



Joint Berkeley/Oldbury Site Stakeholder Group

Oldbury Conference Centre, Oldbury Naite, Thornbury, BS35 1RQ

Wednesday, 28 May 2025

Meeting starts at 13:00, refreshments served from 12:30

AGENDA

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| 13.00 | 1. | Welcome |
| 13.05 | 2. | Apologies for absence |
| 13.10 | 3. | Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 5 February 2025
a) Accuracy
b) Matters arising |
| 13.15 | 4. | Site Director Reports
Berkeley – Mike Heaton (Site Director)
Oldbury – John Alderton (Site Director) |
| 13.45 | 5. | NDA Update – Alastair Findlay |
| 14.10 | 6. | Environment Agency Reports
Berkeley – Tracy Braithwaite
Oldbury – Peter Reynolds |
| 14.25 | 7. | Great British Nuclear – Stephen Bray |
| 14:35 | 8. | AOB |

SSG Meetings 2025 dates:

- 10th September

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
JOINT BERKELEY/OLDBURY SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
HELD AT OLDBURY CONFERENCE CENTRE, OLDBURY NAITE, THORNBURY, BS35 1RQ
WEDNESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2025**

Attendance/Apologies list

Attendance

Members

Cllr Matthew Riddle	Chair, Oldbury
Cllr Chris Jennings	Vice Chair, Oldbury
John Stanton	Chair, Berkeley
Cllr Steve Chandler JP	Vice Chair, Berkeley
Cllr Adrian Birch	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr John Crook	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr Chris Davies	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr Chris Davies	South Gloucestershire
Cllr Maggie Dutton	Stroud District Council
Dylan Griffiths	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr Hugh Johnson	Tytherington Parish Council
June Lyons	Olveston Parish Council
Brian Roberts	Thornbury Chamber of Commerce
Cllr Brian Tipper	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Demelza Turner-Wilkes	Stroud District Council
Cllr Jeremy Warren	Aust Parish Council
Cllr Valerie Williams	Alveston Parish Council

Operators and Officers

Tracy Braithwaite	Environment Agency
Paul Jenneson	ONR
Alastair Findlay	NDA
Elizabeth Norton	NDA
Billy Adcock	NRS
Oliver Christophes	NRS
Sharon Fry	NRS
Bill Hamilton	NRS
Mike Heaton	NRS
Rebecca Austin	Minute Taker

Members of the Public

Barbara French	STAND
John French	STAND
Richard Henson	STAND
Alison Ladbrick[?]	STAND
Peter Hazelwood	Birdwatcher
Tony Mitchell	Thornbury Town & District Residents Association
Nic Pehkonen	Artist and EDF Contractor

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Trevor Hellen
Geoff Wheeler

Berkeley Research Group
Berkeley Research Group

Apologies

John Alderton
Liz Ashton
Cllr Chris Bloor
Gillian Ellis-King
Janet Hellen
Peter Reynolds
Jon Severs

Oldbury Site Director
Berkeley Town Council
Thornbury Town Council
Strategic Projects Manager, South Gloucestershire Council
TAPP'D
Environment Agency
Officer, South Gloucestershire Council

1. WELCOME

The Chair (Cllr Matthew Riddle) opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. A round of introductions was carried out.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from John Alderton, Gillian Ellis-King, Chris Bloor, Liz Ashton, John Severs, Peter Reynolds and Janet Hellen.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2024

A. Accuracy

There were no comments on accuracy. The minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting held on 11 September 2024.

B. Matters Arising

Cllr Chris Davies of South Gloucestershire Council asked if there was any update from Stephen Bray at Great British Nuclear (GBN) in terms of the choice between the site at Oldbury and Anglesey. Alastair Findlay confirmed that a decision would be made as part of the government spending review, scheduled to take place in spring/summer 2025. Cllr Chris Jennings highlighted that assessments were underway at Oldbury as part of this process.

4. SITE DIRECTOR REPORTS

A. Mike Heaton – Site Director, Berkeley

Mike Heaton confirmed that the site had gone over a year without any staff injury, lost time actions or medical incidents. Nevertheless, reset training had been carried out on low-level radiological controls, lifting and 'human performance', which included effective pre-job briefings and use of procedures.

The main focus for the Berkeley site was retrieval, packaging and transport of intermediate-level waste created during the generation period and stored in vaults. This was a 10-year programme, estimated to conclude around 2033. Currently, waste was being retrieved from two of Berkeley's vault facilities: vault 1 and vault 3. 33 tonnes of waste had been retrieved predominantly from vault 1 in the past year. Low-level waste shipments were on track for 2024/25. Interim storage facility (ISF) targets were also on track for 2024/25.

The other significant project related to Blower House, with the aim to remove residual waste and asbestos before demolition. Both contracts with Altrad and Augean were underway and progressing well. Berkeley community activities, including volunteering, charity donations and a focus on sustainability and biodiversity were highlighted, alongside the relevant NRS soc-ec funding allocation figures.

Questions

Geoff Wheeler asked how contractors were inducted into Berkeley's safety systems and procedures. Mike Heaton stated that all staff, including contractors, underwent the same induction process. This was followed up with contractors through a more detailed host brief. If there was anything particular to reinforce, contractors were put through additional training. The reset training mentioned had also been delivered to contractors.

Richard Henson highlighted concerns about the future storage of nuclear waste. He asked if there were resources available through which he could seek to understand the topic further. Mike Heaton explained that new-build facilities were required to provide a formalised waste procedure when seeking approval. For sites such as Berkeley, there had been no requirement

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at the point of construction to outline a waste procedure. Remote retrieval machinery had been designed in the time since to aid in waste removal. Waste was retrieved and stored in a robust concrete box, which was then solidified, so the waste could not move. This was the final packaging of waste at Berkeley. If it was exposed to the elements over time, the waste would not degrade.

Barbara French asked where low-level waste shipments were transported. Mike Heaton stated that such waste was moved to a storage location near Sellafield. Barbara French said that this was surprising, as Sellafield appeared to be relatively full already. There had been discussions in the past of keeping low-level waste on site at Berkeley. Mike Heaton explained that the low-level waste repository near Drigg continued to take the industry's low-level waste. Intermediate-level waste would be moved to a new geological disposal facility, the location of which was yet to be defined.

Billy Adcock added that the repository referenced was only for material that could not be recycled. 95% of waste was recycled through metal melt and the remaining small proportion sent to the waste repository. There were a number of small-scale facilities around the country where very low-level waste could be disposed of. It was also possible to generate energy from combustible waste of low-level contamination.

The Chair asked if there was any radioactive material coming from the Blower House site. Mike Heaton stated that the items to be moved had trace levels of asbestos, which was being removed on site, and low levels of activation.

John Stanton asked about the timeline and funding for Blower House demolition. Mike Heaton noted that NRS was funded through the Government. The coming year's funding settlement had been less than hoped for in terms of the work planned and the Blower House project may be impacted. A more detailed answer on this would be provided at the next SSG.

