



Joint Berkeley/Oldbury Site Stakeholder Group

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

Wednesday, 10 September 2025

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

AGENDA

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 13.00 | 1. Welcome
Oldbury Chair – Matthew Riddle |
| 13.05 | 2. Apologies for absence |
| 13.10 | 3. Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 28 May 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accuracy• Matters arising• Planning application by GBN (Site investigation) |
| 13.15 | 4. Site Director Reports
Oldbury – John Alderton (Site Director)
Berkeley – Emily Ciezerak on behalf of Mike Heaton (Site Director) |
| 13.45 | 5. NRS Update – James Craig |
| 13.55 | 6. ONR Reports – Paul Jenneson |
| 14.10 | 7. Environment Agency Reports
Oldbury – Tracy Braithwaite
Berkeley – Tracy Braithwaite |
| 14:25 | 8. NDA Update – Alastair Findlay
NDA Strategy 5 Consultation |
| 14:55 | 9. SSG Constitution |
| 15.25 | 10. AOB |

SSG Meetings 2026 dates: TBC

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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, 28 MAY 2025**

Attendance/Apologies list

Attendance

Members

John Stanton	Chair, Berkeley (Coopted member)
Cllr Steve Chandler JP	Vice Chair, Berkeley
Cllr Matthew Riddle	Chair, Oldbury
Cllr Chris Jennings	Vice Chair, Oldbury
Cllr Chris Bloor	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr John Crook	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr Chris Davies	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Maggie Dutton	Stroud District Council
Dylan Griffiths	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council representative
Cllr Hugh Johnson	Tytherington Parish Council
Cllr Valerie Williams	Alveston Parish Council

Operators and Officers

Tracy Braithwaite	Environment Agency
Peter Reynolds	Environment Agency
Caroline Richards	Environment Agency
Alastair Findlay	NDA
Sharon Fry	NRS
John Alderton	NRS
Mike Heaton	NRS
Stephen Bray	Great British Nuclear
Geoffrey Dore	Minute Taker

Members of the Public

Nicola Berry	Hill Parish Council
Gillian Ellis-King	Strategic Projects Manager, South Gloucestershire Council
Barbara French	STAND
Sue Haverley	STAND
Peter Hazelwood	Birdwatcher
Nic Pehkonen	Artist and EDF Contractor
Angela Presdee	Officer, Gloucestershire County Council
Peter Williams	Liverpool University

Apologies

Cllr Isaac Bamfield	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr Adrian Birch	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr Chris Davies	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr Kevin Evans	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council

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Janet Hellen
Dr Trevor Hellen
Paul Jenneson
Tony Mitchell
Elizabeth Norton
Angela Paine
Cllr Dominic Power
Brian Roberts
Jon Severs
Cllr Demelza Turner-Wilkes
Cllr Jeremy Warren
Geoff Wheeler

TAPP'D
Berkeley Research Group
ONR
Thornbury Town & District Residents Association
NDA
Friends of the Earth/Green Party
Chepstow Town Council
Thornbury Chamber of Commerce
Officer, South Gloucestershire Council
Stroud District Council
Aust Parish Council
Berkeley Research Group

1. WELCOME

The Chair (Cllr John Stanton) opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Angela Paine, Elizabeth Norton, Cllr Chris Davies of Stinchcombe Parish Council, Paul Jenneson, Tony Mitchell, Cllr Adrian Birch, Cllr Isaac Bamfield, Cllr Kevin Evans, Janet Hellen, Dr Trevor Hellen, Jon Severs, Cllr Dominic Power, Brian Roberts, Geoff Wheeler, Cllr Jeremy Warren and Cllr Demelza Turner-Wilkes.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 FEBRUARY 2025

A. Accuracy

There were no comments on accuracy. The minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting held on 5 February 2025.

B. Matters Arising

It was noted that the actions arising would be addressed within the site director reports and Tracy Braithwaite's report.

4. SITE DIRECTOR REPORTS

A. Mike Heaton – Site Director, Berkeley

Mike Heaton reported that NRS had undertaken a safety share for all sites, and the near miss events had only resulted in minor injuries. Berkeley's safety record remained exemplary.

Berkeley was currently utilising robotic systems to retrieve intermediate level waste (ILW) from its dry vaults, and the programme would likely run for a further eight years. The site was also developing methods to deal with containers within the vaults. Work was taking place in vaults 1 and 3, and the site was due to retrieve 35 tonnes of ILW during the year. Four low-level waste (LLW) shipments were planned for the year. The waste would be packaged into concrete boxes in anticipation for final disposal. 16 packages would be sent to the ISF waste store in 2025/26; three packages had been completed.

