



# Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Harwell

Report for period 1 October – 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 above site available to the public. Reports are distributed quarterly to members for the Harwell Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llic/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend the Harwell Site Stakeholder Group 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 site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the quarter:

- 21 – 25 November 2016

During this inspection, the site inspector was accompanied by a fire safety inspector and a leadership and management for safety inspector.

The ONR site inspector also attended the following meetings at Harwell during this quarter:

- 25 November 2016 – Oxfordshire Emergency Planning Coordination Committee
- 8 December 2016 – Attendance at the Harwell Site Stake Holder Meeting.

## 2 ROUTINE MATTERS

### 2.1 Inspections

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 the conditions attached to the licence in order to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, a system compliance inspection on the B462 contact handled intermediate level waste process ventilation systems was completed. System inspections are focused on the site's critical safety systems and structures and are derived from the licensees' safety cases.

This system compliance inspection was carried out against the following licence conditions (LC):

- LC10 Training
- LC23 Operating rules
- LC24 Operating mechanism, devices and circuits
- LC27 Safety mechanisms, devices and circuits
- LC28 Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing
- LC34 Leakage and escape of radioactive material and radioactive waste

In addition, compliance inspections were also carried out against the following Licence Conditions:

- LC7 Incidents on the site
- LC11 Emergency Arrangements

In general ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements to be adequate in the areas inspected. However, where improvements were considered necessary, the licensee made satisfactory commitments to address the issues, and the site inspector will monitor progress during future visits. Where necessary, ONR will take formal regulatory enforcement action to ensure that appropriate remedial measures are implemented to reasonably practicable timescales.

In regard to LC11, the licensee undertook an emergency demonstration exercise. ONR considered that the planning for the exercise was sufficient, and that the scenario was proportionate to the hazards remaining on site whilst remaining challenging of the emergency arrangements. During the emergency demonstration exercise, ONR identified a number of good points and a number of significant areas for improvement. The licensee also identified the need for improvements and has undertaken to repeat the exercise within three months.

## **2.2 Other work**

The site inspector attended a meeting of the Oxfordshire Emergency Planning Coordination Committee that was held on site on 25 November 2016. This meeting considered the off-site emergency arrangements for Harwell.

The site inspector attended the Harwell Site Stakeholder meeting, which was held at Catapult Satellite Applications, Harwell on 8th December 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.

Matters and events of particular note during the period were:

### Consignment of an incorrect drum of intermediate level waste to Sellafield

Following the event whereby the licensee incorrectly consigned a drum of contact handled intermediate level waste to Sellafield, as Low Specific Activity-II material. ONR issued an enforcement letter to the licensee. The licensee provided a corrective action plan and the site inspector has now confirmed that the licensee has completed all of its actions.

## **4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY**

Harwell submitted a report, as required by the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001 (REPPPIR) to ONR that concluded that a radiation emergency with significant off-site consequences was no longer reasonably foreseeable. Following assessment of this report, ONR has concluded that there has been a significant reduction in the radiological hazard at the site following the shutdown of the reactors many years ago, subsequent decommissioning activity and the treatment and/or removal of radioactive waste from the site. Consequently there is no longer a reasonably foreseeable radiation emergency that could occur at the Harwell site in Oxfordshire. On 13 December 2016, ONR announced that there is no longer a requirement for an off-site emergency planning area in respect of the Harwell nuclear licensed site.

ONR 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 Licence Instruments or Enforcement Notices have been issued during the period.

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

## 5 NEWS FROM ONR

### 5.1 External Stakeholder events

On 1 November 2016, ONR held its Industry Conference in London, which brought together senior leaders from across the nuclear sector. We were pleased to welcome Baroness Neville-Rolfe DBE CMG, Minister of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to this year's conference who delivered the [keynote speech](#). A special edition of [Regulation matters](#) has been published following the conference, which provides a summary of how the day unfolded. As part of our commitment to engage regularly with all our stakeholder groups, we were pleased to welcome 17 representatives from a number of organisations to our ONR / NGO forum on 30 November in London. The event provided an opportunity for NGO representatives to meet with a number of senior ONR leaders, including our Chief Executive and Chief Nuclear Inspector, to discuss a number of priority issues.

### 5.2 Regulation Matters

Insight into ONR's work as an independent regulator of the nuclear industry can be found in ONR's Regulation Matters. The online publication (<http://www.onr.org.uk/regulation-matters.htm>) reports on the key themes and developments in each of ONR's regulatory programmes and provides an update about the ongoing changes at ONR. <http://www.onr.org.uk/index.htm>. For the latest news and updates from ONR visit the website and sign up for our ebulletin (<http://www.onr.org.uk/ebulletin/index.htm>).

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