



## Bradwell Site

Minutes of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Local Community Liaison Council  
(LCLC) Meeting, The Lodge, Minerva Centre, Mundon

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012

**Present:**

LCLC Executive

**Brian Main**

**Cllr John White**

Lisa Reece-Ford

Dr Louise Franks

**LCLC Chairman**

**Deputy Chairman**

LCLC Secretary

Clerk

LCLC Members

Colin Batchelor

**Cllr Brian Beale**

**Cllr Geoff Betts**

**Cllr Robert Boyce**

**Cllr Paul Burgess**

Peter Clark

**Cllr Tim Drain**

**Cllr Adrian Fluker**

Geoff Frackelton

**Cllr Heather Glynn**

Patrick Haley

Cllr John Harrison

Jonathan Jenkin

**Cllr Ivan Joslin**

Bob Kury

Jenny Lewsey

**Cllr Tony Pluckrose**

Russ Rainger

**Cllr Sam Richardson**

Graham Thomas

**Cllr Noelle Urquhart**

Paul Walker

**Cllr Sylvia Wargent**

**Cllr John White**

Paul Wilkinson

Sophie Winter

Zoe Young

Braintree District Council

**Maldon District Council**

**St Lawrence Parish Council**

**Essex County Council**

**Althorne Parish Council**

Mundon Parish Council

**Bradwell Parish Council**

**Maldon District Council**

Office for Nuclear Regulation

**Rochford District Council**

Bradwell Site

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

**St Lawrence Parish Council**

Bradwell Site

Maldon District Council

**Tillingham Parish Council**

Bradwell Site

**Bradwell Parish Council**

Maldon District Council

**West Mersea Town Council**

Essex County Council

**West Mersea Town Council**

**St Osyth Parish Council**

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Members of the public in attendance:

David Bragg

Eric Butterworth

Daniel Smith

Bourne Steel Ltd

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**Bold type - denotes voting members**



## 1. INTRODUCTION

2248 The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those present, in particular new members and visitors including:

- Tony Pluckrose – Tillingham Parish Council
- Graham Thomas – Maldon District Council
- Geoff Frackelton – Office for Nuclear Regulation
- Sam Richardson - Bradwell Parish Council
- Bob Kury – Bradwell Site Director

2249 It was noted that new Councillors have a right to vote and that a copy of the Constitution was available to any new attendees.

2250 Bob Kury introduced himself explaining that the previous Site Director, Dick Sexton, was supporting the EnergySolutions consortium bid to the NDA to run Magnox and RSRL sites.

## 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2251 Lisa Reece-Ford confirmed apologies had been received from:

- Cllr Kevin Bentley – Essex County Council
- Cllr Roy Bryant – Tillingham Parish Council
- Charles Clark – member of the public
- Paul Kennedy – Food Standards Agency
- Karl Littlewood – Environment Agency
- Stephen Nicholson – Office for Nuclear Regulation
- Adrian Porter – Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust
- Averil Price – Chelmsford City Council
- Pauline Ward – St Cedds Primary School
- David Fisher – member of the public

## 3. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

2252 The minutes of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the LCLC held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011 were considered and approved subject to the amendment that Cllr Sylvia Wargent represents West Mersea Town Council and not Essex County Council as indicated on page 1.

## 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

2253 No matters were arising.

## 5. RECONFIRMATION OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR FOR 2012/13

2254 John Harrison proposed and Geoff Betts seconded Brian Main and John White as Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively and members unanimously voted in favour to re-elect these individuals for the coming year.

## 6. SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2255 Paul Wilkinson (PW), Deputy Site Director introduced himself and outlined the content of his presentation as follows:

- Safety
- Bradwell Team
- Environment
- Care and Maintenance preparations
- Projects
- Socio-economic scheme
- What's next?



