

# Environment Agency Report to Berkeley Site Stakeholder Group

For SSG Meeting 27 January 2016 - This report covers  
our regulation of Berkeley Nuclear Licensed site.

## Radioactive substances

**We regulate radioactive waste disposals to the environment. We do this through an environmental permit that contains limits and conditions aimed at minimising wastes and protecting the environment. We check compliance with the authorisation by making regular inspections at Berkeley.**

## Nuclear Regulators

Adam Davis is the Environment Agency Lead Site Regulator for the Berkeley site.

Adam's office address is:

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

**Email:**

[adam.davis@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:adam.davis@environment-agency.gov.uk)

**Adam's operating office telephone number is 01258 483418.**

## Site Inspection

Since the last SSG, we have visited Berkeley site, to:

1. Review operator management and maintenance of critical environmental assets

Our next visit is planned for 28 January. This will be a joint visit with the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) to consider progress with the vaults retrievals work.

A further inspection and review is expected to be planned for March.

## Discharge Reports

Nuclear sites are required to routinely report their liquid and gaseous discharges and provide other data returns.

We review the data provided by the operator to assess compliance with the environmental permit. These are detailed in Radioactive Substances Compliance

Assessment Report (RASCAR). These reports are placed on the public register.

During the last quarter, data reporting remained compliant with our reporting requirements. Discharge data indicate that the discharge trends are consistent and continue to remain well within permitted limits.

During the remainder of 2015/16, our work will focus on the following themes and issues:

- Continue to work with the ONR to provide advice and guidance to site in relation to a range of site decommissioning plans; particularly those associated with the vaults Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) retrieval, conditioning and storage programme
- Consider progress on the operators future application of Robust Concrete Boxes (RCB's) as a potential replacement for Ductile Cast Iron Containers for ILW storage within the Intermediate Storage facility (ISF)
- Review progress on actions arising from previous inspections
- Develop an inspection programme for 2016/17

## Site Permit Compliance

Since the last SSG, there have been no permit non compliances.

Following a review of the management of environmental assets, we consider there are appropriate procedures in place to ensure important assets are maintained. We have continued to provide advice and guidance to the site in relation to our observations during site inspections.

We have been working closely with the ONR to ensure wastes continue to be handled and managed appropriately.

We are satisfied that environmental resources are adequate to maintain operational compliance. However, we will continue to monitor the resource base line

during the period of operator re-organisation and staff change. In particular, we will be looking closely at the combined role of Head of Radiation Protection and Head of Environment and the proposal to combine the Closure Director role shared between Berkeley and Oldbury.

## Permit Variations

There have been no recent variations to the permit.

## Environmental reporting

The environmental reporting from site and corroborated evidence through our independent monitoring, indicates that the dose to individuals and members of the public from discharges from the site continue to remain very low; with a slight decrease on previous years data. Total dose from all pathways approximate to levels less than half of 1 % (0.5%) of the national dose limits set to protect members of the public<sup>1</sup>.

## ILW Management

Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) retrieval and conditioning work is progressing at pace.

Although this work will significantly de-risk and address legacy hazards, the retrievals project represents a difficult logistical challenge-very much a lead and learn process for the remainder of the Magnox fleet. We are working very closely with the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) to assess the retrieval and conditioning work to ensure this work is appropriate and that best available techniques (BAT) are used to minimise discharges and impact to the environment.

Joint discussions between the ONR, EA and Berkeley site take place every 2 weeks as a good practice approach to managing the different work campaigns.

## 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 Environment Agency page in the UK government website<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup>[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/472906/RIFE20.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/472906/RIFE20.pdf)

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>