



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Low Level Waste Repository Limited

Report for period 1 January – 31 March 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 of the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholders Group Low Level Waste Repository Working Group and are available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lrc/>).

The site inspector from ONR usually attends the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholders Group Low Level Waste Repository Working 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 inspections

The ONR Nominated Site Inspector and other ONR Inspectors conducted interventions on the following dates during the quarter:

January	19 & 20
February	17
March	2, 3, 10 & 11

As part of the planned periodic rotation of ONR Nominated Site Inspectors, the Nominated Site inspector for this site changed on 1 March.

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, routine inspections of Low Level Waste Repository Limited (LLWR) covered the following:

Compliance inspection and participation in the West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group LLWR Working Group meeting.

On 19 & 20 January, a compliance inspection was conducted, with an acceptable outcome, reviewing the licensee's progress with decommissioning projects, together with an inspection of the licensee's independent site inspection programme. The development of the licensee's emergency arrangements was also inspected. The site inspector provided information on recent ONR interventions at the meeting of the West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group LLWR Working Group.

Licence Condition 7 ('Incidents on the site') compliance inspection.

On 17 February, the incoming and outgoing site inspectors conducted a compliance inspection, (accompanied by two ONR nuclear graduates, for training). The inspection focused on the licensee's implementation of Licence Condition 7 arrangements including aspects of the licensee's 'Operating Experience Feedback' process. Overall, I concluded that the

arrangements were adequate and no significant issues arose from the inspection, although some areas for improvement were recognised by the licensee.

Handover of Nominated Site Inspector.

On 2 and 3 March, the outgoing and incoming nominated site inspectors for Low Level Waste Repository Limited undertook a two day intervention, to handover ONR Nominated Site Inspector responsibilities. The incoming ONR Nominated Site inspector was introduced to the key licensee staff and gained an appreciation of current and planned decommissioning projects and operations at the site.

General comment.

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.

2.2 Other work

Conventional health and safety matters.

On 17 February, a conventional fire safety specialist inspector inspected the adequacy of fire safety provisions on the site at several site facilities, confirming compliance with the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Work continues on the issue of the water main and its overall condition. Considerable work had been carried out assessing the water demands for the site. Some minor issues arising from the inspection will be followed up with the licensee.

On 10 and 11 March, an ONR conventional safety specialist inspector conducted an inspection to obtain an overview of LLWR Ltd. arrangements for managing conventional health and safety, including the inspection of selected activities underway during visit. The ONR conventional health & safety strategy has identified priority conventional health and safety topics to be inspected. Two of these topics are workplace transport safety and control of contractors. The nature of the LLWR site is that there is a high reliance on vehicle movements to complete key activities undertaken on site. In addition, LLWR have a significant number of contractors working on the site. Therefore, this intervention sampled significant vehicle movements and contractor activities underway during the visit. A number of areas of good or best practice were seen during the visit, in addition to areas for improvement. Regulatory advice was provided regarding the areas for improvement. Progress will be monitored by correspondence with the licensee.

Report of the outcome of a review of the licensee by the licensee's 'parent body organisation'.

On 17 February, the licensee discussed with the site inspector the outcome of a review of the licensee's performance by the licensee's 'parent body organisation' in November 2015. The licensee reported an improved performance against a range of metrics compared to the previous review in 2012, and had met or partially met all thirty objectives set for this review, many of which were safety related.

Meetings with the safety representatives.

Meetings continue to be routinely held with the licensee's safety representatives and during plant inspections by ONR inspectors, to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety and welfare at work.

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. The licensee reported some minor events to ONR in this quarter, in compliance with the licensee's arrangements, which were promptly investigated by the licensee, with follow up reports within sixty days of the event being provided to ONR. Given the minor nature of the events reported to ONR during this quarter, they did not warrant further investigation by ONR.

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 enforcement notices were issued in this period. No Licence Instruments were issued in this period.

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

5 NEWS FROM ONR

Chief Nuclear Inspector appointment.

ONR announced the appointment of Dr Richard Savage as its new Chief Nuclear Inspector (CNI) to lead our regulatory activity. Richard is a Chartered Engineer with an extensive background in nuclear safety and regulation. He served as Head of the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator, Ministry of Defence, before being appointed to ONR as a Deputy Chief Nuclear Inspector in 2013. He was Acting CNI since Dr Andy Hall's retirement in November 2015. <http://news.onr.org.uk/2016/03/nuclear-regulator-appoints-new-chief-nuclear-inspector/>.

ONR Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

In March, ONR published its Strategic Plan covering 2016-2020. The plan sets out the factors that will influence our work and the assumptions we have made about regulating the nuclear sector in the next few years, as well as how we deliver the commitments we have made to the public, ministers and government, licensees, duty holders and our staff. The plan was laid in Parliament on 22 March and can be viewed on the ONR website at <http://news.onr.org.uk/2016/03/onr-publishes-strategic-plan/>.

6 CONTACTS

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