



WINFRITH SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Date Tuesday 12 November 2024
Time Refreshments 13:45hrs, meeting starts 14:00hrs.
Location Winfrith Village Hall, Winfrith Newburgh, Dorchester DT2 8LR

AGENDA

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Welcome and Introduction (Chairman) | Barry Quinn (10) |
| 2 | NRS Winfrith Site Report – Site Director | Gary Reid (15) |
| 3 | Nuclear Decommissioning Authority | Alastair Findlay (10) |
| 4 | Regulators | |
| | a) Office for Nuclear Regulations (ONR) | Not in attendance (10) |
| | b) Environment Agency – (EA) | Alister Wintle & Sally Thompson (10) |
| 5 | Project Update – Update on end state proposals and applications | Elly Joyce (15) |
| 6 | Any Other Business | Barry Quinn (10) |

Chairman Barry Quinn
Communications Lead Emma Burwood
Telephone 01305 203107, email emma.burwood@magnoxsites.com
Secretariat Jess Dawson email winfrith.ssg@magnoxsites.com
Date of issue 23/10/2024



WINFRITH SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)

Tuesday 14 May 2024

Winfrith Village Hall

Meeting reference SG33

Attendees:

Barry Quinn	SSG Chair and representative of East Stoke Parish Council
Nic Johnson	Vice Chair and representative of Winfrith Parish Council
Paul Brennan	NRS – Site Director
Will Matheson	NRS - Regional EHSS&Q Manager
Rob Coan	NRS - Winfrith Integration Manager & Regional Infrastructure Manager
Emma Burwood	NRS - Winfrith and Harwell Communications Lead
Debbie Paterson	NRS - Minutes
Elly Joyce	NRS – Site End State Manager Harwell & Winfrith
Steve Smith	Wool Parish Council
Alex Clothier	Dorset Council
Alister Wintle	Environment Agency (EA)
Sara Locke	NRS – Project Manager
Erin Balkir	Dorset Council (DC)
Eleanor Godesar	Dorset Council (DC)
Sarah Jackson	West Lulworth Parish Council
Fiona Bowles	Dorset Local Access Forum/resident

Apologies for absence – Bill Hamilton (NRS), Simon Napper (NRS), Graham Duggan (DC), Adam Davis (Environment Agency), Robin Bowler (Coombe Keynes Parish Council).

1. Welcome and Introduction – Barry Quinn

Barry Quinn welcomed attendees to the meeting.

- In preparation for today's meeting, the event was publicised on local community Facebook pages to encourage representatives to attend.
- The SSG Chair/Deputy Chair continue to receive regular updates both in person and via Teams.
- Rob Fletcher/Lawrie Haynes (NRS CEO/Chair) visited site on the 06 March 2024 and met with SSG Chair/Deputy Chair.
- The SSG Chair attended the NDA virtual summit in December 2023.

The SSG Chair was due to attend the NDA Workshop in Manchester in March 2024 as part of a review of the SSGs, but due to a change in date and diary commitments around the revised date, he was unable to attend. A draft scoping document for the

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SSG review had been received. An initial review of the document had raised some questions.

The purpose of the SSG is to provide a forum for engagement with stakeholders in the decommissioning process in particular with the local communities. It is important to note that each of the 14 sites around the UK are all different and not all the issues covered in the review apply to the Winfrith site. For example we have no generating reactors, we are not in care in maintenance, there are no plans for new reactors, there are no other operators on site (for example EDF). The end use of the Winfrith site is to return to heathland with public access so there is no demand for the urgent release of land for commercial reasons.

As part of the scoping document, a review of the constitution would be held with the SSG Chair/Deputy Chair and Emma Burwood. The review is expected to complete by the end of July 2024.

- The SSG Chair had made contact with Elizabeth Norton, NDA Heritage Officer, to discuss the possibility of obtaining a Blue Plaque to mark the contribution of the Winfrith site to nuclear energy. This will be followed up.

