

WYLFA SITE, ANGLESEY, WALES (MAGNOX LIMITED)

SAFLE WYLFA

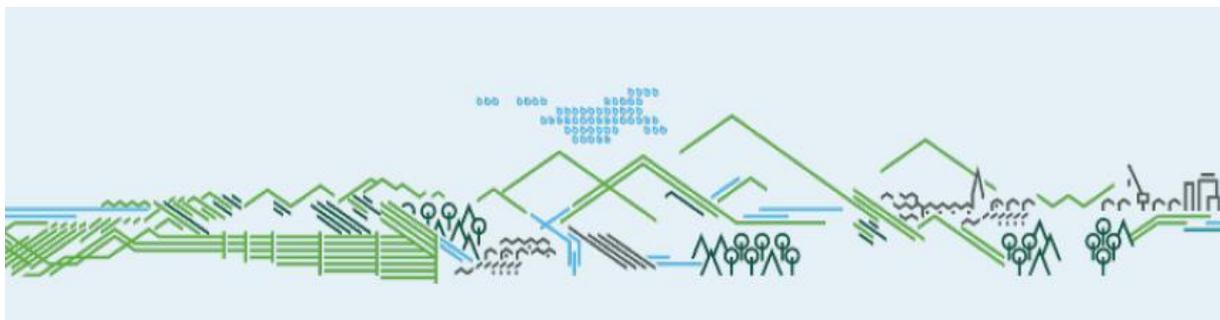
REPORT TO THE SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP 9TH FEBRUARY 2017

FOREWORD

This report is issued to the Site Stakeholder Group (SSG) to provide a brief summary of the regulatory activities of Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and the Environment Agency (EA) relating to the Wylfa nuclear site.

NRW is accountable to the Welsh Government for the environmental regulation of nuclear sites in Wales. NRW has a contractual arrangement in place which enables them to draw on the experience and resources of the Environment Agency's specialist Nuclear Regulation Group, to assist in the delivery of on-site inspection work and associated assessments.

We regulate the disposal of radioactive waste, operation of combustion plant, discharges to water and conventional waste. Please see Annex 1 for further information on our role.



Introduction

This report covers the period since the last Site Stakeholder Group (SSG) meeting on 6th October 2016 and highlights some key activities and areas of interest.

Discharges from Wylfa

All radioactive discharges from Wylfa remain within the annual limits set in the site's radioactive substances environmental permit.

All non-radioactive discharges to water remain within the limits set in the site's water discharge consents.

Environmental monitoring

Magnox Ltd are required to carry out routine environmental monitoring under their radioactive substances permit. This involves taking a wide range of environmental samples from locations in the vicinity of the site and analysing them for radioactivity content.

Recent results from the programme are generally in line with previous periods and show no cause for concern.

The Environment Agency also undertakes an independent programme of environmental monitoring, on behalf of NRW. This enables us to check the levels of radioactivity in the environment arising from nuclear site permitted discharges, and so assess dose to the public to ensure that this remains within statutory limits. The results are widely reported, along with results from monitoring programmes around other UK nuclear sites, in the Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) report. The latest RIFE report, for 2015, was published in November. The RIFE reports can be found at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/science/surveillance/radiosurv/rife/>.

Routine regulatory matters

- We have visited Wylfa to carry out inspections or attend regulatory meetings as follows:
 - Meeting to discuss potential re-use of various areas of the existing site by Horizon (19 December)
 - Meeting to discuss risk-based deplanting concept (10 January)

- Waste strategy & regulatory liaison meetings (11 January)

Active effluent containing elevated levels of chromate has been processed, with some being treated by ion exchange to minimise the amount of chromate discharged to sea. This work was completed before the Alternative Effluent Discharge Line (AEDL) was brought into service in November. The AEDL is now routinely used for discharges of active effluent, & the above-ground section of the old discharge line has been removed.

Magnox are commissioning a new Rados drum monitor, which will enable them to identify waste which is suitable for disposal as Very Low Level Waste (VLLW).

We have started to discuss the scope of work Magnox plan to undertake during care & maintenance preparations at Wylfa, & the implications for waste management. This will be a significant area of interest in future.

Permitting

Horizon have indicated that they may wish to re-use a number of areas on the existing Wylfa site, during construction &/or during operation of their proposed Wylfa Newydd power station. We provided advice to Magnox on the environmental permitting implications.

Events & enforcement

We regularly review summaries of all events reported, & discuss those relevant to environmental compliance with Magnox Ltd as part of our routine regulation.

An inspection at another Magnox site discovered that waste 'fingerprints' had not been updated in the monitors used to clear waste from the reactor building. A similar issue was identified at Wylfa in December 2016. We are currently considering our response to this event.

Contact details

If you have any queries please contact the following:

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Annex 1: The role of Natural Resources Wales & the Environment Agency at nuclear sites

Operating and cleaning up nuclear sites generates radioactive and non-radioactive wastes. Our role as the environmental regulator is to ensure that the impact of those wastes on people and the environment, now and in the future, is as small as it can be. We also aim to prevent pollution, enhance the environment, and contribute to the sustainable development of the UK.

We inspect nuclear sites and assess proposals from operators, to provide assurance that the operator is complying with the limits and conditions of the permits we issue under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010 and other relevant legislation and policy.

We supplement direct regulation with a partnership approach, working with the operators, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) to solve problems jointly.

We expect operators to comply fully with all relevant legislative requirements and permits. If this does not happen, we will not hesitate to use our enforcement powers to

ensure that action is taken to protect the environment or to secure compliance.

In summary our objectives are to:

- Ensure that environmental permits are up to date, flexible and fit for purpose and that they drive environmental improvement
- Assess compliance with the limits and conditions of the permits
- Reduce risks to the environment and avoid creating further legacies
- Ensure that integrated waste strategies continue to improve
- Ensure that solid waste is packaged in a form suitable for disposal
- Ensure that infrastructure and assets are maintained to minimise environmental impact
- Develop guidance on Best Available Techniques (BAT)
- Influence NDA so that they provide appropriate direction to operators to minimise waste and improve environmental outcomes
- Encourage integrated management of fuel and nuclear materials so as to prevent or minimise the potential environmental impacts
- Ensure land and groundwater contaminated by radioactivity or other pollutants is managed appropriately and protect land and groundwater from further contamination
- Monitor and assess organisational change to ensure that environmental performance is maintained

Natural Resources Wales and the Environment Agency have produced joint guidance on our requirements for decommissioning of nuclear sites, which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-decommissioning-of-nuclear-facilities>