



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

Report for period 1 January to 31 March 2018

## 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. This report will be the last quarterly update. The AWE Local Liaison Committee meeting will go to a four month frequency after the end of this period and ONR's update reports will change to match this timescale. The next ONR report will cover the period 1<sup>st</sup> April - 31<sup>st</sup> July.

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## 1 INSPECTIONS

### 1.1 Dates of inspection

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

- January 8-11, 22-25
- February, 5-8, 28
- March 5-8, 19, 26, 28

## 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
- LC17 Management Systems
- 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

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 two regulatory issues relating to LC10 and LC34. This was due to a lack of information regarding the SQEP status of some workers (LC10) and a lack of record keeping justifying the positioning of continuous air monitors within a facility (LC34).

## 2.2 Other work

ONR completed assessment of the second AWE Burghfield Periodic Review of Safety (PRS2) at the end of March 2018. Our decision was that AWE's Periodic Review of Safety for the Burghfield Assembly Technology Centre was not adequate to support operations for the full ten years from the submission date of September 2016. However, recognising AWE's commitments to progress the outstanding shortfalls, we have agreed to support operations in the short term subject to the implementation of the most significant upgrades. We will reconsider this decision if AWE fails to deliver these key upgrades. Our support for longer term operations will be dependent upon AWE producing an adequate Periodic Review of Safety close out report, including a demonstration that risks from Assembly Technology Centre operations have been reduced so far as is reasonably practicable, which we will assess.

Under the Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations (REPPiR) ONR published the revised Emergency Planning Area (EPA) for Burghfield during March. The revised EPA uses new methodology that considers natural boundaries such as roads, paths and railway lines; hence the shape of the EPA is considerably different from the previous circular version. However, the risks at the site have not increased and the fault scenarios remain the same.

ONR has now closed the Improvement Notices relating to LC17 following a final inspection during March. The Specifications (LC13) issued to Aldermaston and Burghfield during Q1 2017 continue and ONR is currently assessing the work conducted to date prior to making a decision on the closure. Work on the Specifications is currently in line with regulatory expectations.

ONR continues to be fully engaged with the stakeholder wide initiative Structured Improvement Programme (SIP). The initiative will support AWE with the aim of the site moving from enhanced to normal regulatory attention during 2020. AWE continues to develop its implementation plan and ONR will continue to support this extensive programme of 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 and AWE provided a further response at the end of January 2018. ONR is now collating the evidence gathered prior to making a decision on the appropriate regulatory response.

## 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 News

In January, ONR received the results of its first external stakeholder survey which was undertaken by YouGov on behalf of ONR. A broad range of stakeholders were invited to participate in an online survey, with 351 responses received. In addition to the online survey, a number of in depth interviews were also completed with stakeholders. While overall the results demonstrate ONR is seen as a high performing organisation with good levels of stakeholder confidence, there are areas where improvements can be made and we will be working with our divisions on those in the coming months. Further details about the survey results can be found in our March 2018 newsletter which is available on [ONR's website](#).

In February, ONR held its first webinar following the publication of the 'Guide to enabling regulation in practice.' Chief Nuclear Inspector, Mark Foy and Deputy Chief Inspector, Mike Finnerty, were on hand to answer questions about the guide which has been designed to illustrate working examples of enabling regulation in practice. This is a new channel of communication for ONR and we'll be holding further webinars on different topics over the coming months. If you would like to join future webinars then please get in touch with the ONR Communications team via [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk)

In March, ONR held the first of two meetings this year with representatives from across the NGO community. Held in Birmingham, the meeting was attended by 15 NGO representatives from 11 different organisations. Topics discussed included: Domestic Safeguards pending the withdrawal of the UK from Euratom; Emergency Planning Arrangements; and the ONR Stakeholder Survey results. The next meeting is scheduled to take place in October 2018. We are keen to increase the number of people engaging with ONR on nuclear safety and security issues and would like to invite members of SSGs, and LCCs to join our engagement programme. For more details please get in touch via [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk)

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Published 05/18

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