



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Site Report for Winfrith

Report for period 1 October – 31 December 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 Winfrith Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llic/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Winfrith 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

The ONR site safety, nuclear liabilities and conventional health and safety inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the quarter:

- 9 and 10 October 2019
- 13 November 2019
- 12 and 13 December 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;
- 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 inspections entail monitoring 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 licensees are required to make and implement adequate arrangements under the conditions attached to the licence in order to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, routine inspections of Magnox Ltd Winfrith focused on the following:

- Incidents on the site
- Management System

In this period no routine inspections of Inutec Ltd Winfrith were conducted, although a facility walk-down was conducted by the Site Inspector and Conventional Health and Safety Specialist Inspector in order to monitor progress against open regulatory issues.

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

2.2 Other work

ONR and the EA continue to monitor progress with the Magnox Ltd Harwell & Winfrith Integrated Waste Improvement Plan (IWIP) in response to the regulatory requirements of a joint Enforcement/Warning letter from ONR/EA issued in September 2019. Adequate progress has been reported so far.

The Steam Generating Heavy Water Reactor (SGHWR) decommissioning project continues to make good progress in primary containment decommissioning in preparation for core segmentation.

The Winfrith End State Tactical Group (WESTG) is continuing to meet. ONR is currently attending these meetings as Winfrith is the “lead and learn” site in the UK for discussions on appropriate site end-states.

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 Enforcement Notices were issued during the period.

A Licence Instrument was issued to Magnox Ltd Winfrith relating to a specification under Licence Condition 25(4) to provide ONR with records of high-activity sources as required by the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (as amended).

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

EDF Energy has complied [with two ONR Improvement Notices](#) relating to the way it maintains auxiliary steam systems and instructs staff operating these systems. The Notices were issued in January 2019 following a serious incident at Heysham 1 power station in November 2018, when a valve failed on a steam system resulting in injury to three EDF employees. Further details are available on our [website](#).

5.2 Regulatory updates

In October, our Chief Nuclear Inspector (CNI) Mark Foy published his view on the performance of Great Britain’s nuclear industry during 2018/19. In the first [report](#) of its kind, the review provides an independent, authoritative view of safety, security and safeguards performance across the nuclear industry over the last year. The report is accessible via our website homepage www.onr.org.uk.

Throughout October we hosted an [Integrated Regulatory Review Service Mission](#) that saw a team of 18 independent experts from across the globe scrutinising the regulation of nuclear and radiological safety across 15 different regulatory bodies. The final report is expected in February/March 2020.

Along with the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) we have published [new Generic Design Assessment \(GDA\) guidance](#) for Requesting Parties. It reflects the changes seen in the nuclear industry in the decade since GDA was introduced, in particular

the Nuclear Sector Deal and the potential for Small Modular Reactor (SMR) designs to enter GDA in the future. The new guidance also incorporates lessons learnt from previous GDAs.

Together with the Environment Agency, we have also published a [joint annual report](#) on our scrutiny of Radioactive Waste Management's (RWM) work to develop geological disposal. This report summarises our work relating to the geological disposal of radioactive waste.

We have formally concluded the [licence revocation for the Cardiff Nuclear Licensed Site](#) in Wales, thereby de-licensing the site. This follows many years of nuclear site decommissioning and work to clean up the site and is the first time ONR has de-licensed a site completely, although several sites have been de-licensed by ONR's predecessor organisation, the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

5.3 Stakeholder engagement

In November, we hosted our second NGO Forum of the year and were delighted to welcome 18 NGO attendees from 14 different organisations. Agenda items included our work at Sellafield, ageing management of reactors and our relationship with the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator. Presentations and minutes from all our [NGO Forum meetings](#) are made available on our website. If you represent an NGO group and would like to get involved with our NGO Forum, please get in touch with our Communications team (contact@onr.gov.uk) for further details.

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

6 CONTACTS

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