

Environment Agency Report to Berkeley Site Stakeholder Group

For SSG Meeting 25 January 2017 - This report covers
our regulation of Berkeley Nuclear Licensed site.

Radioactive substances

We regulate radioactive waste disposals to the environment. We do this through an environmental permit that contains limits and conditions aimed at minimising wastes and protecting the environment. We check compliance with the authorisation by making regular inspections at Berkeley.

Nuclear Regulators

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Site Inspection

Since the last SSG, we have worked with Berkeley site to:

1. Review progress with the proposed siting of the Modular Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation Plant (MILWEP)
2. Complete a joint inspection with the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) to consider aspects of waste retrievals, treatment, storage and management
3. The next inspection planned for early February will look at the Berkeley sites management of land quality and preparation for entry into Care and Maintenance including management of wastes

Other Work

- We have responded to the MILWEP planning consultation submitted to

Gloucestershire County Council. We assessed the proposal and additional data submissions and are minded not to object to the application, subject to routine planning conditions to ensure that the proposed structure is protected from any future flood related impacts.

Discharge Reports

Nuclear sites are required to routinely report their liquid and gaseous discharges and provide other data returns.

We review the data provided by the operator to assess compliance with the environmental permit. These are detailed in Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Report (RASCAR). These reports are placed on the public register.

During the last quarter, discharge data indicate that the discharge trends are consistent and continue to remain within permitted limits.

We have requested a review of the Berkeley site predicted gaseous emissions and trends during subsequent decommissioning work, to consider future permitting requirements.

During the remainder of 2016/17, our work will focus on the following themes and issues:

- Continue to work with the ONR to provide advice and guidance to site in relation to site decommissioning plans; particularly those associated with the vaults ILW retrieval, conditioning, encapsulation and storage programme
- Consider progress on the operators future application of Robust Concrete Boxes (RCB's) as a potential replacement for Ductile Cast Iron Containers for ILW storage within the Intermediate Storage facility (ISF)
- Consider waste management arrangements for radioactive and

non radioactive wastes generated and released from the site.

Site Permit Compliance

There have been no non compliances noted during recent inspections.

Permit Variations

There have been no recent variations to the permit.

Environmental reporting

The environmental reporting from site and corroborated evidence through our independent monitoring, indicates that the dose to individuals and members of the public from discharges from the site continue to remain very low. Total dose from all pathways approximate to levels less than 1 % of the national dose limits set to protect members of the public¹.

ILW Management

Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) retrieval and conditioning work is progressing at pace.

Although this work will significantly de-risk and address legacy hazards, the retrievals project represents a difficult logistical challenge-very much a lead and learn process for the remainder of the Magnox fleet. We are working very closely with the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) to assess the retrieval and conditioning work to ensure this work is appropriate and that best available techniques (BAT) are used to minimise discharges and impact to the environment.

Further Information

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 page in the UK government website².

¹https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/563010/RIFE21.pdf

²<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>