The project to remove waste stored in the blower house safe stores had been terminated. Work had commenced on the Berkeley safe store and waste handling area, and the site intended to use these facilities once it had closed the contract positions. Excess was being redeployed across the fleet, and work continued to address deteriorating assets.

The site had attended the careers fair at SGS College, and Springboard Opportunity Group had been selected as Berkeley's site charity. Berkeley had also participated in No Mow May.

Mike Heaton highlighted socio-economic funding. £1.1 million had been donated through the NRS sites during the previous year, and Berkeley had awarded £50,000 to the community hub solar panels. The site had also invested in local organisations, and a community roadshow had taken place in Berkeley and Oldbury.

Questions

Cllr Chris Jennings queried the funding for Berkeley for the previous year. Mike Heaton stated that Berkeley's funding for the current year amounted to approximately £30 million against £38 million for the previous year. Total funding for NRS for the previous year had equated to £540 million.

Cllr Matthew Riddle asked if near miss reporting was taking place. He also asked how the site would respond to these and how it encouraged near miss reporting. Mike Heaton stated that

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Berkeley had recorded 800 near miss reports the previous year, which had had little to no significance. The site would review all near misses at the end of the year to identify any trends. An individual whose near miss report was selected as the best of the month would receive a small reward.

John Alderton said Oldbury's strategy was similar to Berkeley's. It would review the information to identify any commonalities, as well as conduct training. Human performance training had been a major success for the previous year. The site would also conduct hazard perception training.

The Chair asked if training took place on lifting and handling materials. Mike Heaton responded that it did.

B. John Alderton – Site Director, Oldbury

John Alderton reported that the site had carried out a stand down of all staff. It had encountered a near miss event while offloading an electrical cabinet from a lorry, which had tipped and fallen onto the side of the road. Nobody had been in the fall zone. Having conducted a site stand down, Oldbury was working through the list of corrections.

The site had secured funding for most projects, including the turbine hall preparation works, ponds decommissioning and early FED retrievals. However, it had been unable to secure funding for the construction of the Advanced Vacuum Drying System (AVDS). Instead, it had received seed money to investigate building a simpler option on site.

Oldbury technical centre had been demolished. The equivalent of 18 tennis courts had been removed, totalling 1,951 tonnes of waste. No accidents had occurred.

The ponds team was performing decommissioning de-planting activities in the ponds filtration plant. Turbine hall de-cabling verification works were nearing completion. The final cuts of the 12 cables were planned for 2 June, and once this took place, the facility would be electrically isolated. This would allow the site to engage a contractor to de-plant and demolish the turbine hall complex. Contractors would likely be on site within 18 to 24 months.

The site was currently gathering information from its five waste vaults. The material would be used to determine the design of the future retrieval systems. Oldbury had obtained information from vault 3, and vault 4 work was underway. The information-gathering exercise would likely last for 20 months.

Three individuals from local schools had completed work experience on site, and a further three would undertake work experience later in the year. Discussions had taken place with Gloucestershire Careers Hub. The site was preparing for volunteers' week, and it had selected JIGSAW Thornbury as its site charity.

Oldbury had also participated in No Mow May. In relation to the wetlands projects, the site had cleared vegetation, allowing it to insert ball holes for monitoring. The monitoring would allow the site to measure the fluctuations of the water within the lagoon over four seasons.

John Alderton highlighted socio-economic funding and Oldbury's funding applications. Oldbury had held a bike ride event, in partnership with JIGSAW Thornbury, raising £800.

Keely Salter had been announced as intermediate-level apprentice of the year and UK Nuclear apprentice of the year.

Questions

John Alderton recalled that Peter Hazelwood had asked why the weir gate had not been sealed in March and had also questioned the result of a public consultation regarding the end state for Lagoon 3. There was now a final design for the weir gate, and the site would go out to market in the coming weeks. It planned to seal the weir gate in the summer months. After the site had been able to monitor water for 12 months, it would then determine the best final solution for the area.

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Peter Hazelwood queried the outcome of the public consultation. John Alderton responded that the options highlighted during the public consultation would be considered once the site had been able to monitor the water for 12 months.

The Chair recollected that a vacuum operated dewatering facility had been developed for Berkeley. John Alderton said Oldbury was assessing whether it could use some of the equipment housed at Berkeley.

Cllr Matthew Riddle asked how much of the turbine hall was below ground. John Alderton replied that approximately 9 metres of the turbine hall complex was below ground.

Cllr Chris Jennings queried Oldbury's funding for the current year. John Alderton responded that Oldbury had been assigned a funding budget of £21.4 million against £22.1 million for the previous year. Cllr Chris Jennings asked if the reduced budget had affected any projects. John Alderton replied that it had only impacted the AVDS project.

