

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at the Hinkley Point C Site Reception Building On Friday 17 February 2012

Present

<u>Cllr M Caswell (Chairman)</u>	-	Stockland Bristol
Mr B Hughes	-	Site Director, Hinkley Point A
Mr P Higginson	-	Technical Safety and Support Manager, Hinkley Point B

Elected Members

Cllr C Allen	-	Cannington Parish Council
<u>Cllr M Brown</u>	-	Otterhampton Parish Council
Mr D Chapple	-	Bridgwater Trades Union Council
<u>Mr A Debenham</u>	-	Stop Hinkley
Cllr J Edney	-	Somerset County Council
<u>Cllr Ms A Frazer MBE</u>	-	Sedgmoor District Council
Cllr R Garner	-	North Somerset Council
Mr G Goodenough	-	Bridgwater Trades Union Council
Cllr Ms S Goss	-	West Somerset District Council
Mr C Graham	-	Green Party
Cllr P Grierson	-	West Somerset District Council
Cllr N Harrison	-	Wembdon Parish Council
Cllr M Hogg	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council
Cllr A Keen	-	Kilve Parish Council
Cllr P Knibb	-	Bawdrip Parish Council
Cllr C Morgan	-	West Somerset District Council
Ms B Oates	-	West Hinkley Action Group
Cllr J Parham	-	Somerset County Council
Ms N Redfern	-	National Farmers' Union
<u>Cllr M Short</u>	-	Fiddington Parish Council
Mr K Ter Braak	-	Friends of Quantock
Cllr A Trollope-Bellew	-	Somerset County Council
Cllr T Williams	-	Kilve Parish Council
Cllr Ms D Wilson	-	Spaxton Parish Council

Co-opted Members

Mr J Walker	-	Co-opted Member
Miss B Child	-	Co-opted Member

Appointed Members

Mr J Burrows	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr G McMeekan	-	Environment Agency
Mr D Bamsey	-	Sedgmoor District Council
Ms N Dawson	-	Somerset County Council
Mr J Phillips	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Dr J Crossland	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
EDF Energy		
Mr G Bell	-	Public Relations Officer
Mr D Stokes	-	Community Liaison Officer
Mr M Speed	-	Hinkley B LJC Representative
Mr D Hill	-	Environmental Safety Group Head
Magnox		
Ms J Hellier	-	Communications Support
Mr D Williams	-	Head of Environment
Mr S Payne	-	Communications Officer
Mr K Ellett	-	Trades Union Representative

In Attendance

Mr J Dalton	-	Department of Energy and Climate Change
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; no issues were raised.

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 It was noted that Mr Chapple and Mr Goodenough would in future attend as alternate members representing the Bridgwater Trades Union Council.
- 3 Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Harrison, Mr B James, Cllr D Peaster, Mr H Ricard, Mrs J Brown, Cllr N Caville, Mr P Kennedy, Dr P Mountford-Lister, Mr B Slade and Sgt S Crago.
- 4 It was confirmed that there was a quorum of elected members present at the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 OCTOBER 2011

(a) Accuracy

- 5 The minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2011 were approved as a correct record.

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

A Station review of risk assessments (para 7 refers)

- 6 Mr Hughes reported that an improvement plan was in place and was scheduled for completion by the summer. He would report on completion and the benefits achieved in due course.

Allegations of illegal disposal of waste (para 25 refers)

- 7 It was noted that the allegations of illegal disposal of radioactive waste on the Hinkley Point C site which had been made via the Stop Hinkley group had been subject to an independent investigation by the Environment Agency. The allegations had been found to be groundless. A detailed report produced by the Agency could be made available to members on request.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

- 8 It had been agreed at the previous meeting that part of this meeting should be regarded as an Extraordinary General Meeting for the purpose of completing discussions on a review of membership and related issues discussed at the Annual General Meeting.
- 9 Cllr Brown reminded members of the review of the membership of this Group which had been undertaken. The proposals for changes in the membership had been developed in consultation with organisations represented in the membership. The proposals represented a reduction in the numbers of voting and non-voting members.
- 10 The revised proposals for voting and non-voting membership of this Group as circulated to members in advance of the meeting in Appendix A and Appendix B respectively were approved unanimously.
- 11 Cllr Brown drew attention to proposed changes to the Group's codes of practice which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The changes related to reporting by members on matters discussed at meetings of the Group and the nomination of substitutes in the event of a member being unable to attend a meeting. These proposed changes to the codes of practice were approved unanimously.

