

Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

Site Report for Capenhurst Works

Report for period 1 October – 31 December 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/lc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Urenco UK Limited Local Liaison Committee meetings 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 1 October to 31 December 2021:

- 2, 4, 9, 10, 15 & 24 November 2021
- 7, 8, 9 & 10 December 2021

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, routine inspections of Capenhurst covered the following:

- management of operations including control and supervision;
- staff training, qualifications and experience;
- emergency preparedness;
- safeguards
- radiological protection;
- organisational changes;
- quality assurance and records;
- conventional (non-nuclear) health and safety;
- security.

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 on our website www.onr.org.uk. Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email contact@onr.gov.uk.

2.2. Other Work

Regulation of on-site operations continue despite increasing Covid-19 numbers off-site. Contingency arrangements are in place to ensure continued operational safety and emergency response capability in reaction to the increasing Omicron variant numbers in the community.

Legacy cylinder stakeholder meetings continued during this period and work has completed to substantiate that future legacy cylinder management on the Capenhurst site reduces risks to as low as reasonably practicable.

Routine regulatory engagement continues with Urenco ChemPlants (UCP), the operators of the Tails Management Facility (TMF), which continues with its active commissioning. Powder blockage issues have been resolved but issues with the standing supports on the Hydrogen Fluoride (HF) tanks are being resolved to return to full capability. The first tanker of HF was produced by TMF, a significant commissioning milestone for UCP.

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.

Matters and events of particular note during the period were:

- During work to remake the inspection hatch in a Uranium Laboratory it was noticed that the hatch had leaked contaminated acidic liquor onto a metal ceiling tile directly below the hatch. The incident was subject to internal investigation and the issue was resolved. Examination, inspection, maintenance and testing schedules were reviewed for all similar systems.

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 LIs, Enforcement Notices or Enforcement letters were issued during this period.

5. News from ONR

For the latest news and information from the Office for Nuclear Regulation, please read and subscribe to our regular email newsletter 'ONR News' at www.onr.org.uk/onrnews

6. Contacts

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Published 01/22

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