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# Environment Agency Report to Berkeley Site Stakeholder Group

October 2010 – March 2011  
For SSG Meeting Wednesday 6 April 2011

## Radioactive substances

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

### Site Inspection

We continue to make inspection visits to the Berkeley Site. Since the last SSG meeting we have visited the site 2 times and looked at:

- Arrangements for ensuring best practicable means (BPM) are applied to liquid radioactive waste discharges to minimise wastes generated and the environmental impact from disposals
- Arrangements for the management of higher activity solid radioactive wastes to ensure best available techniques (BAT) is applied to minimise the generation of secondary wastes and discharges of radioactive wastes
- In addition to our own inspection activities, we routinely review the operator's reports of events and incidents occurring on its site.

We prepare Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Reports (RASCARs) detailing our inspections and any non-compliances identified. These are placed on the public register.

### Permit Variations

Under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010, (EPR2010), the permit was transferred from Magnox South Limited to Magnox Limited in January 2011, coincident with Magnox Limited becoming the holder of the nuclear license under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65), as granted by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (HNMI).

## Reactor Safestore

In December, we attended a celebration the Berkeley site held to mark the preparation of the Reactor buildings into 'Safestore' as part of preparations for the site to enter a quiescent phase or Care and Surveillance phase.

### Discharge Reports

Nuclear sites are required to routinely report to us their liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment and transfers of radioactive wastes to other sites. We review this information and place these reports on the public register. This information is available in summary form on the Environment Agency Website facility 'What's in your backyard?'

### Environmental Impacts

The site's authorisation contains a specification to carry out an environmental monitoring programme, to monitor and assess the impact of their discharges on the environment. The monitoring data from this programme indicates the radiological impact on the environment is low.

In addition, along with the Food Standards Agency we conduct an independent environmental monitoring programme. Due to their proximity the Berkeley and Oldbury sites are treated together. The results of this programme are published in an annual report, "Radioactivity in Food and the Environment" (RIFE). The RIFE report (RIFE-15) covering the calendar year 2009 was published in October 2010. It is available to download from our website<sup>2</sup> and is also available in hardcopy by request.

It reports that the impact from Berkeley, during 2009, was 0.025 milli-sieverts received as an external dose for members of the public who have high occupancy rates in intertidal areas. The total dose to

<sup>1</sup> [http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiybyController?ep=mapto pics&lang=\\_e](http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiybyController?ep=mapto pics&lang=_e)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/110353.aspx>

the most exposed members of the public, taking account of direct irradiation from the site, was attributed to be 0.058 milli-Sieverts (or less than 6% of the dose limit).

### **ILW Management**

As part of plans to prepare for Care and Maintenance of the site, the site are developing plans for the management of their intermediate level radioactive waste. As previously reported, the site carried out a Multi-Attribute Decision Analysis (MADA) exercise using groups of both internal and external stakeholders in June. An update was provided to stakeholder in February 2011. The site now needs to make a decision on the what constitutes the best practicable environmental option (BPEO) for the management of these wastes, taking account of the output from the MADA exercise.

### **Enforcement**

Since our last report we have not taken any enforcement action and do not have any actions pending against Magnox Limited for their operation of the Berkeley Site.

### **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 our website<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/epages/eapublications.storefront> Search for keyword 'RSR'

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