Cllr Steve Chandler noted that Oldbury was sampling its vaults and asked if its records were better than Berkeley's. John Alderton said while Oldbury did have records that detailed what had entered the vaults, it still had to verify them by analysing the samples.

Cllr Chris Jennings asked if the site would analyse the contents of a vault immediately after it had been emptied. John Alderton clarified that Oldbury was not emptying vaults but rather was retrieving a small amount of material from it that it could analyse. Once it had obtained material from vault 3, samples would be sent off for analysis.

The Chair said he assumed the materials in the turbine hall had a scrap value. John Alderton confirmed that there was a large proportion of semi-precious materials. During negotiations with the contractor, the site would assess how it could secure the most favourable share of the material value.

Gillian Ellis-King questioned the strategy for the hole in the ground. John Alderton stated that the site was conscious of removing the protection from the rain. Part of the design requirements for the end state would include an appropriately designed pumping system. It would maintain the hole in the ground, and the hole would be appropriately fenced. Gillian Ellis-King asked if this was a long-term solution. John Alderton responded that the site would determine a long-term solution during final site clearance.

5. NDA UPDATE

Alastair Findlay noted that his report had been included within the pack. Lord Hunt had retired as Minister of State in the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and had been replaced by Baroness Curran. The Government's Spending Review on 11 June would set out detailed spending plans for individual departments for the next three years. The NDA would work with the sites and operational companies to understand the impacts. This would not be disclosed to the public until business planning in December.

The NDA had given evidence to the Public Accounts Committee on 20 March, and it expected to receive a report within the coming weeks that would include clear recommendations.

The NDA was formulating the results of its engagement survey. Strategy 5 was due to be published in 2026, and a consultation event would take place imminently.

A video recognising 20 years of SSG engagement was played.

6. ONR REPORTS

It was noted that Paul Jenneson had offered his apologies.

7. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORTS

A. Berkeley

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Tracy Braithwaite reported that Berkeley had performed retrieval and packaging work while also reviewing its blower houses. The EA had worked with Mike Heaton, who was the Head of Environment and the national team on the regulation and permitting of voids. This would take 18 months to solve.

The EA had undertaken a leadership inspection during the previous week. There had been no instances of non-compliance, and the EA had been happy with the thought processes.

The effective dose for the site was now less than 5 microsieverts at 0.005 millisieverts. This is 0.5% of the public dose limit.

The EA had closely monitored Berkeley's gaseous discharges. The site had experienced periods of both activity and inactivity in retrievals and decommissioning, leading to fluctuations within the gaseous results.

Tracy Braithwaite presented the discharges assessment. The EA would set limits within the site permits that could not be exceeded. Under the limit, the EA would expect the site to do everything in accordance with the best available technique (BAT), as the law outlined that the discharges to public should be as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA).

Tracy Braithwaite highlighted the gaseous waste emission limits for Berkeley. The table outlined the outlets that were able to discharge radioactive gaseous waste from Berkeley. There were several small outlets for which the amount of discharge was less than 5% of the gaseous waste emission limits. Berkeley's discharge per year amounted to 3.7 microsieverts, significantly less than 1,000 microsieverts, which was the amount that would cause radioactive harm.

Tracy Braithwaite presented the RSR high level permit requirements for water. The EA would usually check the permits of each site annually. The actual reporting was checked monthly, and a Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Report (RASCAR) would be issued to each site quarterly.

Tracy Braithwaite presented an example of the gaseous discharge report that Berkeley would send to the EA. Once she received the report, she would extract the results and include them in a spreadsheet. From January 2023 to January 2024, the site had discharged 0.742 MBq of beta particulate, which amounted to 3.71% of the permit limit.

Tracy Braithwaite presented the trending results for Berkeley for gaseous waste and beta particulate gaseous discharge (MBq) from 2020 to 2024. The actual discharge did not tend to exceed 0.5 MBq. The facilities on the graph had been split; there had been periods during which the site had been actively retrieving. It was also noted that there had been site outages in March 2022, January 2023 and December 2023. The site had tracked the activity and discharge against work on site, and the EA would query occasional blips.

The EA would account for site activity when determining the permit limits. It would also ensure that sites had sufficient headroom and complied with the BAT. Berkeley had been extremely forthcoming in this area, and it had advised of its intention to set its own working limit.

Berkeley's environmental monitoring programme fed into an annual dose assessment. The EA would then compare the annual assessment with its work through the Radioactivity in food and the environment (RIFE) report.

