

Reply to: Building F161.2  
Direct Dial: 0118 9856787  
Direct Fax: 0118 9824500  
Our Ref: AWE/SF/9/12



Aldermaston • Reading  
Berkshire • RG7 4PR  
Tel 0118 981 4111

15 May 2012

Mr P Burt  
Nuclear Information Service  
Ibex House  
85 Southampton Street  
Reading  
Berkshire  
RG1 2QU

Dear Peter

Re: The Lay-person's alternative guide to REPPIR relating to the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Aldermaston and Burghfield

As promised, I'm following up my letter dated to you April 30, with a response to the above report, produced by Large & Associates.

Having read the report, we consider that calling it an 'alternative guide to REPPIR' could be misleading to the public, as we already update and publish REPPIR regularly.

The report, commissioned on your behalf, contains, we believe, some misleading and inaccurate information which we would like to address, and which we have outlined below.

If, having studied these points, you require further clarification, I would be more than happy to explain my response to you, and you may email me at the address below.

Points addressed:

- There are no nuclear power reactors at AWE sites, and as such our hazard profile differs greatly from that at the Fukushima plant in Japan. Any comparison between the two with regard to the appropriateness of emergency planning zones is therefore misleading.
- We do not believe that the radii of either AWE site compares poorly with other plants, including the Pantex plant in the USA. That plant is considerably larger than either of the AWE sites and the hazardous material inventories of the sites differ significantly. The emergency planning zones there are therefore different from ours.
- The framework set down by UK regulators is also different from that used in Japan or the US. We comply with all UK regulatory requirements relating to nuclear emergency planning.
- Our regulator, the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), routinely inspects AWE to ensure these high standards demanded are maintained. As you're aware, we keep the local community informed via regular meetings with the Local Liaison Committee. Members receive regular updates on our emergency planning and management arrangements.

AWE is a Government Owned Contractor Operated organisation. AWE is operated by a joint venture of Jacobs Engineering, Lockheed Martin and Serco.  
AWE is the trading name of AWE plc. Registered in England and Wales. Registration no. 02763902. Registered office: Aldermaston • Reading • Berkshire • RG7 4PR





- The risk assessments that AWE has a requirement to undertake under the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations (REPPiR) include a range of scenarios identified through thorough analysis of our plant and operations. Due to the nature of our work at AWE, detailed information on these assessments is sensitive and therefore is exempt from publication for reasons of national security. The ONR, however, have full access to potential accident scenarios addressed by us.
- AWE, similarly to other operators of UK nuclear establishments, has sought dispensation under REPPiR regulation 16 to withhold certain sensitive information relating to our risk assessments. We provide a range of technical information to West Berkshire Council to enable preparation of the off-site emergency plan for AWE.
- The current Detailed Emergency Planning Zones (DEPZ) for the AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield sites are each larger than those around a number of other nuclear sites in the UK. The size of the zones around AWE is specified by the HSE (ONR) following assessment of the information AWE submits to them under REPPiR and consultation with relevant stakeholders, in particular West Berkshire Council.
- The current version of the AWE Off Site Emergency Plan, published in October 2011, clearly identifies extendibility zones for both Aldermaston and Burghfield sites, in the unlikely event that they should ever be required.
- Following the Fukushima incident, the arrangements for extendibility of emergency plans are being reviewed at national level. AWE is providing input into this work through the appropriate forums and with the appropriate authorities.
- AWE last submitted information to the ONR under REPPiR in July 2011. This was within the three year timescale required under the regulations. Following an initial review of this information by ONR, we recently submitted a revised report of assessment back to the ONR, as requested. This report will be placed in the public domain in due course, as we have done with previous reports.

You conclude in your letter with an offer from Large & Associates to attend a future meeting of the LLC. We will have to politely decline this request, as these are not public meetings. We will, however, answer any questions LLC members may wish to put to us or the ONR as a result of having read your report.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve Fussey'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Steve Fussey  
Director Site  
Email: [steve.fussey@awe.co.uk](mailto:steve.fussey@awe.co.uk)