



Winfrith Site Stakeholder Group

Date: Tuesday, 13th May 2025
Time: Refreshments 13:45hrs, meeting starts 14:00hrs
Location: Winfrith Village Hall, Winfrith Newburgh, Dorchester DT2 8LR

AGENDA

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Welcome and Introduction (Vice-chair) | Nic Johnson (10) |
| 2. | NRS Winfrith Site Report – Site Director | William Matheson (15) |
| 3. | Update on Dragon Decommissioning Work | Andy Philps (10) |
| 4. | Nuclear Decommissioning Authority | Alastair Findlay (10) |
| 5. | NRS Corporate Update | Bill Hamilton (10) |
| 6. | Regulators: | |
| | (a) Office for Nuclear Regulations (ONR) | Graham Simpson
(not in attendance) |
| | (b) Environment Agency (EA) | Alistair Wintle,
Rebecca Cleverley &
James Heavingham(10) |
| 7. | Project Update – Update on end state proposals and applications | Elly Joyce (15) |
| 8. | Any Other Business | Nic Johnson (10) |

Chairman:	Barry Quinn
Communications Lead:	Bethany Sear
Email:	bethany.sear@nrservices.uk
Secretariat:	Tonya Hughes
Date of issue:	Email: winfrith.ssg@nrservices.uk 25/03/2025

**WINFRITH SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)****Tuesday 13 November 2024****Winfrith Village Hall****Meeting reference SG34**

Attendees:		
Barry Quinn		SSG Chair and representative of East Stoke Parish Council
Nic Johnson		Vice Chair and representative of Winfrith Parish Council
Gary Reid		NRS – Harwell & Winfrith Site Director
Will Matheson		NRS - Regional EHSS&Q Manager
Emma Burwood		NRS - Winfrith and Harwell Communications Lead
Debbie Paterson		NRS - Minutes
Bethany Sear		NRS – Harwell & Winfrith Site Communications
Alastair Findlay		NDA – Head of Regional Affairs
Andrew Forrest		NRS – Chief Technical Officer
Elly Joyce		NRS – Site End State Manager Harwell & Winfrith
Steve Smith		Wool Parish Council
Alex Clothier		Dorset Council
David Carson		Amentum
Alister Wintle		Environment Agency (EA)
Sally Thompson		Environment Agency (EA)
Sarah Jackson		West Lulworth Parish Council
Ian Jackson		Tradebe
Paul Hayes		Resident
Rob Bell - ?		Resident
John Yonwin		Resident
Vincent Helmut		

Apologies for absence – Rob Coan (NRS), Bill Hamilton (NRS), Vincent Malachanne (ONR), Eren Balkir (DC), Eleanor Godesar (DC), Luke Johns (Dorset Wildlife Trust), Mike Baker (West Purbeck Dorset Councillor), Alex Clothier (DC), Sarah Jackson (Lulworth DC)

1. Welcome and Introduction – Barry Quinn

Barry Quinn welcomed attendees to the meeting.

- The new Harwell & Winfrith Site Director, Gary Reid, who had taken over from Paul Brennan and Bethany Sear, who will replace Emma Burwood as Harwell & Winfrith Site Communications, were welcomed to the meeting.
- In preparation for today's meeting, the event was publicised on local community Facebook pages to encourage representatives to attend.
- The SSG Chair/Deputy Chair continue to receive regular updates both in person and via Teams.

OFFICIAL

- The impact on funding following the change in government and the recent budget was not yet known.
- Due to personal commitments the SSG Chair was unable to attend the Chairs meeting in Manchester in July.
- The SSG Chair attended the annual NDA summit in Manchester in September 2024. Feedback from the meeting was that there were too many breakout sessions relevant to the Winfrith site to be able to join them all. Suitability of Manchester as a venue was also questioned due to the limited travel options available from Dorset.
- The SSG Chair had made contact with Elizabeth Norton, NDA Heritage Officer at the NDA summit to discuss the Heritage Strategy, draft Collection Policy and the possibility of obtaining a Blue Paque to mark the contribution of the Winfrith site to nuclear energy.

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

A copy of an organogram displaying the relationships between Contractors, Regulators and areas of responsibility/ownership requested at the previous meeting had been produced. (copy attached).

