



Joint Berkeley/Oldbury Site Stakeholder Group

GL13 Community Hub & Library, School Lane, Berkeley, Gloucestershire GL13 9DQ

Wednesday, 4 February 2026

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

AGENDA

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 13:30 | 1. Welcome
Berkeley Chair – John Stanton |
| 13:35 | 2. Apologies for absence |
| 13:40 | 3. Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 10 September 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accuracy• Matters arising |
| 13:45 | 4. Site Director Reports
Berkeley – Mike Heaton (Site Director)
Oldbury – John Alderton (Site Director) |
| 14:15 | 5. NRS Update – Bill Hamilton |
| 14:25 | 6. ONR Reports – Paul Jenneson |
| 14:40 | 7. Environment Agency Reports
Berkeley – Peter Reynolds
Oldbury – Peter Reynolds |
| 15:05 | 8. NDA Update (not attending) |
| 15:25 | 9. AOB |

Next SSG Meeting: Wednesday, 3 June 2026



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
JOINT BERKELEY/OLDBURY SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
HELD AT OLDBURY CONFERENCE CENTRE, OLDBURY NAITE, THORNBURY, BS35 1RQ
WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2025**

Attendance/Apologies list

Attendance

Members

Cllr Matthew Riddle	Chair, Oldbury
Cllr Chris Jennings	Vice Chair, Oldbury
Cllr John Stanton	Chair, Berkeley
Cllr Steve Chandler JP	Vice Chair, Berkeley
Cllr Adrian Birch	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr Chris Bloor	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr Chris Davies	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr Maggie Dutton	Stroud District Council
Cllr Hugh Johnson	Tytherington Parish Council
Cllr Jeremy Warren	Aust Parish Council
Nicola Berry	Hill Parish Council
June Lyons	Olveston Parish Council
Brian Roberts	Thornbury Chamber of Commerce

Operators and Officers

Tracy Braithwaite	Environment Agency
Tom Hibbert	Environment Agency
Alastair Findlay	NDA
Sharon Fry	NRS
John Alderton	NRS
Emily Ciezarek	NRS
James Craig	NRS
Paul Jenneson	ONR
David Carson	Amentum
Geoffrey Dore	Minute Taker

Members of the Public

Tim Davies	Attending on behalf of Dr Simon Opher MP
Diana Gash	STAND
Dr Trevor Hellen	Berkeley Research Group
Bill Otto	STAND
Geoff Wheeler	Berkeley Research Group

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Apologies

Cllr Isaac Bamfield
Cllr John Crook
Cllr Chris Davies
Barbara French
Cllr John Graham
Sue Haverley
Mike Heaton
Janet Hellen
Tony Mitchell
Nic Pehkonen
Cllr Dominic Power
Angela Presdee
Peter Reynolds
Cllr Tony Williams
Cllr Demelza Turner-Wilkes

Berkeley Town Council
Monmouthshire County Council
South Gloucestershire Council
STAND
Alveston Parish Council
STAND
NRS
TAPP'D
Thornbury Town and District Residents Association
Artist and EDF Contractor
Chepstow Town Council
Gloucestershire Council
Environment Agency
South Gloucestershire Council
Stroud District Council

1. WELCOME

The Chair (Matthew Riddle) opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Barbara French, Sue Haverley, Nic Pehkonen, Tony Williams, Isaac Bamfield, Mike Heaton, Janet Hellen, John Crook, Dominic Power, John Graham, Chris Davies of South Gloucestershire Council, Peter Reynolds, Demelza Turner-Wilkes, Tony Mitchell and Angela Presdee. It was noted that John Graham would be replacing Valerie Williams on the SSG, as she had left Alveston Parish Council.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28 MAY 2025

A. Accuracy

Tracy Braithwaite noted that she had highlighted several inaccuracies that she would circulate. Some of the amendments were related to statements she had previously made that were no longer accurate. Subject to the amendments, the minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting held on 28 May 2025.

B. Matters Arising

It was noted that there had been an action to check whether the planning application for the Sharpness development had been withdrawn. Steve Chandler said he did not believe the planning application had been withdrawn. Alastair Findlay said the NDA had registered its interest regarding the immediate and generational issues, but it had not received a response.

It was noted that there had been an action for Angela Presdee and Stephen Bray to check whether Chiltern Vital Group (CVG) could attend the next SSG. John Stanton said there had been no update, though CVG was applying for planning permission.

Planning application by GBN (site investigation) – GBN had submitted a planning application for a depot, to allow it to undertake site investigations on the land to the north of the Oldbury site. Chris Bloor questioned the purpose of the ground investigations. The Chair responded that the scope of work would include investigating the possibility of a new power station to the north of the site.

