

Springfields Fuels Limited Specific Q&As

Previous Detailed Emergency Planning Zone

What did the previous REPPIR detailed emergency planning zone for the site look like?

In 2002, the ONR determined the REPPIR off-site Emergency Planning and prior information areas to be a circular area of radius 1km around the Springfield's Fuels Limited. This was revised in 2011 by Lancashire County Council, to ensure that the DEPZ did not split local communities and ensured the inclusion of vulnerable groups immediately adjacent to the existing DEPZ. Ease of action of emergency responders and the distribution of public information was also taken into account, along with ensuring the DEPZ followed natural boundaries such as roads, rivers, footpaths to aid identification and understanding of the zone.

Springfield's Fuels Ltd is also an upper tier establishment as defined by The Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015 (COMAH) and information must be provided to anyone in an area likely to be affected by a major accident. This is referred to as the Public Information Zone (PIZ) and is defined by the Health and Safety Executive.

From 2011, Lancashire County Council used the REPPIR off-site emergency planning area along with the COMAH PIZ as a basis for defining one off site emergency planning area around site encompassing both areas.

In 2017, the ONR as part of the redetermination project, reviewed the DEPZ for Springfield's Fuels Limited, which saw a small increase in premises within the DEPZ and was agreed by the Site Operator and Local Authority (Lancashire County Council). The review of the DEPZ took 12 months to complete and was completed in September 2017. A link to the project is below:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/emergency-planning/emergency-plans/reppir-plans/>

What are the arrangements for emergency situations?

The link below has an introduction to Springfield's Fuels Limited, includes a briefing on the off-site emergency plan and the DEPZ:

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/emergency-planning/emergency-plans/reppir-plans.aspx>

In light of the re-determination of the detailed emergency planning zone and the requirements of the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2019 (REPPIR), Lancashire County Council will prepare a revised off-site emergency plan to cover the Springfield's Fuels Limited.

New Detailed Emergency Planning Zone

What is a REPPIR detailed emergency planning zone?

A REPPIR detailed emergency planning zone is the area around a nuclear site where the local authority is required to have a plan in place for protecting the public in the event of an off-site nuclear emergency. Under the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2019 (REPPIR), the local authority has the statutory duty to set the detailed emergency planning zone for sites in this area where there is a risk that an accident could lead to an off-site release of radiation.

Which part of the emergency plan is Lancashire County Council redefining?

Lancashire County Council is redefining the area where, in consultation with other key responders and the operators, there has to be an off-site emergency plan to protect the public in the unlikely event of a radiation emergency.

The determinations are supported by detailed assessments of the risks provided by the operator and defining the area requires careful judgement based on practical and strategic emergency planning considerations.

Why did the regulations for determining detailed emergency zones change? Were they inadequate before?

The regulations changed to incorporate the requirements of the 2013 Basic Safety Standards Directive. This directive incorporates important lessons learned from nuclear and non-nuclear accidents (such as the Fukushima Daiichi incident) as well as recent standards agreed at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). The opportunity was also taken to incorporate learning from the implementation of the REPPiR regulations in 2001 and the regular review and testing of emergency plans.

Why has Springfield's Fuels Limited detailed emergency planning zone changed?

These are positive changes in the interests of public protection and safety. The new detailed emergency planning zone allows for better emergency management of the area and will ensure enhanced arrangements are put in place to protect vulnerable groups and the general public around the site.

Are you doing this because you have identified a greater risk?

No. the risk at the site remains the same. The changes to the area are part of the process of improving the existing off-site emergency planning arrangements as per REPPiR 19.

The changes to the area improve existing off-site emergency planning arrangements across the UK to provide enhanced protection to the public. Lancashire County Council has proportionately applied the principles as detailed in Regulation 8 of REPPiR 19 in regarding to the shape of the boundaries of the detailed emergency planning zone. This will ensure enhanced arrangements may be put in place to protect vulnerable groups and the general public around the site.

How does this affect the area?

