

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at the EDF Energy Building, Hinkley Point on Friday 24 June 2011

Present

<u>Cllr M Caswell (Chairman)</u>	-	Stockland Bristol
Mr B Hughes	-	Site Director, Hinkley Point A
Mr M Harrison	-	Station Director, Hinkley Point B

Elected Members

Mr R Corns	-	Natural England
<u>Mr A Debenham</u>	-	Stop Hinkley
Cllr J Edwards	-	Spaxton Parish Council
<u>Cllr Ms A Frazer MBE</u>	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr M Hogg	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council
Cllr N Jones	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr P Malim OBE	-	Stogursey Parish Council
<u>Cllr M Short</u>	-	Fiddington Parish Council
Cllr A Trollope- Bellew	-	Somerset County Council
Cllr R Western	-	Wembdon Parish Council

Co-opted members

Mr B Slade	-	Co-opted Member
<u>Miss B Child</u>	-	Co-opted Member
Mr J Walker		

Appointed Members

Dr S Nicholson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr D Rushton	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Dr P Mountford-Lister	-	Environment Agency
Mr G McMeekan	-	Environment Agency
Mr T Howes	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr D Bamsey	-	Somerset County Council
Ms N Dawson	-	Somerset County Council
Mr D Haigh	-	Government Office South West
Mr H Rickard	-	Wessex Water

British Energy

Mr P Higginson	-	Technical and Safety Support Manager
Mr G Bell	-	Public Relations Officer
Mr D Stokes	-	Community Liaison Officer
Mr M Speed	-	Hinkley B's LJC representative

Magnox

Ms J Hellier	-	Communications Support
Ms G Coombs	-	Communications Support
Mr D Williams	-	Acting Head of Environment
Mr S Payne	-	Communications Officer

In Attendance

Dr A Simper	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr R Thompson	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr T Needham	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr M J Davis	-	Secretary

Members of the Sub Group are highlighted above in bold and underlined. Appendix 1 shows the full sub group list.

OPEN PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION.

- 1 Cllr Caswell welcomed all those present to this meeting of the Site Stakeholder Group for Hinkley Point A site and Hinkley Point B power station. He expressed a particular welcome to Dr Simper, NDA Strategy Director and Mr Thompson, Chief Constable of the Civil Nuclear Constabulary.

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Mr K ter Braak, Mr J Burrows, Ms S Goss, Cllr M Brown and Mr D McCubbin.
- 3 It was noted that the number of members present at the meeting was not sufficient to form a quorum and that it would not therefore be possible to vote on any matter which required such action.
- 4 It was noted that Ms B Oakes was to replace Ms S Goss as member of this Group representing West Hinkley Action Group. Ms Goss will remain on the SSG as a representative for West Somerset Council.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 FEBRUARY 2011

(a) Accuracy

- 5 A note of suggested amendments to the minutes of the previous meeting proposed by Mrs J Brown had been circulated to members. Members considered these proposed amendments but agreed that the minutes should not be changed except to acknowledge in para 10 that Mr Western had commented to Mrs Brown without addressing his remarks through the Chairman. Subject to this comment the minutes of the meeting of the Group held on 25 February 2011 were approved as a correct to record.

(b) Matters Arising (other than matters to be covered in later discussions)

Arrangements for meetings of this Group (para 14 refers)

- 6 Cllr Caswell said that a meeting of the sub-group had been convened to review arrangements for meetings of this Group. Cllr Brown would be preparing a report for members' consideration at the next meeting.

Hinkley Point B Apprentice Recruitment (para 16(ii) refers)

- 7 Mr Harrison said that 10 new apprentices were to be recruited on Hinkley Point B this year, bringing to 29 the total number of apprentices on the site. He said that in addition the company was making substantial investment in local training centres and colleges. This investment would help to meet the company's future needs for skilled personnel and would be of general benefit to the local community.

