



Joint Berkeley/Oldbury Site Stakeholder Group

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

Wednesday, 9 September 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, 3 June 2026**
 - Accuracy
 - Matters arising
- 13:45 **4. Site Director Reports**
 - Berkeley – Mike Heaton (Site Director)
 - Oldbury – John Alderton (Site Director)
- 14:15 **5. ONR Reports**
 - Berkeley – Jonathan Evans
 - Oldbury – Jonathan Evans
- 14:30 **6. Environment Agency Reports**
 - Berkeley – Tom Hibbert
 - Oldbury – Tom Hibbert
- 14:50 **7. AOB**
 - Proposal to move to 6-monthly meetings (as per mins of 03/06/26)

Next SSG Meeting: TBC



OLDBURY/BERKELEY SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
3rd June 2026
Oldbury Conference Centre, Oldbury Power Station,
Oldbury Naite, Thornbury, Bristol, BS35 1RQ

Attendees:

Cllr Chris Jennings	Vice Chair SSG and Parish Council
John Stanton	Chair, Berkeley SSG
Cllr Maggie Dutton	Stroud District Council
Cllr Nick Phillips	Hinton Parish Council
Cllr John Crook	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr Chris Davies	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr Chris Bloor	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr Chris Davies	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Dominic Power	Chepstow Town Council
Cllr Hugh Johnson	Tytherington Parish Council
Brian Roberts	Thornbury Chamber of Commerce
Barbara French	STAND
Sue Haverly	STAND
Bill Otto	STAND
Trevor Hellen	Berkeley Research Group
Geoff Wheeler	Berkeley Research Group
Peter Williams	Liverpool University
Nic Penkonen	Artist
Anthony Grafton -Green	Thornbury
Tom Hibbert	Environment Agency
John Alderton	NRS – Oldbury Site Director
Emily Ciezarek	NRS – Berkeley Infrastructure Manager
Sharon Fry	NRS – Communications & Socio-Economic Lead
Emma Burwood	NRS – Employee Communications Manager
Abby Cunliffe	NRS – Minute Taker

1. Welcome and Introduction – Chris Jennings, Vice Chair, Oldbury

Chris Jennings opened the meeting, welcomed attendees to the meeting and confirmed the meeting was being recorded to support minute-taking.

2. Apologies for absence received

Matthew Riddle – Oldbury Chair; Mike Heaton – Berkeley Site Director; Tony Williams – South Glos Council; Tony Mitchell – Thornbury Residents Association; Adrian Birch – Forest of Dean DC; Peter Reynolds – Environment Agency; Stewart Henderson – Gloucester Harbour Trustees; Liz Ashton – Berkeley TC; Steve Chandler – Berkeley Vice Chair; Charles Berkeley – Berkeley & Spetchley Estates; Barnaby Harding – South Glos Association of Parish & Town Councils; Philip Matthews – NuLeaf; Tracy Braithwaite – Environment Agency; Demelza Turner-Wilkes – Stroud DC; Kate Baxter – NRS

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Following a query raised at the previous meeting, clarification was provided regarding intellectual property rights for the AUTO-SAS project. It was confirmed that the contractor retains ownership of the intellectual property, with NRS retaining usage rights.

4. NRS Oldbury Site Report – John Alderton, Oldbury Site Director

John shared an NRS companywide safety message with regards to a serious domestic incident involving a patio heater as a reminder to follow safety procedures.

Updates were given on the following:

Asset Management – 23 packages of work in total have been funded for 26/27, including:

- New accommodation block
- Security system upgrades – repairs to fence line & sensitive detection equipment
- Roof repairs
- Refurbishment and upgrades of various welfare facilities on site
- Upgrades to on-site road traffic management – phased approach

Major Projects

- AUTO-SAS schedule
- Turbine Hall current schedule

Decommissioning Projects

- Demolition of Back Up Feed (BUF) tanks
- Continuation of decommissioning and removal in the Ponds Filtration Plant. Fine Filter Sludge Tank A (FFST) removal now complete (key milestone achieved - first in NRS fleet this financial year)
- Early FED (Fuel Element Debris) – vaults 3 & 4 complete, work commenced on preparation for vaults 1&2

Sustainability

- STEM visit to KLB school
- Tree planting
- Nature trail litter picks
- No Mow May
- Oystercatchers have nested and hatched chicks (for the third year running)

People

- Apprentice success highlighted

Charity

- 500-mile cycle planned to raise money for Jigsaw charity

Corporate

- NRS is expanding with the addition of Hunterston B joining in April and Hinkley B transferring in the autumn
- Changes to regulation – New guidance from the ONR

- Elections and stakeholder engagement
- NRS socio-economic funding supports 129 community projects across the UK (25-26) – almost £2M invested last year

Q1: Once demolished will the Turbine Hall basement be used for battery storage?

