

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at Hinkley Point B Station Induction Centre on Friday 29 October 2010

Present

<u>Cllr M Short (Chairman)</u>	-	Fiddington Parish Council
Mr B Hughes	-	Site Director, Hinkley Point A
Mr P Higginson	-	Technical and Safety Support Manager Hinkley Point B

Elected Members

<u>Cllr M Brown</u>	-	Otterhampton Parish Council
<u>Cllr M Caswell (Vice-Chairman)</u>	-	Stockland Bristol
<u>Mr A Debenham</u>	-	Stop Hinkley
Cllr K Dyer	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr J Edwards	-	Spaxton Parish Council
Mr K Ellett	-	Staff Representative
Cllr R Garner	-	North Somerset Council
Ms S Goss	-	West Hinkley Action Group
Cllr M Hogg	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council
<u>Cllr Dr M Kellaway-Marriott</u>	-	North Somerset Council
Cllr S Kingham	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr P Malim OBE	-	Stogursey Parish Council
<u>Cllr C Morgan</u>	-	West Somerset District Council
Mr K ter Braak	-	Friends of Quantock
<u>Cllr P Tipney</u>	-	West Somerset District Council
Cllr A Trollope- Bellew	-	Somerset County Council
Cllr J Walker	-	West Somerset District Council
Cllr R Western	-	Wembdon Parish Council
<u>Cllr T Williams</u>	-	Kilve Parish Council
Cllr M Lynden	-	Chairman, Oldbury SSG

Appointed Members

Dr D Warner	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr D Bamsey	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Mr D Haigh	-	Government Office South West
Mr G Dennis	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr G McMeekan	-	Environment Agency
Ms N Dawson	-	Somerset County Council
<u>Mr G Hudd</u>	-	Somerset County Council
Mr H Rickard	-	Wessex Water

Co-opted members

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

British Energy

Mr G Bell	-	Public Relations Officer
Mr D Stokes	-	Human Resources Advisor

Mr M Speed

Magnox South

Ms J Hellier	-	Communications Support
Ms G Coombs	-	Communications Support
Ms D Staples	-	Hinkley Point A Site

In Attendance

Mr R Mrowicki	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr B Hamilton	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr T Gee	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr D Seiley	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr M Poole		
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 Short invited questions from members of the public. No questions were raised.

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 Cllr Short welcomed Cllr Lynden, the Chairman of the Oldbury on Severn Site Stakeholder Group. He pointed out that this was the last meeting of this Group to be attended by Dr Warner and Mr Hudd before their forthcoming retirements; he thanked them both for their contribution to meetings of this Group.
- 3 Apologies for absence were received from Mr N Cann, Cllr C Allen, Mr T Howes, Cllr Ms A Palmer, Mr J Burrows, Cllr Ms A Frazer, Mr I Bretherton, Ms J Brown, Mr D McCubbin, Mr D Hill, Cllr J Edney and Mr R Adcock.
- 4 It was confirmed that a quorum of elected members was present at the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 JUNE 2010

(a) Accuracy

- 5 The minutes of the meeting of the Group held on 25 June 2010 were approved as a correct record.

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

B Station financial contribution to SSG meetings (para 7 refers)

- 6 Mr Higginson was pleased to report that agreement had been reached on arrangements for sharing of the costs associated with these meetings between Magnox and EDF Energy.

Revised Constitution and Code of Practice (para 10 refers)

- 7 Cllr Short reported that the NDA had confirmed their acceptance of the revised constitution for this Group.

Hinkley Point A Decommissioning Milestone Dates (para 11 refers)

- 8 Cllr Short said that he had seen a draft of additional information on the various activities covered by the decommissioning milestone dates presented at an earlier meeting. Cllr Short undertook to contact Mr Ledger, Deputy Director, A site, to suggest further detail before the document was made available to all SSG members.