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

No matters arising.

2. Winfrith Site Report – Paul Brennan

Paul Brennan introduced NRS colleagues in attendance. Updates were given on the following:

Rebranding to Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS)

- The new brand strategy represents the joining together of Magnox and Dounreay and prepares us to welcome the seven gas-cooled reactor sites for decommissioning and other future missions.
- The NDA four pillars consist of Sellafield, Nuclear Waste Services (NWS), Nuclear Transport Services (NTS) and Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS).

Health, Safety, Security, Environment & Quality Safety

- No Lost Time Accidents (LTA) for 576 days (as of 30 April 2024).
- No recurrence of road traffic incidents reported.
- No issues regarding on-site safety raised via the Health and Safety Committee (HESAC).
- Atmospheric and liquid effluent discharges from site remain well within permitted limits.
- A Site Emergency demonstration exercise had been carried out in April 2024 supported by the Emergency Services.

Regulatory Topics

- Sustainability discussion with the Environment Agency (EA).
- Environment Agency (EA) Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) focussed inspection, including Modular ILW Encapsulation Plant (MILWEP) in January 2024.
- Supported handover to the new ONR Site Inspector and ONR CNSS Site Inspector.

Site Operations - Current Work Programmes

Budgets and funding for 2024/2025 are consistent with previous years.

SGHWR

- SGHWR main contractor went into administration in August 2023. Work continues to progress the project where possible.
- Modular ILW Encapsulation Plant (Mini-MILWEP) forecast to be delivered by end of 2025. Civil construction work had commenced on-site.

DRAGON

- Substantive progress had been made with the commissioning of remotely operated plant within DRAGON reactor, which is nearing completion. Active decommissioning to commence end July 2024.

ALES (Active Liquid Effluent System)

- Removal and consignment of sludge from Active Liquid Effluent System (ALES) tanks.
- Demolition of the on-site sewage treatment works had completed.

Treated Radwaste Store (TRS) Shipments

- Treated Radwaste Store (TRS) rail shipments of low classification waste had completed. This was a major waste disposal project completed ahead of schedule and represented a considerable achievement in terms of sustainability and environmental awareness.

Plant & Structures (P&S)

- Sea Pipeline. No change to the strategy.
- A pre-planning application for Blacknoll Reservoir had been submitted to Dorset Council. Demolition work scheduled for Winter 2025.
- Building A42/44 (Redundant fire station and telephone exchange) internal strip out work to commence in Summer 2024, demolition of buildings to commence in Autumn 2024.
- Building A55 Delay Tanks – Sludge had been removed and tanks demolished.
- Redundant Site Sewage Plant had been demolished.

Site End State (Plans for 2024)

- Completion of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Final ecology surveys would be carried out in the Summer.
- Further community and stakeholder engagement would take place prior to the submission of planning and permit applications (September 2024).
- Submission of planning applications for the remainder of site decommissioning activities including waste disposals for sub-surface structures at SGHWR and Dragon (End 2024).
- Environment Agency and Dorset Council would undertake independent consultation/engagement with local communities.

Other

- 2 Apprentices to commence in August 2024.

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- 2 Receptionists had been recruited locally by MITIE via Facebook.
- Environment Agency (EA) CEO scheduled to visit site in July 2024.
- Main gate Reception and Security office/facilities had been refurbished.
- Plans to re-design the front entrance to site in order to speed up the provision of Security searches and to provide temporary storage areas for deliveries.

Sustainability

- Gas boiler system to be replaced.
- Litter picks to include Gatmore Road and surrounding areas scheduled in July and September 2024.
- Two thirds of site street lights are turned off between midnight and 0600 hrs.
- Nature walks hosted by staff member scheduled throughout 2024.