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 12 On behalf of Mr Harrison, 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 and no significant events since the last meeting. It was now more than 1000 days since the most recent incident involving time lost from work by an EDF Energy employee and more than 1450 days since such an incident involving a contract partner.
- (ii) Electricity production since the time of the previous meeting had been 0.92 TWh; this period that included the shutdown of Reactor 4 for statutory maintenance and inspections and two shutdowns of Reactor 3 for repair work.
- (iii) Work undertaken during the Reactor 4 statutory outage had included the inspection of 31 channels of the graphite reactor core. The results of these inspections had been in line with expectations and had demonstrated the safety of the core. Boiler tube bifurcations and associated welds had also been inspected; repairs had been carried out on a small number of welds but there had been no significant adverse inspection findings. The results of all inspections were reported to the Office for Nuclear Regulation which had subsequently given its consent to allow the Reactor to be returned to service.
- (iv) The Reactor 4 statutory outage represented an investment of over £35 million in the plant. Maintenance work included the replacement of a station transformer and the exchange of four gas circulators. A super-articulated control rod, which had been developed as part of the enhancement of the diverse shutdown system, had been removed for inspections. Those inspections had given satisfactory results and the control rod had been returned to the reactor. The next stage was progressively to replace 12 control rods with these super-articulated rods. During this outage pipework had been installed to allow injection of nitrogen from the new plant which was being provided as another part of the enhancement of the diverse shutdown system.
- (v) The electricity produced by Reactor 3 since the last meeting represented 63% of the potential production on which the station's business plan for this reactor was based. This performance reflected the two unplanned shutdowns for repair work. The electricity produced by Reactor 4 represented 87% of the potential production on which the business plan for this reactor was based. The business plan for Reactor 4 took account of the statutory overhaul outage; if allowance was not made for the statutory outage the load factor for Reactor 4 during the period would be 20% of the maximum potential energy production from the unit for this period.

13 In reply to a question from Cllr Short, Mr Higginson said that the station's load factor performance was based upon a rated unit power of 435 MW, not the

original design capacity of 660 MW. In reply to a question from Cllr Garner, Mr Higginson said that this figure of 435 MW represented the electricity sent out from the station – to achieve this the reactor was generating some 465 MW.

- 14 Mr Debenham welcomed the investment in work which would improve the safety of the plant but questioned whether this represented value for money in view of the anticipated date of closure of the station. Mr Higginson said that the currently planned closure date was 2016 but decisions on investments to maintain and enhance nuclear safety were not affected by the potential remaining operating life. In reply to a further question from Mr Debenham, Mr Higginson said that the programme of graphite channel inspections was designed to give a representative sample and included re-inspection of channels previously inspected to examine for any potential changes. The programme was designed in consultation with the Regulator and took account of inspections undertaken within the similar reactors at Hunterston B.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A

- 15 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 4½ years since the most recent lost time accident on the site and more than 46 months without a personal contamination event. Vigorous efforts were made to maintain this level of performance and guard against complacency.
 - (ii) Plant enhancements to support the continued storage of the current contents within Settling Tanks 1, 2 and 3 had been completed. The contents were to be recovered and processed as part of the mini stores programme in 2014. Proposals for the establishment of an interim storage facility for the mini stores were consistent with this timescale.
 - (iii) Design work for the interim storage facility was nearing completion. Construction was planned for 2013 and this facility would hold the entire site inventory of intermediate level wastes in mini store containers until the deep geological disposal facility became available.
 - (iv) The programme of work for removal of bulk asbestos was nearing completion and would be completed during the coming financial year.
 - (v) The transfer of material from the C station site to the A Site Turbine Hall had been completed. This had amounted to 4200 lorry loads of material and the exercise had therefore avoided 8400 lorry journeys (loaded and empty) on local roads. Discussions with EDF Energy and the NDA on potential future uses of the Turbine Hall were continuing.

- (vi) Planning permission had been granted for construction of a car park. Tenders for carrying out the necessary work were currently being assessed. Construction was scheduled to start in May with completion by the end of the year.
 - (vii) Good progress had been made with preliminary work necessary to carry out de-planting of the reactor buildings.
 - (viii) A trial drain-down of a flask despatch bay within the Reactor 2 ponds had commenced. Some of the underwater equipment had been removed. This trial would provide valuable information which would be relevant to the draining of the main Reactor 2 pond. A similar trial on Reactor 1 despatch bay was planned to commence during the coming month.
 - (ix) Work was continuing on a design for a fuel element debris dissolution plant. It was envisaged that proposals would be available for discussion with stakeholders during the coming summer.
 - (x) NDA personnel had visited the Site during January to carry out an assurance review covering operating rules and environmental improvement. The arrangements on the site were found to be good with only a few minor issues identified.
 - (xi) Implementation of a revised structure would result in a reduction in numbers of staff employed within the Site's organisation. Some personnel were transferring to project work within the company, some of which work might be carried out at Hinkley Point A Site. Only one individual had not yet been placed within the revised structures.
- 16 Cllr Allen and Cllr Short drew attention to the potential benefits of using the A Site Turbine Hall for C station construction purposes. Mr Hughes said that the discussions between the various parties were ongoing; he said that a decision on the potential use of this facility was not critical to the overall construction programme at this stage.
- 17 In reply to a question from Mr Graham, Mr Hughes explained that the "deep dive" assurance review undertaken by the NDA had checked that principles and requirements within safety cases were properly reflected in operating rules and working instructions, and that requirements were understood and implemented by suitably qualified and experienced personnel.
- 18 In reply to questions from Mr Debenham, Mr Hughes said that the characterisation of the radioactivity within the cooling pond flask despatch bays would provide information for decisions on actions to be taken in the further decommissioning of the pond area. He said that most of the waste arising from decontamination work within the ponds area would be low level waste. In reply to

a question from Cllr Short, Mr Hughes said he anticipated that it would be possible to discharge water from the cooling ponds within the Site's discharge authorisation.

