

## **Introduction**

This report covers the Environment Agency's (EA) regulation of the Magnox Winfrith nuclear licensed site and site tenant (Tradebe-Inutec) from April to October 2017.

## **Radioactive substances regulation**

### **Regulation**

We regulate radioactive waste disposals. 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 tenant site-Tradebe-Inutec.

In April we undertook a joint inspection with the Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR) to consider Magnox-Winfrith's management, storage and control of waste generated through the decommissioning process.

In August we undertook a site visit which included the Winfrith Sea Pipeline and aspects of the management of this pipeline.

There were no non compliances associated with these inspections.

### **Other Site Meetings**

We continue to work closely with the operator, the ONR and other stakeholders (Local Authority Town and Country Planning teams) to develop the wider aspects of site remediation and restoration.

The Environment Agency, ONR and Scottish Environmental Protection Agency are developing joint guidance to the industry on Requirements for Release of Nuclear Sites from Radioactive Substances Regulation (GRR).

Winfrith remains one of 3 pilot sites across the UK to aid the development of a structured approach to the future regulation under the GRR process.

In July we hosted a workshop involving ONR, Magnox and Local Planning Authorities to discuss site progress in implementing these requirements. Whilst there is clearly a lot of engineering and civil work required to meet a proposed Interim End State of 2023, subject to development of a wider communications plan, we consider the site's arrangement are adequate for this stage in the process.

We continue to review progress with the site decommissioning work. This has included regular meetings (jointly with staff from the ONR) to cover Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) retrievals from SGHWR, and Dragon reactors; and associated treatment and storage pending future off site disposal.

In addition, we have met the operator to:

- Ensure that Magnox-Winfrith develop an appropriate Materials Management Plan to manage the generation and storage of construction and demolition type wastes derived from the removal of buildings on the site (as part of an overall decommissioning plan).
- Consider the programme and estimate of planned gaseous emissions from decommissioning of the whole site, to meet requirements for Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty

We have also met with Tradebe-Inutec to consider their progress in achieving an independent nuclear permitted site. We are also meeting both Magnox and Tradebe-Inutec to consider separation of site infrastructure and facilities.

We attended Magnox's Annual Regional Review of (Leadership and Management for) Safety, Security and Environment, which covered the period April 2016 through June 2017.

### **Permitting**

No changes have been made to the Environmental Permit for Winfrith. However, we are in the

process of reviewing both the Magnox-Winfrith and Tradebe-Inutec permits. These changes are required to allow the transfer of land and operational responsibility to Tradebe-Inutec and cover the implementation of alternative routes for liquid waste disposal once the Winfrith ALES plant closes. We would hope to conclude this review by early 2018.

### Incidents and enforcement

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

### Discharge reports

Both Winfrith and Tradebe-Inutec are required to report liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment on a quarterly basis. 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 Tradebe-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 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)<sup>1</sup>.

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. Total dose from all pathways approximate to levels less than 1 % of the national dose limits set to protect members of the public.

### Looking Ahead:

We will continue to work closely with the NDA, other regulators, stakeholders (e.g. Local Authorities) to assess Magnox plans.

The resources required to regulate the site during the next phase of decommissioning will remain at

levels equivalent to those allocated within this financial year.

We will continue to assist Inutec-Tradebe in attaining their goal of a nuclear site licence in 2018, while maintaining appropriate regulatory controls and minimising the impact on the environment.

### 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<sup>[2]</sup>.

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

Note: Members of the local Environment Agency team cover the site for other general (non-radioactive substances) environment protection matters such as regulation of groundwater, contaminated land, waste management and water abstraction. Contacts for these activities can be arranged through Adam Davis.

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<sup>1</sup>[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/563010/RIFE21.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/563010/RIFE21.pdf)

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