

Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

Site Report for

AWE – Aldermaston and Burghfield

Report for period 1 June - 30 September 2021

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 to members for the Local Liaison Committee (LLC) and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llic/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend LLC meetings where these reports are presented and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR.



Table of Contents

1	Inspections	3
2	Routine Matters	3
3	Non-Routine Matters.....	5
4	Regulatory Activity	6
5	News from ONR.....	7
6	Contacts	8

1 Inspections

Dates of inspection

The ONR site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 June – 30 September:

10, 28-30 June

7, 27-29 July

2, 3, 11, 17, 18 August

14-16, 21-23, 28-30 September

2 Routine Matters

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 2017 (IRR17) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99);
- Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015;
- Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

The inspections include 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 the AWE sites covered the following:

- LC10 – Training;
- LC11 - Emergency arrangements;
- LC12 - Duly authorised and other suitably qualified and experienced persons;
- LC35 - Decommissioning;
- Conventional (non-nuclear) health and safety, including Construction Design and Management (CDM) and Fire Safety activities.

During the reporting period, ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements to be generally satisfactory in the areas inspected.

ONR did assign an amber rating to the inspection covering LC10/12 at the Aldermaston site. Two regulatory issues have been raised, which will be tracked to completion via normal regulatory business. These relate to AWE providing evidence of implementation of completion of actions set by the AWE internal regulator and to ensure compliance with LC12 arrangements during the migration of data to a new training database. The licensee has made a commitment to address those issues, and ONR inspectors will closely monitor progress during future site inspections.

Where necessary, ONR will take formal regulatory enforcement action to ensure that appropriate remedial measures are implemented to reasonably practicable timescales. Members of the public, who would like further information on ONR's inspection activities during the reporting period, can view site Intervention Reports at www.onr.org.uk/intervention-records on our website www.onr.org.uk. Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email contact@onr.gov.uk.

Other work

The site inspectors held periodic (quarterly) meetings with safety representatives across major facilities at both Aldermaston and Burghfield, to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety and welfare at work.

ONR also attended the LLC meeting on 7 July.

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:

- The previous LLC report explained that ONR had issued two Improvement Notices (one for each AWE site) against LC36 (Organisational Capability). The requirements of these two Improvement Notices are due to be complied with by AWE by a revised date of 17 December 2021. ONR continues to monitor AWE's progress and improvements will be formally assessed via an LC36 inspection during October 2021. ONR will provide a further update on this in the next LLC report.
- ONR has undertaken two reactive investigations during the period. The first related to AWE's management of radioactive materials in the Explosives Technology Centre. The second related to the circumstances that led to the accelerated deconstruction of a legacy stack within a decommissioning facility. ONR has completed its on-site activities and is now considering its regulatory response in both investigations. A further update will be provided in the next LLC report.

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 usually collectively termed ‘Licence Instruments’ (LIs) but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an Enforcement Notice.

The following LI has been issued during the period

- LI544: Agreement to Modify the A45 Facility Safety Case by Implementation of a Modern Standards Facility Safety Justification in Accordance with the Company Arrangements Made Under LC22.

Table 1: Licence Instruments and Enforcement Notices Issued by ONR during this period

Date	Type	Ref No	Description
07/09/21	Licence Instrument	LI544	Agreement to Modify the A45 Facility Safety Case by Implementation of a Modern Standards Facility Safety Justification in Accordance with the Company Arrangements Made Under LC22.

5 News from ONR

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>).

Enforcement action

- In July, we served an improvement notice on Devonport Royal Dockyard Ltd (DRDL) for shortfalls in its health and safety arrangements. The notice was served after DRDL failed to demonstrate consistent and effective arrangements to control and monitor the risks associated with working at height at its Devonport site. DRDL must comply with the requirements of the improvement notice by 31 March 2022.
- In August, we announced that Morgan Sindall Infrastructure Ltd had complied with an improvement notice served in January 2021 after workers came close to striking a live high voltage electric cable during excavation work at the Sellafield site. Since this incident occurred, Morgan Sindall has put in place measures to prevent similar occurrences, and we are satisfied that they have complied with the requirements of the improvement notice.

COVID-19: ONR Position

- We are 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; there has been no significant change to dutyholders' safety and security resilience.
- We have measures in place to try and prevent asymptomatic ONR staff unwittingly conveying the virus onto a regulated site. We require all staff to take a circular 1 health (C1H) antigen test in advance of them visiting a site. In addition to the C1H test, we also require them to take a lateral flow test on the morning of their planned site visit. We are keeping our COVID-19 testing guidance under regular review, in-line with the changing national context and any further developments in industry approaches to testing arrangements.

Other

- In July, our project to become the UK's domestic safeguards regulator was named the public sector's [Project of the Year at the National Project Awards](#).
- In September we invited stakeholders to submit comments on our updated reference papers for Coastal Flood Hazards and Meteorological Hazards for Nuclear Sites. Although supplementary to our normal governance process, we are doing this due to stakeholder interest in these topics and our commitment to being an open and transparent regulator.

The reference papers provide additional detail on the analysis of the external hazards for nuclear sites and have been produced by our [Expert Panel on Natural Hazards](#), a group of academic and industry technical specialists working under contract to provide us with independent expert advice. You can find out more about how to get involved and comment on these papers on our [website](#).

6 Contacts

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Published 10/21

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