

# Bradwell Site LCLC

Report for January to June 2018

**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 received a request in November 2017 from Magnox Limited for a permit variation to reflect the site's intended entry into Care & Maintenance.

We consulted on the application in January due to the significance of the change in manning level and management arrangements. We received five responses on the proposed changes, including one of "no comment". Two stakeholders commented on the need for appropriate environmental monitoring, one dealt with marine licences and one raised a query involving new build reactors.

We are in the process of determining the permit variation. We will reply to those who responded to the consultation, as part of our determination process.

## Site Inspection

We have not undertaken compliance inspections of the Bradwell Site since the last LCLC meeting.

Our regulatory focus over the past six months has been on agreeing the regulatory process for entry into Care and Maintenance. We met staff from the site in March to discuss waste management and arrangements for environmental management at Bradwell over the remaining period leading up to entry into Care & 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. In the period since the previous LCLC we did not identify any non-compliances.

## 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. We intend to carry out an inspection in the autumn of 2018 on the readiness of Sizewell A to take over Bradwell activities.

## Permit Variation

As mentioned above we are in the process of determining a permit variation for the Bradwell site.

The variation is to set (reduced) regulatory requirements on process and environmental monitoring and reporting once hazards have been removed from site and appropriate management arrangements put in place to operate the Bradwell site in Care & Maintenance.

The varied permit will not be issued until Magnox and the regulators are agreed that the site has met the conditions necessary to enter Care & Maintenance. (Part of our role is to work with Office for Nuclear Regulation on deciding if both Bradwell and Sizewell A sites are ready for Bradwell to enter into Care & Maintenance.) We expect the permit issue date to be towards the end of 2018.

## 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.

We assessed monitoring returns and have trended releases to March 2018 (the most recent date for which we have data). Discharges of active liquid effluent have ceased. Gaseous emissions have reduced to levels similar to those recorded in 2014, before treatment of the Fuel Element Debris (FED) began at Bradwell.

From an environmental impact perspective the discharges are not significant and remain far below the levels when Bradwell was an operating power station. Environmental Monitoring

We carried out and extended sampling and analysis for our independent environmental monitoring programme, while the Bradwell site was processing FED. FED processing was completed last year and our environmental monitoring programme returned to previous baseline levels in January 2018.

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

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

The RIFE report presents a yearly assessment of radiological dose to individuals in the vicinity of nuclear sites

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>

RIFE 22 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 2016, the total dose to this group of people was 0.036 millisieverts (an increase from 0.017 millisieverts in 2015).

This radiological dose is far below the UK Government dose limit for members of the public from man-made sources of 1 millisieverts 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 millisieverts per year.

## Other

Peter Reynolds took over regulation of the Bradwell site from Phil Heaton on 1 April 2018.

## Further Information

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

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