



Ministry
of Defence

DE&S SEC Policy Secretariat

Defence Equipment and Support
MOD Abbey Wood
Bristol
BS34 8JH



Email: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Our Reference:
FOI2016/03096

[REDACTED]
E-mail address:
[REDACTED]

Date: 31 October 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 7 March 2016 requesting the following information:

"Please provide a copy of the Atomic Weapons Establishment Annual Review of Safety to the regulatory community for contract year 15."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed, and I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information that falls within scope of your request. I apologise for the severe delay in responding to your request and that you were not kept up to date with progress.

I attach a redacted copy of presentation slides of the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE)'s Annual Review of Safety 2015. Some of the information you requested falls within the scope of the qualified exemptions provided for at sections 24(1) (National Security), and 43(2) (Commercial Interests), and the absolute exemption provided for at section 40(2) (Personal Information).

Section 24(1) has been applied to details of programme activities at AWE and the management and operation of the defence nuclear programme. Disclosure would assist hostile groups or states in assessing the state of the UK's Defence Nuclear Programme (DNP) or in understanding how to build a nuclear weapon, and assist hostile individuals or groups in their efforts to disrupt the work of AWE, prejudicing national security. For these reasons I have set the level of prejudice against release of the exempted information at the higher level of "would" rather than "would be likely to".

Section 40(2) has been applied to details of individuals, as disclosure of such details would constitute the release of personal information, contrary to the data protection principles of the Data Protection Act 1998.

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Section 43(2) has been applied to detailed contract performance information, because release of this information could prejudice the commercial interests of AWE and the MOD by compromising both party's negotiating positions and could affect the ability of the MOD to obtain value for money for the taxpayer. The balance of public interest was found to be in favour of withholding this information to protect the commercial interests of AWE and the MOD. For these reasons I have set the level of prejudice against release of the exempted information at the lower level of "would be likely to" rather than "would".

I wish again to apologise for the severe delay in responding to your request. If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

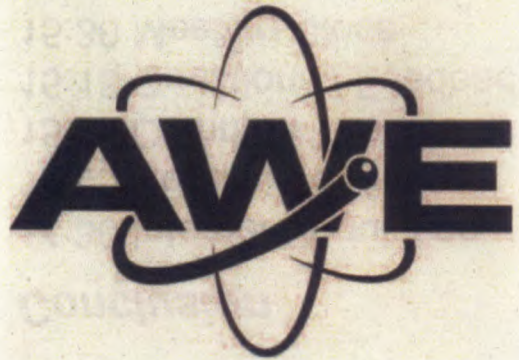
If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

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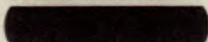
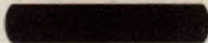

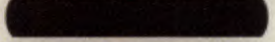




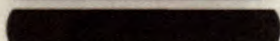
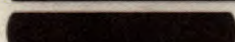

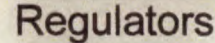


Annual Review of Safety
October 2015

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Agenda

-
- 12:00 Welcome and Today's Key Messages 
 - 12:10 Assurance Moment 
 - **Company Performance**
 - 12:15 ESH Performance 
 - **Operational Performance**
 - 12:30 Plutonium and Uranium 

 - 12:45 Burghfield LS 
 - 13:00 Science, Engineering & Technology 
 - 13:15 Projects 
 - 13:30 Site Management 
 - 13:45 Explosives 
 - 14:00 Corporate Overview 
 - 14:15 Coffee Break
 - **Conclusion**
 - 14:30 Internal Regulation 
 - 14:45 Regulators View 
Regulators
 - 15:00 Common Themes and Work Going Forward 
 - 15:15 Questions / Feedback 
All
 - 15:30 Meeting Close
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Welcome and Today's Key Messages

- Purpose: To review the organisations systems and performance to ensure continuing suitability, effectiveness and future focus areas.

