

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at The Exchange, Bridgwater on Friday 29 June 2012

Present

- Cllr M Caswell (Chairman)** - Stockland Bristol
Mr L Talbot - Deputy Site Director, Hinkley Point A
Mr P Higginson - Technical Safety and Support Manager,
Hinkley Point B

Elected Members

- Cllr C Allen - Cannington Parish Council
Ms J Brown - Parents concerned about Hinkley
Cllr M Brown - Otterhampton Parish Council
Mr A Debenham - Stop Hinkley
Cllr Ms A Frazer MBE - Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr R Garner - North Somerset Council
Cllr Ms S Goss - West Somerset District Council
Cllr P Grierson - West Somerset District Council
Cllr M Hogg - Nether Stowey Parish Council
Cllr N Jones - Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr P Knibb - Bawdrip Parish Council
Cllr P Malim OBE - Stogursey Parish Council
Ms B Oates - West Hinkley Action Group
Cllr Ms A Reed - Wembdon Parish Council
Cllr J Roberts - Nether Stowey Parish Council
Cllr M Short - Fiddington Parish Council
Cllr A Trollope-Bellew - Somerset County Council
Cllr J Edwards - Spaxton Parish Council

Co-opted Members

- Miss B Child** - Co-opted Member

Appointed Members

- Mr J Burrows - Office for Nuclear Regulation
Dr P Mountford-Lister - Environment Agency
Mr G McMeekan - Environment Agency
Ms N Dawson - Somerset County Council
Mr J Jenkin - Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

EDF Energy

- Mr G Bell - Public Relations Officer
Mr D Stokes - Community Liaison Officer
Mr M Speed - Hinkley B LJC Representative

Magnox

- Ms J Hellier - Communications Support
- Ms G Coombs - Communications
- Mr D Williams - Head of Environment
- Mr S Payne - Communications Officer
- Mr K Ellett - Trades Union Representative

In Attendance

- Ms C Collingridge
- Mr M J Davis - Secretary

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

OPEN PUBLIC QUESTION AND 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 invited questions from members of the public on any issue which might not be covered in later discussion. Ms Collingridge indicated that she wished to address the meeting; members decided that this would not be appropriate. No questions were raised by members of the public.

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 It was confirmed that there was a quorum of elected members present at the meeting. It was noted that Ms Reed was attending as representative of Wembdon Parish Council in place of Mr Harrison.
- 3 Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Harrison, Mr B Hughes, Mr B James, Cllr D Peaster, Cllr N Caville, Mr P Kennedy, Mr B Slade, Sgt S Crago, Mr C Graham, Mr D Bamsey, Cllr C Morgan, Cllr J Edney, Dr S Nicholson, Mr J Walker, and Ms N Redfern.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2012

(a) Accuracy

- 4 The minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2012 were approved as a correct record.

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

Possible Future Use of Hinkley Point A Site Turbine Hall (para 15(v) refers)

- 5 Mr Talbot confirmed that discussions were continuing between Magnox, EDF Energy and the NDA on potential future uses of the Turbine Hall building. No agreement had yet been reached.

Fuel element debris dissolution (paragraph 15(ix) refers)

- 6 Mr Talbot said that in developing proposals for the dissolution of fuel element debris, account would be taken of progress made with work of this type at the Bradwell site. Cllr Caswell confirmed that a meeting of the subgroup would be convened to discuss these proposals in due course.

Costs of Environment Agency investigations (para 25 refers)

- 7 Dr Mountford-Lister said that costs incurred by the Environment Agency to date in investigating allegations that radioactive waste had been disposed of illegally on the Hinkley Point C site amounted to some £8000. These costs related to contracts placed by the Agency. Cllr Brown felt it was important to understand the total cost of these investigations, including the Agency's own costs. Dr Mountford-Lister undertook to provide an indication of the Environment Agency's own costs associated with these investigations at the next meeting. It was noted that all of these costs would be charged to the industry.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A

- 8 Mr Talbot reported on activities at Hinkley Point A Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) It was now more than five years since the most recent lost time accident on the site and more than four years without a personal contamination event. The site had received an Order of Distinction from RoSPA for the second successive year.
 - (ii) Plant enhancements had been completed on Settling Tanks 1, 2 and 3, securing continued storage within these tanks until the contents were recovered in 2014. Some 5 m³ of waste had been transferred from Tank 9 to Tank 8 in order to create space for future use during decommissioning.
 - (iii) Bulk asbestos removal which had started in 2003 would be completed later this year.
 - (iv) A new car park for staff was to be constructed later this year. The area of the EDF site which was currently used for A Site staff parking would be

needed during the B Station outage in September; an alternative temporary location away from the site was being sought and arrangements would be made for staff to be transferred to site by bus.