As per Regulation 8(1) and the supplementary guidance, the DEPZ should only be extended due to local geographic, demographic and practical issues. It was agreed that the DEPZ completed by the ONR during the determination project in 2017 was still justified as it covered the Minimum Distance Area identified in the Consequence Report and still covered the COMAH PIZ - based on the HSE outer zone. However, there are a number of slight changes to the DEPZ which are as follows:

- On the eastern side of the DEPZ: increase the existing DEPZ along Darkinson Lane up towards the canal to make the DEPZ shape even on this side.
- Due to poor hedge line along the properties on Darkinson Lane, it has been agreed to move the existing DEPZ along to the highway; this is justified as making this change now will make it easier for implementing mitigation measures within the DEPZ e.g. protective actions and access control.

The DEPZ Determination was completed in November 2019 and the report outlining the changes is available on the following link:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/emergency-planning/emergency-plans/reppir-plans/>

What are the next steps?

The local authority has 6 months (or other time which the regulator has agreed in writing), to develop an appropriate REPPIR off-site emergency plan. Until that revised plan is completed, all existing arrangements remain in place to protect the public.

Public Interest**What duties does the operator have to ensure public protection in the event of a radiation emergency at its site?**

Nuclear site operators have arrangements in place to respond to any accident or emergency arising on the site. The operator's arrangements complement the wider emergency plan that the local authority has to put in place for the detailed emergency planning zone and outline planning zone.

Is the information used to determine a REPPIR off-site emergency planning zone publically available?

The local authority publishes its determination reports to explain how the off-site emergency planning area decisions are made.

What happens to people outside the REPPIR off-site emergency planning zone?

To plan for emergencies, it is necessary to identify the areas for which planning is required. Regulation 8 places a duty on the local authority to determine the detailed emergency planning zone as discussed in other Q&As. The determination of outline planning zones on certain sites is set out in Regulation 9. Outline planning supplements detailed planning providing mitigation against very low probability events potentially not considered in the design.

For members of public who are within an Outline Planning Zone, you can further information on Lancashire County Council website. A link is provided below:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/emergency-planning/emergency-plans/reppir-plans/>

The Food Standards Agency is responsible for defining any area that may be subject to food advice and restrictions.

Does this mean that some people now included in the new area have been at risk all of this time without being considered?

No. It means that this existing good practice has been formalised and that additional factors have been considered in order to improve emergency planning arrangements.

Is REPPIR the only law in place to protect the public in the case of a nuclear emergency?

No REPPIR is not the only law in place to protect members of the public. Please see below:

- Under nuclear site licence conditions, licensed sites have to have an Office for Nuclear Regulation approved emergency plan to respond to any accident or emergency arising on the site.
- Emergency planning by local authorities is required by the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.
- Emergency arrangements in relation to food stuffs etc. is carried out by the Food Standards Agency.

Why am I now included in the detailed emergency planning zone?

The application of the requirements of REPPiR 2019 for detailed emergency planning zones provides improved emergency planning for those living and working in the vicinity of *site*. This helps to ensure that the risks to the public from a radiation emergency are low. Emergency information will be provided to homes and businesses in this area once the emergency plan for the new area has been revised.

Why am I no longer included in the detailed emergency planning zone?

The application of the requirements of REPPiR 2019 for detailed emergency planning zones without extension to include your property, achieves an appropriate balance between the risks for the implementation of protective actions and your protection.

You are included in the outline planning zone for the site which builds on the arrangements and capabilities within detailed emergency plans to provide proportionate planning to provide protection to you in the event of low probability events.

Where can I find more information about what I need to do in the event of an off-site nuclear emergency?

People living with the detailed emergency planning zone will be provided with information by Lancashire County Council. Details of the Off-Site Emergency Plan can be found at:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/emergency-planning/emergency-plans/reppir-plans/>

Will this announcement affect the price of my house?

Lancashire County Council is not aware of any evidence to suggest that properties within detailed emergency planning zones are valued more or less than neighbouring properties outside of it.

Will this revised detailed emergency planning zone have implications for planning applications and development control?

Local planning policies remain as the starting point for the determination of any planning application received. This includes a process of determining each application on its merits in consultation with a number of agencies.