- 19 In reply to questions from Mr Chapple, Mr Hughes said that the individual who had not yet been placed within revised organisational structures was not facing compulsory redundancy. He said that there were approximately 70 contract and agency staff normally employed on the site.
- 20 In reply to a question from Cllr Williams Mr Hughes said that the effluent treatment plant was still working normally as it had done during operations; this plant area represented a significant maintenance workload.
- 21 In response to comments from Ms Oates on support previously given to the Parish Council towards production of the Stogursey Parish News, Mr Hughes said that an application for further support could be made under the Magnox scheme.

UPDATE ON MAGNOX SOCIO-ECONOMIC SCHEME

- 22 Ms Coombs provided an update on changes in the socio-economic support scheme operated by Magnox Ltd. With the combination of Magnox North and Magnox South a new scheme was being introduced to manage all applications for support on behalf of the NDA and Energy Solutions on a consistent basis. The scheme would be managed via an online system accessed from the Magnox website. All applications would be assessed against the NDA's socio-economic policy and different arrangements would be made for the assessment of different levels of funding requests. Ms Coombs would remain the point of contact for applications relating to Hinkley Point A. The new scheme would be launched on 1 April.
- 23 In reply to a question from Cllr Edney, Mr Phillips said that the existence of match funding was not necessarily a requirement but the ability to attract match funding would be taken into account in assessing an application. Ms Coombs confirmed that help would be given to applicants who were unable to access the computer-based scheme.

REPORT FROM THE EMERGENCY PLANNING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

- 24 A report on the meeting of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee held on 1 February 2012 had been made available to members. Mr Higginson invited questions from members. In response to comments from Cllr Edney on actions taken in response to protests, Mr Higginson confirmed that the protest at the main gates to the site in October had passed without incident.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- 25 A report from the Environment Agency had been circulated to members. Mr McMeekan invited questions from members. Referring to the independent investigation of allegations that radioactive waste from Hinkley Point A had been disposed of illegally on the Hinkley Point C site, Cllr Short asked about the costs of these investigations. Mr McMeekan confirmed that the costs of the investigations undertaken by the Agency were charged back to the Hinkley Point A Site; none of the costs were charged to those who had made the allegations.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORTS

- 26 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 various inspection activities during the past quarter, the activities associated with giving consent for start-up of the reactor after its statutory overall and the satisfactory completion of exercises of the emergency arrangements. Cllr Short commented that the information provided on the regulatory involvement in the statutory outage should provide the public with confidence in the arrangements.

REPORT FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 27 Mr Phillips reported on matters of current interest to the NDA, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The NDA's business plan had been the subject of consultation and would be published formally at the end of March. Priorities remained on dealing with the hazards at Sellafield and Dounreay but a healthy level of funding was provided for the Magnox sites.
 - (ii) A preferred bidder had been identified in the competition for a new parent body organisation for the Dounreay site. Potential bidders had been required to demonstrate how they would achieve reductions in costs. Information on the competition for management of the Magnox, Harwell and Winfrith sites would be made available during the summer.

UPDATE FROM DECC - MANAGING RADIOACTIVE WASTE SAFELY PROCESS

- 28 Mr Dalton provided an update on the government's Managing Radioactive Waste Safely process. He referred to the recommendation of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management to adopt deep geological disposal and to implement this in partnership with volunteer host communities. He said that discussions with volunteer communities were proceeding and that there still

remained opportunities for other communities to volunteer to act as host for the deep geological facility.

SOMERSET NUCLEAR ENERGY GROUP

- 29 Cllr Ms Frazer reported briefly on matters considered by the Somerset Nuclear Energy Group. At its meeting in January the Group had received an update from EDF Energy and a presentation by the Environment Agency on permits which would be needed for a new station.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

- 30 A report by Cllr Caswell on his activities as Chairman of this group had been made available to members. Cllr Caswell invited comments on his report. No issues were raised by members.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 31 Cllr Short referred to information on death rates in local areas which he had received from the Primary Care Trust. The information he had received showed that for 2009 death rates in West Somerset and Sedgemoor were in line with national averages and there were no peak rates in any areas.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 32 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group would be held on Friday 29 June 2012. The venue for the meeting would be confirmed in due course.

MJD

26 February 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