



WINFRITH SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Date Tuesday 14 May 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 | Winfrith Site Report – Site Director
Including TRS video | Paul Brennan (15) |
| 3 | Nuclear Decommissioning Authority | Not attending – report
submitted (10) |
| 4 | NRS Corporate Update | Not attending (10) |
| 5 | Regulators | |
| | a) Office for Nuclear Regulations (ONR) | Not attending - report
submitted (10) |
| | b) Environment Agency | Alister Wintle (Adam
Davis) (10) |
| 6 | Project Update – removal of active sludge | Sarah Locke (10) |
| 7 | Any Other Business | Barry Quinn (10) |

Chairman	Barry Quinn
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Date of issue	01/05/2024



WINFRITH SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)

Tuesday 31 October 2023

Winfrith Village Hall

Meeting reference SG32

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 – Harwell and Winfrith Site Director
Emma Burwood	NRS - Winfrith and Harwell Communications Lead
Rob Coan	NRS – Winfrith Integration & Regional Infrastructure Manager
Will Matheson	NRS – Regional EHSSQ Manager
Elly Joyce	NRS – Site End State Manager Harwell & Winfrith
Adam Davis	Environment Agency (EA)
Alister Wintle	Environment Agency (EA)
Neil Doggett	Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)
Alice Paine	Dorset Council (DC)
Eleanor Godesar	Dorset Council (DC)
Graham Duggan	Dorset Council (DC)
Alastair Beaven	Member of the public
Lizzie Barr	Member of the public (Red Lion public house)
David Percy	Member of the public (Red Lion public house)
Fiona Bowles	Winfrith aqua group
Debbie Paterson	Minutes

Apologies for absence – Bill Hamilton (NRS) and Simon Napper (NDA)

1. Welcome and Introduction – Barry Quinn

Barry Quinn welcomed Paul Brennan, Harwell & Winfrith Site Director to his first SSG meeting.

- The SSG chair/deputy chair had met with Paul Brennan and Emma Burwood on the 26 September 2023, for an introductory meeting.
- Thanks were expressed to Susan Adams who had been covering the role as Acting Site Director until the new Site Director had been appointed.
- JFN (James Fisher Nuclear Ltd) principal contractor for the SGHWR project had gone into administration.
- The SSG chair/deputy chair continue to be fully engaged with bids to the Socio-economic fund from local organisations.
- In preparation for today's meeting, the event was publicised to encourage representatives to attend.
- The SSG chair had attended the NDA summit held in Manchester in October 2023.

- The Blue Plaque to mark the contribution of the Winfrith site to nuclear energy continues to be explored by other avenues after the application submitted via the Royal Society of Chemistry was unsuccessful.

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

The new Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) brand video was played to attendees.

2. Winfrith Site Report – Paul Brennan

Paul Brennan introduced himself to the meeting and acknowledged the contribution made by Susan Adams. He explained that a low key launch of the new brand (NRS) was held earlier in the day for the workforce and key stakeholders. Some external changes had been implemented including new signage at the site entrance, updates to the website and social media. Branded materials such as PPE would be replaced gradually over a two year period.

Updates were given on the following:

Health, Safety, Security, Environment & Quality Safety (EHSS&Q)

- No Lost Time Accidents (LTA) for 400 days.
- There had been one environmental issue recorded since the previous meeting. A small spillage of non-active diesel from a generator supplying power to buildings at SGHWR (Steam Generating Heavy Water Reactor) portacabin city. The Environment Agency were informed, the land was remediated and a small volume of affected soil was removed. The generator was removed from service and a new electrical supply installed.
- Increase in dose at the site fence attributable to TRS drum transport project, small % of public dose limit. Paul explained that if you spent 1 year at the fence (and did not move!) this equates to less than a transatlantic flight.
- Psychological safety training had been carried out in June. Further training would be rolled out to all staff throughout January/February 2024.
- Ethnicity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) training would take place on the 23 November 2023.
- There had been 3 driving incidents involving 4 members of staff. No injuries were sustained. Discussions had been held with those involved and the Dorset Police Road Safe team and Dorset Fire & Rescue Service had been engaged to provide appropriate Driver Safety Awareness input – that will be shared with the workforce.

