

**DUNGENESS A SITE AND B POWER STATION**

**SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

**MINUTES OF THE 11<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

**DUNGENESS B TRAINING CENTRE**

**THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2011**

**Attendance:**

Mrs L Barry	-	Minute Taker (Dungeness A Site)
Mr B Botley	-	Kent Against a Radioactive Environment
Ms J Dear	-	Natural England
Mr D Dicker	-	Dungeness A Site
Mr J Earnshaw	-	Dungeness B Power Station
Mr P Faulkner	-	Lydd Airport Action Group
Mr G Finn	-	Dungeness B Power Station
Cllr B Gadd	-	East Sussex County Council
Dr V Green	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation (Dun B)
Mr T Harwood	-	Kent County Council
Mr R Jepps	-	Dungeness A Site
Cllr M Kenward	-	Rother District Council
Cllr D Lawton	-	New Romney Town Council
Mr K Lees	-	CNC
Dr P Mountford-Lister	-	Environment Agency
Mrs H Morris	-	Dungeness A Site
Mr D Murphy	-	CNC
Mr A Parry	-	Independent Vice Chairman
Mr J Phillips	-	NDA
Cllr T Preston	-	Dymchurch Parish Council
Cllr Ms R Saunders	-	Lydd Town Council
Col G Smythe	-	Independent Chairman
Ms M Stuart	-	Kent Against a Radioactive Environment
Cllr Mrs C Waters	-	Shepway District Council
Mrs D Webb	-	Dungeness B Power Station
Mrs L Whenday	-	Dungeness Residents' Association
Mr D Williams	-	Dungeness A Site
Dr W Wright	-	Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority

## **I INTRODUCTION**

- 2737 Col. Smythe welcomed members and guests to the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Site Stakeholder Group (SSG).

## **II APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The following apologies were received:

Mr C Albrow	-	Independent Member
Mr B Archer	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation (Dun A)
Mrs G Baker	-	District Residents Association
Mrs L Barton	-	Lydd Airport Action Group
Mr J Black	-	Dungeness A Site
Mr G Callahan	-	Dungeness B Power Station
Ms J Childs	-	NHS Medical Physics
Mr T Dapling	-	Sussex Sea Fisheries
Cllr T Fawthrop	-	East Sussex County Council
Mr J Gilliland	-	ONR
Mr A Hills	-	Varne Boat Club
Mr D Illsley	-	Shepway District Council
Cllr Mrs M Masters	-	Lydd Town Council
Dr P Naylor	-	EA
Cllr Mrs J Newton	-	New Romney Town Council
Mr D Whitnall	-	Dungeness A Site
Ms T Young	-	Kent County Council

## **III MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS**

- 2738 The minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> Site Stakeholder Group (SSG) meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 and those of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011 were agreed as an accurate record.

## **IV CORRESPONDENCE**

- 2739 A list of correspondence distributed to SSG members was circulated.

## **V MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 10<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

- 2740 2744 – Mrs H Morris advised that the DICAM charts had been distributed.

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

- 2741 Ray Jepps, Site Director presented the Report for Dungeness A. The main points from the report included:-
- 2742 The site has approved funding from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) including a £10 million increase which means we can now start to plan to take Dungeness into Interim Care and Maintenance by 2018. Detailed plans are being produced on how we will drain and seal the ponds, remove all asbestos on site and passivate the Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) in preparation for the Interim Care and Maintenance phase.

