

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at Hinkley Point B Station Induction Centre on Friday 25 June 2010

Present

<u>Cllr M Short (Chairman)</u>	-	Fiddington Parish Council
Mr R Ledger	-	Deputy Site Director, Hinkley Point A
Mr N Cann	-	Station Director, Hinkley Point B

Elected Members

<u>Cllr M Brown</u>	-	Otterhampton Parish Council
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<u>Cllr M Caswell (Vice-Chairman)</u>	-	Stockland Bristol
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<u>Mr A Debenham</u>	-	Stop Hinkley
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Cllr K Dyer	-	Sedgemoor District Council
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Cllr J Edwards	-	Spaxton Parish Council
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<u>Cllr Ms A Fraser</u>	-	Sedgemoor District Council
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Cllr R Garner	-	North Somerset Council
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<u>Cllr Ms D Hill</u>	-	Sedgemoor District Council
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Cllr M Hogg	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council
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Cllr N Jones	-	Sedgemoor District Council
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<u>Cllr Dr M Kellaway-Marriott</u>	-	North Somerset Council
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Cllr S Kingham	-	Sedgemoor District Council
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Cllr P Malim OBE	-	Stogursey Parish Council
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<u>Cllr C Morgan</u>	-	West Somerset District Council
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Mr K ter Braak	-	Friends of Quantock
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<u>Cllr P Tipney</u>	-	West Somerset District Council
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Cllr J Walker	-	West Somerset District Council
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Cllr R Western	-	Wembdon Parish Council
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Mrs S Goss	-	West Hinkley Action Group
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Appointed Members

Dr D Warner	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
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Mr G Dennis	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
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Mr J Burrows	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
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Mr S Bray	-	Health & Safety Executive
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Mr D Withey	-	Environment Agency
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Mr G McMeekan	-	Environment Agency
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Ms N Dawson	-	Somerset County Council
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Co-opted member

Mr B Slade	-	Co-opted Member
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British Energy

Mr P Higginson	-	Technical and Safety Support Manager
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Mr G Bell	-	Public Relations Officer
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Mr D Stokes	-	Human Resources Advisor
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Mr B Eyley	-	Site Inspector
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Mr D Hill	-	Environmental Safety Group Head
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Magnox South

Ms J Hellier	-	Communications Support
Mr R Adcock	-	Head of Environment
Mr D McCubbin	-	Environmental Specialist

In Attendance

Mr M J Davis	-	Secretary
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Members of the Waste Sub Group and Steering/Agenda 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 It was noted that Councils had confirmed the nominations of their representatives on this Group. Cllr Short introduced Mr R Ledger who had been appointed as Deputy Site Director, Hinkley Point A, in succession to Mr Watkins. Mr P Malin and Mr G Dennis introduced themselves as they were attending a meeting of this Group for the first time.
- 3 It was unanimously agreed that Mr B Slade, who had previously attended meetings of this Group as representative of Stogursey Parish Council, should be co-opted to membership of the Group.
- 4 Apologies for absence were received from Mr B Hughes, Cllr C Allen, Cllr D Bamsey, Mr A Dyer, Mr T Howes, Mr G Hudd , Cllr I Hunter, Cllr Ms A Palmer, Cllr A Trollope-Bellew, Cllr D Yeomans, Cllr T Williams, Mr C Thompson, Miss B Child and Mr C Graham. Cllr Dr Kellaway-Marriott pointed out that the attendance record sheet which had been circulated to all members contained an error as it indicated that he had been absent from the meeting in October 2009 when he had in fact been present.
- 5 It was confirmed that a quorum of elected members was present at the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2010

(a) Accuracy

- 6 The minutes of the meeting of the Group held on 26 February 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)

- 7 Cllr Short said it was hoped that meetings to be held in the near future would resolve this outstanding matter.

Attendance of Observers at Emergency Exercises (para 8 refers)

- 8 It was noted that Cllr Caswell had been unable to attend on the day of the scheduled emergency exercise but arrangements would be made for him to attend on a future occasion.

Correspondence between the NII and Mrs Brown (para 9 refers)

- 9 Mr Burrows reported that the NII had written to Mrs Brown on the outstanding point from the earlier correspondence. He undertook to make a copy of this reply available to the SSG secretariat.

Revised Constitution and Code of Practice (para 51 refers)

- 10 It was noted that confirmation of the NDA's acceptance of the revised constitution for the Group had still not been received. Dr Warner undertook to pursue this matter.

Hinkley Point A Decommissioning Milestone Dates (para 28 refers)

- 11 Cllr Short said that Mr Hughes had agreed to provide further information on the various activities covered by the milestone dates set out in the attachment to the minutes of the previous meeting.

