



Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group

**Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group Meeting
Friday 22 February 2013**

1. SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Our Safety performance remains consistent we have not had a lost time accident for 69 months and a personal contamination event for 58 months.

We strive for continuous improvement in Health and Safety, one of our safety initiatives for this year is 'Safe Working @ Height', training sessions are being rolled out to all Staff and Contractors who, work at height or manage people who work at height.

Letter from the EA

The site unfortunately has been issued with a warning letter from the Environment Agency as a result of the loss of acid event in the CTP. Given the nature of the event, this was not unexpected. It has also been recognised that the understanding of compliance with environmental regulations around site could be improved and the Environment team are currently working on raising awareness, which will be rolled out across site in the coming weeks.

Hinkley Point A 2015 Periodic Safety Review (PSR)

The regulatory ten yearly review of safety continues. All plant walk downs have been performed and the associated reports produced. Production of the technical reports is well underway and the site is beginning to categorise the issues arising from the review process.

2. DECOMMISSIONING PROGRESS

Interim Storage Facility (ISF)

The detailed design for the ISF is progressing and is expected to be completed by March 2013. A section 73 amendment to the original planning application for the ISF was granted in July 2012. The dimensions of the proposed ISF are considerably smaller than the previously proposed intermediate level waste (ILW) store.

Construction will commence on completion of the detailed design and is expected to take approximately one year. Currently a delay to the start of construction is likely to enable lessons learned to be gained from other sites. In addition, because a Buffer store is being constructed for the Wet ILW recovery project (see below) the ISF is not required until mid-2015. As a result, construction of the ISF is not likely to start until early 2014.

The ISF will contain Hinkley Point A's entire ILW inventory which will be stored in MiniStores until the deep Geological Disposal Facility becomes available. Work to modify the existing foundation slab to accommodate the ISF has been completed.

Fuel Element Debris (FED).

The project team has been firmly established with an office at site, and additional support being provided from the Berkeley office. No site work has been undertaken to date; the team is focused currently on the initial optioneering of the retrieval and sorting requirements of the waste prior to its dissolution. The team has gathered learning from other relevant projects and in particular from Bradwell where the lead dissolution plant is under construction. This plant is expected to commence operations in the latter part of 2013 and the operational experience will be reviewed before any significant work is undertaken on the design of the dissolution plant for Hinkley.

The initial optioneering studies for FED retrieval and sorting have been completed and a further contract placed with one company to work with Magnox to develop the conceptual

designs. Design work is scheduled to continue through the summer with non-active trials of several technologies planned to be performed. It is also the intent to commence some active retrieval trials on the wet vaults; these trials will help to improve the characterisation of the waste, and provide some indication as to whether manual sorting of the wastes is practicable or whether a degree of automation will be required.

Initial safety documentation has been prepared and presented to the Site Decommissioning Committee; briefings have been held for NDA and ONR representatives.

Ponds

The Reactor two (R2) Despatch Bay remains drained. Progress on the drain of the R2 Pond is going well and we have lowered the Pond water level by approximately 2.7 meters (the Pond depth started at approximately 6 meters). Water discharges will continue until the Pond is fully drained and this milestone could be achieved as early as June 2013. The Project have developed an innovative way of cleaning the Pond walls as the water level is being reduced by recycling the Pond water through its cleaning system. This avoids the addition of clean water into this process which would then need to be progressed through the sites Pond Water Treatment Plant.

The Reactor One (R1) Despatch Bay trial drain has been completed. The clean-up of this area is progressing. The decontamination process to be utilised in R1 pond is still to be determined, it will require a more aggressive method than that in use on the other Pond. The assessment will review the results of some decontamination trials that will be undertaken in the sites Decontamination Building in the next few months.

Decontamination trials are to be conducted on metals and concrete. The trials will include the use of a standard computer numerical controller (CNC), controlled milling machine to decontaminate metals and a process termed Nitrocision to decontaminate some concrete samples. The milling machine trials should provide a technology that can reduced ILW waste to LLW or potentially suitable for metal melt recycling. The Nitrocision process would be considered as part of a Best Practical Means (BPM) study for deployment in the R1 Pond as part of the drain down programme.

De-planting has commenced in the Flask to Ponds Transit bays, these are the plant areas where the road transport flasks were processed for shipment off site containing the reactor fuel, the de-planting work will remove several tonnes of contaminated plant and is scheduled to complete in early April.

Systems and Structures Preservation Project

Work continues across the site in a range of areas. This includes work to various pieces of plant where required, including recent improvement works to the Plant Status Monitoring System. Current work includes relining of a water tank and demolition and removal of a series of ageing covered walks and prefabricated buildings. Work completed in this period include; re-covering of the Sludge Canning Building roof, civil inspections of the site's active waste water tanks and inspections of the storm drains. Disposal of the Shield Cooling Stacks have made a significant contribution to the site's diverted metal waste targets.

Asbestos

Management of the site's legacy asbestos is a key priority. Bulk asbestos removal from the plant has now been completed. The project is now processing the waste for disposal at licenced sites. Physical work is due to be complete by the end of this financial year followed by close out during 2013/14 financial year.

Wet ILW recovery

The site has just started a project to recover the waste inventory from settling tanks one, two and three and temporarily store it in MiniStores to await a processing campaign in the medium term. This portion of the intermediate level waste recovery programme is an acceleration of previously planned work due to the current tanks nearing the end of their useful design life. The regulator has asked for a milestone for the completion of this work (LC35 milestone) by March 2014.

