

BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE

SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT

THE BERKELEY ARMS HOTEL ON WEDNESDAY 30 APRIL 2014

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs P Wride (Chair)	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Cllr Mrs L Ashton	-	Stroud District Council
Rev R Avery		
Mr F Baker	-	National Farmers' Union
Cllr P Case	-	Hamfields Leisure
Cllr J Cordwell	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr J Sant	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Mr J Stanton	-	Co-opted member
Cllr G Vaughan Lewis	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr B Tipper	-	Gloucestershire County Council

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr J Jenkin	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr P Dickenson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr A Davis	-	Environment Agency
Mr M Lynden	-	Oldbury on Severn SSG Chairman
Mr T Beasley	-	Stroud College
Mr S McNally	-	Site Director
Ms C Huggard	-	Berkeley Site
Ms G Coombs	-	Magnox Ltd
Ms E Rolfe	-	Magnox Ltd
Mr D Wride	-	Lower Severn Drainage Board
Mr J Woodward		
Mr M Redding		
Ms J Redding		
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Cllr Mrs Wride welcomed all those present to this meeting of the Berkeley Nuclear Licensed Site Stakeholder Group.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr G Craig, Cllr R Birch, Cllr S Chandler and Mr S Patterson.
- 3 With regret Cllr Mrs Wride drew members' attention to the recent death of Mr Derek Burgess. Derek had been an active member of this

Group and its predecessors over many years. Members agreed that Cllr Mrs Wride should write to Mrs Burgess expressing their condolences and their appreciation of the valuable contribution he had made to the work of this Group.

- 4 Cllr Mrs Wride and Mr Stanton left the room whilst members considered the question of the chairmanship and vice chairmanship of this group. Members unanimously agreed to confirm the election of Cllr Mrs Wride and Mr Stanton as Chair and Vice Chair of this group respectively for the coming year.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 29 JANUARY 2014

(a) Accuracy

- 5 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 29 January 2014 were approved as an accurate record.

(b) Matters arising

- 6 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

BERKELEY SITE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

- 7 Mr McNally reported on current activities at the Berkeley Site. He drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) It was now more than 111 weeks since time had been lost from work on site due to an accident. There had been no events requiring first aid treatment since the previous meeting.
 - (ii) The Site had received an Order of Distinction from RoSPA for its occupational safety performance. This represented the 20th consecutive annual gold award.
 - (iii) In the company's i4 recognition award system the principal Innovation Award had been given to the Advanced Vacuum Drying System developed for use at Berkeley. The site had also been nominated as finalists in the Improvement and Implementation Award sections.
 - (iv) Intermediate level waste sludges and resins had been retrieved from the Caesium Removal Plant.
 - (v) Continued progress had been made with the retrieval of gravel and low level waste components from the Chute Silo. The removal of these items would minimise the potential for cross contamination when intermediate level waste components were later prepared for storage in containers.

- (vi) Equipment to be used for processing ILW from the waste vaults was undergoing factory acceptance tests. The first module had been delivered to site during the past week. Testing of other modules would continue during the summer with delivery to site expected during August/September.
- (vii) Components for a retrieval arm system were to be delivered to site by road in four large loads between mid-June and mid-July. The actual dates of these deliveries would be publicised in due course when they were known. Mr Stanton pointed out that the road through Berkeley was to be closed for a street festival on 6 July.
- (viii) The Advanced Vacuum Drying System developed for conditioning ILW in DCIC containers had been delivered to site and installation was underway. It was hoped that conditioning of the first container of waste would commence at the end of this year.
- (ix) Construction of the Interim Storage Facility had been completed.
- (x) Personnel on site had raised more than £4000 last year for the chosen charities - Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust and Severn Freewheelers. The charity chosen for the coming year was the Acorns Children's Hospice Trust.

8 Cllr Mrs Wride said that representatives of MechaTech, the locally based company which had developed the Advanced Vacuum Drying System would be willing to come to the next meeting of this Group to give a presentation on the system.