2. Winfrith Site Report – Gary Reid

Gary Reid introduced himself to the meeting. Updates were given on the following:

Health, Safety, Security, Environment & Quality Safety

- Finger injury sustained by a steel erection subcontractor. Principal causal factor being lack of situational awareness. Work around cultural development, supervision, signage and physiological safety continues.
- Slightly elevated tritium levels had been detected in the River Win.
- No issues regarding on-site safety raised via the Health and Safety Committee (HESAC).
- Atmospheric and liquid effluent discharges from site remain well within permitted limits.

Q1: What is tritium used for?

A1: Tritium has been used commercially for its luminous qualities in the manufacture of items such as telephone dials, road/motorway signage and in heavy water reactor operations. It has a lifespan of approximately 13 years.

Regulatory Topics

- The Environment Agency (EA) CEO and NRS CEO had visited site on 31 October 2024 to discuss the principles and resources around delivering End State.
- Environment Agency (EA) inspections covering atmospheric and liquid discharges. No non compliances noted.

Site Operations - Current Work Programmes

SGHWR

- Opened in 1967. Operations ceased in 1990.
- Headline project for the NDA.
- Entered into a period of exciting and innovative decommissioning work including a robotics demonstration facility for core cutting activities.

Mini-MILWEP

- Intermediate Low Level Waste (ILW) produced is packaged into concrete boxes and cemented ready for transport to Harwell for future disposal.

DRAGON

- A high pressure / high temperature reactor which ceased operations in 1978.
- Dragon reactor laser core cutting had commenced.

Plant & Structures (P&S)

- Sea Pipeline. Currently preparing the business case to obtain funding for the next phase of the project.
- Demolition of the A42/44 old fire station and telephone exchange in progress.
- A55 Delay tanks demolished and pump house decommissioned.

Other

- Blacknoll Reservoir pre-planning application for demolition had gone through process. Full planning application scheduled for 2026.
- Recruitment remains challenging in the nuclear industry.
- Apprenticeship programmes had been re-invigorated.

Sustainability

- Upgrade to lighting in corridors, meeting rooms and offices around site reducing power consumption.
- Quarterly litter picks to include Gatemoor Road and surrounding areas continue to be a success.
- Nature walks hosted by staff member scheduled throughout 2024.

Magnox Socio-economic Funding Support 2022-2023

Winfrith funded projects 2024/2025 to date as follows:

- Good neighbour: £820
- Wessex FC (Girls Team) - £506 – Football Kits for 11 players.
- Tumbledown Community Growing - £85,000.
- Dorset Wildlife Trust - £26,910 over 3 years.

For further information please go to:

[NRS working with our communities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/nuclear-regulator/about-us/working-with-our-communities)

Q2: When would the demolition of the A42/44 fire station complete?

A2: Demolition is expected to complete by the end of the financial year (April 2025).

Q3: What is the plan for the Blacknoll Reservoir?

A3: The concrete hatches would be sympathetically removed so they are no longer visible. The planning application outlines the methodology which safeguards wildlife and local habitats.

3. NDA Report – Alastair Findlay

- The new Secretary of State had advised the priorities for 2030.
- Rt Hon Lord Hunt OBE, Minister of State for Energy and Net Zero had visited Sellafield in August 2024.
- New Chair of Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) had been appointed.
- New NDA Board member had been appointed.
- Strategy V is due to be published in March 2026. The document outlines the high level approach for delivering the NDA mission.

The NDA Report had been issued prior the meeting and can be found by clicking on the link. [Site Stakeholder Groups \(magnoxstakeholdergroups.com\)](https://www.magnoxstakeholdergroups.com)

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

The ONR Report had been issued prior the meeting and can be found by clicking on the link. [Site Stakeholder Groups \(magnoxstakeholdergroups.com\)](https://www.magnoxstakeholdergroups.com)

No significant issues reported.

b) Environment Agency (EA) – Alister Wintle

- An Aqueous Waste Arisings inspection was completed in June 2024. No permitted non compliances noted.
- A Gaseous Waste Emissions Process inspection was completed in September 2024. Report pending.
- Slightly elevated Tritium levels had been found in the River Win above the expected historic trend but within permit levels. Additional sampling undertaken.
- Slight increase in dose 0.028 to 0.054 mSv. Fluctuations are dependent on site activities. The increase from radiation shine is attributed to operational activities such as the removal for disposal of the TRS drums in 2023 which may account for the increase. Levels are expected to decrease in 2025.
- 'Radioactivity in Food and the Environment 2022' is published on the GOV.UK website. All sites are below the legal limit. Further information can be found <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radioactivity-in-food-and-the-environment-rife-reports>

The EA Report had been issued prior to the meeting and can be found by clicking on the link [Site Stakeholder Groups \(magnoxstakeholdergroups.com\)](https://www.magnoxstakeholdergroups.com)

Q4: What is Radiation shine and how far does it travel?

