

**OLDBURY ON SEVERN POWER STATION
SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE OLDBURY CONFERENCE
CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL 2013**

PRESENT:

Mr M Lynden (in the chair)	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr Ms F Burchell	-	Tytherington Parish Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Assn of Parish and Town Councils
Cllr D Dovey	-	Monmouthshire County Council
Dr L Hales		
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Cllr G Vaughan-Lewis	-	Alkington Parish Council
Mr J McNally	-	Staff Representative
Cllr J O'Neill	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Mrs P Parsloe	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr M Riddle	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr B Roberts	-	Thornbury Chamber of Commerce
Cllr J Stanton	-	Vice Chair, Berkeley SSG
Cllr Mrs P Wride	-	Chair, Berkeley SSG
Mr D Wride	-	Lower Severn Drainage Board

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms K Anderson	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr M Lester	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr P Dickenson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Ms G Ellis-King	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr R Ledger	-	Deputy Site Director
Mr C Fayers	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr M Blair	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mrs E Vaughan-Lewis	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr P O'Hanrahan	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr B Bridgwater	-	Magnox Strategic Programmes
Ms E Sales	-	Magnox Strategic Programmes
Mr S Wilmot	-	Magnox Strategic Programmes
Ms G Coombs	-	Communications Officer
Ms S Stagg	-	James Reed PR
Ms M Kirschel		
Mr B Delve		
Mr W Gill		
Mrs J Kempster		
Ms P Page		
Mr P Page		
Mrs R Riddle		
Ms M Sauvebois		
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- 1 Mr Lynden welcomed everyone to this meeting of the Oldbury on Severn Site Stakeholder Group.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Heaton, Ms H Cook, Mr P Chilcott, Mr P Kennedy, Ms A Kentish, Dr R MacGregor, and Cllr B Turner.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a) Accuracy

- 3 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 23 January 2013 were approved as an accurate record.

(b) Matters arising

Access to National Nuclear Archive (para 7 refers)

- 4 Dr Hales asked whether the information on access to the National Nuclear Archive requested by Cllr Hassell had been provided. Ms Anderson did not know the position but undertook to ensure that the action was completed.

PUBLIC FORUM

- 5 Mr Lynden invited members of the public to raise any issues which might not otherwise be discussed under subsequent agenda items. No issues were raised.

QUARTERLY REPORTS

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

- 6 Ms Anderson reported on issues currently of interest to the NDA, drawing particular attention to the following:
 - (i) The NDA had recently published its Business Plan for 2013-2016. The plan was accessible on the NDA website and copies could be made available to members on request.
 - (ii) The last of the boilers had now been removed from the Berkeley Site and shipped away for recycling in Sweden. The NDA had been pleased by the completion of this work; the recycling of a large proportion of the material resulted in a substantial reduction in the volume of waste for disposal.
 - (iii) Defuelling had been completed at the Chapelcross site.

- (iv) Allerdale and Copeland Borough Councils had voted to remain in the process for selecting a location for a geological disposal facility for higher active radioactive wastes but Cumbria County Council had voted to withdraw. The approval of all three Councils had been required for the process to continue.
 - (v) Dialogue was now underway with organisations bidding to compete for the management of the Magnox and RSRL sites. This process included a series of meetings between the bidders and local stakeholder representatives.
- 7 Mr Lynden said that Mr Phillips of the NDA had written to him seeking views on the process for selecting a location for a geological disposal facility. Following consultation with other members he had replied, expressing criticism of the volunteerism approach. He had suggested that it would be better to identify suitable sites at an early stage and then pursue the potential development of those sites in discussions with local communities. He felt it was disappointing that the process had been supported by the Borough Councils but rejected by the County Council and suggested that this might be associated with political allegiances. During discussion Mr Wride suggested that West Cumbria was a logical location for such a facility as a large proportion of the relevant waste was already located at Sellafield and the choice of any site elsewhere would involve significant transport issues. Dr Hales felt that the identification of a site for deep geological disposal was critical to the future development of the nuclear industry; he believed it was quite unacceptable for the process to allow so many opportunities for objection to a development with such strategic national importance. It was agreed that Mr Lynden should write again to Mr Phillips advising him of these views which were shared by members.

Site Director's Report

- 8 Mr Ledger reported on recent activities at the Oldbury site, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The Site had maintained compliance with all Operating Rule limits and conditions but there had been one issue of non-compliance with Maintenance Schedule requirements. This was related to the failure to drain rainwater from a kerosene tank bund; this omission had no nuclear safety significance but the Site had been disappointed that its high standards had not been met on this occasion. The event had been analysed to identify possible improvements for the future.
 - (ii) A team of technical experts from the World Association of Nuclear Operators was currently on site as part of the regular programme of such exchanges. The team had been asked to look specifically at operational standards during the transition from generation to defuelling.
 - (iii) Good progress was being maintained with defuelling on both reactors. Reactors 1 and 2 were 1% and 20% defuelled respectively and flasks of irradiated fuel were being despatched to Sellafield. The planned date for

completion of defuelling remained as mid-2015 but this date was under review following difficulties at Sellafield in maintaining the required throughput in its reprocessing facilities.

