

**BERKELEY SITE AND OLDBURY ON SEVERN
POWER STATION SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS
MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING HELD AT THE GABLES INN
ON WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2011**

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs P Wride (in the chair)	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Mr M Lynden	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Mr F I Baker	-	National Farmers Union
Cllr R Birch	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr B Booth	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr D Burgess	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr D Dovey	-	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Assn of Parish and Town Councils
Cllr R Griffin	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Dr L Hales		
Cllr N Halsall	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr P Hassell	-	Bristol City Council
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Mr J Hill	-	Vale Vision
Ms S Hill	-	Vale Business Forum
Cllr G Vaughan-Lewis	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr Mrs J Lyons	-	Olveston Parish Council
Mr J McNally	-	Staff Representative
Cllr Mrs P Parsloe	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr M Pirie	-	Falfield Parish Council
Cllr M Riddle	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr J Sant	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr Ms V Tutin	-	Olveston Parish Council
Mr D Wride	-	Lower Severn Drainage Board

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllr M Caswell	-	Chairman, Hinkley Point SSG
Cllr M Brown	-	Deputy Chairman, Hinkley Point SSG
Ms A French	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Ms C Taylor	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Dr S Nicholson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr M Lester	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Ms C Iemboli	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr K Littlewood	-	Environment Agency
Dr R MacGregor	-	Environment Agency
Mr J Beckett	-	Stroud District Council
Ms Angela Presdee	-	Gloucestershire First
Mr C Cherry	-	Vale Vision
Ms G Ellis-King	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr N Haycock	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Dr P Sprague	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr M Castle	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr M Pratt	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station

Ms Z Young	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mrs E Vaughan Lewis	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms S Postans	-	Magnox
Ms L Jones	-	Wylfa Power Station
Mr S Sargent	-	ILW Campaign Director, Berkeley Site
Mr S McNally	-	Site Director, Berkeley Site
Mr S Payne	-	Communications, Berkeley Site
Mr B Delve		
Mr W Gill		
Dr K Graupner		
Mr J Chare		
Ms L Hutchinson		
Ms M Sauvebois		
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

I WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

1 Cllr Mrs Wride welcomed members of the Oldbury and Berkeley Site Stakeholder Groups to the meeting which was being held jointly for the consideration of monitoring reports and other items of interest to both SSGs. She expressed a particular welcome to Cllr Caswell and Cllr Brown, the chairman and vice-chairman of the Hinkley Point SSG, who were attending as observers.

II APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Dalrymple-Smith, Rev R Avery, Cllr Gareth Langdon, Mark Harper MP, Mr S Patterson, Mr J Gilliland, Ms J Simmonds, Mr M Johnson, Mr N Worthington, Neil Carmichael MP, Ms A Sinton, Ms J Howell, Mr I Bryson, Mr Bloomfield, Ms A Chapman, Cllr C Clifford, Mr P Harrop, Mr J Kempster, Mr P Kennedy, Cllr G Locke, Ms A Paine, and Cllr J C Rawlinson.

III MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING HELD ON 6 OCTOBER 2010

(a) Accuracy

3 The minutes of the meeting of the joint meeting held on 6 October 2010 were approved as a correct record.

(b) Matters arising

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

IV PUBLIC FORUM

5 Cllr Mrs Wride invited members of the public to raise any issues which might not arise in later discussions. No items were raised.

V ITEMS OF JOINT INTEREST

(a) NDA Update

6 Ms French reported on issues of current interest, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) Referring to the recently announced decision to cease generation at Oldbury she acknowledged the efforts made by Magnox and in particular staff at Oldbury which had achieved the extended operation from the station. This additional contribution had produced an income of more than £300 million for the NDA which was used to support decommissioning work.
- (ii) The NDA's Chief Executive Officer, Tony Fountain had decided to step down from his role and return to a career in the oil and gas industry.
- (iii) The NDA continued to publish its Insight magazine. Documents available on the NDA website included the National Stakeholder Engagement plan.
- (iv) The NDA had published options associated with the management of materials at Harwell and Dounreay. Consultations had taken place with stakeholders and local communities and it was anticipated that decisions would be taken by the end of the year.

(b) Oldbury Site Update

7 In inviting Dr Sprague to report on current issues at Oldbury, Cllr Mrs Wride expressed members' congratulations that Oldbury had been identified as one of the top three performing nuclear plants in the world as measured by peer reviews carried out by the World Association of Nuclear Operators.

