



# Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group

## Hinkley Point A Site Director's Report

**22 October 2009 – 19 February 2010**

**Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group Meeting**  
**Friday 26 February**  
**Hinkley Point A Site Director's report for the period**  
**22 October 2009 - 19 February 2010**

## **Safety and Environmental**

The site has now gone 973 days without a Lost Time Accident (LTA) and over 22 months without a personal contamination event.

The site successfully demonstrated its level 1 emergency arrangements on the 29 October 2009 and received a strong adequate pass.

The site re-launched the company behavioural safety programme on the 9 November 2009. The focus of the initiative is quality not quantity and the site held 13 coaching sessions over several weeks with over 180 people taking part. The sessions consisted of training on how to undertake behavioural safety observations and the aim and objectives of the programme. Those taking part also had the chance to engage in role play sessions.

### **1. Hinkley Point A Project Progress**

#### **Asbestos**

Work continues to clear areas identified in the sites asbestos management plan. Work has commenced to remove historical asbestos thermal insulation within the R1 major volume CO2 filter room which, once complete, will be a further step towards the sites goal of removing all remaining asbestos thermal insulation from site. Plans and preparations are well advanced for work to commence within R2 major volume CO2 filter room.

#### **Systems and Structures Preservation Project (S2P2)**

The S2P2 project continues to carry out repairs across the site to ensure ongoing compliance as we move towards Care and Maintenance. Recent achievements have been the over cladding of the non combustible active waste store (NCAW) vent stack, replacement of the 275kV tunnel hatches, replacement of the effluent treatment plant vent discharge stacks and the complete renewal of the R1 Magnox vault ventilation inlet ductwork. Work continues on upgrading the heating systems in various reactor controlled area buildings to prevent future degradation.

#### **Electrical Overlay System Project (EOS)**

The EOS project has made the second connection to the National Grid at Hinkley's substation and has disconnected the first of two redundant site transformers. The remainder of the year has been focusing on the transfer of the electrical systems across to the new EOS system. This work is almost complete and will enable the isolation and final disconnection of the site's old high voltage (HV) system.

### **New 11kV switchgear**

The two new 275kV circuit breakers which were manufactured in the USA were delivered to site in May after factory tests had been carried out. Timely delivery of the new circuit breakers and early placement of the design & installation contract enabled utilisation of the previously mobilised construction work force. Installation of the circuit breakers was completed ahead of schedule and they are now operational and in-service. The project is currently producing the final close-out documentation

### **Settling Tanks Project**

Long term funding for this project has been established. The project is currently carrying out site surveys for the potential location of any new tank structure. Preparatory work to characterise and better understand the settling tank waste is also ongoing, as is work to determine the best available technologies available for external tank inspections.

The current priority is to progress the isolation of the leak detector pit (LDP) associated with the settling tanks. This involves mainly civil work planned to start mid February 2010.

### **Ponds Decommissioning Project**

The ponds decommissioning project has progressed with the final fuel fragment dispatch of R2 Ponds. Fuel Free verification continues on R1 ponds and is now two thirds complete. The trial isolation of the Magnox vaults shows very good initial results.

## **2. Waste Management**

### **Pond Skips**

Since the last SSG meeting, a shipment of contaminated metals was sent in November 2009 to the EnergySolutions Bear Creek facility for metal melting. This shipment comprised of four half height ISO containers containing pond skips and steel for recycling. This shipment completed the disposal of pond skips (around 1500), and leaves the site to process 263 skip store skips. These skip store skips are dimensionally the same as the pond skips, but as a consequence of a different operational history they have an additional layer of paint on them.

At the time of the last meeting the team was engaged in waste characterisation and decontamination trials to determine the most appropriate decontamination process for these skip store skips. This characterisation and trials work was completed during November 2009, with the project team demonstrating that it was possible to decontaminate the skip store skips using the existing ultra high pressure water jetting system, albeit with a few minor changes such as decontamination cycle time. The processing of these skips is now ongoing and scheduled for completion and shipment for metal melting later this calendar year.

A further half height ISO container was sent in November 2009 to the low level waste repository near Drigg in Cumbria. One full height ISO container containing drummed

waste will be sent to Sellafield for drum super-compaction during February 2009, with a further half height ISO container scheduled for despatch to the low level waste repository near Drigg in Cumbria during March.

### **Solid Intermediate Level Waste Management (SILWM)**

Following on from the Solid ILW options assessment panel which concluded with an outcome of dissolution, a programme of trials is progressing to enable appropriate selection of acid for use within the process. Initial trials undertaken include FED/spring sorting and spring dissolution trials. The trials are due to be completed over the coming months.