Information on Hinkley Point B Plant Performance (para 14 refers)

- 9 Mr Higginson referred to suggestions made by Cllr Garner for additional information to be provided on the operational performance of Hinkley Point B. He said that consideration had been given to these requests but due to the commercial sensitivity of such information the company was not able to provide the information requested.

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 10 Mr Higginson reported on recent performance and current issues at Hinkley Point B, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) It was now 529 days since the most recent lost time accident on site involving a member of the EDF Energy staff and 986 days since such an accident involving contract partners. It was 971 days since the last reportable nuclear event and 514 days since the last reportable environmental event.
 - (ii) There were 533 full-time EDF Energy employees on the power station site, 29 apprentices and 220 full-time contract staff.
 - (iii) The reactors were currently on load. Both had been shut down since the previous meeting for repair work on turbines. Graphite core inspections had been undertaken before returning Reactor 3 to service. These inspections had confirmed expectations and provided additional confidence in the safety case.

- (iv) There had been two events during the period reportable as Level 1 (an anomaly) on the International Nuclear Event Scale and three events rated at Level 0 (of no safety significance).
 - (v) Earlier in the week of this meeting a fire had occurred in the gas circulator workshop. The work in hand involved plasma cutting of a redundant tank. Initial investigations suggested that the fire, which started during a lunch break period, had been caused by the presence of hot debris from the cutting work inside a vacuum cleaner. The Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service had attended and the fire had been quickly extinguished. There was local damage to the building but no discharge of radioactivity associated with the fire.
 - (vi) The station continued to support a range of local community activities and educational initiatives.
- 11 In reply to a question from Mr Debenham, Mr Higginson said that the graphite core inspections on Reactor 3, together with previous inspections, formed part of an overall programme designed to provide representative information across the entire reactor cores.
- 12 Cllr Garner asked about the circumstances of the reported fatal accident which had occurred at Heysham 1 power station. Mr Higginson said that this tragic accident, the first fatality within the nuclear industry for many years, involved a fall from height through a floor grating which had been removed for operational reasons.
- 13 Cllr Garner drew attention to a notice which he had seen restricting the use of mobile phones on the power station site. He suggested that a better approach would be to ensure that equipment was not affected by mobile phone signals. Mr Higginson said that this approach was adopted progressively as opportunities arose but such work represented a lower priority compared with other safety issues.
- 14 Cllr Garner asked whether the station's net output declared on the website represented a permanent reduction in capability. Mr Higginson said that the current reduction which had been based upon boiler tube safety case considerations was expected to be in force for the foreseeable future.
- 15 In response to a question from Cllr Walker, Mr Higginson described the various types of radioactive waste arising on the power station site and explained the disposal routes for each type.
- 16 Cllr Malim referred to a recent abnormal load which had caused considerable delays to traffic in Stogursey. He asked whether advance notice of such loads could be given, possibly in the form of a notice at Comwich Wharf. Mr Stokes said that there were arrangements for notifying local residents but he undertook to give consideration to this suggestion.

- 17 In reply to a question from Cllr Kellaway-Marriott, Mr Stokes confirmed that notifications of vacancies for apprentices were circulated within North Somerset.
- 18 In response to further comments from Cllr Kellaway-Marriott, Mr Higginson said that during the demonstration by protesters on the access road it would have been possible for emergency services vehicles to gain access to the site if necessary.
- 19 In response to comments from Mr Debenham, Mr Higginson said that preliminary works on the C station site in advance of planning consent would be undertaken at the company's risk in the event of consent not being granted.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - HINKLEY POINT A

