



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

Report for period 1 October to 31 December 2016

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

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

- October 10-13, 31
- November 7-11, 24, 25, 29, 30
- December 6-8, 12, 13

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
- LC11 Emergency arrangements
- LC17 Management systems
- LC19 Construction or installation of new plant
- LC23 Operating rules
- LC24 Operating instructions
- LC27 Safety mechanisms, devices and circuits
- LC28 Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing
- LC32 Accumulation of radioactive waste
- LC34 Leakage and escape of radioactive material and radioactive waste

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 October, a team of ONR inspectors observed the annual level 1 emergency arrangements demonstration exercise on the Burghfield site. ONR judged that the emergency arrangements had been demonstrated to an adequate standard, and noted that some strong elements of command and control were observed by the team.

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.

ONR will be taking formal enforcement action following a number of interventions where AWE has been found to be non-compliant with its arrangements for LC14 (safety documentation). This action follows on from ONR's application of its enforcement management model (EMM).

In October, ONR carried out a team inspection on LC17 (management systems) and found significant shortfalls in the process for the control of changes to documents that are important to safety. Following application of the EMM, ONR has also decided to take formal enforcement action that will seek sustained compliance with LC17, in line with the aims of ONR's enforcement policy statement (EPS).

2.2 Other work

ONR is progressing with its assessment of AWE's 10 yearly periodic review of safety (PRS) submission for a legacy manufacturing facility on the Aldermaston site, and is working towards a regulatory decision date in March 2017.

AWE submitted its 10 yearly PRS submission for the Burghfield site in September 2016. ONR has commenced a review of that documentation and the regulatory decision date will be 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).

ONR attended AWE's annual review of safety (ARoS) in November that included a [twelve-12](#) month review of safety performance across the Aldermaston and Burghfield sites, as well as a look ahead to the next [twelve-12](#) months. ONR noted that the ARoS process employed in November was an improvement when compared to previous annual reviews.

ONR is continuing to engage with AWE on a higher activity waste (HAW) forward work programme following the closure of the [improvement n](#)Notice (IN) in September.

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.

No LIs were issued by ONR during this reporting period.

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

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