



# Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Winfrith

Report for period 1 January - 31 March 2015

## 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 Winfrith Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

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

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## 1 INSPECTIONS

### 1.1 Dates of inspection

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

10, 11, 12 February 2015

Two ONR radiological protection specialist inspectors made an inspection on the following dates during the quarter:

16, 17, 18 March 2015 (inspection of control of radiation exposure and as low as reasonably practicable)

## 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 etc. 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 Winfrith covered the following:

- marking of the site boundary (Licence Condition (LC) 2);
- IRR99 inspection of control of radiation exposure and as low as reasonably practicable;

The LC2 inspection was selected to support ONR's work to relicence the Research Sites Restoration Limited (RSRL) Harwell and Winfrith sites to Magnox Limited (MXL). This relicensing took place during this quarter: new licences and revocations of the existing licences were granted on 30 March, to come into force on 1 April. Further information is provided in Section 4 "Regulatory Activity".

LC2 was selected to support verification of the site boundary and map to be included in the new licence for the Winfrith site. For this LC, RSRL's compliance arrangements were not considered since these arrangements had been considered during an equivalent LC2 inspection at Harwell in January. In relation to implementation of RSRL's LC2 arrangements at Winfrith, the position met the intent/requirements of the safety case and the required safety standards. A good standard inspection rating was assigned.

The IRR99 inspection focussed on the Steam Generating Heavy Water Reactor (SGHWR) decommissioning project and the Dragon decommissioning project since predicted radiological doses for some stages of these projects are currently significant. In addition, this

inspection formed part of an ONR planned intervention, to look at Control of Radiation Exposure (CORE) across a number of licensee sites under Regulation 8 of the IRR99. ONR considered that RSRL is fully meeting its commitments under Regulation 8 of the IRRs and has a strong dose monitoring/reduction culture within its decommissioning projects and that there is a commendable focus on reducing risks as low as reasonably practicable. A good standard inspection rating was assigned. Based on this inspection, several hold points in ONR's permissioning strategy for the SGHWR decommissioning project have been replaced by a single additional ONR radiological protection inspection, which is currently planned for March 2016.

More information on all of this routine inspection is in the Executive Summary of ONR Intervention Records which are published on our website <http://www.onr.org.uk/intervention-records/2014/index.htm>.

## **2.2 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.

Whilst at Harwell in January, the site inspector held a routine review of "Winfrith" and "RSRL corporate" issues and also held a routine meeting with the RSRL internal regulator, to discuss insights from their compliance audits in the previous quarter, including their independent assessment to support readiness for relicensing and preparations for subsequent organisational and other changes.

## **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:

- In the SSG report for the previous quarter, attention was drawn to an event in which a failure of a valve in the Arish Mell shore valve house on 2 December 2014 led to the release of radioactive effluent from the site onto the foreshore. In the SSG report for the previous quarter it was noted that since the release occurred off the nuclear licenced site, the Environment Agency has taken the regulatory lead and that the environmental impact of the release was negligible. The ONR site inspector followed up this event in February and was satisfied that the RSRL investigation of this event had been thorough. He noted three generic points about the scope of corrective actions: items that fulfil a containment function but are not needed; clarity of alarm response schedules; and qualification and fail safe nature of alarms. The ONR site inspector will provide MXL with final comments on this event once he has received and reviewed some additional information. This event will not be discussed in future SSG reports.

## **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 issue Enforcement Notices to secure improvements to safety.

On 1 September 2014, the ownership of both Magnox Ltd and Research Sites Restoration Limited (RSRL) was transferred by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to the Cavendish Fluor Partnership Limited, the new Parent Body Organisation (PBO). At that time ten Magnox reactor sites were licensed to Magnox Ltd and the Harwell and Winfrith sites, in Oxfordshire and Dorset respectively, were licensed to RSRL. As part of the new PBO's organisational change strategy, on 28 November 2014 Magnox Ltd and RSRL applied to ONR to relicense the Harwell and Winfrith sites to Magnox Ltd.

ONR conducted a targeted and proportional assessment of these applications in accordance with its publication 'Licensing Nuclear Installations' and on 30 March 2015 the Chief Nuclear Inspector, Andy Hall, granted Magnox Ltd new nuclear site licences for the Harwell and Winfrith sites. These new licences came into force on 1 April 2015, so from that date, the Harwell and Winfrith sites were licensed to Magnox Ltd along with the existing ten Magnox reactor sites. ONR's Project Assessment Report relating to this relicensing will be published on the ONR web site.

The LI in Table 1 below was granted under new NSL 100. This LI relates to Approval of the Terms of Reference of the MXL Winfrith nuclear safety committee.

With 12 sites now under the management of Magnox Ltd as a single licensee, the PBO will be able, subject to a further organisational change, to carry out decommissioning and hazard-reduction activities across the decommissioning sites using a programmatic approach, in which common decommissioning methods will be deployed at different sites.

Magnox Ltd plans further organisational changes and the introduction of a unified management system across the 12 sites, which will result in common arrangements for compliance with ONR's licence conditions. These organisational changes and changes to the licensee's licence condition compliance arrangements will be subject to appropriate assessment and oversight by ONR in future months.

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

Date	Type	Ref No	Description
30/3/2015	Approval	500	Approval under Licence Condition 13(2) to the Terms of Reference of the nuclear safety committee.  The Approval was granted under NSL 100 on 30/3/2015 and came into effect on 31/3/2015.

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

## 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 (<http://www.onr.org.uk/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. <http://www.onr.org.uk/index.htm>. 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>).

### 5.1 ONR Annual Plan

ONR has published its [Annual Plan for 2015/16](#), setting out its priorities, as well as providing details of the year's planned activities and key targets.

## 5.2 Annual Report and Accounts

ONR is in the process of producing its first Annual Report and Accounts (ARA) as a public corporation. It will be laid in Parliament in June 2015. The report presents an overview of our first year, including achievements, financial management and the annual Chief Nuclear Inspector's Statement.

## 5.3 Confirmatory Radiation Field Surveys

Since 2000, ONR has collected data from licensees (except for research reactors and certain defence establishments) on the radiation fields (i.e. gamma and neutron dose rates) measured at their site boundaries. Each year up to four sites have been selected for independent confirmatory radiation field surveys to be undertaken by personnel from Public Health England, who are independent experts for this type of work. The dose rate data are used to estimate the exposure of public reference groups to direct radiation. The reference groups are groups of people most likely to be exposed to radiation on the basis of factors such as proximity to the site and living habits. ONR has a responsibility to maintain regulatory oversight of the direct radiations emanating from nuclear licensed sites.

Confirmatory radiation field surveys will be undertaken at the Winfrith site boundary during 2015. The dose rate data form an important part of the annual report on "Radioactivity In Food and the Environment" (RIFE), which is produced by the Environment Agency, the Food Standards Agency, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

## 6 CONTACTS

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