- 20 Mr Hughes reported on activities at Hinkley Point A Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) It was now more than 1200 days since the most recent lost time accident on the Site and more than 30 months without a personal contamination event.
 - (ii) The Site had marked the European Health and Safety Week with a number of activities associated with health and safety at home and in the workplace.
 - (iii) The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate was to witness a demonstration of the Site's emergency arrangements on 18 November.
 - (iv) The final fragments of fuel had been despatched from Site at the end of September and the Reactor 1 pond had now been declared as being "fuel free".
 - (v) The final consignment of fuel skips had been sent to the USA for smelting. The metal recovered from this process would be re-used within the nuclear industry.
 - (vi) Work was continuing on the improvement of the secondary containment associated with Intermediate Level Waste settling tanks and the installation of new leak detection instruments. In due course the settling tank contents would be transferred to "Mini-Stores", avoiding the need which had been envisaged for an interim storage arrangement.
 - (vii) Preparations were being made for the possible demolition of the Turbine Hall if funding became available. Talks had been held with EDF on the possibility of using spoil from excavations on the C Site to fill the Turbine Hall basement void. This would avoid the need for spoil from the excavations to be transported along local roads and would save the import of spoil at a later date to infill the Turbine Hall

void. Discussions had also taken place with EDF on the possibility of facilities on the A station site being used for a fabrication workshop for C station.

- (ix) Work was continuing to maintain the integrity of assets which were still required on the site and to remove those which were no longer needed.
 - (x) Following the conclusion of analysis of options for the management of Intermediate Level Wastes, the Site had selected the use of Mini Stores for both wet and solid wastes. This approach was more affordable than the approach using thermal vitrification of wet wastes and was the arrangement being used at all other Magnox South Sites. It would therefore allow sharing of staff and equipment between Sites and provide overall cost savings.
 - (xi) A business case for the re-integration of Magnox North and South into a single site licence company had been accepted by the NDA. The legal formalities were expected to be completed by January 2011 and the re-integration completed by April 2011. Within the proposed new structure Hinkley Point would be grouped with Hunterston and Berkeley in an "optimum cost sites" group.
- 21 Cllr Brown commented that the potential uses identified for the Turbine Hall provided options which could be helpful for all concerned. He was pleased with the selection of Mini Stores as the preferred option for dealing with Intermediate Level Wastes. He asked about the timescale for feedback from Bradwell on the choice of techniques for the dissolution of Magnox fuel element debris. Mr Hughes confirmed that nitric acid was being used at Bradwell; he said that information on Bradwell's experience would be available during the coming year and if necessary he would call a further meeting of the group which had considered the options for Hinkley Point.
- 22 In reply to a question from Mr Debenham, Mr Hughes said that the spoil currently located on the C station site was that which had been excavated for construction of the A station. Cllr Kellaway-Marriott drew attention to the environmental benefits of using this spoil to fill the A station basement void rather than transport it from site.
- 23 In response to a comment from Mr Hudd, Mr Hughes confirmed that the current proposal for storage of intermediate level waste at Hinkley Point was related solely to waste arising on the site. Suggestions put forward by the NDA for waste arisings to be held on other sites were currently the subject of consultation.
- 24 Cllr Short asked that Cllr Brown should be kept informed of any developments in the potential use of the A station Turbine Hall by EDF before the next meeting of this Group.

REPORT FROM THE EMERGENCY PLANNING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

- 25 A report on issues discussed recently by the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee had been circulated to members. There were no matters arising from that report.

REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- 26 Copies of a report from the Environment Agency had been circulated to members. There were no questions raised by members on the report.

NII REPORTS

- 27 Reports from the NII Site Inspectors for Hinkley Point A and B had been circulated to members. No questions were raised by members on these reports.