- (iv) A recent demonstration had shown that natural circulation of air through the Reactor 1 boilers was sufficient to maintain core temperatures within appropriate limits. This approach had already been adopted on Reactor 2 which enabled gas circulators to be taken out of service and the associated lubricating oil to be removed from the site.
 - (v) A redundant generator transformer had been removed from the Site and taken to Sharpness Docks for recycling.
 - (vi) Key projects for the coming year included removing the requirement for main cooling water pumps to be kept in service and the installation of a new electrical supply to the site.
 - (vii) Dredging of the cooling water reservoir was to take place during the coming month. This would take up to 4 weeks and a footpath would be closed for the duration of this work.
 - (viii) It had been agreed that there was no longer a requirement for the Civil Nuclear Constabulary to maintain a presence at Oldbury and they would be leaving in the coming months.
- 9 In reply to a question from Cllr Riddle, Mr Ledger said he believed that the new electrical supply to the site from the Alveston substation would be carried via underground cable.
- 10 Following comments from Cllr Evers on the possible removal of the cooling water reservoir walls it was noted that the intention had been to remove these although the reservoir might be of interest to Horizon in developing plans for a new power station.
- 11 Cllr Riddle said he regretted the fact that the Civil Nuclear Constabulary was to remain based at Oldbury for only a limited time. He felt that they had provided valuable support to the local police and that local residents would be sorry to see them leave.

Office for Nuclear Regulation

- 12 Mr Dickenson presented a report on ONR inspection and regulatory activities relating to the Oldbury Nuclear Licenced Site during the previous quarter. He pointed out that his interventions had all been of a straightforward, routine nature and further, more detailed information on these activities was available on the ONR website.
- 13 Mr Dickenson confirmed that the Site had kept him informed of all the issues covered in the report given by Mr Ledger. In relation to the reported breach of a Maintenance Schedule requirement, Mr Dickenson said that this had been

identified by the Site and reported to him. He said that in its actions to carry out a thorough investigation of the circumstances of this event the Site had demonstrated its determination to comply fully with requirements. Mr Lynden commented that these actions illustrated the culture on the Site which gave the public confidence in its activities.

Environment Agency

- 14 Dr McGregor had been unable to attend to present the report from the Environment Agency which had been circulated to members. No comments on the report were raised by members.

REPORT FROM THE WASTE OPTIMISATION WORKSHOP

- 15 Mr Bridgwater gave details of the optimisation studies currently being undertaken to review arrangements for the interim storage of intermediate level wastes and the treatment of Magnox fuel element debris.
- 16 During discussion the following points were noted:
- (i) The objective of a process for the treatment of Magnox fuel element debris was to reduce the volume of the waste requiring disposal. The purpose of the study of arrangements for the interim storage of intermediate level wastes was to identify the optimal arrangements for the storage of these wastes throughout England and Wales.
 - (ii) Mr Dickenson pointed out that the choice of container to be used for storage of intermediate level waste was a matter requiring regulatory approval and discussions on this between the company and the ONR were ongoing.
 - (iii) Currently each site had its individual plans for the treatment of its own Magnox fuel element debris and the storage of its own intermediate level wastes. The optimisation studies had been initiated to meet commitments set out in the NDA's Strategy and to meet the Environment Agency's requirement to demonstrate that Best Available Techniques were used in dealing with these wastes. The company was committed to dealing with these matters safely with minimum impact upon the environment and optimising value to the taxpayer.
 - (iv) In response to questions from Dr Hales, Mr Bridgwater explained that the process for the dissolution of Magnox fuel element debris resulted in the concentration of the radioactivity in these wastes within a significantly smaller volume of material for disposal. Mr Dickenson pointed out that this process had a key safety element in converting the waste from a form which was subject to degradation into a form which would be suitable for packaging and disposal.
 - (v) The optimisation studies had included a workshop session with representatives of SSGs which had reviewed safety and environmental

issues and had identified the weighting to be attached to the attributes of the various options. A further workshop session was planned to be held during July. It was hoped that the process would identify preferred options by January 2014.

- (vi) Cllr Evers asked about the position in relation to completion of formal safety studies and dialogue with regulators. It was noted that formal safety cases would be completed when preferred options had been identified. In reply to further comments from Cllr Evers it was pointed out that the throughput of the Magnox dissolution plant at Dungeness, which had successfully treated all of that Site's FED waste, would be insufficient to deal with the wastes from all other sites within an acceptable timescale.

EPCC MEETING UPDATE

- 17 Mr Ledger reported on matters discussed at the recent meeting of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee. These matters had included the organisation of a programme of exercises leading to a demonstration of the Site's emergency arrangements to the ONR in an exercise during July. Following that exercise there would be a desktop exercise of the off-site emergency arrangements.
- 18 Mr Lynden, who had attended the meeting of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee, drew attention to the containers which had recently been located in the visitors' car park. These contained equipment which might be of use in dealing with an emergency on the site if access to the facilities on the site was not possible. Mr Ledger said that similar arrangements had been made at all Magnox sites; the need had been identified following consideration of the implications of the Fukushima accident.

MAGNOX AND RSRL COMPETITION STAKEHOLDER/BIDDER ENGAGEMENT

- 19 Mr Lynden reported on a meeting he had attended on the day before this meeting with representatives of the consortia bidding the management of the Magnox and RSRL sites. The meeting, which had been attended by representatives of other SSGs, had received presentations from each of the potential bidders. Mr Lynden said that each of the bidders had demonstrated an impressive level of expertise and experience and they had been interested to hear the views of local stakeholders.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 20 Mr O'Hanrahan pointed out that the footpath around the Site would be subject to a detour whilst the path on the western side of the Site was closed for the duration of dredging works.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 21 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on 24 July 2013 at Oldbury Conference Centre, commencing at 1.00pm.