8 Dr Sprague reported on current activities and issues at Oldbury Power Station, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) The decision to end generation at Oldbury had been based on the economics associated with the additional work which would be required to justify an increase in permissible fuel irradiation limits. The benefit of additional generation later into 2012 would be unlikely to recover the costs of this additional work.
- (ii) Since the end of 2008 which had been the original planned closure date, the station had generated an additional 7TWh of electricity, worth an estimated £300 million. This generation had saved the release of around 6 million tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere from other generation sources.

- (iii) High levels of output from Reactor 1 were being maintained by transferring fuel from Reactor 2, making the best use of the fuel remaining on site. This process of transferring fuel between the reactors had been operating smoothly.
- (iv) The process of defuelling which would follow after the end of generation would use the same systems as used throughout the operating life of the plant for removing fuel from the reactors and despatching it from site for reprocessing at Sellafield. Defuelling was expected to be completed by mid-2015 and the despatch of the fuel would represent the removal of over 99% of radioactivity from the site.
- (v) The station had been awarded the British Safety Council's Sword of Honour, a very prestigious award. The excellent safety performance had been maintained with almost 2 years having passed without a lost time accident. The station had also been given an award by the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health in respect of work on re-glazing of the reactor building.
- (vi) The station's emergency arrangements had been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the regulator.
- (vii) The station's Communications team had received two gold awards from the Chartered Institute of Public Relations.

(c) Berkeley Site Update

9 Mr McNally reported on activities at the Berkeley site, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) There had been no accident involving time lost from work at the Berkeley Site for almost two years. The five events during the past year which had required first aid treatment were related to minor issues such as wasp stings and dust in eyes.
- (ii) Activities in support of European Safety Week had been focused upon maintenance work, the use of hand tools and risk assessments.
- (iii) Emergency and security arrangements on site had been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the regulators in a combined single exercise. Mr McNally expressed his appreciation of the support provided by the emergency services in these exercises.
- (iv) Contractual arrangements were being put in place for the retrieval of intermediate level wastes from storage vaults on site.

- (v) The remaining cells within the former Berkeley Centre shielded area were to be demolished during the current year.
- (vi) Plans were being made for the removal of the power station boilers from the site. It was intended that five boilers would be taken from site during the current financial year.
- (vii) The report by Dr Weightman on the implications of the Fukushima accident was available on the HSE website. It was intended that there would be regional feedback events in due course.

10 Cllr Hassell asked why the decision had been taken now to remove the power station boilers from the site. Mr McNally confirmed that when the boilers had been stripped and lowered into a horizontal position it had been intended that they would remain on site until final site clearance. The opportunity to remove the boilers for recycling had become available and a business case to bring forward this work had been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

(d) Civil Nuclear Constabulary Annual Review

11 Insp Lester presented a report from the Civil Nuclear Constabulary. He referred to the increase in training requirements for every officer and additional training in specialist roles provided for many. Training to be undertaken in the coming year would strengthen the capability for dealing with incidents on site in a highly professional manner.

12 Insp Lester said that a new armoury facility was in use and a new electronic system had been adopted for the control of firearms handling. He said that the CNC officers worked closely with personnel on site, especially the site security team. He referred to an arrest of two persons near the site for theft of metals which had demonstrated this excellent teamwork.

13 Insp Lester said that a review of security at Oldbury involving DECC, Magnox and the CEC had been carried out recently and a report would be received in due course.

14 In reply to a question from Dr Hales, Insp Lester said there had been very few occasions when the numbers of armed officers on duty had fallen below the statutory minimum. Difficulties had been caused by long-term injuries and secondments but officers had shown resilience in providing necessary cover and he hoped that the staffing situation would be improved in the coming months.

VI ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

(a) Food Standards Agency

15 Cllr Mrs Wride pointed out that a report by the Food Standards Agency on the results of their monitoring of radioactivity in foodstuffs was available on their website.

(b) Environment Agency

16 Mr Littlewood reported on the inspection and monitoring activities of the Environment Agency in relation to the Oldbury and Berkeley sites. He referred to the report on Radioactivity in Food and the Environment 2010 which was prepared by the Environment Agencies and the Food Standards Agency and had recently been published on the Environment Agency website. This report was based on assessments of potential radiation doses to those people in the local population who were most exposed to radioactivity from the sites, both from locally-produced food and from the environment. The annual results for 2010 had shown a significant reduction from 58 microSieverts (μSv) in 2009 to 11 μSv in 2010. Mr Littlewood said that this reduction was due to a change in the method of assessment of the direct radiation from the Berkeley site; this was an improved assessment method and not a changed recorded level of radiation from the site.