Magnox Socio-economic Funding Support 2022-2023

There had been 3 Winfrith applications totalling (£3,252) 2023-24 as follows:

- Wool Carnival - £746 – Equipment and First Aid cover.
- Wessex FC (Girls Team) - £506 – Football Kits for 11 players.
- Wool Village Hall - £2000 - Sound and Vision Project.

For further information please go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/magnox-working-with-our-communities>

Questions

Q1: Could the pipeline to Arish Mell be repurposed?

A1: This had been considered as part of optioneering discussions held in 2021. While there had been some initial interest from a telecoms provider, given the ongoing maintenance costs of a system installed in the 1950's this was discounted. Paul Brennan commented that similar discussions had taken place at Harwell due to concerns around ground water table levels.

The question had been raised by Steve Smith (Wool Parish Council) on behalf of Malcolm Munro who was not in attendance at today's meeting. His contact details would be provided to Emma Burwood.

Q2: How would a toxicity release level of 0.01% impact residents in East Lulworth when the pipeline is cut and what follow up maintenance is in place for future years?

A2: The pipe would be removed. Trials were currently underway at Winfrith which involves filling a section of pipe with foam, cutting at 6 metre intervals, and undertaking sample analysis to provide an indication of measurements.

Q3: When is the current site End State date.

A3: End State including the demolition of all buildings is forecast for 2038.

Q4: How many of the LLW drums are held on site. (*referring to the recent TRS shipment*)

A4: All drums had been sent for disposal to the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR).

3. NDA Report – (not in attendance)

The NDA Report had been issued prior the meeting and can be found by clicking on the link.

[Site Stakeholder Groups \(magnoxstakeholdergroups.com\)](https://magnoxstakeholdergroups.com)

4. NRS Corporate Update – Bill Hamilton (not in attendance)

5 a) Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) – (not in attendance)

The ONR Report had been issued prior the meeting and can be found by clicking on the link. [Site Stakeholder Groups \(magnoxstakeholdergroups.com\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radioactivity-in-food-and-the-environment-rife-reports)

No significant issues reported.

5 b) Environment Agency (EA) – Alister Wintle

- An administrative variation to the Permit would be made to reflect the change of operating name from Magnox Ltd to Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd (NRS Ltd).
- An Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) inspection had been completed which covered the storage and packaging of waste. No permit non-compliances.
- Quarterly permitted Liquid and Gaseous Discharge Reports are submitted. Some fluctuations noted. Liquid effluent discharges were below permit limits. Gaseous discharges were compliant. No permit non-compliances.
- 'Radioactivity in Food and the Environment 2022' is published on the GOV.UK website. All sites are below the legal limit. Further information can be found <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radioactivity-in-food-and-the-environment-rife-reports>

The EA Report had been issued prior to the meeting and can be found by clicking on the link [Site Stakeholder Groups \(magnoxstakeholdergroups.com\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radioactivity-in-food-and-the-environment-rife-reports)

6. Project Update – Removal of Active Sludge – Sarah Locke

A presentation was provided which outlined the activities and timeline associated with the removal and disposal of active sludge and the decommissioning of the tank in building A55.

Work continues to size reduce the floors of each tank which is expected to complete in June 2024. Work will then commence on the sump tanks and concrete structure.

7. Any Other Business – Barry Quinn

Questions

Q5: The Site Stakeholder Group documentation provided can be difficult to comprehend. An organogram of the relationships between Contractors, Regulators, and areas of responsibility/ownership would be helpful.

A5: Noted.

Barry Quinn requested that Cllr Mike Baker (West Purbeck) be invited to future SSG meetings.

Barry Quinn thanked attendees for their participation. He commented that from the presentations and reports provided we could be reassured that the site was being operated safely and securely and in an environmentally conscious manner.

Date of Next Meeting – 12 November 2024



Winfrith Site Stakeholder Group

November 2024



Contents

1.0 NDA Stakeholder Update November 2024



NDA Stakeholder Update

Please find below a brief update on main points of interest since the last meeting.

