

Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

Site Report for AWE – Aldermaston and Burghfield

Report for period 1 October 2021 - 31 January 2022

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/llc/>).

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 (contact@onr.gov.uk).

Table of Contents

1. Inspections	3
2. Routine Matters	4
3. Non-Routine Matters.....	6
4. Regulatory Activity	7
5. News from ONR.....	9
6. Contacts	9

1. Inspections

1.1. Dates of Inspection

The ONR site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 October – 31 January:

6, 7, 12, 19, 20, 29, 30 October

9-11, 15, 19, 27-30 November

1, 6-9 December

11, 13, 19, 20, 25, 26 January

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)
- 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 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:

- LC11 - Emergency arrangements
- LC17 – Management Systems
- LC28 – Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing
- LC36 – Organisational capability
- IRRs – Ionising Radiation Regulations 2017
- Fire Safety – Regulatory Reform Order 2005
- Conventional (non-nuclear) health and safety.

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 LC28 at the Aldermaston site. Two regulatory issues have been raised, which will be tracked to completion via normal regulatory business. These relate to the periodicities of revised maintenance activities and the quality of some maintenance instructions. 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.

2.2. 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 30 November.

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:

- Following an inspection during October 2021 ONR judged that AWE had made sufficient progress such that a further extension to two LC36 Improvement Notices (one for each AWE site) would not be proportionate. However, some outstanding work remains to be completed and ONR will monitor this via its routine interactions and quarterly inspections. The first of the quarterly inspections took place in January 2022. ONR found that AWE had continued to make progress, but further work remains, particularly in the area of maintenance changes. The next quarterly inspection will take place in April.
- In the previous LLC report, ONR stated that it had 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. As a result, ONR has issued two Enforcement Letters to cover both investigations. Both letters set out actions that AWE has accepted and the completion of those actions will be tracked by ONR's routine interactions.
- ONR has issued a further Enforcement Letter regarding AWE's inadequate decommissioning programme delivery. This followed an LC35 inspection undertaken in September 2021 and reported in the previous LLC report. AWE has accepted the initial action and will complete this by the end of March 2022. ONR will track progress via routine interactions and a regulatory issue.
- ONR also issued an LC15 Decision Letter in December 2021 regarding AWE's resubmitted Periodic Review of Safety (PRS) of the Solid Radwaste Stores. ONR judged this review to be of an adequate standard to support operations for the remaining PRS period (8 years).

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 LIs has been issued during the period:

Burghfield

- LI543: Approval of revised Nuclear Safety Committee Terms of Reference made under LC13(3).
- LI544: Approval of the document “Nuclear Safety Committee Urgent Safety Proposals and Convening Meetings During Exceptional or Extreme Circumstances” made under LC13(12).

Aldermaston

- LI545: Approval of revised Nuclear Safety Committee Terms of Reference made under LC13(3).
- LI546: Approval of the document “Nuclear Safety Committee Urgent Safety Proposals and Convening Meetings During Exceptional or Extreme Circumstances” made under LC13(12).

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

Date	Type	Ref. No.	Description
02/12/21	Licence Instrument	LI543	Approval of revised Nuclear Safety Committee Terms of Reference made under LC13(3)
02/12/21	Licence Instrument	LI544	Approval of the document “Nuclear Safety Committee Urgent Safety Proposals and Convening Meetings During Exceptional or Extreme Circumstances” made under LC13(12)
02/12/21	Licence Instrument	LI545	Approval of revised Nuclear Safety Committee Terms of Reference made under LC13(3)
02/12/21	Licence Instrument	LI546	Approval of the document “Nuclear Safety Committee Urgent Safety Proposals and Convening Meetings

			During Exceptional or Extreme Circumstances” made under LC13(12)
07/12/21	Enforcement Letter	ONR-EL-21-033	Inadequate Management of Radioactive Materials
21/12/21	Enforcement Letter	ONR-EL-21-032	Inadequate asset condition
31/1/22	Enforcement Letter	ONR-EL-21-035	Inadequate decommissioning programme delivery

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

5. News from ONR

For the latest news and information from the Office for Nuclear Regulation, please read and subscribe to our regular email newsletter 'ONR News' at www.onr.org.uk/onrnews

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>.

© Office for Nuclear Regulation, 2022

If you wish to reuse this information visit www.onr.org.uk/copyright.htm for details.
Published 02/22

For published documents, the electronic copy on the ONR website remains the most current publicly available version and copying or printing renders this document uncontrolled.