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RADIATION (EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION) REGULATIONS 2001 (REPPIR) – ALDERMASTON NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE OFF-SITE EMERGENCY PLANNING AREA

Dear Mr Carter and Ms Richardson

ONR has been re-determining the REPPIR off-site emergency planning area⁽¹⁾ and the area within which prior information shall be provided to the public⁽²⁾ around the Aldermaston nuclear licensed site, as prescribed in REPPIR regulations 9(1) and 16(1) respectively.

This process was initiated by the Report of Assessment which was sent to ONR by AWE Plc.

Our re-determination has been made in accordance with ONR's principles and guidance for the determination⁽²⁾ of such areas and this letter is to inform West Berkshire Council, as the lead local authority responsible under REPPIR for the preparation of the off-site emergency plan⁽³⁾ around the Aldermaston nuclear licensed site, of the following:

1. ONR notes that, in accordance with the requirements of regulations 5 and 6, AWE Plc reviewed its Hazard Identification and Risk Evaluation (HIRE) for Aldermaston, and submitted a Report of Assessment under regulation 5(2) of REPPIR to ONR in November 2014. Following on from this submission, AWE Plc wrote to ONR identifying that they would be undertaking further assessment work as a result of the introduction of revised assessment methodology. This additional assessment is now complete and concludes that the application of the revised assessment methodology does not affect the conclusions of the Report of Assessment.
2. ONR has completed its assessment of the submission and has concluded that it satisfies the requirements of regulation 6(4) and Schedule 5, and that an off-site emergency plan continues to be required.
3. In accordance with regulations 9(1) and 16(1), ONR has re-determined both the off-site emergency planning and prior information areas around the Aldermaston site as coincident, and this is the area contained within the red line on the map attached to this letter, which may be generally described as:



A land area that varies from 2 km to 3.5 km from the centre of the Aldermaston site (grid reference SU 595 635), which is defined by roads, footpaths, field boundaries and rivers. The area includes the villages of Aldermaston, Inhurst, Pamber Heath and the town of Tadley.

4. The planning area reflects the site specific, proportionate application of ONR's principles and related guidance for determination of REPPiR off-site emergency planning areas (which are published on the ONR website), and consideration of the existing off-site emergency planning area to extend it beyond the minimum required circular area to further enhance public protection. The area is now defined by geographical features and the consideration of adjacent vulnerable communities. This represents the area within which additional off-site emergency planning would be of benefit in protecting the public and restricting exposures so far as is reasonably practicable in the event of a reasonably foreseeable radiation emergency.
5. In addition to arrangements under REPPiR, ONR requires AWE Plc under Nuclear Site Licence Conditions to make and implement adequate arrangement for dealing with any accident or emergency arising on the site and their effects⁽⁴⁾.
6. As a result of this re-determination, and in accordance with regulation 9(8), the Council is required to produce a revised off-site emergency plan within six months, or such longer period as the ONR may agree in writing⁽⁵⁾ either from whichever is the later of the date of receipt of this letter, or from the receipt of such information from the operator as is necessary for the purposes of the preparation of such an off-site plan. The revised plan must apply to the areas defined in paragraph 3 above.
7. In accordance with regulation 16(1), ONR has also re-determined the area within which the operator must supply prior information to be the same area as identified on the map attached to this letter. AWE Plc has the legal duty to provide such specified information in this area, and a copy of the letter advising them of this is also attached.

Yours sincerely



ONR Superintending Inspector – Nuclear Safety

Referenced Explanatory Notes:

(1) The REPPiR off-site emergency planning area is the area for which West Berkshire Council as the lead local authority, is required, under REPPiR regulation 9(1), to produce an off-site emergency plan for the protection of persons who are, or potentially may be, located in this area in the event of a radiation emergency. The plans will include public information and a range of countermeasures and other protection measures relevant and proportionate to the radiological hazards associated with the site. In developing the REPPiR off-site emergency plan, the local authority is required to consult a range of persons including the operators, ONR, the emergency services, the relevant health authority, and such other persons, bodies and authorities and members of the public as it considers appropriate.

(2) ONR's principles for determination of REPPiR off-site emergency planning areas can be found at: <http://www.onr.org.uk/depz-onr-principles.htm>

(3) The REPPiR off-site emergency planning area referred to in this letter is identified as the 'Detailed Emergency Planning Zone' (DEPZ) and comprises of a minimum distance of 3 km from the Aldermaston site, in the Council's current Emergency Plan for the AWE Plc sites.

(4) The operator's on-site plan and its contribution to the off-site plan (eg. assistance with urgent countermeasures), and the off-site emergency plan put in place by the local authority, would be complemented by wider food restrictions as determined by the Food Standards Agency in accordance with the Food and Environment Protection Act, 1985.

(5) REPPiR regulation 9(8) allows ONR, at the request of the Council, to agree in writing a longer time period for revision in exceptional circumstances.

Distribution

AWE Plc	
West Berkshire Council	
Hampshire County Council	
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	
Ministry of Defence	
Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator	
Environment Agency	
Food Standards Agency	
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	
ONR	



ALDERMASTON NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE REPPIR REGULATIONS 9(1) AND 16(1) OFF-SITE EMERGENCY PLANNING AND OFF-SITE PRIOR INFORMATION AREAS FROM 14 SEPTEMBER 2016

The area defined by this map may be generally described as:

A land area that varies from 2 km to 3.5 km from the centre of the Aldermaston site (grid reference SU 595 635), which is defined by roads, footpaths, field boundaries and rivers. The area includes the villages of Aldermaston, Inhurst, Pamber Heath and the town of Tadley.