General Election

Following the General Election the Labour Party, with Sir Keir Starmer as the new UK Prime Minister, won with a majority of c170. Within the Department for Energy and Net Zero the Rt Hon Ed Miliband has been appointed as the new Secretary of State with his team of Rt Hon Lord Hunt OBE as Minister of State for Energy and Net Zero, Sarah Jones MP as Minister of State for Industry, Kerry McCarty MP as Parliamentary Under Secretary for Climate, Miatta Fahnbulleh MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Energy Consumers and Michael Shanks MP as Parliamentary Under Secretary for Energy.

The new Secretary of State has advised the priorities for the department are:

1. delivering our mission to boost energy independence and cutting bills through clean power by 2030
2. taking back control of our energy with Great British Energy
3. upgrading Britain's homes and cutting fuel poverty through our Warm Homes Plan
4. standing up for consumers by reforming our energy system
5. creating good jobs in Britain's industrial heartlands, including a just transition for the industries based in the North Sea
6. leading on international climate action, based on our domestic achievements

The announcement and launch of Great British Energy (GBE), a publicly owned, clean-energy company which will be headquartered in Scotland has now been made by the Secretary of State. The aim is to speed up the deployment of mature and new technologies, as well as local energy projects, to support the government's aim of decarbonising the UK's electricity system by 2030 whilst also ensuring we can meet future demand as we further decarbonise the economy. GBE will be paid for by a windfall tax on oil and gas giants and will invest clean power projects all across the United Kingdom. [Juergen Maier](#), former CEO of Siemens UK, has been announced as Chair of Great British Energy.

- Following the election we have seen significant constituency level change at NDA sites with ten now represented by a new MP
- We are contacting new constituency MPs at and around our sites and Ministers in key Whitehall departments introducing the work of the NDA group and seeking an early meeting.



- Additionally, over the coming weeks and months, we will be working through the policy implications of a new government for the NDA group, including the forthcoming spending review.

Board updates

- As previously announced **Adrienne Kelbie CBE**, Chair of Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) board, will be stepping down over Summer 2024 and her successor has been announced as Liz Peace.
- **Harriet Kemp** recently (30th August) joined the NDA board. She has extensive background and experience in HR matters and remuneration matters including working at Compass Plc, Novartis and Pepsi.

Outreach activities

- During the pre-election period outreach activities was limited but a number of planned commitments which were postponed are now being rescheduled. This included a site visit by the new Energy Minister Lord Hunt. Lord Hunt recorded a short video after his visit which can be watched on the Sellafield Ltd Facebook [page](#)

Engagement priorities for 2024

- We recently held our **Stakeholder Conference** on September 17/18 in Manchester. We'd like to thank all those that attended and engaged and if you haven't already we'd like to encourage you to provide us with feedback via [Slido](#). In due course we'll be putting up videos from the event so check out the [NDA linked In page](#). During the event David Peattie announced that the NDA would be investing an extra £5m over the next five years to support around 20 PhDs. This builds on the current annual spend of £45m in early careers, including apprenticeships, graduates and PhDs.
- In response to previous feedback, the first **SSG Chairs and Vice-Chairs event** to reflect a group-wide approach involving the NDA, NRS and other OpCo CEOs was held on July 8/9. This combined event provided richer discussion and a chance for the SSG delegates to talk about their opportunities and challenges. It also featured updates on socio-economics and the NDA's heritage strategy.
- As mentioned in previous updates, our **independent review into the SSGs** is underway. This exercise will provide an opportunity to reflect on the successes of the stakeholder voice in the local community over the last 20 years. It will also allow us to consider how best to address some of the challenges that face us as we think about the future. Our Chairs and Vice-Chairs played a role in helping to draft the scope of the review and they received a short progress update at the SSG Chairs and Vice-Chairs meeting mentioned above.
- We are in the process of developing and designed our next broad **stakeholder survey**. More details will be available in due course.