4. SITE DIRECTOR REPORTS

A. John Alderton – Site Director, Oldbury

John Alderton reported that there had been 11 slips, trips and falls across the sites during the calendar year, resulting in various minor injuries. He highlighted the importance of spatial awareness and hazard perception inside and outside of the working environment.

Demolition activities continued for old, degrading facilities on site. The old planning block and link bridge were scheduled for demolition, and the land would be opened for potential future use.

The ponds team continued with work in the pond filtration plant. The turbine hall de-cabling verification works had been completed, and it was ready for handover to a future contractor. Oldbury continued with its process of governance of assurance, which would allow it to approach the supply chain. The Investment Review Panel (IRP) had endorsed the turbine hall, and it would be presented to the NDA group investment committee on 25 September. If approved, all tender documents would be released to the supply chain. It was anticipated that contractors would be in place at the end of 2026 or start of 2027.

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Early fuel element debris (FED) works had been completed in vaults 3 and 4. The next scope of work was to move onto vaults 1 and 2 and this work would be completed by August 2027.

John Alderton highlighted sustainability and reported that individuals from the site had attended the Gloucestershire skills and careers excellence summit. Oldbury had completed an employer standards assessment and had established a STEM and outreach working group.

Tender construction drawings for the silt lagoon 3 weir chamber recommendation had been approved, and the intention remained to complete this scope of work by the end of the financial year. A new company sustainability strategy would be launched at the end of September, covering business, environment and communities. Workshops and briefings would inform staff of the new strategy and their role.

Oldbury had provided funding for Alveston Primary School, the Tortworth football team and Tortworth Forest Centre and Arboretum. Five apprentices had joined the site, while NRS had recently welcomed a new cohort of apprentices during its apprentice week.

A video was played showcasing some of the highlights of apprentice week.

Oldbury had raised £2,300 as part of its support for the Jigsaw charity. The site would support a fund dinner at Oldbury golf club in November; staff had also volunteered at Jigsaw, Thornbury.

Questions

Chris Davies said he had become aware that all local authorities had to prepare a local nature recovery strategy. He asked John Alderton if he was aware of this. John Alderton responded that he was not but agreed to check this with the site's sustainability and environment team. Chris Bloor said he was aware that South Gloucestershire had undertaken a great deal of work on a nature recovery strategy. Chris Davies said various partners had contributed to the Gloucestershire strategy.

The Chair highlighted a recent uptake in fly tipping in Oldbury. John Alderton said the site was aware of this. Whenever the site observed this, it would raise the issue within its system and contact the local council.

B. Emily Ciezarek – Site Integrator, Berkeley

Emily Ciezarek reported that Berkeley continued to focus on retrieving waste from the vaults. It was currently working in vaults 1 and 3 and was utilising remote technology. The site had currently retrieved just over 10te of waste against a target of 35te. Some of the plant remained under commissioning. Four LLW shipments were planned for 2025/26; one had been completed. 16 packages would be sent to the ISF in 2025/26, with three currently sent. In total, there were 44 completed packages in the store.

A new wireless fire system would be installed. A new kiosk for transformer 5 had been introduced, and new handrails had been installed on the safe stores. Some of the guttering round the safe stores had been realigned. Facilities, including drying rooms and changing rooms, had been updated.

Berkeley had recently helped with the move into the Berkeley Community Hub and Library, building and the site had provided close to £80,000 in funding for projects.

Questions

Geoff Wheeler asked if the blower house buildings had been demolished. Emily Ciezarek responded that they had not been. The blower house had a reduced scope of work, and there was currently no plan to demolish these.

Diana Gash noted that the ILW was being stored in concrete boxes to be transported to an onsite facility, but she also recalled it being previously stated that the concrete boxes were safe for 100 years. She asked if this was a sufficient period. Paul Jenneson stated that the concrete boxes would be dispatched to a UK geological disposal facility (GDF). The GDF

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would exist forever, and there was no intention to revisit the waste. The objective was to move the concrete boxes to a storage facility, and subsequently to the GDF, once it became available. The concrete boxes would remain at Berkeley for maximum period of 100 years. As Berkeley's site inspector, he was mindful that the storage facility was an interim option. He would seek an assurance that the ILW would be safely stored and remain fit for purpose, as well as fit to be moved to a GDF.

Diana Gash asked if there were any definite plans and timescales for the GDF. Alastair Findlay said the current plan was to open GDF in the 2050s, and the NDA was currently working on plans for it. A high level of engineering for the boxes would allow for them to be left alone for 100 years.