Brian Tipper sought reassurance that there was sufficient funding to ensure safety. Mike Heaton emphasised that safety and compliance were the key pillars of the nuclear business and its regulation. There was a significant volume of regulation to assure stakeholders that safety was a top priority. Cllr Valerie Williams complimented those working in the nuclear field, who had an excellent safety record.

B. Billy Adcock – Waste and Site Integration Manager, Oldbury

Billy Adcock introduced himself and noted that he attended in the place of John Alderton. Over the past year, there had been a small number of minor injuries at Oldbury, often on staff's hands. There had been a significant campaign refreshing staff on 'human performance'. Engineers on site had created the 'check your pockets' campaign, encouraging colleagues to take a moment before starting work to assess the task before them.

The Oldbury site had a number of live decommissioning projects. Two weeks prior had been a significant milestone, with all physical work at the pond complex completed. Cable cutting efforts at the Turbine Hall would be complete by the end of the financial year. Oldbury Training Centre (OTC) demolition work was around a third completed and would be finalised by the end of March.

In terms of waste retrieval, the Vacuum Fill House project was well underway. Final site acceptance tests would be completed before the end of the financial year. Waste retrieval would not commence until the appropriate waste drying facility had been built. The Early Fuel Element Debris (FED) campaign would take five drums of waste from each vault and send samples for analysis before building the appropriate facility.

Community engagement and sustainability work at Oldbury was noted. Physical and virtual copies of the Oldbury sustainability newsletter were available for SSG attendees. Billy Adcock noted the selection of an Oldbury apprentice as a finalist for the Apprentice of the Year award at the UK Nuclear Skills Awards 2025.

The Chair conveyed congratulations on behalf of the SSG to Keely Salter on her selection as an Apprentice of the Year finalist.

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Questions

Cllr Chris Davies of Stinchcombe Parish Council asked if Oldbury waste would go to the Berkeley store. Billy Adcock confirmed that the majority of waste would go into the Berkeley store. Some of the higher activity pond skips would be sent to the Hinkley store, because of the site's specific processing facility. Billy Adcock confirmed that the Berkeley site would not take any other site's waste.

John French highlighted that the head of GBN had recently said that work would start at Oldbury in 2029 on new nuclear reactors. He asked how this would impact current decommissioning work. Billy Adcock stated that the impact would be minimal. The site in question was adjacent to Oldbury and there may be some coordination required in terms of access, but the sites would otherwise be run separately. Alastair Findlay noted that the ONR mandated a nuclear cooperation agreement, a formal legal document, between such sites, which was already in process at Oldbury.

Barbara French noted the BBC's suggestion that Turbine Hall cable cutting work had been hastened to facilitate the new build starting earlier. Billy Adcock explained that a new, innovative approach to cable cutting had brought forward the next phase of decommissioning. Oldbury had moved more quickly, providing more value to the taxpayer. Bill Hamilton emphasised that the new build would not impact decommissioning work at Oldbury. The SSG focused solely on the existing Oldbury and Berkeley sites. There was no GBN representative at the meeting to comment on the new build.

Tony Mitchell commended the idea of carrying out site visits for schools. More general site visits for members of the public would also be beneficial. Billy Adcock said that, while no specific plans for wider site visits were currently under discussion, he would convey the suggestion. There had been a focus on schools in terms of future careers and encouraging interest in nuclear.

Cllr Chris Jennings asked how many apprentices Oldbury could take on per annum and if there was significant interest. Bill Hamilton stated that NRS had taken on 30 apprentices in the last year, meaning there were now around 100 across the company. There was a significant pool of talented young people wanting to join NRS. More could be taken on if funding was to increase.

Brian Roberts asked about progress on the licence to store heavy concrete material ready for use on the new site. Billy Adcock said that he did not have specific information on this. He would seek further details from John Alderton and feed back through the Chair.

5. NRS UPDATE

Bill Hamilton explained that a recent company reorganisation had given site directors more access to NRS senior management. A new managing director would be responsible for solo sites, such as Oldbury and Berkeley, and another director for twin sites, such as Hinkley. More access to senior management would mean issues could be raised directly and immediately. Nuclear Week had taken place in Parliament the previous week. The new Berkeley MP had visited the site and the new Oldbury MP would visit in coming weeks.

Outside the conference centre was the NRS trailer, which would be taken around the country to highlight NRS's change in strategy towards site-specific decommissioning plans and to seek community views. Past survey work had demonstrated that the general public, outside of interested stakeholders, had a limited understanding of nuclear energy and their local site. The trailer had visited the local area in Anglesey and it had been striking that the general public did not even realise that there were around 300 staff working on the local site.

Bill Hamilton emphasised that the trailer's exhibition did not involve any new announcement or promotion. The key messages were that the sites were safe, NRS was a good employer and the site and company were 'good neighbours'. There was also gamified element asking what the local community might like to see the site used for in the future.

Questions

Cllr Chris Davies of Stinchcombe Parish Council asked about progress on the geological disposal facility. Alastair Findlay confirmed that community engagement was underway in two interested areas in Cumbria and Lincolnshire. A document had been published 10 days prior setting out precise areas of interest and development expected. Each geographical area would then decide whether the project would proceed. International experience demonstrated that such decisions were best made slowly. The target completion date would be in the 2040s. Bill Hamilton highlighted that, in the meantime, intermediate-level waste was being safely stored within tolerance levels.

6. NDA UPDATE

Alastair Findlay noted that the NDA's report had been circulated ahead of the meeting. Before Christmas, the NDA's chief executive had attended a Select Committee session to be questioned on a range of topics. SSG members were invited to watch the session online. There would be a further session at the end of March, following the publication of the NAO report, which would be more detailed in terms of project delivery and the financials. A committee of MPs would also visit Sellafield in the coming weeks.

A government decision had recently been made to go ahead with the next stages of safe disposal of plutonium at Sellafield. It was anticipated that the upcoming 2025/26 spending review would not fully fund the NDA to carry out all expected activities. A business plan would be published for comment in due course. Alastair Findlay highlighted the supply chain event of January 2025. He had also attended NRS's Nuclear Week events in Parliament.

Questions

John Stanton invited Alastair Findlay to comment further on the spending review. Alastair Findlay confirmed that a negative impact in terms of funding was expected. There must be discussions with contractors as a result, with decisions to be made at the NRS and NDA board levels. Safety remained the top priority, but there would be an impact on what was possible.

Tony Mitchell asked why the decision on plutonium was at odds with the US approach of storing for future fuel use. Alastair Findlay confirmed that this had been part of the debate. The government's plans for future fuels in the UK did not include plutonium. The intention was to make the plutonium safe as soon as possible. For example, no GBN reactors planned to use this fuel. No decision would be made about what to convert the plutonium into until the end of the decade. If there was suddenly significant demand, for example, the decision could be changed. It was dangerous to move plutonium, making sale to the US or France unwise.

