

Harwell Site Stakeholder Group

Environment Agency report

December 2017

This report covers the Environment Agency's (EA) regulation of the Harwell Nuclear Licensed Site and related issues.

Radioactive substances regulation

Permitting

Magnox holds two permits under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) at the Harwell site: one covers the nuclear licensed site (PB3598DX, the 'nuclear' EPR permit); the second covers smaller areas outside the nuclear licensed site boundary (PB3198DJ, the 'non-nuclear' EPR permit).

There have been no changes made to the site's environmental permits in the period since the last site stakeholder meeting.

Regulation

We regulate radioactive waste disposals to the environment. We do this through environmental permits that contain limits and conditions aimed at minimising wastes and protecting the environment. We also check compliance with the permit by making regular inspections at Harwell. For all inspections we issue Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Forms (RASCARs). These reports summarise the inspection we carried out and clearly describe any permit breaches. Copies of RASCARs are publically available on request.

We continue to have regular contact with the Environment Team to ensure we are kept in touch with progress on actions and any emerging issues at Harwell. We receive and assess a range of monthly reports from the site.

Since the last Harwell site stakeholder meeting we have:

- attended the Annual Review of Safety, Security and Environment
- attended the annual Environmental Regulators' Review meeting with a colleague from the Groundwater and Contaminated Land team

- visited the Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant and inspected arrangements for waste processing from the remediation project
- attended a meeting for a full update on current projects.

We are planning two further formal inspections in this financial year, one in December 2017 and one in March 2018.

Incidents and enforcement

The Environment Agency monitors breaches of permit conditions using the Compliance Classification Scheme (CCS). This ranks breaches on a 1-4 scale, with category 1 being the most serious.

Since the last SSG meeting we have had no cause to raise any non-compliances against the site.

Discharge reports

Through the site's environmental permit, we require that operators use the best available techniques (BAT) to produce the minimum amount of radioactive waste and release as little as possible into the environment. Disposal of wastes – as solids, liquid or gases can only be made via permitted routes or to permitted sites. The site is required to report liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment on a regular basis. We examine these reports and produce a RASCAR for them. Copies of the discharge reports and the RASCARs are publically available on request.

Liquid and gaseous discharges from Harwell continue to be at levels well within permitted limits.

Environmental impact

The site environmental permit requires the operator to monitor and assess the impact of discharges on the environment. This monitoring demonstrates that the impact of the site on the environment is low.

The Environment Agencies and Food Standards Agency also carry out independent environmental monitoring around nuclear sites. The results of this work are published annually and the latest report "Radioactivity in Food and the Environment 2016"

(RIFE 2016) is published on the Food Standards Agency website at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/science/research/radiologicalresearch/radiosurv/rife>

The RIFE report presents a yearly assessment of radiological dose to individuals in the local population who are most exposed to radiation from each nuclear licensed site. In 2016, the total dose to this 'representative person' as a result of discharges from the Harwell campus was 15 microsieverts (μSv). This is less than 2% of the government public dose limit of 1000 $\mu\text{Sv}/\text{year}$ and less than 1% of the average annual amount of radiation we all receive from natural sources (2700 $\mu\text{Sv}/\text{year}$).

Emergency preparedness

A new External Agencies' Liaison Group has been formed to establish communications across the whole Harwell campus concerning emergency arrangements. We welcome Magnox taking the lead on this initiative and will continue to be a part of the group with our multi-agency partners.

Further information

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 publicly available documents from 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>

The Environment Agency's lead Nuclear Regulator for the Harwell site and its tenants is Rebecca Cleverley. Rebecca is part of the national Nuclear Regulation Group (South) (NRG(S)) which is based at the Environment Agency's Wallingford office in Oxfordshire.

NRG(S) undertakes environmental regulation of radioactive substances on nuclear licensed sites in southern England. It works closely with the local Environment Agency teams in those areas as well as external bodies such as the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

Members of the local 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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