Chris Davies suggested that Berkeley check whether the site had been mentioned within Gloucestershire's nature recovery strategy. Emily Ciezarek agreed to check this.

John Stanton thanked the site for its help with the move to the new Berkeley Community Hub and Library.

5. NRS UPDATE

James Craig introduced himself.

NRS had received confirmation of £540 million of funding for its sites for the next four years. Accounting for inflation, there would be efficiencies, and NRS had introduced a mutually agreeable voluntary exit scheme for the 200 most senior individuals across the business. There were currently no plans to roll out the scheme across other grades.

The NRS roadshow was being expanded across the country. As part of the roadshow, NRS would conduct polling activities and report back on its findings.

Questions

John Stanton asked if the overall programme would be suboptimal due to the reduction in funding. Alastair Findlay responded that there would always be a balance between additional spend and value for money. While NRS would gravitate to where the risk lay, it would still make progress at its sites.

The Chair said he had understood that there would be flat cash. Alastair Findlay said the NDA had received an early indication that it would need to make difficult choices, but it had received the funding that it required.

The Chair asked if NRS would now review its plans for each site. John Alderton said Oldbury would now move into the next stage of business planning. NRS would consider its funding priorities and build this into a business plan, which would be presented in November. Alastair Findlay added that the NDA would publish a business plan in December.

Steve Chandler asked what was driving the reduction of senior staff. He also questioned whether NRS risked losing valuable experience. James Craig said NRS had had to account for efficiencies. Any staff would also need to agree to any departure.

Brian Roberts questioned the point at which critical removals would result in mothballing. John Alderton said Oldbury was at least 20 years away from reaching a stage of care and maintenance. While funding had been reduced, the site still needed to carry out a great deal of work.

6. ONR REPORTS

Paul Jenneson introduced himself and highlighted ONR's five purposes: nuclear safety, conventional health and safety, nuclear security, nuclear transportation and safeguarding. The conventional health and safety risks on an operational reactor site were quite low.

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The UK Government had recently commissioned a Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce to review nuclear regulation. ONR was moving towards a risk-informed approach to regulation, and Paul Jenneson worked closely with the site, and site directors, to ensure that potential nuclear safety risks to the public were not diminished.

The turbine hall was on the nuclear licence site, and everything within the fence was subject to nuclear safety regulation. ONR would look to where it could better apply regulation, to drive efficiencies and maintain regulatory standards and expectations. Berkeley continued to reduce risk to the public by removing waste, and Paul Jenneson was generally content with the level of progress.

The shielded areas at Berkeley had been inspected, and the team had worked extremely hard to remove historical waste from the area. The work package to remove the waste stored in the blower halls had reduced in scope, and the project would be re-contracted.

The turbine hall was the next major scope of work at Oldbury. Paul Jenneson would aim to ensure that Oldbury had the right risk-informed regulation and that Berkeley continued to retrieve waste whilst maintaining site safety.

Questions

Bill Otto asked if safety pertained to radioactivity. Paul Jenneson said safety concerned anything that could harm the public. The Ionising Radiations Regulations protected everybody across the UK.

Bill Otto summarised that ONR wanted to outsource its health and safety once it got to a certain safe level of risk. It would outsource risk to the private sector, under HSE regulation. He also questioned the critical threshold that ONR would declare for a safe transfer. Paul Jenneson clarified that ONR would continue to regulate all its purposes on site, but there might be a personal shift in how he might apply nuclear safety regulation and conventional regulation. Bill Otto asked if ONR had authority to do this. Paul Jenneson responded that ONR did under the Energy Act. The HSE had no regulatory authority on a nuclear licence site. Bill Otto asked if this would ever change. Paul Jenneson responded that it would only change if there was a change of legislation.

Bill Otto questioned the threshold that would be applied to make the transition. Paul Jenneson responded the legal definition within the Nuclear Installations Act stated that ONR must be satisfied that there was no danger from ionising radiation. The requirement was extremely high, while the dose was exceptionally low. Bill Otto asked if the remaining isotope could get into any biological system. Paul Jenneson said any potential amount would be insignificant.

Steve Chandler highlighted the Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce and stated that there was a concern that there would be an emphasis on new build. Additionally, the taskforce had not engaged in any dialogue with the SSGs. Alastair Findlay said the interim report had been issued in August, while the actual report would be published in the autumn. The report would likely include recommendations.