Cllr Chris Jennings suggested that relevant links mentioned be added to the meeting minutes. Cllr Steve Chandler noted that the chief executive had performed well at the Select Committee session in terms of answering questions and explaining clearly to MPs the issues at hand.

7. ONR REPORTS

Paul Jenneson noted that little had been included in the report, but that 'no news' was 'good news'. He kept in regular contact with sites, but in the recent period performance at both Berkeley and Oldbury had been positive. As an independent regulator, ONR was pleased with the safety performance of the sites. ONR preferred to know that duty holders were performing at the very highest standards, which included consideration of conventional safety and small injuries.

Innovative decommissioning approaches, such as those at the Oldbury Turbine Hall, were encouraged by the regulator. Former nuclear sites were safest when they were gone. There was an open and proactive relationship between ONR and NRS sites. There were no significant safety concerns at either site from the regulator's perspective.

Questions

The Chair emphasised the importance of avoiding complacency. Paul Jenneson agreed. When nuclear sites had been built, health and safety regulation had not been so rigorous. This had produced some legacy challenges. Managing risk was of utmost importance.

Richard Henson asked how radiation was measured by the ONR. Paul Jenneson explained that non-ionising radiation was ever-present and not as dangerous as ionising radiation, which was produced by nuclear power generation. UK legislation required that doses of ionising radiation to staff and around the site be recorded and kept below statutory levels for personal safety. He and other staff wore personal monitors to this end. Sites were required to write safety cases, ensuring that risks to workers were controlled and kept as low as reasonably practicable.

Richard Henson asked if information to this end was made available to the public. Paul Jenneson explained that the ONR was responsible for on-site doses, while the Environment Agency (EA) dealt with doses off-site. The relevant .gov sites and various academic sources had useful information. Alastair Findlay highlighted the work of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management, a non-government body that advised the Government and relevant nuclear bodies. It was relatively specialist, but the information provided was publicly available.

8. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORTS

A. Oldbury

Tracy Braithwaite conveyed the apologies of Peter Reynolds. Any questions she was unable to answer she would take back, with a written response to be provided. In response to Richard Henson, she explained that the EA was responsible for the management of waste and its possible impact off-site. She worked closely with sites. All gas and liquid discharges were monitored and reported to the EA quarterly. The EA also had a national Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) programme, the full report of which was available online and in the meeting pack.

All sites had undergone a renewal of their permits in recent times, which required engagement with the EA. On-site requirements had been altered to remove isotopes no longer present and adjust monitoring required in terms of pollution inventory.

Peter Reynolds had carried out an environmental leadership inspection at Oldbury in November 2024. He had asked for the environmental safety case and waste management plan to be improved. While there was no legal requirement to have an environmental baseline, the permit included a condition to have adequate resource and education in place to undertake all relevant activities to protect the environment. This check was underway.

There was a concern at Oldbury that some core roles lay with only one person, creating a single point of failure. The environmental monitoring programme had demonstrated no adverse impacts from the site. There had been no significant changes to the radioactivity measured in food and the environment around the site. Public exposure to ionising radiation was well within the legal limits.

Some enforcement action had been taken at Oldbury over the last quarter regarding the site failing to report a liquid effluent discharge. After investigation, this had been determined to be a result of staff turnover. The site had been issued with two Category 4 non-impact non-compliances against permit conditions 1.1a and 4.2.2. A Category 4 incident was an administrative mistake. If there was to be an impact, the incident would have been classified at minimum Category 3. Tracy Braithwaite therefore considered this a minor blip, with a return to compliance expected quickly.

Tracy Braithwaite highlighted a number of consultations underway, including one on the regulation of solid radioactive waste disposal facilities and one on the NEW annual report. Attendees were encouraged to provide comments. There was also a consultation underway

on the design of new nuclear power stations. Three designs had been presented to the EA and ONR, which were on the website for public comment. Updated guidance on how sites must deal with radioactivity ahead of delicensing had been provided.

B. Berkeley

Tracy Braithwaite confirmed that the Berkeley site was compliant with its permit. Conversations around the future permitting of the Blower House project were underway. She met regularly with site representatives, who were highly transparent. There had been no significant events or incidents since January 2024.

The EA had requested an investigation of land beneath the Blower House facilities. Ground water monitoring wells would be installed that week to take samples and examine the state of the land, with a report back expected in the coming months. There was no radiological contamination within the area, but it was uncertain whether chemical contamination existed.

The site-wide environmental safety case and waste management plan had been reviewed and no concerns had been identified. The RIFE report confirmed that dose was as low as reasonably achievable. The representative person was now a child consuming milk. Tracy Braithwaite highlighted that there had not been a full habit survey conducted for 10 years. One would be carried out at both sites in 2025.

Discharges at the Berkeley site were nowhere near the site's permitting limits. However, there was a trend indicating a slight increase in beta particulate and C-14 discharge. Tracy Braithwaite had carried out an independent investigation, as had the site itself. A meeting on the topic in October 2024 had been postponed due to Tracy Braithwaite's ill health. She reassured the SSG that the increasing discharge could likely be easily resolved.

Questions

Cllr Steve Chandler highlighted the issue of apparent rising discharges. Tracy Braithwaite explained that she had intended to give the formal answer at the SSG that day. Her ill health between meetings had prevented this. The discharge had taken place. The issue was in the recording of it and where it had been recorded. For example, when decommissioning a particular vault, discharge would naturally increase in that area. In this case, discharge had increased across the whole site, despite waste retrieval activities taking place in only specific areas. Some of this error could be attributed to spreadsheet rounding. The approach taken was cautious and the differences in question were tiny and not to be worried about. The EA was being 'highly particular'.

Cllr Steve Chandler observed that any suggestion of rising discharges was a sensitive issue. In this context, he asked that an update be provided as soon as possible, rather than waiting for the next SSG meeting. Tracy Braithwaite committed to provide an update ahead of the next SSG meeting.

9. NDA GUEST SPEAKER – NDA HERITAGE STRATEGY

Elizabeth Norton introduced herself and her role. The NDA's heritage strategy had been directly endorsed by David Peattie, the CEO, to emphasise the importance of heritage and its overall role going forward. First, assets of significance must be identified. Then, such assets must be safeguarded. This could be as simple as ensuring that assets were not disposed of. Finally, assets and nuclear heritage as a whole, must be celebrated and made available to the wider public.

Mechanisms enacting the heritage strategy included the Heritage Working Group and a soon to be formed virtual Community of Practice, which would also be open to members of the public. Efforts were underway to draw up a practical roadmap for the heritage strategy. The NDA was also involved in an international project on nuclear cultural heritage and the impact of nuclear power stations on communities. The NDA took part in twice-yearly meetings of the Heritage Panel of representatives from national bodies responsible for the UK's heritage as a whole.

