

The Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor (WAGR) Decommissioning

The Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor (WAGR) represents a milestone for the industry.

When it became operational in 1962, Windscale's Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor (WAGR) was the prototype of a 'family' of reactors providing more efficient power for Britain than ever before possible.

Now, 35 years after WAGR was first built, we are nearing the full, natural cycle of a nuclear installation as the reactor and its associated structures are dismantled and safely stored and is the first full scale reactor to be decommissioned.

This work has been progressing to a defined project and commercial programme, just like any other major engineering exercise, with timetables and targets on safety, quality and cost, with objectives for each specific phase and deliverables for every contract awarded.

UKAEA is demonstrating that this project can be carried out using technology readily available today. UKAEA believes this experience will then provide a fund of decommissioning knowledge as well as an invaluable platform from which UK contractors can export their expertise and skills on future decommissioning projects.

Once the task of decommissioning WAGR's core and Pressure Vessel is completed, a consultation exercise will be undertaken on the long term future of the reactor bioshield and containment building.

UKAEA has developed its strategy from reactor development through to one of restoring our environment and is committed to this throughout its business.

Peter Law (WAGR Project Manager) - Summary

On leaving school Peter Law commenced an electrical apprenticeship with UKAEA at Windscale. On completion of apprenticeship in 1988 he returned to full time education taking a BEng (honours) degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering at University of Newcastle Upon Tyne. On successful completion of degree he was employed in Chemical Industry for eight years in various Engineering and Operational roles before returning to Windscale as the Site Technical Manager in 1999. During this time he also studied part time and obtained a Masters Degree in Business. In 2006 he transferred to the WAGR Project Manager position taking responsibility for a team of approximately sixty staff delivering the WAGR decommissioning project.

For further information on this release, interviews or comments, please contact

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