Tracy Braithwaite noted that the Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce had outlined five actions that needed to take place swiftly, and these had been outlined on the government's website in August. The nuclear regulation group had set up a group that would review how NRG regulated. Steve Chandler said it appeared that SSGs should be consulted on this. Paul Jenneson stated that this would be a decision for government. Alastair Findlay agreed to include a link to the interim report within the meeting minutes.

7. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORTS

A. Oldbury

Tracy Braithwaite provided a report on behalf of Peter Reynolds.

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The EA was due to review Berkeley and Oldbury's aqueous waste. A draft RIFE report had been completed and would be published in November. There had been increase in milk, seaweed, potatoes, wheat and barley. A dose assessment would also be conducted.

The effluent discharges and activity concentrations of radio-nuclearized waste would be measured monthly at Oldbury. Peter Reynolds had undertaken an inspection of the gaseous waste in May while reviewing the pond building. The gaseous omissions were low. Activities at the site were limited and not expected to produce substantial gaseous emissions. Several recommendations had been issued, including ones to improve the traceability of commissioning actions, review the flow calibration frequency and confirm the terms of the maintenance contract. All liquid and gaseous discharges from Oldbury were below the 1% relevant annual limit.

Oldbury was discharging 0.002 grays from the site, which was significantly below the legal limit of 1 millisievert. The EA had supported ONR's themed inspection on climate change. Climate change risks were being appropriately considered, and there was no immediate threat to the site's environmental permit. The EA and ONR would develop further joint guidance on the management of climate change effects on site. The EA had issued revised guidance on designing and conducting an environmental monitoring programme, also reviewing the criteria.

B. Berkeley

Tracy Braithwaite reported that an environmental leadership and sustainability inspection had recently been conducted. As part of its inspection, the EA had undertaken a site walkover, reviewing the site's competency and its best available techniques (BAT), as well as environmental improvements. Work would take place to clearly define the enhancements within the environmental improvement plan.

Tracy Braithwaite explained that as part of her level 4 interactions she would meet with the head of environment fortnightly, the site director monthly and NRS fortnightly. Her line manager would also meet with the corporate head of environment and the NDA. Level 2 meetings were run by account holders, while level 1 meetings took place with chief executives and executives. The level 4 review currently occurred quarterly.

It was noted that flooding had been highlighted as a concern at the last SSG due to the new development. The EA would comment on this in due course. The EA had developed an adaptive pathway study to identify ways to mitigate flooding across the coastline. Discussions had commenced between the EA, local authorities and NRS on funding.

Questions

Steve Chandler questioned when the EA's final review on site discharges would be available. Tracy Braithwaite said it was being peer reviewed. She would provide feedback on this within her next report.

ACTION: Tracy Braithwaite to provide feedback on the EA's final review on site discharges for the last two years within her next report.

Maggie Dutton noted that the EA had obligated industrial sites and waste sites to review a wider range of climate hazards and asked if this had taken place for the sites. Tracy Braithwaite explained that ONR was responsible for flooding on nuclear sites, and she was only aware of developments within nuclear sites. Maggie Dutton asked if the EA would review other climate hazards, such as prolonged rainfall and extensive droughts. Paul Jenneson said ONR had looked at climate change from a broad perspective, accounting for anything that could impact safety security.

Maggie Dutton asked if there were plans to look at adaptation for both sites. John Alderton stated that the site exerted a great deal of effort to ensure that its buildings were safe and secure. Paul Jenneson agreed to include a link to the chief nuclear inspector's report.

ACTION: Paul Jenneson to include a link to the chief nuclear inspector's report within the meeting minutes.

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Chris Bloor noted that there had been footpath warnings in Thornbury, and the [wet and dry by the styles on the banks of ditches?] was undermining structures. He asked if this affected the sites. Paul Jenneson said water erosion was an issue across the sites, and this would be brigaded under asset care and management. ONR would ensure that the sites were assuring asset integrity.

Tim Davies noted that local MPs had been informed of the defences required for each site in order to allow them to be used to be used in the future. This included a requirement for a 6-to-8-metre wall. Tracy Braithwaite agreed to check this. An adaptive pathways project would not normally involve erecting a concrete wall. The Chair noted that John Buttivant had stated that the adaptive pathway study would be published by the end of the current financial year. Tracy Braithwaite said the EA would only be informed of developments relating to nuclear sites.

Adrian Birch asked if the EA's work was likely to inform the new development at Oldbury. Tracy Braithwaite said the EA would have oversight of any new developments at a permitted site, but it had received no formal approaches for a new development at Oldbury or Berkeley.

