

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

PRESENT:

Mr M Lynden (in the chair)	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr R Birch	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr Ms F Burchell	-	Tytherington Parish Council
Cllr D Dovey	-	Monmouthshire County Council
Dr L Hales	-	Co-opted member
Cllr N Halsall	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Cllr G Vaughan-Lewis	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr J O'Neill	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Mrs P Parsloe	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr J Stanton	-	Vice Chair, Berkeley SSG
Cllr Mrs P Wride	-	Chair, Berkeley SSG
Mr D Wride	-	Lower Severn Drainage Board

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr J Jenkin	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
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
Mrs E Vaughan-Lewis	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms H Morris	-	Communications Officer
Mr P Chilcott	-	EHS&Q Site Inspector
Mr B Bridgwater	-	Magnox Strategic Programmes
Dr S Wilmott	-	Magnox Strategic Programmes
Mr A Buchan	-	James Reed PR
Mr J Brooking	-	UK Nuclear Restoration
Ms S Speakman	-	UK Nuclear Restoration
Mr R Halliwell	-	Siemens plc
Mr D Richardson	-	CAS Restoration Partnership
Mr L Thomas	-	Portakabin Ltd
Mr B Delve		
Ms M Sauvebois		
Ms L Hutchinson		
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- 1 Mr Lynden welcomed everyone to this meeting of the Oldbury on Severn Site Stakeholder Group. He reminded members of their responsibilities for reporting back accurately to the organisations which they represented on matters discussed at meetings of this Group and to bring to the attention of this Group any relevant issues arising within their organisations or communities. He said it was important that he was aware of the views of members and their constituents when representing the Group at national level meetings.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Heaton, Ms H Cook, Cllr C Evers, Mr P Kennedy, Ms A Kentish, Cllr G Locke, Dr R MacGregor, Mr J McNally, Mr B Roberts, Ms S Stagg, Cllr B Willcox, Cllr P Hassell, Cllr Ms J Lyons and Cllr M Riddle.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a) Accuracy

- 3 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 24 April 2013 were approved as an accurate record.

(b) Matters arising

Selection of a site for Geological Disposal Facility

- 4 Mr Lynden confirmed that he had written to NDA advising them of views expressed at the previous meeting on the process for selecting a location for a geological disposal facility.

CONFIRMATION OF SSG CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- 5 Members noted that it was necessary to confirm the nomination of Chairman and Vice Chairman of this Group for the coming year. Mr Lynden and Cllr Hawkins expressed their willingness to continue to act in these roles and there had been no other nominations. Members agreed unanimously that Mr Lynden and Cllr Hawkins should be appointed as Chairman and Vice Chairman of this Group respectively for the coming year.

PUBLIC FORUM

- 6 Cllr Hawkins endorsed the comments made earlier by Mr Lynden on the need for members to act as effective communications links between this Group and their communities. Mr Lynden emphasised the important role of SSGs in liaising between communities and site operators, in representing local communities in consultations regarding new station construction and in allocating potential community benefits relating to new build. Ms Ellis King drew attention to the need for consultation with a wider community on some issues. Cllr Dovey drew attention to the position of Monmouthshire in relation to the potential allocation of community benefits.

QUARTERLY REPORTS

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

- 7 Mr Jenkin reported on issues currently of interest to the NDA, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) The NDA had recently published its annual report and accounts for 2012/13. An Insight magazine containing a summary of the results had also been published recently.
- (ii) A skills centre had recently been opened in West Cumbria to provide training in a range of construction skills.
- (iii) Defuelling of the reactors at Sizewell A was more than 50% complete; the defuelling of those reactors was due for completion in September 2014.
- (iv) Consultation on options relating to the interim storage of intermediate level waste and the treatment of fuel element debris had closed at the end of June. A range of views had been expressed in the consultation and the NDA would publish its response in due course.
- (v) The Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency had published a summary of their ongoing scrutiny of the work of the NDA's Radioactive Waste Management Directorate.
- (vi) A procurement programme had been launched for a large number of stainless steel boxes for the storage of radioactive waste at Sellafield.
- (vii) Issues raised by the National Audit Office and the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee in relation to the management of risk at Sellafield were being progressed.
- (viii) Progress was being maintained in the process for competition for the management of the Magnox and RSRL sites. There was to be a further opportunity for the bidders to meet with stakeholders in September.

8 In reply to a question from Cllr Birch, Mr Jenkin confirmed that the EU procurement process was being followed in relation to the procurement of stainless steel boxes for storage of Sellafield waste. He undertook to provide Cllr Birch with further information on arrangements made to seek the participation of local bidders in this process.

Site Director's Report

- 9 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 and all Maintenance Schedule requirements. There were no significant issues relating to environmental performance or conventional safety.
 - (ii) An annual review meeting had been held between the Site and its three regulators, providing an opportunity to review the past year's performance and look ahead to future key activities.

