

Introduction

This report covers the Environment Agency's (EA's) regulation of the Magnox Winfrith nuclear licensed site and site tenant, Tradebe-Inutec, from April to October 2016.

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 site inspections and documentation reviews. Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Reports (RASCAR) detailing our inspections, are entered into the Public Register. We also review discharge and environmental monitoring reports submitted to the Environment Agency by the site operators at intervals specified in their permits.

Site Inspections

Since the last SSG we have visited both Winfrith and Tradebe-Inutec to review operator management arrangements and inspected liquid waste management arrangements at Tradebe-Inutec.

We have undertaken a joint inspection with the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) addressing the management of intermediate and low activity wastes at Winfrith (in particular, the storage, handling and management of these waste) to minimise their leakage or loss.

We have also undertaken a combined joint inspection across the South Sites (Harwell and Winfrith) to consider the management of manpower resources following the Magnox Management of change programme.

We did not find any non-compliances with permit conditions on the inspections we carried out at Magnox or Tradebe-Inutec.

Site Meetings

We have attended a number of site meetings to discuss progress with decommissioning proposals and plans. This has included regular meetings to cover individual site projects (SGHWR, ALES and Dragon, and estates management). Winfrith have also hosted meetings with Environment Agency- non RSR staff to discuss future land quality management and restoration work.

We have also attended joint meetings with the Local Authorities and Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) to consider strategic planning aspects of decommissioning and restoration.

We advised Tradebe-Inutec on the regulatory aspects of their proposal to develop another disposal route (to their Fawley, Southampton site) for liquid effluent.

Permitting

No changes have been made to the Environmental Permit for Winfrith. We have issued a variation to the Tradebe-Inutec permit to bring this in line with the current permit template.

We also intend to review both Winfrith and Tradebe-Inutec permits during late 2016/17. These changes are required to regulate transfer of land to Tradebe-Inutec, the accelerated decommissioning of the rest of the Winfrith site and the implementation of alternative routes for liquid waste disposal once the Winfrith ALES plant closes.

Incidents and enforcement

There have been no events to report since the last SSG. Both Winfrith and Tradebe-Inutec are considered to be compliant with their permit requirements at the current time.

Discharge reports

Both Winfrith and Tradebe-Inutec are required to report 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 permits to control 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 both Winfrith and Tradbe-Inutec remain well below permit limits.

Gaseous discharges also remain compliant and below permitted limits.

Environmental monitoring

Winfrith site undertakes a programme of monitoring of radioactivity in the environment. Results from this programme are used to assess site impact on the environment.

The Environment Agency also carries out independent environmental monitoring, 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)².

The most recent report, RIFE 21, (for the 2015 calendar year), is expected to be released on 27 October. We will report on the output once it has been released. However, we expect public exposure from emissions to air and water from Winfrith will remain low and significantly less than the maximum dose of 1 millisievert to the public.

Looking Ahead:

We are currently developing our full work plan to cover the accelerated decommissioning period.

As a result of the Magnox Management of Change process, we have considered operator resources and we are satisfied that environmental resources are adequate to maintain environmental compliance at the current time. However, we will continue to monitor the resource base line during the

period of operator re-organisation and staff change.

We are working closely with the NDA, other regulators and stakeholders (e.g. Local Authorities) to consider Magnox plans for the accelerated decommissioning of the Winfrith site. We have issued a consultation on our future requirements for considering the release of the site from environmental permitting. This process will help integrate with other regulatory controls through ONR site licensing and future land use controls through the local authority planning regime.

Winfrith site will be one of 3 pilot sites across the UK to assist in developing a structured approach to the future regulation of decommissioning facilities.

We will continue to assist Inutec-Tradebe in attaining their goal of obtaining a nuclear site licence in 2017 while maintaining appropriate regulatory controls and minimising the impact on the environment of operations at the site.

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^[3].

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

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

²https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/472906/RIFE20.pdf

^[3] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-regulation-in-the-environment-agency>