



Joint Oldbury/Berkeley Site Stakeholder Group

Oldbury Conference Centre, Oldbury Naite, Thornbury BS35 1RQ

Wednesday, 3 June 2026

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

AGENDA

- 12:30 **1. Welcome**
Oldbury Vice Chair – Chris Jennings
- 12:35 **2. Apologies for absence**
- 12:40 **3. Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 4 February 2026**
 - Accuracy
 - Matters arising
- 12:45 **4. Site Director Reports**
Oldbury – John Alderton (Site Director)
Berkeley – Emily Ciezarek (on behalf of Mike Heaton, Site Director)
- 13:15 **5. ONR Reports** – No submission (next ONR report is published in July)
- 13:30 **7. Environment Agency Reports**
Oldbury – Tom Hibbert
Berkeley – Tom Hibbert
- 13:50 **8. AOB**

Next SSG Meeting: Wednesday, 9 September 2026

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



Site Stakeholder Group

BERKELEY/OLDBURY SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

4th February 2026

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

Attendees:

John Stanton	Chair, Berkeley (Coopted member)
Cllr Steve Chandler JP	Vice Chair, Berkeley
Cllr Matthew Riddle	Chair, Oldbury
Cllr Chris Jennings	Vice Chair, Vice Chair SSG and Parish Council
Cllr Liz Ashton	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr Demelza Turner-Wilkes	Stroud District Council
Cllr Maggie Dutton	Stroud District Council
Cllr Chris Bloor	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr John Crook	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr Sally Gordon	Tytherington Parish Council
Cllr Chris Davies	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr Chris Davies	South Glos Council
Cllr Adrian Birch	Forest of Dean Council
Thomas Haynes	Simon Opher MPs Office
Nicola Berry	Hill Parish
John French	STAND
Bill Otto	STAND
Brian Roberts	Thornbury Chamber of Commerce
Trevor Hellen	Berkeley Research Group
Geoff Wheeler	Berkeley Research Group
Nic Penkonen	Artist and EDF Contractor
Peter Hazelwood	Oldbury Bird Watcher
Jon Evans	ONR
Paul Jenneson	ONR
Bill Hamilton	NRS - Director of External Affairs
Mike Heaton	NRS - Berkeley Site Director
John Alderton	NRS - Oldbury Site Director
Sharon Fry	NRS - Communications & Socio-Economic Lead
Dina D'Alessio	NRS - Minute Taker

Apologies for absence:

Elizabeth Norton – NDA
 Cllr Hugh Johnson – Tytherington Parish Council
 Angela Paine – Friends of the Earth/Green Party
 Tony Mitchell – Thornbury Resident's Association
 Barbara French – STAND
 Cllr Dominic Power – Chepstow Town Council
 Janet Hellen – TRAPP'D
 Cllr John Graham – Alveston Parish Council

1. Welcome and Introduction – John Stanton, Chair, Berkeley

John Stanton welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2. Apologies received from:

- Elizabeth Norton – NDA; Cllr Hugh Johnson – Tytherington Parish Council; Angela Paine – Friends of the Earth/Green Party; Tony Mitchell – Thornbury Resident's Association; Barbara French – STAND; Cllr Dominic Power – Chepstow Town Council; Janet Hellen – Member of the public; Cllr John Graham – Alveston Parish Council

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Comments on minutes from last meeting – EA Flooding response and report on building between Sharpness and Berkeley. EA final review on final site discharges for Berkeley and issues raised about Gaseous dischargers – Paul Jenneson to follow up.

EA promised a report on the condition of the sea wall but the officers that were writing the report are dealing with the flooding in Somerset. It is a report on the condition of the riverbank as it is receding. The EA were looking at the what the problems are and how to provide a resolution.

Maggie Dutton SDC action in the last meeting to the climate adaptation report from the ONR. Report link: [themed-inspection-on-climate-change-summary-report-2025](#)

4. NRS Berkeley Site Report – Mike Heaton

- 1 lost time accident – sprained ankle when getting changed from C3 work
- Received 2 waste transfers from Oldbury and 4 more due in coming months
- Upgrading Fire System
- Upgrading Security System
- Application requests are open for community funding through NRS
- Neighbourly System is open for community volunteering applications
- Visit to site for ex-employees and stakeholder group

Questions:

Q1: Robotic arm in vault 1, how would this be repaired if developed an issue?