### **Wet Intermediate Level Waste Management (WILWM)**

The programme of vitrification trials has been concluded. The individual trial reports and laboratory analysis from samples taken are being compiled into a trials summary report to capture the current position and provide recommendations which will be used in the decision making process.

### **ILW MiniStore**

The ILW MiniStores team has now received NDA approval which enables the sites to formally change the baseline from encapsulation to MiniStores, subject to site specific waste/BPEO reviews and regulatory approval. A programme of work has been initiated to start the change process across all the relevant sites across Magnox North and South.

## **3. General**

The site was visited by Stephen Henwood, Chairman of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority in November 2009. Mr Henwood was given a comprehensive tour of the site and positive feedback was received from his visit.

The Nuclear Safety and Environment Council (NSEC) visit the site in January 2010. The NSEC is an internal safety and environmental benchmarking group that periodically visits all Magnox South sites and provides feedback on operations. The council provided very positive feedback to site and was especially pleased with the high level of housekeeping at site, the strategies and work delivery and the quality and commitment of site personnel.

Hinkley continues to support the Bradwell ponds project team with the secondment of a number of trained and experienced workers.

## **4. Company Matters**

### **Magnox South Restructuring Programme**

Work continues on the restructuring of Magnox South that will put in place a structure that will best suit the delivery of future work. Formal consultation with the trade unions has commenced on the proposed Magnox South high level organisational design and target workforce numbers to be achieved by March 2012.

At Hinkley work has now begun to engage with the workforce on the proposed changes, and the site is working in partnership with the trade unions to deliver a new organisational structure for the site going forward.

### **Magnox Fuel Element Debris (FED) treatment programme**

As part of the Magnox fuel element debris (FED) treatment programme an overall Magnox plan is being developed. Hinkley personnel are contributing to this work, which will commence at Bradwell, returning to Hinkley later in the programme.

### **Company innovations campaign - i4**

i4 is the new innovations programme running throughout Magnox North and Magnox South, with awards sponsored by EnergySolutions and the NDA. i4 is being introduced within Magnox South after two years of success in Magnox North. The scheme generated an array of ideas which are helping to develop their working practices and save £9m from their lifetime plan.

Hinkley has submitted ideas to the scheme and is a finalist with the submission of the ROV ponds mini-digger solution. This involved the use of a customised non-specialist hydraulic mini-digger to clear waste debris and sludge from the floor of the cooling ponds without the requirement to drain. The finals are being held in Chester on the 25 February 2010.

## **5. Community Relations**

### **Charity of the year**

Since the last meeting the site has continued to work hard to raise money for our site charity of the year, Ups and Down Southwest. A range of fund raising activities have been taking place at site and the total raised so far this year is £10,259. The site is currently running a 'slimathon', where staff sign up to lose weight whilst raising money for the charity. The fundraiser is being run in conjunction with the site occupational health department and aims to promote healthy living whilst supporting a good cause. It is hoped that the total raised for Ups and Down Southwest will exceed £11,000 by the end of the financial year.

### **Educational Support**

The site continues to promote the teaching of science and engineering and hosted two visits from students studying electronics at Tiverton College, North Devon. The students were given a presentation and a tour focusing on the site's electrical overlay system.

Members of the site HR and Communications Team also visited Shapwick School recently to help run mock interviews for students providing a real life interview experience.

### **Business Breakfast**

As part of the sites ongoing commitment to openness and transparency with its stakeholders, a business breakfast is being planned for the 26 March 2010 and will be

held at the Exchange conference centre. Invitations to the event have now been sent out to a range of stakeholders.

### **Magnox South Socio-economic Scheme**

The Bridgwater Challenge has again been successful in its bid to the Magnox South Socio-economic Development Scheme. The project has been awarded a further £30,000. This takes the total funding allocated from the scheme to £65,000. John Veith (Magnox South, Head of Supply Chain) and Gemma Coombs (Communications Support Officer at Hinkley A) presented a cheque to Anthony Gibson and Cllr Ann Fraser in January 2010.

More information on the Bridgwater challenge can be found at -

[www.bridgwaterchallenge.org.uk](http://www.bridgwaterchallenge.org.uk)

The 2009-10 socio-economic scheme is now closed. Further information on the 2010-11 scheme will be made available at [www.magnoxsouthsites.com](http://www.magnoxsouthsites.com) in due course.

### **Parent Body Organisation Sponsorship**

Since the last meeting we have supported the following community groups through the *EnergySolutions* sponsorship and donations policy:

- Timerscombe cricket club (weather proof mats)
- PALS swimming club (funds to train a life guard)
- Durleigh sailing club (purchase of new sail)
- Milverton School (funding for display boards)