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- 2256 PW provided a comprehensive presentation, opening with the excellent site safety record of more than 4 million hours of work without any lost time accidents. The recognition of this reflected by ten years of RoSPA awards, the last three with a presidents' award.
- 2257 PW advised that the site is approaching 800 workers and it is anticipated that this will increase to potentially 950 by the end of the year, including employees, national and local contractors. PW added that the site continues to recruit individuals from the local area to undertake award winning training on site in preparation for a role within the nuclear industry.
- 2258 With regards to the environment, PW advised the following figures for recycling:
- 98% of non-hazardous waste (17,536tonnes)
  - 62% of hazardous waste (1,539tonnes)
- 2259 He advised that for the last 2 months the site has achieved 0% to landfill. The site were finalists in the Chartered Institute of Waste Management Awards and are awaiting the winner to be announced in the National Recycling Awards.
- 2260 PW presented a graphical representation of predicted and annual disposal 2007-15 of waste off site broken down into quantities recycled and disposed at land fill.
- 2261 PW described progress into care and maintenance detailing soil sampling, around the area of a previously broken active effluent discharge pipe, to ascertain contamination levels for future remediation. He displayed a chart of progress with key projects and explained that the end point scheduled for March 2015, was to have remote management of the site from a corporate hub. Russ Rainger (RR) was introduced as the Transition Manager and the manager of the hub concept for Bradwell site.
- 2262 PW described progress with each key project and in summary the following was noted:  
Fuel Element Debris (FED) Project
- Design and build solid intermediate level waste (ILW) facility: behind schedule due to unforeseen design issues with the removal of oxides of nitrogen off gas.
  - ILW retrieval and dissolution: ongoing with development of the preferred method.
- 2263 Ponds Project
- Vault decontamination and deplant: on schedule.
  - Ponds complex decontamination and deplant: on schedule.
  - Ponds complex and vault demolition: on schedule.
  - Design and build aqueous discharge abatement plant (ADAP): slightly behind schedule but not affecting the critical path.
- 2264 Pictures were displayed to describe progress with other projects and the following points were noted:
- Cladding: programme about to commence, materials to be transferred by road in lorries.
  - Barrier wall: 56,000 man hours deployed and 800 tonnes of steel removed.
  - Boiler House 2: 650 tonnes of waste, majority recycled. Boilers to be left *in situ*. Once deplanted, the boiler houses will be clad.
  - Circulator Hall 2: 180 tonnes of waste, hoping to use this as an interim waste store.
  - Pile Cap deplant: significant progress made with 570 tonnes of waste of which 90% has been recycled.
- 2265 The following questions about the barrier wall were asked:
- Cllr N Urquhart (NU) asked what the purpose of the barrier wall had been and PW explained this was to separate discharge and intake water when the site was operational (water was drawn for cooling and returned warm).
  - Cllr R Boyce (RB) questioned how deep beneath sea bed level the barrier wall wings were cut and heard that this was 1m below, meaning that no navigational hazard has been left.
- 2266 PW added that the central concrete structure may now be left with appropriate navigational lights and that a consultation process with the local community will be undertaken before any decision is made.



