

BNFL Windscale Vitrification Plant

Customer: BNFL (now Sellafield Ltd)
Project: Windscale Vitrification Plant
Location: Sellafield
Date: 1992
Services: Pre-handover Testing and Non-Active Commissioning
Value: £5 million

Description

The Windscale Vitrification Plant (WVP) is located at Sellafield and treats highly active liquid wastes by calcining then mixing them with a glass frit to produce a vitrified waste.

This vitrified waste is then stored in sealed and shielded containers in the adjacent Vitrified Products Store (VPS) for up to 50 years.

Aker Solutions was contracted by BNFL to perform the pre-handover testing and non-active commissioning of both of these plants.

Our involvement commenced with process familiarisation (the plant having been designed and built by others), planning and procedure preparation at BNFL's Risley offices prior to build up of the test team on site.

Aker Solutions' site team, comprising highly qualified and experienced engineers covering all required engineering disciplines, peaked at over 50. They worked with a smaller team of BNFL personnel on a joint basis.

The testing and commissioning work, which took over three years to complete, required an intimate knowledge of, and involvement with, all aspects of the plant and, in particular, the high levels of process automation, remote operation/maintenance and active ventilation.