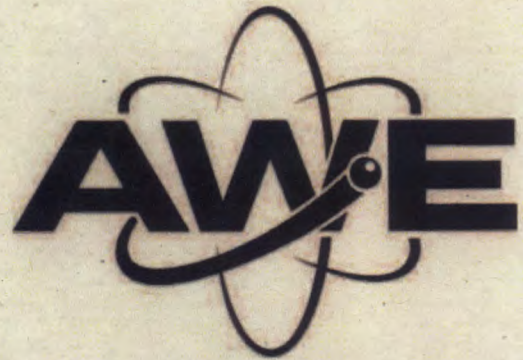
- Today's Key Messages:
 - Performance Information
 - Overview of 2014 Improvement Themes
 - People
 - Plant
 - Process



Assurance Moment

- Tianjin Explosions 2015

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ESH Performance



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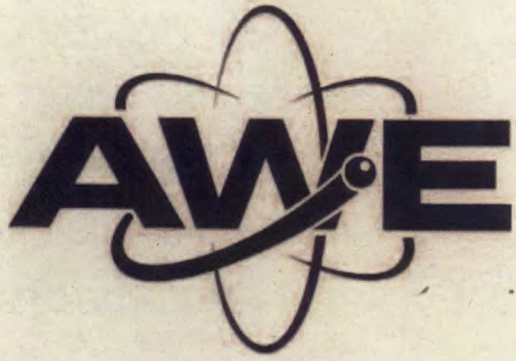
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Plutonium and Uranium



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Plutonium and Uranium RIM

Successes

- Removal of [REDACTED] (meeting regulatory commitments).
- Completion of Project Phoebe ahead of schedule and close-out of ONR Improvement Notice.

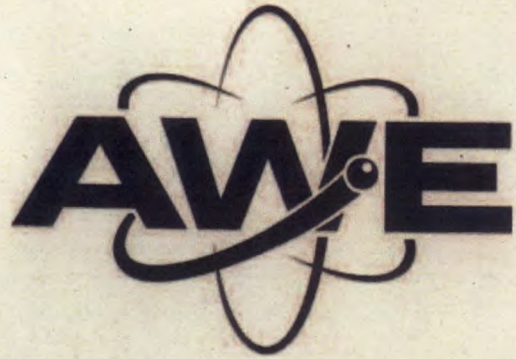
Regrets

- DSEAR Inspection.
- [REDACTED] replacement trials [REDACTED]
- Rescheduling of delivery of Uranium facility PRS submission.
- Coolant tank.
- Flooding re-modelling.
- Waste inspection.

Future Focus

- Improved engineered safety measures for [REDACTED]
- Progress [REDACTED] replacement.
- Work on PRS for Plutonium Technology Centre facilities.
- Uranium facility PRS and associated risk reduction work.

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Burghfield LS



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Burghfield Licensed Site

Successes

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Periodic Review of Safety well underway.
- Identification and use of new disposal route for RA contaminated salts.
- All Criticality Clearance certificates reviewed and up-issued.
- Positive ESH Culture survey results.

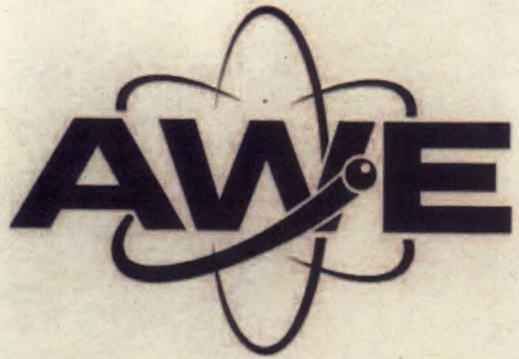
Regrets

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Significant AEs warranting INF1 notification.
- Quality of Submissions

Future Focus

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- improvements to Assembly/Disassembly tooling.
- Periodic Review of Safety [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Improvements to the Facility and Product Safety Cases and Safety Basis.

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Science, Engineering & Technology

[REDACTED]

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Science, Engineering and Technology L3 RIM

Successes

- Facility Safety Cases submitted to quality and schedule
- Reduction in hazardous inventories in Hydrodynamics
- Permissioning strategy agreed for Hydrodynamics experiment
- L3 RIM Terms of Reference restructured to differentiate between UK and Fr trials
- Pilot area for improved ways of working – accountability for ESH with Line Management