B. Oldbury

Peter Reynolds introduced himself. He had observed no incidents on site during his routine engagements. Although the site had several old, deteriorating buildings, the EA was not concerned that these buildings would produce extra waste or hazards. Having reviewed the sampling arrangements for the surface water and waste treatment plant, he had been satisfied that the samples had been representative and that the initial screening was adequate.

There had been no environmental events of concern during the previous three months. Moving forward, the EA would review gaseous and aqueous discharge and the arrangement for managing ILW.

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Oldbury had produced a site-wide environmental safety case, which would combine with a waste management plan and develop into a strategy for removing all waste from the site.

Questions

The Chair asked if the EA would regulate new build in addition to the NDA site. Peter Reynolds responded that this remained unknown. A separate group was regulating new build.

Cllr Steve Chandler noted that there had been an increase in carbon-14 and beta particulate levels, which had been attributed to a spreadsheet error. He asked if the error had been eliminated. Tracy Braithwaite explained that Lucy[?] had checked the formulas and calculations within the spreadsheet, also initiating an improvement programme. The graphs had been updated. Carbon-14 was inherent within fuel element debris (FED), which accounted for the rising levels.

Cllr Steve Chandler noted that there had been a change of measurement equipment and asked if this had been an isolated change. Tracy Braithwaite replied that it had been. Mike Heaton said the information demonstrated that the Berkeley site was well below the EA's site discharge limits and public discharge limits.

Cllr Maggie Dutton welcomed visibility of the lower emissions and invited Tracy Braithwaite to share any potential BAT improvements. Tracy Braithwaite stated that the EA had reviewed the BAT for the blower house project. As Berkeley would need to characterise the pipework within the blower house, the EA had suggested that the site obtain its sample from the inside of the pipe and document this. The site had a firm design process, and any proposed improvements were usually minor.

8. GREAT BRITISH NUCLEAR

Stephen Bray introduced himself and his role. GBN had existed for two years and had recently purchased the Wylfa and Oldbury sites from Horizon. Over the last 18 months, it had been running a selection process for UK small modular reactors (SMRs)

GBN had submitted a planning application for a site office and compound in Oldbury. The technology selection process for the SMRs was nearing completion, and it was hoped that Oldbury would have a fleet of up to six reactors. The Government would likely pay for the first two reactors and would pick up to two reactor technologies. GBN would also engage with the Government regarding its upcoming spending review. GBN would assess which technologies were best suited to specific sites. He noted that the attendees could join the stakeholder list at oldbury@greatbritishnuclear.uk.

The pre-application process for the development consent order (DCO) would likely take four to five years before early work would commence.

Questions

Gillian Ellis-King asked if the site office and compound would be located on the same site for which Horizon had previously obtained a DCO. Stephen Bray confirmed that it would be.

Cllr Chris Davies of South Gloucestershire Council asked if the Government was likely to view a single reactor technology design as the cheaper option. Stephen Bray highlighted the benefits of diversity but cautioned that GBN would need to recognise the state of public finances. It would await Government action.

Tracy Braithwaite asked what site allocation would be based upon. Stephen Bray responded that it would be based upon several factors, including aquifers and the environment.

Barbara French asked if there would be further sites. Stephen Bray replied that there likely would be. Barbara French highlighted the size of the SMRs. Stephen Bray said the SMRs were medium sized and tended to produce between 300 megawatts and 500 megawatts per reactor. Rolls Royce's reactor size was 470 megawatts, while the reactor size for the other three vendors amounted to approximately 300 megawatts.

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9. AOB

Cllr Steve Chandler highlighted the proposed housing development near Berkeley. Mike Heaton stated that NRS had not been asked to comment on the application. Cllr Steve Chandler observed that the planning application window had closed. Mike Heaton said he understood that the planning application for the Sharpness development had been withdrawn. He agreed to check this.

ACTION: Mike Heaton to check whether the planning application for the Sharpness development has been withdrawn.

Cllr Steve Chandler noted that the land on the Berkeley site had been leased to Chiltern Vital Group (CVG). Stephen Bray stated that CVG was proposing a small modular reactor to the north of the existing decommissioning site. However, this was a medium to long-term plan.

Mike Heaton explained that the Chair and Cllr Steve Chandler had raised that several tenants residing on the plot of land had been informed that they might have to leave. This was causing concern within the local community. Stephen Bray said the some of the older buildings on the estate required renovations, and CVG was struggling to secure insurance. The organisations would need to be moved, and CVG was working with them to identify a solution. Angela Presdee reiterated Stephen Bray's comments. Active discussions were taking place with the tenants to identify alternative solutions, and CVG could be invited to attend the next SSG.

ACTION: Angela Presdee and Stephen Bray to check whether CVG can attend the next SSG.

