



Office for
Nuclear Regulation

ONR Contact Record

**West Berkshire Council REPPiR Update – 16th
January 2024**

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[REDACTED]

Contact Information

Type of Contact: Virtual meeting

Contact with:

██████████, Service Manager – Joint Emergency Planning Unit, West Berkshire Council

██████████, Senior Emergency Planning Officer, West Berkshire Council

ONR Staff:

██████████ Principal Inspector Nuclear Safety, Emergency Preparedness & Response

Summary/Key Points

1. This was a routine update meeting with the West Berkshire Council emergency planners on the REPPiR off-site emergency plan (OSEP) for the AWE sites. The current plan can be found on Resilience Direct: <https://collaborate.resilience.gov.uk/RDSservice/home/76024/Plan>.
2. WBC completed its testing of the OSEP in April 2023 (Aldex-23) and is now improving the plan to address lessons learnt. There is an ambitious programme of work to develop the plan. WBC provided an overview of activities being carried out by the various sub-groups that are supporting this work. A number of these groups have been set up, or have been re-formulated, to address learning from Aldex-23. A list of the sub-groups and the Terms of Reference can be found in 2024/2388.
3. WBC keeps an Actions Log to record improvement actions – see <https://collaborate.resilience.gov.uk/RDSservice/home/76027/Action-Plan>. The latest version (downloaded 18/1/23) can be found in 2024/2563. This is currently tracking 76 actions, some of which will be addressed by the re-formulated OSEP and some which will be progressed longer term. I was satisfied that WBC has a plan to improve the OSEP and is applying sufficient resource to this, although there is a significant amount of work involved.
4. The output from the sub-groups and WBCs own re-drafting will be a re-structured OSEP based on an over-arching document supported by 'handbooks' covering key functions of the plan. WBC will be holding a workshop on 30th May to review the re-worked OSEP. This will aim to validate the new structure and content. Current working drafts can be found at: <https://collaborate.resilience.gov.uk/RDSservice/home/212349/Plan-Consultation>.
5. Population numbers (of people in the emergency planning zones by sector and type) has been updated to reflect the latest available data.
6. At the recent Hollies planning inquiry WBC and ONR expressed views on the ability of the OSEP to cope with the current and future levels of population around the AWE sites. Fundamentally the concerns relate to the capacity of the arrangements to deal with large numbers of people who may need to be supported in place, evacuated, monitored and potentially relocated. Whilst the improvements currently in progress should deliver improvements to arrangements, these will not generally address these fundamental questions of capacity. As a result, ONR wrote to the WBC Chief Executive on 29th November (2023/61771) requesting that WBC consider what is required of the plan and what can be done to address any shortfalls in capacity or associated capability.

7. WBC stated that they understood the expectations set out in the letter and would be providing a formal response on its proposals by the due date of end of January. I stated that a key objective moving forward would be for WBC to demonstrate that it had a clear understanding of what was required of the plan (for example in terms of the numbers of people requiring evaluation/relocation and monitoring) and the extent of any shortfalls in the ability to deliver this. I stated that the expectation in REPIR Reg.11(2) was for the consequences to be mitigated so far as is reasonably practicable.
8. As stated in the letter, I noted that it was ONR's intention to carry out a small number of targeted interventions to look at proposals for those areas requiring improvement. I identified that arrangements for evacuation and displaced people, UKHSA advice and the role of monitoring may be part of the scope, but would provide further details following receipt of WBC's response to the letter.
9. ONR has recently written to the Local Authorities Nuclear Working Group regarding the transition from the Public Service Telephone Network to digital technology (2024/1375). WBC confirmed that this communication had been forwarded to them. WBC stated that the current systems used for the OSEP will not be affected. Whilst those message recipients who do not transition to the digital network will clearly be affected, this is outside WBC's control. See Annex for further details on current and proposed arrangements for responder notifications and public alerting.
10. WBC is in the process of updating its leaflet for the outline planning zone. The latest draft is 2024/2549 – I agreed to provide any feedback (I had no comments on an earlier draft 2023/64865).
11. WBC noted that they were waiting for an update from ONR on the status of Regulatory Issue 10700. I agreed to raise with the issue owner.
12. The date for the next meeting is 19th February. A key point for discussion will be WBC's response to ONR's letter.

Annex – AWE & WBC Arrangements for Notification to Responding Organisations and Warning & Informing (Alerting) to Members of the Public

WBC confirmed the current and future arrangements in relation notifications and public alerting as follows:

Prompt notification and alerting is an important part of the OSEP, particularly for the Burghfield site where an off-site emergency may arise as a result of a sudden, unpredictable event.

Initial notification of an off-site emergency by AWE is to WBC and the emergency services using a manual callout. This is then cascaded as part of the off-site plan to all responding agencies using the Everbridge system – this provides a multi-format (voice message, text & email) service that allows confirmation of receipt. This is an established digital system used within the wider Local Resilience Forum. AWE are considering their own use of Everbridge, which if adopted would streamline the notification process by providing a single point of notification for all off-site responders.

The current system for alerting members of the public to an off-site emergency is a landline system. This calls all landlines within a defined geographical area. The move away from the public use of landlines (to mobile phones) is a known weakness in the current plan; this is an issue which is likely to be further exacerbated by the PSTN changes. A SMS text system is being developed which will be initiated by AWE, although this will require users to opt-in.

WBC has completed its return to the Cabinet Office for the national Emergency Alerts system. A pre-prepared message has been defined, with AWE acting as 'gate-keeper' (i.e. authorised to activate messaging). WBC stated that final rollout of the system for nuclear sites was on hold pending completion of returns by all other local authorities.

1. Issues

1.1. Issues Raised

Table 1: Issues raised

WIRed Unique ID Ref.	Issue Title	Owner (inspector)


1.2. Issues Closed

Table 2: Issues closed

WIRed Unique ID Ref.	Issue Title	Owner (inspector)

1.3. Circulation List

Table 3: Circulation list

Organisation	Name/responsibility	Date
ONR	 Copy to 4.10.2.248.	18 January 2024

2. Export Control

During this contact, has export controlled information (ECI) been shared outside the UK?	Yes	
	No	

Template Guidance Note 6 –

If the answer to the above is **Yes**, please complete **Table 4**.

If the answer is **No**, there is no need to complete **Table 4**.

If you are unsure, please visit the [Export Control page on Nucleus](#) to review the guidance available.

Table 4: Export licence use - tracking information

Export licence ref: View Export Licence Library		
Company name and address of end user: View Export Licence Library		
Trigger list information shared: Click here to access guidance.	Choose an item.	
Which reactor technology and/or site is this information regarding?	(e.g., HPR1000, EPR, Sellafield)	
Reason for ECI exchange:	(e.g., GDA, IAEA mission, design review, supply chain inspection)	
Country of ECI technology origin:		
Means of transfer:	Shared verbally (either via teleconference or videoconference)	
	Documents shared electronically	
	Documents shared physically	