

**OLDBURY ON SEVERN POWER STATION  
SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE OLDBURY CONFERENCE  
CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 30 APRIL 2014**

**PRESENT:**

Mr M Lynden (in the chair)	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr R Birch	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr D Dovey	-	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr N Halsall	-	Thornbury Town Council
Mr P Hassell	-	Bristol City Council
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Cllr G Vaughan-Lewis	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr Ms J Lyons	-	Olveston 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
Cllr Ms F Shipston	-	Tytherington Parish Council
Cllr Mrs P Wride	-	Chair, Berkeley SSG

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr P Dickenson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr P Reynolds	-	Environment Agency
Ms G Ellis-King	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr R Ledger	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr M Castle	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mrs E Vaughan-Lewis	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms G Coombs	-	Communications Officer
Mr D Wride	-	Lower Severn Drainage Board
Ms S Stagg	-	James Reed PR
Mr J Hutchinson	-	MechaTech Systems Ltd
Ms V Young	-	MechaTech Systems Ltd
Mr B Delve		
Mr A Mitchell		
Mrs Mitchell		
Mr S Rodliffe		
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 extended a particular welcome to those who were attending a meeting of this group for the first time.

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Heaton, Mr P Chilcott, Ms H Cook, Cllr C Evers, Dr L Hales, Ms L Miles, Cllr Ms V Tutin, Mr B Willcox and Mr J Jenkin.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

### **(a) Accuracy**

- 3 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 29 January 2014 were approved as an accurate record.

### **(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 Apologies for absence had been received from Mr Jenkin. In the absence of Mr Jenkin, Mr Lynden reviewed items set out in the NDA's monthly update report, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The NDA had announced Cavendish Fluor Partnership (CFP) as the preferred bidder in the competition to take ownership of the Magnox and RSRL sites. CFP was a specially created joint venture between Cavendish Nuclear and Fluor Corporation. A transition period would now follow and, subject to the successful completion of that period, shares in Magnox Ltd and RSRL would be transferred to CFP on 1 September 2014.
  - (ii) It was understood that a legal challenge to the competition process had been mounted recently by one of the unsuccessful bidders but no further information was available on this matter.
  - (iii) The NDA's Radioactive Waste Management Directorate had become a wholly-owned subsidiary of the NDA to be known as Radioactive Waste Management Ltd.
  - (iv) The Department of Energy and Climate Change had initiated consultation on the management of irradiated fuels of overseas origin held in the UK.

- (v) NDA had published a statement in response to the publication of the Public Accounts Committee report into progress at Sellafield.
  - (vi) NDA had published a paper identifying contingency options for managing spent Magnox fuel in the event of irreversible failure of the Magnox reprocessing plant at Sellafield.
  - (vii) NDA had launched a mentoring scheme to help smaller businesses take advantage of opportunities in nuclear decommissioning.
  - (viii) NDA had published a paper on the strategy for the management of radioactive waste graphite.
- 7 Mr Hassell suggested that it would be helpful if members could be given information to explain the various roles of the NDA, the Parent Body Organisation and the Site Licence Companies and the relationships between them. Mr Lynden hoped that it would be possible to provide this in a single sheet of paper at the next meeting.
- 8 In response to questions from Cllr Birch, Mr Lynden confirmed that the NDA's business activities were subjected to rigorous audit processes and its annual reports and accounts were published.

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

- 9 Mr Ledger reported on recent activities at the Oldbury site, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Throughout the period since the previous meeting the Site had maintained compliance with all Operating Rule limits and conditions and all Maintenance Schedule requirements.
  - (ii) There had been no accidents involving time lost from work for more than 15 months. The Site had recently been awarded an Order of Distinction by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents in recognition of its occupational safety performance, having received 15 consecutive Gold Awards from RoSPA.
  - (iii) Revised emergency arrangements which reflected the reduced level of hazards on site had been agreed by ONR and implemented. Mr Ledger acknowledged the support of the Avon Fire and Rescue Service in exercises to test the implementation of the new arrangements.
  - (iv) The reactors were almost 40% defuelled. During the past year some 61 flasks of fuel had been despatched from site for reprocessing at Sellafield; fuel remaining to be despatched would fill some 212 further flasks. Priority was currently being given to the completion of defuelling at Sizewell A; when all fuel had been despatched from that station later in the summer, priority would then be given to defuelling the Oldbury reactors. It was hoped that this would be completed by early 2016.