A1: John Alderton - The current strategy for the Turbine Hall basement is to leave the area as an open void. All existing equipment and concrete plinths will be removed, and the space will be maintained with an appropriate water management system in place. The perimeter will be secured with fencing. At present, no definitive future use has been identified, and the area is being retained for potential strategic opportunities.

4. NRS Berkeley Site Report – Emily Ciezarek, Berkeley Infrastructure Manager

- Health campaign “Know Your Numbers” launched
- Waste retrieval update – over 50% of waste in vaults 1&2 has been retrieved to date
- Waste package transfer to the Interim Storage Facility (ISF) progressing
- Ductile Cast Iron Container (DCIC) MOSAIK transfers from Oldbury to Berkeley completed successfully
- Ongoing socio-economic support – a total of 9 Projects supported in 25/26 (5 Good Neighbour projects and 4 projects above £2000)

Q2: Chris Jennings – What has been the response from staff to the “Know Your Numbers” health campaign?

A2: Emily Ciezarek – The response has been very positive with a strong uptake of the blood tests. Individuals have reported that, following receipt of their results, they have consulted their GP for further advice. This has led to follow-up actions and, where necessary, changes to their health management plans.

Q3: Geoff Wheeler – How much of the 43 tonnes ILW retrieval target is total ILW? Can the waste be segregated into power station waste and laboratory waste?

A3: Emily Ciezarek – The total ILW waste retrieved can be separated into waste retrieved from the vaults and waste retrieved from the shielded area (ex BRK laboratory waste). We are using LIDDAR scanning to help accurately measure the amount of ILW waste left in the vaults and compare this to the paper records. This will give us a better indication of the future waste total to be retrieved.

Q4: Barbara French – Is Oldbury still receiving and storing waste from Bradwell and Sizewell?

A4: Emily Ciezarek – Oldbury has never received or stored waste from Bradwell. There is no current intention to receive waste from Sizewell. The IONSIV filters which were recently transferred to BRK in a MOSAIK came from Sizewell, Dungeness and Oldbury. No waste will be transported via the railhead.

Q5: Barbara French – What does ‘Interim’ storage facility mean?

A5: Emily Ciezarek – The Interim Storage Facility is currently storing site waste until the UK Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) becomes available. The timescales for the GDF sit with the UK Government.

5. ONR Reports

No submission – the next ONR report will be published in July.

6. Environment Agency Reports

Tom Hibbert, Regulator for Oldbury advised that he would be representing Tracy Braithwaite, Regulator for Berkeley, at today's meeting.

The Environment Agency reports were circulated with the meeting papers four weeks ago. Mr Hibbert highlighted the key points and updates which had occurred since the reports were written.

Oldbury Report

- Report prepared at the start of May
- No changes to the site permit
- Inspections of the environmental monitoring programme at Oldbury and Berkeley have been undertaken. This involves samples of soil, beach sediment, airborne gamma and surface contamination indicators being taken across a wide geographical area, which are then used to understand radioactivity levels. This data is then used to calculate potential dose to the public and the environment. The inspection found no non-compliances, with the contractor performing well. There were some minor recommendations including strengthening checks on contractor procedures and improving location accuracy of sampling using more precise location systems.
- Since the beginning of May an asset management and maintenance inspection has been carried out, with no compliance issues identified so far.
- Discharges from site remain as expected, and well below 1% of permitted limits in all categories
- Planned inspections over the coming year include asset management and maintenance, low level and non-radioactive waste, management, staff competence and training and gaseous discharges.
- Minor Incident – In March, a group of samples associated with civil engineering works were sent off site in error. One of these contained a very small amount of radioactive contamination. The receiving site identified the issue and the sample was returned. After the investigation it was classified as material, not waste and therefore no breach of environmental regulations occurred. The site is carrying out follow-up actions internally.

Q6: Bill Otto – 4 Becquerels in 1 Litre is very hard to measure as it's such a low level?

