



Joint Berkeley/Oldbury Site Stakeholder Group
South Gloucestershire & Stroud College (SGS), Berkeley Green.
Berkeley, Gloucestershire, GL13 9PA
John Huggett Engineering Hall
(D24 in the main college building, next to the school)

Wednesday 27 July 2022

Meeting starts at 13.00

A G E N D A

- | | | |
|-------|-----|---|
| 13.00 | 1. | Welcome and Chair Introductions |
| 13.10 | 2. | Apologies for absence |
| 13.15 | 3. | Minutes of Meeting held on 18 May 2022
a) Accuracy
b) Matters arising |
| 13.25 | 4. | Site Director Reports for Berkeley & Oldbury – Mike Heaton, Site Director |
| 13.55 | 5. | NDA Update – Simon Napper |
| 14.15 | 6. | ONR Reports – Paul Jenneson, Berkeley & Oldbury |
| 14.25 | 7. | Environment Agency Reports
– Sophie Gallagher, Berkeley & Rebecca Cleverley, Oldbury |
| 14.35 | 8. | Environment Agency flooding update – John Buttivant |
| 14.45 | 9. | Chairmans summary |
| 14.55 | 10. | AOB |

Date of Berkeley & Oldbury SSG's for 2022:
26 October 2022

**BERKELEY AND OLDBURY ON SEVERN SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD AT
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND STROUD COLLEGE, BERKELEY, ON
WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2022**

- Mr John Stanton and Mr Malcolm Lynden welcomed members to the meeting which was being held on a face-to-face basis for the first time since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.
- Mr Mike Heaton, Site Director, reported on recent activities at the Oldbury and Berkeley Sites. He said that precautions against the spread of coronavirus were being eased; had been no evidence of on-site transmission of the infection.
- Areas of grass on the Sites were not being mowed during May, as they would normally have been, in order to encourage biodiversity.
- An individual at Oldbury whilst operating a concertina door had received injuries which had necessitated a hospital visit for stitches; he had returned to work the next day. Restrictions had been placed on the use of all such doors until engineering surveys had been completed.
- The modification of equipment at Berkeley to facilitate use of the new type of concrete box container was nearing completion. During the morning prior to this meeting the first load of radioactive waste had been placed within a concrete box container. This was the first use of such a box within Magnox. Retrievals from other vaults and the shielded area would resume later in the year.
- Changes in accommodation arrangements at the Oldbury Site were being made to allow electrical isolation of an area so that the turbine hall complex could be demolished. The building which had housed equipment connecting the station to the national grid was being prepared for demolition.
- All of the skips previously used for the storage of spent fuel in the Oldbury cooling ponds had been cut up to reduce the size of the waste for storage. Samples had been taken for laboratory analysis in order to identify how these waste materials should be treated in the future.
- Reports were provided by representatives of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency. Mr Simon Napper of the NDA provided information to address concerns raised previously in relation to the use of the Berkeley railhead
- Mr Andy Bates of Business West provided an update on progress of the Severn Edge nomination for hosting fusion energy facilities at the Oldbury and Berkeley sites. It was noted that a decision on the choice of the site for this development was due to be taken before the end of the current year.
- Mr Stanton and Mr Lynden reported on their recent activities on behalf of these Groups.

**BERKELEY AND OLDBURY ON SEVERN SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE
AND STROUD COLLEGE, BERKELEY, ON WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2022**

PRESENT:

Mr M Lynden	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Mr J Stanton	-	Co-opted member
Cllr Mrs E Ashton	-	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr I Bamfield	-	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr S Chandler JP	-	Hamfallow Parish Council
Cllr C Davies	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Mr S Henderson	-	Gloucester Harbour Trustees
Cllr R Holmes	-	Lydney Town Council
Cllr K Sullivan	-	Oldbury Parish Council
Mr B Roberts	-	Thornbury Chamber of Commerce
Cllr J Warren	-	Aust Parish Council
Cllr Ms V Williams	-	Alveston Parish Council