- (v) Work was in hand to establish a site security system separate from that of the Hinkley Point B station.
 - (vi) Organisational restructuring had been completed with all staff assimilated to new roles within the revised structure. This had been achieved in partnership with trades unions and with no compulsory redundancy.
 - (vii) Mr Hughes was to leave the Hinkley Point A Site during July to take up another post within the company; Mr Talbot would be succeeding him as Site Director.
- 9 During discussion Cllr Ms Goss asked about the numbers of additional vehicles travelling on local roads in connection with asbestos removal and the car park construction. Mr Talbot said that asbestos removal required only an occasional vehicle taking asbestos from the site; the construction of the car park between August and December was expected to involve some 1300 vehicle movements on local roads. He said that during the time of construction of the car park staff would be parking away from the site and travelling to site in buses. Cllr Malim suggested that with these additional vehicle movements and those associated with Hinkley Point C station construction it was necessary to have some coordination of the activities of the various sites. Mr Talbot confirmed that the Directors of each of the sites met regularly to discuss matters of common interest on which a joint approach was helpful.
- 10 In reply to a question from Cllr Short on the transfer of wastes between Settling Tanks 8 and 9, Mr Talbot said that a case had been made to fill Settling Tank 8 above its normal operational limit and then remove it from operational service, leaving additional storage space within Settling Tank 9 for future use. In reply to a further question from Cllr Short, Mr Talbot said that options were being considered for the removal of nimonic springs from the fuel element debris before dissolution of this waste.
- 11 Cllr Short suggested that it would be helpful for members to receive an updated version of the schedule of milestone dates prepared for this group some time ago. Mr Talbot undertook to prepare such a schedule.
- 12 Members were shown a computer simulation of the Hinkley Point A Site illustrating the planned removal of buildings and facilities in future years. Cllr Garner asked whether the decommissioning timescale could be reduced significantly by accelerating work programmes. Mr Talbot said that some of the work programmes could be accelerated but there were some financial and other technical constraints. He said that work being undertaken at the Bradwell site

would demonstrate the feasibility of reducing timescales for entry into a care and maintenance state.

- 13 In reply to questions from Cllr Jones and Cllr Malim, Mr Talbot explained that the structure planned to be built over the reactor buildings in 2021–23 would be of a lightweight construction, designed simply to provide weather protection for the buildings in the years before final site clearance. It was not intended that the height of the existing buildings would be reduced but that the new structure should cover them. The visual impact of the new structure would be taken into account in environmental impact assessments.
- 14 In reply to a question from Cllr Short, Mr Talbot confirmed current intentions to remove the cooling ponds superstructure; there were no plans to remove boilers from the site for recycling during the care and maintenance preparations phase as had been done at Berkeley.
- 15 In reply to questions from Mrs Brown, Mr Williams explained the nature and scope of sampling and monitoring undertaken as part of the environmental monitoring programme.

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 16 Mr Higginson reported on activities and performance at Hinkley Point B since the previous meeting of this group, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The station's high standards of safety performance had been maintained. There had been no lost time incidents, reportable nuclear or environmental events since the last meeting. The station had again received the RoSPA President's Award for occupational health and safety management performance.
 - (ii) There had been two events identified as Level 1 (an anomaly) on the International Nuclear Event Scale. One of these related to a hot gas release system, the operation of which had been inhibited for maintenance, not being returned to service immediately after the work was completed. The other was related to over-tension switches on the charge machine found during routine checks not to be operating as expected. Both of these situations had been rectified immediately and the events had been investigated to identify any learning points.
 - (iii) EDF Energy had recently published an Environmental Policy Statement demonstrating its commitment to protection of the environment.
 - (iv) It was now more than 1130 days since the most recent Lost Time Incident involving EDF Energy staff on the site. In order to maintain focus on the need for safety, increased attention was being paid to accidents which,

although not resulting in time lost from work, did temporarily prevent personnel from carrying out their normal duties. There had been two such incidents recently, both involving trips whilst moving about; these were being investigated to identify any factors which might prevent recurrence.