Regulatory Topics

- The Site Security demonstration exercise 'Exeter' was held in September 2023 and had been rated Green (adequate).
- EA inspections took place covering Sustainability & Fire Water Management.
- Office Nuclear Regulations (ONR) carried out inspections covering Commissioning & Competence of staff who handle radioactive waste in October 2023.

Environment

Site Operations

- The funding position is understandably challenging. Business planning discussions for 2024/2025 would commence in November 2023.

Current Activities

- SGHWR reactor decommissioning. A contingency plan was implemented following the JFN administration. Small scale operational and mini MILWEP works delivered by NRS continue. Some delays to the programme as a result of the administration.
- Dragon decommissioning works continue. Some slippage to the programme.

Treated Radwaste Store (TRS) Shipments

- Treated Radwaste Store (TRS) rail shipments of low classification waste was sent to the Low-Level Waste Repository (LLWR). Final shipment of 10 cabriolets planned in the new year. Paul explained this will be great news when the shipments are completed and a good example of working in partnership with other organisations within the NDA estate.

Plant & Structures (P&S)

- Sea pipeline update.
- Active Liquid Effluent System (ALES) decommissioning.
- Blacknoll reservoir work, timescales to be confirmed.
- Preparation for demolition works of the old fire station and telephone exchange in the New Year (2024).

Site End State

- Community input on design.
- Further habitat surveys.
- Engineering design and Risk Assessments (RA) for disposals.
- Permit and planning submission in the next 12 months.

Asset Management & Asset Care

- Dragon roof repair carried out.
- Rationalisation of the telephone system to be conducted.
- Design work for the replacement of the conventional heating system to an air source heat pump system in building A60.

What else has happened?

- Hybrid working arrangements in place.
- Ongoing recruitment.
- Site visits including a visit by the Japanese Atomic Energy Authority (JAEA) and NDA/DESNZ.
- 3 successful socio-economic funding requests granted totalling £81,982. Still money available in good neighbourhood fund, please encourage applications.

Q1: Do you anticipate you will be able to recover the time lost as a result of the JFN administration?

A1: At the moment this is unknown, however we have the opportunity to re-evaluate how we are working. It is hoped that we would recover this time in the long term.

3. NDA Report – Simon Napper (not in attendance)

A copy of the report can be found by clicking on the link [Site Stakeholder Groups\(nrsssg.com\)](https://www.nrsssg.com/SiteStakeholderGroups)

4. Magnox Corporate Update – (Paul Brennan on behalf of Bill Hamilton)

A programme of engagement work was being carried out with communities – ‘The Big Conversation’. The SSS Chairs had been briefed by the company who are completing the work. The survey consists of a number of online conversations with people living both nearby and away from site to provide a contrasting sample, culminating in a 2,000 strong survey of people. The survey would also include young people. The questions include opinions on people’s attitude to their site and its significance to the local community. The survey is being run externally and feedback is anonymous. During October/November 2023 random surveys would be issued. Feedback on the results would be communicated at future SSG meetings.

On behalf of Bill Hamilton, Paul Brennan thanked the SSG.

Q2: How would the funding challenges impact the site in the middle of a decommissioning programme?

A2: The NDA are responsible for all government licensed sites and for allocating funds. With an overall budget of £4.5bn per annum, approximately £2.8bn is allocated to Sellafield due to the risk associated with that site, with the remainder of the budget allocated across the other sites. NDA are keen to progress sites such as Harwell where the release of land for business use and development would take priority over land reverting to heathland. A reduction in the budget would mean we would have to amend our plans and timescales accordingly.