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 12 Mr Cann reported on recent performance and current issues at Hinkley Point B, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) During the past 12 months there had been no environmental, industrial safety or nuclear safety events reportable against the station's top tier indicators.
 - (ii) In planning future manpower requirements, account was taken of the age profile of the staff and the potential recruitment of the station's staff for work on the new build. Sixteen apprentices were to be recruited in September; these were in addition to the existing eighteen apprentices at the station. All of the station's training programmes were due to receive accreditation in December.
 - (iii) The station had received the RoSPA President's Award in recognition of performance over the past 10 years.

- (iv) The Fire Service had been summoned to the site when a small fire had occurred in an outbuilding.
 - (v) Reactor 3 had been in continuous operation since the date of the previous meeting. Reactor 4 had returned to service on 4 March following a planned shutdown which had included turbine bearing refurbishment and graphite core inspections; it had operated consistently since that time.
 - (vi) On 17 June the station had participated in EdF's Green Britain Day which had been aimed at raising awareness of climate change issues; activities had included a beach clean up.
 - (vii) The station continued to support a range of local community activities and educational initiatives with local schools.
- 13 Mr Stokes pointed out that from August the station was to issue a monthly newsletter. Anyone wishing to receive a copy should contact Mr Stokes.
- 14 Cllr Garner undertook to discuss with Mr Stokes his suggestions for improved presentation of technical information on plant performance.
- 15 In response to a question from Cllr Brown on the extent of inspections of the Reactor 4 graphite core, Mr Cann said that 18 channels had been inspected during the outage earlier this year; a further 13 channels were planned to be inspected early next year. Together these inspections represented 10% of a reactor core. The channels to be inspected were identified in order to give a representative selection or to revisit channels previously inspected. The inspection programme was arranged in consultation with the NII and this work was co-ordinated closely with the sister station at Hunterston B.
- 16 Mr Debenham referred to comments in the report provided for members which said that reactor inspections had found conditions "as expected". He asked whether inspection results were graded as being good or just satisfactory. Mr Cann explained that safety cases gave technical justifications and provided bounding parameters for the properties of materials. Inspection results were compared with safety case parameters as a basis for making judgements. Inspection results were assessed within the company and the NII. The reactors would not be operated if there was any concern over inspection results.
- 17 Cllr Caswell asked whether Hinkley Point B might be expected to recruit and train the teams of staff required for manning the new power station. Mr Cann said that this approach would not be practicable due to the technical differences between the plants. He did however expect some B Station staff to be recruited to work on the new station and was preparing his plans to cover such circumstances.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - HINKLEY POINT A

- 18 Mr Ledger reported on activities at Hinkley Point A Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) It was now more than 1100 days since the most recent lost time accident on the Site and more than 26 months without a personal contamination event. The station had received its fifth consecutive President's Award from RoSPA in recognition of its industrial safety performance.
 - (ii) The site had introduced a number of security improvements including a PIN system for site access and a "lock-down system" to secure the site in the event of any unauthorised incursion. The security arrangements had been demonstrated to the regulator in a recent exercise.
 - (iii) The verification that there was no fuel remaining in the Reactor 1 ponds was now 70% complete; systems were being prepared for the despatch of any fuel fragments. Reactor 2 ponds had already been verified as being free of fuel.
 - (iv) Work was continuing on the improvement of the secondary containment of Settling Tanks 1, 2 and 3 and the existing tanks were being inspected; leak detection instrumentation was being improved. The total volume of these tanks was 80 cubic metres.
 - (v) The electrical overlay system had been completed and now provided the electrical supplies for the Site. This enabled all the old cabling to be removed and provided a safer environment for decommissioning work.
 - (vi) Preparatory work was in hand to enable the Turbine Hall to be demolished later in the year if funding became available.
 - (vii) Decontamination and size reduction of the fuel skips held in the skip store had been completed. They would be despatched to the USA for smelting and recycling by the end of the summer. There was no facility to carry out this smelting in the UK.
 - (viii) A number of stakeholders, including representatives of this Group, had attended an optioneering study for the management of intermediate level wastes as part of the evaluation of options for the use of "mini stores". A report was currently being prepared.
 - (ix) Agreement had been reached on organisational structures for Magnox South. The implementation of these structures might be affected by current discussions on the possible re-combination of Magnox South and Magnox North.