- Preparation is underway for **Strategy V** which we expect to publish in March 2026. Our strategy document is published every 5 years and describes our high-level approach to delivering our mission. Within that we identify several critical enablers essential to the successful delivery of our mission including public and stakeholder engagement. We will engage early with stakeholders during the development of the document and its subsequent consultation.
- We are working closely with the Nuclear Industries Association (NIA) to establish a **Cross-Party Group** on the Civil Nuclear Industry in the Welsh Parliament. The aim is to have its first meeting in November 2024.

Publications, public service and policy updates

- The NAO have now published their [study](#) into decommissioning Sellafield. We expect that there will be a Public Accounts Committee hearing into the report in early 2025.
- We have now published our [Annual Report](#) which has also been laid in Parliament. The Annual Report sets out the progress made against our mission, from safely decommissioning existing sites to preparing to take responsibility for more, while managing radioactive waste for our existing programme and new nuclear
- The previous Government and devolved administrations published an updated policy for nuclear decommissioning and managing radioactive substances, including radioactive waste. Publication follows consultation undertaken last year on the proposals. [Read details of the policy here.](#)
- The policy included an expectation that the NDA should explore with stakeholders the potential for optimising the LLW Repository to take suitable, less hazardous intermediate level waste.
- Engagement with the local community and relevant stakeholders will be an important part of this work, alongside further technical evaluation. If appropriate, the project would proceed to creation of a final business case and seek necessary approvals.
- Nuclear Waste Services will be working with relevant key stakeholders to inform its thinking
- The Scottish Government is about to start its review into its policy for higher activity radioactive waste (HAW). The policy framework is set out in a 2011 Policy and the 2016 Implementation Strategy. The anticipated timeline is: Commence review – mid 2024, Hold a public consultation – early 2025, issue a revised Policy document – late 2025.
- The new nuclear industry skills “roadmap” has been launched aimed at attracting and retaining the sector’s workforce of the future. The National Nuclear Strategic Plan for Skills (Skills Plan) is based on sector collaboration, investment in training, leadership development and improving diversity. The NDA is a signatory to the charter, which was signed at Westminster, that underpins the goal to double the number of new apprenticeships by 2026 and recruit 40,000 new jobs by 2030.
- The **NAO value for money study** into whether Sellafield and the NDA are taking a sustainable approach to decommissioning, leading to permanent hazard



reduction is underway, with visits to Sellafield and formal interviews now completed. We expect the study to be published on 25 October.

- We have recently published our **Nuclear Heritage Strategy**. The NDA are tasked with decommissioning the UK's legacy nuclear sites, sites and facilities which have been at the heart of delivering nuclear benefits for the UK, including national defence programmes and supplying safe, low-carbon power, for decades.
- The [heritage strategy](#) enables the NDA group to identify and preserve the tangible and intangible assets, objects, and memories of the nuclear industry, the people who worked in it, and the communities that supported it.
- NDA has published its **Socio Economic Report** for 2023/24, detailing a record investment in projects across the UK - [NDA group investing in our communities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Mission delivery