A4: Radiation shine is gamma radiation. An example of this is the radiation received during a medical x-ray. Boundary fences are regularly monitored and there is no dose uptake.

5. Project Update – Winfrith End State – Updates and Applications – Elly Joyce

A presentation was delivered which provided an update, stages and timeline associated with the submission of the various applications.

Applications are being made to support the implementation of end state include:

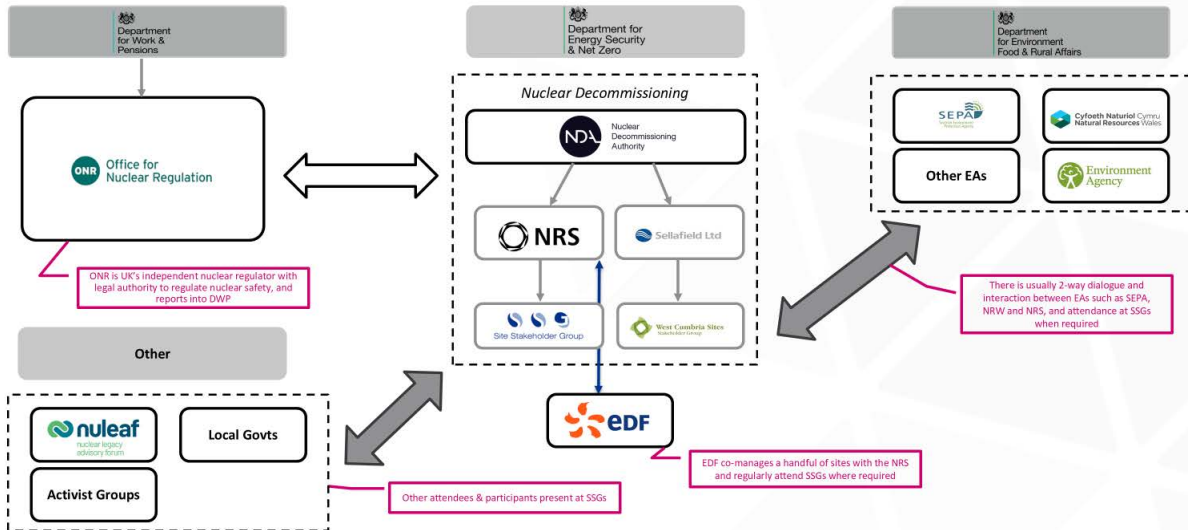
- Two environmental permits to allow waste disposals.
- Planning application for restoring the site to heathland with public access, including waste disposals.
- Permit Application under the Environment Agencies Guidance on Requirements for Release from Radioactive Substances Regulation (known as GRR).
- Permit Application Recovery of wastes. Application to recover non-radioactive demolition wastes for the purpose of backfilling voids at SGHWR and Dragon.

6. Any Other Business – Barry Quinn

Barry Quinn expressed thanks to Emma Burwood for her support during his previous tenure as SSG Vice Chair and as SSG Chair, and wished her well in her new role. He looked forward to working with Bethany in the future.

Date of Next Meeting – 13 May 2025 (to be confirmed)

4.4 Annex IV | Key stakeholders at SSGs





NDA Update for Winfrith SSG

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 ESNZ committee on the 18th December and answered questions on a wide variety of subjects connected to the NDAs 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 Spending Review has given the NDA a settlement for 2025-26 which is just over £4 bn. The NDA is now in discussion with government for the next 3 years of funding and we should have the final figures by summer 2025.

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.
- On 5th March, the NDA published our latest **stakeholder survey**. The findings will help shape our future strategy and plans.
- The NDA has been commended on its commitment to transparency following a visit to West Cumbria by the [NDA NGO forum](#). Forum representatives from a range of NGOs were shown around Sellafield site and the Low Level Waste Repository.



- 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 April, 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

ONR site report

Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd – Winfrith

ONR site report

Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd - Winfrith

Report for period: 1 July – 31 December 2024

Authored by: Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: Delivery Lead, DFW Subdivision

Issue: 2

Published: April 2025

Record reference: 2025/15723

Foreword

This report is issued as part of our 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 our website: www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/lcsvg-reports.