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The NDA Nucleus archive had been built as a deposit for UK civil nuclear history. It housed current records, but would also be the home of the archive for records to be made available to the public going forward. The archive was subject to the Public Records Act and a significant backlog had been inherited. Records would be made available to the public through the Axiell Collections, a standalone system, over the coming year. Records would also always be available in physical copy in Wick.

Salvaged objects would fall under a collections policy to be drawn up. Elizabeth Norton noted that it was important to question which items had long-term heritage value. Objects would also be made available through public software. Examples of objects already contained within the collection were presented. It was highlighted that the DIDO reactor at Harwell was currently doubling up as a small museum space.

There were also opportunities to engage with the local community in terms of capturing oral history and intangible heritage assets. The NDA had a statutory obligation to look after both its records and record its buildings. On the latter, there was a significant volume of data to be translated into value for the public. The Building Recording Group was working on this. The NDA Archives website had recently been launched. In 2025, a link to the collection would be added, alongside descriptions of items held.

Questions

The Chair commended efforts to professionally and consistently capture the heritage of sites that had had significant impact on local communities. Tony Mitchell noted that he had recently seen a YouTube video on the construction of Oldbury power station and invited attendees to watch it. Elizabeth Norton highlighted efforts to digitise various video recordings of this nature, which might be added to the NDA Archive website or to a YouTube channel.

Mike Heaton asked if Bob Radford was the relevant NRS representative. Elizabeth Norton confirmed that this was the case. James Gunn also remained involved. Mike Heaton observed that there were various objects discovered during the decommissioning process. Their relevance might depend on how big the project was intended to be. Elizabeth Norton said that funding for a significant museum site was uncertain.

Cllr Steve Chandler highlighted the Berkeley Research Group's work on the Berkeley labs and his own book on radioactive waste policy. There had in the past been interest in establishing a civil nuclear power museum at Berkeley. Issues of funding might prevent such developments. Elizabeth Norton confirmed that these plans had been discussed. However, it may not be feasible financially, making outside of the box thinking and continual safeguarding essential, using digital tools to make resources available in the interim.

Cllr Steve Chandler asked if the NDA would take in relevant records from The National Archives. Elizabeth Norton explained that NDA corporate centre records would remain with the National Archive. Those relating to the wider nuclear industry, which were already held at Kew, may move to Nucleus in the future. Nucleus had a licence from The National Archives to look after public records and The National Archives was content for relevant civil nuclear records to be held elsewhere.

Brian Roberts and Tony Mitchell highlighted the importance of recording the experiences of those working in and around nuclear sites in the past. John Stanton suggested that a temporary exhibition might be an interim solution to funding difficulties. The Chair invited Elizabeth Norton to stay in touch with the SSG on the NDA's work in terms of heritage.

10. AOB

The Chair highlighted that there would be no ONR report available at the planned 28 May 2025 meeting date. Attendees discussed whether the meeting should go ahead in this context. Paul Jenneson emphasised that the bureaucracy of the ONR's reporting schedule should not stymie the SSG's operation. He would still attend the May meeting and answer general

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questions if useful. Brian Roberts emphasised the importance of continuity. It was agreed that the 28 May meeting would go ahead.

The Chair invited attendees to take part in a group photograph beside the NRS roadshow trailer. There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 15.32.

Next meeting dates: 28 May 2025 and 10 September 2025.



NDA Update for
Oldbury/Berkeley
May 2025



Contents

1.0 NDA Stakeholder Update May 2025

**NDA Stakeholder Update**

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

Government Update

David Peattie, along with Corhyn Parr and Euan Hutton, appeared before the Energy Security and Net Zero (ESNZ) committee on the 18th December and answered questions on a wide variety of subjects connected to the NDA mission. If you've not had a chance to watch the proceedings, the hearing is available to view online [here](#).

Seth Kybird has been appointed as Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Nuclear Waste Services (NWS). He succeeds Corhyn Parr who has led NWS as CEO since its formation in 2022. Seth joins NWS on an 18-month secondment from Nuclear Transport Solutions (NTS).

While Seth is on secondment Ben Whittard, Chief Development Officer and Managing Director of Shipping and Solutions, and Ciara Middlehurst, Chief Operating Officer, will become joint NTS interim CEOs. Both have strong leadership track records, and a wealth of knowledge and experience gained from inside and outside the NDA group. They both know NTS well and are committed to driving the future success of the organisation.

Spending Review

The Government Spending Review process informs decisions on public spending. NDA group funding is made up of the funding we receive from Government and the income we generate. We have already communicated on NDA group funding for 2025/26 which at just over £4bn includes increased Government funding, demonstrating significant public investment in our nuclear sites and facilities though this will not be without challenges.

We recently submitted our spending review submission for 2026/27-2029/30 to our Government sponsoring department, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). This comprehensive submission outlines the NDA group's budgetary needs and plans. We expect Government will make its final decisions on public spending for the next few years in the summer, after which Government departments, including DESNZ, will receive their funding allocations. Subsequently, we will receive confirmation of our Government funding.

The national fiscal environment remains very challenging and across Government, departments are being squeezed. While we are confident of sustained Government investment into our mission, when considered against inflation and our plans to accelerate our mission and drive growth, our overall funding will not be sufficient to cover all that we'd like to do across the NDA group. This underscores the importance of



efficiency in our operations, aligning with the Government's drive for a more efficient public sector.

Despite funding challenges, we're focused on our nationally important mission to ensure the safe and efficient decommissioning of the UK's nuclear legacy, with much to deliver, including a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF), which remains government's policy for the long-term storage solution for the most hazardous radioactive waste. Additionally, we are preparing for the transition of the Advanced Gas-Cooled Reactors (AGR) into our group for decommissioning, thereby expanding our responsibilities and scope. Our role in new nuclear initiatives remains important, highlighting our part in supporting the UK's energy security and sustainability goals.

Outreach activities

- On the 15th and 16th January, the UK decommissioning sector came together in Telford. On Day 1 it was DECOM 25 and then on day 2 1700 delegates and 300 companies looked at opportunities for businesses to connect at the NDA supply chain event.
- The **NDA stakeholder survey** went live between Feb-March, and the responses from more than 250 stakeholders are currently being analysed. Once results are available the findings will help shape our future strategy and plans.
- The NDA has been commended on its commitment to transparency following a 2 day visit to West Cumbria on 7/8 April by the [NDA NGO forum](#). The visit was an excellent example of teamwork across NDA, Sellafield Sites and Nuclear Waste Services with Forum representatives from a range of NGOs shown around Sellafield site and the Low Level Waste Repository. The Forum had senior leaders from across NDA Group present to answer queries on a range of key topics.
- The latest **Cross Party Group (CPG)** took place in the **Scottish Parliament** with the main topic being 'Radioactive Waste - dealing with the legacy'. Topics including how waste was generated, how it is dealt with in Scotland, movement of waste located in Scotland and non-energy sources of radioactive waste. There were around 40 attendees both in person and via Teams.

Engagement priorities for 2025

- The NDA celebrates its 20th anniversary this year and are planning a range of events. Today we have a video and timeline presentation to share with the WCSSG.