- The NDA recently launched its brand-new, specialised cyber facility to accelerate collaboration and innovation across nuclear operators and the supply chain, enhancing the collective ability to successfully defend against cyber threats. The Group Cyberspace Collaboration Centre (GCCC) provides a space for experts in cyber, digital and security to come together and share knowledge and learning on how best to defend against evolving threats. The centre is a multi-functional space for collaborating, brainstorming, workshops, talks, learning and tutorials, cyber exercising, incident management and more. It aims to encourage our cyber, digital and security experts to think and work differently, with our shared future foremost in mind.
- Future plans for our Chapelcross site in Dumfries and Galloway were unveiled in August, with a long-term vision to develop the site into a Green Energy Hub: [Chapelcross Masterplan - CX Project](#)
- NWS and the NDA have established an innovative partnership for the enhanced management of asbestos waste, awarding two contracts to establish the **Asbestos Innovation Partnership**. This partnership will work with the NDA group and the supply chain, to test and develop new solutions to treat asbestos waste, helping to deliver efficiencies and enable more effective waste management.
- A collaboration between NRS, NTS and NWS has achieved a significant milestone by transporting the final waste from the Treated Radwaste Store (TRS) in Winfrith to the LLWR for disposal. The completion of this project ahead of schedule means that the need for **waste storage at Winfrith** which closed in 1990 has been removed, leaving the site ready for decommissioning.
- NDA and NRS have underlined their commitment to Government to, where possible, safely accelerate **land release at Harwell** site to maximise the economic impact of decommissioning. We have identified clear areas of strategic importance and will work together with the Harwell Campus joint venture on developing options for those areas. We are at early stages and still progressing



the current release of plots, aiming to have a broader plan for land release this autumn.

- At Sellafield, the first transfer of fuel from an A1 skip to the new 63 can rack in support of the AGR programme has been made. This is a significant milestone presenting new capability that will, via further 63 can racks, enable storage of the volumes of EDF fuel needed into the 2030s.
- The hearing for the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) charges against Sellafield Ltd under the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 took place on 20 June at Westminster Magistrates Court in London. Sellafield Ltd entered a guilty plea to all charges. The sentence was pronounced on 2nd October with a fine of £332,500.00 being imposed.

Thank you for taking the time to read our update. If you have any questions, please feed-back through the Secretariat or ask David Wallace, who will be attending the meeting.



Nuclear
Decommissioning
Authority



Office for
Nuclear Regulation

ONR Site Report

Nuclear Restoration Services – Winfrith

ONR Site Report

Nuclear Restoration Services - Winfrith

Report for period: 1 January – 31 June 2024

Authored Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: Delivery Lead, DFW Subdivision

Issue No.: 1

Publication Date: July 2024

ONR Record Ref. No.: 2024/30993

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 Winfrith Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Winfrith 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. Date(s) of Inspection

The ONR made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 January to 31 June 2024:

- 24 April 2024
- 21 May 2024

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 NRS Winfrith site covered the following:

- Emergency arrangement and demonstration exercise;
- Maintenance and testing of security equipment.

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 safety and security inspectors have held meetings with NRS Winfrith on matter related to the removal of legacy waste and as part of the site familiarisation. No significant issues were highlighted by ONR.

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 was no significant incident reported during this 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 ONR, 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
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email: Contact@onr.gov.uk

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Environment Agency report

Winfrith Site Stakeholder Group

November 2024

This report covers the Environment Agency's regulation of the Winfrith Nuclear permitted site (and related issues), for the period from the last SSG report and meeting in May 2024.

Radioactive substances regulation

We regulate processes and systems associated with radioactive waste disposals. We do this through environmental permits that contain conditions and limits the operator must comply with, to minimise wastes and protect people and the wider environment. We check compliance with the permits through routine interaction with the operator and by undertaking regulatory inspections.

Working with colleagues across the Environment Agency, we also regulate and control other activities through our environmental permits, including surface and groundwater discharges. Through our corporate objectives, aims and general duties, we also provide advice and guidance to protect or enhance the wider environment and support sustainable development.

Regulatory compliance interactions are recorded in Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Reports (RASCARs). These summarise the type of work we have undertaken, describe any non-compliance or observations and 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-in the link below).

Permitting

Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) Winfrith hold two permits under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR): one covers Environment Agency regulated radiological discharges and waste transfers from the site (the 'nuclear' EPR permit); the second covers the discharge of non-radiological aqueous effluent via the Winfrith Sea Pipeline (the 'non-nuclear' EPR water discharge permit).

