

# Environment Agency Report to the Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group

28<sup>th</sup> June 2019

## Introduction

This report covers the Environment Agency's regulation of the Hinkley Point A & B nuclear sites and related issues for the period March to May 2019.

## Radioactive substances regulation

We regulate radioactive waste disposals to the environment. We do this through environmental permits that contain limits and conditions aimed at minimising wastes and protecting the environment. We also check compliance with these permits by making regular inspections at Hinkley Point A & B.

Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Reports (RASCAR) detailing our inspections and any non-compliances found, are available on the Public Register<sup>[1]</sup>.

We maintain regular contact with the sites by telephone and e-mail in addition to our formal correspondence and visits to the sites.

## Hinkley Point A

Our work at Hinkley Point A (HPA) has been focussed on the following themes and issues in the last three months:

- In March we followed up on findings of the February inspection. As a result Magnox have agreed to revise their environmental baseline to include a non-radiological environmental specialist role.

- In March we also carried out an inspection of the site's suitably qualified and experienced persons (SQEP). HPA was able to demonstrate that their resource management process followed the arrangements set out in their management system documents and we identified some good practice in the management of weekly on-site resource vulnerability. The process for confirming that a person is a SQEP appeared robust. We were satisfied with the arrangements for managing training records and authorisations for key personnel (SQEP).
- We are currently undertaking an EA initiated variation to the site permit as a result of our new Guidance on Requirements for Release from Radioactive Substances Regulation (GRR)<sup>[2]</sup> which sets out our requirements with regard to interim and final end states. The variation will require the submission of plans by the site in order to demonstrate that environmental protection standards are maintained now and into the future.
- No changes to the existing site discharge limits for gaseous or liquid discharges are being considered as part of the variation but the permit will be varied to include two new gaseous discharge points. These are for an existing building and MILWEP (the ISF is already recognised as a discharge point in the permit). The permit requires Magnox to apply Best Available Techniques (BAT) to

---

<sup>[1]</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/access-the-public-register-for-environmental-information>

<sup>[2]</sup> For a non-technical summary of this guidance please see: [www.sepa.org.uk/media/365894/grr-non-technical-summary.pdf](http://www.sepa.org.uk/media/365894/grr-non-technical-summary.pdf)

ensure that the operations and discharges to the environment from both buildings are minimised. Assessments have been provided by the site to support these additions.

## Hinkley Point B

Our work at Hinkley Point B (HPB) has been focussed on the following themes and issues in the last three months:

- In March we carried out an inspection on environmental management and leadership, which we view as fundamental to maintaining high levels of environmental protection at the station. We found that management have a positive attitude to environmental protection. There was evidence that significant environmental issues are identified and prioritised, with sustained oversight. We also saw that learning was shared between the EDF fleet to drive continuous improvement. We noted two recommendations, which were related to the provision of environmental awareness training for senior managers and about linking up the reference numbers between two tracking systems, to further improve the monitoring of environmental issues.
- At the end of May we carried out an inspection on the HPB Environmental Monitoring Programme (EMP). We also looked at solid radioactive waste produced, as part of the outage on reactor 3. We have not yet published our findings, and will cover this in the next SSG report.
- We are still undertaking an EA initiated variation to the site permit as a result of our new Guidance on Requirements for Release from Radioactive Substances Regulation (GRR) which sets out our requirements with regard to interim and final end states. These include submission of plans in order to demonstrate that environmental protection standards are

maintained now and into the future. Unlike HPA, no other changes are planned to the permit as part of this variation. The varied permit is due to be published at the beginning of July.

## Events and enforcement

No enforcement action has been necessary at Hinkley Point A or Hinkley Point B.

## Discharge reports

The operators at Hinkley Point A and B are required to report liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment to us on a regular basis. We assess these to check compliance with the site permits. The site discharge reports and our assessments are placed on the public register.

Liquid and gaseous discharges from Hinkley Point A and B were within the permitted limits and notification levels during this period.

## Environmental impact

Nuclear sites are required to carry out a rigorous environmental monitoring programme that requires the operator to monitor and assess the impact of their discharges on the environment.

Additionally, the Environment Agencies and Food Standards Agency carry out independent environmental monitoring around nuclear sites. The results of this work are published in our annual Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) report<sup>[3]</sup>.

## Change in nuclear regulator for Hinkley Point A&B sites

During the reporting period there has been a change in regulators for both Hinkley stations;

Dr Robert MacGregor has regulated the HPA site since 2014 and in-line with the EA's policy of changing site inspectors every 3-5 years, has

---

<sup>[3]</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/monitoring-radioactivity>

now passed regulation of the site to Ms Tracy Braithwaite from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

Mr Richard Lee has regulated the HPB site since April 2016. He has now passed on regulation of the site to Ms Victoria Thomas, also from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

## 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 Environment Agency section<sup>[4]</sup> of the GOV.UK website.

The Environment Agency's Lead Regulator for the Hinkley Point A site is Tracy Braithwaite. The Environment Agency's Lead Regulator for the Hinkley Point B site is Victoria Thomas.

Tracy and Victoria are Nuclear Regulators and part of the national Nuclear Regulation Group (South) which is based at the Environment Agency's Wallingford office in Oxfordshire.

The EA's Nuclear Regulators undertake environmental regulation of radioactive substances on nuclear licensed sites in southern England. They work closely with the local Environment Agency teams in those areas as well as external bodies such as the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

### **Hinkley Point A:**

Tracy Braithwaite

Telephone: 020 8474 8298

E-mail: [tracy.braithwaite@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.braithwaite@environment-agency.gov.uk)

### **Hinkley Point B:**

Victoria Thomas

Telephone: 020 8474 8298

E-mail: [victoria.thomas@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:victoria.thomas@environment-agency.gov.uk)

### **Address for correspondence:**

Nuclear Regulation Group (South)  
Environment Agency  
Red Kite House  
Howbery Park  
Wallingford  
Oxfordshire OX10 8BD

---

<sup>[4]</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-regulation-in-the-environment-agency>