

Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

Site Report for

Magnox Ltd Berkeley

Report for period 1 October – 31 December 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.



Table of Contents

1. Inspections.....	3
2. Routine Matters	4
3. Non-Routine Matters.....	6
4. Regulatory Activity	7
5. News from ONR.....	8
6. Contacts.....	8

1. Inspections

1.1. Dates of Inspection

The ONR site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022:

- 11 October 2022
- 1, 2 and 16 November 2022
- 12 December 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.

In this period, routine inspections of Magnox Ltd Berkeley 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;
- plant construction and/or commissioning;
- quality assurance and records;
- 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 assessed the Magnox Ltd proposal to increase the hydrogen evolution limits of Concrete Boxes (CBs) before being moved to the Interim Storage Facility (ISF). The proposal did not increase the overall limits of hydrogen in the ISF

safety case as the total number of CBs is limited below the number originally proposed and ONR was content to allow the operations to progress. To increase the CB total numbers a further modification will be required. On the 13 December 2022 the first CB was moved for storage to the ISF completing a major milestone for Magnox Ltd.

ONR released a regulatory hold-point on the continued disturbance of waste in Vault 3 following an incident in 2017 where a waste drum ignited during retrievals causing the drum to propel across the vault. Magnox Ltd are using an argon atmosphere to prevent further ignitions during waste retrieve. ONR undertook an extensive mechanical engineering, chemical process engineering and internal hazards (including Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002) assessment of the proposal. The site inspector also undertook an Operational Standards Readiness inspection on the 2 November for Vault 3 retrievals. The hold-point was released by the ONR site inspector on the 21 December 2022 and it is expected that Magnox Ltd will restart retrievals in early 2023.

The site inspector attended the Magnox Ltd Oldbury, Berkeley and Hinkley Point A Quarterly Regulator Interface Meeting on the 12 December 2022 to discuss issues, events and project milestone updates at the sites.

The site inspector held regular meetings with the Site Director and weekly keep-in-touch meetings with the operational staff on site. At these meetings they discussed 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

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