

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at Combe House Hotel, Holford on Friday 28 June 2013

PRESENT

Cllr M Caswell (Chairman)	-	Stockland Bristol
Cllr M Brown	-	Otterhampton Parish Council
Mr L Talbot	-	Site Director, Hinkley Point A
Mr P Higginson	-	Technical and Safety Support Manager, Hinkley Point B

Elected Members

Mrs J Brown	-	Parents concerned about Hinkley
Mr A Debenham	-	Stop Hinkley
Cllr J Edney	-	Somerset County Council
Cllr J Edwards	-	Spaxton Parish Council
Cllr Ms S Goss	-	West Somerset District Council
Cllr M Hogg	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council
Cllr N Jones	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr A Keen	-	Kilve Parish Council
Cllr P Malim OBE	-	Stogursey Parish Council
Cllr C Morgan	-	West Somerset District Council
Ms B Oates	-	West Hinkley Action Group
Cllr S O'Byrne	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council
Cllr M Phillips	-	Cannington Parish Council
Cllr M Short	-	Fiddington Parish Council
Cllr Ms M Smith	-	West Somerset District Council
Cllr T Williams	-	Kilve Parish Council

Co-opted Members

Miss B Child

Appointed Members

Dr B Burnett	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Dr P Mountford-Lister	-	Environment Agency
Mr G McMeekan	-	Environment Agency
Mr T Fediw	-	Environment Agency
Mr I Wilson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Ms N Dawson	-	Somerset County Council
Ms V Banham	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Mr H Davies	-	Sedgemoor District Council

EDF Energy

Mr D Stokes	-	Community Liaison Officer
Mr M Speed	-	Hinkley B LJC Representative

Mr G Bell	-	Media Manager, South West
Magnox		
Ms J Hellier	-	Communications Support
Ms G Coombs	-	Communications
Miss L Miles	-	EHSSQ Manager, Hinkley Point A
Dr S Wilmott	-	Waste, Baseline Strategy

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms A Watts		
Cllr P Grierson		
Mr J Booking	-	UK Nuclear Restoration
Ms S Speakman	-	UK Nuclear Restoration
Mr M J Davis	-	Secretary

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.
- 2 Cllr Grierson, who was attending as a member of the public, said that at a recent meeting of the Minehead Town Council the question of the representation of that Council on this Group had been raised. He said that Minehead Town Council had sought representation on this Group in the past, both directly and via West Somerset District Council, but the request had been declined. Cllr Caswell said that at the last review of membership efforts had been made to reduce the size of this Group but undertook to arrange for the matter to be considered again if a formal request was received from Minehead Town Council.

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 3 It was confirmed that there was a quorum of elected members present at the meeting.
- 4 Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Harrison, Cllr R Garner, Mr H Rickard, Cllr P Knibb, Mr D Prescott, and Cllr Ms A Frazer.
- 5 Ms Hellier drew attention to the following changes to membership of this group:
 - (i) Mr J Walker, co-opted member, had resigned; his support for this group in the past was recognised by members.
 - (ii) Dr S Nicholson had been succeeded as the ONR Site Inspector for Hinkley Point A Site by Mr D Prescott.
 - (iii) There was currently no representation from the National Farmers Union.

- (iv) Mr C Graham had resigned; his suggested contact as a replacement representative from the Green Party had declined the offer of membership.

6 Cllr Caswell informed members that Cllr Short was soon to move house and would no longer represent Fiddington Parish Council on this Group. Members agreed unanimously that Mr Short should be co-opted to membership so that his valuable contribution to the work of this Group could continue.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2013

(a) Accuracy

7 The minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2013 were approved as a correct record.

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

Mr Crispin Aubrey (para 4 refers)

8 Cllr Caswell said that he had conveyed to Mrs Aubrey members' condolences at the death of Mr Crispin Aubrey and those sentiments had been appreciated.

