representatives and during plant inspections by ONR inspectors, 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.

ONR was promptly informed of relevant minor events on the licensed site during this period.

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 during this period.

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

5 NEWS FROM ONR

Regulation Matters magazine.

Insight into ONR's work as an independent regulator of the nuclear industry can be found in Regulation Matters. This quarterly 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 on-going changes at ONR. For the latest news and updates from ONR, you can also visit the website and sign up for our e-bulletin: <http://www.onr.org.uk/index.htm>.

6 CONTACTS

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