

BNFL Accidents – 1998 & 1999

Accidents and events list compiled by CORE (Cumbrians Opposed to a Radioactive Environment) from a range of sources. Bracketed figures refer to Sellafield Newsletter edition in which accident is reported, single figure to level on INES. Complete list from 1950. More details from CORE at 98 Church St, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria LA14 2HJ. tel 01229 833851, fax 01229 812239, e.mail: info@core.furness.co.uk

1998

(538)	1.	3 Jan.	Failure in cross-site pneumatic pipe delivery system
(538)		4 Jan.	Calder reactor 3 shut, heat exchanger boiler-tube leak, sulphur leak
(541)	1.	15 Jan.	Failure to test emergency diesel generators, Calder Hall
(544)		20 Jan.	Liquid spillage from faulty valve, B205
(541)	1.	23 Jan.	Nitric acid spill, B205, tube feeding fuel to dissolvers
(541)	1.	28 Jan.	Worker contamination, B209, spilt filter bag, 13 workers evacuated
(543)		Feb.	Seascale pigeon contamination
(544)	1.	11 Feb.	Fuel Handling plant, faulty stop-button on crane
(544)		12 Feb.	THORP, failure to test both dissolver off-gas pressure transducers
(547)	1.	2 Mar.	Failure to follow operating instructions
(549)		8 Mar.	Fire in shredding machine, LLW compaction plant
(548)		Mar.	1st quarter notification level breached - sulphur leak Calder Hall (see 4 Jan.)
(549)		Mar.	Leak of contaminated water from PCM magazine, Drigg
(550)	1.	Apr.	Radioactive residues in transport containers from THORP to WEP
(550)		2 Apr.	Failed electricity supply to autocontroller rods, Calder reactor 4 trip
(554)	1.	May	PCM drum compacted in breach of operating rule
(555)	1.	May	Liquid leak from nitrogen inlet valve in glove-box, MOX demo facility
(558)		26 May	Loss of DC supply caused trip to Calder reactor 4
(558)	1.	27 May	Water leak from HLW tank cooling system, B215
(560)	1.	5 Jun.	Thermocouple incorrectly connected, Calder reactor 3
(561)	1.	Jun.	Dep. Uranium found in Sellafield process valve under repair in Germany
(562)		Jun.	Bottle of active liquor found in site laundry high active washing machine

(562)	17	Jun.	Liquor spillage - redundant pipe B205-switching on line sieving device
(563)	1.	28 Jun.	Jammed fuel discharge valve, Calder reactor 4
(569)		14 Jul.	Floor contamination in corridor Magnox Receipt & Decanning
(565)	1.	16 Jul.	Leak to atmosphere, 13 workers evacuated, Magnox Encapsulation plant
(568)		Jul.	Pu release from swarf bin in Encapsulation plant (MEP)
(568)		29 Jul.	Worker clothing contam. MDF (B33), pump motor removal, active area
(568)		3 Aug.	Radioactive leak from lab. glove-box MDF (B33). Worker contamination and evacuation
(569)		4 Aug.	Reactor trip Calder reactor 2
(569)		7 Aug.	Loss of DC supply caused trip to Calder reactor 2
(572)	1.	30 Aug.	Breach of operating rule Calder 3, inhibiting 2 or 3 safety trip mechanisms
(580)		20 Oct.	BNFL ship Pacific Crane holded in Barrow Docks, hit by drifting ship
(581)	1.	Nov.	Spillage in glovebox, breach of operating rule
(581)		Nov.	Calder reactor 2 shutdown - failure circulating pump
(584)		Nov.	Calder reactor 2 shutdown - split pin failure - 2 control rods automatically inserted
(584)	1.	Nov.	Liquid transfer pump removal - contaminated area & worker clothing

1999

		17 Jan.	THORP - basket handling area door accident
		Jan.	Radiation levels breached at Drigg dump (waste from Portsmouth)
(588)	1.	07Jan.	Missing, sealed radium source from Oxide Storage pond
(592)	1.	Feb.	Radiation levels found higher than expected on non-active construction site Building 241- up to 40 construction workers assessed
(596)		Feb.	Deterioration found in vessel supports in B204 cell, with some movement of vessels
(596)	1.	25 Feb.	8 workers evacuated from B209S. Backflow of radioactivity from contaminated areas triggered alpha-in-air monitors
(598)	2.	Mar.	Worker glove contamination in WVP. Extremity dose exceeding annual limit.
(598)		11 Mar.	Acid spill in (unopened) Solvent Treatment Plant. 3 workers affected.

(598)	13 Mar.	Calder reactor 1 shutdown by inadvertant closure of circuit breaker
(600)	1. Mar.	Spillage of 80 litres of solution in B268 following valve joint failure.
(601)	0. Apr.	Elevated radiation levels in B215 (HLW) from valve during routine transfer of liquid from evaporator to storage tank.
(NII)	10 Apr.	Pipeline blockage in WVP. Significance described by NII as similar to initiating event that could lead to release of radioactivity.
(602)	2. 1 Apr.	Radioactive particles found in B311 FHP work area following routine maintenance. Spillage expected to exceed notification limit.
(605)	0. May.	Fire in valve lagging at Calder Hall Turbo-Alternator 4
(606)	1. 08 May.	Operating rule breached in B311 FHP during debris transfer
(609)	1. 26 May.	Failure to test safety interlock system on uranium flask in B311 FHP
(609)	1. 27 May.	Failure of pumps on monitoring device in B205
(610)	1. 08 Jun.	Contamination in B38 storage compound led to increased radiation levels
(618)	Jun.	Potential skin dose to MDF worker
(613)	23 Jun.	Calder reactor 1 trip during control system test.
(617)	25 Jul.	Spillage of liquour in B38 found in external wall of building, resulting from seepage from redundant pipework.
(622)	28 Aug.	Instrument alarms triggered in Calder reactor 2 when control rod fell into reactor. Loose wire found in rod cable connector.
(621)	06 Sep.	NII start major inspection of Sellafield following increase in accidents earlier in year. 15 Inspectors from NII & Factory Inspectorate to review management, control & supervision of operations, adequacy of resources and staffing, and incidents. Inspection to end 24th September.
(623)	Sep	2 women protesters gained access to Calder Hall reactor 3. Doses to be analysed. Investigation launched.
(625)	Sep.	Sealed source missing from Personal Air Sampling Centre.
	Sep.	NII called in to investigate document falsification in MDF
(625)	Sep.	Fire in vent fan shaft in Calder reactor 3
(626)	26 Sep	Fire in waste items in basement of admin & changing room facility