



Radioactive Contaminated Land

Nuclear sites and land contamination

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The Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR), an agency of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), regulates nuclear licensed sites. They do this under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65), which allows them to control land contaminated with radioactivity via site licence conditions.

ONR regards land contaminated with radioactivity on nuclear licensed sites as an accumulation of radioactive waste and it requires licensees to manage it as such. You can find further information on the ONR's requirements for managing land contaminated with radioactivity on nuclear licensed sites in their guidance on managing radioactive materials and radioactive wastes on nuclear sites [<http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/waste1.pdf>]. Information can also be found in the ONR's safety assessment principles published on their website [<http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/saps/contents.htm>].

The ONR is also responsible for establishing criteria for 'delicensing' nuclear licensed sites. You can find further information on delicensing at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/information.htm>

Nuclear Licensed Sites and the Extension of Part 2A

The extended Part 2A regime does not apply to land contaminated with radioactivity on nuclear licensed sites. It does apply to any radioactivity originating from a nuclear site.

Nuclear Licensed Sites and the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010

We authorise disposals of radioactive waste on, or from, nuclear licensed sites under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 (EPR10). This means we would permit disposals of radioactive waste resulting from the management or remediation of land on nuclear sites contaminated with radioactivity. Such disposals might include the discharge of contaminated groundwater from a site to a local watercourse or public sewer, or the disposal of any contaminated soil or rubble excavated from the site.

The ONR regulate any land contaminated with radioactivity whilst it exists in-situ and regulating the clean-up of the site for delicensing.

At non-nuclear sites we are responsible under the EPR10 for ensuring that the site of a regulated facility is returned to a satisfactory state. This responsibility does *not* apply for regulated facilities on nuclear sites, where instead the ONR is responsible¹. We work closely with ONR to support their regulation of this.

¹ Environmental Permitting: Radioactive Substances Regulation Guidance (Version 2). Available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/permitting/>