- (v) Both reactors remained in a natural circulation state with no forced circulation of air within the cores. The low level of decay heat from the fuel remaining in the reactors was such that it was no longer necessary to circulate water continuously within the boilers.
  - (vi) Progress continued to be made with plant simplification and hazard reduction measures. With the much reduced requirement for water treatment, trials were being undertaken using a mobile water treatment unit; if these trials were successful it would be possible to make the main water treatment plant redundant and remove the bulk stores of acid and chemicals associated with it.
  - (vii) Redundant batteries containing 37,000 litres of sulphuric acid had recently been removed from the site.
  - (viii) Work was progressing on the 11 kV underground cable electricity supply to the site. When completed this would enable the existing supply systems to be made redundant.
  - (ix) Following the announcement of their preferred bidder status, Cavendish Fluor Partnership had sent a video message to all staff and representatives had recently visited the site.
  - (x) Support for community activities included a contribution towards the Oldbury village community shop and Thornbury Broncos under 10s rugby team.
- 10 Members watched a short film describing progress made within Magnox Ltd during the past year.

### **Office for Nuclear Regulation**

- 11 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.
- 12 Mr Dickenson pointed out that with effect from 1 April the Office for Nuclear Regulation had been established as a public corporation under the Energy Act 2013.
- 13 Mr Dickenson confirmed that he had witnessed the exercise of the revised emergency arrangements which had been proposed by the licensee. He believed that the new arrangements which had been approved by ONR represented an improvement over the earlier arrangements, having regard for the current state of plant on the site.
- 14 In response to a question from Cllr Birch on the timing and nature of inspections undertaken, Mr Dickenson said that inspections were sometimes planned in

order to allow inspectors to witness activities which were being undertaken on the site.

- 15 Mr Mitchell asked for further information on the reported event involving the issue of a duplicate interlock key. Mr Ledger explained that the purpose of the interlock was to prevent access to a maintenance facility during times when irradiated fuel might be moved through that area. Although no one had been in the area during such times the issue of a duplicate key had rendered the interlock arrangement ineffective. The error had been recognised quickly, the door locked, an investigation instigated and the circumstances reported to the ONR.

### **Environment Agency**

- 16 Mr Reynolds 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) During the past quarter inspections had focused upon arrangements for the management of low-level waste and arrangements for the abatement and monitoring of gaseous emissions. No instances of non-compliance had been identified during these inspections.
- (ii) The Site's permit had been varied to reflect changes in operational circumstances and the fact that waste incinerators were no longer to be used.
- (iii) There was a decreasing trend in the level of discharges and there had been no breaches of any limits during the past quarter.

- 17 In response to a question from Mr Mitchell, Mr Ledger explained the damage at the inlet to the circulating water system caused during bad weather in December. With the CW system inoperable an assessment had demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the EA, that pending the installation of a new active effluent discharge line, continuing discharges without cooling water would result in a negligible increase in the environmental impact of the discharge. Mr Reynolds said that having regard for this negligible impact the cost of repairing the damage was not justified; it was hoped that the new discharge pipeline would be installed later this year.

### **REPORT ON MEETING WITH NEW PARENT BODY ORGANISATION**

- 18 Mr Lynden reported on a meeting which he had attended with representatives of other SSGs at which managers of the Cavendish Fluor Partnership had been introduced as the preferred bidder in the competition for the management of the Magnox and RSRL sites. He said that he had been particularly impressed by the commitment to training which had been shown by the CFP representatives.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 19 Mr Lynden introduced Mr Hutchinson and Ms Young of MechaTech Systems Ltd. Their company, which was based in Thornbury, had been involved in the design and manufacture of equipment for drying intermediate level wastes within ductile cast iron containers (DCICs) at the Berkeley site. The novel approach which they had developed involved heating and vacuum drying the waste and had received the Magnox i4 Innovation Award. Mr Dickenson pointed out that the regulatory process required to allow the use of DCICs for long-term storage of waste had not yet been completed.
- 20 Cllr Vaughan-Lewis expressed his congratulations at the rate of the progress which had been made at Oldbury in reducing potential hazards on site. Mr Mitchell felt that the high standards which he had witnessed during operation of the plant at Oldbury were clearly being maintained during the decommissioning process.

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

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

MJD  
7 May 2014