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr S Napper	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr P Jenneson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Ms S Gallagher	-	Environment Agency
Ms R Cleverley	-	Environment Agency
Ms G Ellis-King	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr A Bates	-	Western Gateway
Mr M Heaton	-	Oldbury and Berkeley Sites Director
Ms G Coombs	-	Magnox Communications
Ms J Young	-	Magnox
Mr G Wheeler		
Mr T Hellen		
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

WELCOME

- 1 Mr Lynden and Mr Stanton welcomed everyone to this joint meeting of the Berkeley and Oldbury on Severn Sites' Stakeholder Groups.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Ms A Paine, Cllr G Langdon, Dr J Cordwell, Mr K Warren, Cllr B Tipper, Mrs B French, Ms A Presdee, Dr J McHugh, Mr G Vaughan Lewis, Mrs J Hellen, Cllr Mrs H Molyneux, Mr A Mitchell and Cllr M Riddle

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) Accuracy

- 3 The minutes of the joint meeting of the Berkeley and Oldbury SSGs held on 26 January 2022 were approved as an accurate record.

(b) Matters arising

- 4 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting, but it was noted that issues raised by Cllr Chandler in relation to the Berkeley railhead would be covered under the NDA report.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 5 Mr Heaton reported on recent activities at the Oldbury and Berkeley Sites, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Precautions relating to the spread of coronavirus were being eased. There was currently one case of Covid on the Sites but there had been no evidence of on-site transmission of the infection.
 - (ii) Sites had adopted a “no mow” policy on open areas of land during May to encourage biodiversity.
 - (iii) An individual at Oldbury had sustained injuries to a finger while opening a concertina door. The injuries had required stitches, but the individual had returned to work on the following day. Restrictions had been placed on the use of such doors until engineering surveys had been completed.
 - (iv) Targets for the current year at Berkeley anticipated the retrieval of some 48.5 tonnes of intermediate level waste from the vaults with 17 packages entering the storage facility. Modification of the retrieval equipment to facilitate the use of concrete box containers was nearing completion.
 - (v) During the morning before this meeting radioactive waste had been loaded into a 6 cubic metre concrete box at Berkeley for the first time. This was the first such operation within Magnox.
 - (vi) Modifications to allow retrievals from Vault 3 at Berkeley would be completed later this year and retrievals from the shielded area would restart in the autumn.
 - (vii) It was anticipated that a contract would be placed during the current year for the demolition of the Berkeley blower houses.
 - (viii) Accommodation moves were taking place at Oldbury to allow electrical isolation of an area of the site which would facilitate the

demolition of the turbine hall complex. The building which had housed the equipment connecting the station to the National Grid had been prepared for demolition with large quantities of asbestos waste being removed.

- (ix) Equipment for the retrieval of fuel element debris from the Oldbury waste vaults was being designed.
 - (x) All of the former Oldbury pond skips had been cut up to reduce the volume of this waste for storage and samples had been taken for laboratory analysis. The characterisation of these waste materials would be completed by the end of March 2023.
 - (xi) The transfer of waste packages from Oldbury to Berkeley was continuing. Packages contained pond filtration equipment, miscellaneous contaminated items, sludges and resins.
- 6 Ms Coombs gave details of socio-economic grants given to local organisations during the past year. She said that for the future the limit for grants which could be approved locally had been increased to £2000. She invited members to get in touch with her if they were aware of any local causes which might qualify for such a grant.
- 7 In reply to a question from Mr Stanton, Mr Heaton said that the packages which were planned to be deposited in the storage facility during the current year could be either concrete boxes or ductile cast iron containers. The choice of container would depend upon the nature of the waste to be packaged.
- 8 Replying to a question from Cllr Chandler, Mr Heaton said that the concrete box which was currently being filled with waste would be taken to the encapsulation plant where the waste would be grouted, and a concrete lid cast over the top before being taken to the interim storage facility.
- 9 In reply to a question from Cllr Bamfield, Mr Heaton said that after removal of the wastes the vaults would be empty, and decisions would be taken at that time as to how the remaining voids should be dealt with. The programme of waste retrievals was expected to continue for a further eight years.
- 10 Mr Wheeler asked about plans for the future of the shielded area. Mr Heaton said that after removal of the wastes the facilities would undergo a post operational clean out and would be ready for demolition. Decisions would be taken at that stage as to whether or not that area should remain part of the nuclear licenced site.

NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 11 Mr Napper reported on current NDA issues, drawing attention to the following:
- (i) They NDA's offices were now open, but a balanced mix of office and home working would probably be the arrangement for the future.

- (ii) The NDA had published its Business Plan for the coming three years and its Sustainability Strategy.
 - (iii) A supply chain event which would attract large numbers of potential suppliers was to be held in Telford on 21 July. A nuclear industry association conference would be held on the previous day.
 - (iv) Magnox fuel reprocessing at Sellafield was to come to an end in July. This reprocessing had been taking place since 1964 and a total of almost 55,000 tonnes of spent fuel had been processed in that time; this was more than half the total of fuel reprocessed in the world.
 - (v) Three Community Partnerships in West Cumbria were discussing issues relating to the potential location of a geological waste disposal facility and work was being undertaken to provide information on the local geology. A working group in Theddlethorpe, Lincolnshire had identified a potential local search area.
- 12 In reply to a question from Cllr Davies, Mr Napper said that some of the geological surveys in West Cumbria were taking place offshore as in some cases geological conditions could be different under the sea.
- 13 Cllr Bamfield said that he had been disappointed that the NDA's sustainability report had not included more proposals relating to tree planting.
- 14 Mr Stanton asked about future financial arrangements if the funds which had been accumulated for AGR decommissioning were inadequate to cover the total costs. Mr Napper said that at a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee it had been acknowledged by a representative of BEIS that if there was such a shortfall then public funds would be provided to cover the work.
- 15 It was noted that members had been provided with information from NDA on the points raised by Cllr Chandler at the previous meeting about regulatory responsibility for and monitoring of the Berkeley railhead. Cllr Chandler acknowledged receipt of that information but said he still had concerns whether radiological monitoring at the railhead was adequate to detect any potential accidental deposit of radioactive contamination. Mr Napper undertook to provide further information on the frequency and scope of radiological monitoring undertaken at the railhead.
- 16 Cllr Chandler said he was also concerned by the note in the information provided to members which said that other bodies and other waste may use the railhead in the future; he was concerned that radioactive waste from other nuclear sites might be routed through Berkeley. Mr Napper said that generally the nuclear sites each had their own railhead, and it was difficult to foresee any circumstances in which traffic from other sites would be routed through Berkeley rather than using their own local facilities. Mr Heaton said that in the future when a geological disposal facility had been established it might be appropriate to transfer wastes from the interim storage facility to the GDF via the rail system.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION

- 17 Mr Jenneson introduced himself as the newly appointed Site Inspector for Berkeley and Oldbury and he reported on ONR's regulatory and inspection activities in relation to the Sites. Reports had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.
- 18 Mr Jenneson acknowledged that coronavirus precautions on sites were now being relaxed and he felt that the Sites had managed adequately the threats posed by the pandemic. He said that from his inspections there were no matters of nuclear or conventional safety concern which he wished to bring to members' attention.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- 19 Ms Gallagher and Ms Cleverley reported on the Environment Agency's regulatory activities in relation to the Berkeley and Oldbury Sites. Reports had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. During discussion the following points were noted:
- (i) Inspections to date had provided satisfactory results and future inspections were planned. There were no non-compliances with permitted limits or requirements and discharges of radioactivity from the sites were very low compared with permitted levels.
 - (ii) The Agency was pleased to see the Sites' focus and actions on sustainability issues.
 - (iii) An Agency specialist on flood prevention would be available to come to a meeting of this group if required.

SEVERN EDGE UPDATE

- 20 Mr. Bates provided an update on issues relating to the Severn Edge nomination for hosting the UK's first fusion power plant facility at the Oldbury and Berkeley Sites. The following points were noted during discussion:
- (i) The Severn Edge nomination to host the project on the Oldbury and Berkeley sites was one of five competing bids which were still being considered. A recommendation on the preferred nomination would be made by UKAEA in the coming months and a government decision was due to be made before the end of the year. There was good political leadership for the project
 - (ii) The Severn Edge nomination had received strong community support and with the support of local industries and the availability of local skills was well placed to move forward if selected. There was strong support for the nomination on both sides of the Severn estuary.