Q3: Would a reduction in funding be reduced to the point that work could not continue?

A3: This would be highly unlikely but may result in us not delivering a fully decommissioned site within original timescales.

5 a) Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) – Neil Doggett

The ONR Report had been issued prior to the meeting and can be found by clicking on the link [Meeting-pack.pdf \(nrsssg.com\)](https://www.nrsssg.com/Meeting-pack.pdf)

In addition, Neil added:

- Regular contact with the Magnox management team regarding contingency arrangements following JFN liquidation.
- Engagement with NRS staff to provide support with TRS waste shipments.
- The 2023 Energy Act had been approved. Delicensing arrangements would change slightly which would result in the ONR taking a lesser role with the EA becoming more heavily involved.
- Paul Jenneson would take over the role as Site Inspector from Neil Doggett.

5 b) Environment Agency (EA) – Adam Davis

The EA report had been issued prior to the meeting and can be found by clicking on the link [Meeting-pack.pdf \(nrsssg.com\)](https://www.nrsssg.com/Meeting-pack.pdf)

Adam Davis provided positive feedback on the recent in person community engagement sessions. He welcomed the increase in the level of community engagement which leads to more robust decision making.

Adam Davis advised that he would have increased involvement in supporting End State activities and introduced Alistair Wintle as the new Site Inspector.

Q4: Given the difficulties the EA have in covering activities day to day how would they cope in taking on an extended role under the new process?

A4: End State is several decades in the future. The EA is funded directly by the various nuclear operators.

6. Project Update – Feedback from Winfrith End State community engagement – Elly Joyce

Elly Joyce reported on the feedback from the community engagement held in June/July.

- The recent engagement built on to previous engagement sessions and was used to seek views which will be used to input into plans and designs, ahead of the application(s) being submitted in 2024.
- The events were promoted via social media, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Parish Councils, and newsletters.
- In addition, there was also a virtual platform that was built to replicant the information from the in person events.
- 51 people attended in person. 710 views to the virtual website.
- Positive feedback received.
- 1 objection received.

Key feedback received:

- 98% of the respondents agreed with the proposals.
- Responses across a range of questions show that the retention of the natural environment is a priority over further development of the site.
- One objection was made regarding the end state, indicating use for further nuclear development would be better.
- 3 suggestions to include a blue plaque to commemorate the work done.

Specific feedback received:

- Provision of car parking spaces – this will be addressed in the Restoration Management Plan, however there were some concerns regarding fly tipping.
- Build a new nuclear reactor – The next land use (suitable for heathland with public access of amenity value to the local community) was agreed through extensive community consultation. In addition, there are significant logistical issues (size of the site, availability of fresh water and effluent routes) that mean previous assessment of suitability for nuclear new build have shown it would not be an easy site for new builds.

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- Retain fence for wildlife protection – The restoration management plan will identify means of protecting wildlife and providing public access through routing footpaths away from sensitive areas.
- Commemoration on site – to be discussed further.

Q5: Has consideration been given to the consequences of re-wilding the site and the increase of insects and reptiles such as ticks and snakes?

A5: There is a legal duty to manage and monitor the heathland and to maintain the areas of gorse and invasive species. Following end state, the site would be similar in appearance to Tadnoll heath.

Q6: How would drainage to the site be restored?

A6: The drainage onsite would be managed to ensure there is no increased flood risk. The 7km of drainage pipes would be capped and more natural drainage methods would be employed. Further information on how this would be managed would be provided in the Planning Application to be submitted in October 2024.

Q7: Would the methods employed have any impact on wildlife and reptiles such as lizards?

A7: There would be some losses as the site reverts to a wetland heath habitat.

7. Any Other Business – Barry Quinn

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

The next meeting would be held in Spring 2024. The date of the meeting would be subject to local elections which may affect dates in the future.

Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday, 14 May 2024.