A concept design package for the attachment to the MiniStores has been let and the work to successfully transfer resins from settling tank nine to settling tank eight will help inform the basis of the design for the equipment to recover the wastes from settling tanks one, two and three. A temporary buffer store is required as the ISF is unlikely to be completed in time; this is likely to be a temporary quick erect weather shield located near the low level waste processing building (201).

Car Park Project

The detailed design has been completed and the contractor mobilised for construction in early November 2012. Since mobilising, progress has been steady with the bulk earthworks and re-profiling the site complete, excavation and pouring of foundations well under way and the erection of the structure has started. Some additional delays have been experienced; including weather and protester action, and the completion of the car park is now planned for early April 2013.

Site Security Separation Project

Quadrant Security Group Ltd have mobilised on site and are progressing well with the installation of the sites new security and access control systems. Pollards have also mobilised and are progressing with the groundwork's for the sites new reception building. The building is currently being fabricated off site and is due to be delivered to site on 26 February 2013.

The relicensing of the sites was completed at the end of October 2012 and the resulting works associated with the re-provision of services to the welfare block have been completed.

3. WASTE MANAGEMENT

This time last year the Bear Creek facility in the USA was storing 13 half-height ISO freight containers worth of contaminated pond skips consigned from Hinkley Point A (119te skips + 39te ISOs) total 158 tonnes all scheduled to be melted by December 2015. Thanks to a concerted effort to accelerate this programme all this material was melted during the spring 2012 and autumn 2012 melt campaigns.

In October 2012, one full-height ISO freight container (FHISO) containing 45 drums of solid LLW was despatched to Sellafield's Waste Monitoring and Compaction facility (WAMAC) for Supercompaction and subsequent disposal to the national LLW repository. Supercompaction reduces the waste volume five or six fold.

The site continues to take advantage of the Exemption Order to dispose of what was previously radioactive asbestos, but which now qualifies as "Out of Scope" material and during 2012 approximately 139 tonnes of asbestos was removed from site and disposed to landfill.

Our site target of diverting 43 tonnes of metal from disposal at the national LLW repository was exceeded by 10 tonnes to date. Included in this was almost 30 tonnes total this year, approximately 479 tonnes of non-radioactive waste have been despatched from site, 29 tonnes of metal from two redundant cooling stacks dispatched off site for recycling.

4. COMPANY MATTERS

Following the major earthquake and consequential tsunami which hit the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant on 11th March 2011, a review was initiated to assess the vulnerability of the site to such events and identify how to increase the resilience of the site to withstand them as part of a Company-wide project. The review was performed in accordance with the requirements of the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) and the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and was issued in October 2011. Five areas were identified for further consideration, in common with all other Magnox Sites in a similar stage of decommissioning, which were subsequently developed into 41 detailed actions in company-wide workshops.

The Site has been found to be robust against extreme events and so no major modifications to the site are proposed. Nevertheless, in response to the 41 detailed actions, a number of enhancements to the equipment and arrangements for dealing with extreme events have been identified. The equipment includes a beyond design basis container of specialist emergency equipment, satellite phones, a portable generator, portable flood barriers and a portable pump. Various enhancements to operating instructions and emergency procedures have also been identified and are currently being implemented.

The competition for the management of the Magnox Limited and Research Sites Restoration Limited (RSRL) Parent Body Organisation PBO contract is underway. Those involved in the competition are NDA, RSRL, Magnox Executive team, the sites and the Bidders.

The site has hosted a number of visits since the last meeting, Gary Voorheis the Chief Operating Officer for Decommissioning sites visited the site earlier in the month, John Collinson the Waste Director has been on site and Phil Sprague the Intermediate Level Waste Programme Director, Paul Mountford Lister Environment Agency Nuclear Regulator and Ian Parker the Environment Agency Nuclear Regulation Manager have also visited Hinkley since the last meeting.

Final smelting of the 1739 skips taken from Hinkley is now complete; this signifies the end of a long journey and the culmination of a lot of hard work since the final skip removal in 2010,

In support of the site split Magnox have a contract with Profile Security Services who will provide a guard force for the A Site. The new guards started earlier this month.

5. COMMUNITY NEWS

Charity of the year

The chosen charity for this financial year is Taunton Opportunity Group (TOG) this is a pre-school for children with learning difficulties. Fundraising has continued for the charity and more than ten thousand pounds has been raised. The group of keen cyclists who took on the challenge to cycle from Lands' End back to Hinkley raise an amazing £5949.16 the group were supported and encouraged by all on site. The fundraising for TOG is now almost complete and nominations will be put forward for the site charity for 2013/14 in the near future.

Socio-economic

The new socio-economic scheme for Magnox was launched in April.

The new scheme is web based and can be accessed at www.magnoxsocioeconomic.com All applications from £1 to £100,000+ should be submitted through this system.

Funding applications will be assessed individually against a set of pre-defined criteria; once this has been done applications will then be reviewed against location and the Magnox prioritisation list, as outlined in the Magnox socio-economic development plan, which is

available online: <http://www.magnoxsites.com/publications/company-information>

The defined criteria set by the NDA are:

- Employment
- Education and Skills
- Economic and Social Infrastructure
- Economic Diversification

All of our socio-economic activity needs to support the NDA's socio-economic policy, the aim of which is to 'mitigate the impact of decommissioning'.

So far there have been over 302 applications to the scheme. More than £300,000 has been donated to various projects including a total of over £27,500 to projects near Hinkley. A recent project that has been supported in the area is the Bridgwater Education Trust; this scheme will receive £18,500 this year with a further £9,550 in 2014 and 2015.