

# Environment Agency Report to Berkeley Site Stakeholder Group

For the SSG Meeting on 30  
January 2019 - This report covers our  
regulation of Berkeley Nuclear Licensed  
site.

## Radioactive substances regulation

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

## Site Regulation

In October, we inspected Berkeley's arrangements for the characterisation of waste. We did not find any non-compliances with the permit. We made one recommendation, on reviewing fingerprints.

We intend to inspect sentencing and clearance procedures for low level and non-radioactive wastes in February or March 2019.

## Site Permit Compliance

We have not taken any enforcement action against Berkeley in the period since the previous SSG meeting.

## Article 37 Data Report

A data submission to the European Commission (EC) is required under Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty whenever the permitted discharge limits at a nuclear site are increased. We expect to increase the annual permitted gaseous tritium discharge limit at Berkeley from 20 gigabecquerels to 2 terabecquerels as the site enters a new phase of decommissioning work to prepare for entry into Care & Maintenance.

Berkeley have redrafted their Article 37 data report in response to a number of questions posed by the EC. We are currently reviewing the report and expect to make a recommendation to the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) shortly.

## Permit Variations

Berkeley have postponed their variation application. We now expect to receive the application towards the end to this quarter.

The determination date for this application will depend upon the decision reached by the EU on the Article 37 data report described in the section above.

## Discharge Reports

Berkeley site report their major radioactive liquid and gaseous discharges at quarterly intervals and report on discharges from minor points annually. The most recent available report on discharges is for the third quarter (July to September) 2018. All discharges were within permitted limits during this time.

## Environmental reporting

We carry out sampling and analysis under an independent environmental monitoring programme, in association with the Food Standards Agency. The results of this work are published in an annual Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) report.

Berkeley site carries out environmental monitoring, which is reported to us each quarter. No results more than four standard deviations above the norm were reported to us during the most recent quarter (July to September 2018) for which complete information is available.

### Update on Geological Disposal

On 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018, BEIS published the policy paper, [Implementing Geological Disposal: Working with Communities: An updated framework for the long-term management of higher activity radioactive waste](#). This document sets out the Government's overarching policy framework for managing higher activity radioactive waste through implementing geological disposal and how they will work with communities to find a location for a geological disposal facility (GDF). Alongside this policy paper, the Government also launched a new national consent-based process in England to find a site to host a GDF. Radioactive Waste Management Limited (RWM) is responsible for implementing geological disposal and they will lead the siting process.

The Environment Agency will regulate a GDF jointly with the [Office for Nuclear Regulation](#) (ONR). The Environment Agency is responsible for making sure that the developer and operator of a geological disposal facility (GDF) in England meets the high standards we have set to protect people and the environment, both now and in the future. The Environment Agency will not be involved in the decision to select a potential site for a GDF although we will be available to provide information and advice to communities on environmental protection. Our role is described in more detail at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/regulating-the-geological-disposal-of-radioactive-waste-environmental-protection>.

If you require further information about our role in Geological Disposal, or if you would like to be on our mailing list, please contact us by e-mail: [nuclear@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:nuclear@environment-agency.gov.uk).

For more information on our role in regulating the use of radioactive substances and related activities on Berkeley site please consult the Environment Agency page in the UK government website<sup>1</sup> or contact the site's nuclear regulator.

### Nuclear Regulator

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>