Cllr Steve Chandler said the SSG members of Berkeley would be interested in what was happening with the site. Mike Heaton suggested that the chairs and NRS corporate centre address the issue, as it would take the committee outside of its terms of reference. Cllr Steve Chandler suggested that the topic be discussed at the SSG Chairs' meeting. The Chair highlighted the Men's Shed and Physionet as key issues. The local community would welcome a solution.

Gillian Ellis-King highlighted the proximity of the new development to the waste facility and remarked that ONR would directly influence this.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 14.56.

Next meeting date: 10 September 2025.



Office for
Nuclear Regulation

ONR site report

NRS Ltd – Oldbury

ONR site report

NRS Ltd - Oldbury

Report for period: 1 January – 30 June 2025

Authored by: Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: Deputy Head of Regulation

Issue: 1

Published: July 2025

Record reference: 2025/22668

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 Oldbury Site Stakeholders 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 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 us via email at contact@onr.gov.uk.

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References.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of inspection

Our site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 January – 30 June 2025:

- 12 & 26 March 2025

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 Oldbury covered the following:

- modifications to plant, equipment and safety cases
- decommissioning
- organisational changes
- conventional (non-nuclear) health and safety
- security

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

The site inspector attended the Nuclear Restoration Services' (NRS) Oldbury, Berkeley and Hinkley Point A Quarterly Regulator Interface Meeting on 9 January and 10 April 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. 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.

- The following licence instruments, enforcement notices and enforcement letters have been issued during the period:

Table 1: Licence instruments and enforcement notices issued by ONR during this period

Date	Type	Reference	Description
9/1/25	Licence instrument	ONRW-2019369590-14501	Withdrawal of Nuclear Maintenance Schedule Preface Approvals & Legacy Licence Condition Specifications

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
Redgrave Court
Merton Road
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L20 7HS
Website: www.onr.org.uk
Email: contact@onr.gov.uk

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Office for
Nuclear Regulation

ONR site report

Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd – Berkeley

ONR site report

Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd - Berkeley

Report for period: 1 January – 30 June 2025

Authored by: Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: Deputy Head of Regulation

Issue: 1

Published: July 2025

Record reference: 2025/22663

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 Berkeley Site Stakeholders Group and are also available on our website: www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/lcsvg-reports.

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1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of inspection

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- 5 & 23 February 2025
- 25 March 2025
- 13 May 2025
- 4 June 2025

2. Routine matters

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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 Berkeley covered the following:

- examination, maintenance, inspection and testing
- management of operations including control and supervision
- staff training, qualifications and experience
- modifications to plant, equipment and safety cases
- plant construction and/or commissioning
- decommissioning
- conventional (non-nuclear) health and safety
- security

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:

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5. News from ONR

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6. Contacts

Office for Nuclear Regulation
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Email: contact@onr.gov.uk

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References

There are no sources in the current document.

Environment Agency Report

Oldbury Site Stakeholder Group**August 2025**

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

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We visited Oldbury site in May and met with members of the environment team and engineering team to carry out a review of the management techniques used to minimise gaseous waste generation and minimise the impacts of gaseous discharges against our 'Nuclear Operator Monitoring Assessment (NOMA) guidance. Before the inspection the site supplied us with relevant company standards and departmental instructions for review. The elements we considered were 'Management systems', 'Analysis' and 'Sampling'

On the day of the inspection, we visited the site's health physics laboratory, inspected a containment tent used during trials retrievals of fuel element debris from the active waste vaults and viewed the set-up of the instrumentation used to periodically monitor discharges via the ponds building contaminated ventilation system.

We noted that gaseous emissions from Oldbury site are low, that most forced ventilation discharge systems have been shut down, and concluded that there do not appear to be activities underway, or planned in the near term, that are likely to result in significant changes to the rate of gaseous emissions.

We did not identify any non-compliances during our site visit. We recommended that Oldbury staff should review the format and content of the commission report to improve traceability of commissioning actions, review flow calibration frequency and confirm the terms of the maintenance contract for monitoring instrument.

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

We continued our 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 in July. 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.

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.

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. (We expect the 2024 RIFE report to be published in October 2025).

<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/>

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 will inspect these records during an inspection of liquid effluent management arrangements on 29-30 September.

Additional Items (for information)

Nuclear new build – early engagement guidance – Published June 2025

We've published new guidance for developers and designers of new nuclear power stations who ask for a 'tier 3 preliminary design review' (PDR). It complements guidance we published in March 2024 which sets out our early engagement process and how applicants can engage with regulators prior to entering generic design assessment or environmental permitting – or the ONR's site licensing process.

