

# DUNGENESS A SITE AND B POWER STATION

## DUNGENESS SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

### Dungeness B Training Centre

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012

9:30 for 10.00

#### Attendance:

Mr T Allmark	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mrs L Barton	-	Lydd Airport Action Group
Sgt J Bloomfield	-	Kent Police
Mr B Botley	-	Kent Against a Radioactive Environment
Cllr M Burgess	-	Ashford Borough Council
Mr G Callahan	-	Dungeness B Power Station
Cllr A Clifton-Holt	-	Shepway District Council
Cllr Mrs V Dawson	-	Lydd Town Council
Ms J Dear	-	Natural England
Dr L Franks	-	Minute Taker
Mr K Franks	-	Independent Member
Mr S Henry	-	EDF Energy
Mr T Hills	-	New Romney Town Council
Mr D Ilsley	-	Shepway District Council
Mr J Jenkin	-	NDA
Mr R Jepps	-	Dungeness A Site
Cllr D Lawton	-	New Romney Town Council
Mr O Leyshon	-	Romney Marsh Countryside Project
Cllr Mrs M Masters	-	Lydd Town Council
Ms J Moakes	-	Environment Agency
Mrs H Morris	-	Dungeness A Site
Mr K Palfrey	-	Dungeness A Site
Mr A Parry	-	Vice Chairman
Mr T Preston	-	Defend Our Coast
Mr M Pearson	-	Dungeness B Power Station
Insp A Potter	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr R Price	-	Environment Agency
Mr G Smythe	-	Chairman
Mr A Snoad	-	New Romney Town Council
Cllr Mrs C Waters	-	Kent County Council
Mrs L Whenday	-	Dungeness Residents Assoc
Mr D Williams	-	SJC Dungeness A Site

## **Guests:**

Cllr D Godfrey	-	Shepway District Council
Mr G Harris	-	Shepway District Council
Ms L Harrison	-	Kent County Council
Mr D Hockey	-	BAM Nuttall
Ms R Hodges	-	Kent Against a Radioactive Environment
Mr M Luchford	-	Echo Engineering
Mr P Mullane	-	Eastern & Coastal Kent PCT

## **I INTRODUCTION**

- 2910 Col. Smythe welcomed members and guests to the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Site Stakeholder Group (SSG) and encouraged them to ask questions.

## **II APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The following apologies were received:

Mr C Albrow	-	Independent Member
Mr D Dicker	-	Dungeness A Site
Mr J Gilliland	-	ONR CNS
Ms C Hallam	-	Dungeness B Power Station
Mr G Holt	-	SE Region Health Protection Agency
Cllr S Souster	-	Rother District Council
Mr S Terry	-	Shepway District Council
Mrs K Thomas	-	Dungeness A Site
Cllr R Tillson	-	Shepway District Council
Mr V Todd	-	Dungeness A Site
Mrs D Webb	-	Dungeness B Power Station
Mr D Whitnall	-	Dungeness A Site

## **III MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS**

- 2911 The minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> SSG meeting held on 26 January 2012 were agreed as an accurate record.

## **IV CORRESPONDENCE**

- 2912 A list of correspondence distributed to SSG members was made available to attendees. The Chairman drew attention to two items regarding the processing of fuel element debris and a possible nuclear research and disposal facility respectively, advising that these were each on the agenda to be discussed at this meeting.

## **V MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 13<sup>th</sup> MEETING (AGM)**

- 2913 Regarding the 'T' piece landmark at Dungeness: awaiting local fisherman to come forward with their proposal.

