

Oldbury Site SSG Report

25 April 2018 meeting

This report covers our regulation of Oldbury Site and related issues over the period January to April 2018

Radioactive Substances Regulation

We regulate radioactive waste disposals to the environment. We do this by placing limits and conditions in environmental permits, which helps us to ensure that radioactive waste discharges are minimised and that the environment is protected. We carry out regular checks of Magnox's compliance with our regulatory requirements.

Site Regulation

We check compliance with the permit by undertaking inspections at the site. We prepare Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Reports (RASCARs), detailing our inspections and any non-compliances identified. These reports are placed on our public register. In addition to our own inspection activities we routinely review Magnox's reports of events and incidents occurring on site and follow-up on these where appropriate.

We have carried out one site inspection at Oldbury since our last report to the SSG. The inspection acted as a familiarisation visit for the new EA Regulator for Oldbury, and included an overview of work on site, and an update on the projects being carried out. We did not identify any non-compliances as part of the inspection.

During 2018, we undertook a themed inspection on Asset Management across a range of nuclear sites in England and Wales. Part of this involved sending nuclear site operators a questionnaire seeking information on their sites' asset management arrangements. We assessed the responses that we received and selected a number of sites for a follow up inspection. We decided not to inspect Oldbury Site as part of the themed inspection. No non-compliances were raised during the assessment of the questionnaire. However, we made a number of recommendations on areas for improvement for

Magnox to consider. Areas for improvement, as well as examples of good practice, will be incorporated into a national report, which to be shared with operators later in 2018.

Enforcement

We have not taken any enforcement actions at Oldbury in the period since the previous Oldbury SSG meeting.

Environmental Permitting

We anticipate an application from Magnox to vary the radioactive substances permit to include the new gaseous waste discharge outlets for the R1 and R2 passive ventilation systems. We expect to receive this application shortly.

In addition, we are proposing to vary Magnox's radioactive substances permit during FY 2018-19 to include new conditions to support the implementation of joint Environment Agencies' guidance on requirements for release of nuclear sites from radioactive substances regulation – commonly referred to as 'GRR'.

Further details on GRR can be obtained from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) website at: <https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/operations-portfolio/grr/>

Intermediate Level radioactive Waste (ILW) Strategy

We work together with the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) to advise Magnox on regulatory issues of mutual interest. We provide advice to Magnox on the potential environmental considerations associated with its plans to progress the site through decommissioning, including Magnox's proposals for managing ILW at the site.

Discharge Reports

Nuclear sites are required to routinely report to us their liquid and gaseous radioactive waste discharges to the environment. We review these reports for compliance

and this work is detailed in a RASCAR, which is placed on our public register.

Gaseous and aqueous discharges for the period October 2017 to January 2018 remained well below the relevant annual discharge limits, and no Quarterly Notification Levels (QNL) were exceeded. Review of the returns identified no specific result or trends of concern, with monthly fluctuations as expected from plant operation.

We will undertake a review of the discharge information for the period January to April 2018, once we have received the March data from Magnox (required by the end of April 2018).

Environmental Monitoring

We carry out sampling and analysis under our independent environmental monitoring programme, in association with the Food Standards Agency. The results of this work are published in our annual Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) report. Berkeley and Oldbury sites are considered together for the purposes of environmental monitoring because the effects from both sites contribute to the same area.

The monitoring data for the calendar year 2016 was published in RIFE report 22 (RIFE 22) in October 2017, found at: <http://www.food.gov.uk/science/research/radiologicalresearch/radiosurv/rife>.

In 2016 the dose to the representative person (the group receiving the highest dose) from radioactivity originating from Berkeley and Oldbury in 2016 was low, at 0.006 millisieverts. This is a slight increase from the figure for the previous year, which was less than 0.005 millisieverts.

The independent monitoring data, indicate that the levels of radioactivity found in the environment remain low and close to background levels.

In parallel to this programme, Magnox is required to carry out its own programme of environmental

monitoring and to submit the results of this programme to us on a periodic basis.

We make the information from both Magnox's and our own environmental monitoring programmes available on our public register.

Change of Lead Nuclear Regulator

On 1 April 2018 Alex Lord took over the role of nominated Nuclear Regulator for Oldbury Site from Rob Green.

The Environment Agency's Lead Regulator for Oldbury Site is Alex Lord, based in the Environment Agency's Nuclear Regulation Group (South) (NRG(S)).

NRG(S) is responsible for the environmental regulation of radioactive waste disposals on or from nuclear licensed sites in southern England (and in south Wales, on behalf of Natural Resources Wales). We also work closely with the local Environment Agency teams in Wessex Area in relation to other Environment Agency roles and responsibilities.

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