17 In reply to a question from Cllr Mrs Wride, Mr Littlewood said that trace levels of radioactivity arising from the Fukushima accident had been apparent in monitoring in the UK. He said that these were not significant levels but were detectable by the sensitive instruments used. He said that the initial levels monitored had subsequently reduced and he anticipated that this downward trend would continue.

18 In response to a question from Cllr Hawkins, Mr Littlewood said that the statutory dose limit applicable to any nuclear site was one milliSievert (mSv) per year and the average exposure from natural background radiation in the UK was 2.2 mSv per year

(c) Magnox Ltd

19 Mr Castle presented a report on the environmental monitoring undertaken by Magnox Ltd in relation to the Oldbury and Berkeley sites during the past year. He outlined the nature and scope of the environmental monitoring programme and briefly summarised the results.

20 Mr Castle drew attention to an increase in aerial discharges of radioactivity during the past year due to the increased level of reactor operation. He said that there had been no significant increase in levels of radioactivity in the local environment but he drew attention to an increase in levels of radioactivity measured in fish. This radioactivity was at very low levels but there had been a perceptible gradual increase and investigations had been carried out to identify the cause. He said it had been demonstrated that the largest source of

this radioactivity was naturally occurring potassium 40 and the apparent increase in levels was associated with changes in the species of fish caught for analysis.

21 Mr Castle briefly described the naturally occurring radioactivity in foodstuffs and related certain exposures to the doses which would be received by the consumption of bananas. He said that the maximum potential dose to members of the public in the vicinity of the power station from the consumption of locally produced foodstuffs was equivalent to the dose associated with the consumption of one banana per week; the exposure associated with a chest x-ray was equivalent to the exposure from the consumption of 250 bananas.

22 Mr Castle described the non-radioactive wastes arising on the power station site and the measures taken to control, segregate and recycle these wastes.

23 In response to a question from Cllr Sant on sources of contamination found in the environment, Mr Castle said that weapons testing, discharges from Sellafield and from the Chernobyl and Fukushima accidents all contributed. Cllr Sant said that caesium sources had been used in instruments designed to measure levels of materials within silos.

24 Mr Lynden asked what changes would be expected in discharges from Oldbury following the end of generation. Mr Castle said that aerial discharges would decrease when reactor operation ended; he did not anticipate any significant changes in levels of liquid discharges as the reactors were defueled; he did not anticipate any significant changes in assessments of potential doses to local members of the public in the short-term.

VII SOCIO-ECONOMIC UPDATE

25 Ms Postans reported on socio-economic development plan activities. She referred to the statutory obligation on the NDA to mitigate against socio-economic impacts of decommissioning. She described actions being taken to review priorities for socio-economic support in the light of changes brought about by the acceleration of decommissioning work at two sites. She described the arrangements being made for the management of socio-economic support within Magnox and the local arrangements at the sites. Cllr Mrs Wride invited members to contact the sites if they were aware of any potential applications for socio-economic funding.

VIII ENERGY SEVERN VALE UPDATE

26 Mr Sargent outlined progress with the establishment of Energy Severn Vale as a mechanism to promote the benefits of further investment in nuclear and other low-carbon energy industries within the area. He described the development of the concept on Anglesey where a large proportion of the local economy was related to activities at Wylfa power station. He referred to the major pool of skills and expertise which existed within the local area and the benefits of providing further opportunities for employment of those skills. He drew attention to the involvement of the Prospect trade union in the initiative

and the support which had been shown by local authorities and others in the energy industries. He outlined current plans to increase the dialogue with local councils and local enterprise partnerships.

27 Cllr Hassell suggested that Bristol City Council, with its interest in green energy technologies, would be keen to collaborate with the initiative. Cllr Riddle encouraged further dialogue with South Gloucestershire Council. Cllr Booth suggested that the recent announcement of a substantial reduction in the government grant support might reduce the attractiveness of photovoltaic solar panels.

VIII ANY OTHER BUSINESS

28 Cllr Mrs Wride drew members' attention to a public debate on nuclear energy which was to take place at the Colston Hall, Bristol on Wednesday 9 November.

IX DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT JOINT MEETING

29 It was noted that the next joint meeting would be held on 24 October 2012. The date and venue would be confirmed in due course.

MJD
14 November 2011