

## **Introduction**

This report covers the Environment Agency's (EA's) regulation of Oldbury nuclear power station and related issues.

## **Radioactive substances regulation**

### **Regulation**

We regulate radioactive waste disposals to the environment. We do this through environmental permits that contain limits and conditions aimed at minimising wastes and protecting the environment. We also check compliance with the permit by making regular inspections at Oldbury. Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Reports (RASCAR) detailing our inspections and non-compliances found are put on the Public Register.

Inspections were carried out during the past quarter of:

- Radioactive Waste Management Arrangements
- Operation of the cooling ponds and liquid effluent discharges

No non-conformances were found during these inspections.

Looking ahead to next quarter, we will review the site's district survey programme and will continue to monitor arrangements at Oldbury for the transition from the Defueling operational phase to the Care & Maintenance Preparations phase.

### **Permitting**

No changes were made to Oldbury's Environmental Permit or CEAR (Compilation of Environment Agency Requirements) during the quarter. These were last varied in April 2014.

## **Enforcement**

We have not taken any enforcement actions in the period (July 2014 to October 2014) since the previous Oldbury SSG meeting.

## **Eels Regulations**

Historically Oldbury abstracted water from the River Severn to cool the reactors. Abstraction and discharge of cooling water ceased at the end of December 2013.

The Eels Regulations require that, by 1 January 2015, eel screens be installed over the inlets and outlets of any diversion structures capable of abstracting water at rates of 20 m<sup>3</sup>/day or more.

After reviewing work at Oldbury to dismantle the cooling water system, the Environment Agency agreed that, as long as the cooling water system remained inoperable, Oldbury would be exempt from the requirement to install eel screens.

## **Discharge reports**

The operator at Oldbury is required to report liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment on a regular basis. These reports are placed on the public register and a digest of information is available via the Environment Agency website's 'What's in your backyard?' facility<sup>[1]</sup>.

Reports received from Oldbury indicate that radioactive gaseous discharge rates continue to decline. No clear trend is apparent for liquid effluent discharges to the Severn. Both gaseous and liquid discharges are at levels well within the requirements of its permitted limits. No Quarterly Notification Levels (QNLs) were exceeded in the period.

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<sup>[1]</sup> <http://apps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/default.aspx>

## Environmental monitoring reports

Environmental monitoring (district survey) reports are sent to the Environment Agency by Oldbury at quarterly intervals. The results recorded in the most recent report did not point to any rising trend in radiation dose or concentration of radionuclides in the environment that would be of concern to us.

A radiological habits survey in the Oldbury-Berkeley area was conducted by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) in August 2014. We have received the preliminary findings of the survey. In conjunction with Magnox we will review the scope of the environmental monitoring programme at Oldbury once we receive the final habits survey report.

## Further information

Further information on our role in regulating the use of radioactive substances and related activities on nuclear licensed sites can be found on the GOV.UK website <sup>[2]</sup>.

The Environment Agency's Lead Regulator for the Oldbury site is Peter Reynolds, who is part of the Nuclear Regulation Group (South) team and is based at our Wallingford office.

**Address:** Environment Agency  
Red Kite House  
Howbery Park  
Wallingford  
Oxfordshire  
OX10 8BD

**Email:**  
[peter.reynolds@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:peter.reynolds@environment-agency.gov.uk)

**Telephone:** 01491 828 461

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<sup>[2]</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-regulation-in-the-environment-agency>