Adrian Birch asked if there would be a formal approach for a new development at Oldbury or Berkeley. Tracy Braithwaite replied that this was dependent on a company, with a design, wanting to build at a certain place. If there was a permit on site, the permit would need to be surrendered or transferred. The EA would not allow for a permit to be surrendered. Paul Jenneson said there were several companies with generic designs. There was a difference between an operator and a vendor, and so far, there had been little indication of operators stating that they would buy a generic design assessment from a vendor.

Bill Otto welcomed the low levels of discharge and queried the possibility of a sink effect in the estuary. Tracy Braithwaite said the EA used the RIFE report, and there did not appear to be anything available to uptake. There was currently nothing that suggested that humans would be exposed to risk by consuming fish from the River Severn, while the EA had also checked seaweed, milk cattle, beef, barley, oats and wheat. OSPAR had reviewed the migration of radioactive isotopes in the UK, and it had not identified significant risks.

8. NDA UPDATE

Alastair Findlay reported that the NDA had launched its consultation on strategy 5 in July, and the 12-week consultation period would close on 29 September. A webinar had also been held on 5 September. Strategy 5 had five underlying themes and ambitious milestones. These included repackaging plutonium stockpiles, establishing new interim waste storage centres and identifying the right occasions for a GDF. The NDA's purpose was to remediate and remove risk. Alastair Findlay agreed to include a link to the consultation within the minutes.

The NDA would undertake a volunteer redundancy scheme. Lord Vallance had been appointed as the new Minister of State in the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. The NDA continued to cooperate closely with GBN regarding actions on site. A cooperation agreement would form part of both ONR and the NDA's licences. The NDA was engaging with the Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce.

Questions

Steve Chandler stated that he had been disturbed to hear that the Treasury believed that the GDF would be undeliverable. Alastair Findlay said the NDA was reviewing all its programmes. The GDF formed part of the Government Major Project Portfolio (GMPP) and remained a government priority.

Steve Chandler said the GDF did not appear to be within the NDA's five-year strategy. Alastair Findlay said the project would not be in the strategy.

9. SSG CONSTITUTION

The Chair reported that the NDA had published a new constitution for both Berkeley and Oldbury, which had been shared with SSG members.

Geoff Wheeler noted that the NDA had said there should be other forums that dealt with projects outside of its remit. He proposed that the SSG website contain a signpost that would direct individuals to the most appropriate areas to address their concerns. The Chair welcomed this suggestion.

Trevor Hellen requested a sub-attachment that highlighted the changes within the constitution. The Chair agreed to circulate this. Paul Jenneson said the NDA had attempted to devise a constitution that enabled good practice across all SSGs.

10. AOB

Geoff Wheeler explained that he and Dr Trevor Hellen had commissioned a report on the history and achievements of the Berkeley Nuclear Laboratories. The booklet had been developed by approximately 25 individuals and had been published with support from Cavendish Nuclear.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 15.37.

Next meeting date: TBC



Office for
Nuclear Regulation

ONR site report

NRS – Berkeley

ONR site report

NRS - Berkeley

Report for period: 1 July – 31 December 2025

Authored by: Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: Deputy DFW Head of Regulation

Issue: 1

Published: January 2026

Record reference: 2026/101

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/lcsg-reports.

Our site inspectors usually attend Berkeley Site Stakeholders Group meetings where these reports are presented and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact us via email at contact@onr.gov.uk.

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1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of inspection

Our site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 July – 31 December 2025:

- 28 August 2025
- 10 & 23 September 2025
- 15 October 2025
- 6 November 2025
- 11 December 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 Berkeley covered the following:

- 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:

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' Oldbury, Berkeley and Hinkley Point A Quarterly Regulator Interface Meeting on 14 July 2025 and 14 October 2025 to discuss issues, events and project milestone updates at the sites. The overall site performance across the NRS southwest region remains adequate and no new significant issues 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 also permissioned the recommencement of retrievals from the shielded area which included an enhanced implementation monitoring and control inspection.

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.

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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Merseyside
L20 7HS
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Email: contact@onr.gov.uk

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References

There are no sources in the current document.



Office for
Nuclear Regulation

ONR site report

NRS – Oldbury

ONR site report

NRS - Oldbury

Report for period: 1 July – 31 December 2025

Authored by: Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: Deputy DFW Head of Safety Regulation

Issue: 1

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Record reference: 2026/103

Foreword

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1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of inspection

Our site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 July – 31 December 2025:

- 7 & 31 July 2025
- 27 August 2025
- 10 September 2025
- 9 December 2025

2. Routine matters

2.1. Inspections

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- The conditions attached by ONR to the nuclear site licence granted under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65) (as amended);
- The Energy Act 2013;
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- 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:

- 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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Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email contact@onr.gov.uk.

