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**RADIATION (EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION) REGULATIONS  
(REPPIR) 2001**

**HARWELL OFF-SITE EMERGENCY PLANNING AND PRIOR INFORMATION AREA**

Dear Mr Clark

The above regulations require that nuclear site operators review at least every three years their assessment of all hazards on their site and provide details in a report of assessment (RoA) to the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). If that assessment shows it is reasonably foreseeable that a radiation emergency might arise, then your authority shall prepare an adequate off-site emergency plan. The plan is designed to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the restriction of exposure to ionising radiation and the health and safety of persons who may be affected by such reasonably foreseeable emergencies, as are identified by ONR on the basis of the operator's RoA, and the plan shall be prepared in respect of such area as in the opinion of the ONR any member of the public is likely to be affected by such radiation emergencies.

The nuclear operator of the Harwell site is Magnox Ltd., who has carried out a three year review of their assessment. ONR has reviewed this assessment to re-determine the application of requirements in REPPIR covering a) off-site emergency planning area and b) area within which prior information is to be supplied to members of the public in relation to the Harwell nuclear licensed site as prescribed in REPPIR regulations 9(1) and 16(1) respectively.

ONR assessed the Report of Assessment made and submitted by Magnox Ltd. in 2013 and taking into account their declaration in 2016 of no changes in circumstances to that earlier assessment. Magnox Ltd. concluded that, because of the reduction in hazards due to decommissioning operations at the site, there are no longer any accidents which would result in a reasonably foreseeable radiation emergency.

Therefore, this letter is to inform Oxfordshire County Council of the following:

1. Through its independent assessment and review, ONR concurs with Magnox Ltd.'s conclusions that a radiation emergency, as defined in REPPIR, is no longer reasonably foreseeable from operations at the Harwell site. ONR therefore advises your authority that under REPPIR regulation 9(1) there is no longer a legal requirement for ONR to continue to specify an off-site emergency planning area for the Harwell site. Neither is it necessary under REPPIR regulation 16(1) for ONR to specify an area in which Magnox Ltd. must provide prior



information to the public. ONR has written to Magnox Ltd. to this effect and a copy of this letter is enclosed.

- 2. Consequently there is no longer a requirement for Oxfordshire County Council to continue to prepare, test and review a REPPiR off-site emergency plan that takes into account a possible radiation emergency for nuclear operations at the Harwell site.

With the effective removal of the REPPiR off-site emergency planning and prior information areas in respect to the Harwell site, ONR also informs you that:

- 1. Whilst work with ionising radiation continues to be carried out on the Harwell site, REPPiR will apply, and if any material change occurs in that work, Magnox Ltd. are required to make a further assessment to take account of that change under regulations 5(1) and 5(2), and report the outcome of that assessment to ONR under regulations 6(2), 6(3) and 6(4);
- 2. Magnox Ltd. is not required to prepare an operator’s emergency plan under REPPiR regulation 7(1);
- 3. Magnox Limited will continue to have duties to comply with all relevant health and safety legislation. In the case of accidents involving work with ionising radiation, regulation 12 of the Ionising Radiation Regulations 1999 requires Magnox Ltd. to have contingency plans to deal with radiation accidents, and nuclear site licence conditions, specifically Licence Condition 11, requires them to make and implement ‘on-site’ emergency arrangements; and
- 4. Full details about ONR’s determination are given in its Project Assessment Report (ONR-COP-PAR-16-021) which will be made available on the ONR website.

I have copied this letter to the Harwell Site Closure Director.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]  
**Principal Inspector (Nuclear Safety)**

**Distribution**

- Oxfordshire County Council [Redacted]
- Magnox Ltd. [Redacted]
- ONR [Redacted]
- BEIS [Redacted]
- Nuclear Decommissioning Authority [Redacted]
- Food Standards Agency [Redacted]
- Environment Agency [Redacted]