Hinkley Point A Venting of the Shutdown Reactor Pressure Vessels (para 21 refers)

- 6 In order to clarify the position in relation to comments raised by Mrs Brown, Mr Hughes explained that there was no regulatory requirement to seal reactors throughout the care and maintenance period. He said it was standard practice to attach vents to shutdown reactors to allow for the effects of changes in atmospheric pressure. He pointed out that Magnox, as the Licensee, was responsible for compliance with the conditions of the Nuclear Site Licence; the NDA was not the Licensee.

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 7 Mr Harrison introduced himself as the Station Director appointed to succeed Mr Cann and outlined his background and experience in the industry. He reported on activities and performance at Hinkley Point B since the previous meeting of this Group, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) It was now more than 760 days since the most recent accident involving time lost from work by a British Energy employee and over 1200 days since such an accident involving a contract partner.
 - (ii) It was more than 1200 days since the most recent nuclear reportable event and 750 days since the most recent environmental reportable event.
 - (iii) The station had been presented with the RoSPA President's Award for the second time having been awarded Gold Awards in 11 consecutive years.
 - (iv) Since the previous meeting both reactors had been operating at the maximum potential capacity with the exception of a short period of refuelling and a four-day outage for condenser and deaerator maintenance work. More than 2.3TWh (thousand million units) of electricity had been produced during the period. Reactor 3 had been operating continuously for more than 300 days.
 - (v) The station's emergency arrangements had been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the regulators.

- (vi) During March the station had passed the 35th anniversary of its first supply of electricity to the grid system.
 - (vii) A peer review of the station's operational practices had been undertaken by the World Association of Nuclear Operators. This rigorous process brought together some 20 experts from around the world to observe the station's practices and identify potential areas where improvements might be made. The review had acknowledged the station's good practices; action would be taken to respond to any potential improvements which were identified in the peer review report.
 - (viii) A grey seal which had found its way into the station's circulating water system had been caught and released safely back into the sea.
- 8 Mr Harrison outlined the arrangements made to learn lessons from the accident at the Fukushima power plant in Japan. He said that the company was acting on all of the recommendations of the independent report prepared for the government by Dr Weightman. The report had confirmed that there was no reason to curtail the operation of existing UK nuclear plants and there were no significant shortcomings in safety assessment principles for UK nuclear facilities. This was an interim report at this stage and the final report was due for submission in October. Mr Harrison proposed that a presentation should be made at the October meeting on the final Weightman report and the company's responses to its recommendations.
- 9 Cllr Short and Mr Debenham felt it was inappropriate in the Station Director's report to claim that the plant had a load factor of 100% when, as reported by Mr Harrison, refuelling had been carried out and Reactor 4 had been shut down for a period of maintenance. Mr Harrison explained that within the company's agreed management monitoring arrangements planned outages identified sufficiently far in advance were disregarded for the purposes of calculating load factor. He undertook to consider whether the reporting to this Group on load factor performance might be improved in future reports. In response to a further question from Mr Debenham, Mr Harrison confirmed that load factor was monitoring against the rated output which had been reduced some years ago in order to optimise the lifetime of certain components.
- 10 Mr Debenham looked forward to the discussion at the next meeting on the responses to the Fukushima accident as he felt that there were serious implications for existing plants and proposed new build. Mr Walker welcomed the Government's recent statement on new nuclear build and believed that the industry could now go forward with confidence.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - HINKLEY POINT A