NDA Update for Winfrith SSG

May 2024



Contents

1.0 NDA Stakeholder Update May 2024



NDA Stakeholder Update

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

Board updates

- The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero appointed **Peter Hill CBE** as Chair of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) from 1 June 2024. He succeeds Chris Train OBE who has been interim Chair since September 2023. Chris will continue in his role as a Non-Executive Director on the NDA Board.
- Peter has wide experience in executive, non-executive and chair roles across a number of FTSE listed companies and in government. He is currently chair of Keller Group plc and has also previously been a non-executive director of UK Trade and Investment, the Royal Air Force and an agency of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.
- We also announced that **Lawrie Haynes CBE** had been appointed as Interim Chair of Sellafield Ltd from 1 May 2024. He succeeds Tony Meggs CB who has led the Board since February 2021. This is on an interim basis whilst we recruit for a permanent successor and Lawrie will also retain his current role as Chair of Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS).
- Adrienne Kelbie CBE, Chair of Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) board, has announced that she will be stepping down in Summer 2024. We will be launching an open recruitment process shortly to appoint her successor.

Outreach activities Q1 2024

- We held our latest **Regional Stakeholder Roadshow**, in north Wales on 12 March 2024 at Bangor University. The roadshow provided an opportunity to celebrate the wealth of nuclear expertise in Wales, as well as engage with local students on the NDA's mission and showcase how academic partnerships and collaborations are enabling safe, secure, and sustainable decommissioning. The event followed the successful format from Cumbria and Glasgow which took place in partnership with universities in the regions.
- The first meeting of a **Cross Party Group** on Nuclear Decommissioning was held at the Scottish Parliament on March 27th following its establishment by the Standards Committee at the end of last year. The CPG is co-chaired by Oliver Mundell MSP (Conservative) and Colin Smyth MSP (Labour) MSP, and the Deputy Convenor is Emma Harper MSP (SNP). See link for further details: [Civil Nuclear Industry | Scottish Parliament Website](#)
- NRS and the NDA hosted a **visit to Dungeness A and B** with the DESNZ Second Permanent Secretary, Clive Maxwell. There was an opportunity to view the scale of the boilers' removal project at Dungeness A, and the work ongoing at the B



site to remove the fuel following early shutdown of the reactors which will ultimately be transferred to the NDA for final decommissioning.

Engagement priorities for 2024

- Following the useful workshop in Manchester with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the SSGs, we will be looking to shortly circulate a draft scope for the **SSG review**. As previously trailed this exercise will provide an opportunity to reflect on the successes of the stakeholder voice in the local community over the last 20 years and consider how best to address some of the challenges that face us as we think about the future.
- In response to previous feedback, we are now firming up plans for this year's **SSG Chairs and Vice-Chairs event** on July 8/9 in Manchester which for the first time will reflect a group-wide approach involving the NDA and NRS CEO and Chairs, and other OpCo CEOs. We hope this combined event will provide a richer discussion and will be circulating details shortly.
- Our next in person **Stakeholder Conference** will be held on September 17/18 in Manchester. We are finalising plans on the venue and will keep you informed of progress. We will be working with a range of stakeholders to draft the content and agenda to ensure we create an event of value to you and will keep you informed of progress.
- We will also be issuing our **biannual stakeholder survey** and are currently in the process of designing that. More details will be available later in the year.
- 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 a number of 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.

Publications and policy updates

- DESNZ published its **Civil Nuclear Roadmap to 2050** alongside consultations on its **Approach to siting new nuclear power stations beyond 2025** and **Alternative routes to market for new nuclear projects**. The roadmap includes information and commitments relevant to our mission.
- In April we published our **Business Plan 2024-2027** which sets out key activities and the progress expected across all our sites during the next 3 years, in line with funding allocated by DESNZ.
- Our updated **Social Impact and Communities Strategy** has now been published. The strategy is updated every three years and updated where necessary. [NDA launches its new Social Impact and Communities Strategy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-social-impact-and-communities-strategy)
- Following its consultation in 2023, the **Government's new UK policy** on the sustainable and effective management of radioactive substances and nuclear is expected to be published mid-May 2024.

