



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Site Report for Harwell

Report for period 1 July – 30 September 2019

Foreword

This report is issued as part of ONR's commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the above site available to the public. Reports are distributed quarterly to members for the Harwell Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llic/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend the Harwell Site Stakeholder Group meetings and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR.

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1 INSPECTIONS

1.1 Dates of inspection

During this quarter, inspections by the ONR inspectors were made on:

- 22 and 28 August 2019
- 5 September 2019

2 ROUTINE MATTERS

2.1 Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with:

- the conditions attached by ONR to the nuclear site licence granted under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65) (as amended);
- the Energy Act 2013 (TEA13);
- the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HSWA74); and
- regulations made under HSWA74, for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99).

The purpose of the inspections is to monitor licensee's actions on the site in relation to incidents, operations, maintenance, projects, modifications, safety case changes and any other matters that may affect safety. The licensee is required to make and implement adequate arrangements under the conditions attached to the licence to ensure legal compliance. During inspections, the inspector seeks to judge the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

The routine inspections of Harwell focused on the following aspects:

- LC 2 Marking of the site boundary
- LC 3 Control of property transactions
- LC 5 Consignment of nuclear matter
- LC 16 Site plans, designs and specifications
- LC 17 Management systems
- Ionising Radiation Regulations 2017

ONR generally judged the site arrangements in response to safety requirements to be adequate in the areas inspected. Where improvements were considered necessary, the licensee made satisfactory commitments to address the issues. The site inspector will monitor progress during future visits and where necessary, ONR will take formal regulatory enforcement action to ensure that appropriate remedial measures are implemented to reasonably practicable timescales.

The licensee's Annual Review of Safety for Harwell and Winfrith was held at Winfrith on 12 September 2019 and was attended by the Site and Superintending inspector. After the meeting the inspectors undertook a site inspection at Winfrith with the facility managers. The inspectors concluded that, based on the areas visited, the licensee is maintaining plant and facilities in a safe manner. The inspectors did not identify any safety concerns.

The licensee provided a report of its safety performance at both sites during the last year and identified improvements to be carried out this year. The ONR inspectors considered the report to be sufficiently self-critical and the licensee identified appropriate areas for improvement.

2.2 Other work

ONR and the EA met with the lead team from the Magnox Ltd Harwell and Winfrith sites in September to discuss a number of issues relating to recent inspections and incidents relating to on-site waste management and off-site consignment of waste. The Magnox Ltd Head of Assurance led a route-cause analysis workshop and presented the findings to the regulators. This resulted in a joint ONR Enforcement and EA Warning Letter issued to Magnox Ltd on the 30 September which identified a number of compliance shortfalls relating to waste management arrangements. Magnox Ltd has initiated a Harwell & Winfrith Integrated Waste Improvement Plan (IWIP) in response to the regulatory requirements of the letter and ONR and the EA will be tracking progress by means of formal regulatory issues.

The ONR project inspector for the Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant delicensing project continues to meet routinely with the project staff at Harwell, supported by ONR specialist inspectors.

3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. ONR inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

There were no such matters of significance to report during the period.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

ONR may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, ONR issues regulatory documents which either permit an activity or require some form of action to be taken; these are collectively termed 'Licence Instruments', but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may issue Enforcement Notices to secure improvements to safety. No Licence Instruments or Enforcement Notices were issued during the period.

Reports detailing the above regulatory decisions can be found on the ONR website at <http://www.onr.org.uk/pars/>.

5 NEWS FROM ONR

5.1 Enforcement Action

A summary of enforcement action is provided below. Further detail is available on [our website](#).

- On 19 July we served [Improvement Notices on the Atomic Weapons Establishment \(AWE\)](#) relating to the way the company undertakes risk assessments for organisational change which may affect safety.
- Following a court hearing on July 23, 2019 at Plymouth Magistrates' Court, [Devonport Royal Dockyard Ltd \(DRDL\) was fined £666,667](#) and ordered to pay costs of £27,611.82. It follows an incident in September 2018 involving a crane at the Devonport 9 Dock facility. During a lifting operation to disassemble a stack of test weights, the weights became detached and fell towards a worker, narrowly missing him. This was a conventional health and safety incident and there was no nuclear or radiological risk to workers or the public

- On 20 August 2019 we provided [EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd with permission for Reactor 4 at Hunterston B to return to service](#) for the next period of operation. Permission is for up to 16.025 terawatt days, which is approximately four months operation.
- Recognising the good progress made so far, on 16 September 2019 we agreed to [extend two Improvement Notices issued to EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd \(EDF\)](#) from the original compliance date of 16 September, 2019, to 16 December, 2019. The notices were served in January 2019 following an incident at Heysham 1 power station. We have been closely monitoring the work to comply with both notices and will continue to do so to ensure full compliance.

5.2 Regulatory updates

- We have revised our [Licencing Nuclear Installations guidance](#). The revised guidance replaces the 4th edition, published in January 2015. The key changes to the guidance have been made to reflect legal changes as a result of the introduction of new legislation and to include reference to updated processes and procedures.
- Together with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) we have published a [new Approved Code of Practice \(ACOP\) and guidance](#) to assist dutyholder compliance with the new Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2019 (REPPiR).

5.3 Stakeholder Engagement

- On 18 September we held our Finance Industry Seminar which brought together finance colleagues from licence holders to discuss how we plan and forecast our charges, as part of our drive to be open and transparent about how we charge for the regulatory services we provide.
- In the week commencing 23 September, we attended an OECD Nuclear Energy Agency Workshop on Stakeholder Involvement: Risk Communication, as part of a UK contingent which included other regulators, government bodies, supply chain representatives and attendees from nuclear interest and pressure groups. The workshop explored how best to communicate radiation risk and how to ensure stakeholder involvement and participation. Further details about this event can be found here: <https://www.oecd-nea.org/civil/workshops/2019/stakeholder/>
- In the week commencing 16 September we attended the 63rd International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference in Vienna. The annual General Conference is an opportunity for all IAEA Member States to jointly consider matters related to the IAEA's ongoing work, budget and priorities. This year, over 3000 participants attended, including delegates from 152 of the IAEA's 171 Member States.

5.4 Corporate news

- The [Department for Work and Pensions](#) is looking to appoint two non-executive directors to [ONR's Board](#). More details on the roles and how to apply can be found on the [HM Government Public Appointments website](#).
- On 10 July we published our [gender pay report for 2018/19](#). We are committed to improving diversity by promoting and maintaining an inclusive working environment and are pleased to report positive shifts in the gender pay gap indicators, where our mean gap of 27% has reduced by 8.2% since [our second report in 2017/18](#).

All our latest news is available on our website www.onr.org.uk

6 CONTACTS

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