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- 2267 PW explained how progress with Fuel Element Debris (FED) would be achieved, initially using the dissolution facility at the Dungeness site. Members were reminded that they had been advised in writing, dated 24.04.12., of this intention and the rationale guiding this decision. PW clarified that approximately 10% of the FED from Bradwell would be transferred to Dungeness, enabling the early characterisation of the bottom of the vault to inform decontamination and deplant procedures, essential to keeping the critical path on schedule. PW clarified the consultation stages leading to this decision and members heard that the Environment Agency had approved this as a best available technique. First shipment noted as 25<sup>th</sup> June.
- 2268 Cllr H Glynn sought reassurance that transportation of FED would be undertaken safely and PW confirmed that standard lorries and routes would be used for the transfer of low level waste (LLW).
- 2269 Cllr B Beale (BB) questioned why the dissolution plant at Dungeness was to be used when it was less effective than that planned at Bradwell. Mr D Bragg (DB) also sought further clarification. PW advised that this was an interim measure for approx 10% of the FED waste, that dissolution was equally as effective but a lot slower at Dungeness and that the dissolution plant at Bradwell was not yet available. BK added that this enabled Dungeness to retain its FED facility and associated operators.
- 2270 DB questioned how the FED could be described as LLW. BK clarified that FED to be transported will be characterised and conditioned, and higher dose rate items removed prior to drumming.
- 2271 Cllr A Fluker (AF) questioned whether any FED would be transported to Bradwell in due course. PW reassured members that the timely shift into care and maintenance remained the primary goal for the site, over-riding any use of the site as a national dissolution facility. Transfer of best practice to other sites was very likely and PW described the site as a “lead and learn” site. Mr P Haley (PH) clarified that the transfer of FED between sites had all necessary permits. AF reminded members that the community had been promised that no waste from other sites would be imported to Bradwell.
- 2272 PW used pictures to describe the FED retrieval, sorting and temporary storage. He advised that any high dose rate items will be placed into yellow boxes as intermediate level waste (ILW). The commissioning of the dissolution facility was noted as anticipated in early 2013. In the interim, a larger temporary storage facility was necessary for the FED and circulator hall two has been identified as a possibility. BK added that the safety case, process and protocols were currently being undertaken to enable additional storage to be available from August onwards.
- 2273 PW advised that resin and sludge retrieval from two vaults was imminent and that processing this into yellow boxes will then commence. He added that BK had coined the phrase “Year of ILW”. An artist’s impression of the interim storage facility for ILW was displayed and progress with this facility described. It was noted that the piling for this had led to the movement of HGV’s meaning a temporary suspension of part of the nearby nature trail.
- 2274 Cllr T Pluckrose asked whether there was any liaison with the wind farm as the access for the HGV’s was along the single road into Bradwell, which the wind farm intended to temporarily restrict in order to lay cabling. PW advised there was ongoing liaison to ensure that these restrictions did not affect HGV movements.
- 2275 G Thomas asked for the anticipated life span of the ILW store. PW advised that the assumption was that the deep geological disposal facility would be available from 2040 and that the ILW store was sufficiently robust enough to last beyond this time.
- 2276 PW displayed a cross section of the ponds centre bay and described the sludge and resin retrieval process being undertaken. He advised that the operators are in discussion with the regulators to agree how best to leave the ponds and that current thinking is to seal the ponds with a fixative.
- 2277 Three parts of transition were described:
- Completion of all the projects.
  - Employees – fulfil role at another site, find alternative employment or take severance.
  - Transfer of maintenance and site management to the hub.



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- 2278 Members heard that the socio economic scheme has now supported several projects and several of these were briefly described.
- 2279 PW described the next steps for the site and these were noted as follows:
- FED dissolution on site likely to be early 2013.
  - ILW sludge and resin retrieval about to commence, conditioning to follow.
  - Ponds deplamt continues.
  - Cladding of reactor building about to commence.
  - Transition – a detailed socio economic study of the area will be funded.
- 2280 Questions were invited and John Harrison (JH) asked what early indications there were for the level of soil contamination on site and heard that the contamination could easily be contained on site and that measures to ensure this was OK until final site clearance will be put into place.
- 2281 NU expressed concern about the long term storage of ILW on site and how continued safety of this could be assured once there was no one left on site. PW advised that the hub will ensure remote monitoring using surveillance cameras and that regular security visits will be made to the site. The Chairman asked whether this waste could be accessed by determined individuals and heard that this would be difficult, that easier targets were available and that in the time taken to try and access this material a security response would be on site. BK added that the facilities for storage are robust with a strict maintenance schedule and that the storage boxes 'yellow boxes' themselves are sturdy, will be tightly sealed and are difficult to open.
- 2282 RB questioned in the event of a security alert who the responding authority would be. BK advised that this was currently being worked out and agreed to ensure that these arrangements would be advised as they were agreed.
- 2283 Cllr S Richardson asked what was happening to the grid site. PW advised that this did not belong to the site and was not under the remit of the NDA. He added that there had been some dialogue with the National Grid as to whether Magnox could be subcontracted to undertake the decommissioning of the grid site but the outcome was not known. This matter was discussed and it was noted that the grid site was no longer functional. It was speculated that the land was more valuable than the grid facility.