- (v) Electricity production during the period January – June 2012 had amounted to some 2.47 TWh. Since the last meeting there had been four brief unplanned shutdowns for repair work. The load factors for the period, based upon a rated unit power of 435MW for each reactor were 84.8% and 87.8% for Reactors 3 and 4 respectively; these load factors excluded planned shutdowns and refuelling which were taken into account in the station business plan.
 - (vi) There had been a small fire in the gas turbine house on 16 May. Plant was being returned to service under controlled arrangements following maintenance when a small flame had been seen coming from the hot exhaust system. The fire had been dealt with by station staff but the Fire and Rescue Service, who had been summoned in accordance with standard procedures, had confirmed that the fire was out. The incident had illustrated the value of high standards of housekeeping which prevented the accumulation of materials which could be ignited in any fire incident. Increased focus was being given to fire prevention on site following this incident.
 - (vii) A large quantity of concrete had been delivered to the site on 23 May to provide foundations for a new nitrogen plant which would enhance the station's shutdown arrangements. The plant was due for completion by the end of the year.
 - (viii) There were currently 525 EDF Energy personnel on the site, 38 apprentices, 220 full-time contract partners and 6 foundation degree students.
- 17 In reply to a question from Cllr Caswell, Mr Higginson confirmed that the unplanned reactor shutdowns had been associated with defects on auxiliary plant and equipment rather than the reactors themselves. All shutdown and post-trip cooling systems had operated correctly.
- 18 In reply to a question from Cllr Allen, Mr Higginson said that the gas turbine plant operated very reliably and was available to provide backup electricity supplies if needed.
- 19 In reply to questions from Mrs Brown, Mr Higginson explained that the new nitrogen plant was being installed to enhance the station's shutdown capability in the event of the core being disrupted by an earthquake. More articulated control rods were also being provided.

- 20 In response to a question from Cllr Knibb, Mr Higginson outlined the station's links with various universities, colleges and other educational institutions.
- 21 Mr Debenham questioned the description of new nuclear plant in the Station Director's report as a low carbon form of electricity generation. Mr Higginson said that a report based on Torness had demonstrated this to be the case taking account of carbon emissions during the whole of the life cycle of the plant. This included the building, operation and decommissioning of the plant and the mining, manufacture and dismantling of the fuel. In response to a further question from Mr Debenham, Mr Higginson said that current approvals and plans were based upon the station operating until 2016; further safety reviews were being undertaken to justify operation beyond that date.
- 22 Cllr Malim expressed his appreciation of the letter from the Station Director advising local residents of the large number of vehicles to be delivering concrete to the site. He said that this letter had been received with little time to inform all residents and asked that more notice be given in such circumstances in future.
- 23 Cllr Garner suggested that some of the minor accidents which the station appeared to be investigating were merely inevitable consequences of everyday activities. Mr Higginson accepted that some of the events appeared to be trivial but said that sometimes investigations revealed an underlying cause which could help to prevent further accidents.

ANNUAL REPORT ON RADIOACTIVE DISCHARGES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

- 24 Mr Higginson introduced the Report on Radioactive Discharges and Environmental Monitoring at Hinkley Point A Site and Hinkley Point B Power Station during 2011, copies of which had been made available to members. He pointed out that the monitoring was undertaken by B Station on behalf of both sites. He said that the report illustrated that the levels of radioactivity in discharges from the site remained below the authorised limits; there was no evidence of any long-term accumulation of radioactivity resulting from activities on the sites; and potential radiation doses to members of the public from discharges and from direct radiation from both sites were well within recommended limits.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- 25 A report from the Environment Agency had been circulated to members. Dr Mountford-Lister referred to an error in the report where it referred to a request under Freedom of Information legislation which was being dealt with by the Agency. He had recently been made aware that four other such requests were also being processed by the Agency.