- Scottish Government engaged stakeholders on its **NSD Technical Report** on 21st February. The report has been developed as a technical options paper which will inform any future decisions on SG Waste Policy going forward.

Mission delivery

- 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.
- **Hunterston A** has completed a major NRS milestone with over 2,000 tonnes of solid radioactive waste – the equivalent weight of 153 Big Ben bells – retrieved and safely stored. Hunterston A holds the largest inventory of solid Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) across all the NRS sites and this equates to over 85% of the ILW inventory now retrieved.
- NRS is in the process of updating the **Dounreay lifetime plan** which identifies a route map to reach the site's interim end state – the point at which all redundant facilities will have been cleared and the resultant radioactive waste can be stored safely at the site. The new plan prioritises the early completion of work to dismantle the fast reactors and empty two waste disposal and storage facilities. Work will continue in the most complex part of the site, the Fuel Cycle Area, with the aim of finding new and innovative approaches that will benefit decommissioning at other sites, and especially at Sellafield. More detail is expected in the coming months.
- Sellafield has now removed the first of 237 Zeolite skips from the **First Generation Magnox Storage Pond**. These ponds were historically used to store, cool and prepare Magnox fuel for reprocessing and zeolites were added to help absorb radiation.
- The site has achieved two other 'firsts', the first nuclear waste product to go into a new British-made storage container, known as a self-shielded box, and the first to consign a self-shielded box to Sellafield's new Interim Storage Facility.
- A key milestone has been met ahead of schedule on the **Box Encapsulation Plant (BEP)** which will receive waste from Sellafield's legacy facilities for it to be packaged for interim storage and final disposal. The waste treatment cell is now testing technology and processes ahead of becoming fully operational, and the box operations cell which will provide a central hub for receiving, preparing and distributing waste containers is expected to hand over next month.
- Following the launch of a new **GDF working group** in South Holderness earlier this year, East Riding of Yorkshire Council has since decided to withdraw its consent from the process and NWS will be winding down the group. Engagement



with the other three community partnerships involved in the GDF siting process continues.

- At the end of May Sellafield is hosting a visit by the **Permanent Secretary** at DESNZ. This will include an opportunity to see and appreciate the scale of operations and complexities involved in decommissioning these high hazard facilities.
- The **NAO value for money study** into whether Sellafield and the NDA are taking a sustainable approach to decommissioning, leading to permanent hazard reduction has now commenced. We will shortly be hosting a follow up visit to that which saw the NAO team and PAC members view a number of the Sellafield facilities last October. We expect the study to report in October.
- We continue to support the wider skills agenda and as part of that commitment announced an extension to our partnership with the **Young Generation Network** (YGN) to 2025. We are working together to maximise learning opportunities for NDA group staff, increase awareness of joining the Nuclear Institute, and support early careers within the nuclear industry.
- **Destination Nuclear** has been launched in the UK to attract and recruit people into the civil and defence nuclear sectors. The nuclear workforce will need to double over the next 20 years, which will support around 80,000 additional jobs across the country. The campaign will target those considering a career change with transferrable skills, as well as supporting a commitment to apprenticeships and graduate schemes and increasing opportunities for PhD students.
- The second year of our **NDA group graduate programme** has opened, with the number of opportunities doubling to 120 across a diverse range of professional disciplines. The programme complements our support to the industry to build a long-term and sustainable pipeline of skills. We held our first ever large-scale graduate recruitment event in Manchester in April.

Thank you for taking the time to read our update. If you have any questions, please feed-back through the Secretariat.