We'll provide technical advice and guidance on our expectations for new reactor designs, potential acceptability for deployment, and the routes to regulatory approval.

This joint guidance developed by the Environment Agency, ONR and NRW has been published on the joint [GDA webpages on ONR's website](#).

Report: Chief Nuclear Inspector's (CNI) Themed Inspection report on climate change

The Chief Nuclear Inspector's (CNI) Themed Inspection report on climate change was published by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) in July. We have worked closely with ONR for many years on the hazards that climate change brings, such as flooding, including the issue of joint guidance, making sure that we complement each other's roles in this area.

- **How were we involved:** We wanted to understand whether the industry understands climate change, can demonstrate that operations are and will remain environmentally safe, and that the industry keeps the situation under review so that it can respond and adapt protection measures accordingly.
- **Site visits:** We joined the ONR on inspections at Heysham 2, Sizewell B, AWE and Sellafield allowing us to gain insight into how the nuclear industry is managing climate change risks and impacts, and to identify learning for both the industry and regulators. This included consideration of environmental permitting and other requirements, and identifying good practice.
- **Our view:** In general, the risks of climate change are being appropriately considered, and that there are no immediate threats to environmental permit compliance at the sites inspected. Our valuable insights are incorporated into this report on pages 17-19.
- **Our commitment:** We support business in building resilience to climate driven weather extremes by carrying out adaptation focused inspections and audits
- **What's next for the Environment Agency:**
 - Joint working with ONR including further development of joint guidance
 - Site inspections, some jointly with ONR, to assess climate change adaptation integration into operator management systems including the use of appropriate

guidance and the identification of key risks and impacts of acute and chronic climate change

- Developing guidance for nuclear operators to align with guidance available for other sectors
- Collaborating with industry and professional organisations, identifying skills and capability requirements
- Further developing an integrated approach to the regulation of climate change adaptation and resilience drawing upon expertise and disciplines from across the Environment Agency and beyond.

Read the report [here](#).

Updated guidance: Monitoring the effects of permitted discharges from nuclear sites

We've published revised guidance on how to design and carry out an environmental radiological monitoring programme.

A radiological monitoring programme is a requirement of a radioactive substances activity permit which is held by operators of nuclear sites in England and Wales.

The guidance will also be used by the Environment Agency and other regulators and organisations who have or participate in independent environmental radiological monitoring programmes.

An operator's monitoring programme includes what they'll monitor, where and how often and the monitoring and sampling techniques.

What's new:

- The guidance no longer has separate objectives for operators and regulators in relation to understanding doses to people and wildlife
- One of the criteria for defining a site's impact is the level of dose to the representative person. The change to the threshold of optimisation (Managing Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning: UK policy framework) from 0.02 mSv/y to 0.01 mSv/y has been adopted in the guidance when it comes to defining a site's impact and for including the need to "assess total representative person dose" as an objective.
- Recognition of innovation and new techniques – we're happy to consider proposals from operators
- Inclusion of programmes for sites with a potential for variable impact (such as decommissioning sites)
- Example programmes as guidance to what an appropriate programme could comprise for different impact sites for those designing programmes
- How to consider sustainability such as minimising the sampling of living wildlife and habitats
- Accessible format on GOV.UK

Read the guidance [Environmental radiological monitoring: planning and implementing your programme - Guidance - GOV.UK](#)

Read about our monitoring programmes [Monitoring radioactivity - GOV.UK](#)

Read the annual Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) report. [Radioactivity in food and the environment \(RIFE\) report - GOV.UK](#) RIFE provides a detailed assessment of radioactivity in food and the environment and the public's exposure to radiation during a specific year. It brings together the nationwide monitoring programmes of the UK's environment and food standard agencies.

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 \(environment-agency.gov.uk\)](#)

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.

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Environment Agency Report

Berkeley Site Stakeholder Group

August 2025

This report covers our regulation of Nuclear Restoration Services' Berkeley Site and related issues over the period May 2025 to July 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.

No Permitting activities have taken place at site in the last quarter.

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

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potential for significant environmental impact or are an indicator of wider issues. No significant events have been identified.

We have undertaken an inspection on environmental leadership and sustainability. It was evident from our inspection there is a culture of compliance at Berkeley Nuclear Power Station. There are sufficient competent persons and resources at the site with oversight maintained through the Resource Management Board process. Through this process the leadership team can see where vulnerabilities exist in the site organisation and take proactive steps to address them.