- Our review into the SSGs has concluded with an update to the **NDA Guidance to the SSGs** following discussions with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the National SSG Forum and a meeting with all SSG Chairs and Deputy Chairs. This recognises the value of the stakeholder voice in the local communities around our sites and how to address some of the challenges that face us as we move into the future.
- Nuclear week in Parliament took place from the 27th January with the NDA and NDA group Operating Companies hosting a range of events to showcase our work.
- As you will be aware, 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. It has now been agreed that the strategy will go out to consultation for a 12 week period from 7 July 2025 to 29 September 2025.
- 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 first meeting of which took place on the 21st January 2025.

Publications, public service and policy updates

- On 10th March, we published our Draft **Business Plan** covering the years 2025 – 2028 for a six-week consultation period which closed on 22nd April. The Draft Business Plan reflects our most recent Strategy, published in 2021, and sets out key activities and the progress expected across our sites during the next three years, in line with funding allocated by the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). The consultation was run in accordance with the criteria set out in the [Cabinet Office's Consultation principles guidelines](#).
- Once we have considered all the submissions the draft document, which can be found using the following link: [Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: Draft Business Plan 2025 to 2028 for consultation - GOV.UK](#), will be amended and a final document published.
- In February 2025 the NDA published its **Nature Recovery Plan (NRP)** which can be found following [this link](#). Through its implementation we will help address the decline of biodiversity by conserving and restoring natural habitats and species within our control as well as supporting government aims and objectives for nature recovery. The NRP will be a living document, subject



to periodic review and considering any new research, policy and guidance as they become available.

- We have recently published our **Gender Pay Gap** report for 2023-24. The NDA group are committed to creating great places to work and inclusive working environments. This includes ensuring we have female representation at all levels across our organisations and supporting women in their professional growth. This report summarises the gender pay gap for 2023/24 for the NDA group as a whole and within the individual organisations that make up the group. The report can be read [here](#).

Mission delivery

- The NDA Group welcomes the government's decision to immobilise the UK's inventory of civil separated plutonium at Sellafield. Immobilisation will put the material beyond reach, further mitigating the long-term safety and security risks associated with it. We will continue to progress research and development work to identify the preferred technology for immobilisation, converting the material to an even safer and more safer form ready for final disposal in a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).
- We are also funding a £5m Plutonium Ceramics Academic Hub at the Universities of Manchester and Sheffield. Over the next five years, the Hub will fund around 20 PhD students and two post-doctoral researchers, equipping them with the expertise to develop solutions and inform critical decisions on the safe management, storage and disposal of one of the world's largest civilian inventories of separated plutonium.
- Future plans for the 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](#). Following its publication the NDA has been leading work to identify a strategic partner for the development that will deliver the vision for the sites transformation into a green energy hub. We are now evaluating the proposals from potential partners and hope to be able to make an announcement later this year.

Thank you for taking the time to read our update. If you have any questions, please feed-back through the Secretariat or raise with the NDA official at the SSG meeting.



Nuclear
Decommissioning
Authority



Office for
Nuclear Regulation

ONR Site Report

NRS Ltd – Berkeley

ONR Site Report

NRS Ltd - Berkeley

Report for period: 1 July – 31 December 2024

Authored by: Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: Superintending Inspector

Issue: 1

Published: January 2025

Record reference: 2025/495

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 (<https://www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/lcsvg-reports/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Berkeley Site Stakeholders Group meetings where these reports are presented and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR.

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1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of inspection

The ONR site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 July to 31 December 2024:

- 4 September 2024
- 22 & 23 October 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 Ltd Berkeley covered the following:

- emergency preparedness
- decommissioning
- security

Members of the public, who would like further information on ONR's inspection activities during the reporting period, can view site Inspection 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 attended the Nuclear Restoration Services' Oldbury, Berkeley and Hinkley Point A Quarterly Regulator Interface Meeting on the 10 October 2024 to discuss issues, events and project milestone updates at the sites. The second meeting included an annual review of safety, security and environmental performance. The overall site performance across the NRS Ltd southwest region remains adequate and no new issues which would significantly impact our purposes were identified.

The site inspector held regular meetings with the Site Director and weekly keep-in-touch meetings with the operational staff on site. During 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 ONR, please read and subscribe to our regular email newsletter 'ONR News' at <https://www.onr.org.uk/news/newsletter/>.

6. Contacts

Office for Nuclear Regulation
Redgrave Court
Merton Road
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Office for
Nuclear Regulation

ONR Site Report

NRS Ltd – Oldbury

ONR Site Report

NRS Ltd - Oldbury

Report for period: 1 July – 31 December 2024

Authored by: Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: Superintending Inspector

Issue: 1

Published: January 2025

Record reference: 2025/469

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 Oldbury Site Stakeholders Group and are also available on the ONR website (<https://www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/lcsvg-reports/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Oldbury Site Stakeholders Group meetings where these reports are presented and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR.

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1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of inspection

The ONR site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 July to 31 December 2024:

- 23 July 2024
- 7 November 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 Ltd Oldbury covered the following:

- radiological protection
- security

Members of the public, who would like further information on ONR's inspection activities during the reporting period, can view site Inspection 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 attended the Nuclear Restoration Services' (NRS) Oldbury, Berkeley and Hinkley Point A Quarterly Regulator Interface Meeting on the 10 October 2024 to discuss issues, events and project milestone updates at the sites. The second meeting included an annual review of safety, security and environmental performance. The overall site performance across the NRS Ltd southwest region remains adequate and no new issues which would significantly impact ONR's purposes were identified.

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

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 ONR, please read and subscribe to our regular email newsletter 'ONR News' at <https://www.onr.org.uk/news/newsletter/>.

6. Contacts

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Environment Agency Report

Berkeley Site Stakeholder Group

January 2025

This report covers our regulation of Nuclear Restoration Services' Berkeley Nuclear Power station and related issues over the period January 2025 to April 2025. This site is currently undergoing decommissioning.

Radioactive substances regulation

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

We also regulate and control other activities through additional environmental permits, including surface water discharges to surrounding water bodies groundwater abstractions needed to support site activities.

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

Permitting

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

In our last report we advised that we were meeting with Nuclear Restoration Services to discuss the permitting of their proposal to backfill the older blower houses with radioactive and non-radioactive demolition materials and waste from existing stockpiles. Whilst this project has been placed on hold pending the outcome of government spending decision, we will continue to work with Nuclear Restoration Services to assure that their site end state is supported by their site wide environmental safety case and waste management plan to support their decision making. We have reviewed the site wide environmental safety case and waste management plan. We concluded the reports are in accordance with our guidance

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Floodline 03459 88 11 88

but identified gaps in information that will need to be addressed prior to the site completing any permit surrender process. This includes further detail on any proposals for depositing radiological materials / waste on the site.

