



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

Site Report for

Harwell

Report for period 1 April – 30 September 2020

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/lsc/>).

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

During quarter 3 of 2020, inspections by the ONR inspectors were made on:

- 23 July 2020
- 10, 16 September 2020

No interventions were carried out at Harwell, Magnox Ltd during quarter 2 of 2020, due to ONR restrictions on visiting nuclear sites due to CoVid-19. Remote interactions with site provided assurance that the site continued to maintain its safety, emergency and security arrangements.

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 (TEA13);
- the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HSWA74); and
- regulations made under HSWA74, for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99).

The purpose of the inspections is to monitor 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 to ensure legal compliance. During inspections, the inspector seeks to judge the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

The inspections at Harwell focused on the following aspects of the Licence Conditions (LC) as the site restarted operations in June/July 2020 following the pause due to CoVid-19:

- LC10 Training
- LC12 Duly Authorised and other suitably qualified and experienced persons
- LC21 Commissioning
- LC28 Examination, Inspection, Maintenance and Testing

ONR generally judged the site arrangements in response to safety requirements to be adequate in the areas inspected. Where improvements were considered necessary, the licensee made satisfactory commitments to address the issues. The site inspector will monitor progress during future visits and 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

ONR inspected the implementation of CoVid-19 arrangements on site, it was the opinion of the site inspector that this was in accordance with government guidance and Magnox Ltd's own arrangements for reducing the risk from CoVid-19 to as low as reasonably practicable.

ONR and the EA continue to monitor progress with the Magnox Ltd Harwell & Winfrith Integrated Waste Improvement Plan in response to the regulatory requirements of a joint Enforcement/Warning letter from ONR/EA issued in September 2019. Adequate progress has been reported so far with the expectation this will be completed in quarter 4 of 2020.

The ONR project inspector for the Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant delicensing project continues to meet remotely with the project staff at Harwell, supported by ONR specialist inspectors and Public Health England.

ONR has monitored the restart of any operations paused during the CoVid-19 and Magnox Ltd has adequate arrangements in place to safely restart operations and to re-pause them in the event a second CoVid-19 peak should necessitate it.

3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and incidents. ONR inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

There were no such matters of significance to report during the period.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

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 collectively termed 'Licence Instruments' (LI), but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may issue Enforcement Notices to secure improvements to safety.

No Li or Enforcement Notices were 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

All our latest news is available on our website www.onr.org.uk

Covid-19 (Coronavirus) (ONR position)

ONR is continuing to obtain assurance that nuclear site licensees and other dutyholders are adequately resourced to continue to safely and securely carry out their activities.

We remain satisfied with industry's response at this time and there has been no significant change to duty-holders' safety and security resilience.

As COVID-19 restrictions change, our focus is on the preparedness for the weeks and months ahead and maintaining safe and secure operations in the face of any further escalation in COVID-19 transmission.

ONR staff mainly continue to work from home. We are increasing our on-site regulatory activity in accordance with public health advice. We'll also continue to inspect, assess and permission remotely where necessary to protect staff, workers on site, and the public around sites.

Enforcement Action

In July we publicised the serving of an [Improvement Notice on Rolls-Royce Submarines Ltd \(RRSL\)](#) for procedural safety breaches at its Derby site. The notice was served after shortfalls were identified against the safety case requirements at a nuclear fuel production facility on the site.

In September we announced that an [Improvement Notice had been served on EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd \(EDF NGL\)](#) for shortfalls in safety procedures at its Heysham 2 Power Station in Lancashire. The notice was served after some of the equipment which is used to measure reactor power was incorrectly configured during the reactor's restart process following a planned outage in April 2020.

In September we announced that an [Improvement Notice had also been served on Devonport Royal Dockyard Ltd](#) for shortfalls in maintenance procedures at its Plymouth site. The notice was served after Devonport Royal Dockyard failed to carry out scheduled maintenance tests on an effluent extraction system which is used to support maintenance and repair activities within the licensed site.

In September we publicised our intention [to prosecute AWE plc under Section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act \(1974\)](#). The charge relates to an incident on 20 June, 2019, at the AWE Aldermaston site which resulted in a contractor narrowly avoiding injury when a flash over of electricity occurred from a 415V electrical source. The incident was a conventional health and safety matter and took place in a 'non-nuclear' building, so there was no radiological risk to workers or the public.

Regulatory updates

In July the Government published its response to the International Atomic Energy Agency's final report on the [Integrated Regulatory Review Service \(IRRS\) mission to the UK](#). The IRRS mission took place between 14 – 25 October 2019 was hosted by ONR, and saw a team of 18 independent experts from across the globe scrutinising the regulation of nuclear and radiological safety.

In August we provided EDF NGL with permission for [Reactor 3 at its Hunterston B site to return to service](#) for a limited period of operation (16.425 Terawatt days, approximately six months' operation). In September was also gave [permission for Reactor 4 at the same site](#) to return to service for a limited period of operation (16.25 terawatt days, which is approximately six months operation). The decision to permission the restart of these reactors was given after extensive and detailed assessments of the respective safety cases by specialist ONR inspectors.

Corporate updates

In July we published our new [2020-25 Strategy](#), which sets out our direction and priorities for the next five years. It builds on our strengths and continues to focus on protecting society, and addressing the changing demands we will face as the UK's nuclear regulator.

In late September we published our [Annual Report and Accounts](#) highlighting our performance and key achievements for 2019/20.

The report notes that we continued to deliver our mission of protecting society by securing safe nuclear operations and that the majority of dutyholders have continued to meet the high standards of safety and security required. Where dutyholders have fallen short of such standards, we are satisfied that their facilities remain safe and that our regulatory focus has had a positive impact on their performance.

During the year, we completed more than 800 compliance inspections across 36 licensed sites during 2019/20, granting permission for 30 nuclear-related activities, serving three improvement notices and instigating one prosecution.

ONR Chair Mark McAllister said: “I am pleased to report that we have again delivered our mission and achieved our 2020 vision. As we look ahead, I have every confidence in our senior leadership team to see through the strategic improvement projects already underway that will enhance the organisation’s information and knowledge management system, and successfully deliver the aspirations of our new strategy.”

In September we announced that [Jean Llewellyn OBE](#) had been appointed to the ONR Board as the new Security Non-Executive member. Jean will take up her appointment on 1 October 2020 for a three year term and will Chair ONR’s Security Committee.

All our latest news is available on our website www.onr.org.uk

6 CONTACTS

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