Our site inspectors 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 us via email at contact@onr.gov.uk.

Contents

1.

Inspections

4

2.

Routine matters

4

3.

Non-routine matters.....

6

4.

Regulatory activity

7

5.

News from ONR

8

6.

Contacts

8

References.....

9

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:

- 17 July 2024
- 4 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 Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd Winfrith site covered the following:

- Asset and Ageing Management;
- Security emergency arrangements and preparedness.

Members of the public who would like further information on our inspection activities during the reporting period can view site inspection records on our website:

www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/inspection-records.

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 held regular meetings with the NRS Ltd Winfrith leadership team representatives to maintain situational awareness of matters related to nuclear safety. No significant issues were highlighted by ONR.

3. Non-routine matters

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. Our 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

We may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, we issue regulatory documents, which either permit an activity or require some form of action to be taken. These are usually collectively termed licence instruments but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an enforcement notice.

- No licence instruments, enforcement notices or enforcement letters were issued during this period.

Reports detailing the above regulatory decisions can be found on our website: www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/project-assessment-reports.

5. News from ONR

For the latest updates and information on our work, please subscribe to our regular email newsletter, ONR News, at www.onr.org.uk/news/newsletter.

6. Contacts

Office for Nuclear Regulation
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Merseyside
L20 7HS
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References

There are no sources in the current document.

Environment Agency report

Winfrith Site Stakeholder Group

May 2025

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 November 2024.

Radioactive substances regulation

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

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

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

Permitting

Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) Winfrith hold 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 others cover the discharge of non-radiological aqueous effluent via the Winfrith Sea Pipeline (the 'non-nuclear' EPR water discharge permit).

Winfrith Permit Variation update

In December 2024, Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) submitted an application to vary its Radioactive Substances Regulation permit. The variation application has been made to enable the partial infilling of the below ground voids of the Steam Generating Heavy Water Reactor and Dragon Reactor at the Winfrith Site with low-level radioactive waste from on-site demolition operations. A separate Deposit for Recovery permit application (EPR/CP3329LD) has also been made to cover the use for infilling of non-radiological and non-hazardous site derived construction and demolition waste.

We have commenced an initial consultation to allow members of the public and all other stakeholders to review NRS's proposal and make comments. We will take all of the comments received into consideration as we're making our decision.

The consultation begins on 7 May 2025 and will run for 12 weeks until 1 August 2025. The proposal for the RSR permit variation may be viewed online at: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/dt2-8wg-nuclear-restoration-services-limited-epr-p>

If you have any comments send these by **1 August 2025**. Comments can be made:

- Online via the Citizen Space link: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/dt2-8wg-nuclear-restoration-services-limited-epr-p>
- by email: nuclear@environment-agency.gov.uk

Please quote the application number PB3898DC/V004 in any correspondence.

For advice about how to make a representation or if you are unable to make a representation via e-mail, please call 03708 506 506.

The application for the non-radioactive waste deposit for recovery permit associated with this application can be viewed and commented online here: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/dt2-8wg-nuclear-restoration-services-limited-a001>

The Environment Agency will normally put any comments it receives on the public register. This includes your name but not your personal contact details. Please tell us if you do not want your response to be public.

The privacy notice for permit applicants/operators can be viewed here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/environmental-permits-privacy-notice>

We intend to undertake a further consultation to allow members of the public to comment on our draft decision. This will likely be sometime next year, and we will keep the SSG informed of our progress.

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 November 2024 SSG report

In September 2024 we completed an inspection of the Gaseous Waste Emissions process at Winfrith. This was a planned inspection of Winfrith's gaseous discharge arrangements. The inspection was based on the examination of the arrangements supporting the requirements for gaseous waste collection, the management and maintenance of plant, the monitoring of gaseous discharges from the site, including the location of and processes for sample collection and analysis. The inspection also included a site walkover to relevant locations. No non-compliances were identified.

In January 2025 we completed a joint inspection of Harwell and Winfrith's Environmental Culture and Leadership. The purpose of this inspection was to assess how the Harwell and Winfrith leadership team builds environmental and sustainability considerations into its decision-making processes, and how it drives environmental performance by developing the organisation's culture at all levels of operation. No non-compliances were identified.

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.

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.