- (iii) Exercises during July had provided satisfactory demonstrations of the on-site and off-site emergency arrangements.
 - (iv) Good progress had been made with defuelling during April and May, with two flasks of irradiated fuel being despatched to Sellafield per week. During June the Sellafield reprocessing plant was undergoing maintenance and the opportunity had been taken to upgrade fuel route equipment on site. Despatches of irradiated fuel had resumed during July.
 - (v) The two reactors were now some 6% and 27% defuelled respectively. The rate of defuelling was currently restricted due to a national limit on the amount of fuel which could be stored in cooling ponds. Priority was currently being given to removing fuel from Sizewell A; when that was completed priority would be given to Oldbury. It was expected that defuelling of the Oldbury reactors would be completed during 2016.
 - (vi) Natural circulation of air through the boilers was now providing adequate cooling for both reactors. Water was being fed into the boilers but the gas circulators were now redundant as forced cooling was no longer required. The removal of gas circulator lubricating oil represented a significant reduction in the fire hazard on the site.
 - (vii) With plant progressively becoming redundant the maintenance workload was reducing and some reductions in the number of maintenance staff would take place over the coming year.
 - (viii) Arrangements were being made to provide an alternative effluent discharge pipe line so that it would no longer be necessary to operate the main cooling water system for the purpose of discharging effluent to the river.
 - (ix) An 11kV connection was being made between the site and the electrical substation at Alveston. This would allow the 132kV substation connection for the lines to the site from Iron Acton to be made redundant.
- 10 In reply to a question from Cllr Birch, Mr Fayers explained that the point of discharge of the existing circulating water culvert was in the river, beyond the reservoir; the alternative effluent pipe would discharge at the same point.
- 11 Cllr Mrs Parsloe expressed thanks and appreciation for the grant which had been made to support the Thornbury Carnival.
- 12 In reply to a question from Ms Ellis-King, Mr Ledger said that the future use of the overhead line between the site and Iron Acton would be a matter for the distribution company after the 132kV supply to the site had been disconnected.

Office for Nuclear Regulation

- 13 Mr Dickenson introduced a report on ONR inspection and regulatory activities relating to the Oldbury Nuclear Licensed Site during the previous quarter; copies of the report had previously been made available to members.
- 14 Mr Dickenson drew attention to the programme of inspections carried out to assess compliance with the requirements of the various Licence Conditions and referred to the successful exercise of the site's emergency arrangements. He pointed out that summaries of the various inspection reports were available on the ONR website.

Environment Agency

- 15 Dr McGregor had apologised for being 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.

RESPONSE TO THE FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY CONSULTATION

- 16 Dr Hales reminded members of the consultation undertaken by the Food Standards Agency seeking stakeholders' views on the nature and scope of its programme of monitoring of radioactivity in foodstuffs. This had been the subject of discussion at the January 2013 meeting when Cllr Evers had given a presentation on the various issues identified by Dr Hales and himself. At that meeting members had approved comments which Cllr Evers was to relate to the FSA on behalf of this group. Those comments had been submitted and copies had been circulated to members in advance of this meeting.
- 17 Dr Hales said that the FSA had published its response to the various issues raised in the public consultation and he outlined the responses to the various points made in the submission made on behalf of this Group. He said it was gratifying to see that the various concerns raised in the Group's submission had been addressed and pointed out that submissions had been made by only two other SSGs.

UPDATE ON WASTE OPTIMISATION WORKSHOP

- 18 Dr Wilmott provided an update on 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. He reminded members that the current baseline plan was for each site to have its own facilities for the interim storage of ILW and its own plant for the treatment of fuel element debris where this was necessary. At the start of the study various alternative approaches to these baseline plans had been identified. Following consideration, which included a workshop session with stakeholders, these approaches had been reduced to form a shortlist of credible options which had been the subject of the recent consultation. A further meeting with stakeholders had been held during the week prior to this meeting.

- 19 Dr Wilmott said that in the consultation there appeared to be a general view that if plans were to move from the current baseline there was a preference for arrangements to be organised on a regional, rather than a national basis. He said that none of the options under consideration involved wastes from other sites being transported to Oldbury for interim storage but there were options for the provision of storage facilities on the Oldbury site or for the transport of Oldbury waste to Berkeley for storage. There were options for the treatment of Oldbury's fuel element debris on-site or at other sites. He said it was now intended that a preferred option would be identified by November; that would be the subject of further consultation and a decision would be taken early in the New Year.
- 20 In reply to a question from Ms Ellis-King, Mr Bridgwater said that if wastes were to be transported from Oldbury the transport of fuel element debris would involve some 70 HGV movements and the transport of the site's I LW would involve just over 100 such movements. Taken over a period of three or four years these would amount to one or two lorry movements per week. Further details of this analysis would be made available in the further consultation and could be made available to members on request.

UPDATE ON DEEP GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL

- 21 Mr Jenkin reminded members of the decision taken in January by Cumbria County Council not to proceed with involvement in the next stage of the process for selecting a location for a geological disposal facility for higher active wastes. Subsequently the government had sought views on how the selection of a site for a geological disposal facility might be progressed. Proposals on a future process were to be published by government in the autumn. It was understood that the proposals, which included more details on potential community benefits, would be the subject of public consultation. Mr Jenkin suggested that it would be appropriate to have a presentation on this subject at the next meeting.
- 22 Dr Hales felt it was important that the geological suitability of a site should be considered in the first instance before any thought was given as to whether local communities might accept the construction of a disposal facility. In reply to comments from Cllr Birch, Mr Jenkin undertook to send him further information on the volumes of wastes and the nature of a geological disposal facility.

SUBGROUP ON FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SITE

- 23 Mr Lynden reminded members of the way in which a subgroup of members had met some time ago to consider preferred options for the "end state" of the site following decommissioning. He suggested that it might be appropriate now to convene a similar group to give consideration to those facilities which might be retained on site for the benefit of the local community. He invited members to contact him if they wished to join such a group.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No business

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 24 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group, a joint meeting with members of the Berkeley SSG, was scheduled to be held at the Tortworth Court Four Pillars hotel on Tuesday, 12 November 2013. Provisional dates for meetings during 2014 were 29 January, 30 April and 30 July.

MJD

6 August 2013