

# Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

## Site Report for Chapelcross

**Report for period 1 July 2022 – 30 September 2022**

### **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 to members for the Chapelcross Site Working Group meeting and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/l/c/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend SSG Working Group meetings where possible and these reports are presented and the inspectors 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

ONR's inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the period 1 June 2022 – 30 September 2022

- 23 August: Routine Site Inspection

# 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 etc 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 the 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 in order to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, a routine inspection was carried out at site on 23 and 24 August, focussed on the readiness to commence active commissioning of the Chapelcross Process Plant (CXPP) Breakdown Cave waste route. The inspection consisted of a systems-based inspection that sampled the arrangements for training of the staff, process operating rules, operating instructions, safety mechanisms, maintenance and the arrangements to control the leakage or escape of radioactive waste.

The conclusions based on the documents and records sampled was that adequate arrangements had been made and that there was no reason to withhold permission to commence the active commissioning.

Members of the public, who would like further information on ONR's inspection activities during the reporting period, can view site Intervention Reports at [www.onr.org.uk/intervention-records](http://www.onr.org.uk/intervention-records) on our website [www.onr.org.uk](http://www.onr.org.uk). Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk).

## 2.2. Other Work

Throughout this reporting period, ONR's nominated site safety inspector has held regular telephone meetings with Chapelcross leadership team representatives to maintain situational awareness of matters related to nuclear safety. No significant issues were highlighted to ONR.

## 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 was an event on site involving the unplanned release of an amount of Carbon 14 from the stack arising from the operation of the Advanced Vacuum Drying System (AVDS). Although the amount released was well within regulatory limits and carries no nuclear safety significance, it still represents a breach of conditions set out in the environmental permit and needs to be addressed by SEPA. ONR continues to work constructively with SEPA as this issue is being resolved.

## 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 usually collectively termed 'Licence Instruments' (LIs) but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an Enforcement Notice.

Following the satisfactory conclusion of the site inspection on the 23 and 24 August, permission was granted to commence the active commissioning of the CXPP Breakdown Cave waste route.

## 5. News from ONR

For the latest news and information from the Office for Nuclear Regulation, please read and subscribe to our regular email newsletter 'ONR News' at [www.onr.org.uk/onrnews](http://www.onr.org.uk/onrnews)

## 6. Contacts

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