We are currently reviewing a best available techniques (BAT) assessment from Nuclear Restoration Services covering the management of the materials associated with the decommissioning of the blower houses. A further BAT assessment will be needed to set out NRS's assessment of the options for the material / wastes proposed for use as infill.

Compliance activities

We keep in contact with the site Director and Head of Environment at the Berkeley site via remote meetings at monthly intervals to stay up to date on the status of decommissioning projects, progress on actions and recommendations arising from previous interventions and any emerging issues at the site.

We review Nuclear Restoration Services' reports of operational events and incidents that have occurred on site. We follow up on these reports where events have the potential for significant environmental impact or are an indicator of wider issues. We have been following up on several events in the period since the last Site Stakeholder Group meeting in January 2025. In particular, we requested a root cause analysis report of materials that were left outside of a controlled area resulting in contamination of the immediate vicinity. We are satisfied that the site has returned to compliance and that there was no wider impact to the environment and we are currently considering if any further enforcement action is required.

Environmental impact

The site environmental permit requires the operator to monitor and assess the impact of discharges on the environment. The results of Nuclear Restoration Services' environmental monitoring programme continue to be consistent with our independent programme and do not indicate any results of concern or significant change from previous years.

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

Customer service line **03708 506 506** **Floodline** **03459 88 11 88**
Incident hotline **0800 80 70 60**

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

Berkeley and Oldbury sites are considered together for the purposes of environmental monitoring because the discharge effects from both sites impact on the same area. The most recent habits survey was undertaken in 2014 (Clyne, Garrod & Papworth 2015). We have planned a follow up survey for the Berkeley Oldbury site for 2026/2027. recommended a further habits survey be scheduled for both sites.

In 2023, the 'total dose' from all pathways and sources of radiation was less than 0.005mSv (Table 4.1 in RIFE link above), or less than 0.5% of the dose limit to members of the public. This is unchanged from 2022 (as amended in the RIFE 28 Errata). The representative person was an adult spending time over sediments, a change from 2022 (infant milk consumers).

Discharges from site

Nuclear Restoration Services' environmental permit at Berkeley requires them to apply best available techniques (BAT) in its management of radioactive waste and to ensure their impacts on the public and wider environment are minimised. Disposal of wastes, as solids, liquid or gases can only be made via permitted routes or by transfer to permitted sites. Nuclear Restoration Services must also conduct a programme of environmental monitoring. They submit a report of the liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment, and the results of the environmental monitoring programme to us at quarterly intervals. We assess these against the requirements of the permit and record this in a RASCAR.

Nuclear Restoration Services have reported an increasing trend in carbon-14 and beta emitting particulate emissions to atmosphere since the third quarter of 2022, although emissions remain well below permit limits. Their investigation identified an error in the use of a spreadsheet used to calculate discharges and concluded this led to the activity of beta emitting particulate discharges being overreported for several months. We have received a copy of their report into the cause of the error and have subsequently undertaken an inspection of their procedures for managing and reporting gaseous emissions. Nuclear Restoration Services has implemented an improvement programme to address these errors arising in future discharge reporting.

Enforcement

Customer service line	03708 506 506	Floodline	03459 88 11 88
Incident hotline	0800 80 70 60		

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

For information: New nuclear power stations

Public consultation: Regulation of solid radioactive waste disposal facilities - proposed guidance

The Environment Agency, NRW and NIEA are consulting on proposals to update the guidance on how we regulate near surface and geological disposal facilities. The draft guidance documents explain what an operator must show us to obtain an environmental permit or permits for such a radioactive waste disposal facility. The draft guidance we are consulting on consists of:

- Disposal facilities for solid radioactive waste: guidance on the requirements for authorisation (GRA)
- Guidance on staged regulation

The consultation on the draft GRA applies to England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. There will be a separate consultation on a version of the GRA for Scotland.

The consultation on our staged regulation guidance is for England only.

We held an online consultation event for anyone with an interest or question about the documents in January.

There's a public summary available on both links below (HTML on gov and ODT on Cit space).

The consultation closes on 28 February 2025.

GOV.UK [Regulation of solid radioactive waste disposal facilities: proposed guidance - GOV.UK](#)

Consultation response page [Guidance on the requirements for authorisation and staged regulation for the disposal of solid radioactive waste - Environment Agency - Citizen Space](#)

Radioactivity in food and the environment report

Customer service line 03708 506 506 **Floodline** 03459 88 11 88
Incident hotline 0800 80 70 60

We published our annual report in November 2024 on GOV.UK

[Radioactivity in food and the environment \(RIFE\) report - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/123456/rife-report-2024.pdf)

This report gives a detailed assessment of radioactivity in food and the environment and the public's exposure to radiation during a specific year. It shows that the public's exposure to permitted discharges and direct radiation near nuclear and non-nuclear sites is low and within dose limits.

The report brings together the nationwide monitoring programmes of the UK's food standard agencies and environment agencies. This monitoring is independent of, and is also used as a check on, the monitoring carried out by site operators.

This is now the second year we've published the whole report as a HTML document with associated ODS files. We no longer issue a PDF or print copy. Previous reports are on the [National Archives website](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/)

Main messages

- Overall, between 2022 and 2023 there were no significant changes to the radioactivity measured in food and the environment.
- The dose received by the public near to nuclear licensed sites and industrial and landfill sites in the UK is low and again well within legal limits.
- Food remains safe and the public's exposure to artificial radiation is within legal limits.
- 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.
- Around 10,000 analyses and dose rate measurements were completed in 2023.
- The data from our monitoring programme in this report demonstrates that radioactivity in food and the environment is safe.

Geological disposal: scrutiny of Nuclear Waste Services' work - annual reports

We published our annual report on GOV.UK in October 2024.

[Geological disposal: scrutiny of Nuclear Waste Services' work - annual reports - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/123457/geological-disposal-scrutiny-annual-reports-2024.pdf)

Through our joint scrutiny work, the Environment Agency and the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) provide regulatory advice to Nuclear Waste Services about implementing geological disposal.

These annual reports explain what we examined through our scrutiny work and the main comments provided to Nuclear Waste Services. They also highlight areas where Nuclear Waste Services needs to improve.

The Environment Agency and ONR will make sure that any future geological disposal facility meets our high standards for environmental protection, safety, security, radioactive waste transportation and safeguards.

Assessing new nuclear power station designs – Have your say

Generic Design Assessment (GDA) is an open and transparent process. A nuclear power station design company going through GDA must set up a website to:

- publish information about the design
- invite the public to ask questions and make comments

The design company must respond to any comments or questions they receive. The regulators will see the comments and questions and the responses provided. We can also use this information to help inform our assessment work.

