

fffffffffffffff

<p>GENERIC DESIGN ASSESSMENT</p> <p>PROGRESS REPORT</p> <p>REPORTING PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2011 – 31 MARCH 2011</p>

The Office for Nuclear Regulation

The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) was established on 1 April 2011. ONR has been set up as an agency of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), pending planned legislation to establish it as a statutory body. It will bring together the relevant nuclear regulatory functions of HSE (through its Nuclear Directorate (ND)) and the Department for Transport. Future Quarterly Progress Reports will carry the new ONR branding. Nick Baldwin, the former chief executive of Powergen, has been appointed as the interim Chair of ONR.

Quarterly Progress Report Content

Following the unprecedented events in Japan, and after discussions with industry and others, this Quarterly Progress Report looks at the likely implications for the Generic Design Assessment (GDA) timescales, rather than focussing on details of our ongoing assessment of the new reactor design generic safety cases.

HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations' report on lessons learnt from Japanese nuclear incident

Chris Huhne (Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change) has asked Mike Weightman (HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations) to provide reports to the Government on the implications and any lessons to be learned for the UK from the events in Japan. The reports, due in May and September 2011, will draw on similar work being undertaken by others, both nationally and internationally, and will be put in the public domain. As well as considering any implications for the UK's existing nuclear sites, the reports will also inform the UK regulators' assessments for the new nuclear build programme. Both industry and the regulators will need to take account of the recommendations.

Resource implications for the GDA Team

Several Nuclear Inspectors working on the GDA have been assisting in the ND/ONR emergency arrangements following the Japanese nuclear incident, and a number have also now been temporarily seconded to assist with Mike Weightman's report. Although this will have consequences for the production timescales for some of the GDA Technical Assessment Reports, it can be managed within the overall timescales in which we now expect the GDA work to be concluded.

Potential implications for GDA

On 31 March we chaired a senior-level meeting with the Requesting Parties (RPs - EDF, Areva and Westinghouse), potential new operators (NNB Genco, Horizon and NuGen) and an official from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). At that meeting, a

way forward on GDA was agreed, and an ND/EA ebulletin was issued on 5 April to inform stakeholders of that position. See <http://www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/gda-japan.htm>

The regulators and RPs have already done a significant amount of work on the reactor designs undergoing GDA. By June 2011, we would have completed the assessment work necessary for us to make decisions on whether to provide interim Design Acceptance Confirmations (DACs) and interim Statements of Design Acceptability (SoDAs). This assessment work is also identifying the GDA Issues to be addressed by the RPs beyond June 2011. GDA Issues must be resolved to our satisfaction before we would consider issuing final DACs and SoDAs and concluding GDA.

As Mike Weightman's interim report is expected in May 2011, and his final report in September 2011, we will not now draw conclusions from our assessments in June 2011 as planned. This will allow us to take account of relevant recommendations from these reports. However, in July we still intend to publish the GDA Issues we have identified at that point, together with the RPs' Resolution Plans for those GDA Issues.

We will introduce a new GDA Issue for each design to address any relevant recommendations from Mike Weightman's report. Once they are known, the RPs will be able to develop credible plans to address them. In the meantime, the RPs can continue to work on the issues that we have already identified. This will allow us to maximise the benefit of the assessment work we have already completed, whilst also ensuring that the generic reactor designs can later take account of relevant lessons learned from the events in Japan.

We will be better able to assess any impact on the overall timeframe for GDA and nuclear site licensing and permitting processes once Mike Weightman's recommendations, and the RP's Resolution Plans are known.

Safety and protection of people and the environment will always be our top priority. It is important that we take the necessary time to ensure that we learn any relevant lessons emerging from the events in Japan, and to implement any improvements that might be required either to the nuclear new build programme or to the new reactor designs.

GDA Technical Assessment Reports

We have agreed with industry that we will continue to prepare draft GDA Technical Assessment Reports over the coming few months, and share them and the developing GDA Issues so that industry can develop the Resolution Plans in response to the GDA Issues. We will publish the GDA Issues and Resolution Plans in July, along with a Quarterly Progress Report summarising the GDA activity. However, as those draft Technical Assessment Reports will be based on the generic safety case documentation provided by the RPs, they will not reflect, at that stage, Mike Weightman's work on the lessons learnt from Japan. We will therefore not publish them in June 2011 as originally planned. The reports will be subsequently revised to take account of any relevant recommendations from Mike Weightman's report, and any changes the RPs might make to their generic design safety cases as a result of their own assessments of the events in Japan. As we learn more from Japan, and as the GDA Issues are addressed, the Technical Assessment Reports will also be updated and published as the assessment in each technical area progresses.

GDA Issues and Industry Resolution Plans

Publication of the GDA Issues and industry Resolution Plans is now planned for July, coincident with a slightly earlier than usual Quarterly Progress Report which will summarise and contextualise the position, but not draw any overall conclusions as to the acceptability of the generic design safety cases.