A6: Tom Hibbert – It is very hard to measure, as C-137 can be detected down to extremely low levels. The limit detection for Caesium and water is 1 so this sample was just above detectable levels, but it was present and makes the water radioactively contaminated albeit extremely lightly.

Q7: Bill Otto – What's going to happen to the Borehole?

A7: Tom Hibbert – The sample was taken from a Borehole for the IBC. To characterise the Borehole wash water, the samples were taken and a radiochemical and suit of chemical analysis were undertaken which informs the site disposal route. The chemical analysis had not yet been done when the sample was incorrectly sent off site, and I am unsure whether this has been actioned yet. The results of this analysis will determine whether the sample will be discharged via the Active Effluent Treatment Plant (AETP) or via another route.

ACTION – John Alderton to provide an update on the chemical analysis results and the discharge route at the next meeting

Q8: Sue Haverly – How many sites are samples taken from?

A8: Tom Hibbert – There are a number of sample sites in close proximity to Oldbury. At each location, multiple types of samples are collected. Immediately outside the fence line, samples include soil and herbage, along with tacky mats positioned to the North and South of the site. In addition to these there are 5 more sites: 2 located on the Eastern bank of the River Severn and 3 on the Western (Welsh) bank. At each site more than one sample may be taken, for example at Lydney there is a surface scrape sample of sediment from the river at low tide and a gamma count in the air.

Q9: Sue Haverly – Is the number of sites determined by the fact that there are less radioactive operations? Were more samples taken when the power station was generating?

A9: Tom Hibbert – It is unclear whether there were more sampling sites in place when the power station was operational, as this was some years ago. During the generating period, monitoring focused on a wider range of radionuclides associated with power generation. Many of those specific radionuclides are no longer present more than a decade after generation ceased, so they are no longer included in routine monitoring.

Q10: Barbara French – At one time it appeared that samples were being collected by scientists at the Oldbury and Berkeley sites rather than by the Environment Agency (EA). Is the EA now responsible for collecting the samples?

A10: Tom Hibbert – Samples are collected by a contractor working on behalf of NRS. The Environment Agency (EA) carries out inspections to ensure that sampling activities are conducted in line with approved standards. Each year, the site produces an Environmental Monitoring Programme (EMP) which outlines how the site will monitor environmental impact and potential doses to both people and the environment. The programme specifies where samples will be taken, what types of samples will be collected, and the methods used for collection. The EA then reviews and approves this programme in accordance with its guidance, and periodically observe sampling activities in the field. They check that samples are collected appropriately, without contamination, and that records are accurate and complete. Inspectors also review laboratory analytical methods, personnel training and competency, and reporting processes to ensure compliance.

Berkeley Report

- **EDTA-Containing Waste** - There were two containers holding water which contained low levels of radioactivity and EDTA, a chemical which can increase mobility of contaminants. The site had initially proposed discharge via normal routes, however the Environment Agency raised concerns. The corporate guidance is to incinerate this waste. The site are reviewing the BAT option and will discuss with Tracy Braithwaite once complete.
- **Environmental Monitoring and Sampling Confidence** - In response to questions raised we approve the monitoring programme, inspect how samples are taken, observe contractors in the field and review analytical methods, training, and reporting. Independent verification is carried out using split samples - one analysed by the site contractor, and one analysed independently by UK Health Security Agency, which are compared to ensure consistency.
- **Americium Detection (under investigation)** - In one split sample at Berkeley the independent lab detected a very small amount of americium-241 which the site lab did not detect. This is unexpected for a defuelled site and currently under investigation. Both laboratories are reviewing their analytical methods. If confirmed as a genuine result, a full Environment Agency investigation will follow. At this stage, we are not speculating on the cause.
- **Packaging/Transport Observation** - During the transport of waste containers, a slightly loosened retaining bolt was found which caused a minor surface scratch on

one container. This did not compromise the package and posed no safety risk. The issue was identified, corrected and did not recur in subsequent shipments.

- General conclusion across both sites - Compliance is strong, environmental monitoring is effective and no significant issues identified. Some minor improvements and investigations are ongoing, but nothing of concern.

NOTE: *We have requested an update from the EA on the results of the Americium detection, and hope to be able to provide an update at the next meeting.*

Q11: Bill Otto – What is the resolution for the EDTA issues? Are you going to extract all radioactivity associated with EDTA and leave the rest for disposal into the river? How many Curies are in the EDTA containing waste?

