

Harwell Site Stakeholder Group

Environment Agency report

September 2018

This report covers the Environment Agency's (EA) regulation of the Harwell Nuclear Licensed Site and related issues.

Radioactive substances regulation

Permitting

Magnox holds two permits under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) at the Harwell site: one covers the nuclear licensed site (PB3598DX, the 'nuclear' EPR permit); the second covers smaller areas outside the nuclear licensed site boundary (PB3198DJ, the 'non-nuclear' EPR permit).

No changes have been made to either permit since the last SSG. Magnox has not applied for any variations to its permits in 2018.

Regulation

We check compliance with the permit by making regular inspections at Harwell. For all inspections we issue Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Forms (RASCARs). These reports summarise the inspection we carried out and clearly describe any permit breaches. Copies of RASCARs are publically available on request.

We speak with the Environment Team frequently to ensure we are kept in touch with any emerging issues at Harwell and with progress on actions. We receive and assess a range of monthly reports from the site.

In July we undertook a formal inspection to look at the site's gaseous discharge arrangements. We visited building 220 and the Harwell Intermediate Level Waste Box Store. We found no non-compliances with the permit during the inspection.

In August we attended the site's Annual Review of Safety, Security and Environment with representatives from Office for Nuclear Regulation.

Environmental impact

The site environmental permit requires the operator to monitor and assess the impact of discharges on the environment. This monitoring demonstrates that the impact of the site on the environment is low.

The Environment Agencies and Food Standards Agency also carry out independent environmental monitoring around nuclear sites. The results of this work are published annually and the latest report "Radioactivity in Food and the Environment 2016" (RIFE 2016) is published on the Food Standards Agency website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radioactivity-in-food-and-the-environment-rife-reports-2004-to-2016>

The RIFE report presents a yearly assessment of radiological dose to individuals in the local population who are most exposed to radiation from each nuclear licensed site. In 2016, the total dose to this 'representative person' from all pathways and sources of radiation at the Harwell campus was 15 microsieverts (μSv). This is less than 2% of the government public dose limit of 1000 $\mu\text{Sv}/\text{year}$ and less than 1% of the average annual amount of radiation we all receive from natural sources (2700 $\mu\text{Sv}/\text{year}$).

Incidents and enforcement

The Environment Agency monitors breaches of permit conditions using the Compliance Classification Scheme (CCS). This ranks breaches on a 1-4 scale, with category 1 being the most serious.

Since the last SSG meeting we have had no cause to raise any non-compliances against the site.

Discharge reports

Through the site's environmental permit we require that operators use best available techniques (BAT) to prevent the release of radioactive waste into the environment – as solids, liquid or gas – by the permitted routes or to prevent

required to report liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment on a regular basis. We examine these reports and produce a RASCAR for them. Copies of the discharge reports and the RASCARs are publically available on request.

Liquid and gaseous discharges from Harwell continue to be at levels well within permitted limits.

Emergency preparedness

A new External Agencies' Liaison Group has been formed to establish communications across the whole Harwell campus concerning emergency arrangements. This has been noticed as an example of good practice by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. We welcome Magnox taking the lead on this initiative and will continue to be a part of the group with our multi-agency partners.

Further information

A public register service is available on the Gov.UK website at

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/index>

Alternatively you can request access to publicly available documents from the Customers and Engagement Team in the Wallingford office.

Please email WTenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

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 pages of the Gov. UK website at:

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

The Environment Agency's lead Nuclear Regulator for the Harwell site and its tenants is Rebecca Cleverley. Rebecca is part of the national Nuclear Regulation Group (South) (NRG(S)) which is based at the Environment Agency's Wallingford office in Oxfordshire.

NRG(S) undertakes environmental regulation of radioactive substances on nuclear licensed sites in southern England. It works closely with the local Environment Agency teams in those areas as well as external bodies such as the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

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.

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

Email:
rebecca.cleverley@environment-agency.gov.uk

Telephone: 020302 59736

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0345 988 1188
0845 988 1188

www.gov.uk/environment-agency