- (iii) Although the recently published Government ‘British energy security strategy’ reconfirms Oldbury as one of 8 ‘designated nuclear sites’ in relation to nuclear new build, the Planning Inspectorate has recently confirmed that Horizon’s proposal to develop a large scale new nuclear power station at Oldbury has been withdrawn. The website where further information can be found is [Oldbury New Nuclear Power Station | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/oldbury-new-nuclear-power-station/)

CHAIR’S UPDATE

- 21 Mr Stanton and Mr Lynden reported on recent activities on behalf of the Group. Mr Lynden said that he intended to spend time in Portugal in the future but maintain his local connections; he intended to continue to act as Chair of the Oldbury Group for the remainder of his term of office; members supported him in this approach.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 22 No business

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 23 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on 27 July 2022.

Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

Site Report for

Magnox Ltd Berkeley

Report for period 1 April – 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 Berkeley Site Stakeholders Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Berkeley Site Stakeholders 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

ONR inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 April to 30 June 2022:

- 3 & 24 May 2022
- 28 & 29 June 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 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 Berkeley covered the following:

- management of operations including control and supervision;
- staff training, qualifications and experience;
- radioactive waste management;
- decommissioning;
- organisational changes;
- conventional (non-nuclear) health and safety;
- security.

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

The site inspector held regular meetings with the Site Director and weekly keep-in-touch meetings with the operational staff on site to discuss regulatory issues, site incidents, future permissioning and progress with significant decommissioning milestone delivery.

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.

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 or events of significance 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 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.

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

Office for Nuclear Regulation
Redgrave Court
Merton Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 7HS

website: www.onr.org.uk

email: Contact@onr.gov.uk

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Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

Site Report for

Magnox Ltd Oldbury

Report for period 1 April – 30 June 2022

Foreword

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1. Inspections

1.1. Dates of Inspection

ONR Inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 April to 30 June 2022:

- 12 & 27 April 2022
- 15 & 30 June 2022

2. Routine Matters

2.1. Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with:

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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.

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 or events of significance during the period.

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

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

Office for Nuclear Regulation
Redgrave Court
Merton Road
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Merseyside
L20 7HS

website: www.onr.org.uk
email: Contact@onr.gov.uk

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Environment Agency Report

Berkeley Site Stakeholder Group

July 2021

This report covers our regulation of Magnox Ltd. at Berkeley Site and related issues over the period May 2022 to July 2022.

Coronavirus: Nuclear site regulation operational update

Throughout the period of the C-19 pandemic, the Environment Agency remained focussed on the protection of people and the environment.

During this period, we set out how we carried out our work across the many areas we regulate, and provide advice and interaction with the public (for example, providing flood defence and flood warning, environmental sampling, permitting, angling and fisheries, waterways management and billing (see [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk))). Currently:

- We are fully operational, with a balance between office attendance and staff working from home.
- Frontline staff have returned to near normal regulatory work; including physical site inspections, where appropriate.
- All frontline staff follow guidance to reduce their risk of contracting or transmitting coronavirus.

Please see our published C-19 update for further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-environment-agency-update>

Radioactive substances regulation

We regulate radioactive waste disposals and discharges to the environment. We do this by placing limits and conditions in environmental permits, which helps us to ensure that radioactive waste discharges are minimised and that the environment is protected. We carry out regular checks of Magnox's compliance with our regulatory requirements.

We also regulate and control other activities through our environmental permits, including surface water discharges to surrounding water bodies and emissions to air.

Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Reports (RASCARs) summarising our inspections, and any non-compliances found, are made available to the public on request.

Permitting

Magnox holds a radioactive substances activity permit under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) at the Berkeley site (EPR/ZP3893SG). No changes have been made to the permit since the last SSG meeting.