A11: Tom Hibbert – The NRS corporate route for disposal of EDTA contaminated water is to incinerate it at an incinerator permitted to take low levels of radioactive waste, which there are three of in the UK. The EDTA will be destroyed and the radionuclides in the waste will be tracked out as oxides on the filters in the permitted incinerator and then go as disposal to either Low Level or Very Low Level Waste depending on the activity.

ACTION – Tracey Braithwaite to respond to Mr Otto to confirm how many Curies are in the EDTA containing waste.

Q12: John Stanton – It was mentioned in the report that the DCIC container was scratched which seems to be completely trivial. Was it mentioned in the report because it is more serious than it might imply? Could you explain why it's been mentioned and what's being done about it?

A12: Tom Hibbert – The issue was referenced to provide context. During the transport of DCICs from Oldbury to Berkeley - when they were loaded into a Type B overpack for transfer to the Interim Storage Facility (ISF) - it was identified that one of the bolts in the retaining section had vibrated during the road journey. However the bolt had not come loose and remained in place, although it had caused a light scratch on the exterior of the DCIC. On arrival at Berkeley the scratch was assessed and deemed not significant enough to impact the integrity of the container or lead to future degradation, as it had not penetrated the full paint coating. Despite the low safety significance, the situation highlighted that the overpack was not performing entirely as intended. Berkeley raised the observation with Oldbury, and the Type B overpack was subsequently inspected. All retaining bolts were checked and re-tightened to ensure this issue would not recur. Following this corrective action, subsequent deliveries of DCICs to Berkeley were completed without any further instances. The issue demonstrated a deviation from optimal performance, and it was appropriately identified, reported, and rectified.

Q13: John Stanton - What is the risk associated with the scratch?

A13: Tom Hibbert - The risk is long-term in nature. In theory, if a DCIC was to sustain a deep scratch sufficient to expose the underlying metal, there is potential for corrosion over time. Given that these containers are intended to be stored within the Interim Storage Facility (ISF) for several decades, any exposed metal surface could be susceptible to gradual degradation. However, the risk is manageable. There are straightforward mitigation measures available, such as applying protective grease or repainting the affected area to restore the integrity of the coating and prevent corrosion. As such, while the issue warrants attention and control, it does not present a significant or unmanageable problem.

Q14: Dominic Power – How thick is the paint finishes on the DCIC's? Are they Galvanised?

A14: Tom Hibbert – A few millimetres but I will take the action away to find out. The containers are cast iron, not galvanised.

ACTION – John Alderton to confirm the measurements of the thickness of the paint finish on the DCIC's.

Response: *Paint should be 180 microns and shouldn't exceed 540 microns.*

Q15: Barbara French – Is the EDTA contaminated waste going into LLW storage?

A15: Tom Hibbert – The NRS corporate route for LLW water contaminated with chemicals such as EDTA is incineration. Aqueous and some other wastes are routinely incinerated at permitted incinerators in the UK. The radionuclides are trapped out by the multiple HEPA filtration system and the filters and the bottom ash from the incinerator is required to meet the Waste Acceptance Criteria for LLW or VLLW for final disposal.

Q16: Barbara French – Where are the Low Level and Very Low Level waste disposal locations?

A16: Tom Hibbert – There are a number around the country - the main two are the Drigg site in Cumbria and the Auegan site in Northamptonshire.

Q17: Barbara French – That's a change to policy as there was a proposal some time ago to store LLW in the ground at Oldbury as opposed to moving it.

A17: Tom Hibbert – I am not aware of any proposals to store LLW in the ground at Oldbury.

Q18: Chris Bloor – How do you incinerate water?

A18: Tom Hibbert – You don't incinerate water; you incinerate the chemicals that are in the water. The concern with this is the chemical in the EDTA can make radionuclides more mobile and then, in theory, more able to get into the food chain. The water is turned into steam, and the organic chemicals are burnt in the incinerator and turned into carbon monoxide.

7. Any Other Business – Chris Jennings

Chris thanked John Alderton, Emily Ciezarek & Tom Hibbert for their comprehensive reports.

Due to the slow pace of decommissioning, and to align with other sites, a proposal will be brought forward to move to six-monthly meetings. This will be included on the agenda for the next meeting. Chris requested that attendees send any concerns regarding this proposal to Tonya Hughes in advance of the next meeting.

John Stanton will invite Lyn Matthews, Nuclear Staff Trainer, to attend the next meeting. However, as she is unavailable on the currently scheduled date, the meeting may need to be rescheduled to accommodate her.

