

**OLDBURY ON SEVERN POWER STATION  
SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE OLDBURY CONFERENCE  
CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY 2014**

**PRESENT:**

Mr M Lynden (in the chair)	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr R Birch	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Assoc of Parish & Town Councils
Dr L Hales	-	Co-opted member
Cllr N Halsall	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr P Hassell	-	Bristol City Council
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Cllr G Vaughan-Lewis	-	Alkington Parish Council
Mr J McNally	-	Staff Representative
Mr B Roberts	-	Thornbury Chamber of Commerce
Cllr Ms F Shipston	-	Tytherington Parish Council
Cllr Mrs P Wride	-	Chair, Berkeley SSG

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr D Edwards	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr P Dickenson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Dr R MacGregor	-	Environment Agency
Mr P Reynolds	-	Environment Agency
Ms G Ellis-King	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr M Heaton	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms L Miles	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mrs E Vaughan-Lewis	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms G Coombs	-	Communications Officer
Ms A Kentish	-	Communication Manager
Ms S Stagg	-	James Reed PR
Mr J Brooking	-	UK Nuclear Restoration
Mr B Delve		
Mr B Willcox		
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 P Chilcott, Ms H Cook, Cllr D Dovey, Ms L Fulford, Mr W Gill, Mr S Hatch, Ms L Hutchinson, Mr J Jenkin, Ms C Johnson, Mr J Kempster, Cllr G Locke, Cllr J O'Neill, Cllr Mrs P Parsloe, Mr S Rodliffe, Mr D Wride and Cllr M Riddle.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

### **(a) Accuracy**

- 3 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 12 November 2013 were approved as an accurate record subject to the inclusion of Cllr D Dovey and Mr J McNally in the lists of persons present at the meeting.

### **(b) Matters arising**

- 4 There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

- 5 Mr Lynden invited members of the public to raise any issues which might not arise in discussion later in the meeting. No issues were raised.

## **QUARTERLY REPORTS**

### **Nuclear Decommissioning Authority**

- 6 Mr Edwards reported on issues currently of interest to the NDA, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The NDA had published a report on the successful National stakeholder event attended by representatives of all SSGs at Bradwell. The report was accessible on the NDA website.
  - (ii) A number of appointments to senior executive positions within the NDA had been made recently.
  - (iii) The NDA was embarking on a major new research programme in conjunction with universities to develop skills in nuclear technology.
  - (iv) Following a period of consultation, the NDA would shortly be publishing its Business Plan for the years 2014-2017.
  - (v) The period of consultation on the preferred options for dealing with FED and ILW storage was to close on 31 January.
  - (vi) The NDA was currently evaluating the competitive bids submitted for the management of the Magnox and RSRL sites. An announcement of the preferred bidder would be made on 31 March.
- 7 Cllr Birch questioned whether the industry was presenting effective arguments to support new nuclear developments in the face of the alternative development of wind and solar power plants and to explain different approaches in other countries. He felt that possibly simpler messages should be given to the public. Mr Edwards said that the situation in relation to nuclear development in other countries was dependent upon the availability of alternative energy sources in

those countries. He said that it was important that nuclear was seen as part of a balanced portfolio of electricity generation systems and he did not feel it was appropriate for the industry to draw attention to disadvantages of other forms of generation.

- 8 Mr Lynden acknowledged the value of the consultations undertaken by the NDA but suggested that the consultation process, by presenting a number of alternative approaches, did not always give sufficient emphasis to the advantages of preferred options. He felt that the consultation on FED and ILW storage could have done more to put the proposed movements of radioactive materials into the context of the scale of movements of irradiated fuel over many years. Cllr Hassell felt that public perception and understanding in relation to matters of risk was poor but felt that information had to be provided in a fair and balanced manner.
- 9 Cllr Hawkins suggested that with the significantly larger volumes of materials to be moved during new station construction, it would be appropriate to make greater use of rail transport during the period of new build.
- 10 Referring to the reported sale of surplus land by the NDA, Cllr Evers questioned whether there were sufficient controls to ensure that land with strategic value for possible future nuclear development was retained. Mr Edwards believed that this was the case. Sites where disposal of land was proposed were listed on the NDA website.

