

Bradwell Site LCLC

Report for June 2017

This report covers our regulation of Bradwell site and related issues.

Radioactive substances

We regulate radioactive waste disposals to deliver the best outcome for the environment. We do this by placing limits and conditions in the environmental permits that help us ensure radioactive waste discharges are minimised and the environment is protected.

Stakeholder Communications

We held a consultation on our draft 'minded to' decision for three environmental permit variations. The consultation closed on 15 December 2016.

We issued the permits in March 2017 and our response to the comments received during the consultation period were given in the decision documents we produced with the permits. More details on the permit issue are given in the section of this report titled 'Permit Variations'.

In March we took part in a visit by government (BEIS) to understand stakeholder concerns.

Site Inspection

We have not undertaken compliance inspections of the Bradwell Site since the last LCLC meeting as our regulatory focus was on regulating the Fuel Element Debris process through our permits and agreeing the regulatory process for entry into Care and Maintenance. Therefore we attended meetings at the site on several occasions to provide regulatory advice and guidance on decommissioning activities.

We attend a monthly meeting (which is also attended by ONR) hosted by Magnox to discuss ongoing projects at Bradwell and the arrangements for the transition of the site into Care and Maintenance.

We prepare Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Reports (RASCARs)

detailing our reviews of monitoring reports or assessments of best available techniques (BAT). If we find any non-compliances these are detailed in our RASCARs. During the period since the previous LCLC we did not identify any non-compliances.

Generally, we remain satisfied, for the Bradwell site, that Magnox achieves a good level of compliance with our regulatory requirements.

Regional working

Magnox is working closer as a south east region and is forming more links with its sites at Dungeness A and Sizewell A. More regional working is planned to aid site decommissioning,

The annual review of safety, security and the environment (ARoSSE) for the Magnox South-East region, which includes Bradwell, Dungeness A and Sizewell A, was held at Bradwell in June and attended by ONR and Environment Agency inspectors for the three sites.

At the ARoSSE, Magnox presented a summary of significant achievements and learning opportunities across the region over the previous year.

Permit Variations

As detailed in previous reports, we have been considering three applications for changes to the environmental permits at Bradwell. The changes requested will allow Magnox to make changes to the liquid effluent discharge system, and include changes to both the permits for the radioactive and non-radioactive properties of the discharge.

These permits have now been determined and permits were issued on 14 March 2016

The permits and our associated decision documents are available at the following location:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/c-m0-7hp-magnox-limited-environmental-permits-issued>

Discharge Reports

Nuclear sites are required to routinely report to us their liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment. We review these reports for compliance which is detailed in a RASCAR, and subsequently placed on the public register.

Overall the levels of gaseous and liquid discharges remain far below the levels when Bradwell was an operating power station.

From an environmental impact perspective the discharges are not significant and remain consistently low when compared to permit limits.

Environmental Monitoring

We have carried out sampling and analysis for our independent environmental monitoring programme, in line with our enhanced monitoring programme.

The independent monitoring data indicates that the levels of radioactivity found in the environment remain low and close to background levels. The environmental monitoring information should provide the public with further reassurance about the behaviour of radioactivity in the local environment and confirmation that the impact from permitted discharges is not radiologically significant.

The site's permit also contains a requirement to carry out a suitable environmental monitoring programme, to monitor and assess the impact of their discharges on the environment. The monitoring data from Magnox's programme continues to indicate the level of radioactivity in the environment is low.

Environmental Impacts

We publish our independent monitoring of environment annually in RIFE reports, along with independent monitoring of the food-chain, which is carried out by the Food Standards Agency.

The latest report, "Radioactivity in Food and the Environment 2015" (RIFE 21) was

published and is available along with previous reports on the GOV.UK website here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/563010/RIFE_21.pdf

RIFE 21 includes an annual assessment of radiological dose to the group of people in the local population identified as being most exposed to radiation from the Bradwell site. In 2015, the total dose to this group of people was 0.017 milli-sieverts (or less than 2% of the relevant public dose limit). The dose to the public from aqueous discharges is unchanged from 2014 at 0.005 milli-sieverts

This radiological dose is far below the UK Government dose limit for members of the public from man-made sources of 1 milli-sieverts per year and can be compared to the average dose to the population in the UK from all sources of radiation which is around 2.7 milli-sieverts per year.

Further Information

Contact the Environment Agency's Lead Regulator for the Bradwell site:

Dr Phil Heaton, based in the Nuclear Regulation Group (South),

Email: philip.heaton@environment-agency.gov.uk

Telephone: 07768 861061

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0845 988 1188

www.gov.uk/environment-agency