Some questions were raised regarding new build. Chris Jennings advised the meeting that a separate forum is planned for future New Build discussions.

Chris Jennings thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.

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Date of Next Meeting – 9th September 2026

**GL13 Community Hub & Library; School lane, Berkeley, Gloucestershire, GL13
9DQ**

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Nuclear Regulation

ONR site report

Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd – Berkeley

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ONR site report

Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd - Berkeley

Report for period: 1 January – 30 June 2026

Authored by: Safety Inspector

Approved by: Delivery Lead

Issue: 1

Published: August 2026

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

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

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1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of inspection

ONR site safety inspectors made no inspections during the report period 1 January – 30 June 2026.

2. Routine matters

2.1. Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with:

- the Energy Act 2013;
- regulations made under the Energy Act 2013, for example the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 and the Nuclear Safeguards (EU Exit) Regulations 2019;
- the conditions attached by ONR to the nuclear site licence granted under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65) (as amended);
- 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 legal compliance. The licensee is required to make and implement adequate arrangements under the conditions attached to the licence to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, routine interactions with Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) Ltd - Berkeley covered the following:

- decommissioning;
- quarterly interface meetings;
- annual review of safety;
- future projects;
- conventional (non-nuclear) health and safety; and
- 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.

2.2. Other work

During this reporting period, regulatory activity was primarily focused on the handover and transfer of site regulatory responsibilities to the incoming site inspector. Consequently, much of the inspector's activity centred on site induction and familiarisation, developing an understanding of the site, its activities and priorities and establishing effective working relationships with the licensee's management team and safety representatives. This work, together with routine regulatory engagements, has established a sound basis for future regulatory oversight and inspection activities.

The site inspector attended the NRS Oldbury and Berkeley Quarterly Regulator Interface Meetings on the 27 January and the 8 April 2026 to discuss issues, events and project milestone updates at the sites. The second meeting included an annual review of safety, security and environmental performance. The overall site performance across the NRS Ltd southwest region remains adequate and no new issues, which would significantly impact our purposes, were identified.

The site inspector held regular meetings with the Site Director and weekly keep-in-touch meetings with operational staff. Discussions covered regulatory matters, site incidents, future permissioning activities and progress in delivering significant decommissioning milestones. There are currently no outstanding regulatory issues at the site requiring ONR intervention.

As part of the site handover and familiarisation process, the site inspector met with safety representatives to discuss matters relating to the health, safety and welfare of employees and to support their role in representing the workforce.

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.

The following matters/incidents were reported to us within this reporting period:

- A TS05 INF1 event was reported on 18 June 2026 involving the receipt of a non-compliant radioactive package from a contracted laboratory. ONR was satisfied that NRS Berkeley responded appropriately in its role as consignee and that the matter was adequately addressed.

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.)

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I added in the template text above

Commented [GS2R1]: spot on thanks

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
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Website: www.onr.org.uk
Email : contact@onr.gov.uk

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ONR site report

Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd – Oldbury

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6. Contacts

Office for Nuclear Regulation
Redgrave Court
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Merseyside
L20 7HS
Website: www.onr.org.uk
Email : contact@onr.gov.uk

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Environment Agency Report

Berkeley Site Stakeholder Group

August 2026

This report covers our regulation of Nuclear Restoration Services' Berkeley Site and related issues over the period May 2026 to August 2026. This site is currently undergoing decommissioning. From 3rd August 2026, James Heavingham became the Berkeley site regulator replacing Tracy Braithwaite whilst she is on assignment.

Radioactive substances regulation

Operators of nuclear sites in England must have a permit for radioactive substances activities from the Environment Agency. The environmental permits we issue contain strict conditions and limits that must be followed at all times. Permit conditions are designed to make sure that operators' activities do not harm people or the environment. The conditions also specify that operators must use Best Available Techniques (BAT) to minimise the amount of radioactive waste produced, and radioactivity discharged. We conduct a variety of regulatory activities to check for compliance with our regulatory requirements, including site inspection, review of documents, and arrangements, and any reports of events. Details of our assessments and any non-compliances identified are included in Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Reports (RASCARs), which are placed on our public register. See the 'further information' section at the end of this document to find out how to request documents from our public register.

We regulate and control other activities on nuclear sites that require environmental permits, including surface water discharges and combustion activities.