A1: Retracted from the vault and is done in protective clothing. Respirators and clothing etc.

Q2: Geological Waste Storage Facility?

A2: Not confirmed a location so far. There were 4 locations, one was wrong geologically, a Lincolnshire site pulled out so two possible sites in Cumbria now left but it is some years away from a location being finalised.

Q3: Do Berkeley monitor the groundwater?

A3: Flooding has happened repeatedly on the approach road. The flood defences have been strengthened around the vaults. The rain affects access to site but does not cause issues with protection of facilities.

4. **NRS Oldbury Site Report – John Alderton**

- The turbine hall demolition out to tender, returns due 22nd June. Final approval due in December 2026 and mobilisation around January to February 2027
- Decommissioning of ponds plant ongoing, shield wall taken down and displayed a close up photograph within a tank that is being size reduced from inside out
- Early FED retrievals are underway
- AVDS has been a victim of business planning and has been pushed out by 2 years
- Auto SAS pathfinder project being funded by NDA [robotics partnership](#) – project to look at AI methods of sorting waste across entire NDA fleet. Chose Oldbury because can use the early FED retrievals. A number of years away before work takes place. Will be sited in CO2 tank farm area and it has been levelled to ground level in preparation
- Modular buildings cleared, footbridge and old planning block demolished
- FED entries completed in Vault 3 and 4. Being set up to go into vaults 1 and 2
- Sustainability – visit from local schools and colleges for teachers to be able to speak with authority when they asked questions by pupils. Have attended careers fairs at KLB School John Alderton to follow up on which schools visited Oldbury
- Silt lagoon 3 contract now let and sluice gate work will be complete by end of March. Will then enter a period of monitoring for 12 months
- Shared community funding projects – Gympanzees at Aust
- Apprentice from Oldbury has been nominated for apprentice of the year in March
- Fundraising charity has raised £4725 last year for Jigsaw and they have been nominated for the charity for next year

Questions:

Q1: Do NRS hold Intellectual Property Rights to Auto SAS?

A1: This will be reported back at the next meeting.

Q2: Is the Turbine Hall highly irradiated?

A2: There is a significant hazard from Asbestos but not radiation. Can enter the building with conventional PPE without receiving a radioactive dose.

5. **NRS Update – Bill Hamilton**

Bill Hamilton advised that after 15 years this would be his last Berkeley/Oldbury SSG.

The business is entering a new phase, with AGRs coming over - Hunterston B in April and Hinkley B in October this year.

Following the recent NRS re-structuring, more power has been given to Site Directors, therefore there will not be much presence from corporate at the SSG meetings.

The SSG can request Subject Matter Experts on specialist subjects as required. A number of external communications specialists have left the NDA, therefore representation from the NDA has been limited. Further updates will be provided to the Chairs on Friday, 6 February.

6. Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) – Paul Jennesson

Paul advised that he is moving onto Hinkley B, and introduced new inspector, John Evans. Records were correct and no non-compliances.

- Wrote two reports and have no open issues other than the conventional safety at Berkeley
- Joint inspection on ILW to make sure it was compliant with staff from both sites
- Significant number of buildings taken down at Oldbury
- Separation of turbine hall is a massive achievement over the last 3 years
- Move of MOSAIK from Oldbury to Berkeley was a lot of work from regulators and the highways agency
- Working now to ensure that proportionate regulation is being applied as now appropriate to reduce nuclear regulation burden
- Berkeley ONR permissioned waste encapsulation plant to passively store radioactive waste
- ISF can now be used on both levels, when arrived was only using one level
- Shielded area has become a thriving waste segregation area
- Specifically asked Safety Reps if there are any issues and they didn't have anything significant to report.

Questions:

Q1: Asked if it was completely radiation free in the Turbine hall?