Possible Future Use of Hinkley Point A Site Turbine Hall (para 6 refers)

9 Mr Talbot said that he had received a letter from the Hinkley Point C Site Construction Director in relation to the possible use of the Hinkley Point A Site Turbine Hall for purposes associated with new station construction. He had been told that having reviewed the costs of refurbishment of the building together with leasing costs EDF Energy were unable to make a business case for the use of the former Turbine Hall compared with other potential options and wished to withdraw their interest in the use of the facility at this time.

10 Cllr Short expressed members' disappointment at this decision not to pursue the use of the former Turbine Hall as this had been regarded by members of this Group for some years as a sensible alternative to the construction of a facility on a greenfield site. Cllr Malim was concerned that the decision might reflect the fact that leasing fees sought by the NDA were too high. Mr Talbot said that there could be considerable maintenance costs associated with the use of this old building. Cllr Hogg suggested that if the existing building was to be demolished it might be possible for EDF Energy to build their facility on the same site. Mr Talbot said that this would be a matter for EDF Energy but if they wanted to build a fabrication facility on this site he would have no objection in principle as the area was not required for decommissioning. Cllr Brown supported the idea that the former Turbine Hall site might be used for construction of a new facility; local residents would be strongly opposed to the use of a greenfield site.

[Secretary's note: the Hinkley Point C Site Construction Director has subsequently written to Cllr Malim explaining that they have remodelled the proposed main civil compound on the Hinkley Point C site to locate the rebar fabrication shop for which the Hinkley Point A Turbine Hall had been considered. This decision will not have any impact on DCO or local communities nor lead to extra facilities being needed at Combwich.]

Design of plant for the dissolution of Magnox fuel element debris (para 7 refers)

- 11 Mr Talbot said that the fuel element debris dissolution plant at Bradwell was planned to come into operation early in the new year. Information on operational experience which would be used in the design of the plant for Hinkley Point A would not be available until March 2014.

Escape of sulphuric acid from a bunded area (para 9 refers)

- 12 Mr Talbot said that the effects of the leakage of sulphuric acid from the chemical treatment plant had been rectified. The plant was now back in service and operational.

Recovery of contents of Settling Tanks 1, 2 and 3 (paragraph 17 (vii) refers)

- 13 Mr Talbot said that work remained on schedule with the project to recover the contents of Settling Tanks 1, 2 and 3 by March 2014; commissioning of the plant was due to commence in August. Cllr Williams asked what would be done with the settling tanks themselves after the contents were removed. Mr Talbot said that the tanks did not present any particular hazard and would be removed at a later date; tanks of this nature had been dealt with previously and the steel tank materials would most probably be classified as low-level waste.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 17 MAY 2013

(a) Accuracy

- 14 The minutes of the special meeting held on 17 May 2013 were approved as a correct record.

(b) Matters Arising

Waste to be stored on Hinkley Point A Site

- 15 Cllr Caswell said it was necessary to establish the views of this Group in relation to the storage of ILW on the Hinkley Point A site so that he could make those views known at future meetings with the NDA on the optimisation of storage arrangements. He said that organisations represented by members had the opportunity to make their views known in the public consultation but it was

important that he knew the views of members so that he could represent an SSG view.

- 16 Cllr Morgan said that he had discussed these issues with his Council colleagues and others. He felt it was inappropriate in this context to consider the Hinkley Point A site separately from the overall activity at the three sites at Hinkley Point. He felt that irrespective of the question of storing waste from other sites, it was not realistic to expect local roads to accommodate the transport of wastes to Hinkley Point at the same time as the large volume of traffic associated with new station construction. Cllr Malim agreed that the disruption associated with transporting waste from other sites to Hinkley Point A was not acceptable.
- 17 During discussion Cllr Phillips, Cllr Ms Smith, Cllr Ms Goss, Cllr Brown and Cllr Williams all expressed opposition to any proposal to transport wastes from other sites to Hinkley Point A. Cllr Caswell recognised this as being the view of the whole Group which he would represent at future meetings with the NDA. Dr Wilmott pointed out that following earlier consultations the potential options which involved most traffic movements, such as options to transport wastes away from Hinkley Point A, had been eliminated to give the shortlist which was now under consideration. The options remaining included the potential use of spare storage capacity at Hinkley Point A for waste from sites in the East of England which might not have sufficient storage capacity. He anticipated that these wastes might amount to some 50 lorry loads in total. In reply to a question from Cllr Jones, Dr Wilmott confirmed that consideration was given to rail and sea transport of wastes.
- 18 Cllr Caswell reminded members that they and their organisations were able to submit views on these matters to the NDA as part of the current public consultation. He confirmed that he would be attending a further workshop session with the NDA during July; it was anticipated that preferred options would be identified at the end of the year and that these would then be the subject of further consultation.