## **XVI NUCLEAR RESEARCH AND DISPOSAL FACILITY**

- 2914 Cllr David Godfrey of Shepway District Council thanked members for enabling this item to be moved up the agenda. He opened his presentation by advising that Shepway District Council is seeking to understand the communities' view on whether they should submit an "Expression of Interest" on the communities' behalf in order to find out more information about a possible nuclear research and disposal facility on Romney Marsh. He stressed that the Council does not have a formal view as to whether this should proceed. Cllr Godfrey gave a presentation that covered the following topics:
- Future of the nuclear industry in Shepway
  - Future of nuclear waste disposal nationally
  - Geological disposal
  - Geological disposal facilities, including schematic layouts and artistic impressions of a possible new facility and details of those already in existence.
  - Countries that have plans to build a geological disposal facility and the likely process within the UK
  - Potential benefits and risks of being involved
  - Process of involvement including geographical details of the extent of the community whose opinions are being sought
  - Stages of the process, detailing that the community has the right to withdraw right up until the construction phase
  - How the community is being canvassed and useful website addresses for those seeking further information or to input their opinion.
  - Public exhibition dates
- 2915 Cllr Godfrey clarified that opinion was being sought from the communities that would be directly impacted by the nuclear research and disposal facility, however all interested individuals were welcome to give their opinion via the website or at the public meetings.
- 2916 Louise Barton led a debate suggesting that seeking the opinion of the community was a waste of money, was irresponsible and that locating a facility within Romney Marsh was simply not viable. She suggested that the geology of the area meant that it was not suitable for deep storage. Cllr Graham Harris explained that the Council have extensive records showing shallow geology and one bore hole to 350m, whereas the facility would be between 1,000m to 2,000m and currently there were no records detailing this geology. The debate covered transport arrangements for waste to be stored in the facility and it was heard that the number of movements would not differ from those experienced when A and B site were operational. This was disputed and Cllr Godfrey advised that DECC had provided this guidance.
- 2917 Later Barrie Botley commented that the waste being transported would be at a higher level and that there would be considerably more of it transported across the region over time. He questioned why this kind of information was not available now and heard that there was little point in determining answers to these and other pressing questions if the community opposed an 'Expression of Interest' at this time. It was explained that if the community chose to proceed then the process would unlock funding to investigate and find answers to all questions that arose from the community.

- 2917 Cllr Alan Clifton-Holt advised that he would welcome the opinion of the younger members of the community because they would be most affected by the job opportunities that establishing a facility locally would generate. He advised that there was significant support for the consultation amongst councillors, including himself, as finding out more information did not mean a commitment to proceed. He added that he supported an expression of interest as he saw this as a way to mitigate the withdrawal of the two existing power stations.
- 2918 Louisa Whenday advised the background to the decision to dispose of nuclear waste in deep geological storage facilities. She gave her support to the consultation but questioned the feasibility of the proposal based on previous issues with sea defences and flooding.
- 2919 Tony Hill expressed his support for the consultation adding that the community benefits package that would result from proceeding would enable adequate sea defences to be constructed which would protect and encourage other commercial interests in the area.
- 2920 Members debated whether the area was a flood plain or an area susceptible to flooding and it was agreed that appropriate sea defences were essential.
- 2921 Cllr Carole Waters expressed concern about the information sent to the community ("Have Your Say") and how the response would be subsequently evaluated and presented by Shepway District Council. She explained why and sought assurance that the public information days made clear that the facility could be located anywhere on the Marsh. Cllr Godfrey responded that the materials sent out clearly states that the location has not been decided. Cllr Harris explained that Shepway District Council are actually doing more than is recommended in the white paper and in the brief from DECC and that in terms of evaluation and presentation of data this would be comprehensive data, reflecting any geographical differences of opinion, and would not be an interpretation. Mrs Whenday added her support that the community did not understand that the facility could be anywhere and had assumed it would be at Dungeness.
- 2922 Cllr Mick Burgess advised that whatever happens on the Marsh affects his ward and that those on Ashford Borough Council have an open mind awaiting the outcome of the community soundings before deciding whether to support this proposal.
- 2923 Cllr Godfrey commented that he would have the opportunity to clarify that the location was not decided and could be anywhere on the Marsh not only at the public meetings but via the various media outlets scheduled, including "The One Show" and Kent Radio.

## **VI DUNGENESS A SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- 2924 Ray Jepps, Site Director, drew attention to the Report and introduced a short video of the last year at Dungeness A site showing milestone events and providing a visual description of demolition works undertaken. He expressed his pride that against a background of significant change including voluntary severances and role changes, that it had been an exceptional year for safety performance with no significant first aid events, lost time accidents, nuclear or environmental events.
- 2925 Mr Jepps explained that he anticipated receipt of two licence instruments from ONR on 14.06.12. having adequately demonstrated that the site is fuel free that will allow

him to withdraw the operating rules and introduce a new emergency plan. This means that approximately 50 staff will leave by the end of June.

2926 Mr Jepps thanked the environment agency in supporting the site to utilise the Cooling Water void for 7,552 tonnes of concrete and rubble waste generated during demolition, thus avoiding over 1000 lorry transports to remove this waste from site and transport it to land fill.

2927 Cllr Waters led a vote of congratulations to Mr Jepps and the site staff.

2928 Q. Will the new administration building be demolished?  
A. Ultimately, yes.

## **VII OFFICE for NUCLEAR REGULATION (ONR) REPORT FOR DUNGENESS A.**

2929 No questions were forthcoming about the report previously circulated.

## **VIII DUNGENESS B POWER STATION SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

2930 Martin Pearson, Site Director of Dungeness B drew attention to the report previously circulated and highlighted the following:

### 2931 Safety

- Winner (Electrical Industry) of the RoSPA Health & Safety Award 2012.
- Over 2 years since an employee's lost time incident and nearly five years for any contract partner.
- 4.5 tonne granite rock at site entrance engraved with "Nuclear safety is our overriding priority" to remind all workers and visitors.

