

Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Trawsfynydd

Report for period 01 July 2013 – 30 September 2013

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 of the forum and are also available on the ONR website (www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/llc).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Trawsfynydd Site Stakeholder Group (SSG) meetings and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR.

1 INSPECTIONS

Dates of inspection

The ONR site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the quarter:

- 28 August;
- 30 September to 3 October.

2 ROUTINE MATTERS

Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with:

- The conditions attached by HSE / ONR to the nuclear site licence granted under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65) (as amended);
- 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 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 Trawsfynydd covered the following:

- Management of operations, including control and supervision;
- Staff training, qualifications and experience.

In addition, a detailed inspection of the operation and maintenance of the Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) Store was carried out. This was part of the ONR's programme of system inspections at all nuclear licensed sites.

In general, ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements to be adequate in the areas inspected. The site had a particularly good system for recording and monitoring the qualifications and experience of its personnel. Where improvements were considered necessary, the licensee made satisfactory commitments to address the issues, and the site inspector will monitor progress during future visits. Where necessary, ONR will take formal regulatory enforcement action to ensure that appropriate remedial measures are implemented to reasonably practicable timescales.

Other work

The site inspector held a periodic meeting with safety representatives, to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health , safety and welfare at 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.

There was one matter of particular note during the period. An operation to take a sample of decant water on 15 July 2013 resulted in the operator being externally contaminated. The dose from skin contamination was low, and biological monitoring confirmed that there was no internal contamination. Approximately 1 litre of material (ILW sludge) was estimated to have been released into the plant location during the event. The plant location includes containment features, so the material was contained and there was no release to the environment.

The licensee completed an investigation into the incident, which revealed a number of failures in their processes for risk assessment and commissioning, and also identified some cultural issues. The licensee has developed an action plan to address the identified issues, and is considering how to address the cultural issues in the longer-term. ONR will monitor the close-out of the action plan.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

Under health and safety legislation, ONR site inspectors, specialist inspectors and other HSE 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' (LI), but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may issue enforcement notices to secure improvements to safety.

No LI's or enforcement notices were issued during the period.

5 NEWS FROM ONR

Insight into ONR's work as an independent regulator of the nuclear industry can be found in ONR's Quarterly News. The online publication (www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/onr-quarterly-report.htm) reports on the key themes and developments in each of ONR's regulatory programmes and provides an update about the ongoing changes at ONR, as it progresses toward becoming an independent statutory corporation. www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/index.htm. For the latest news and updates from ONR visit the website and sign up for our ebulletin (www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/ebulletin/index.htm).

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