### 7. NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY (NDA) REPORT

- 2284 Mr J Jenkin (JJ) drew attention to the NDA Monthly briefings for May and June, available in hard copy at this meeting, advising that this provides details of ongoing work. The following additional points were noted:
- The competition for running the Magnox sites will be formally launched in July 2012 and will conclude summer 2014. The current parent body, EnergySolutions, is part of a consortium that has expressed interest in entering the competition. Magnox remains the site licence company.
  - New Chief Executive for NDA, John Clarke, has been appointed.
  - Recent key milestones include:
    - Oldbury site ceased generation after 40 years
    - Wylfa site ceased generating electricity from reactor 2, reactor 1 will continue until 2014.
    - NaK, the liquid alloy of sodium and potassium, a major chemical and radiological hazard used as a coolant at Dounreay has been completely destroyed.
  - 5 boilers have been removed for recycling from Berkeley site.
  - Socio-economic impact and assessment plan to be generated for Bradwell region.
  - "The Strategy Development Programme for Integrated Waste Management" document has been published and is available on the NDA website.
  - A stakeholder engagement plan has been published and will be updated accordingly.
- 2285 BB sought confirmation that the boilers on site would be left *in situ* and when this was confirmed, DB questioned why this was. BK advised that it was not economic to remove the boilers for their scrap value. RR provided further detail into the historic reasons for their removal from the Berkeley site.



## **8. SOCIO-ECONOMIC SCHEME**

- 2286 JJ provided a background to socio-economic funding for the region and advised that several meetings with Maldon District Council have been undertaken to discuss the impact of the site closure. Magnox executive have now met and approved funding for a socio-economic impact and assessment plan to be generated for this region; this should take approx 3 - 4 months to produce and will enable a better understanding of the impact.
- 2287 Chairman reminded members that the LCLC has a sub-committee, chaired by Cllr Fluker, specifically focussed on the socio-economic impact and questioned where this fitted in with the close link being formed between Maldon District Council and the NDA. JJ commented that it was essential for the LCLC to be actively involved. He added that he anticipates that the socio-economic impact and assessment plan will recommend who should be included in the partnership to most effectively take forward the socio-economic regeneration of this area and that fundamental to this will be the LCLC.
- 2288 AF reminded members that the impact of the site closure will be felt across the whole region and not just those areas within the remit of Maldon District Council. He advised that the sub-committee had agreed that they wanted to be an integral part of the initial application process and subsequent review of applications. This was discussed further and the importance of the LCLC in supporting and encouraging applications agreed. Zoe Young agreed to take an action to communicate this message to Mark Chevis.
- 2289 Chairman advised that he had attended a meeting considering applications and that about £800 had been allocated to small projects. He formally thanked BB for his considerable contribution to keeping socio-economic issues for Bradwell at the forefront and members showed their appreciation with a round of applause. BB responded by reminding members that whilst the LCLC is an excellent forum for discussion and supporting applications, that the power to enable projects to move forward rested with the respective councils.
- 2290 G Thomas led a vote of thanks to the NDA for rapidly progressing the socio-economic evaluation of the area. RB advised that Maldon District Council had commissioned a similar report about 5 years before the station stopped generating electricity. BB added that despite this report, Government policy at that time was to limit financial mitigation to alternative areas of the UK.

## **9. OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION (ONR) REPORT**

- 2291 Mr G Frackelton (GF) was welcomed as the new project inspector. GF drew attention to the report written by his predecessor, provided background information into the role of the ONR and explained that Bradwell was now considered a construction site in terms of regulation.
- 2292 GF advised that the ONR were working closely with the licensee on developing safety cases through very regular dialogue and off-site meetings in addition to visits, meaning that once the final safety case is formulated it can be approved without further amendment.
- 2293 BB asked about the nature of current emergency exercises and heard that these involved scenarios like an individual breaking a leg in a remote corner of redundant plant or perhaps a fire releasing some contamination.
- 2294 AF asked what Licence Instrument 93/503 referred to and heard that this was concerning the use of yellow boxes.