The Quarterly Progress Reports, together with the New Reactors website, will remain the vehicle for formal open and transparent communication with stakeholders.

Timetable for addressing GDA whilst awaiting the lessons learnt report

Important to remember that the regulators will NOT provide an interim DAC or SoDA until ALL GDA Issues have credible resolution plans, and will NOT provide a final DAC or SoDA until ALL GDA Issues have been resolved to the regulators' satisfaction.		
1	5 April	ONR/EA issue ebulletin announcing that we will not draw conclusions on GDA in June, as planned.
2	Mid May – early June	Publication of Mike Weightman's interim report (mid May). Early June (ONR/EA meet with RPs and potential operators to discuss implications of Mike Weightman interim report).
3	June	RPs to consider whether to request ONR/EA to provide them with the GDA Issues so that they can progress with addressing them at an appropriate pace, as outlined in the associated Resolution Plans. ONR/EA to then consider the resource requirements of those collective Resolution Plans, with the aim to match the RP's requests for the ongoing work on GDA.
4	June/July	ONR/EA provide the RPs with the GDA Issues, and publish the GDA Issues and available Resolution Plans on the HSE New Reactors website (including a new GDA Issue, without Resolution Plan at that stage, to address the recommendations from Mike Weightman's report). Quarterly Progress Report to be published in July to accompany publication.
5	Sept	Publication of Mike Weightman's report.
6	Oct	Further meetings with RPs and potential operators to finalise the way forward, taking into account the recommendations in Mike Weightman's report. Related GDA Issue Resolution Plan to be discussed. EA may need to plan to re-consult publically on points relevant to their earlier conclusions.
7	Closure	Final DAC/SoDA (Timescales depend on Resolution Plans).

Background information on the Generic Design Assessment

The reactor designs continue to be available for viewing via our website (or via hardcopy by contacting the Joint Programme Office at: new_reactor_build@hse.gsi.gov.uk).

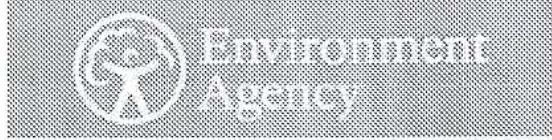
As always, if you have comments on any aspect of this report, or the work more widely, then please send them to us at: new_reactor_build@hse.gsi.gov.uk.

To find out more about Generic Design Assessment (GDA) - log onto: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/index.htm>

Receive the latest news and information on GDA - subscribe to our free e:mail bulletin - <http://www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/ebulletin.htm>

Kevin Allars
Director
Nuclear New Build
Office for Nuclear Regulation
Health and Safety Executive

Joe McHugh
Head of Radioactive Substances Regulation
Environment Agency



GENERIC DESIGN ASSESSMENT

PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2011 – 31 MARCH 2011

The Office for Nuclear Regulation

The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) was established on 1 April 2011. ONR has been set up as an agency of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), pending planned legislation to establish it as a statutory body. It will bring together the relevant nuclear regulatory functions of HSE (through its Nuclear Directorate (ND)) and the Department for Transport. Future Quarterly Progress Reports will carry the new ONR branding. Nick Baldwin, the former chief executive of Powergen, has been appointed as the interim Chair of ONR.

Quarterly Progress Report Content

Following the unprecedented events in Japan, and after discussions with industry and others, this Quarterly Progress Report looks at the likely implications for the Generic Design Assessment (GDA) timescales, rather than focussing on details of our ongoing assessment of the new reactor design generic safety cases.

HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations' report on lessons learnt from Japanese nuclear incident

Chris Huhne (Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change) has asked Mike Weightman (HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations) to provide reports to the Government on the implications and any lessons to be learned for the UK from the events in Japan. The reports, due in May and September 2011, will draw on similar work being undertaken by others, both nationally and internationally, and will be put in the public domain. As well as considering any implications for the UK's existing nuclear sites, the reports will also inform the UK regulators' assessments for the new nuclear build programme. Both industry and the regulators will need to take account of the recommendations.

Resource implications for the GDA Team

Several Nuclear Inspectors working on the GDA have been assisting in the ND/ONR emergency arrangements following the Japanese nuclear incident, and a number have also now been temporarily seconded to assist with Mike Weightman's report. Although this will have consequences for the production timescales for some of the GDA Technical Assessment Reports, it can be managed within the overall timescales in which we now expect the GDA work to be concluded.

Potential implications for GDA

On 31 March we chaired a senior-level meeting with the Requesting Parties (RPs - EDF, Areva and Westinghouse), potential new operators (NNB Genco, Horizon and NuGen) and an official from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). At that meeting, a

way forward on GDA was agreed, and an ND/EA ebulletin was issued on 5 April to inform stakeholders of that position. See <http://www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/gda-japan.htm>

The regulators and RPs have already done a significant amount of work on the reactor designs undergoing GDA. By June 2011, we would have completed the assessment work necessary for us to make decisions on whether to provide interim Design Acceptance Confirmations (DACs) and interim Statements of Design Acceptability (SoDAs). This assessment work is also identifying the GDA Issues to be addressed by the RPs beyond June 2011. GDA Issues must be resolved to our satisfaction before we would consider issuing final DACs and SoDAs and concluding GDA.