- 11 Mr Hughes reported on activities at Hinkley Point A since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) It was now more than four years since the most recent lost time accident on the site and more than 38 months without a personal contamination event. The site had received the ROSPA Order of Distinction having been awarded Gold Awards in 15 consecutive years.
- (ii) Preparations were almost complete for back-filling the Turbine Hall basement with material from the proposed Hinkley Point C site. This had involved removing elevated floors and packing wastes so that no voids would occur from settlement. Arrangements would be made to ensure that material to be placed in this area was inert. Transfers of the existing spoil mound, produced during the building of Hinkley Point A, were expected to commence at the end of July. This use of the Turbine Hall basement would avoid the need for some five thousand journeys by lorries on local roads. Discussions were continuing with EDF Energy on possible future uses for the Turbine Hall building.
- (iii) Significant work completed since the date of the previous meeting included the removal of pipe bridges between the reactors, the removal from the site of 26 redundant oil filled transformers, and the removal of discharge stacks on each reactor building. Work was currently in hand on substantiation of active waste water systems in the pond water treatment plant.
- (iv) Following a workshop involving members of the SSG it had been concluded that ductile cast iron containers (DCIC's) "mini stores" were the preferred option for storage of intermediate level wastes currently held in settling tanks. A report was still in preparation and would be circulated in due course.
- (v) Work was continuing on the removal of asbestos. Asbestos would be substantially removed from the site by 2013.
- (vi) Additional funding secured for work at Berkeley and Hinkley Point A sites presented valuable opportunities for bringing forward planned work. Work to be advanced included preparations for draining and sealing of cooling ponds, design work on a fuel element debris dissolution plant, the commencement of work on reactor building de-planting and earlier commencement of the store for the ILW 'ministores'. The date for entry into a care and maintenance state remained at 2025.
- (vii) Following the reintegration of Magnox North and Magnox South, staff had been allocated to roles within the new structures.
- (viii) HSE inspectors had carried out an unannounced visit to inspect asbestos work on the site. The work had been found to be well controlled and managed and no issues had been raised.

- 12 Cllr Malim asked whether the advancement of work on the fuel element debris plant would lead to a significant increase in traffic to the site. Mr Hughes said this was a relatively small plant and changes in the work programme would have an insignificant effect on traffic.
- 13 In reply to a question from Cllr Short, Mr Hughes confirmed that appropriate steps would be taken in relation to planning consents associated with the revised plans for intermediate level waste storage.
- 14 In response to comments from Mr Debenham, Mr Hughes said that a wide range of factors had been taken into account in selecting "mini stores" as the preferred option for the storage of ILW. . The safety of wastes currently stored in settling tanks 1, 2 and 3 was being secured and it was planned to remove the wastes from these tanks by 2014. Mr Hughes confirmed that costs were not a significant factor in the comparison between polymer encapsulation and dissolution for the fuel element debris waste.
- 15 In reply to a question from Cllr Jones, Mr Hughes said that thermal insulating materials used currently did not contain asbestos.
- 16 In response to comments from Mr Debenham on the additional funding being made available for work at the site, Dr Simper said that additional funding became available from efficiency savings and increased income from NDA activities; there was a continuing process of allocating available funding to the highest priority work.

UPDATE FROM SOMERSET NUCLEAR ENERGY GROUP

- 17 Mr Bamsey reported briefly on recent activities of the Somerset Nuclear Energy Group. He described the membership of the group and said that recent discussions had focused upon the current position in relation to the Hinkley Point C station project and necessary preliminary works. Interest had also been shown in the implications of the Fukushima accident and the Weightman report. At the next meeting consideration would be given to the recent government policy statement. Mr Bamsey emphasised that the group was a forum for discussion; it did not have any decision-making powers.

RADIOACTIVE DISCHARGES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

- 18 Mr Higginson drew members' attention to the British Energy/Magnox report on radioactive discharges and environmental monitoring at Hinkley Point A and Hinkley Point B during 2010. Copies of the report had been made available for members. Mr Higginson said that the monitoring demonstrated that discharges of radioactivity from the sites remained well below the authorised limits set by the Environment Agency. It also showed that radiological discharges had minimal impact on the environment and there was no evidence of any long-term accumulation of radioactivity arising from activities on the sites. He said that assessments of radiation doses to members of the public arising from the discharges and from direct radiation from the sites were well within legal limits and recommended limits set by the Health Protection Agency.

REPORTS FROM OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION

- 19 Reports from the Site Inspectors of the Office for Nuclear Regulation had been circulated to members. No questions were raised by members on matters arising from these reports.

REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- 20 Mr McMeekan reported on the Environment Agency's investigations undertaken in response to the allegation made by Green Audit that soil at the proposed Hinkley Point C site was contaminated with some 10 tonnes of enriched uranium. In these investigations samples of soil had been taken from the proposed Hinkley Point C site and from a number of farms several kilometres from the site. Mr McMeekan explained that uranium was present naturally in small quantities in all rocks and soils. Analysis of the samples had measured the ratio of uranium-238 to uranium-235 as this would indicate whether or not there was enriched uranium present. The results of the analysis demonstrated that there was no enriched uranium present in the soil on the site and that levels of uranium found in the soil samples taken both on and off the site were low and at naturally occurring levels.
- 21 In reply to a question from Cllr Malim, Mr McMeekan said that the excavations for construction of a power station would not have an effect upon radiation levels from the soil. It was, after all, only soil.
- 22 During discussion members suggested that it would have been preferable if an authoritative response to the Green Audit claims could have been given more quickly. It was noted that the cost of the Environment Agency's investigations would be borne by the industry; Cllr Hogg suggested that it would be more appropriate for these costs to be borne by Green Audit.
- 23 Dr Mountford-Lister referred to the report from the Environment Agency which had been circulated to members. He said that he had asked the site to review the risk assessments which had been undertaken when Hinkley Point A shutdown reactor air venting system had been engineered in order to ensure that best available techniques were being employed.
- 24 Mr Debenham sought further information on the reported errors in gaseous discharge figures supplied to the Environment Agency. Dr Mountford-Lister said that these minor errors had been drawn to the attention of the Environment Agency by the Hinkley Point A site; he undertook to provide further information to Mr Debenham if required. Mr Williams said that an assessment of the implications of these minor errors had concluded that there were no consequences either on or off the site.

NDA REPORT

- 25 Mr Rushton reported on current NDA issues. He assured members of the NDA's continuing support for this Group. He said that following the reorganisation arrangements for NDA attendance at these meetings would change but they would always be represented.
- 26 Mr Rushton expressed congratulations at the performance of the Hinkley Point A site in achieving four years without a lost time accident. This was particularly commendable during a period of substantial change with organisational restructuring and reductions in the numbers of personnel on site. He was confident that the site was not complacent but was striving to maintain this level of performance.
- 27 Mr Rushton said that the completion of work on the site during the current year was proceeding to plan. Indications were that this would continue during the remainder of the year but the situation would be monitored. The volume of work to be undertaken would be increased by the additional funding.
- 28 Mr Rushton drew members' attention to a number of NDA publications including a monthly Update, a quarterly Insight newsletter, the Business Plan for 2011/12 and the revised Strategy document.
- 29 In response to a question from Mr Debenham it was confirmed that the currently proposed advancement of certain work items would not change the planned dates for entry into care and maintenance or final site clearance.
- 30 Cllr Short sought further assurance that the NDA would provide appropriate funding for the continuance of these meetings and the national level stakeholder meetings. Dr Simper emphasised the importance which the NDA attached to these stakeholder meetings and was confident that the necessary funding would be made available. He said that his attendance at this meeting and that of Mr Lesinski at the previous meeting was an indication of the importance which they attached to these meetings.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

- 31 A report from Cllr Caswell had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. No issues were raised by members on that report.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 32 Cllr Caswell proposed and it was unanimously agreed that Mr J Walker should be co-opted to membership of this Group.
- 33 Cllr Short expressed his disappointment at the number of elected representatives present at this meeting. He felt that following the elections Councils might have done more to ensure attendance. The representation of

the various bodies and requirements in relation to a quorum at meetings would be considered as part of the review at the next meeting.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

- 34 It was noted that the next meeting of the Group would be held at Hinkley Point on Friday 28 October 2011, commencing at 10:00am.

MJD
28 June 2011

Appendix 1

SSG Sub Group

Mike Caswell	Chairman - Stockland Bristol
Mervyn Brown	Deputy Chairman - Otterhampton Parish
Mike Short	Fiddington
Terry Williams	Kilve Parish
Barbara Child	Co-opted
John Edney	Somerset County Council
Jo Brown	PCAH
Alan Debenham	Stop Hinkley
Dawn Hill	Sedgemoor District Council
Paul Tipney	West Somerset District Council
Anne Fraser	Sedgemoor District Council
R Garner	North Somerset
Chris Morgan	West Somerset District Council