### **Site Director's Report**

- 11 Mr Heaton 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 had been no accidents involving time lost from work for more than a year. External reviews had confirmed the Site's continued certification to the ISO 14001, 18001 and 9001 international standards.
  - (ii) Proposed simplification of the Site's emergency arrangements to reflect the reduced level of hazards on the site had been demonstrated to the ONR in an exercise during December. This was now to be followed by training and exercises for all shift staff with the intention of having the revised arrangements in place by March 2014.
  - (iii) Laura Miles had been appointed as the Site's Environment, Health, Safety, Security and Quality Manager. She had previously held a similar position at Hinkley Point A.
  - (iv) The Site had received a warning letter from the Environment Agency following the event reported at an earlier meeting of this Group involving an escape of oil from a transformer. Following the

investigation of the circumstances of this event, actions had been taken to prevent any recurrence.

- (v) Good progress had been maintained with defuelling. Both reactors were now some 30% defuelled and, with improved performance of the reprocessing plant at Sellafield, despatches of up to two flasks of irradiated fuel per week had been maintained. This was expected to increase to a rate of three flasks per week in September when defuelling at Sizewell A should be completed and priority could then be given to despatches from Oldbury.
  - (vi) With the removal from service of plant systems requiring supply from the main cooling water (CW) system, it had been possible to take the main CW plant out of service following damage to the screens at the river intake during recent severe weather. Following discussions with the Environment Agency it was now intended to leave this plant out of service as a new alternative effluent discharge pipeline would be installed shortly. Taking the CW pumps out of service resulted in a significant reduction in the Site's electricity consumption.
  - (vii) Installation of a new electricity supply cable to the Site was now substantially complete. Further work remained to be done within the site boundary to provide a new alternative network which could be used during decommissioning of existing systems.
  - (viii) The site had maintained its support for a number of community projects in the local area.
- 12 Mr Lynden asked whether the redundant CW pumps which he understood were to be scrapped might be suitable for use in local land drainage. Mr Heaton felt that these pumps were unlikely to be suitable for such purpose but undertook to discuss this further with Mr Lynden.
- 13 Cllr Hassell asked whether the changes in electricity consumption and supply outlined by Mr Heaton would have an impact on the Site's requirements for standby power generation. Mr Heaton said that there was currently a safety case requirement for the availability of the emergency backup generation plant but the continued need for this plant would be reviewed next year in conjunction with the ONR.

#### **Office for Nuclear Regulation**

- 14 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 acknowledged the Site's success in learning from experience gained at other Sites. An example of this was the proposed revised emergency arrangements which he had witnessed in the exercise; the ONR would be reviewing the arrangements in detail before approval could be given.

- 15 Mr Dickenson referred to the changes in the statutory framework, establishing ONR as an independent statutory corporation. The ONR website had further information on this and on the various inspections undertaken at licensed sites.

### **Environment Agency**

- 16 Dr McGregor presented a report from the Environment Agency which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. He drew particular attention to the following:

- (i) The Site's permits were being amended to reflect the fact that an oil burner and incinerator on the site were no longer to be used. Removal of this equipment from operational service avoided the need for upgrading to meet new regulatory requirements.
- (ii) Recent inspections had included a themed inspection of the management arrangements within the Site and the company to demonstrate compliance with permit requirements.
- (iii) The Agency had issued a warning letter in relation to the oil leakage event referred to earlier by Mr Heaton and would be monitoring the progress of actions taken in response to the event.
- (iv) Assessments of the impact upon discharges with the cooling water system out of service had been undertaken by the Site and presented to the Agency. These assessments had demonstrated that there was a negligible effect upon the already small environmental impact of the discharges. Additional monitoring was being undertaken to confirm that the environmental impact remained very low.
- (v) Dr McGregor was to be succeeded as the Agency's Nuclear Regulator for Oldbury by Mr Peter Reynolds in March 2014