### 2932 Generation

- Reactor 21 back to power on 21.03.12 after a gas circulator fault and is now at full load.
- Reactor 22 has undergone a planned 72 day outage and is currently being refuelled up to full load.
- First time since July 2009 that both reactors brought to full load.

### 2933 Promotions

- "Zingy", an orange character, is being used to promote the first 100% nuclear-backed tariff for electricity customers.

2934 Mrs Whenday asked whether an extension to the current site operating licence has been applied for and heard that this was not the case. Mr Pearson explained that the current lifespan of the licence is until 2018 and that an announcement could be anticipated in 2015 that indicates whether there will be an extension and that this could be far as 2028. This was discussed further and media suggestions of an application for an extension to 2023 already in place refuted. Cllr Waters asked how the community could support an application for an extension and heard that continuing as current was appropriate.

## **IX OFFICE for NUCLEAR REGULATION (ONR) REPORT FOR DUNGENESS B POWER STATION**

- 2935 Tim Allmark, Dungeness B Site Inspector since 1 April 2012, introduced himself, drew attention to the report and commented on the following:
- The arrangements for undertaking the recent outage of Reactor 22 (R22) had been inspected across all relevant disciplines and found to be satisfactory. Consent to restart R22 anticipated Monday 28.05.12.
  - Increased buoyancy and mood across the station amongst the staff.
  - Inspections occur approximately monthly.
- 2936 Cllr Waters asked if the ONR supported an extension to 2028 and Mr Allmark advised that preliminary discussions about feasibility had begun.

## **X ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE FOR DUNGENESS B.**

- 2937 Jo Moakes introduced herself as the Site Inspector for Dungeness B, in post since January 2012, drew attention to the previously circulated Environment Agency Nuclear Regulation Report and gave a short presentation. The following points were noted:
- Routine discharges and disposals all well within permit limits.
  - Outcomes of the audit, undertaken in conjunction with the ONR, of radioactive waste storage, segregation and management procedures, revealed some housekeeping issues which have led to the generation of a recovery plan that will be monitored by inspections over coming months.
  - Currently investigating an operator's report that the paperwork for some solid waste was slightly inaccurate; response at next SSG meeting.
  - An oil spill in March backed up into the cooling water tanks; however, as the site was on outage all drains were isolated meaning that no oil was discharged to sea. Operators are in the process of investigating this event to ascertain root cause.
  - An emergency response exercise considering the off-site plan has been undertaken with satisfactory outcomes.
- 2938 No questions were forthcoming.

## **XI ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE FOR DUNGENESS A.**

- 2939 Rob Price introduced himself as the Site Inspector for Dungeness A and advised that he grew up in the area and has been in post since April with handover from July 2011. Mr Price drew attention to the previously circulated Environment Agency Nuclear Regulation Report and gave a short presentation from which the following points were noted:
- EA regulatory issues include on-going decommissioning of the site leading to decreased discharges and removal of the high hazard.
  - On-going projects include
    - Demolition works, waste minimisation, recycling and re-use.
    - Water and energy use reductions
    - Low level sludge encapsulation
    - Transfer of fuel element debris to site using Best Available Techniques (BAT)

- 2940 Mr Price described the work of the Environment Agency including consideration of best strategies for waste reduction across all sites to minimise the impact on the environment.
- 2941 Q. How many Magnox sites still have fuel element debris?  
A. All except for Dungeness.  
Q. Does this mean Dungeness will be deal with FED from all other sites?  
A. Magnox would have to demonstrate that their suggested route for dissolution had the best practicable outcomes for the environment.