9 In reply to a question from Mr Stanton, Mr McNally said that in addition to the sharing of experience and techniques between Sites, wherever possible efforts were made to allow equipment acquired for decommissioning purposes to be reused for carrying out similar work at other Sites.

10 In response to a question from Cllr Mrs Ashton, Mr McNally said that the transfer of wastes in DCIC containers into the Interim Storage Facility should be completed by the end of 2020. The NDA had not yet completed its consultation on the preferred options for the interim storage of ILW; current plans were based only on the storage of waste from the Berkeley Site in this facility.

REGULATORS' UPDATE

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

11 Mr Jenkin provided an update on issues of current interest to the NDA, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) Cavendish Fluor Partnership had been named as the preferred bidder in the competition to take ownership of the Magnox and RSRL sites. There would now be a transition period and, subject to the satisfactory

completion of that period, shares in Magnox Ltd and RSRL would be transferred to CFP on 1 September. It was envisaged that savings of at least £1 billion would be made in decommissioning programmes over the life of the proposed contract. Energy Solutions would remain the parent body organisation for Magnox throughout the transition period.

- (ii) NDA's Radioactive Waste Management Directorate had become a wholly-owned subsidiary of the NDA to be known as Radioactive Waste Management Limited.
- (iii) An inventory of UK radioactive waste and materials had been published. This inventory, which was updated every three years, was accessible online.
- (iv) DECC was undertaking a consultation on the management of fuels of overseas origin held in the UK.
- (v) A number of appointments had recently been made to senior NDA roles. Stephen Henwood had been reappointed for a further term as Chairman.
- (vi) NDA had issued a statement following the publication of the Public Accounts Committee report into progress at Sellafield.
- (vii) NDA had published a paper setting out contingency options which might be available for managing spent Magnox fuel in the event of irreversible failure of the Sellafield reprocessing plant.
- (viii) NDA had launched a mentoring scheme to help small businesses take advantage of opportunities in nuclear decommissioning.
- (ix) A position paper on approaches to the management of separated plutonium had identified reuse as the preferred option. Three credible options for reuse had been identified.

- 12 Mr Wride referred to discussion at the Oldbury SSG earlier in the day on the need for a simple presentation of information on the roles and relationships between the NDA, the Parent Body Organisation and the Site Licence Companies. Mr Jenkin confirmed that he had information which might meet this requirement.

Office for Nuclear Regulation

- 13 Mr Dickenson presented a report on his inspection activities at the Berkeley Site. He pointed out that with effect from 1 April the Office for Nuclear Regulation had been established as a public corporation under the Energy Act 2013. The Act clarified the legal framework for ONR's regulation of nuclear sites. ONR's responsibilities now included responsibility for the Civil Nuclear Security, safeguards and nuclear transport.

- 14 Mr Dickenson pointed out that the regulatory approval process required for DCIC containers to be used for the long-term storage of waste had not yet been completed.

Environment Agency

- 15 Mr Davis presented a report on his inspection activities at the Berkeley Site. He described his inspection visits and acknowledged the progress which was being made in hazard reductions on the site. He said that radioactive discharges from the site were very low and all were well below permitted limits.
- 16 Cllr Mrs Wride referred to an apparent increase in background radiation levels reported in the 2012 RIFE report. Mr Davis said that with very low readings, close to the limit of detection of the monitoring equipment used, small changes in the location used for the purpose of taking measurements could result in different readings. He did not believe that there were any significant trends.
- 17 Mr Davis said that he would be working on matters relating to Hinkley Point B for a period of three months with effect from 1 October; Mr R Headley would be taking over his responsibilities for the Berkeley Site during that period.