- 17 In response to a question from Dr Hales, Dr McGregor said that following the FSA's review of its arrangements for the monitoring of radioactivity in foodstuffs, the Environment Agency was to be carrying out a review of its monitoring at a number of pilot sites to ensure that the monitoring remained appropriate and proportionate to the circumstances.

### **UPDATE ON CO-LOCATION OF WASTE**

- 18 Mr Lynden reminded members that the NDA's consultation on the preferred option for FED treatment and ILW storage was to close at the end of the month. The proposals included plans for Oldbury's FED to be transferred to Hinkley Point for treatment and for the Site's ILW to be transferred to Berkeley for interim storage. He invited members to comment on any issues which might be included in a response to the consultation from this Group.

- 19 Mr McNally said that he had written to the NDA expressing some concern that as Oldbury was the only site which was not to have an FED dissolution plant or an ILW storage facility there was a potential reduction in employment opportunities on the Site. Mr Heaton said that the main impact of the proposed change in strategy on employment would be the loss of jobs in the construction of facilities on site. The workload on site associated with retrieval, sorting and packaging of the wastes would be unchanged and the manpower requirements for operation of a dissolution plant were relatively minor.
- 20 Cllr Halsall said he believed that the local community would welcome proposals for wastes to be taken away from the site for treatment or storage elsewhere.
- 21 Cllr Mrs Wride outlined a proposed response to the consultation which was to be considered by the Berkeley SSG later that day. Ms Ellis King gave an indication of the response submitted by South Gloucestershire Council.
- 22 It was agreed that Mr Lynden should submit a response to the NDA's consultation on behalf of this Group, noting the benefits and savings and expressing general support for the proposed revised approach.

#### **FEEDBACK FROM GDF WORKSHOP**

- 23 Mr Lynden reported on his attendance at a consultative session organised by DECC on proposed arrangements for the selection of a site for construction of a deep geological disposal facility. He said that the government's proposals were to continue to be based on local communities volunteering to host such a facility. He said it appeared that help might be available for communities considering the possibility of volunteering. He said he had gained the impression that sites were unlikely to be rejected on the basis of geological conditions as a facility could be engineered to exist within virtually any type of geology.

#### **SSG CHAIRS CONFERENCE WITH ENERGY SOLUTIONS**

- 24 Mr Lynden reported on his meetings together with the Chairs of other SSGs with Magnox and EnergySolutions managers. He referred specifically to the encouragement given to small and medium enterprises and in this context mentioned a very successful local firm in Thornbury which had developed equipment for processing wastes for Berkeley.

#### **INFORMATION FROM PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND**

- 25 Mr Lynden reminded members that some years ago Dr Julia Verne of the Public Health Observatory had attended a meeting of this Group and given a very useful presentation on the incidence of cancers within the UK and around nuclear sites. These findings had been updated recently and Mr Lynden suggested that Dr Verne should be invited to attend the next joint meeting with the Berkeley SSG and give a presentation on those findings. This was agreed.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 26 Drawing attention to the fact that the Berkeley SSG was to be held later on the same day as this meeting, Mr Lynden asked whether this arrangement was convenient for members who wished to attend both meetings. Members were generally content with this arrangement although Cllr Birch said that he would not be able to attend both meetings on the same day.
- 27 In response to a comment by Cllr Hawkins, Mr Lynden suggested that it would be appropriate to wait until the new parent body organisation for the Magnox sites had been appointed before reviewing the earlier work done on the preferred end state for the site.

## **DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 24 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on Wednesday 30 April 2014.

MJD  
31 January 2014