NRS Winfrith informed the Environment Agency in November 2024 that an event had been raised for a spreadsheet error leading to under reporting of atmospheric discharges. An error had been identified in the Atmospheric Tritium excel worksheet for the Steam Generating Heavy Water Reactor (SGHWR). This produced an incorrect calculation for the Tritium Discharges from SGHWR. A review of the previous spreadsheets indicated that the error started in the June 2023 spreadsheet. Spreadsheets before this date did not contain the error. The error impacted data submitted for July 2023 to June 2024. NRS informed the Environment Agency that all the incorrect spreadsheets have been corrected and updated. The Environment Agency are investigating this event. Although this is a potential non-compliance, we do not consider this to represent a significant risk to people or the wider environment. We will report on the outcome of our investigation at the next SSG meeting.

With the exception of the data relating to the atmospheric discharges from SGHWR reported above, the Gaseous discharges also remain compliant and well below permitted limits. Although these discharges remain low, it is noted that the relative level of these gaseous discharges may fluctuate as the decommissioning programmes evolve.

Environmental impact

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

Environmental Monitoring Returns continue to indicate elevated levels of Tritium in the River Win. Winfrith have implemented an increased frequency of sampling for Tritium in the Win Ditch and are investigating potential sources. To date a cross reference with other environmental monitoring data does not indicate a clear source of Tritium that would contribute to the increased levels detected in the River Win. NRS are working with the Environment Agency and other relevant stakeholders to understand the source and an investigation continues. The levels of Tritium whilst elevated, are below the permitted levels and the Generalised Derived Limit.

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

The Environment Agencies and Food Standards Agency also conduct independent environmental monitoring around nuclear sites. These monitoring programmes support our

regulatory function and provide reassurance that public radiation exposures are within legal limits. The results of this work are published annually and the latest report, "Radioactivity in Food and the Environment 2023" (RIFE 29), is published on the GOV.UK website.

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

This current (29th edition) contains information on radiation exposures (dose) to the public and radioactivity levels in the environment in 2023, 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 2023 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 2023 period, data from RIFE 29 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 0.054 mSv (an increase from 0.028mSv in 2022). For the Winfrith site, the representative person in 2023 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 from site operational activities rather than discharges and emissions. Within the overall estimates for total dose, exposures associated with the permitted aqueous or gaseous discharges from the site, remain a very small component of the total dose. The increase in total dose has been attributed to decommissioning work undertaken in 2023, 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

Waste shipments dispatched with incorrect radionuclide inventory:

In January Winfrith informed the Environment Agency of an internal review that identified a consignment of drums removed from site in October 2024 did not have a complete radionuclide fingerprint. Two radionuclides were not reported in the inventory although these only accounted for less than 0.1% of the total activity. There is no direct environmental impact from this error. The drums were suitably packaged, transported and suitable for disposal at the receiving site. The error has been identified as a potential breach of permit. Once Winfrith have concluded their own internal investigation the Environment Agency will review and determine any appropriate actions required. We will report on the outcome of our investigation at the next SSG meeting.

Unauthorised removal of controlled waste (non-radioactive):

In February 2025 Winfrith informed the Environment Agency, that a contractor removed a metal pipe from site, operating outside of the Winfrith waste management requirements and their own company's policies. The pipe is controlled waste (non-radioactive) and was taken to a permitted waste site for treatment. There is no environmental impact. Winfrith have strict waste management policies and procedures and train contractors in their requirements. These policies and procedures incorporate legislative requirements for managing waste, such as

characterisation and Duty of Care. We are satisfied that the waste removed was controlled waste and not radioactive.

Controlled waste is not directly regulated by the RSR Environmental Permit, but the Environment Agency regulate controlled waste. Colleagues in the Wessex Area visited the permitted site that received the waste. The permitted site can receive and treat the metal pipe appropriately. Recent documentation for previous controlled wastes removed from Winfrith were reviewed and no Duty of Care non-compliances were identified.

Winfrith have reviewed their waste management policies and procedures following the event. Lessons learned have been shared with the contractor involved and they have been advised to improve their procedures. No further action will be taken by the Environment Agency.

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.

Staff Changes

As part of our routine transfer of regulators across Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) sites, Alister Wintle will be replaced by Rebecca Cleverley as of April 2025. Rebecca was previously the site regulator for NRS Harwell. She has experience of the Winfrith and Harwell leadership team and is well placed to take the regulation forward.

James Heavingham will be leading the Winfrith permit variation and deposit for recovery application process as the Permit Project Manager. Progress on the permit variation and applications will be provided at future SSGs.

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>

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 Rebecca Cleverley. Rebecca 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 Rebecca.

Contact details.

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