



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Site Report for Harwell

Report for period 1 January – 31 March 2020

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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INSPECTIONS	3
2	ROUTINE MATTERS.....	3
3	NON-ROUTINE MATTERS.....	4
4	REGULATORY ACTIVITY	4
5	NEWS FROM ONR.....	4
6	CONTACTS.....	6

1 INSPECTIONS

1.1 Dates of inspection

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

- 17 January 2020
- 27 February 2020
- 3 and 4 March 2020

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 of the Licence Conditions (LC):

- LC10 Training
- LC23 Operating rules
- LC24 Operating Instructions
- LC27 Safety Mechanism, Devices and Circuits
- LC28 Examination, Inspection, Maintenance and Testing

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.

2.2 Other work

ONR and the EA continue to monitor progress with the Magnox Ltd Harwell & Winfrith Integrated Waste Improvement Plan 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, however wider issues with the management system have been identified whilst undertaking this work.

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 and Public Health England.

All decommissioning operations were paused on the 20 March 2020 due to CoViD-19. Critical systems are being maintained and are subject to weekly inspection. However tenants on the Magnox Ltd Harwell site continue operating in support of medical research, these tenants do not conduct operations with any nuclear safety significance. Emergency capability is being maintained through call in to staff off-site.

3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and incidents. 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' (LI), but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may issue Enforcement Notices to secure improvements to safety.

No Li 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

Covid-19 (Coronavirus) (ONR position)

ONR is continuing to protect society by securing safe nuclear operations during the Coronavirus pandemic. ONR staff continue to work from home, in line with government advice. We have considered our priorities, have deferred non-critical activities, and are carrying out as much of our work as possible via videoconference, phone and email. Our regulatory focus includes assurance, where appropriate, from site licensees that they are applying the public health measures introduced to reduce the spread of coronavirus. A limited number of our inspectors can, as key workers, continue to travel to site as necessary to conduct urgent and essential regulatory inspections. Nuclear sites have been reducing non-essential activities so as to protect staff, infrastructure, and the public. As always, we are regulating those activities to ensure they are carried out safely and securely.

Enforcement Action

ONR served an [Enforcement Notice](#) on Urenco UK Ltd following a fire safety inspection at its Capenhurst Works in Cheshire during December 2019. The notice was issued in response to shortfalls identified in the fire alarm and detection systems at one of the site's facilities.

In February ONR announced that [Sellafield Limited had complied](#) with an Improvement Notice relating to staff training, operating procedures and procedural adherence that they were served with in May 2019.

Regulatory Updates

In January ONR published an update to its Safety Assessment Principles, to incorporate some relatively minor revisions including typographical corrections and updates to reflect changes to the UK's nuclear regulatory framework since 2014.

In February ONR completed Step 3 of the Generic Design Assessment (GDA) of the UK HPR1000 design, and took the decision to progress to Step 4 of the GDA. During Step 3, ONR increased its regulatory scrutiny and undertook a more detailed assessment of the design, focusing on the methods and approaches used by the GDA Requesting Party to underpin their safety and security claims.

In March we published the Quarterly [Statement of Civil Incidents](#) for the period 1 October to 31 December 2019. During this reporting period there were two civil incidents at nuclear licensed sites within Great Britain that met the Ministerial Reporting Criteria as defined within the Nuclear Installations (Dangerous Occurrences) Regulations 1965 and ONR guidance in relation to notifying and reporting incidents and events.

Stakeholder Engagement

On 15 January ONR launched a four-week public consultation on its draft 2025 Strategy. Once agreed, the strategy will set our direction and priorities for the next five years. To support the public consultation we held a webinar for NGOs and other stakeholders in which our Chief Executive, Adrienne Kelbie, and Technical Director, Anthony Hart, gave an overview of the strategy and welcomed questions and comments. The strategy is due to be published in May 2020.

In January, ONR achieved Level 3 Disability Confident (Leader) status, recognising our desire to put people first and create an environment in which everyone can thrive. The government-backed scheme encourages employers to think differently about disability and take action to improve how they recruit, retain and develop disabled people.

In February, we announced the appointment of two new members to the ONR Board. Dr Janet Wilson took up the appointment on 1 April 2020 and Tracey Matthews will take up her appointment on 1 June 2020 – both appointments are for five year terms.

In February more than 70 stakeholders involved in the transport of radioactive material attended a conference organised by ONR's Transport Competent Authority (TCA) team. The event provided a good opportunity for the TCA team to share their expectations on compliance with regulations governing the transport of radioactive material.

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

6 CONTACTS

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