Nuclear
Decommissioning
Authority



Office for
Nuclear Regulation

ONR Site Report

**Winfrith Sites – Magnox Ltd Winfrith and
Tradebe Inutec**

ONR Site Report

Winfrith Sites - Magnox Ltd Winfrith and Tradebe Inutec

Report for period: 1 July – 31 December 2023

Authored Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: Delivery Lead, DFW Subdivision

Issue No.: 1

Publication Date: Jan-24

ONR Record Ref. No.: 2024/212

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 site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 July – 31 December 2023:

- 18 October 2023
- 19 October 2023
- 6 December 2023
- 7 December 2023

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 the Magnox Ltd Winfrith site covered the following:

- commissioning arrangements;
- staff training, qualifications and experience;
- management of operations including control and supervision;
- radioactive waste management;
- incidents on the site

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 site safety inspector has held regular meetings with the Magnox Ltd Winfrith and Tradebe Inutec Ltd leadership

team representatives to maintain situational awareness of matters related to nuclear safety. Engagement continues on the major projects across both licence sites. During the period the primary contractor for work on the steam-generating heavy water reactor (SGHWR) core segmentation project went into administration. ONR was content with the contingency arrangements and their implementation by Magnox Ltd Winfrith to ensure that operations on site were maintained safe. No significant issues were highlighted by ONR.

ONR continues to engage with Magnox Ltd on the Winfrith End States Tactical Group (WESTG), keeping up to date on progress in relation to decommissioning and development of the site end state.

In October 2023 ONR attended the Winfrith Site Stakeholder Meeting.

ONR notes the change of operating name from Magnox Ltd to Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS). Until such time as the legal company name changes, ONR continues to refer to legal name of Magnox Ltd in this report.

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.

During the reporting period two incidents were reported to ONR by Tradebe Inutec Ltd. Both incidents were related to loss of primary containment of active effluents and in both cases the effluent was subsequently contained by engineered bunding systems specifically designed for such eventualities. ONR undertook preliminary enquiries and determined that the dutyholder had taken appropriate immediate mitigation measures and that formal ONR investigation was not required. There was no risk to members of the public. ONR currently awaits completion of the dutyholder's investigation prior to determining the nature of any enforcement action.

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

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email: Contact@onr.gov.uk

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Environment Agency report

Winfrith Site Stakeholder Group

May 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 October 2023.

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. These topics will be increasingly important as the site moves through the final stages of decommissioning towards its proposed end state with future public access.

Following the name change from Magnox Ltd to Nuclear Restoration Services Limited (NRS) we received an application for Administrative Variation of Magnox Ltd Permits in April 2024. This application is to change the operator's name from Magnox Ltd to Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd. This Administrative Variation will apply to the Nuclear Site Permits and associated Environmental Permits such as water discharges and waste permits across the Magnox fleet. This includes Winfrith site. Administrative

customer service line **03708 506 506**

flood line **03459 88 11 88**

incident hotline **0800 80 70 60**

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Variations have a 3-month determination period. We do not consult on Administrative Variations.

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 October 2023 SSG report

In January, we completed an inspection to review NRS's arrangements for assuring environmental protection from the management of Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) arising at Winfrith. It was designed to provide an overview and forward look for ILW management processes related to environmental protection in line with site changes. This included an update on the progress to plan for future waste management facilities.

There were no identified permit non-compliance issues. The inspection provided us with assurances that plans are in place to manage the environmental risks from ILW. There was evidence of a site ILW strategy that is guided by the waste management hierarchy and is connected to a site integrated waste strategy.

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. Restoration planning will become an increasing feature of the end state work across the site.

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.

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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, approximating to 3% of the permitted limit set for the site. 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.

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.

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. The dose from all pathways (including permitted discharges) approximates to less than one per cent of the government derived national dose limit applied to protect members of the public

(set at 1mSv). 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.

During 2024, Environment Agency regulation of the Winfrith Nuclear site will include support from Mr Alister Wintle. Alister will be undertaking aspects of the regulatory compliance activities on site, as part of his Environment Agency Nuclear regulator role.

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>

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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.

Contact details.

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