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The site inspector attended the Nuclear Restoration Services' Oldbury, Berkeley and Hinkley Point A Quarterly Regulator Interface Meeting on 14 July 2025 and 14 October 2025 to discuss issues, events and project milestone updates at the sites. The overall site performance across the NRS southwest region remains adequate and no new significant issues 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.

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

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
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 7HS
Website: www.onr.org.uk
Email: contact@onr.gov.uk

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Environment Agency Report

Berkeley Site Stakeholder Group

January 2026

This report covers our regulation of Nuclear Restoration Services' Berkeley Site and related issues over the period October 2025 to January 2026. 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 (NRS) 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 Site Stakeholder Group meeting. We set additional requirements in Berkeley site's CEAR (Compilation of Environment Agency Requirements). We varied the CEAR in December 2024 to remove the requirement that Berkeley site (all NRS sites) prepare an annual bulk sample and have this sample analysed for 26 radionuclides for the purposes of Pollution Inventory reporting.

No Permitting activities have taken place at site in the last quarter. Berkeley has applied to use standard reporting values for some of its gaseous discharges. We are considering this and will respond in due course.

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 also hold quarterly meetings with the waste team and our National Waste Assessment team.

We review Nuclear Restoration Services' reports of operational events and incidents that have occurred on site. We follow up on these reports where events have the potential for significant environmental impact or are an indicator of wider issues. No significant events have been identified. We were notified of the flooding to the access road in December and were assured by NRS that this did not impact on their ability to maintain environmental systems at the site. Discussions regarding localised flooding are being conducted by our Area team.

In October 2025 we carried out a joint inspection with our Wessex area team to review of the management techniques used to minimise the impacts of effluent discharges against our 'Nuclear Operator Assessment (NOA) guidance and our 'Nuclear Operator Monitoring Assessment (NOMA) guidance. This included a review of surface water management and the sewage effluent treatment works. Berkeley advised us of an ongoing investigation into higher water ingress to the sewage treatment works and we identified a potential for non-procedural management practices regarding the management of aqueous discharges. Berkeley has supplied further information on this aspect and we are currently reviewing this prior to issuing the RASCAR.

During this period Oldbury transferred waste comprising Ion Siv cartridges to the Berkeley site Intermediate Level Waste storage Facility (ISF). We carried out an inspection of the management system arrangements including the safety case relating to the receipt and storage pending disposal of the packages. The first of the packages has been delivered and we have subsequently reviewed the paperwork associated with the transfer. We expect to have issued the RACSAR prior to the Site Stakeholder Group meeting, to make recommendations and a further update will be provided. No non compliances were identified.

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. 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 the Berkeley site. We assess these against the requirements of the permit and will normally record our findings in a RASCAR once per quarter. This last quarter RASCAR was delayed as we sought to carry out a further investigation of the results. This has now been resolved and no non compliances were identified.

Environmental impact

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

The Environment Agencies and Food Standards Agency carry out independent environmental monitoring around nuclear sites. These monitoring programmes support our regulatory function and provide reassurance that public radiation exposures are low and within legal limits. The results of this work were published in November 2025 and 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 2024, total dose' for the representative person was less than 0.005mSv and unchanged in 2024 (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).

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
- 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>

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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Environment Agency Report

Oldbury Site Stakeholder Group**February 2026**

This report covers our regulation of Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) at Oldbury Site, and related issues, from August 2025 to December 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 issue our site environment review and engagement plan for Oldbury to NRS annually, in April.

Permitting

NRS holds a radioactive substances activity permit (permit number EPR/GB3435DG) under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR 2016) at the Oldbury site. We set additional requirements in Oldbury site's CEAR (Compilation of Environment Agency 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 September and met with members of the environment team and engineering team to carry out a review of the management techniques used to minimise the impacts of effluent discharges against our 'Nuclear Operator Assessment (NOA) guidance and our 'Nuclear Operator Monitoring Assessment (NOMA) guidance.

Oldbury supplied us with relevant company standards and departmental instructions for review in advance of the inspection. On the day of the inspection, we visited the site's new analytical laboratory and the active effluent treatment plant (AETP) and met with NRS staff to review management arrangements. We reviewed operating instructions, discharge records, calibration and maintenance records, and quality control and auditing arrangements.

We did not identify any non-compliances during our site visit. We recommended that Oldbury staff should review their water metering strategy and regularly review the mass balance across the AETP to better understand effluent inputs. This would provide information to underpin strategies to reduce effluent discharges and would allow earlier identification of leaks, should these occur.