## **XII PROCESSING OF FUEL ELEMENT DEBRIS (FED) AT DUNGENESS A**

- 2942 Ray Jepps provided a presentation to update members on the transfer of FED to Dungeness A for dissolution. The following points were noted:
- Original plan was to ship FED from Trawsfynydd from Autumn 2011 but transport packages have yet to be licensed and it is now estimated to commence transfer from December 2012 or later. No FED to process will lead to both operational and staffing issues at Dungeness.
  - Bradwell site has recovered and stored FED and this is available for immediate transfer to Dungeness by previously licensed routes. The dissolution plant being built at Bradwell will not be operational for 9-12months.
  - There are several benefits in processing this FED at Dungeness including mitigating the operational and staffing issues that would otherwise arise, environmental benefits and significant overall cost savings.
  - The FED dissolution plant at Dungeness will process the same 32 tons originally planned but sourced from two other sites instead of one and will continue to shut down in 3 years to enable Dungeness to move into interim care and maintenance as planned in 2018.
- 2943 The environmental impact of processing the FED at Dungeness was debated and Mr Jepps emphasised that dissolution of this waste would amount to approx 1-2% of the discharge limits for the site and was insignificant. Mr Price added that the site discharges permit was based on strict limits that were determined by impact. Concern was expressed about releasing effluent resulting from this process into the sea and it was postulated that this had resulted in an increase in thyroid problems amongst those that swim in the sea. Reassurance was given that no scientific link had been identified. Ms Moakes advised that the Iodine levels in molluscs, sediment and the sea was monitored and found to be constant. The use of neutral Iodine tablets in the event of a nuclear release was raised and George Callahan, Radiation Protection Advisor, reminded attendees that I<sup>131</sup> had a half life of only 8 days.

## **XIII MAGNOX MEETING FEEDBACK**

- 2944 Chairman reported that he had attended the recent meeting in London and described the four key points raised:
- I. The contract for the decommissioning of the sites is being opened for competitive bids and this process will take approx 2.5years to complete.
  - II. Energy Solutions, the current contract holders, plan to bid for this contract.
  - III. If Dungeness processes FED from Bradwell and Trawsfynydd this will enable these sites to progress into care and maintenance as planned on a very tight schedule.

- IV. The German manufacturers of the yellow storage boxes for intermediate level waste plan to continue with production despite Germany withdrawing from nuclear power generation.

2945 No questions were forthcoming.

#### **XIV NDA UPDATE**

2946 Jonathan Jenkin drew attention to the NDA Monthly briefing for May 2012, available in hard copy at this meeting, advising that this provides details of ongoing work. The following additional points were noted:

- Magnox won the top award in the Engineering and Construction sector at the RoSPA awards against a backdrop of significant change.
- Recent key milestones include:
  - Removal of fuel from Dungeness
  - Oldbury site ceased generation after 40 years
  - Wylfa site ceased generating electricity from reactor 2 and reactor 1 will continue until 2014.
  - Turbine Hall and the sea wall at Bradwell site have been dismantled with on-line coverage as work progressed.
- “The Strategy Development Programme for Integrated Waste Management” document has been published and is available on the NDA website.
- The competition for running the Magnox sites will be launched in July 2012.
- The Business Plan for 2012-15 has been published with a planned expenditure of £3 billion per annum.
- A stakeholder engagement plan has been published and will be updated accordingly.

2947 No questions were forthcoming.

#### **XV SOCIO-ECONOMIC UPDATE**

2948 The Chairman explained that historically bids for large sums (circa £10,000) had not been forthcoming, however five bids have now been received and that the committee will sit on 28.05.12. to consider these. Chairman advised that if an applicants' scheme is to be on a sensitive site then they should contact Ms Jo Dear, Natural England, who would be able to advise on the feasibility of the scheme.

2949 Cllr Dave Illsley, Shepway District Council, reported that the Regeneris report was considered by cabinet on 18.04.12. and that work to take this forward has been steadily progressing. It was noted that copies of the Regeneris report have been circulated to both Town and Parish Councils. Cllr Waters expressed concern that the County Council has not been sufficiently involved. This was debated and members heard that representatives of Kent County Council had been present at meetings already undertaken. Reassurance that Kent County Council would be involved in the future was provided by Mr Illsley.

#### **XVII ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

2950 Cllr Lillian Harrison, the Minerals and Waste Planning Policy Manager at Kent County Council introduced herself and advised that she was presently preparing a suite of long term minerals and waste plans to extend to 2030. She invited dialogue

with SSG attendees to ensure that the strategies being considered were appropriate and provided the following contact details:

Email: [Lillian.harrison@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Lillian.harrison@kent.gov.uk)

Tel: 01622 221602

- 2951 Ms Whenday suggested that consideration of an expression of interest for a Nuclear Research & Disposal Facility could be discussed at the SSG steering group. Chairman concurred but suggested that the outcome of the community soundings was vital as this could mean that the process was halted before an expression of interest was raised. This was debated and it was agreed that the SSG would closely monitor events.

#### **XVIII NEXT MEETING**

- 2952 The 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Dungeness SSG will be held on Thursday 4 October 2012 at 10.00 at the Dungeness B training building.  
The 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Dungeness SSG AGM will be held on Thursday 31 January 2013 the venue is to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 12.45hrs