A1: Replied that there is no risk other than Asbestos. It is outside of the radiation controlled area. Would be happy with conventional PPE but no reading on radiation badge over 5 – 6 entries.

Q2: Reduction of regulatory burden – new build, is it the same thing?

A2: Paul responded that he is a decommissioning expert but has been a perceived high regulation burden but trying to adopt a similar approach. But with new build there is a legal requirement but gold plated regulation is not required on decommissioning sites.

Q3: Flooding issue?

A3: External hazard to site and generally content that periodic review has satisfied requirements and has a degree of climate change considerations. Accept that approach road does flood but there isn't a risk to the nuclear safety case and no risk from rainwater. The nuclear safety case negates any escape of radioactive material. Conversations are had around the provisions of the work force and that they aren't

marooned with no provisions. From a health and safety perspective the guard force is well looked after.

7. Environment Agency (EA) – Peter Reynolds

Peter introduced the new inspector for Oldbury, Tom Hibbert. A joint inspection on the Intermediate Level Waste has been carried out. All records and documentation was correct with no non compliances.

- 2nd Inspection at Oldbury was managing of liquid effluent to ensure that all records were maintained and accurate. Maintenance schedules were correct and ensured that instruments used were accurate. Recommended that the site should review its water balance because a significant proportion of the discharges appears to be surface water. The site accepted that this needs to be improved upon.
- Apart from that routine engagement has taken place every 2 weeks and there hasn't been any events of concern.

8. NDA Update

There were no NDA representatives present at the meeting, but their report was submitted within the meeting pack.

9. Any Other Business – John Stanton

None

- **Date of Next Meeting** – Wednesday, 3 June meeting will be at OCC
- *Wednesday, 9 September meeting is scheduled to be at GL13*

Environment Agency Report

Oldbury Site Stakeholder Group

June 2026

This report covers our regulation of Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) at Oldbury Site, and related issues, from January 2026 to April 2026.

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 (SERP) 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). There have been no alterations to the permit or CEAR during the period of this report.

Compliance activities

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

We visited Oldbury site in March and met with members of the environment team and engineering team to carry out a review of the Oldbury Environmental Monitoring Programme.

Oldbury supplied us with relevant company standards and departmental instructions for review in advance of the inspection. On the day of the inspection, we accompanied the sampling contractors on their sampling visits to sampling locations, both close to the Oldbury site and at various locations on the Severn estuary. We witnessed the contractors' taking samples of herbage, soil, shoreline sediment and tacky shades, as well as performing gamma counting. We reviewed operating instructions (both NRS' and the

contractors), training and SQEP records, calibration and maintenance records, quality control and reporting arrangements.

We did not identify any non-compliances during our inspection. The RASCAR is in the final stages of being completed and will include recommendations based on our findings.

We will inspect the Oldbury site against compliance with Asset Management and Maintenance arrangements in late May.

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 identified in the period January to April 2026.

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.

Our engagement with the Oldbury site in the 2026/27 financial year is outlined within site environment review and engagement plan (SERP). The provisional inspection plan for the Oldbury site is shown below; actual inspections may change depending on our evolving understanding of risks on the site.

Quarter	Inspection
Q1 (Apr-Jun)	Asset Management and Maintenance
Q2 (Jul-Sep)	LLW and non-RA waste management (with EA Area waste team)
Q3 (Oct-Dec)	SQEP Baseline and Environmental Leadership
Q4 (Jan-Mar)	Demonstration of BAT for Gaseous & Aqueous Discharges

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. In the period of this report, we have also conducted our annual review of the results of Oldbury's environmental monitoring programme. We issued a RASCAR recording our findings. We did not identify any issues of concern.

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 changes 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-protection-services.org.uk/radiationandyou/>

The 2025 Radioactivity in Food and the Environment report (RIFE 31) is expected to be published in October this year.

Enforcement

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

In March we were informed by Oldbury of an event where a litre bottle of very lightly contaminated borehole water (4Bq) was misconsigned to an off-site analysis company which was not permitted to receive it. There was no danger to the public or environment from this material, and the sample was returned to site two days later. NRS undertook a root cause analysis investigation of this event; the investigation report is currently at the draft stage.