- 2743 The company is undergoing considerable changes in order to deliver the best value for money and staff at DNA have a series of three transitions to go through which is obviously a concern for some;
- Current transition is that of the two companies coming back into one which affects support staff.
  - The next will be between September 2011 and spring 2012 in preparation of the site becoming fuel free and will affect operations and infrastructure staff.
  - The final transition in spring 2012 is the final best-fit and release of staff post defuelling which will see a more significant reduction in staff numbers; likewise in 2018 when the site achieves the preparation for interim care and maintenance.
- 2744 Defuelling – Progressing well with over 50% defuelled on both reactors and stuck fuel elements released ready for discharge to the ponds.  
 Safety and Environment – Reduction in the number of events requiring First Aid treatment and Safety Improvement Plan becoming embedded.  
 Asset Care;  
 Thermal Insulation Removal Project – successfully carried out in the turbine hall for the turbine alternator high pressure cylinders.  
 Sludge Project updates - Update on sampling and methodology  
 Channel 5 Programme – a production team for Channel 5 spent three days at site filming a documentary about how spent fuel is managed. The programme was broadcast in May.
- 2745 First Overseas Shipment of Radioactive Metals for recycling to Siempelkamp in Germany.
- 2746 Q - How does DNA stand in respect to the other Magnox stations?  
 A - The Magnox Optimised Decommissioning Programme (MODP) which is a challenging programme and optimises the spend over all magnox sites; with the most significant increases in scope at Chapelcross, Bradwell, Dungeness A and Trawsfynydd. DNA has very little waste on site, our key issue is when will we be defuelled? Bradwell will be in a full Care & Maintenance (C&M) within the next 4 to 5 years. For Chapelcross and Dungeness as we have high level funding to bring us into Interim Care & Maintenance and further options are being investigated. The MOPD is continually being revised to find cost and schedule savings across the sites. Berkeley Site has gone into Reactor Safe Store.
- 2747 Request for presentation to the SSG on recycling of the metals was requested.

**Action: Ray Jepps**

- 2748 Q - Are staffing level numbers available?  
 A - Core staff this year will be approximately 350 which include Project staff. Once defuelling is completed we will be looking at a reduction of approximately 130 and by 2018, the number of staff remaining will drop to 40-60 looking after the building and compliance issues. This may well have a significant impact on the local economy and the youth coming along.

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

2749 The report has not been received but will be sent out as soon as it becomes available.

**VIII COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS ON REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENT AGENCY INSPECTOR, DUNGENESS A**

2750 Dr. Mountford-Lister highlighter the key points from the Environmental Report which had been previously circulated.

**IX SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – DUNGENESS B POWER STATION**

2751 Graham Finn, Site Director presented the report for Dungeness B (DNB). The main points from the report included:-

2752 DNB has successfully seen the safe and compliant return to service of Reactor 21 following refuelling.

2753 Significant investments have been made to the refuelling machine to improve performance.

2754 There are currently 10 vacancies with the DNB Maintenance Department, six apprenticeships have been offered placements. Vicky Mitchell received the award for National Apprentice of the Year (South East and East Region) at the Nuclear Skills Annual Awards ceremony. EDF Energy Apprenticeship Scheme scooped the four top awards.

2755 DNB has been awarded full accreditation for four of the station's Operations programmes by the Training Standards Accreditation Board (TSAB). This board is composed of international training expertise that uses INPO (Institute of Nuclear Power Operations) training objectives and criteria to evaluate training programmes to world class standards.

2756 There have been no lost time accidents, contamination, and discharge or waste management reportable events.

2757 Unit 21 has generated 321.0 GWh and Unit 22 227.6 GWh.

2758 Q - What percentage of apprentices is really local?  
A - 90% are from Folkestone, Ashford and Hastings.

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

2759 January to March report to be issued when available, the report will also be available on the HSE's web site at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/llc/index/htm>.

2760 After 40 years the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) has become the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR).

- 2761 In relation to the Fukushima accident, Dr Green described the UK Government response in terms of the request of the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations to examine the circumstances of the accident to see what lessons could be learnt to enhance the safety of the UK nuclear industry. Dr Green provided information on how to access the parts of the ONR web-site relevant to the Fukushima accident and also information about the "European Stress Tests". (Following this meeting, the HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations' interim report was published on 18 May 2011). The data can be found:
- <http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/fukushima/index.htm>  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/fukushima/interim-report.pdf>  
<http://www.ensreg.eu/node/286>

**XI COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE FOR DUNGENESS B.**

- 2762 Q - Valerian has been growing on the point for over 60 years, what is the intention regarding taking Dungeness back to shingle?  
A - The Valerian is pretty much taking over the whole area and we would like to encourage indigenous plants to grow e.g. Wild Carrot. Red Valerian, which is from the Mediterranean and grows shading the natural plants, requires a measure to be brought in to ensure that it doesn't spread out of control the method used will be weed killer.