NDA REPORT

- 28 Mr Mrowicki drew members' attention to the NDA's Draft Strategy which had been published recently for public consultation. The Draft Strategy was available on the NDA website; a limited number of copies were available for members. Mr Mrowicki said that the NDA had published its Strategy in 2006. This revised Draft Strategy had been prepared, following stakeholder engagement, as a basis for consultation. Comments were invited on any aspect of the Strategy; they should be submitted online or by letter, fax or email by 24 November 2010. It was anticipated that the final version of the Strategy would be published by the end of March 2011.
- 29 Mr Mrowicki outlined the main features of the Strategy and associated critical enablers. He emphasised that the draft strategy was not a plan; business plans were published separately each year by the NDA and performance was reported in the annual report and accounts.
- 30 In reply to a question on the next planned use of the A station site, Mr Mrowicki reminded members of the consultation undertaken by SSGs a few years ago on the preferred end states for sites; those identified preferences had been adopted as NDA policy.
- 31 In reply to a question from Mr Hudd on the potential co-location of wastes, Mr Mrowicki said that there were no specific proposals in the draft strategy - this would be a matter to be proposed in business plans if it could be shown to achieve improved value-for-money or environmental benefits. There were no firm proposals at this stage; the intention was to encourage Site Licence Companies and Parent Body Organisations to consider the possible co-location of wastes at regional sites. Implementation of any such proposal would raise planning issues and questions of support for communities hosting such sites. These issues would not be resolved easily but significant savings appeared to be available for the benefit of the country as a whole. Any questions of community benefits would be addressed within the planning system and would require government approval.

- 32 In reply to a question from Mr Debenham, Mr Mrowicki confirmed that the companies proposing the construction of new nuclear stations would pay the NDA for any services it provided for them.
- 33 Cllr Trollope-Bellew asked whether the indicated date for final site clearance would be affected if the site was used for construction of a further power station. Mr Mrowicki said that it might not be necessary to pursue final site clearance and de-licensing if the site was to be used for new nuclear power station construction.
- 34 Cllr Short commented that the programme for Hinkley Point A entering a care and maintenance state appeared to be slipping relative to other sites. Mr Mrowicki said that prioritisation was a complex process; work being done at the accelerated decommissioning sites would benefit other sites in due course.

UPDATE FROM SOMERSET NUCLEAR ENERGY GROUP

- 35 Mr Bamsey reported briefly on recent activities of the Somerset Nuclear Energy Group. He referred to the local authority view that the information provided by EDF for the Stage 2 consultation, particularly in relation to accommodation and transport proposals, had been inadequate. He said that the local authorities were however working in collaboration with EDF to address necessary issues before the planning application was submitted. He said that the planning application would be submitted to the Infrastructure Planning Commission or its successor; other aspects under the Town and Country Planning Act would be submitted via the normal channels. Mr Bamsey pointed out that the Somerset Nuclear Energy Group had invited other local authorities and other groups to join its Group.
- 36 During discussion members emphasised the importance of satisfactory arrangements being established for transport to the site and accommodation for workers. It was questioned whether this was an appropriate forum for discussing new build issues. Cllr Short said that this agenda item was intended merely as a report back from the SNEG meetings which he attended.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

- 37 Cllr Short had circulated to members in advance of the meeting a note on current activities and issues. No issues were raised by members on that report.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

No business

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

- 38 Ms Hellier referred to the decision of Cllr Short not to stand for re-election as Chairman of this Group. She said that nominations had been received for Cllr Caswell to serve as Chairman and Cllr Brown to serve as Deputy Chairman for the coming year. No other nominations had been received.

- 39 It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Caswell and Cllr Brown should be elected as Chairman and Deputy Chairman of this Group respectively for the coming year.
- 40 Mr Higginson and Mr Hughes expressed members' appreciation of the contribution made by Cllr Short as Chairman of this Group and gave him small tokens of their appreciation. Cllr Lynden acknowledged the respect in which Cllr Short was regarded by other SSG Chairman.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- 41 Cllr Caswell said that he intended to arrange for the Sub Group to review the membership of this Group and the arrangements for its meetings in advance of the next meeting.
- 42 It was noted that the next meeting of the Group would be held on Friday 25 February 2011, commencing at 10:00am. The venue for the meeting would be confirmed in due course.

MJD
8 November 2010

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
Dr Kellaway-Marriott	North Somerset
Chris Morgan	West Somerset District Council