We have investigated this incident and are in the process of producing a RASCAR to document our findings; we have also liaised with our ONR counterparts on this topic. Currently there is no indication of a non-compliance against the permit.

Additional Items (for information)

Environment Agency Survey

We will shortly be inviting our nuclear customers and stakeholders to take part in an online survey – this will include SSG members. Your feedback will help us to understand how well we are working with you, and how we can improve in the future.

We have commissioned independent market research agency, **Navigator Insight**, to carry out this research on our behalf. You will receive an email from them with a link to the online survey. Participants who complete the online survey will also be asked if they would like to take part in a follow-up telephone interview (this is entirely optional). Should you choose to take part, your survey results will be anonymous.

The survey will launch on **11 May 2026** and will be open until 11.59pm on **31 May 2026**.

“The natural and political world is constantly evolving, and the role of the Environment Agency must evolve alongside to meet new needs and challenges. Good regulation should protect people and the environment and enable the sectors we regulate to comply, grow and achieve their missions. This benefits society at large. A vital element of improving our regulation is hearing from you. A note of thanks in advance - all your views and feedback will be considered and help shape our work in the future.”

If you have any questions about the survey or the Environment Agency's work, please contact nuclear@environment-agency.gov.uk

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

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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](#)

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>

Tom Hibbert is the Environment Agency's lead nuclear regulator for the Oldbury site. He 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 licenced sites in Southern England. It works closely with the local Environment Agency teams in those areas as well as with external bodies such as the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

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

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

Email: tom.hibbert@environment-agency.gov.uk

Environment Agency Report

Berkeley Site Stakeholder Group

May 2026

This report covers our regulation of Nuclear Restoration Services' Berkeley Site and related issues over the period January 2026 to April 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).

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 have sent a draft annual site environmental review and plan report (SERP) to Berkeley and by the time of the Site Stakeholder Group meeting we expect to have issued the final report. The SERP details a review of the previous year and sets out actions for the EA's nuclear regulator for the coming year. The overall report is considered to be green with two areas identified as amber and requiring follow up this year. These relate to the management of waste and the management of legacy waste deposits at the site.

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. We have reviewed additional information provided by Berkeley and are satisfied that there are no procedural concerns with the discharge of aqueous waste. We have however recommended that the process be reviewed to reduce the number of samples required and make the process more proportionate. We will be issuing the RASCAR shortly.

During this period Oldbury continued to transfer waste comprising Ion Siv cartridges to the Berkeley site Intermediate Level Waste storage Facility (ISF). A package arrived at the Berkeley site and was found to be scratched and therefore damaged during transit. The damage did not compromise the integrity of the box. This has been investigated and the package has been transferred to the ISF and coated with organic oil to prevent corrosion. The transport has been revised to ensure that further damage does not occur in subsequent transfers.

We are aware that two Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs) at the Berkeley site contain aqueous radioactive waste arising from an on-site waste treatment process, resulting in the waste containing Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA). EDTA is

known to bind metallic species, including radioactive metals, thereby increasing environmental mobility and bioavailability of radionuclides. We have written to NRS advising that on the basis of the information they have presented, we do not believe that discharge of this waste to the river is the best available technique (BAT) due to the properties of the EDTA. If Nuclear Restoration Services Limited want to revisit the BAT conclusions and seek to justify direct discharge to a receiving watercourse as the preferred disposal route for this waste, they will need to provide a comprehensive BAT assessment, demonstrating this represents an optimised waste management option

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. No non compliances have been identified.

Berkeley has requested that standard reporting values be used in place of measured gaseous discharges for some of its facilities. This is industry practice for facilities with a known provenance that are passively venting. We have issued guidance on this aspect. We are currently reviewing Berkeley's request as it includes facilities from which waste is being processed or facilities that will continue to support the waste management and decommissioning processes for some time.

The complication of EA Requirements document (CEAR) that accompanies the permit requires Berkeley to submit an annual witness duplicate sample to UKHSA for independent analysis. The sample has identified the presence of ²⁴¹Americium. We are therefore reanalysing the sample to verify the results.

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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