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 19 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) There had been no nuclear or environmental reportable events. Unfortunately there had been two recordable injuries on site during the period. These involved a fractured wrist sustained following a trip whilst walking and in another event bruising resulting from contact with the open door of an electric vehicle which moved suddenly. These two events were disappointing having regard for the large volume of work which had taken place on site during the period.

- (ii) Both reactors had been operating at nominal full output and there had been no unplanned reactor outages. Reactor 4 had been shut down between 17 May and 10 June for a planned interim outage. Work undertaken during the outage included the inspection of 13 channels within the graphite reactor core, the repair of two boiler reheater tube leaks and the replacement of two gas circulator lubricating oil pumps. All inspections had confirmed conditions consistent with expectations and safety case requirements.
- (iii) Additional personnel had been working on the site during the 26 days of the interim outage and, despite the very large volume of work undertaken, there had been only five minor injuries during the outage.
- (iv) The station had been presented with a RoSPA President's Award in recognition of the continued high standards of occupational health and safety.
- (v) The station's emergency arrangements had been demonstrated in an exercise to the satisfaction of the Office for Nuclear Regulation.
- (vi) The station had to date raised more than £3000 for the Marie Curie Cancer Care, EDF Energy's chosen charity partner. The station continued its support for local charity and community organisations and more than 4000 people had visited the station's visitor centre in Bridgwater.

20 In reply to questions from Mr Debenham, Mr Higginson explained that interim outages were arranged to take place between the main three yearly statutory maintenance and inspection outages. The scheduled graphite core inspections formed part of the overall programme of such inspections which included the Hinkley Point B and Hunterston B reactors.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A

- 21 Mr Talbot reported on activities at Hinkley Point A Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) It was now more than six years since the most recent lost time accident on the Hinkley Point A site and more than five years since the most recent personal contamination event.
 - (ii) RoSPA had given the Site its Award of Distinction in recognition of its continued high standards of occupational health and safety.
 - (iii) Good progress was being maintained with the periodic safety review which was due to be submitted to the ONR in March 2014.

- (iv) Preparatory work on the Interim Storage Facility was nearing completion; construction was scheduled to start in November 2013.
 - (v) Work continued on the design of systems for the retrieval and separation of fuel element debris. No work was being undertaken on the design of the dissolution plant until the results of operational experience with the Bradwell plant were available.
 - (vi) The Reactor 2 "square" pond had been fully drained and access gained to the floor area.
 - (vii) Trials involving the use of a milling machine had successfully demonstrated a technique for the removal of surface contamination from pond skip components, allowing the remainder of the material to be recycled.
 - (viii) Design work associated with plant for the removal of the contents of Settling Tanks 1, 2 and 3 was nearing completion and equipment was being procured and manufactured.
 - (ix) Construction of the car park had been completed and the establishment of separate security arrangements for the A Site would be operational by August 2013.
 - (x) The company's socio-economic scheme which aimed to support communities around its Sites had included the approval of some £28,000 of applications relating to the Hinkley Point A site.
- 22 Cllr Short asked about progress with removal of contamination from the surface of cooling pond walls. Mr Talbot said that simple water jetting techniques were sufficient to remove contamination from the walls in the Reactor 2 pond; more abrasive techniques were likely to be necessary on the Reactor 1 pond walls.
- 23 In reply to a further question from Cllr Short, Mr Talbot confirmed that the pond skips from Hinkley Point A had been sent to the USA for recycling; the skips used in the milling decontamination trials had come from other sites. If this technique proved to be effective it would be available for use at other sites; there were no current plans to bring skips from other Sites to Hinkley Point A for processing.