Compliance activities

We are in regular contact with the Head of Radiological Protection and Environment to ensure we are aware of progress on decommissioning, progress on actions and recommendations and any emerging issues at the site. These discussions continue to

include updates on Covid-related issues such as number of Berkeley staff infected or isolating. We remain satisfied that environmental performance is not being adversely affected by current Covid-related absences or broader impacts.

We continue to have regular engagement with the site, including remote meetings and updates. We will continue to check compliance with the permit by undertaking inspections. In the coming year we intend to inspect:

- Decommissioning strategy & plans
- Solid radioactive waste disposals
- BAT & Decision making

In addition to our own inspection activities we also review, on a weekly basis, Magnox reports of operational events and incidents that have occurred on site. We follow up on these where appropriate. There have been no events or incidents of significant concern to us in the period since the last SSG.

Environmental impact

The site environmental permit requires the operator to monitor and assess the impact of discharges on the environment.

The results of Magnox's environmental monitoring programme continue to be consistent with our independent programme, and do not indicate any results of concern or significant change from previous years.

The Environment Agencies and Food Standards Agency carry out independent environmental monitoring around nuclear sites. These monitoring programmes support our regulatory function and provide reassurance that public radiation exposures are low and within legal limits. The results of this work are published annually and the latest report, "Radioactivity in Food and the Environment 2020" (RIFE 26), is published on the GOV.UK website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radioactivity-in-food-and-the-environment-rife-reports>

The report for 2020 continues to show that total doses to the public, from permitted discharges and direct radiation around nuclear sites, remained below the legal limit. Radioactivity from natural background, rather than nuclear sites, continues to be the more significant source of exposure to communities in all areas of the UK. Anthropogenic radioactivity in the environment, from the nuclear industry and from past testing of nuclear weapons, accounted for less than 0.2% of the exposure to the UK population. Berkeley and Oldbury sites are considered together for the purposes of RIFE because the effects from both sites contribute to the same area.

The RIFE report presents an assessment of annual radiological dose to individuals in the local population who are most exposed to radiation from each nuclear licensed site (known as the 'representative person'). In 2020, the total dose to the representative person from all pathways and sources of radiation from the Oldbury and Berkeley sites combined was less than 5 microsieverts, unchanged from 2018 and 2019. This is less than 0.5% of the UK National dose limit of 1000 microsieverts and less than 0.2% of the average annual

radiation dose received in the UK from all sources including natural sources of radiation (2700 microsieverts/year).

Discharges from site

The site's environmental permit requires Magnox to use best available techniques (BAT) to manage its operations, and ensure their impacts on the public and wider environment are minimised. Disposal of wastes – as solids, liquid or gases can only be made via permitted routes or by transfer to permitted sites. Magnox must also carry out a programme of environmental monitoring. A report of the liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment, and the results of the environmental monitoring programme must be submitted to us on a periodic basis. We examine these reports and report on their performance through a RASCAR.

Both liquid and gaseous discharges from Berkeley continue to be at levels well within permitted limits for Q1 (January - March) 2022. Liquid discharges are currently around 0.18% of the annual limits. Gaseous discharges are also within permitted limits. Tritium discharges currently correspond to around 0.5% of the annual limit, carbon-14 discharges around 9% and other beta discharges are around 2.7% of the site annual gaseous discharges.

Enforcement

We have not taken any enforcement actions at Berkeley in the period since the previous SSG meeting.

Sustainable Development

We are supporting Magnox with the development of their Magnox sustainability strategy. We have provided technical advice and shared our learning from our own experience of implementing sustainable development goals into our business, which includes flood and coastal risk management capital works. Over the coming months, we will continue to support Berkeley in developing its thinking in this area and broader opportunities for improving environmental performance and outcomes throughout the decommissioning process at Berkeley.

Further information

The Environment Agency's Lead Regulator for Berkeley Site is Sophie Gallagher, based in the Environment Agency's Nuclear Regulation Group (South) (NRG(S)).