As Mike Weightman's interim report is expected in May 2011, and his final report in September 2011, we will not now draw conclusions from our assessments in June 2011 as planned. This will allow us to take account of relevant recommendations from these reports. However, in July we still intend to publish the GDA Issues we have identified at that point, together with the RPs' Resolution Plans for those GDA Issues.

We will introduce a new GDA Issue for each design to address any relevant recommendations from Mike Weightman's report. Once they are known, the RPs will be able to develop credible plans to address them. In the meantime, the RPs can continue to work on the issues that we have already identified. This will allow us to maximise the benefit of the assessment work we have already completed, whilst also ensuring that the generic reactor designs can later take account of relevant lessons learned from the events in Japan.

We will be better able to assess any impact on the overall timeframe for GDA and nuclear site licensing and permitting processes once Mike Weightman's recommendations, and the RP's Resolution Plans are known.

Safety and protection of people and the environment will always be our top priority. It is important that we take the necessary time to ensure that we learn any relevant lessons emerging from the events in Japan, and to implement any improvements that might be required either to the nuclear new build programme or to the new reactor designs.

GDA Technical Assessment Reports

We have agreed with industry that we will continue to prepare draft GDA Technical Assessment Reports over the coming few months, and share them and the developing GDA Issues so that industry can develop the Resolution Plans in response to the GDA Issues. We still intend to publish the GDA Issues and Resolution Plans in July, along with a Quarterly Progress Report summarising the GDA activity. However, as those draft Technical Assessment Reports will be based on the generic safety case documentation provided by the RPs, they will not reflect, at that stage, Mike Weightman's work on the lessons learnt from Japan. We will therefore not publish them in June 2011 as originally planned. The reports will be subsequently revised to take account of any relevant recommendations from Mike Weightman's report, and any changes the RPs might make to their generic design safety cases as a result of their own assessments of the events in Japan. As we learn more from Japan, and as the GDA Issues are addressed, the Technical Assessment Reports will also be updated and published as the assessment in each technical area progresses.

GDA Issues and Industry Resolution Plans

Publication of the GDA Issues and industry Resolution Plans is now being planned for July, coincident with a slightly earlier than usual Quarterly Progress Report which will summarise and contextualise the position, but not draw any overall conclusions as to the acceptability of

the generic design safety cases. The Quarterly Progress Reports, together with the New Reactors website, will remain the vehicle for formal open and transparent communication with stakeholders.

Timetable for addressing GDA whilst awaiting the lessons learnt report

Important to remember that the regulators will NOT provide an interim DAC or SoDA until ALL GDA Issues have credible resolution plans, and will NOT provide a final DAC or SoDA until ALL GDA Issues have been resolved to the regulators' satisfaction.		
1	5 April	ONR/EA issue ebulletin announcing that we will not draw conclusions on GDA in June, as planned.
2	Mid May – early June	Publication of Mike Weightman's interim report (mid May). Early June (ONR/EA meet with RPs and potential operators to discuss implications of Mike Weightman interim report).
3	June	RPs to consider whether to request ONR/EA to provide them with the GDA Issues so that they can progress with addressing them at an appropriate pace, as outlined in the associated Resolution Plans. ONR/EA to then consider the resource requirements of those collective Resolution Plans, with the aim to match the RP's requests for the ongoing work on GDA.
4	June/July	If so requested, ONR/EA provide the RPs with the GDA Issues, and publish the GDA Issues and available Resolution Plans on the HSE New Reactors website (including a new GDA Issue, without Resolution Plan at that stage, to address the recommendations from Mike Weightman's report). Quarterly Progress Report to be published in July to accompany publication.
5	Sept	Publication of Mike Weightman's report.
6	Oct	Further meetings with RPs and potential operators to finalise the way forward, taking into account the recommendations in Mike Weightman's report. Related GDA Issue Resolution Plan to be discussed. EA will consider if there are any relevant implications for their consultation.
7	Closure	Final DAC/SoDA (Timescales depend on Resolution Plans).

Background information on the Generic Design Assessment

The reactor designs continue to be available for viewing via our website (or via hardcopy by contacting the Joint Programme Office at: new_reactor_build@hse.gsi.gov.uk).

As always, if you have comments on any aspect of this report, or the work more widely, then please send them to us at: new_reactor_build@hse.gsi.gov.uk.

To find out more about Generic Design Assessment (GDA) - log onto: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/index.htm>

Receive the latest news and information on GDA - subscribe to our free e:mail bulletin - <http://www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/ebulletin.htm>

Kevin Allars
Director
Nuclear New Build
Office for Nuclear Regulation
Health and Safety Executive

Joe McHugh
Head of Radioactive Substances Regulation
Environment Agency

