



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

Report for period 1 April to 30 June 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:

- April 3-5, 11-13, 25
- May 2-4, 9-12, 22-23
- June 5-8, 12-15, 19-22

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):

- LC2 Marking of the Site Boundary
- LC10 Training
- LC11 Emergency Arrangements
- LC23 Operating Rules
- LC24 Operating Instructions
- LC27 Safety mechanisms, devices and circuits
- LC28 Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing

The list of inspections is reduced compared to previous periods as a result of AWE industrial action.

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

In June a team of inspectors observed the annual Aldermaston Level 1 on-site demonstration of LC11 emergency arrangements. This was judged to be an adequate demonstration of the arrangements, with strong elements of command and control being observed. ONR did identify opportunities for improvement regarding the failure to complete the muster of all personnel and ONR inspectors will engage with AWE to seek improvements in this area.

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. No enforcement action was taken with respect to inspections described above.

2.2 Other work

ONR has informed AWE that a regulatory decision regarding the 10 yearly PRS submission for the Burghfield site will be delayed. The revised decision date will now be March 31st 2018. This is due to key documentation being submitted to ONR late meaning that a comprehensive assessment of the combined submission was not possible. ONR has requested a statement from AWE that demonstrates safe operation of the plant from the original decision date of September 25th 2017 to March 31st 2018. ONR has now commenced a review of the submitted documentation and continues to work with AWE as part of the assessment process.

ONR is nearing completion of technical assessment work regarding a revised Burghfield Report of Assessment that is required under the Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations (REPPiR). The determination of a revised Emergency Planning Area for Burghfield will follow and is planned to be completed by October 2017.

ONR is continuing to engage with AWE regarding the Improvement Notices (LC17) and Specifications (LC13) issued to Aldermaston and Burghfield during Q1 2017.

ONR is fully engaged with the stakeholder wide initiative Structured Improvement Plan (SIP). The initiative is intended to support AWE to enable it to move from enhanced to normal regulatory attention by March 2020.

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 has responded to an electrical arcing event that occurred in a facility in June. A specialist ONR inspector will visit site to inspect the plant and undertake follow-up enquiries. The inspector will review the findings of AWE's own internal investigation and consider whether an ONR investigation is appropriate.

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.

A regulatory enforcement letter was issued in June 2017 following the ONR investigation into the 415V live cable strike incident at the Old Waste Management Group on the Aldermaston site on 27th June 2016.

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

Aldermaston LI No: 535 Agreement dated 21 June 2017. ONR agreement for AWE to change a window of a glovebox in a production facility

No enforcement notices were issued or closed by ONR during this reporting period and none were due for closure or delayed.

ONR News

ONR Chair awarded CBE

- In the Queen's Birthday Honours announced in June, Chair of the Office for Nuclear Regulation, Nick Baldwin, was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire for services to nuclear safety and security in Britain and to the charitable sector.

Regulatory Research Report published

- ONR has published its annual regulatory research report which describes the research activities we have conducted in the past year.
- The report includes case studies showing how our research strategy has helped support our regulatory approach, and helps to inform the development of best practice. It can be viewed at www.onr.org.uk/research

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

5 CONTACTS

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