

Magnox Harwell LETP - Managing the UK's more difficult to handle wastes



"The supply chain is a critical enabler for delivery of the UK National Waste Programme on behalf of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). LLWR works with its supply chain partners to provide a range of services to help waste producers follow the waste management hierarchy. By diverting waste to alternative reuse, recycling, treatment, and disposal routes we are able to preserve space at the LLWR national disposal facility for wastes that need higher levels of engineered protection and have saved the taxpayer over £400M to date."

David Rossiter, Head of Waste Management Services, Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR)

Executive Summary

In 2017, Magnox Ltd, who is responsible for the safe and secure decommissioning of twelve redundant nuclear sites in the UK, awarded a contract for waste disposal services relating to non-hazardous and hazardous LLW waste via the Low-Level Waste Repository (LLWR) VLLW Framework.

Augean owns and operates the East Northants Resource Management Facility (ENRMF), located near Peterborough, which holds an Environmental Permit FB3598DD for the disposal of non-hazardous, hazardous and inert radioactive waste.

This waste was produced from the remediation of contaminated land and below ground structures associated with the Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant (LETP) at Magnox Harwell. Magnox Harwell is one of the twelve Magnox Ltd facilities under active decommissioning in the UK. Due to the waste being radioactive, Magnox Ltd is required to dispose of this waste at a suitably permitted facility. Augean was successful in being awarded an exclusive contract for the disposal of solid radioactive waste produced during the Magnox Harwell LETP project.

Benefits of using Augean

Since late 2017, Augean has worked in conjunction with Magnox Ltd and LLWR to prepare and provide an enhanced disposal solution which is safe, compliant and cost-effective for non-hazardous and hazardous LLW.

Two of the **major disposal challenges** facing Magnox LETP at the start of the project were technical turnaround times and daily disposal capacity. To increase technical efficiency, Augean integrated one of their experienced radiological technical assessors onto site to work alongside both operational and technical teams at Magnox Harwell to ensure day-to-day communications between the organisations was enhanced.

To enable Augean ENRMF to safely accept the increased waste volumes, Augean invested in increasing the number of Radiation Protection Supervisors (RPS). This operational investment alongside the purchase of new equipment has enabled our ENRMF operational team to continue to work within 2 hour on-site turnaround times for all projects.

For more details contact Augean on:

01937 846686



Throughout the duration of the contract, Augean have provided Magnox Harwell with **24-hour turnaround** times for technical assessments of waste consignments. This enhanced turnaround time alongside an efficient on-site Waste Operations team has ensured that the entire process from on-site waste production to waste disposal at Augean ENRMF is less than **72 hours**.

These has resulted in Augean being able to accept the following:

- **Up to 80 tonnes disposed per day**
- **Up to 400 tonnes disposed per week**
- **Up to 1,600 tonnes disposed per month**

Joseph Hunter, Key Account Manager for Augean, said *“Augean has been delighted to work alongside Magnox Ltd and LLWR since 2017 to provide a safe, compliant and cost-effective bespoke disposal for radioactive waste arising from the Magnox Harwell LETP project.”*

Joseph added *“The integration of an Augean technical assessor has enhanced day-to-day communications between Augean and Magnox Harwell as well as the on-site Waste Operation team which has successfully increased the efficiency of both technical and disposal solutions for this project.”*

It is expected that Magnox Harwell LETP decommissioning project will be completed in 2021. Augean will continue to provide both technical and operational support to Magnox Harwell throughout the lifetime of this project.

About Augean

Augean, an AIM listed public listed company formed in 2004, is a specialist waste and resource management group serving the hazardous waste management, renewable energy, construction, heavy industry and manufacturing, oil and gas, and nuclear and radioactive sectors operating at locations across the UK.

Augean provides a wide range of services through transfer, recycling, recovery, treatment and disposal capability. Augean also offers Industrial Services solutions.

Augean can also provide Sort & Segregation services at Augean’s EPR permitted Port Clarence Waste Recovery in Teesside. This service can be accessed directly through Augean or via the LLWR Waste Treatment Services Framework.

Augean is strategically positioned to provide strong commercial and compliance-led solutions in complex and highly regulated legislation driven markets.

Augean is committed to delivering excellence in customer service. By working with our customers, we strive to offer best practice solutions to changes brought about by regulations and legislation and to improve the performance of our facilities and treatment processes.

Augean’s certified IMS (ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 and PAS 99) underpins the operational standards of our business.

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