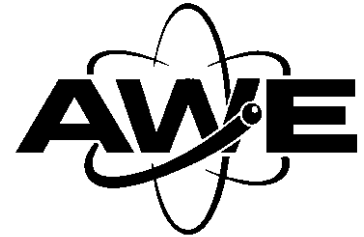
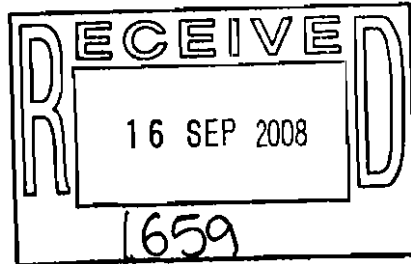


Reply to: c/o RICC Office, C34.4
Direct Dial: 0118 985 1041
Direct Fax: 0118 985 0886
e-mail: gareth.beard@awe.co.uk
Our Ref: EA1489N
Your Ref: EA/NRGS/SIP/5/2/4/00324/Y



Aldermaston • Reading
Berkshire • RG7 4PR
Tel (0118) 981 4111 Fax (0118) 981 5320

Mr. S Parr
Environment Agency
Red Kite House
Howbery Park
Wallingford
Oxon
OX10 8DB



11th September 2008

Dear Mr Parr,

Response to questions on AWE's Application to Disposal of Uranium Contaminated Oils to the National Nuclear Laboratory (formerly Nexia Solutions Limited), Operating at the Springfields Fuels Limited Nuclear Licensed Site.

Further to our telephone conversation, I have obtained clarification and additional detail to answer your questions on the Supporting Information document (AWE/DSDG/B/EC/AD/018, Issue: 2) included with the original application under EA 1387R.

EU Treatment (correction)

Page 3, final paragraph: AWE intends to treat the legacy EU contaminated oils over a period of several years rather than one year as stated in the Supporting Information document. This is consistent with the proposed annual limits in Table 4 of the report.

Cadmium (clarification)


Page 5 (fourth paragraph.) and 6 (final paragraph.): The sulphuric acid washing process for treating the waste oils, removes any cadmium contamination with the uranium. This acidic stream is combined with other aqueous streams (i.e. wash water) resulting from the process, and then neutralised with caustic soda to precipitate the sodium diuranate, followed by filtration. Any cadmium is expected to remain with the uranium throughout processing. The precipitate is washed before being dissolved in nitric acid to form uranyl nitrate and sent for onward processing at Springfield Fuels Limited (SFL). SFL recover pure uranyl nitrate by solvent extraction. The neutralised aqueous waste streams are also processed by solvent extraction by SFL prior to discharge to the site Trade Waste Drain, subject to compliance with the discharge consent. The National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL formerly Nexia Solutions) and SFL have confirmed that the cadmium levels can be managed within the SFL aqueous discharges consent specified in PPC Permit NP3734SZ.

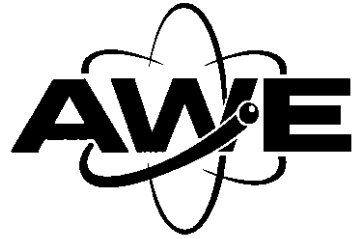


INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

website: www.awe.co.uk

AWE is the trading name of AWE plc
Registered in England and Wales • Registration no. 02763902
Registered office: Aldermaston • Reading • RG7 4PR

 © Secretary of State for Defence



Secondary Waste (clarification)

Page 6 (final paragraph): Aqueous waste from processing at NNL is generated at a rate of about 10m³ per 1m³ of oil processed. The neutralised aqueous waste streams is typically pH 9 or thereabouts and is comprised of metal sulphates and hydroxides with trace organics (within COD limits for the site).

If you need any more information please contact me on the number above or phone Andrew Spurgeon on 0118 9851042

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Beard', written in a cursive style.

cc G Beard
Head of Environment

Enc: None