



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

Report for period 1 January to 31 March 2017

## 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

ONR inspectors carried out inspections on the following dates during the quarter:

- January 9-12, 31
- February 6-9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 27, 28
- March 13-16

## 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):

- LC7 Incidents on the site
- LC10 Training
- LC12 Duly authorised and other suitably qualified and experienced persons
- LC17 Management systems
- LC19 Construction or installation of new plant
- LC20 Modification of design to plant under construction
- LC22 Modification or experiment on existing plant
- LC26 Control and supervision of operations
- LC28 Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing
- LC32 Accumulation of radioactive waste
- LC34 Leakage and escape of radioactive material and radioactive waste
- LC36 Organisational capability

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.

Enforcement action was taken against AWE's non-compliance with its LC14 Safety Documentation arrangements. For each of the Aldermaston and Burghfield sites, a licence instrument Specification was issued in February under LC13 Nuclear Safety Committee (NSC), specifying that AWE shall refer progress with its LC14 recovery programme to its NSC on a quarterly basis, for their consideration and advice, until the recovery programme is agreed as being complete with ONR. AWE has responded positively and ONR inspectors will continue to engage to help ensure that the LC14 recovery programme is progressed to plan until its completion at the end of March 2018.

Enforcement action was also taken against AWE's non-compliance with its LC17 Management Systems arrangements. For each of the Aldermaston and Burghfield sites, an Improvement Notice (IN) was issued in February identifying the need for AWE to put in place an assurance programme that ensures it has arrangements for the control of changes to management systems documentation that give due priority to safety. AWE has responded positively and ONR inspectors will continue to engage to help ensure that this programme of work is delivered by the end of February 2018.

## **2.2 Other work**

In March, ONR completed its assessment of AWE's 10 yearly Periodic Review of Safety (PRS) submission for a legacy manufacturing facility on the Aldermaston site. ONR has informed AWE that further information and substantiation is required to enable a decision on the proposed ten year operational lifespan for that facility to be made. ONR concluded that AWE should re-submit a completed PRS to ONR by the end of March 2019, noting that an adequate safety justification is in place for a defined set of operations until that time.

AWE submitted its 10 yearly PRS submission for the Burghfield site in September 2016. ONR has commenced a review of that documentation and awaits further submissions to enable a full assessment to be made that will inform a regulatory decision in 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). AWE is planning to deliver this documentation before June to enable ONR to make a determination on the Burghfield emergency planning area in the summer.

ONR is continuing to engage with AWE on a higher activity waste (HAW) forward work programme following the closure of the improvement notice in September 2016.

## **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 did not follow up on any non-routine matters during this reporting 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.

The following LIs were issued by ONR during this reporting period:

Aldermaston LI No: 534 Specification dated 28 February 2017

Burghfield LI No: 534 Specification dated 28 February 2017

The following enforcement notices were issued by ONR during this reporting period:

Aldermaston Improvement Notice IN/ONR/2017/AMR/001 dated 15 February 2017

Burghfield Improvement Notice IN/ONR/2017/AMR/002 dated 15 February 2017

## **ONR News**

New reactors update.

- ONR received a request from Government to begin the Generic Design Assessment process for the UK HPR1000 in January. The reactor is now in Step 1 of the GDA process.
- On 30 March, ONR issued Design Acceptance Confirmation for the AP1000@nuclear reactor, designed by Westinghouse. The regulators required 51 GDA issues to be resolved before confirming suitability of the design.
- ONR granted its first consent for the start of construction at Hinkley Point C licensed site. The consent covers the placement of the structural concrete for the first nuclear safety-related structure at the site.
- On 31 March, Horizon Nuclear Power submitted its application for a nuclear site licence to build and operate two UK Advanced Boiling Water Reactors at Wylfa Newydd on Anglesey.

Quarterly statement of civil incidents.

ONR published its quarterly statement of civil incidents reporting on the period October-December 2016. There was one incident which met ministerial reportable criteria at Dounreay involving contamination of workers' clothing. There was no detectable intake of radioactive material by any of the people involved in the incident.

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

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