COMPETITION UPDATE

- 18 Cllr Mrs Wride said that the chairmen and vice-chairmen of SSGs had been invited to a meeting during the previous week to meet the successful bidder in the competition for a new parent body organisation. Cavendish Fluor Partnership had been introduced as the preferred bidder and the meeting had provided an opportunity to meet with their some of their senior staff.
- 19 Cllr Mrs Wride said that there would now be a transition period until 1 September during which Energy Solutions would remain as the parent body organisation and CFP would prepare to take over their responsibilities and enter into a contract. She said that CFP was 65% British and 35% American owned. Cavendish Nuclear, better known as Babcock, had strong associations with the nuclear industry and gave high priority to training and safety. From initial discussions Cllr Mrs Wride felt that CFP would be happy to support the Stroud and Filton Low Carbon Energy Centre at the Berkeley Centre and that they would continue support for a socio-economic support process and the SSG.

UPDATE ON BERKELEY CENTRE

- 20 Mr Beasley reported on the progress of plans for the development of Berkeley Centre as a Low Carbon Energy Centre. He said that discussions were continuing with NDA in relation to the lease of the site and he hoped that a basis for an agreement would be reached in the near future.
- 21 Mr Baker referred to potential problems with large numbers of vehicles travelling to the site along the narrow lanes. Mr Beasley said he envisaged that over a period of time the numbers of Magnox staff travelling to the site would reduce but the funding application included provision for road safety

improvements. He said that an aim would be to maximise public transport as this would be required by students.

- 22 Mr Beasley said he remained optimistic about the outcome of the application for funding. He anticipated that a decision on funding would be announced in July.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

- 23 Cllr Mrs Wride invited members to consider a revised constitution specifying the composition of the membership of the group. Proposed by Mr Stanton and seconded by Cllr Tipper the revised constitution was approved unanimously. (A copy of the revised constitution is attached for members' information)
- 24 Cllr Mrs Wride said that she would be attending one of the regular emergency planning meetings between the Site and the emergency services later in the month. She said that she was always impressed by the detailed planning and the cooperation between the emergency services and the Site.
- 25 Cllr Mrs Wride said that she had attended a meeting in Birmingham with RoSPA to describe how Magnox communicated with the community about site safety. This followed the nomination of Magnox with two other companies to be considered for the George Earle Trophy which was the highest award given by RoSPA in recognition of safety and safe working practices. The outcome of the competition would be announced later in the month.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No business

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 26 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held in Stone Village Hall on Wednesday, 30 July 2014.

MJD
8 May 2014

**BERKELEY SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP CONSTITUTION AS AGREED AT
MEETING HELD ON 30 APRIL 2014**

Position/Representing	No of members allowed	Title	First name	Surname
Voting members				
MP for Stroud	1	MP	Neil	Carmichael
MP for Forest of Dean	1	MP	Mark	Harper
Gloucestershire County Council *	1 of 2	Cllr	Brian	Tipper
Gloucestershire County Council *	2 of 2	Dr	John	Cordwell
Forest of Dean District Council	1	Cllr	Roy	Birch
Stroud District Council	1 of 2	Cllr (Mrs)	Liz	Ashton
Stroud District Council	2 of 2			
Berkeley Town Council	1		Keith	Palmer
Lydney Town Council	1	Cllr	James	Greenwood
Hinton Parish Council	1		Sam	Patterson
Stinchcombe Parish Council	1	Cllr	Jack	Sant
Aylburton Parish Council	1	Cllr	Maurice	Bloomfield
Awre Parish Council	1	Clerk	David	Preece
Alkington Parish Council	1		Gethin	Vaughan Lewis
Ham and Stone Parish Council/SSG Chair	1	Cllr	Penny	Wride
Hamfallow Parish Council	1		Steve	Chandler
Co-opted and SSG Vice Chair	1		John	Stanton
Independent members (Farming, local businesses, land owners, community groups)				
Vale Vision	1 of 5		Chris	Cherry
Vicar	2 of 5	Rev	Richard	Avery
NFU	3 of 5		Floyd	Baker
Hamfields Leisure	4 of 5		Philip	Case
The Berkeley and Spetchley Estates	5 of 5		Charles	Berkeley
Berkeley Site Joint Council Member (representing trade unions)	1		Steve	Phillips
Total 23				