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| ONR site report  AWE – Nuclear Security Technologies |



ONR site report

AWE – Nuclear Security Technologies

**Report for period**: 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025

**Authored by**: Explosives Business Unit Site Inspector

**Approved by**: Nominated Site Inspector

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Foreword

This report is issued as part of our 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 AWE Local Liaison Committee and are also available on our website: [www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/llcssg-reports](http://www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/llcssg-reports).

Our site inspectors usually attend AWE Local Liaison Committee 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 us via email at [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk).

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# Inspections

## Date(s) of inspection

Our site inspectors undertook inspections on the following dates during the reporting period 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025:

9 April 2025

13 May 2025

10 & 16 June 2025

17 July 2025

10 & 11 September 2025

# 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 etc 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 inspections entail monitoring the 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 covered the following:

* management of operations including control and supervision;
* staff training, qualifications and experience;
* plant construction and/or commissioning;
* fire safety;
* emergency preparedness.

All rated adequate.

Reported previously, ONR returned AWE to routine regulatory attention in March 2025, and in this reporting period AWE continue to sustain that performance.

## Members of the public who would like further information on our inspection activities

## during the reporting period can view site inspection records on our website: [www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/inspection-records](http://www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/inspection-records).

Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk).

## Other work

Our site inspectors continue to hold periodic meetings with the safety representatives within their operational areas, to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety, and welfare at work.

AWE has initiated its new Business Unit operating model, which seeks to deliver its current and future programme requirements, and create a more efficient, resilient and flexible organisational capability. Prior to AWE implementing the new operating model, we carried out interventions to provide ourselves the assurance that AWE is implementing these changes with due attention to safety and has appropriate governance and oversight arrangements. Overall, we were satisfied that AWE provided adequate evidence to demonstrate its readiness to initiate the Business Units, and we will continue to monitor their implementation.

We continue to provide advice to local planning authorities on any planning applications for developments around nuclear sites.

# Non-routine matters

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

Events of significant note during the period were:

* ONR’s investigation into the Hub Construction Enclave fatality continues and further information will be released when available.
* In August we closed an improvement notice issued to AWE after the company successfully addressed a safety concern at its Aldermaston site. The improvement notice required AWE to better plan, oversee and control activities in the Explosive Technology Centre. The activities being undertaken in the facility cannot lead to a radiological risk. There was no risk to the public or the environment from this event.

# Regulatory activity

We may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, we issue regulatory documents, which either permit an activity or require some form of action to be taken. These are usually collectively termed licence instruments but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an enforcement notice.

* Table 1: Licence instruments and enforcement notices issued by ONR during this period

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Type | Reference | Description |
| N/A |  |  |  |

Reports detailing the above regulatory decisions can be found on our website: [www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/project-assessment-reports](http://www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/project-assessment-reports).

# News from ONR

For the latest updates and information on our work, please subscribe to our regular email newsletter, ONR News, at [www.onr.org.uk/news/newsletter](https://www.onr.org.uk/news/newsletter/).

# Contacts

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# References

**There are no sources in the current document.**