Feedback required on whether weed killing of Red Valerian also applies to the Dungeness Estate at the next meeting.

**Action: John Earnshaw**

- 2763 Q - It appears that the large lakes are being turned into waste lands.  
A - Wildlife management is being undertaken to allow a balance to be achieved. Works are within the EDF boundary.
- 2764 Q - Don't you consider this as evolution?  
A - Where water has been taken from the Long Pits the levels are low. Willow is spreading and has to be managed.
- 2765 Q - From a Fisheries point of view can we have an update on the marine environment around the outlets?

**Action: John Earnshaw**

A - All the cooling water taken passes through an Electrochlorination Plant which doesn't harm anything although it stops the mussels from feeding. The water is heated. Regarding anything that would harm marine life, all our discharges are within the limits.

- 2766 Q - Could an update be included in the next Environmental report?  
A - Yes.
- 2767 Q - Is the cooling water at the same temperature as previously recorded, as there appears to be a shortage of Bass and Mackerel?  
A - The only change would have occurred when Dungeness A shut down and stopped pumping water out at the end of generation.

**XII COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS ON REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENT AGENCY INSPECTOR, DUNGENESS B**

2768 No issues.

**XIII NDA UPDATE – JON PHILLIPS**

2769 Highlights were:-

- The latest Business Plan has now been published
- The 2010 Radioactive Waste Inventory is now available on the NDA website
- UK Government and Scottish Ministers have approved Strategy II
- Safety documents produced for Geological Disposal Facility
- Revised plutonium options paper published.
- The latest edition of the NDA's Insight magazine is now available.
- Work has started on construction of a new £20 million nuclear research facility in Cumbria.
- Magnox North and Magnox South have completed their reintegration into Magnox Ltd.

2770 Diary Dates:-

- National Engagement Plan published 7 April
- Sellafield Plan finalised End of May
- SSG Chairs' Forum Late June
- Annual Report and Accounts laid before Parliament July (provisional)

2771 Q - The 100 tonnes of Plutonium - Is this stored in a stagnant store?  
A - No, it is going through reprocessing. Actual figures will be reported at the next meeting.

Q - What do other countries do with their Plutonium?  
A - Other countries don't process their spent fuel they store it in flasks. The Magnox Operating Plan (MOP) is looking holistically at all processing etc. The growth of Plutonium will reduce towards 2018.

**COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS ON JOINT PRESENTATION BY GRAHAM FINN AND RAY JEPPE ON EVENTS OF FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI, JAPAN**

2772 All UK plants are protected against credible storm surge and tsunami events for the UK. If they were hit by the worst storm or tsunami or flood that could be expected in the UK in 10,000 years, our plants would be safe. These measures are detailed in approved safety cases which are tested and agreed with the independent safety regulator (ONR) A mandatory review of all design faults will be held. The Fukushima plant was safely shut down following the

seismic event and that it was the resultant Tsunami which caused the damage.

- 2773 Q - Why are all the radiological levels lumped together, it's misleading.  
A - There is no difference, the doses are directly comparable.
- 2774 Q - Safety issue – when the ponds were being built was the possibility of a large sea surge considered?  
A - Our ponds are bunded and we do not believe there are any problems. The EA advised that the strategy along the coast is to 'hold the plan' and the flood risk management plan is available on the web site.
- 2775 Q - Do the Boiling Water Reactors (BWR) exist in other parts of the world and is the industry concentrating on this?  
A - The USA operates BWRs and many other countries do, we do not have any in the UK and we are looking at the Lessons Learned. It is the second largest reactor type used in the world. However we can all learn lessons from the events from any type of reactor.
- 2776 Q - Secretary of the Japanese NII discussed hot and cold shutdowns, what exactly does this mean?  
A - Decayed heat takes days and days to decay and this decay begins as soon as the reactor is shut down. The DNA reactors are cold and means that some support equipment is no longer required.