The application of best available techniques is fundamental to the safe management of radioactive waste and compliance with the environmental permit. Through our discussions with leadership team members and operational personnel it was evident there are robust processes in place which ensure BAT is considered throughout site decommissioning processes. For example, at the start of a project through the Design Authority Review process. We saw evidence the Berkeley leadership team guides operational personnel in understanding and implementing the permit requirements in the BAT management review process. The implementation of BAT Coordinators at the site, overseen by the Head of Radiation Protection and Environment, enables sharing of best practice through the coordinator network. As noted in our report the introduction and development of the BAT Coordinator role is an example of good practice that should be shared and developed into the wider NRS corporate management system arrangements.

Berkeley leadership team clearly aims to continuously improve the site's environmental performance through defined objectives and targets, and to meet its ISO14001 accreditation requirements. The Site Director tracks progress against these targets through the quarterly Environmental Performance meetings, which cover a broad range of environmental aspects, not just those related to compliance with the environmental permit. This was evident in the Environmental Improvement Plan however, as noted in our report, not all improvements were clearly defined which could potentially lead to uncertainty as to whether the improvement had been achieved.

Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) has ambitions to be a leader in sustainability. The Berkeley Nuclear Power Station organisation clearly aspires to be a sustainable organisation and to build sustainability into its decision-making. This was evident in our discussions with the leadership team and operational personnel. Berkeley Nuclear Power Station is also one of two sites that are trialling implementation of the revised NRS sustainability strategy. The strategy, which is correlated with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, brings into effect

the commitments set out in its environmental and sustainability policies. This is clearly an ongoing commitment to build sustainability into the NRS organisation and culture. Sustainability is built into the management and minimisation of radioactive waste through the best available techniques assessment process. In addition, the introduction of Sustainability Coordinators at Berkeley Nuclear Power Station is helping to drive environmental awareness across the organisation.

We have attended the quarterly level 4 meeting with Berkeley and Oldbury staff. Berkeley reported on their programme status and performance indicators. We have requested that Berkeley and NRS as a whole review their environmental performance indicators particularly relating to sustainability and we will support them to do this.

We have also attended the annual Joint Berkeley/Oldbury Emergency Planning Consultative Committee Meeting. At that meeting I was asked to enquire about the EA's intention to look at flood risks along the river Severn from Aust to Sharpness. There is an extensive tidal floodplain in the area between Aust and Sharpness which is currently defended against tidal flooding by a network of embankments and outfalls, that are aging and will be coming under increasing pressure from rising sea levels in the coming years.

The Environment Agency are currently carrying out an Adaptive Pathways study that covers the coastline from Aust Cliff to Sharpness Docks. This project is assessing the existing standard of protection and the residual life in the current flood defence assets. We are considering options for their long-term maintenance, replacement or upgrading based on a number of factors, including the residual life of the asset, the current and future standard of protection, economic benefits (domestic and commercial properties, agricultural land and infrastructure) at risk, environmental legislation and funding opportunities. The initial stages of this work are currently being developed in conjunction with our consultants. We anticipate being in a position to engage with the communities and wider stakeholders in this area later this year. This will enable us to share what we have found in our work and will also allow us to seek the vital input from all stakeholders in this area. The site Directors for Oldbury and Berkeley will be included in the consultation.

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

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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:

<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.

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).

This year as well as being asked to check the RIFE report, operators will be asked to undertake a factual check of the content of the reports. They will have received this consultation and are expected to respond by August 20, 2025.

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.

We are now carrying out a final review of the discharges for the site for the past two years and will issue a RASCAR for this at the end of August.

Customer service line 03708 506 506 **Floodline** 03459 88 11 88
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Enforcement

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

Additional Items For information:

Radioactivity in food and the environment report

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

[Radioactivity in food and the environment \(RIFE\) report - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/rife-report)

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.

Habits reports

Reports have published (in March 2025) for surveys carried out in 2024 (Sellafield, Hartlepool and Hinkley Point).

We commission habits surveys to find out about the food people consume and their activities near to nuclear sites. We study the data we've collected to assess how diet and activities could influence exposure to radioactivity. CEFAS carry out the surveys for us and publish reports on the [CEFAS website](https://www.cefas.co.uk).

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.

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](#)

Updated guidance: Monitoring the effects of permitted discharges from nuclear sites

We've published revised guidance on how to design and carry out an environmental radiological monitoring programme.

A radiological monitoring programme is a requirement of a radioactive substances activity permit which is held by operators of nuclear sites in England and Wales.

The guidance will also be used by the Environment Agency and other regulators and organisations who have or participate in independent environmental radiological monitoring programmes.

An operator's monitoring programme includes what they'll monitor, where and how often and the monitoring and sampling techniques.