No changes have been made to either permit since the last SSG meeting, however, we continue to provide advice to NRS on our permitting requirements in relation to future variations to the permits. These include the need to accommodate the Winfrith End State decommissioning and restoration plans, and the management of the Winfrith Sea Pipeline. We are preparing for a Guidance on Release from Radioactive Substances Regulations (GRR) permit variation and will update on future developments at the next SSG.

Regulatory and Compliance Activities

We check compliance with the permits through regular contact with the operator and through site meetings and inspections. We also receive and assess a range of monthly reports from the site. For all inspections, we issue RASCAR reports.

We continue to hold weekly (virtual) meetings with the NRS environment team and relevant NRS managers, to ensure permit compliance and reporting requirements remain fit for purpose during ongoing decommissioning work and assess emerging issues and progress with actions.

We also work closely with the Winfrith site End State team and other relevant stakeholders (including Dorset Council, Natural England and ONR) to facilitate planning for the site's final stage decommissioning work. This work is required to meet the Environment Agency guidance on requirements for release of the site from radioactive substances regulation (once all the relevant decommissioning work and verification monitoring has been completed). Whilst the precise end state date for the site is still to be confirmed, preparatory work to achieve final stage decommissioning, continues at pace.

Inspection Work since May 2024 SSG report

In June, we completed an inspection to review Aqueous Waste Arisings at Winfrith and NRS's associated management system arrangements. As part of the inspection, we carried out a walkover of the Active Liquid Effluent System (ALES). No non-compliances with the permit EPR/PB3898DC were identified as part of this inspection. The management system is satisfactory with clear operational procedures. Staff demonstrated their knowledge, experience and competency. An observation has been made to emphasise the need to ensure the knowledge and experience is retained through succession planning.

As the site moves closer to end state, the decommissioning process will require the removal of ALES and the associated pipeline and infrastructure. The Environment Agency will be working with NRS to promote sustainable solutions and continued protection of the environment. Observations have been identified and advice and guidance provided to deliver improvements and to prevent future non-compliance.

In September 2024 we completed an inspection of the Gaseous Waste Emissions process at Winfrith. The RASCAR has not been completed for this inspection. We will provide further updates on this inspection at the next SSG.

We continue to work with NRS Winfrith across technical areas where environmental management and end state planning is required to achieve final stage decommissioning. This included review and further development of the sites environmental monitoring programme, to monitor the impact of decommissioning activities.

We have also attended a number of End State technical meeting to discuss progress with the development of the final stage decommissioning and restoration plans and consider technical planning for the decommissioning and management of the Steam Generating Heavy Water (SGHWR) and Dragon reactor voids.

Discharge Reports

The site's environmental permit requires NRS to use Best Available Techniques (BAT) to minimise generation of radioactive waste and minimise any permitted releases into the environment. The site is required to report permitted liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment on a regular (quarterly) basis. We assess these reports and produce a RASCAR on our findings.

customer service line **03708 506 506**

flood line **03459 88 11 88**

incident hotline **0800 80 70 60**

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Limits are set in the Winfrith EPR permit to control the maximum level of radioactivity that can be discharged to atmosphere as a gaseous discharge or to sea, through the Winfrith Sea Pipeline.

Liquid effluent discharged to the sea at Arish Mell via the Active Liquid Effluent System (ALES) and Winfrith Sea Pipeline remain well below permit limits, and at levels equivalent to previous reports.

Gaseous discharges also remain compliant and well below permitted limits. Although these discharges remain low, it is noted that the relative level of these gaseous discharges may fluctuate as the decommissioning programmes evolve.

Environmental impact

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

Winfrith informed the Environment Agency that samples from the River Win for Quarter 3 of 2024 have shown elevated levels of Tritium above the expected historic trend. The elevated results were below investigation level from a dose perspective but, we have requested Winfrith investigate possible causes, such as laboratory analysis or reporting errors, and activities on site. We will continue to review the monitoring programme results. Future regulatory activity will be dependent on upcoming results and the findings of on-site investigations. We will update on progress at the next SSG.

