

## APPENDIX B

### ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT

#### TO HARWELL-CHILTON CAMPUS LOCAL STAKEHOLDER GROUP

**March 2007**

The Environment Agency's nuclear regulators for the Harwell-Chilton Campus are Andrew Stone (for UKAEA and all tenants) and Tony Ganner (for GE Healthcare Ltd.).

In addition various members of the Environment Management team visit the site for general environment protection matters such as groundwater and contaminated land, waste management and water abstraction permissions.

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We visit the site on a regular basis. Matters are dealt with by phone and e-mail in addition to formal correspondence. We receive regular reports from UKAEA and the tenants on their radioactive discharges. These are placed on the public register. We also receive regular reports from UKAEA on its programme of monitoring in the local environment. We receive regular reports from UKAEA on the results of the groundwater monitoring programme. We also liaise closely with the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, the Food Standards Agency and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority on matters of common interest.

#### **Regulatory issues**

##### **UKAEA**

We attended the Annual Review of Safety and Environmental Performance with UKAEA and NII. The Agency noted UKAEA's good environmental performance during the year and is pleased with progress on bringing the new groundwater treatment plant in to service.

We have received an application from UKAEA to increase the volume limit for organic liquid radioactive waste that may be sent to the Hythe incinerator near Southampton. This will assist UKAEA in reducing the inventory of waste contaminated oils and solvents that are stored on site.

We continue to work with the NDA, NII and UKAEA on the restructuring of UKAEA to separate the organisation into Site Licensee Companies, a new commercial company and the remaining Non Departmental Public Body. We will oversee this

## APPENDIX B

process to monitor the environmental performance at sites and we will only transfer environmental permits from UKAEA to the new Site License Company if we are satisfied that the new company can maintain its environmental performance.

We continue to work with the NDA and the NII to facilitate the decommissioning and clean up of the Harwell nuclear licensed site in an environmentally responsible manner. We look to UKAEA and the NDA to ensure that all strategic decisions regarding the future of the site are underpinned by appropriate environmental assessment.

We have registered two waste management licensing exemptions to enable UKAEA to reuse inert demolition rubble to fill excavations on the site. We are looking at whether we can simplify the arrangements to reduce the regulatory costs for this.

A RSA60 authorisation that was issued for the burial of contaminated effluent tanks under the LETP car park has been revoked; this area was remediated in 2000.

### **AEAT**

We are in discussion with AEAT regarding revocation of the Radioactive Substances authorisation now that their work with radioactive waste has ceased. They will continue to hold radioactive sources in measuring instruments.

### **REVISS Services Ltd**

We are processing an application for an authorisation to transfer solid low level radioactive waste within a building on the licensed site boundary to UKAEA.

### **Rutherford Appleton Laboratory**

We are processing applications for variations to permits that allow the laboratory to dispose of radioactive waste and to keep and use sealed radioactive sources. One of the changes is that liquid waste will be flushed to the sewer with trade waste effluent rather than sent to UKAEA. During our assessment of the applications we will scrutinise the arrangements for security of radioactive sources and we will assess the impact of proposed discharges to ensure that people and the environment are protected. Hospitals, universities and industrial users across the country routinely dispose of liquid radioactive waste via their sewage system under authorisations from the Agency.

### **Scientifics Limited**

We are processing an application for a variation to its authorisation that will allow the company to dispose of liquid radioactive waste to the sewer with trade waste effluent rather than sent to UKAEA.