NRG(S) is responsible for the environmental regulation of radioactive waste disposals on or from nuclear licensed sites in southern England (and in south Wales, on behalf of Natural Resources Wales). We also work closely with the local Environment Agency teams in Wessex Area in relation to other Environment Agency roles and responsibilities.

Address Environment Agency, Nuclear Regulation Group, Red Kite House,
Howbery Park, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 8BD

Regulator Email sophie.gallagher@environment-agency.gov.uk

A public register service is available on the GOV.UK website at:

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/index>

Alternatively you can request access to public documents directly by contacting the Customers and Engagement Team in the Wallingford office. Please email

WTenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Further information on our role in regulating the use of radioactive substances and related activities on nuclear licensed sites can be found on the Environment Agency pages of the Gov.UK website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-regulation-in-the-environment-agency>

Our enforcement and sanctions policy is publically available on the GOV.UK website at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-agency-enforcement-and-sanctions-policy/environment-agency-enforcement-and-sanctions-policy>

Public Health England has placed guidance on ionising radiation dose comparisons on the GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ionising-radiation-dose-comparisons>

Environment Agency Report

Oldbury Site Stakeholder Group

July 2022

This report covers our regulation of Magnox Ltd. at Oldbury Site and related issues, including the Coronavirus pandemic, from May to July 2022.

Coronavirus: Nuclear site regulation operational update

The Environment Agency's priority remains to protect people and the environment. We have set out how we are doing this across the many areas we regulate, advise or interact with the public, for example, flood defence, flood warning, environmental sampling, permitting, angling and fisheries, waterways management and billing (see [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)).

- We are fully operational, with a balance between office attendance and staff working from home.
- Frontline staff have returned to near normal regulatory work, including physical site inspections, where appropriate.
- All frontline staff follow guidance to reduce their risk of contracting or transmitting coronavirus.

We have maintained regulatory activities at Oldbury, throughout including in-person site visits as well as using remote working arrangements where practicable and effective to do so.

Please see our published statement for further information at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-environment-agency-update>.

Radioactive substances regulation

We regulate radioactive waste disposals to the environment. We do this through environmental permits that contain limits and conditions aimed at minimising wastes and protecting the environment. We check compliance with the permits by making regular site inspections.

Working with colleagues across the Environment Agency we may also regulate other activities, including surface water discharges to surrounding water bodies and emissions to air.

We record our regulatory compliance interactions in Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Reports (RASCARs). These summarise the type of work we have undertaken, describe any non-compliance or observations of good practice, and include actions or recommendations from our findings. They are public register records and can be provided on request. please see the 'further information' section at the end of this document to find out how to request public register records.

Permitting

Magnox holds a radioactive substances activity permit under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) at the Oldbury site (EPR/GB3435DG). No changes have been made to the permit since the last SSG meeting.

Compliance activities

We are in regular contact with the Head of Radiological Protection and Environment to ensure we are aware of progress on decommissioning, progress on actions and recommendations and any emerging issues at the site. These discussions continue to include updates on Covid-related issues such as number of Oldbury staff infected or isolating. We remain satisfied that environmental performance is not being adversely affected by current Covid-related absences or broader impacts.

We continue to have regular engagement with the site, including remote meetings and updates. We will continue to check compliance with the permit by undertaking inspections. In the coming year we intend to inspect:

- BAT decision-making for decommissioning strategy & plans
- Management of gaseous waste discharges
- Solid radioactive waste disposals
- Environmental leadership

In addition to our own inspection activities we also review, on a weekly basis, Magnox reports of operational events and incidents that have occurred on site. We follow up on these where appropriate. There have been no events or incidents of significant concern to us in the period since the last SSG.

Environmental impact

The site environmental permit requires the operator to monitor and assess the impact of discharges on the environment.

The results of Magnox's environmental monitoring programme (EMP) indicates that the environmental impact from permitted discharges remains low. Magnox's results continue to be consistent with our independent programme, and do not indicate any results of concern or significant change from previous years.