The remaining monitoring undertaken by the operator, indicates that the environmental impact from the permitted discharges remains low.

The Environment Agencies and Food Standards Agency also conduct independent environmental monitoring around nuclear sites. These monitoring programmes support our regulatory function and provide reassurance that public radiation exposures are within legal limits. The results of this work are published annually and the latest report, "Radioactivity in Food and the Environment 2022" (RIFE 28), is published on the GOV.UK website.

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

This current (28th edition) contains information on radiation exposures (dose) to the public and radioactivity levels in the environment in 2022, from nuclear sites and other industrial and landfill activities. RIFE 29 which covers the calendar year 2023 should be published in November 2024.

Radiation Doses to the most exposed people are calculated and measured using radioactivity concentrations in samples of food and the environment collected around UK nuclear licensed sites, external dose rates from radiation in sediments, and information on the habits of people living locally around the sites.

The report for the 2022 period continues to show that total doses to the public, from permitted discharges and direct radiation around UK nuclear sites, remained below the annual legal limit to protect members of the public (set at 1 millisievert per annum (mSv)). 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.

For the 2022 period, data from RIFE 28 for Winfrith, indicates that the total dose to individuals and members of the public from all pathways and sources of radiation from

the site was 0.028 mSv (an increase from 0.006mSv in 2021). For the Winfrith site, the representative person in 2022 was an adult living near the site, which is the same potential exposure pathway as identified in previous years.

The primary source for the attributed dose is from direct radiation 'shine' from site operational activities rather than discharges and emissions. Within the overall estimates for total dose, exposures associated with the permitted aqueous or gaseous discharges from the site, remain a very small component of the total dose. The increase in total dose has been attributed to decommissioning work undertaken in 2022, which includes removal, temporary storage, and transfer of legacy wastes for off-site disposal. On decommissioning sites that total dose will vary over time depending on activities required to achieve the end state.

Incidents and enforcement

There have been no new incidents or enforcement actions reported since the last SSG report.

Forward Look

We will continue our work in preparation for the final stages of decommissioning and will be focussing on the management of radioactive wastes from the planned dismantling of the sites remaining reactors (Dragon and SGHWR) and the dismantling of the ALES and Winfrith Sea Pipeline.

We will also continue to work with the site to set and develop their sustainability strategy and seek opportunities to achieve UN Sustainable Development Goals, where this supports the Environment Agency's sustainability plan, E-Mission 2030. These in turn help embed the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 for the environment.

Further details of the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 can be viewed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan/environmental-improvement-plan-2023-executive-summary>

Further details on governments drive towards this ambition are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/implementing-the-sustainable-development-goals>

We are also working with NRS to highlight the significant sustainable development opportunities at Winfrith, and we would like NRS to collaborate with other stakeholders and the wider community to achieve an enduring legacy for sustainable development through the decommissioning process.

We will report on progress with these work programmes in subsequent SSG reports.

If you have any comments, please contact the Environment Agency Nuclear Regulator through the contact details below.

Further Details

Details of public register records for nuclear sites can be provided on specific request through contact with the EA Customers and Engagement Team in the Wallingford office. Please email WTenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk. However, a public register service covering the wider (non-nuclear) aspects of the Environment Agency work is also available on the GOV.UK website at:

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

customer service line **03708 506 506**

flood line **03459 88 11 88**

incident hotline **0800 80 70 60**

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Public register documents may also be requested by contacting the Customers and Engagement Team in the Wallingford office.

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 NRS Winfrith site is Adam Davis. Adam is a Radiation Biologist by background and works within the national Nuclear Regulation Group ((NRG South)), 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 external bodies such as the Office for Nuclear Regulation and local Environment Agency teams that cover other general (non-radioactive substances) environment protection matters such as regulation of groundwater, contaminated land, waste management and water abstraction. Contacts for these activities can be arranged through Adam.

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