



# Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Site Report for Capenhurst Works

Report for period 1 April – 30 June 2021

## Foreword

This report is issued as part of ONR's commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the above site available to the public. Reports are distributed to members for the Urenco UK Limited Local Liaison Committee and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llic/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Urenco UK Limited Local Liaison Committee meetings where these reports are presented and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR.

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## 1 INSPECTIONS

### 1.1 Dates of inspection

ONR inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period:

- 26 & 27 April 2021
- 11 & 12 May 2021
- 9, 15-17, 22 & 23 June 2021

All other interventions were undertaken remotely due to the government advice in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 2 ROUTINE MATTERS

### 2.1 Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with:

- the conditions attached by ONR to the nuclear site licence granted under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65) (as amended);
- the Energy Act 2013
- the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HSWA74); and
- regulations made under HSWA74, for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99).

The inspections entail monitoring licensee's actions on the site in relation to incidents, operations, maintenance, projects, modifications, safety case changes and any other matters that may affect safety. The licensee is required to make and implement adequate arrangements under the conditions attached to the licence in order to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, remote interventions were conducted instead of physical site inspections at the Capenhurst Works, apart from one security inspection which was conducted in response to a publicly raised concern.

During the reporting period, ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements to be satisfactory in the areas inspected. Where improvements have been identified, the licensee has made a commitment to address those issues, and ONR inspectors will closely monitor progress during future site inspections. Where necessary, ONR will take formal regulatory enforcement action to ensure that appropriate remedial measures are implemented to reasonably practicable timescales. Members of the public, who would like further information on ONR's inspection activities during the reporting period, can view site Intervention Reports at [www.onr.org.uk/intervention-records](http://www.onr.org.uk/intervention-records) on our website [www.onr.org.uk](http://www.onr.org.uk) . Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk).

## 2.2 Other work

An Annual Review of Safety, Security, Safeguards and the Environment for 2020 was held on 27 April 2021 and was attended by the Site and Superintending inspectors. Prior to the meeting the inspectors undertook a facility inspection. The inspectors concluded that, based on the areas visited, the licensee is maintaining plant and facilities in a safe manner. The inspectors did not identify any safety concerns.

The licensee provided a report of its safety performance at the site during the last year and identified improvements to be carried out this year. The ONR inspectors considered the report to be sufficiently self-critical and the licensee identified appropriate areas for improvement.

The Tails Management Facility was visited by the ONR site inspector who took responsibility of the plant from the ONR project commissioning inspector in recognition that it will now be regulated as operational.

Legacy cylinder stakeholder meetings continue during this period and work is progressing to ensure that future legacy cylinder management on the Capenhurst site reduces risks to as low as reasonably practicable. The ONR site inspector conducted a physical inspection of the cylinders and conclude that despite their history they are being adequately managed on a day-to-day basis.

## 3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. ONR inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

Legacy waste was discovered on a plant despite a prior campaign by Urenco UK Ltd to remove this type of waste, this was communicated to ONR via the event reporting process. ONR will now follow-up with the licensee any resulting actions, during routine engagements, to ensure any improvements necessary are implemented.

## 4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

ONR may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, ONR issues regulatory documents, which either permit an activity or require some form of action to be taken; these are usually collectively termed 'Licence Instruments' (LIs) but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an Enforcement Notice.

No Enforcement Notices or Enforcement letters were issued during this period.

Three Licence Instruments were issued by ONR during this period:

- Licence Instrument 543 an LC11(3) Approval of amended Emergency Plan in April 2021.
- Licence Instrument 544 an LC13(3) Approval of the Revised Terms of Reference for the NSSEC in June 2021
- Licence Instrument 545 an LC13(12) Approval of Arrangements for the Consideration of urgent proposals in June 2021.

## 5 NEWS FROM ONR

Below are summaries of key activities over the last three months. Further detail is available on our [website](#).

### **Covid-19 (Coronavirus) (ONR position)**

We are continuing to obtain assurance that nuclear site licensees and other dutyholders are adequately resourced to continue to safely and securely carry out their activities. We remain satisfied with industry's response at this time and there has been no significant change to dutyholders' safety and security resilience.

All licensed sites are required to determine minimum staffing levels necessary to ensure safe and secure operations and contingency arrangements in the event that these levels are not met. This condition is specifically designed to ensure that industry can adequately manage and control activities that could impact on nuclear safety and security under all foreseeable circumstances, including pandemics.

Although ONR staff continue to work primarily at home, (carrying out as much of our work as possible via videoconference, phone and email), we are carefully and progressively increasing our site footprint. We continue to assess our on-site presence in line with government guidelines and our business needs, ensuring we have a balanced portfolio of on-site inspections and interventions, that are important to support effective regulation across our purposes.

Our latest position can be found on our [website](#).

### **Enforcement Action**

- In April, we announced that EDF [complied](#) with a Direction we served on 14 December 2020, under the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations (2000). This followed an inspection, at which found a number of pressure system components at Heysham 1 Power Station were overdue their scheduled examination.
- In May, we agreed to [extend an improvement notice](#) served on EDF in September 2020, recognising the progress made so far. The notice was served after some of the equipment used to measure reactor power at Heysham 2 was incorrectly configured. We judged that Heysham 2 is able to operate safely, and that additional time to demonstrate the required improvements will not pose a risk to safety. EDF must now comply with the improvement notice by 31 July 2021.
- In June, we announced that Rolls-Royce Submarines Ltd (RRSL) had [complied](#) with an improvement notice served on 29 May 2020. The notice was served after RRSL operators brought 21 units of fissile material into the facility – which exceeding the limit defined within the safety case and set out in the Criticality Control Certificate for the facility.

## Stakeholder Engagement

- In April, we published an [article](#) introducing our newest board member, Jean Llewellyn, who joined us in October 2020, as security lead. Jean brings with her a wealth of experience, including serving as a non-executive director on the board of the World Institute for Nuclear Security since 2018 – which has given her a good understating of the global security challenges facing the nuclear industry.
- In May, we issued our e-bulletin '[ONR News](#)' to subscribers. This issue included farewell reflections from our outgoing chief executive, a leadership update, further information on our COVID -19 response, and the results of our latest stakeholder survey. You can sign up for our e-bulletin [here](#)
- On 1 June, we [announced](#) the full implementation of our new leadership structure. Mark Foy is now our combined Chief Executive and Chief Nuclear Inspector. He is supported by Sarah High as Deputy Chief Executive, and Donald Urquhart as Executive Director of Operations.
- In June, we published our new [Corporate Plan for 2021/22](#), which sets out our key priorities to protect the public by securing safe nuclear operations.
- In June, our State System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material (SSAC) project - which saw ONR become the UK's national nuclear safeguards regulator from 31 December 2020, was [shortlisted for a national award](#) in the Project Management Institute's UK National Project Awards in the 'Project of the Year (Public Sector)' category.  
Nuclear safeguards are measures to verify that countries comply with international obligations not to use nuclear materials from civil nuclear programmes for non-peaceful purposes.

## 6 CONTACTS

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