In November we conducted a remote inspection of arrangements to transfer intermediate level waste (ILW) in MOSAIK containers from Oldbury to Berkeley site for interim storage. The objective of the inspection was to review the management systems, processes and procedures in use at Oldbury to manage waste treatment and consignment and at Berkeley to manage waste receipt and storage, to review relevant sections of the sites' waste management plans and NRS's inventory management system, and to review the processes and documentation used to comply with conditions in the permit relating to the disposal of radioactive waste.

Oldbury provided us with relevant documentation ahead of a joint MS Teams meeting with NRS staff from Oldbury and Berkeley sites to review the documentation and discuss contingency plans in event package found to be non-conforming on receipt at Berkeley. We concluded that the assessments carried out by NRS demonstrated that risks to disposability of the packages had been adequately considered prior to transfer. Documentation supplied to Berkeley by Oldbury was to a good standard and contained sufficient information for Berkeley site staff to determine whether the ILW packages would be suitable for storage in the Intermediate Storage Facility (ISF) at Berkeley site. We therefore concluded that transfer of the MOSAIK cylinders to Berkeley would be compliant with the permit for Oldbury site.

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 to us in the six-months from July to December 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.

We are planning our engagement with Oldbury site in the 2026/27 financial year and will present our engagement plan, once it is finalised, at the next SSG meeting.

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 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 2024 (RIFE 30)*, was published on the GOV.UK website in October 2025, and is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radioactivity-in-food-and-the-environment-rife-reports/rife-30-radioactivity-in-food-and-the-environment-2024>

Oldbury site's environmental permit requires NRS to monitor and assess the impact of discharges on the environment and submit an environmental monitoring programme report to us on a quarterly basis. NRS's results were consistent with our independent programme, and do not indicate any results of concern or significant change from previous years. The dose received by the public near to Berkeley and Oldbury site remained low and well within legal limits.

There were no significant change to the radioactivity measured in food and the environment in the vicinity of Oldbury and Berkeley sites in 2024 compared to 2023. In 2024, 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 2023. This dose is less than 1% of the UK National dose limit of 1 millisievert. A dose of 0.027 millisieverts (0.041 millisieverts in 2023) was calculated for houseboat dwellers at Sharpness. However, this was not considered to be representative of dose to the public 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.

In August 2024 Oldbury staff reported to us that they had identified an error in the return they had submitted to the Environment Agency for liquid effluent discharges in July 2024. Oldbury then revised their instruction for setting -up and verifying their monthly liquid returns reporting spreadsheet, adding an additional verification step to check the spreadsheet data matched the information in the discharge logbook maintained by plant operators.

We inspected liquid effluent discharge records during our inspection of liquid effluent management arrangements on 29-30 September. We confirmed that the checks were being recorded on the instruction checklist and that that data on a sample of discharge reporting forms matched that in the discharge logbook. We are satisfied that the risk of a repeat reporting error is low following the changes made by Oldbury to their reporting procedures.

Additional Items (for information)

Assessing new nuclear power station designs – Have your say

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

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

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

The Environment Agency has:

- completed step 2 and started step 3 of the [Generic Design Assessment](#) on Rolls-Royce SMR Limited's 470MWe small modular reactor on 30 July 2024. The [public comments process](#) for this GDA opened at the start of Step 2 and you can make a comment through the company website.
- completed step 1 and started step 2 of the [Generic Design Assessment](#) on Holtec International's small modular reactor SMR-300 on 1 August 2024. The [public comments process](#) for this GDA opened at the start of Step 2 and you can make a comment through the company website.
- completed [step 1](#) and [step 2](#) of the Generic Design Assessment on GE Vernova Hitachi Nuclear Energy's BWRX-300 small modular reactor on 11 December 2025. The [public comments process](#) for this GDA opened at the start of Step 2 and closed on 31 August 2025. Read our [press release](#).

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

Read our blogs

[How the Environment Agency is assessing new nuclear power station designs – Creating a better place](#)

[Ensuring nuclear reactor designs meet high standards of environmental protection – Creating a better place \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

[World first as GE Vernova completes Step 2 generic design assessment – Creating a better place](#)

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

Our annual report was published on GOV.UK on 16 October 2025.