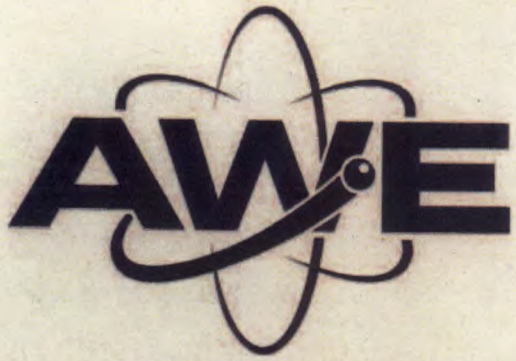
Regrets

- OSHA TRIR 0.33 (per 200,000 hrs worked) – although improvement on 2014
- Regulatory hold point date missed on non safety significant project

Future Focus

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]


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Projects



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 **Projects****Successes**

- Revised organisation and arrangements to strengthen Capital Programme Delivery
- Mensa civils construction complete ahead of schedule
- Opportunities taken to accelerate delivery and realise capability earlier
- Delivery of Orchard phase 1, Circinus and Phoenix
- Maintain high level of regulatory compliance and engagement

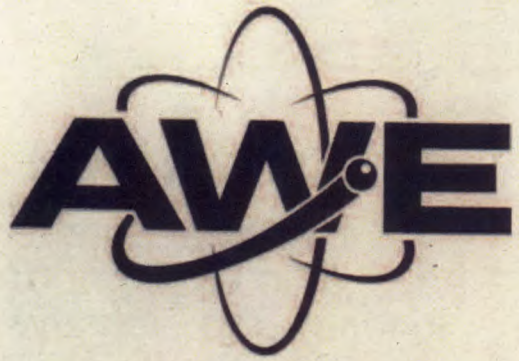
Regrets

- Schedule performance.

Future Focus

- Extracting learning from current projects and improve.
- Collaborative working with the regulators through Flexible Permissioning
- Challenge over conservatisms in safety analysis
- Close out of Circinus and Phoenix
- Maximising opportunities to accelerate delivery schedule

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Site Management



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RIM – Site Management

Successes

- Restoration of full Authority to Operate for A##
- PRS Decision attained for A##
- Decontamination & decommissioning of RA sump
- Disposal of significant quantity of waste from [REDACTED] facility

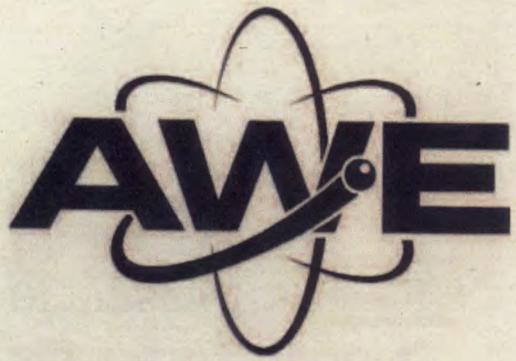
Regrets

- HAW LI511 & associated Improvement Notice
- A* [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] A*
- LC34 legacy waste
- Sampling configuration issue

Future Focus

- Project work in support of HAW
- Continued focus on good behaviours around criticality safety
- Generation of modern standard Safety assessment for A* decommissioning operations
- LC34 & legacy plant & equipment

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Explosives



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Successes

- One RIM for all explosives business
 - L3 RIM working well
 - Relationship healthy
 - Maintained ER2014 compliance
- Licensed [REDACTED]
 - Commissioned
 - Removed restrictions
 - [REDACTED]
- Agreed licensing for [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- Licensed HEFF
- Licensing armouries
- NXASW deployment
- Support to SJWG

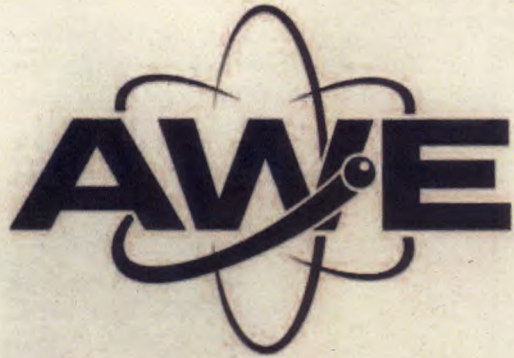
Regrets

- Licence variation turnaround still takes too long
 - Expected to improve now
- Licence re-work
 - Now more scrutiny prior to submission

Future Focus

- Reducing footprint
- Reducing legacy inventory
- Firearms authorisation
 - HO & TVP
- Following Manor House Development
- Licences limited to requirements of law
 - Other interests and scrutiny managed through regulatory relationship & RIM

