

Environment Agency Report to Berkeley Site Stakeholder Group

For SSG Meeting 02 November 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

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Site Inspection

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

1. Undertake a gaseous waste inspection and BAT procedural review. No non compliances were noted during the inspection.
2. We met site representatives to consider the management of non-radioactive (construction and demolition waste) generated and stored at the site as part of the site decommissioning work.
3. The next inspection is a joint inspection with the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) planned for the 26 October. This will consider aspects of waste storage and management. We will report back on this visit at the November SSG.

Other Work

- We have attended further Magnox strategic meetings to review South West Sites waste plans and consider designs for the management, encapsulation and temporary storage of Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) at the site.
- We attended the joint South West Sites Annual review of Safety and Environment in conjunction with the ONR.

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 within permitted limits.

We have requested a review of the Berkeley site predicted gaseous emissions and trends during subsequent decommissioning work, to consider future permitting requirements.

During the 2016/17, 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 site decommissioning plans; particularly those associated with the vaults 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)

- Consider waste management arrangements for radioactive and non radioactive wastes generated and released from the site.

Site Permit Compliance

There have been no non compliances noted during recent inspections.

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 1 % of the national dose limits set to protect members of the public¹.

We expect the 2016 report (RIFE 21) to be issued on 27 October. An electronic link to the document will be provided through the SSG. These data will be discussed at the SSG meeting.

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.

We have received a consultation submission from Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Town and Country Planning team on proposals for the siting of the Berkeley concrete encapsulation plant for the grouting of ILW into Robust Concrete Boxes (RCB's). We are currently considering our response to this proposal.

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 website².

¹https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/472906/RIFE20.pdf

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