

# Oldbury Site SSG Report

25 January 2017 meeting

**This report covers our regulation of Oldbury Site and related issues over the period since the last Oldbury SSG meeting in November 2016.**

## Radioactive Substances Regulation

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. We carry out regular checks of Magnox's compliance with our regulatory requirements at Oldbury Site.

### Site Regulation

We check compliance with the permit by making inspections at intervals at Oldbury Site. We prepare Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Reports (RASCARs) detailing our inspections and any non-compliances identified. These reports are placed on our public register. In addition to our own inspection activities we routinely review Magnox's reports of events and incidents occurring on site.

No site inspection were carried out in the period since the last SSG meeting.

We are monitoring progress with an investigation into the leak rate from the Oldbury cooling pond and ancillary units, the construction of the passive reactor venting system, the sinking of additional boreholes to provide more information on land quality, and preparatory work for clean-up and decommissioning of the cooling ponds. We have no concerns with progress on these work-streams to date.

### Enforcement

We have not taken any enforcement actions at Oldbury in the period since the previous Oldbury SSG meeting.

## Environmental Permitting

We do not expect any changes to Oldbury's environmental permit in the period to end March 2017.

Later in 2017 we expect variations may be required to accommodate discharges of saline water from a proposed Reverse Osmosis plant to treat mains water at Oldbury Site and to remove emission points made redundant by ongoing decommissioning work.

## Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) Strategy

We are continuing our work together with the ONR to advise Magnox on regulatory issues at Oldbury Site. We provide advice to Magnox on the potential environmental considerations associated with its plans to progress the site through decommissioning, including Magnox's proposals for managing ILW at Oldbury Site.

No changes to Magnox's ILW strategy for the Oldbury Site have been made since the last SSG meeting.

## 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 and this work is detailed in a RASCAR, which is placed on our public register.

We have assessed the monthly reports from Magnox of Oldbury Site's radioactive gaseous and liquid waste discharges to the environment. Our assessment confirms that radioactive gaseous and liquid discharges from Oldbury site remain low and are well within the requirements of the permit.

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

## Environmental Monitoring

We have carried out sampling and analysis under our independent environmental monitoring programme, in association with the Food Standards Agency.

The independent monitoring data indicates that the levels of radioactivity found in the environment remain low and close to background levels.

The monitoring data for the calendar year 2015 has been published in Food and the Environment report 21 ([RIFE 21](#)). The dose to the representative person (the group receiving the highest dose) from radioactivity originating from Berkeley and Oldbury in 2015 is low, at less than 0.005 millisieverts, and is unchanged from the dose in 2014.

In parallel, Magnox's permit for Oldbury Site includes a requirement to carry out a suitable environmental monitoring programme, to monitor and assess the impact of the site's discharges on the environment.

We have reviewed the monitoring data from Magnox's programme and conclude that it continues to indicate that the level of radioactivity in the environment is low.

We make the information from both the Magnox and our own environmental monitoring programmes, available on our public register.

## Further Information

The Environment Agency website has now moved to 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 GOV.UK website [i].

The Environment Agency's Lead Regulator for Oldbury Site is Rob Green, based in the Nuclear Regulation Group (South), NRG(S). Rob has been seconded to another site until April 2017. In the interim Peter Reynolds will regulate Oldbury.

NRG(S) is responsible for the environmental regulation of radioactive waste disposals on or from nuclear licensed sites in southern England (and in south Wales, on behalf of Natural Resources Wales). We also work closely with the local Environment Agency teams in Wessex Area in relation to other Environment Agency roles and responsibilities.

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[i] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-regulation-in-the-environment-agency>