

BERKELEY SITE

SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT

THE GABLES INN, FALFIELD ON 2 NOVEMBER 2011

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs P Wride (Chair)	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Mr F I Baker	-	National Farmers' Union
Cllr B Booth	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Mr C Cherry	-	Vale Vision
Ms S Hill	-	Vale Business Forum
Cllr G Vaughan-Lewis	-	Alkington Parish Council
Ms A Presdee	-	Glos First
Cllr J Sant	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr J Stanton	-	Stroud District Council
Mr David Wride	-	Lower Severn Drainage Board

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms A French	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Dr S Nicholson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr K Littlewood	-	Environment Agency
Mr J Beckett	-	Stroud District Council
Mr S Sargent	-	ILW Campaign Director
Mr S McNally	-	Site Director
Mr S Payne	-	Communications, Berkeley Site
Mr J Hill		
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

INTRODUCTION

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from:

Mr R Dalrymple-Smith		
Rev Richard Avery	-	St Mary's Church
Cllr G Langdon	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Mark Harper MP	-	MP Forest of Dean
Mr S Patterson	-	Hinton Parish Council
Mr J Gilliland	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Ms J Simmonds	-	Health Protection Agency
Mr M Johnson	-	Gloucester Harbour Trustees
Mr N Worthington	-	National Waterways

Neil Carmichael MP	-	MP Stroud
Ms A Sinton	-	Berkeley Site
Ms J Howell	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Mr I Bryson	-	Gloucestershire County Council

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27 JULY 2011

(a) Accuracy

- 3 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 27 July 2011 were approved as an accurate record.

(b) Matters arising

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

UPDATE ON MEETING WITH MR N BALDWIN

- 5 Cllr Mrs Wride reported on the meeting of SSG Chairmen with Mr Neil Baldwin, Managing Director of Magnox Ltd on 6 October. Matters discussed at the meeting had included:

- (i) Savings and advancements of projects which had been possible through improved working practices.
- (ii) Improvements in safety and working practices which had resulted from lessons learned from the Deep Water Horizon oil spillage and the Fukushima accident.
- (iii) The arrangements established for the transfer of Magnox fuel element debris from Trawsfynydd to Dungeness for dissolution. This had required a revised planning application which had been supported by the Environment Agency.
- (iv) A small water leak from a monitoring device within the active effluent treatment plant at Sizewell. There had been no release of radioactivity to the environment.
- (v) Reprocessing of Magnox fuel would continue at Sellafield until 2018. Some 4000 tonnes of uranium remained to be processed.
- (vi) Consideration had been given to the findings of the Dr Weightman report on the Fukushima accident. The ONR would be holding a series of regional meetings on the Weightman report; the NDA would provide coach transport from sites to these meetings for SSG members.

- 6 Mr McNally explained that the Magnox fuel element debris dissolution process at Dungeness was based upon the use of carbonic acid. Consideration was being given at Bradwell to the possible use of nitric acid which would dissolve the material more quickly. Mr McNally explained that a dissolution process would

not be appropriate for Berkeley as a large proportion of the debris was comprised of graphite components which would not be soluble.

THE WEIGHTMAN REPORT ON THE FUKUSHIMA ACCIDENT

- 7 Mr McNally pointed out that the final report on the investigation into the Fukushima accident carried out by Dr Weightman was available on the HSE website. He outlined the scope and extent of the investigations. He described the stress test reports which had been completed for each site in response to questions raised by the Fukushima accident; those reports had recently been submitted to the ONR. He said that the stress test report for the Berkeley Site had been limited as most of the work had been covered in the recent Periodic Safety Review.
- 8 In response to a question from Cllr Booth, Dr Nicholson described the career background of Dr Weightman. He said that Dr Weightman had gained experience within the industry and the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and was well qualified to undertake this task; he had been supported by a team of inspectors. Dr Nicholson pointed out that the investigation had identified issues to be addressed by the regulators as well as the industry.

BERKELEY BOILER PROJECT

- 9 Mr McNally reminded members of the discussion at the previous meeting on the intention to transport the power station boilers from site via Berkeley to Sharpness Docks from where they would be shipped for recycling. He said that tenders for the transport of boilers from the site had been assessed and a preferred bidder identified. He said that analysis of the project since the time of the last meeting had confirmed that the best approach was to remove the boilers in one piece and transport them by road to Sharpness. He said that it was intended that a contract for this work would be placed shortly and that then a detailed examination of actions which needed to be taken along the route would be carried out. He said that the intention was to place a contract for the transport of five boilers; a good deal of notice would be given of the intention to carry out these movements. He proposed that a presentation on the proposals would be given at the January meeting of this Group.
- 10 Cllr Booth reminded Mr McNally of the need for consultations with Gloucestershire County Council Highways Department. Mr McNally said that some discussions had taken place with Gloucestershire County Council but further detailed discussions would be taking place. In reply to a question from Mr Baker, Mr McNally said that the journey to Sharpness from the site was expected to take some 2 - 3 hours with the journey through Berkeley town taking about half an hour. He said it was envisaged that one boiler would be transported on its own and then two boilers would be transported together; the programme would be dependent upon the timing of the barge operation.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 11 In response to a question from Mr Baker, Mr McNally said that Civil Nuclear Constabulary officers were not based at Berkeley but response units could be called upon if necessary. He said that the decision to locate CNC officers at sites was based upon perceived threats and the quantities of nuclear materials on sites.
- 12 In reply to a further question from Mr Baker, Mr McNally said it was still intended that Ductile Cast Iron Containers (“yellow boxes”) would be used for the interim storage of intermediate level waste on site. It was intended that construction of a storage building should commence in mid-2012 and construction was expected to take one year. The capacity of the interim storage building would be designed to take the waste currently held on the Berkeley site although the precise number of containers needed would not be known until some experience was gained in their use. Cllr Booth advised that the planning application should openly declare the position if there was any possibility that the storage building would be used in the future for the storage of waste from other sites. Dr Nicholson said that there was still substantial work to be done to demonstrate that the DCICs were suitable for disposal in the future geological disposal facility.

NEXT MEETING

- 13 It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on Wednesday 25 January 2012 at 6.00 for 6.30pm. The venue for the meeting would be confirmed in due course.