

Case Study

Project Title	Ponds Decommissioning Assessment		
Team size	5	Scope of VEP team	Completion of a comprehensive assessment of Magnox pond decommissioning experience by interviewing appropriate Magnox personnel who hold the experience in ponds decommissioning across the fleet.

Introduction

Venture Engineering Projects (VEP) is an SME engineering consultancy based in the North West of England, with demonstrable and extensive experience primarily in the nuclear industry. As a team of experienced and highly-competent nuclear professionals, coupled with The Herne Group (THG), a specialist SME project and programme management, controls and management consultancy provider, we have a broad spectrum of and experience in successfully supporting major programmes of work within the civil and defence nuclear sector, and the wider infrastructure programme arena. This enables us to offer a diverse and complementary team of uniquely qualified and experienced nuclear-decommissioning professionals, with class-leading management consultants

VEP and THG were engaged complete a comprehensive assessment of Magnox pond decommissioning experience by interviewing appropriate Magnox personnel who hold the experience in ponds decommissioning across the fleet.

This involved seeking knowledge from key personnel and to request supporting material from them such as drawings, photo's, reports etc. The output of this work was a report that details the experience of Magnox pond decommissioning over the past 20 years and it is expected that supporting this will be a body of information gathered during the assessment period.

The purpose of the report is to act as a body of knowledge on Magnox ponds decommissioning that will inform future decommissioning efforts across the fleet and at future sites.

Background

The pond complexes across nine Magnox sites (Berkeley, Hinkley, Bradwell, Trawsfynydd, Dungeness, Sizewell, Oldbury, Hunterston & Chapelcross) have been or are in the late process of being decommissioned. Over the two decades of decommissioning activities an enormous amount has been learnt which must now be captured to aid future projects.

Each Magnox pond complex presented a different challenge as no two pond facilities shared the same design or operational history. As a result Magnox has found that a toolbox approach to

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decommissioning has proved effective and this approach to decommissioning and how it evolved over time is to be explored.

Roles and Responsibilities

The VEP and THG team experience of establishing and delivering major programmes in consultancy and event recovery scenarios means we are well versed in performing project and programme reviews to elicit key information, and supporting major decommissioning programmes and Client organisations in the subsequent documentation, categorisation, presentation, and management of key observations, findings and critical learning.

We have both recent and relevant experience undertaking these reviews in a manner of capacities, including as the Client representative and acting as an independent authority sitting outside of the Client team. In all capacities, we have approached the process objectively, with the same common goal – to obtain a clear and unilateral understanding of the validity of project and programme data, context and background, helping Client organisations and major contractors to understand their position and gather critical learning

Scope

The scope of the work undertaken by VEP covered:-

- Management and coordination of the VEP and THG team
- Management of CEMAR
- Management of commercial and programme
- Engagement with key Magnox project representatives (interview format)
- Develop Terms of Reference (ToR) / process
- Develop Stakeholder Engagement plan
- Develop detailed LFE report act as a body of knowledge on Magnox ponds decommissioning that will inform future decommissioning efforts across the fleet and at future sites

