



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

Report for period 1 October to 31 December 2017

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

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

- October 2-5, 9-12, 18, 23-24
- November 2, 6-9, 28-30
- December 4-7, 20

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):

- LC10 Training
- LC22 Modification or Experiment on Existing plant
- LC23 Operating Rules
- LC24 Operating Instructions
- LC27 Safety mechanisms, devices and circuits
- LC28 Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing
- LC34 Leakage and Escape of Radioactive Material and Radioactive Waste
- LC35 Decommissioning

ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements to be adequate in the majority of areas inspected.

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 raised a regulatory issue relating to LC35 and the lack of decommissioning progress in two legacy facilities.

2.2 Other work

During Q4 2017 ONR continued technical assessments of the AWE Burghfield Periodic Review of Safety (PRS) documentation. ONR continues to work with AWE as part of the assessment process and will communicate its decision on the PRS to AWE at the end of March 2018.

ONR has completed technical assessment work regarding a revised Burghfield Report of Assessment that is required under the Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations (REPPPIR). The determination of a revised Emergency Planning Area for Burghfield has now been completed and ONR will share its methodology for the redetermination with local authorities and other stakeholders during January 2018. The revised planning area will be issued after the consultation process is complete.

ONR is continuing to engage on progress with AWE regarding the Improvement Notices (LC17) and Specifications (LC13) issued to Aldermaston and Burghfield during Q1 2017. Progress with both the LC17 Improvement Notice and the LC13 specification is aligned with regulatory expectations and are on schedule for closure by the end of Q1 2018.

ONR continues to be fully engaged with the stakeholder wide initiative Structured Improvement Plan (SIP). The initiative will support AWE to facilitate a move from enhanced to normal regulatory attention by March 2020. ONR participated in a series of workshops and supported an implementation plan, which was produced in Q4 2017. The plan will be further developed and rolled out within Q1 2018 and ONR will continue to support this 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.

ONR responded to an electrical arcing event in a facility during Q2 2017 and undertook a formal investigation. The investigation continues to progress and AWE will provide a further response by the end of January 2018 before ONR will finalise its investigation in February 2018.

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.

During the period no Licence Instruments were issued.

ONR issued an enforcement letter relating to LC36 (Organisational Capability) during the period. This followed an inspection in Q1 2017 and the assessment of further LC36 submissions during the year. The letter covered the failure to demonstrate adequate control of changes to AWE's organisational structure or resources that may affect safety. ONR has set expectations for improvement that cover:

- A resourced plan for the implementation of the revised LC36 arrangements, including development of a revised baseline.

- Ensure that all the significant risks from the site change have been identified and suitable controls and mitigation in place.
- Ensure ongoing and planned change projects that may have an impact on nuclear safety or compliance with Licence conditions have been identified and appropriately assessed.

5 News from ONR

5.1 New nuclear power station design approved

The UK Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (UK ABWR), designed by Hitachi-GE, is suitable for construction in the UK, the regulators confirmed following completion of an in-depth assessment of the nuclear reactor design. The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales, the regulators who undertake the Generic Design Assessment of new reactor designs, are satisfied that this reactor meets regulatory expectations on safety, security and environmental protection at this stage of the regulatory process. ONR has issued a Design Acceptance Confirmation (DAC) and the environment agencies have issued a Statement of Design Acceptability (SoDA) to Hitachi-GE.

5.2 Step 2 of nuclear reactor assessment

We also announced on 16 in November that we are progressing to the next phase of our assessment of General Nuclear System Ltd's UK HPR1000 reactor technology. This means we will now begin the technical assessment phase. Additionally, all members of the public can give their views and find out more information about the design by going to UKHPR 1000 website at www.ukhpr1000.com

5.3 ONR response to BEIS impact assessment

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has recently published its Impact Assessment of the Nuclear Safeguards' Bill and that makes reference to ONR's regulation. We contacted BEIS to clarify two points within the document as part of our ongoing constructive engagement with them to develop a domestic safeguards regime as part of exiting Euratom.

The first is that ONR regulates the nuclear industry; it does not provide services to it. Secondly, the Government's policy has developed since the assessment was undertaken and the intention is to put in place a regulatory framework which is robust and as comprehensive as Euratom. This means that we are not in a position to identify potential efficiencies in our regulatory approach at this stage.

As we support BEIS in its development of secondary legislation, we will provide advice to the Government to inform the anticipated impact assessment for nuclear safeguards regulation.

6 CONTACTS

Office for Nuclear Regulation

Redgrave Court

Merton Road

Bootle

Merseyside

L20 7HS

website: www.onr.org.uk

email: Contact@onr.gov.uk

This document is issued by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). For further information about ONR, or to report inconsistencies or inaccuracies in this publication please visit <http://www.onr.org.uk/feedback.htm>.

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