

Introduction

This report covers the Environment Agency's (EA's) regulation of the Winfrith nuclear licensed site and tenants of the site.

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 check compliance with the permit by making inspections at intervals at Winfrith. Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Reports (RASCAR) detailing our inspections and non-compliances found are put on the Public Register. We review reports on discharge monitoring and environmental monitoring submitted to the Environment Agency by the site operators at intervals specified in their permits.

We have not carried out any inspections at Winfrith since the previous SSG meeting. We attended the Harwell and Winfrith joint AROSE and found the review to be of a good quality and well targeted and assessed by the former RSRL team

An inspection of arrangement for monitoring and minimising gaseous emissions at Tradebe-Inutec was carried out in October. No non-compliances were identified during the inspection. We recommended improvements to procedures and signage.

Permitting

No changes have been made to the Environmental Permits or CEARs (Compilation of Environment Agency Requirements) of Winfrith or Tradebe-Inutec since February 2013 and May 2014 respectively.

Incidents and enforcement

We have not taken any enforcement action against Magnox Winfrith or Tradebe-Inutec since the previous site stakeholder meeting.

We are investigating an incident at Tradebe-Inutec. A puck (compacted drum) of waste, which was not listed in the consignment documentation, was sent to the Low Level Waste Repository in Cumbria. We will report on the outcome of the investigation at the next Winfrith SSG meeting.

An event that led to an unexpectedly large volume of liquid being expelled from a drum during super-compaction at Tradebe-Inutec is under investigation

Discharge reports

The operator of Winfrith is required to report on liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment on a quarterly 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^[1].

Limits are set in the permit of the maximum level of radioactivity that can be emitted to atmosphere or to controlled waters over any rolling twelve month period.

Liquid effluent discharges from Winfrith are very low and well below permit limits

Winfrith is required to notify the Environment Agency within 14 days and review the causes of the emission if discharges of tritium or carbon-14 over a quarter exceed a "notification level". No emissions exceeded quarterly notification levels over the past year.

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

Tradebe-Inutec reports liquid and gaseous discharges at monthly intervals. Discharges have been well below permitted limits in the period since the previous SSG Meeting

Environmental monitoring

Winfrith carries out a programme of monitoring of radioactivity in the environment. Results from this programme are used by Magnox to calculate the maximum radiation dose received by a member of the public or, in other words, the dose received by the most exposed member of the public. The dose from discharges was assessed to be less than 1% of the dose limit in 2013, the most recent year of assessment.

The Environment Agency also carries out environmental monitoring, using a contractor. We are reviewing our environmental monitoring programme and will report on the outcome of the review at the next SSG meeting.

Our monitoring programme compliments that of Magnox and together with data collected by the Food Standards Agency is used to calculate the dose to the public at all nuclear sites in England and Wales. Results are presented in the "Radioactivity in Food and the Environment" Report. (RIFE). The most recently available report, RIFE 20, for the 2014 calendar year, concludes that, as in 2013, the dose from emissions to air and water from Winfrith was less than 0.005 millisievert. This is less than 1% of the maximum dose of 1 millisievert to the public set in the Basic Safety Standards Directive.

Looking Ahead:

Our next visit to Winfrith will be on 19 November to look at their arrangement for the maintenance of key environmental assets. We will also look at how the site are implementing management of change issues associated with Magnox strategic plans

We are keeping a watching brief on the release of the Winfrith Life Time Plan and its potential impact on interim end point state. We met with other regulators and the BoSS team in summer to consider options for the

Winfrith Sea Pipeline. We will be increasingly engaging with local authority planners and other regulatory bodies (e.g. MMO) to ensure a joined up regulatory approach to site decommissioning of this system and wider site.

We will also monitor progress of Inutec-Tradebe towards their goal of obtaining a nuclear site licence in 2017.

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 ^[2].

The Environment Agency's lead Nuclear Regulator for the Magnox Winfrith site is Adam Davis. Peter Reynolds regulates Tradebe-Inutec. Adam and Peter are Nuclear Regulators and are part of the national Nuclear Regulation Group (South) which is based at the Environment Agency's Wallingford office in Oxfordshire.

Members of the local Environment Agency team cover the site for general (non-radioactive substances) environment protection matters such as regulation of groundwater, contaminated land, waste management and water abstraction.

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