

Oldbury Site SSG Report

1 August 2018 meeting

This report covers our regulation of Oldbury Site and related issues over the period May to August 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 covered aqueous management, and consisted of discussions with staff as well as walkdown of relevant plant. We did not identify any non-compliances as part of the inspection, but will continue to engage with Site over the proposed management of liquid waste during decommissioning.

Enforcement

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

Environmental Permitting

We have received an application to remove the old reactor contamination vent system outlets from the

permit, as these are no longer in use. There is no change to the site discharge or radiological impact. We are currently in the process of determining this application.

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 January to April 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 May to August 2018, once we have received the August data from Magnox (required by the end of September 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>.

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

Data for the calendar year 2017 is anticipated to be published in October 2018.

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.

UK Strategy for Radioactive Discharges

The 2018 review of the 2009 UK strategy for radioactive discharges has now been published: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-strategy-for-radioactive-discharges-2018-review-of-the-2009-strategy>.

The 2009 strategy laid out the UK Government policy on radioactive discharges: that the unnecessary introduction of radioactivity into the environment is undesirable, even at levels where doses to humans and other species are low and, on the basis of current knowledge, are unlikely to cause harm.

This publication is a review of outcomes and discharge profiles, and is not a new strategy, nor a revision of the overall approach to radioactive discharges. It takes account of developments in UK Government policy,

commercial decisions within the nuclear industry, technological advances and improvements in our knowledge of the impacts of radionuclides in the marine environment.

The review demonstrates evidence of progress against the strategy outcomes (not to be misinterpreted as targets), and the objectives of the OSPAR Radioactive Substances Strategy.

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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