**XIV COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS ON PRESENTATION BY RAY JEPPE ON THE PROPOSAL TO PROCESS TRAWSFYNYDD FUEL ELEMENT DEBRIS (FED) THROUGH DUNGENESS A's MAGNOX DISSOLUTION PLANT**

- 2777 DNA has for several years been successfully reducing the volume of Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) in the form of Fuel Element Debris (FED) in the Magnox Dissolution Plant (MXD) at DNA. An opportunity has arisen for the site to help Trawsfynydd, another decommissioning site in North Wales, by processing 26Te of FED and therefore reducing the volume of ILW which will need to be stored long term. The insoluble waste will be sent back to Trawsfynydd for storage. The regulators from the Environment Agency (EA) and the Office of Nuclear Regulations (ONR), formally the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII), agree in principle with the proposal, subject to the due process of assessment and stakeholder engagement.
- 2778 Q - As far as jobs are concerned, will there be job losses at Trawsfynydd?  
A - People at Trawsfynydd will move across to other waste management activities and there is a trade off of jobs at Trawsfynydd to extending jobs at DNA.
- 2779 Q - Would the jobs have the same skill levels?  
A - It is in the same skill level and within waste processing.
- 2780 Q - Water discharges containing radioactive materials, the bar chart for 2009 looks different was this due to the MXD plant?  
A - The MXD didn't cause the difference it was due to other things going on at site and was still within out discharge levels. When we go through the process of draining off our ponds there will be a rise in the discharge levels but they will still be within our discharge limits.

- 2781 Q - Should people be advised not to swim from the beach?  
A - No, these discharges are very small levels and are safe.
- 2782 Q - Could the levels be linked to Thyroid cancers as local levels appear significantly higher, can't we clean the discharges?  
A - There is no study which has been carried to substantiate such a link?
- 2783 A - Regular updates are received from PCT in Shepway on health trends in Shepway no such trends have been reported.  
A - Continuous samples are taken around all the sites and a couple of sites on the East coast are picking up minute levels of Iodine, which is attributable to Japan.
- 2784 Q - Is this the thin end of the wedge, will waste from other sites come to DNA?  
A - No, the intention is for a modular unit to be developed at Bradwell and then it would be moved to other sites when required. It will be a more efficient plant facility at Bradwell and they will be able to complete all their processing in three years.
- 2785 Q - FED being transported to DNA, does it make it more susceptible to accidents?  
A - No radioactive materials are transported around the country regularly, it isn't anything new. The level of radioactivity will dictate the type of package to be used.
- 2786 Q - Bearing in mind that on three occasions we have been told that waste won't be brought from other sites, how do we know it won't happen again?  
A - It was a true statement that we had no intention of doing this, but this is a unique opportunity to process waste here and send it back to Trawsfynydd. There is no intention to bring materials here from any other site. The new plant will be able to process 50 to 60Te per year.
- 2787 Q - Now this is in the public domain, will there be further discussions?  
A - This issue was discussed at the Steering Group. The SSG is not in a position to make a decision. This is a managerial/business decision for Magnox Ltd. The SSG have been informed and any objections or comments will inform the decision making process.
- 2788 It was agreed to have a vote on this proposal; to give SSG authority for this by making Magnox Ltd. aware of SSG opinions. A vote was taken in line with the SSG Constitution Appendix A – List of representatives and voting eligibility. The SSG concurred with the proposal.
- 2789 Q - It is a deviation to what we have previously been led to believe and we (the SSG) would be upset if this was used to say "we did it before." I would like it minuted that this approval by the majority of SSG is only for this instance and not a carte blanche for future waste processing or storage.  
A - Duly noted.  
A - This is a unique opportunity for processing waste from another site.

**XV SOCIO-ECONOMIC UPDATE – GEORGE SMYTHE**

2790 Monies had been successfully applied for to carry out a survey of current employment on the Marsh and looking ahead to the future when further jobs are lost as a result of decommissioning also what might be viable opportunities for future employment on the Marsh. The tenders are out and a company will appointed soon. The project is expected to take around three months. Many thanks to Dave Illsley, Shepway District Council for all his hard work and everyone else involved in moving this project forward.

**XVI ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 2791 Q - This meeting is under-represented by residents associations can representatives be invited to attend?  
A - Letters and invitations to attend SSG meetings have been sent out but appears to make no difference to the attendance.

**XVII DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Site Stakeholder Group Meeting will be held on 12 October.  
The next Annual General Meeting will be held on 26 January 2012.