The Environment Agencies and Food Standards Agency carry out independent environmental monitoring around nuclear sites. These monitoring programmes support our regulatory function and provide reassurance that public radiation exposures are low and within legal limits. The results of this work are published annually and the latest report, "Radioactivity in Food and the Environment 2020" (RIFE 26), is published on the GOV.UK website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radioactivity-in-food-and-the-environment-rife-reports>

The report for 2020 continues to show that total doses to the public, from permitted discharges and direct radiation around nuclear sites, remained below the legal limit. Radioactivity from natural background, rather than nuclear sites, continues to be the more significant source of exposure to communities in all areas of the UK. Anthropogenic radioactivity in the environment, from the nuclear industry and from past testing of nuclear weapons, accounted for less than 0.2% of the exposure to the UK population. Berkeley and Oldbury sites are considered together for the purposes of RIFE because the effects from both sites contribute to the same area.

The RIFE report presents an assessment of annual radiological dose to individuals in the local population who are most exposed to radiation from each nuclear licensed site (known as the 'representative person'). In 2020, the total dose to the representative person from all pathways and sources of radiation from the Oldbury and Berkeley sites combined was less than 5 microsieverts, unchanged from 2018 and 2019. This is less than 0.5% of the UK National dose limit of 1000 microsieverts and less than 0.2% of the average annual radiation dose we all receive from all sources including natural sources of radiation (2700 microsieverts/year).

Discharges from site

The site's environmental permit requires Magnox to use best available techniques (BAT) to minimise the generation of radioactive waste, and minimise any permitted releases into the environment. Disposal of wastes, as solids, liquid or gases, can only be made via permitted routes or by transfer to permitted sites. Limits are set in the permit to control the maximum level of radioactivity that can be discharged to the environment as gaseous or liquid discharges over a rolling 12-month period. Reports of the liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment are submitted to us on a monthly basis, and the results of the environmental monitoring programme are submitted quarterly. We examine these reports and report on their performance through a RASCAR.

Both liquid and gaseous discharges from Oldbury continue to be at levels well within permitted limits. Discharges of all measured gaseous and liquid radionuclides remained below 1% of their relevant annual limits. Although these discharges remain low, it is noted that the relative level of these discharges may fluctuate as the decommissioning programme evolves.

Higher activity waste management

We are working jointly with Office for Nuclear Regulation to consider the management of Intermediate Level Wastes (ILW) as part of the decommissioning and reactor dismantling process. This may include consideration of wastes transferred between Magnox sites to allow for consolidated treatment or storage and provide a more effective programme of wastes management across the Magnox fleet.

Enforcement

We have not taken any enforcement action at Oldbury in the period since the previous SSG meeting.

Sustainable development

We are supporting Magnox with the development of its sustainability strategy. We have provided technical advice and shared our learning from our own experience of implementing sustainable development goals into our business, which includes flood and coastal risk management capital works. Over the coming months, we will support Oldbury in developing its thinking in this area and broader opportunities for improving environmental performance and outcomes throughout the decommissioning process at Oldbury.

Further information

A public register service is available on the GOV.UK website at:

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/index>

Alternatively, you can request access to public documents directly by contacting the Customers and Engagement Team in the Wallingford office. Please email WTenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Further information on our role in regulating the use of radioactive substances and related activities on nuclear licensed sites can be found on the Environment Agency pages of the Gov.UK website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-regulation-in-the-environment-agency>

Our enforcement and sanctions policy is publicly available on the GOV.UK website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-agency-enforcement-and-sanctions-policy/environment-agency-enforcement-and-sanctions-policy>

Public Health England has placed guidance on ionising radiation dose comparisons on the GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ionising-radiation-dose-comparisons>

The Environment Agency's lead nuclear regulator for the Oldbury site is Rebecca Cleverley. Rebecca is part of the national Nuclear Regulation Group (South) (NRG South) which is based at the Environment Agency's Wallingford office in Oxfordshire.

NRG South undertakes environmental regulation of radioactive substances on nuclear licensed sites in southern England. It works closely with the local Environment Agency teams in those areas as well as external bodies such as the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

Members of the local Wessex Environment Agency team cover the site for general (non-radioactive substances) environment protection matters such as regulation of groundwater, contaminated land, waste management and water abstraction.

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