The Environment Agency has:

- completed step 2 and started step 3 of the [Generic Design Assessment](#) on Rolls-Royce SMR Limited's 470MWe small modular reactor on 30 July 2024. The [public comments process](#) for this GDA opened at the start of Step 2 and you can make a comment through the company website.
- completed step 1 and started step 2 of the [Generic Design Assessment](#) on Holtec International's small modular reactor SMR-300 on 1 August 2024. The [public comments process](#) for this GDA opened at the start of Step 2 and you can make a comment through the company website.
- completed step 1 and started step 2 of the [Generic Design Assessment](#) on GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy's BWRX-300 small modular reactor on 12 December 2024. [GDA Step 1 of the GE-Hitachi SMR: statement of findings - GOV.UK](#) The [public comments process](#) for this GDA opened at the start of Step 2 and you can make a comment through the company website.

Learn more about assessing new reactor designs [New nuclear power stations: assessing reactor designs - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-nuclear-power-stations-assessing-reactor-designs)

Read our blog [Ensuring nuclear reactor designs meet high standards of environmental protection – Creating a better place \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://blog.gov.uk/ensuring-nuclear-reactor-designs-meet-high-standards-of-environmental-protection-creating-a-better-place)

Updated guidance: Regulatory expectations for successful land quality management at nuclear licensed sites

The environment agencies and the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) have [published updated guidance](#) that sets out our high-level regulatory expectations for the prevention and management of radioactive and non-radioactive contamination of the ground and water on nuclear licensed sites.

It updates joint guidance issued in 2014, reflecting how some land quality issues can also now be covered through the Site Wide Environmental Safety Cases and Waste Management Plans created under our guidance on “Management of radioactive waste from decommissioning of nuclear sites: Guidance on Requirements for Release from Radioactive Substances Regulation” (the GRR).

The guidance highlights the five key principles that we expect operators / licensees to consider when preventing and managing land and water contamination, namely:

1. establish strategies and plans for land quality management
2. prevent new contamination of land or the water environment
3. understand the land quality and contamination characteristics of the site
4. manage land quality to mitigate safety and environmental risks
5. work with stakeholders and other interested parties

The guidance describes our shared and complementary interests in land quality matters, explains how we expect climate change and sustainability to be taken into account and provides a reference list of further reading.

[Land quality management | Office for Nuclear Regulation](#)

We’ve published the first Chief Regulator’s report. It summarises the performance of the businesses and activities regulated by the Environment Agency in England in 2023-24. It outlines key outcomes of our regulation, providing assurance and transparency across our wide regulatory remit, and it sets out the aims and ambitions of our Chief Regulator, Dr Jo Nettleton.

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The report covers our work regulating the nuclear industry and radioactive substances during 2023-24.

[Environment Agency Chief Regulator's report 2023-24 - GOV.UK](#)

Follow our Environment Agency Linked in page for news and information about regulating radioactive substances

<https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/regulating-radioactive-substances>

All our open consultations will appear on this webpage [Nuclear consultations - Environment Agency - Citizen Space \(environment-agency.gov.uk\)](#)

Tracy Braithwaite is the Environment Agency's lead nuclear regulator for the Berkeley site supported by Mirriam Allardice. Tracy and Mirriam are part of the national Nuclear Regulation Group based at the Environment Agency's Wallingford office in Oxfordshire.

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

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

Address: Environment Agency, Red Kite House, Howbery Park, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 8BD

Email: tracy.braithwaite@environment-agency.gov.uk
Miriam.Allardice1@environment-agency.gov.uk

Environment Agency Report

Oldbury Site Stakeholder Group

May 2025

This report covers our regulation of Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) at Oldbury Site, and related issues, from January 2025 to April 2025.

Radioactive substances regulation

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

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

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

We issued our site environment review and engagement plan for Oldbury to NRS in April.

Permitting

NRS holds a radioactive substances activity permit (permit number EPR/GB3435DG) under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) at the Oldbury site. We set additional requirements in Oldbury site's CEAR (Compilation of EA Requirements). We varied the CEAR in December 2024 to remove the requirement that Oldbury site prepare an annual bulk sample and have this sample analysed for 26 radionuclides for the purposes of Pollution Inventory reporting. Starting from January 2025 Oldbury will report an estimate for the year based on volumetric effluent discharges and average activity concentrations of the radionuclides other than tritium and caesium-137 measured from 2021 to 2024. The activity of tritium and caesium-137 discharged will continue be measured. This is consistent with our guidance and reflects the decrease in the volume and impact of active liquid effluent discharges since Oldbury ceased generation in 2012.

Compliance activities

We check compliance with the permit by making periodic inspections at Oldbury. We issue RASCARs for inspections to summarise the findings of the inspection. This includes any identified non-compliances, actions, recommendations and observations of good practice.

We visited Oldbury site in February and met with members of the environment team and the engineering team to review asset management arrangements at Oldbury, to obtain information on the status of assets that have a potentially significant environmental impact and to review asset management plans against decommissioning plans.

Before the inspection the site supplied us with relevant company standards and departmental instructions for review. On the day of the inspection, we met with the environment team and engineering team to discuss how they identify assets, assess asset

condition, develop and apply asset care plans and maintain asset records. We also reviewed asset management resources, including information systems and staffing, and contingency planning.

We visited areas of the site outside the RCA (Radioactivity Controlled Area). We noted that there are several assets in poor condition at Oldbury. However, we concluded that NRS has satisfactory plans in place to repair or demolish these assets in the medium term and that no permit conditions were breached. We recommended that minor changes be made to departmental instructions and that it would be beneficial to record more information on the reasons why engineers allocated a particular risk of failure score to an asset.

A secondary purpose of the visit was to view sampling procedures at the monitoring points for surface water discharges and the sewage treatment plant (STP) treated effluent outlet. There is a low risk that these discharges might be contaminated with radioactive substances or hydrocarbons, and they are sampled quarterly intervals by NRS staff for reassurance purposes. We observed process of sampling and initial sample screening using oil detection strips. We suggested that NRS add a step to their sampling checklist to ensure no cross contamination of samples occurs.

We provided comments on an engineering note evaluating a proposal to switch off the ponds ventilation plant for a trial period and observe the impact on radioactivity levels within the ponds building and emissions from the building. The trial started in April. NRS will monitor radioactivity levels within the ponds building, assess the impact of emissions and then produce a report recommending either to revert to forced ventilation or to continue passive ventilation. The trial will last for about twelve months. We expect NRS to produce an interim report in three months' time and will report on the report's findings to the SSG.

We also reviewed weekly NRS reports of operational events and incidents that have occurred on site. We followed up on these where appropriate. There were no reported events that breached permit conditions in the period January to April 2025.

We had fortnightly 'keep in touch' meetings with the Head of Radiological Protection and Environment. At these meetings we review operational events and projects underway at Oldbury to ensure we keep sight of any emerging issues at the site.

We attended a quarterly regulatory interface meeting with Office for Nuclear Regulation and NRS. This meeting covers Oldbury, Berkeley and Hinkley Point A sites. At these meetings, NRS presents programme updates and on performance indicators for each site and we have the opportunity to ask questions on our areas of interest, such as environmental protection, sustainability, waste management and asset management.

Environmental impact

The site environmental permit requires the operator to monitor and assess the impact of discharges on the environment. NRS submits an environmental monitoring programme report to us on a quarterly basis.

