

Oldbury Site Stakeholder Group Report

This report covers our regulation of Magnox Ltd. at Oldbury Site and related issues over the period November 2019 to January 2020

Radioactive Substances Regulation

We regulate radioactive waste disposals and discharges 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 routinely engage with the site through meetings and a monthly tripartite (Magnox, EA and ONR) update. We also check compliance with the permit by undertaking inspections at the site, and detail our assessment and any non-compliances identified through a Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Report (RASCAR). These reports are placed on our public register. In addition to our own inspection activities we routinely review Magnox documents and reports of events and incidents occurring on site. We will follow-up on these where appropriate.

We have carried out one site inspection since our last report to the SSG. This inspection gave us the opportunity to look at how gaseous discharges are managed and the systems and processes that support compliance with this aspect of the environmental permit. Physical inspection of systems and equipment indicated good housekeeping and asset management. Records inspected were complete, with the appropriate level of assurance and verification. No non-compliances were noted as part of the inspection. Our next inspection is scheduled for February, and will look at the characterisation of radioactive waste

Enforcement

We have not taken any enforcement actions at Oldbury in the period since the previous SSG meeting, and they have remained compliant with the requirements of the permit.

Annual Regional Review

On 13th November we attended the Annual Regional Review of Site Security and Environment (ARRoSSE), covering Oldbury, Berkeley and Hinkley Point A. A review of work done over the past year within the various programmes was covered for each site, as well as the way forward for 2020. The meeting was open and honest, and it was positive to see evidence of learning playing a key role in the organisation.

We have been pleased with the level of engagement we have had with Magnox and the NDA over the transition to Magnox becoming a NDA subsidiary. We look forward to engaging with the new lead team on their future plans for Magnox.

Environmental Permitting

There have been no changes to Magnox's Oldbury permits in the period since the previous SSG meeting, and no changes are planned for the immediate period. We have changed Magnox's reporting requirements in order to implement a Basic Safety Standards Directive (BSSD) recommendation relating to standardised discharge reporting from nuclear power stations (including those in decommissioning). This was as a result of a direction from BEIS which made the recommendation mandatory. The requirements, approvals and specifications of operators made under their permit are detailed in the Compilation of Environment Agency Requirements, Approvals and Specifications (CEAR) document.

Discharge Reports

The site's environmental permit requires Magnox to use the best available techniques (BAT) to manage their operations, and ensure their impacts on the public and wider environment are minimised. Disposal of wastes – as solids, liquid or gases can only be made via permitted routes or by transfer to permitted sites. Magnox is required to report liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment to us on a regular basis. We examine these reports and report on their performance through a RASCAR. Copies of the discharge reports and the RASCARs are available for the public. See the 'further information' section at the end of this document to find out how to request them.

Liquid and gaseous discharges from Oldbury continue to be at levels well within permitted limits. Discharges of all measured gaseous radionuclides remained below 1% of their relevant annual limits, and less than 18% for liquid discharges, for Q4 (Oct-Dec) 2019.

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 2018 was published in RIFE report 24 (RIFE 24) in October 2019, and can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radioactivity-in-food-and-the-environment-rife-reports>

For Berkeley and Oldbury, total dose for the representative person remained unchanged when compared to the previous year, at <0.005mSv. This equates to less than 1% of the government derived limit to protect members of the public. 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. These continue to be consistent with our independent programme, and do not indicate any results of concern or significant change from previous years. We make the information from both Magnox's and our own environmental monitoring programmes available on our public register.

Further information

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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A public register service is available on the GOV.UK website at:

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/index>

Alternatively you can request access to public documents directly by contacting the Customers and Engagement Team in the Wallingford office. Please email:

WTenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

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 pages of the Gov.UK website at:

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

Our enforcement and sanctions policy is publically available on the GOV.UK website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-agency-enforcement-and-sanctions-policy/environment-agency-enforcement-and-sanctions-policy>

Public Health England has placed guidance on ionising radiation dose comparisons on the GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ionising-radiation-dose-comparisons>