

Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

Site Report for Harwell

Report for period 1 January – 30 June 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 Harwell Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Harwell Site Stakeholder Group meetings where these reports are presented 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 inspector made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 January to 30 June 2022:

- 8 March 2022

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.

The inspections at the Magnox Ltd Harwell site focused on the following Licence Conditions (LC) and safety regulations:

- LC32 Accumulation of radioactive waste.

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 on our website www.onr.org.uk. Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email contact@onr.gov.uk.

2.2. Other Work

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

The ONR project inspector for the Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant delicensing project continues to meet with the project staff at Harwell, supported by ONR specialist inspectors and UKHSA. Engagement on delicensing other areas of the site have commenced in accordance with the Harwell campus priorities.

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.

In January 2022 ONR was advised on an incident whereby an inactive test weight had been left in a transportation flask after a period maintenance. Although there was no radiological consequence to the event, the investigation has highlighted a number of areas for improvement regarding operational practices including control and supervision. ONR is content that the event was appropriately investigated by the licensee and regulatory advice consistent with the investigation findings was given.

In February and March 2022 ONR was advised of a limited workplace transmissions of COVID-19 at the Magnox Ltd Harwell site. Precautionary working practices put in place and compliant to government guidelines at the time, enabled early detection and have limited the transmission. No specific failings in the arrangements or compliance to them were identified.

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.

- No LIs, Enforcement Notices or Enforcement letters were issued during this period.

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

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

6. Contacts

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