

BERKELEY SITE

SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT

THE BERKELEY ARMS HOTEL ON WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL 2012

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs P Wride (Chair)	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Mr F I Baker	-	National Farmers' Union
Mr C Cherry	-	Vale Vision
Ms S Hill	-	Vale Business Forum
Mr J Hill	-	ACT Consulting
Cllr G Vaughan-Lewis	-	Alkington Parish Council
Ms A Presdee	-	Glos First
Mr M Redding	-	Trades Union Representative
Cllr J Sant	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr J Stanton	-	Stroud District Council
Cllr P Stevenson	-	Berkeley Town Council
Mr D Wride	-	Lower Severn Drainage Board

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr J Beckett	-	Stroud District Council
Mr K Littlewood	-	Environment Agency
Mr A Davies	-	Environment Agency
Ms P Waterman	-	Energy Solutions
Mr S McNally	-	Site Director
Mr S Payne	-	Communications, Magnox Ltd
Ms C Offord	-	Communications, Berkeley Site
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:

Cllr B Booth	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Mr M Lynden	-	Oldbury on Severn SSG
Ms J Simmonds	-	Health Protection Agency
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Assn of Town and Parish Councils
Dr S Nicholson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr P Kennedy	-	Foods Standards Agency
Mr M Johnson	-	Gloucester Harbour Trustees

Ms A Sinton	-	Berkeley Site
Mr R Hellen	-	Local resident
Mr D Rushton	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25 JANUARY 2012

(a) Accuracy

- 3 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 25 January 2012 were approved as an accurate record.

(b) Matters arising

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

ELECTION OF SSG CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- 5 Ms Offord said that Cllr Mrs Wride and Cllr Stanton had indicated that they were willing to stand as Chair and Vice Chair of this Group for the coming year. No other nominations had been received. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Mrs Wride and Cllr Stanton should be elected as Chair and Vice Chair of this SSG respectively for the coming year.

BERKELEY SITE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

- 6 Mr McNally reported on current activities at the Berkeley Site. He drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) A radiological awareness campaign had been held at the site recently, focusing attention on potential hazards.
 - (ii) In early March an accident had occurred on the site which had resulted in a one-day absence from work. An engineer had tripped over a slightly raised floor at the entrance to a building and had fallen, cracking a rib. This had followed a period of 122 weeks in which there had been no accidents causing absence from work; there had been no such accident in the weeks since this accident.
 - (iii) During the past year there had been seven minor events requiring first aid treatment.
 - (iv) The site was to receive an Order of Distinction from RoSPA in recognition of its occupational safety performance. This was the third consecutive year that the site had received an Order of Distinction which followed 15 consecutive years in which it had been presented with a RoSPA Gold Award.
 - (v) Decommissioning work valued at £54 million had been completed on the site during the past year.

- (vi) Five boilers had been sent from site for recycling in Sweden. Some 20% of one boiler had been cut up and the first melting of metal was taking place.
- (vii) Decontamination of the former Berkeley Centre shielded facility cells had been completed and the structures were now ready for dismantlement.
- (viii) Intermediate level waste sludge which had originated from the former laboratories had been sampled; analysis of this waste would provide information on which plans for future treatments could be based. Removal of wastes from other vaults would commence during the coming year.
- (ix) A vehicle for transporting ductile cast iron containers (mini-stores) across the site had been delivered.
- (x) A revised planning application for construction of an interim storage facility had recently been submitted.
- (xi) RWE npower and E.ON had decided not to proceed with development of new generation at Oldbury through their subsidiary company Horizon Nuclear Power. The decisions of these companies were based upon their circumstances in Germany; the project remained viable and the companies were seeking new investors in Horizon to take the project forward.
- (xii) Some £4500 had been raised for the Cotswold Care Hospice as the chosen charity for the site during the past year. The Gloucestershire division of the Huntington's Disease Association had been chosen as the charity to be supported during the coming year and more than £1000 had already been raised.
- (xiii) A revised scheme for administration of socio-economic support arrangements had been introduced. All applications for support were to be made via the website.

7 Mr Baker congratulated the site on its health and safety record but said that this on-site performance contrasted sharply with an event earlier in the month when two military helicopters had flown to the site at very low level, touching down on the site before flying away. The aircraft had flown at low level over farms and stables with no apparent regard for the safety of animals and the people working with them. Mr Baker said that some years ago following a similar incident at the site an assurance had been given that such flights would approach from the river and that notice would be given of such events. Mr McNally said that notification of such training flights had previously been given to the site but under present arrangements contact would be made with Hamfields Leisure. He said that he had been in touch with the relevant authorities and apologised for

the incident. He had not been aware of the undertaking given previously but said he would remind the authorities of this.

- 8 In reply to a question from Cllr Stanton, Mr McNally said that confirmation of compliance with requirements for the geological disposal facility would be required before wastes were placed in DCICs. He anticipated that such confirmation would be received and bulk retrievals commenced before the end of the current financial year.
- 9 In reply to a question from Mr Wride on progress with recycling of the boiler materials, Mr McNally said that waste arisings were being monitored to provide information for secondary waste streams. It was anticipated that some 90% of the metal would be recycled; the other 10% classified as low-level waste would be returned to the Low Level Waste Respository at Drigg; and a small number of drums of predominantly graphite dust would be returned to site for eventual disposal with other graphite waste. Cllr Mrs Wride acknowledged the considerable volumes of materials sent from the site for recycling; Mr McNally said that the clean-up of the laboratory shielded cells alone had released some 100 tonnes of lead and steel for recycling.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- 10 A report on the regulatory activities of the Environment Agency in relation to the Berkeley site had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Mr Littlewood introduced Mr Davies who would be helping him with these regulatory duties.
- 11 In relation to the transport of the boilers from site, Mr Littlewood outlined the formal procedural requirements associated with the transport of radioactive waste across international frontiers. These procedures required confirmation that best available techniques had been used to minimise impact on the environment. The procedures had all been implemented in relation to the shipment of the boilers to Sweden for recycling; all materials classified as radioactive waste would be returned to the UK.

TRANSPORT OF BOILERS FROM SITE

- 12 Members were shown a film of the removal of boilers from the site and their shipment via Sharpness to Sweden for recycling. Mr McNally said that five boilers had been removed from the site; ten boilers remained on site. The timescale for the removal of these remaining boilers would depend upon the availability of funding. Cllr Stanton and Cllr Stevenson said they felt that the transport of the boilers through Berkeley had been well managed and controlled, causing very little inconvenience, and the public relations feedback in the press and media had been very positive. Mr McNally said that the transport contractor had been surprised by the high level of local interest and support shown towards this project. Cllr Mrs Wride suggested that a copy of the film should be given to the Town Council for retention in its archives.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No business

NEXT MEETING

- 13 It was noted that a joint meeting with the Oldbury on Severn SSG was scheduled to be held on 24 October 2012. Cllr Mrs Wride said that a further meeting would be convened prior to that date if the need arose.

MJD

16 May 2012