

Ref: EIR2023-032

████████████████████
25th September 2023

Dear ██████████

Further to our previous correspondence regarding your request for the following information:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and/or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 to request the following information in relation to the above.

*Section 10 of REPP19 states the action required when the operator has determined that a radiation emergency might arise, for ease of reference an extract of the relevant section is detailed as follows:
"Operator's emergency plan*

10.—(1) Where the operator has made an evaluation in accordance with regulation 4(1) which shows that a radiation emergency might arise, the operator must make an adequate emergency plan designed to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the restriction of exposure to ionising radiation and the health and safety of persons who may be affected by radiation emergencies identified by the evaluation.

(2) When preparing an emergency plan, as required by paragraph (1), the operator must take into account—

(a) the steps the operator has taken under regulation 4(4); and

(b) the consequences assessed in accordance with regulation 5, including any variable factors which might affect the severity of the emergency.

(3) The operator's emergency plan must—

(a) contain the information set out in Part 1 of Schedule 6; and

(b) be drawn up in accordance with the principles and purposes set out in Schedule 7.

(4) The operator must not require any person to carry out work with ionising radiation, and no person shall carry out such work unless—

(a) the operator has complied with the requirements of paragraph (1); and

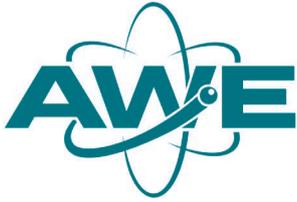
(b) the local authority has complied with its duties in connection with the off-site emergency plan as set out in regulation 11, and has confirmed this to the operator in writing."

Section 4 specifically expresses that "The operator must not require any person to carry out work with ionising radiation, and no person shall carry out such work unless-

a) the operator has complied with the requirements of paragraph(1), and

b) the local authority has complied with its duties with the off-site emergency plan as set out in regulation 11, and has confirmed this to be operator in writing."

1) In reference to the above please provide details of evidence relating to the requirements as referenced in Section 10, paragraph 4(b).



Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (the Regulations).

A search for the requested information within the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) has now been completed, and we can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

West Berkshire District Council formally confirmed to AWE plc that it had an adequate off-site emergency plan as required under Regulation 11 at the AWE WBDC Compliance Meeting on 11th May 2023. The meeting minutes record in writing the following:

“WBDC formally notes to AWE we have an adequate plan in place for an AWE Offsite Emergency.”

Under Regulation 9, advice and assistance, please see an acronym glossary below:

AWE – AWE plc

WBDC – West Berkshire District Council

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance remembering to quote the reference number above in any communications.

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled you have a right to request an internal review within 40 days of receiving this letter, by writing to information.requests@awe.co.uk or our postal address: Information Requests Team, AWE Aldermaston, Reading, RG7 4PR. If you are still unhappy after an internal review has been completed, under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Regulation 18 of the EIRs you have the right to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner’s Office. Please note the Commissioner will generally not consider a complaint until you have exhausted AWE’s internal complaints process.

Yours sincerely,

AWE Information Requests Team