Permitting

Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) holds a radioactive substances activity permit under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) at the Berkeley site (EPR/ZP3893SG). We set additional requirements in Berkeley site's CEAR (Compilation of Environment Agency Requirements).

There have been no changes to NRS's Berkeley permits in the period since the previous SSG meeting.

Compliance activities

We continue to keep in contact with the Site Director and Head of Environment at the Berkeley site via remote meetings at monthly intervals. These meetings allow us 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.

Since the last SSG meeting, we have reviewed and consulted internally on Berkeley's application to use standard reporting values for some of its gaseous discharge outlets. We have arranged a meeting with Berkeley's environment team in September to discuss our findings and any potential further work. We will report back to the SSG at the following meeting. We have also issued the Site Environment Review and Plan (SERP) for 2026-27. The SERP details a review of the previous year and sets out actions for the EA's nuclear regulator for the coming year.

Our next site inspection is planned for September. This inspection will primarily focus on a review of the arrangements for managing and maintaining the assets required to demonstrate compliance with the site's RSR permit.

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.

The CEAR that accompanies the permit requires Berkeley to submit an annual aqueous waste sample to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) for independent analysis. It was reported in the last meeting that the analysis of this sample identified the presence of ²⁴¹Americium.

Customer service line 03708 506 506
Incident hotline 0800 80 70 60

Floodline 03459 88 11 88

It should be noted that it is expected to see small quantities of $^{241}\text{Americium}$ in the aqueous effluent, even though the site is defueled and decommissioning.

The result obtained by the UKHSA is in keeping with previous results and in compliance with the environmental permit. No further action is required at this time, but we will continue to review the monitoring returns submitted to us by NRS.

Environmental impact

The site environmental permit requires the operator to monitor and assess the impact of discharges on the environment. The results of NRS's 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:

Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce

In February 2025 Government [announced](#) its plans for nuclear energy, including setting up a review of nuclear regulation. The Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce reported directly to the Prime Minister and was led by John Fingleton. Read about [its role and Terms of Reference](#).

On 24 November 2025, the Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce published [its final report](#).

The Environment Agency supports the work of the Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce to deliver a stronger and more streamlined regulatory framework. We welcome the publication of this report and will work closely with the government as it assesses these recommendations and prepares a full response.

Chief Regulator's report

We have published the second Chief Regulator's report. It summarises the performance of the businesses and activities regulated by the Environment Agency in England in 2024-25.

[Environment Agency Chief Regulator's report 2024-25 - GOV.UK](#)

You can [read a summary](#) of our nuclear and radioactive substances work during 2024-25 in the evidence report.

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

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

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

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.

Read the press release [Scrutiny report about radioactive waste disposal is published - GOV.UK](#)

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

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

Customer service line 03708 506 506
Incident hotline 0800 80 70 60

Floodline 03459 88 11 88

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>

James Heavingham is the Environment Agency's lead nuclear regulator for the Berkeley site. James is part of the national Nuclear Regulation Group based at the Environment Agency's Blandford office in Dorset

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

September 2026

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

In May we issued the RASCAR for the permit compliance inspection of Oldbury's Environmental Monitoring Programme conducted in March. We did not identify any non-compliances, although we made a number of recommendations, which are being actioned by the site.

We visited Oldbury site in May to carry out a permit compliance inspection of asset management and maintenance arrangements at the site. Oldbury supplied us with relevant company standards and departmental instructions for review in advance of the inspection.

On the days of the inspection, we accompanied site staff on visits to the effluent treatment plant, waste handling facilities and waste and discharge monitoring locations. We reviewed operating instructions, training and SQEP records, calibration and maintenance records, quality control and reporting arrangements. We interviewed members of the environment, engineering and waste teams to clarify their arrangements and check their understanding of compliance requirements. We did not identify any non-compliances during our inspection and identified one area of good practice. The RASCAR has been issued and accepted by the site.

We will inspect the Oldbury site against compliance with radioactive and non-radioactive waste management arrangements (supported by Environment Agency colleagues from the Wessex area waste team) in late September.

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 May to July 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 intended 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

*Suitably Qualified and Experienced Persons

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. We did not identify any issues of concern in this period.

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-protectionservices.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 the previous SSG report we reported on an event in March 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. At the time of the previous SSG report we had not issued the RASCAR for this event. We have since issued it; we identified no permit non-compliances, but we made a number of recommendations, which are being actioned by the site.

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](#)

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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.

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