ANNUAL REPORT ON RADIOACTIVE DISCHARGES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

- 24 Mr Higginson presented a report on radioactive discharges and environmental monitoring at Hinkley Point A site and Hinkley Point B power station during 2012, copies of which had previously been made available for members. He said

that the monitoring programme had been similar to that in previous years and similar results had been found. He confirmed that the levels of radioactivity in liquid and gaseous effluents and in solid radioactive low-level waste transferred from the site remained well below the authorised limits set by the Environment Agency. He said that the monitoring programme had confirmed that there was no evidence of any long-term accumulation of radioactivity in the environment resulting from operations at the sites; radiation doses to members of the public resulting from discharges and direct radiation from the sites were well below the UK legal limit.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- 25 Mr Fediw, who was to succeed Mr McMeekan as the Environment Agency's Nuclear Regulator for Hinkley Point B later this year, reported on the Agency's monitoring and regulatory activities relating to the Hinkley sites since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) During the period the Agency had received four requests for information relating to Hinkley Point under Freedom of Information legislation.
 - (ii) In relation to the review of options for ILW waste storage and management, Magnox would be required by the Agency to demonstrate that in developing any proposals best available techniques had been used to minimise impacts upon the environment.
 - (iii) Visits to site had continued in accordance with the inspection plan and information on discharges was submitted regularly to the Agency by the sites; all those discharges were within permitted levels. Inspections had included an examination of the management of liquid effluent discharge systems associated with cooling ponds. Hinkley Point A site had informed the Agency that a quarterly notification level had been reached during draining of the cooling pond.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORTS

- 26 Mr Wilson, who had succeeded Mr Burrows as the ONR's Site Inspector for Hinkley Point B, presented reports on the ONR's regulatory and inspection activities, copies of which had previously been made available to members. He pointed out that the Hinkley Point B station interim outage would be covered in the next report to be published. He said that the programme of inspections of compliance with licence condition requirements had continued and no significant issues had been found.

REPORT FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 27 Dr Burnett reported on current NDA issues. He said that good progress was being maintained against the Magnox optimised decommissioning programme which would deliver planned performance and savings. He said that good progress had been made in transferring expertise and knowledge between sites.
- 28 Dr Burnett said that good progress was being maintained with the competition for a parent body organisation for the Magnox and RSRL sites; he anticipated that a preferred bidder would be identified in April 2014.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

- 29 Cllr Caswell reported on his activities as Chairman of this Group. He said that following the previous special meeting of this Group he had received a number of calls from members of the public accusing him of supporting proposals to transport wastes from other sites to Hinkley Point. These members of the public had told him that their views had been based upon conversations with SSG members. He emphasised, as made clear at the special meeting, that at meetings with the NDA on their review of options for waste storage and management he would represent the views of the Group as a whole. He reminded members of their responsibility to report back accurately to their organisations and communities on matters discussed at meetings of this Group.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Visit to Hinkley Point A

- 30 Arrangements were being made for members of this Group to visit Hinkley Point A on 29 August. Numbers were limited and places would be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Members wishing to join the visit should contact Gemma Coombs.

Off-site Emergency Plan

- 31 Cllr Ms Smith asked about progress with the review of the off-site plan for dealing with emergencies at Hinkley Point which she understood had been taking place some time ago. Ms Dawson said that the review was ongoing; she undertook to present an update to members when it was completed.

Joanne Hellier

- 32 Cllr Caswell reminded members that this would be the last meeting to be attended by Joanne Hellier as she was leaving her post in Communications at Hinkley Point A. He thanked her for the support which she had given to this Group and to him personally as Chairman and presented her with tokens of appreciation.

Miss Child, on behalf of members, added her thanks for Joanne's help and support.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

33 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group would be held on Friday 25 October 2013. The venue for the meeting would be confirmed in due course.

MJD 5 July 2013