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

The Environment Agencies and Food Standards Agency carry out independent environmental monitoring around nuclear sites. These monitoring programmes support our regulatory function and provide reassurance that public radiation exposures are low and within legal limits. The results of this work are published annually and the latest report, *Radioactivity in Food and the Environment 2023 (RIFE 29)*, was published on the GOV.UK website in November 2024.

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

Overall, between 2022 and 2023 there were no significant changes to the radioactivity measured in food and the environment.

The dose received by the public near to nuclear licensed sites and industrial and landfill sites in the UK is low and again well within legal limits. In 2023, the attributed total dose to the representative person from all pathways and sources of radiation from the Oldbury and Berkeley sites combined was 0.005 millisieverts. This is the same as in 2022. (The total dose in 2022 was initially reported as 0.006 millisieverts but this was corrected to 0.005 millisieverts in the errata to RIFE 28). This dose is less than 1% of the UK National dose limit of 1 millisievert. (A dose of 0.041 millisieverts was calculated for houseboat dwellers. However, this was not considered to be representative and was not included in the total dose.)

Further information, including the most recent breakdown of the average individual dose to the UK population by source of exposure, is available on the UKHSA website at <https://www.ukhsa-protectionservices.org.uk/radiationandyou/>

Discharges from site

The site's environmental permit requires NRS to use best available techniques (BAT) to minimise the generation of radioactive waste and minimise any permitted releases into the environment. Disposal of solid, liquid or gaseous wastes can only be made via permitted routes or by transfer to permitted sites. Limits are set in the permit to control the maximum level of radioactivity that can be discharged to the environment as gaseous or liquid discharges over a rolling 12-month period. NRS submits monthly reports to us of the liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment from Oldbury site. We assess these against the requirements of the permit and record our findings in a RASCAR once per quarter.

Both liquid and gaseous discharges from Oldbury continue to be at levels well within permitted limits. Discharges of all measured gaseous and liquid radionuclides reported in the period since the last SSG meeting remained below 1% of their relevant annual limits. Discharges from Oldbury may fluctuate in future as the decommissioning programme evolves.

Enforcement

We have not taken any enforcement action in the period since the last SSG meeting.

We postponed our action to check records of liquid effluent discharges. We now intend to do this during a site visit planned on 29 May 2025.

Additional Items (for information)

New nuclear power stations

The Environment Agency, Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and Natural Resources Wales are working together to make sure that any new nuclear power stations built in the UK meet high standards for safety, security, environmental protection and waste management.

The Environment Agency and ONR use a process called Generic Design Assessment (GDA) to scrutinise new nuclear power stations at an early stage. This is before a developer has formed detailed proposals for building at a specific site or applied for licences or permits. This means that the regulators can identify potential design or technical concerns early on and ask the designer to resolve them. GDA is an open and transparent process. A nuclear power station design company going through GDA must set up a website to:

- publish information about the design
- invite the public to ask questions and make comments

The design company must respond to any comments or questions they receive. The regulators will see the comments and questions and the responses provided. They can also use this information to help inform their assessment work.

The Environment Agency has:

- completed step 2 and started step 3 of the Generic Design Assessment on Rolls-Royce SMR Limited's 470MWe small modular reactor on 30 July 2024 [GDA Step 2 of the Rolls-Royce SMR: fundamental assessment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). The public comments process for this GDA opened at the start of Step 2 and you can make a comment through the company website. [Home | Rolls-Royce SMR - Generic Design Assessment \(rolls-royce-smr.com\)](#)
- completed step 1 and started step 2 of the Generic Design Assessment on Holtec International's small modular reactor SMR-300 on 1 August 2024 [GDA Step 1 of the Holtec SMR: statement of findings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). The public comments process for this GDA opened at the start of Step 2 and you can make a comment through the company website. [Holtec Britain Generic Design Assessment](#)
- completed step 1 and started step 2 of the Generic Design Assessment on GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy's BWRX-300 small modular reactor on 12 December 2024. [GDA Step 1 of the GE-Hitachi SMR: statement of findings - GOV.UK](#) The public comments process for this GDA opened at the start of Step 2 and you can make a comment through the company website [GE Hitachi BWRX-300 SMR: UK-GDA](#)

Learn more about assessing new reactor designs [New nuclear power stations: assessing reactor designs - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Geological disposal: scrutiny of Nuclear Waste Services' work - annual reports

Our annual report was published on GOV.UK in October 2024.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/geological-disposal-scrutiny-of-rwms-work-annual-reports>)

Through our joint scrutiny work, the Environment Agency and the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) provide regulatory advice to Nuclear Waste Services about implementing geological disposal.

These annual reports explain what we examined through our scrutiny work and the main comments provided to Nuclear Waste Services. They also highlight areas where Nuclear Waste Services needs to improve.

The Environment Agency and ONR will make sure that any future geological disposal facility meets our high standards for environmental protection, safety, security, radioactive waste transportation and safeguards.

Updated guidance: Regulatory expectations for successful land quality management at nuclear licensed sites

The environment agencies and the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) [have published updated guidance](#) that sets out our high-level regulatory expectations for the prevention and management of radioactive and non-radioactive contamination of the ground and water on nuclear licensed sites.

It updates joint guidance issued in 2014, reflecting how some land quality issues can also now be covered through the Site Wide Environmental Safety Cases and Waste Management Plans created under our guidance on “Management of radioactive waste from decommissioning of nuclear sites: Guidance on Requirements for Release from Radioactive Substances Regulation” (the GRR).

The guidance highlights the five key principles that we expect operators / licensees to consider when preventing and managing land and water contamination, namely:

1. establish strategies and plans for land quality management
2. prevent new contamination of land or the water environment
3. understand the land quality and contamination characteristics of the site
4. manage land quality to mitigate safety and environmental risks
5. work with stakeholders and other interested parties

The guidance describes our shared and complementary interests in land quality matters, explains how we expect climate change and sustainability to be taken into account and provides a reference list of further reading

Public Register

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

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

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

WTenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Address: Environment Agency, Red Kite House, Howbery Park, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 8BD

Email: peter.reynolds@environment-agency.gov.uk

Overview of environmental regulation of Oldbury site, January to April 2025

- EA engagement plan for Oldbury in 2025/6 issued to NRS
- Asset management inspection completed in February 2025
- Aqueous and gaseous discharges from Oldbury site remain low

EA priorities in 2025/6

- Gaseous discharge management inspection
- Liquid effluent management inspection
- Review site life-time decommissioning planning
- Review higher activity waste management
- Review of the Oldbury site-wide environmental safety case (SWESC) and the site's waste management plan



UPDATE FOR OLDBURY & BERKELEY SSG
28/05/2025

UPDATE

- Planning application made for a site office and compound
- Ongoing site activity – ecological surveying and site characterisation
- Technology selection process nearing conclusion
- Upcoming Government Spending Review announcement