- 26 Dr Mountford-Lister referred to the appendix attached to the Agency report which set out information on responses to allegations of enriched uranium contamination on the Hinkley Point C site. Investigations had clearly demonstrated that there was no such contamination. In the face of an accusation that their work displayed bias, Dr Mountford-Lister and Mr McMeekan made the point that their role was not to seek to justify claims made either by the industry or its opponents but to make rational judgements on environmental issues based upon scientific analysis. They undertook to consider further information from Green Audit provided in a private communication to Ms Collingridge.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORTS

- 27 Reports from the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) on matters relating to Hinkley Point A and B had been made available to members. Mr Burrows drew attention to the satisfactory conclusion of the annual review of safety and the various inspection activities during the past quarter. He pointed out that proposed legislative changes in the ONR's organisation had been announced in the recent Queen's Speech.

REPORT FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 28 Mr Jenkin reported on matters of current interest to the NDA, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) the NDA was shortly to launch a competitive process for the appointment of a Parent Body Organisation for the Magnox and RSRL sites.
 - (ii) The NDA had published its Engagement Plan. The annual report and accounts would be published shortly.
 - (iii) The processing of liquid metal used in the primary coolant circuit of the experimental fast breeder reactor at Dounreay had been completed, eliminating a significant hazard.
 - (iv) Dungeness A had completed defuelling of its reactors and was awaiting formal verification that it was now "fuel free".
 - (v) Boilers from Berkeley had been sent from site to a plant in Sweden for recycling. This would result in 90% of the material being available for free release.
 - (vi) Reactor 2 at Wylfa had ceased operation at the end of April. Focus was now on optimising generation from Reactor 1.
- 29 In response to questions from Cllr Allen and Mr Debenham, Mr Jenkin said that the cessation of generation at Oldbury and at Wylfa Reactor 2 would not affect

the funding of further decommissioning work. The spending review process was rigorous but provided certainty of funding over a four-year period.

- 30 In response to comments from Mrs Brown, Mr Jenkin confirmed that throughout the process of competition to appoint a new Parent Body Organisation, safety would remain a paramount consideration. Regulators were involved in overseeing the process.

SOMERSET NUCLEAR ENERGY GROUP

- 31 Cllr Ms Frazer pointed out that it had been agreed that the Somerset Nuclear Energy Group would not meet routinely at the current stage in the planning process. Future meetings would be convened if necessary.

UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN ON HIS MoDeRn INVOLVEMENT

- 32 Cllr Caswell described his and Cllr Brown's meetings as part of a MoDeRn project involving local stakeholders in discussions on geological disposal of waste. This had included a visit by Cllr Caswell to a number of sites in Switzerland carrying out work on geological disposal in different geological conditions.. (Information on these facilities is available at www.nagra.ch, www.grimsel.ch, and www.mont-terri.ch.)

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

- 32 A report by Cllr Caswell on his activities as Chairman of the SSG had been made available to members. He said he felt it was important that the organisation of the SSG should continue to evolve and believed it was now appropriate to consider the membership and role of the subgroup. In particular he questioned whether a meeting of the subgroup was necessary to prepare an agenda for SSG meetings.
- 33 During discussion members agreed that it was not necessary for a meeting of the subgroup to be convened merely to approve an agenda for the SSG meeting. Other suggestions raised in discussion included:
- (i) The agenda should be prepared by the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary. An item should be included on each agenda giving members an opportunity to raise topics for discussion at the next meeting.
 - (ii) It might be appropriate to adopt the practice of requiring notice for items to be raised under any other business.
 - (iii) It might be appropriate for detailed matters to be referred to a working group which would then report back to the main SSG.

- 34 Cllr Caswell undertook to consider these points and bring forward proposals for consideration at the next meeting.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

No business.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 32 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group would be held on Friday 26 October 2012. The venue for the meeting would be confirmed in due course.

MJD
8 July 2012

Appendix 1

SSG Sub Group

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