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Corporate Overview



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Corporate Overview

Successes

- A6 initiated and now embedded
- Corporate PRS programme and arrangements in place
- Outreach – SDF, Explosives Industry forum
- ONR issues database process revamped

Regrets

- Release of Information 'surprises'.
- Resources – e.g. crit resource

Future Focus

- Realise Flexible Permissioning opportunities
- Embed revised database process.
- DNSR Corporate arrangements discussions
- Potential common ARoS format?
- RIM Rationalisation



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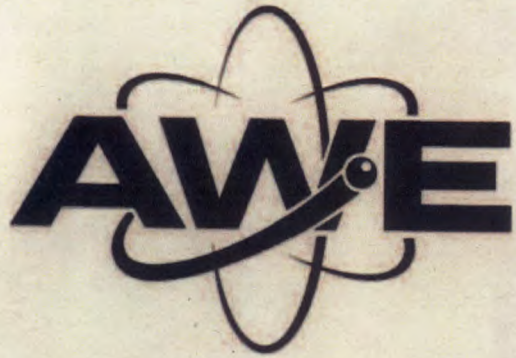


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Internal Regulation

[REDACTED]

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Internal Regulation

Successes

New procedures

- ATO Process
- System Based Inspection
- Health Checks

Improved Interaction with Regulators

- 121's and L4 RIMs
- Joint Inspections
- Workshops

Major Project Case for Safety

- MDAL

Regrets

Continuing Reliance on Aging Facilities

Poor Planning

- Late delivery of Safety Cases
- [REDACTED]
- Project timescales and re-baselining.
- Failure to deliver commitments

Levels of Corporate change

- Independent scrutiny
- Uncertainty contributing to slow delivery

Future Focus

Use of IR Resources

- Proportionate focus
- Attracting high profile personnel

Continued Focus on High Hazard Activities

- Aging Facilities
- PRS

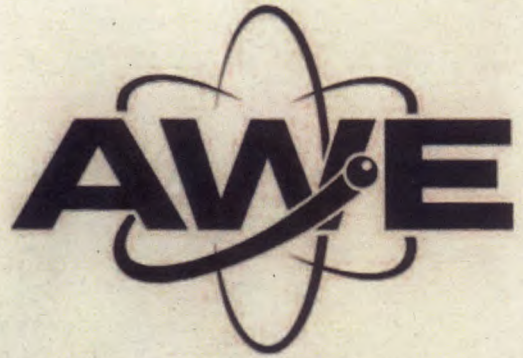
Independent Oversight

- Good Practice Guide
- TAG80
- Benchmarking

Corporate Change Prog.

- Impacts and Outcomes

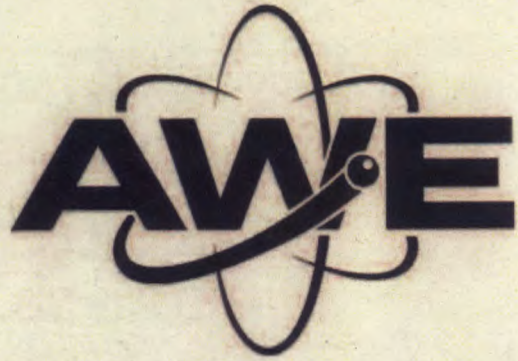
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Regulators View

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***Common Themes and
Work Going Forward***



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Common Themes and Work going forward

Successes

- Building regulatory relationships
- Organisational changes (capital projects, explosives and ESH)
- [REDACTED]
- Phoebe completion
- Waste removal
- Focus on high hazard and key risks
- PRS and Capital programmes and submissions
- ESH Performance

Regrets

- Information handling
- Critical resource management
- HAW LI511 IN
- Continued reliance on aging facilities
- Consistency of safety case delivery
- [REDACTED] renewals
- Low level compliance issues
- Capital Schedule

Future Focus

- Critical resources
- Regulatory relationships
- Further hazard inventory reductions and plant improvements
- PRS
- Key capabilities and HAW
- Realise Flexible Permissioning opportunities and appropriate conservatism
- Further focus on higher hazard activities
- Common AROS format
- Risk Management



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Questions / Feedback



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