What's new

- No longer has separate objectives for operators and regulators in relation to understanding doses to people and wildlife
- One of the criteria for defining a site's impact is the level of dose to the representative person. The change to the threshold of optimisation ([Managing Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning: UK policy framework](#)) from 0.02 mSv/y to 0.01 mSv/y has been adopted in the guidance when it comes to defining a site's impact and for including the need to "assess total representative person dose" as an objective.
- Recognition of innovation and new techniques – we're happy to consider proposals from operators
- Inclusion of programmes for sites with a potential for variable impact (such as decommissioning sites)
- Example programmes as guidance to what an appropriate programme could comprise for different impact sites for those designing programmes
- How to consider sustainability such as minimising the sampling of living wildlife and habitats
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Read about our monitoring programmes [Monitoring radioactivity - GOV.UK](#)

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<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>

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.

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NDA Update for
Oldbury/Berkeley
September 2025



Contents

1.0 NDA Stakeholder Update August 2025



NDA Stakeholder Update

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

Government Update

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 have now been advised of our allocation for 2026/27 through to 2029/30 from our Government sponsoring department, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). This gives the NDA long term visibility of our Government funding to the end of the decade.

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

David Peattie, NDA Group CEO, Clive Nixon, Group Chief Nuclear Strategy Officer, and Holly Cresswell, International Relations Manager, represented the NDA at the recent UK-France Civil Nuclear Seminar. The event brought together senior figures to explore future collaboration between the UK and France in civil nuclear with panel sessions considering:

- Building a Workforce for the Future
- Ensuring a Responsible Nuclear Legacy
- Preparing for European Ambitions: Advanced Modular Reactors and Research

A key discussion point included the critical role of international collaboration in delivering our mission, particularly in tackling shared challenges in decommissioning, dismantling, and waste management. Whilst a key takeaway was the value of our partnerships—especially the knowledge exchange through Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) on radioactive waste and geological disposal. These relationships help us



strengthen our technical capabilities and deliver more effectively for the UK public.

We also reaffirmed our long-standing cooperation with the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), agreeing to deepen collaboration on decommissioning and waste management—areas central to our work.

The nuclear industry has marked three significant anniversaries as His Majesty the King met with members of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) group in Caithness Scotland, during his annual visit to the region. The visit recognised the NDA group's progress in its national mission to safely decommission the UK's earliest nuclear sites, and its long-standing contribution to sustainability and economic development in the region and across the UK.

The visit coincided with the NDA group marking several significant milestones including the 20th anniversary of the NDA and 70 years for NRS Dounreay, which has been an enduring presence at the heart of the Caithness community. This year also marks 50 years for Pacific Nuclear Transport Ltd (PNTL). Founded in 1975, PNTL is the world's leading maritime nuclear transporter and part of NDA subsidiary, Nuclear Transport Solutions (NTS). The King also viewed the Pacific Heron, part of the PNTL fleet of ships designed to safely transport nuclear materials around the globe.

Engagement priorities for 2025

As you are aware, the consultation on the NDA draft **Strategy 5** was launched on 7 August and will close on 29 September. 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. Once this has concluded and we analyse comments the final document will be produced and published in March 2026.

As part of the consultation and engagement process for Strategy 5 there will be an online webinar on Friday 5 September.

Publications, public service and policy updates

The NDA Annual Report and Accounts 2024/25 sets out the progress we're making against our mission, from safely decommissioning existing sites to preparing to take responsibility for more, while managing radioactive waste for our existing programme and new nuclear.

As we mark our 20th anniversary, this year's report reflects a strong year of delivery across the NDA group with continued progress on our mission: safely decommissioning our sites, managing radioactive waste, and preparing to take on new responsibilities.



Key highlights from the last 12 months include:

- Sellafield is now removing waste from all four legacy ponds and silos; a major milestone in hazard reduction.
- Nuclear Waste Services is progressing with final capping at the LLW Repository.
- Visible skyline changes across the estate, including the demolition of Sizewell A's turbine hall.
- Ongoing work to identify a suitable site and community for a Geological Disposal Facility.
- Innovation in action: sail trials for NTS ships and autonomous security systems at Winfrith.
- Preparations continue for the transfer of the AGR fleet and potential decommissioning of the Vulcan site.

Additionally, we've seen improvements in safety, environmental performance, and cyber security, supported by the opening of a new cyber facility to boost collaboration.

2024/25 also saw another year of significant investment in our people and communities. We had a record early careers intake in 2025 with over 420 apprentices and 300 graduates. As well as that, we saw continued support for skills, schools, and supply chain development - part of our £49m annual investment. And finally, we saw the continued ongoing delivery of our Inclusion Strategy, with real progress on equality, diversity, and inclusion.

Read the report here: [Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: Annual Report and Accounts 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

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.



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