## 10. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA) REPORT

- 2295 Chairman drew attention to the written report and PH offered to summarise its content. This was noted as following:
- Moving to a team regulation model reflecting increased regulatory activities associated with acceleration to care and maintenance.
  - Four members of team include Chris Lloyd, Paul Mountford-Lister, Phil Heaton and Karl Littlewood; the latter remaining as site inspector and lead regulator.
  - Change of permit to enable FED treatment to the proposed schedule remains pending until the European Commission has formally responded.
  - Recent inspection concerning waste handling raised no issues.
  - Best Available Technique (BAT) for transfer of FED to Dungeness has been revised.
- 2296 Chairman commented that he felt that the report does not raise any concerns and invited questions. None were forthcoming.
- 2297 BK commented on the positive change to a teamwork approach with both regulators. He thanked them and recognised that the site were making significant demands on their time to enable accelerated transfer to care and maintenance.

## 11. CHAIRMAN'S FEEDBACK

- 2298 Chairman advised his attendance at the recent *Energy Solutions* meeting, emphasising how valuable this was and summarising what he had learnt from this, noted below:
- Emphasis on 'programmisation' to enable best practice to be moved between sites.
  - Bradwell is a National 'lead and learn' site.
  - Impression that instead of being demotivated, the employees at Bradwell are embracing the challenge of decommissioning and deplanting the site.
  - Consortium, including *Energy Solutions*, that is entering the NDA competition, will consult with the LCLC and ask what qualities the LCLC would look for in a new parent body.
- 2299 Chairman advised that he had recently toured the cooling ponds and been given the opportunity to talk to the operators. He expressed how impressed he was and thanked the site for enabling this.
- 2300 Cllr T Drain questioned whether the lessons learnt from decommissioning the Magnox fleet were being recorded to assist with future decommissioning of current new build stations. PW advised that all new build was specifically designed with decommissioning in mind.
- 2301 Vice Chairman commented on his involvement in the research project called MoDeRn, a four year project run by EURATOM, explaining that MoDeRn was the acronym for monitoring developments for safe repository operation and staged closure. The project aims to consider the technical and social aspects of monitoring deep geological disposal and has academic research partners from several European countries including the UK. Volunteers are drawn from other Magnox site stakeholder groups, operators and regulators.
- 2302 At a recent MoDeRn meeting, key areas for discussion were:
- Why monitor
  - How to monitor
  - Who regulates the monitoring
  - How the materials to be stored affects staged closure
  - Should the repository ever be completely and irretrievably sealed or could the waste ever be recycled?
- 2303 It was noted that there was much debate and that expert opinion varied. The repository is not anticipated to be available until 2040 and technological advances could influence outcomes.
- 2304 Four volunteers will visit laboratories in Switzerland that are undertaking research into the impact of building the repository in different geological areas. A report of their findings plus a summary of the meeting considerations will be available in the autumn.



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### 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 2305 BB questioned why the excellent health and safety record for the station was not being used to promote nuclear power and whether any more could be done to promote this to Government.
- 2306 Cllr S Richardson expressed concern about traffic movements when the number of staff on site increases and questioned how the site were encouraging safe driving through the villages on route. PW advised that a recent campaign had been conducted with the local police using speed cameras and the outcome was that an individual was prosecuted for speeding. BK emphasised that on site there is zero tolerance of unsafe driving and that off-site the operators fully support reinforcement of this.

### 13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

- 2307 Now confirmed as Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012 at 10:30 at the Minerva Centre, Mundon.

### 14. LUNCH

- 2308 Chairman closed the meeting at 12.50.

The Bradwell Local Community Liaison Council (LCLC) is an independent, local community body acting as a link between the Bradwell Site and its neighbours.

All correspondence to the LCLC should be addressed to: The LCLC Secretariat,  
C/O Communications Team, Magnox Ltd, Bradwell Site, Bradwell-on-Sea,  
Southminster, Essex, CM0 7HP.

Tel: 01621 873548 email: [bradwell.communications@magnoxsites.com](mailto:bradwell.communications@magnoxsites.com)

Further information on Site Stakeholder Groups is available on the Magnox website [www.magnoxsites.com](http://www.magnoxsites.com). Navigate to Corporate Responsibility/Community/Site Stakeholder Groups.