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[Geological disposal: scrutiny of Nuclear Waste Services' work - annual reports - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

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

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

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

Read the press release [Scrutiny report about radioactive waste disposal is published - 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:

- 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
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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>

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Peter Reynolds is the Environment Agency's lead nuclear regulator for the Oldbury site. He is supported by Tom Hibbert, who will be taking on the lead regulator role from April 2026. Tom and Peter are 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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NDA Update for
Berkeley/Oldbury SSG
January 2026



Contents

1.0 NDA Stakeholder Update January 2026



NDA Stakeholder Update

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

Government Update

David Peattie, Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Chief Executive Officer, has informed the NDA Chair and Board of his intention to continue to serve the NDA group as its CEO until March 2027. He has shared his plans 18 months ahead of his intended departure to allow preparations to begin to find his replacement and ensure a smooth and comprehensive handover. As the CEO role is a government appointment, a process will now be put in place to find a successor. The announcement can be found using the following link: [Leadership change at the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority - GOV.UK](#)

Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) Board Member, Dr Fiona Rayment, has been appointed DBE (Dame Commander of the Order of British Empire) by His Majesty the King in the New Year's Honours List, for her services to the nuclear industry.

Outreach activities

Paul Vallance, Corporate Affairs Director for the NDA, addressed the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Nuclear at the Palace of Westminster in early October. The event was attended by more than 20 parliamentarians interested in the nuclear sector. Paul updated on the following:

- The importance of decommissioning within the nuclear lifecycle.
- Resetting perceptions that decommissioning is a declining sector.
- The NDA group's significant contribution to the UK Government's Plan for Change and economic growth.
- Euan Hutton, Sellafield CEO, highlighted Sellafield's role in energy and national security.
- Seth Kybrid, Nuclear Waste Services CEO, emphasised the critical role of the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) and Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) in completing the nuclear lifecycle.

Engagement priorities

As you are aware, the consultation on the NDA draft **Strategy 5** was launched on 7 August and closed on 29 September. Our strategy document is published every five years and describes our high-level approach to delivering our mission. The critical enablers essential to the successful delivery of our mission include public and stakeholder engagement. Once we have analysed all the comments the final document will be produced and published in March 2026.



This year's Stakeholder Summit was held virtually on 3 November. More than 250 stakeholders joined the event with input from a range of speakers and panellists. The event was broken into three sessions and included key speakers from across the NDA and its Operating Companies as well as colleagues from the nuclear regulators.

We will soon be launching our annual stakeholder survey. This 'pulse' survey takes about 10 mins to complete and looks broadly at three key measures: openness and transparency, leadership and trust. Please look out for further communication on this.

Supporting green energy development

The NDA group is working with CX Power as the strategic developer to support the delivery of the green energy hub masterplan at Chapelcross, a programme set to transform the region. The privately funded, multi-million-pound, net-zero focused development, will generate several hundred high value jobs and attract skills and investment, driving growth in the local economy.

The NDA is investing £1 million to develop the masterplan for a clean energy development on land adjacent to Sellafield, known as Pioneer Park, which will drive long-term economic growth and jobs. The funding will enable local development company BEC to produce a detailed masterplan considering Sellafield's existing requirements.

Supporting economic growth

The NDA has contributed £351,000 funding to support projects under the North Anglesey Sites and Premises programme; a £10.4 million investment package driving economic growth in Amlwch, close to the former Wylfa nuclear power station.

Publications, public service and policy updates

The NDA Business Plan is out for consultation until 2 February. We will coordinate final publication of the Business Plan with the publication of the NDA Strategy 5 around Easter 2026.

Our latest Mission Progress Report, which sets out the progress being made against the mission as well as how much work there is left to do over the next 120-plus years, has been published. Access the seventh iteration of the Report here: [Mission Progress Report 2024/25](#)

The NDA socio-economic report 2024 to 2025 has been published, detailing how and where £14.13 million of direct socio-economic funding has been invested [NDA socio-economic report](#)



Innovation and delivery milestones

A landmark agreement between the NDA and biotech firm Bicycle Therapeutics will see tens of thousands of doses of cutting-edge cancer therapies produced from reprocessed uranium. This uranium was generated by historic processing of spent nuclear reactor fuel.

Hinkley Point B in Somerset has been declared fuel free, on time and on budget, marking the second advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGR) defueling milestone achieved by the NDA group and EDF. A total of seven stations will transfer from EDF to the NDA group for decommissioning.

The NDA group has delivered a UK-first nuclear milestone, marking a significant step toward permanently disposing of the nation's plutonium legacy. A can of plutonium residue has been safely processed into a stable waste form for the very first time. This demonstrates the UK's leadership in tackling this complex nuclear challenge.

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 NRS official at the SSG meeting.



Nuclear
Decommissioning
Authority