- (x) A remotely operated vehicle developed and used at the Site had won first place in an innovations competition within the company.
 - (xi) Hinkley Point A staff had raised over £11,000 for a Downs Syndrome charity during the past year.
- 19 In response to questions from Cllr Dr Kellaway Marriott and Mr Malim, Mr Ledger said that demolition of the Turbine Hall would create a void by exposing the basement. Waste materials from the demolition would be put into this void where possible. Some metals would be removed from the site for recycling but there would not be a large increase in the volume of traffic.
- 20 Cllr Brown said he felt that the intermediate level waste management study had been very well organised. Options had been assessed against a large number of different attributes and the assessments of the various stakeholders had been similar.
- 21 Cllr Short referred to an e-mail from Mrs Brown requesting that a number of issues relating to waste management and decommissioning activities on the Site should be placed upon the agenda for the Group. Members agreed that these issues, identified by Cllr Short, had been discussed several times previously and that further discussion therefore was not warranted.

UPDATE FROM SOMERSET NUCLEAR ENERGY GROUP

- 22 Cllr Mrs Fraser reported briefly on recent activities of the Somerset Nuclear Energy Group. She pointed out that the Stage 2 consultation by EdF began on 9 July and ended on 4 October; a large volume of technical information was being made available.
- 23 Cllr Mrs Fraser said that local authorities had written into EdF expressing some concerns on procedural matters, including planning conditions, and community benefit. These matters were treated differently in France. A series of photographs taken during a recent visit to Flammanville (power station under construction in France) was made available for members to view after the meeting.

BRITISH ENERGY REPORT ON RADIOACTIVE DISCHARGES

- 24 Copies of a report from British Energy on radioactive discharges had been made available for members. During discussion the following points were clarified:
- (i) Liquid effluent discharges from A station had increased over the past twelve months; this was associated with operational activities relating to pond skips and sludges. Best practicable means were used to minimise the level of the discharges which were well below authorised limits.

- (ii) A rise in the level of Cobalt 60 discharges from B station during the past year had been associated with the processing of water from sludge tanks. Discharges remained well below authorised limits.
- (iii) Some results appeared anomalous when levels of radioactivity were below the limits of detection of the instrumentation.
- (iv) The conclusions of the report were that discharges were well below authorised limits, that there was no evidence of any long term accumulation of radioactivity in the local environment, and that potential doses to members of the public were well below legal limits.

NII REPORTS

- 25 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.

REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

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

NDA REPORT

- 27 Dr Warner reported on current NDA issues, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Following the appointment of a new chief executive officer, an organisational review was likely to lead to structural changes within the NDA.
 - (ii) Some of the NDA's funding was provided by income from electricity generation and reprocessing activities. The funding provided by government would be subject to the controls on expenditure by government departments announced recently.
 - (iii) Despite any restrictions on funding and priorities given to decommissioning work at "lead" sites, funds would always be made available for any necessary urgent safety related work.
 - (iv) Demolition of the Hinkley Point A Turbine Hall had been identified as a project which might be undertaken if funding became available; the funding situation would be clarified during the coming months. There could be an opportunity for spoil materials on the C station site to be placed in the A Station Turbine Hall basement void.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

- 28 Cllr Short had circulated to members in advance of the meeting a note on current activities and issues. He referred to the view expressed at an SNEG meeting that the National Grid Company's consultation on their proposals for connection of the C station had not given enough information on alternatives. He felt that this criticism could also be made of the EdF consultation which had not given information on a possible Bridgwater bypass. He hoped that this information might become available in the Stage 2 consultations.
- 29 Cllr Garner felt that the NGC revised consultation on the C station connection had been adequate and had demonstrated the enormous cost and technical disadvantages associated with other potential arrangements. Cllr Dr Kellaway-Marriott said that he too had been very satisfied with the NGC consultation and believed that the suggestions put forward for alternative connections were not viable. Cllr Walker commented that the electricity grid system had been in place since the 1930s and yet suddenly it seemed that there was a great deal of opposition to pylons; he felt that the grid system was necessary to provide an efficient supply of electricity.
- 30 Cllr Short referred to his intention to stand down as Chairman of this Group after the next meeting. He said it would be for members to nominate and elect a new chairman.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 31 Cllr Garner said that he would like to be assured that there were robust procedures to ensure that feedback from the operation of the A and B stations was injected into the design for the C station. Mr Cann said that the EPR design had the benefit of experience from its use elsewhere throughout the world. He confirmed that there were extensive procedures for learning from operational experience linked between all nuclear power stations.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

- 32 It was agreed that the next meeting of this Group would be held on Friday 29 October 2010 commencing at 10.00am at the Hinkley Point site.

MJD
6 July 2010

Appendix 1

SSG Sub Group

Mike Short	Chairman – Fiddington
Mike Caswell	Vice Chair – Stockland Bristol
Terry Williams	Kilve Parish
Barbara Child	Co-opted
John Edney	Somerset County Council
Gerald Hudd	Somerset County Council
Jo Brown	PCAH
Mervyn Brown	Otterhampton Parish
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