|  |
| --- |
|  |
| ONR Site Report  BAE Systems Marine Limited – Devonshire Dock Complex |



ONR Site Report

BAE Systems Marine Limited - Devonshire Dock Complex

Report for period: 1 January – 30 June 2023

Authored by: Inspector  
 Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: Superintending Inspector

Issue No.: 1

Publication Date: March 2024

ONR Record Ref. No.: 2023/53247

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 BAE Systems Marine Limited (BAESML) Local Liaison Committee (LLC) and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend BAE Systems Marine Limited (BAESML) Local Liaison Committee (LLC) 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.

Contents

[1. Inspections 4](#_Toc144915139)

[2. Routine Matters 4](#_Toc144915140)

[3. Non-Routine Matters 6](#_Toc144915141)

[4. Regulatory Activity 7](#_Toc144915142)

[5. News from ONR 8](#_Toc144915143)

[6. Contacts 8](#_Toc144915144)

# Inspections

## Date(s) of Inspection

The ONR site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the report period:

* 01 March;
* 20, 24 to 27 April; and
* 21 to 23 June

# Routine Matters

## 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, routine inspections of Devonshire Dock Complex covered the following:

* examination, maintenance, inspection and testing;
* management of operations including control and supervision;
* staff training, qualifications and experience;
* modifications to plant, equipment and safety cases;
* emergency preparedness;
* incidents on the site; and
* conventional (non-nuclear) health and safety.

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).

## Emergency Exercise: ‘INDIGO 22 Redemonstration’

In April 2023, a team of three ONR inspectors observed BAESML's emergency demonstration exercise 'INDIGO 22R', making observations in the Nuclear Emergency Headquarters (NEHQ) (tactical & operational), Exclusion Zone Reception Centre (EZRC), and technical cell, as well as observations of the deployed teams.

ONR judged that this was an adequate demonstration of BAESML’s emergency arrangements. ONR noted significant improvements in inter-cell communication, situational awareness, and information flow. As a result of the successful redemonstration, ONR closed the associated level 3 regulatory issue.

## Astute Boat 6, Hold Point 5 Release

Hold Point 5 for Astute Boat 6 covers Core Load and Initial Inactive Commissioning activities in the Devonshire Dock Hall (DDH). Since this is the sixth time that BAESML has undertaken such activities, and the activities themselves are also subject to Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR) permissioning, ONR judged that it was proportionate to control the activity through the use of flexible permissioning, specifically Enhanced Implementation, Monitoring and Control (EIM&C).

ONR reviewed BAESML’s Operational Readiness Review (ORR) arrangements and associated output. The ORR report captures the output of the review panel at a number of different review meetings up to the point where BAESML made its decision that it could continue. ONR, alongside DNSR, also undertook an Operational Readiness Inspection that tested the implementation of the arrangements and its output.

Based on the work undertaken by ONR, and considering the work conducted in parallel by DNSR, ONR was content to release the EIM&C holdpoint.

## Other Work

The site inspector held a periodic meeting with safety representatives, to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety and welfare at work.

BAESML schedules regular regulatory interface meetings (RIF) covering an overview of the build programmes, and improvements to the site safety cases and their implementation. The RIFs also cover regulatory issues progress and oversight of the site redevelopment project (SRP) work. This includes regulatory oversight of the construction of the new facilities on the licensed site. The ONR Site and Project Inspectors attended these meetings (usually virtually) during the period.

# 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.

Matters and events of particular note during the period were:

## Cable Strike Event

In June 2023, whilst removing a redundant electrical cable from a trench to prepare for further ground works, the principal contractor (PC) within the Devonshire Dock Quay (DDQ) damaged another cable in the trench, which, unknown to the PC, was live. BAESML and the PC had undertaken prior work which had led to the belief that all cables in the trench had been proven de-energised.

Whilst no local effects were observed when the cable was initially damaged, BAESML reported a loss of power to a portion of the site. During BAESML’s controlled re-energisation for the purpose of fault finding, the PC reported a smell of smoke and an electrical arc from the trench.

After the event, the principal contractor stopped all excavation work on the DDQ site, followed by BAESML issuing a ‘stop work’ instruction for site-wide excavation. Both the PC and BAESML have completed their own investigation to better understand the event.

No injuries were sustained, and there was no risk to nuclear safety, the public or the environment because of the incident. The incident was reported to the ONR nominated site inspector and preliminary enquiries are ongoing.

# 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.

ONR did however release a hold point for the release of ‘Astute Boat 6, Hold Point 5’, via ‘Enhanced Implementation, Monitoring & Control’. Further detail is provided in section 2.3.

# News from ONR

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

# Contacts

Office for Nuclear Regulation

Redgrave Court

Merton Road

Bootle

Merseyside

L20 7HS

website: [www.onr.org.uk](http://www.onr.org.uk)

email: [Contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:Contact@onr.gov.uk)

This document is issued by ONR. For further information about ONR, or to report inconsistencies or inaccuracies in this publication please visit <http://www.onr.org.uk/feedback.htm>.

If you wish to reuse this information visit [www.onr.org.uk/copyright.htm](http://www.onr.org.uk/copyright.htm) for details.

For published documents, the electronic copy on the ONR website remains the most current publicly available version and copying or printing renders this document uncontrolled.