

**OLDBURY ON SEVERN POWER STATION
SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE OLDBURY CONFERENCE
CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 23 JANUARY 2013**

PRESENT:

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Mr M Lynden (in the chair) | - | Oldbury on Severn Parish Council |
| Cllr C Clifford | - | Thornbury Town Council |
| Cllr C Evers | - | Glos Assn of Parish and Town Councils |
| Cllr D Dovey | - | Monmouthshire County Council |
| Cllr R Griffin | - | South Gloucestershire Council |
| Dr L Hales | | |
| 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 |
| Cllr J O'Neill | - | South Gloucestershire Council |
| Cllr Mrs P Parsloe | - | Thornbury Town Council |
| Cllr M Riddle | - | South Gloucestershire Council |
| Mr 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 M Lester | - | Civil Nuclear Constabulary |
| Mr P Dickenson | - | Office for Nuclear Regulation |
| Mr B Payne | - | DECC |
| Mr G Elias | - | Welsh Government |
| Mr J Gilbert | - | Horizon Nuclear Power |
| Mr R Ledger | - | Deputy Site Director |
| Mr C Fayers | - | Oldbury on Severn Power Station |
| Mrs E Vaughan-Lewis | - | Oldbury on Severn Power Station |
| Ms A Kentish | - | Communications Manager |
| Ms G Coombs | - | Communications Officer |
| Mr B Vallyly | - | EHS&Q Site Inspector |
| Dr R Howells | - | AMEC |
| Ms S Speakerman | - | Atkins |
| Ms S Stagg | - | James Reed PR |
| Mr B Delve | | |
| Mr D Edems | | |
| Ms L Hutchinson | | |
| 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, Ms G Ellis-King, Ms M Grey, Mr P Kennedy, Cllr M Kirby, Cllr Ms J Lyons, Dr R MacGregor, and Ms V Tutin.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a) Accuracy

- 3 The minutes of the meetings of this Group held on 24 October 2012 and of the joint meeting with the Berkeley SSG held on the same day were approved as accurate records.

(b) Matters arising

- 4 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meetings.

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 Mr Jenkin reported on issues currently of interest to the NDA, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Formal dialogue was about to commence with the four organisations which were to bid in the competition to act as parent body organisation (PBO) for the 12 Magnox and RSRL sites. In due course engagement sessions would be held between bidders and local stakeholder representatives.
 - (ii) One fifth of the land on the Harwell site had been de-designated, meaning that the NDA ceased to have clean-up responsibility for the land. This significant area of land, amounting to some 27 ha, would return to the Harwell business campus for development.
 - (iii) The NDA was seeking views on its performance from stakeholders. A questionnaire was available for members use or the questionnaire could be completed online.
 - (iv) Defuelling of the third reactor at Chapelcross had been completed. The defuelling of the remaining reactor was due for completion by March 2013.

- (v) Additional funding of some £13 million was being provided to allow acceleration of decommissioning and demolition work at Dungeness A. This funding would allow the southern part of the site including the Turbine Hall to be cleared in 3 years rather than 15 years as originally planned.
 - (vi) A decision was due to be taken on 30 January by local authorities in Cumbria as to whether to proceed with further consideration of proposals for the location of a geological disposal facility in their area.
- 7 Cllr Hassell asked whether the National Nuclear Archive to be established at Wick in Caithness would be accessible to the public for research purposes. Mr Jenkin was not aware of the arrangements for access to this archive but undertook to provide Cllr Hassell with the information he had requested.

Site Director's Report

- 8 Mr Ledger reported on recent activities at the Oldbury site, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) An accident had occurred on 10 January when a subcontractor carrying out refurbishment work in a shower area had received injuries which required hospital treatment. The individual was making a good recovery from his injuries and a detailed investigation into the circumstances of the event was taking place. Actions taken immediately after the event in accordance with emergency arrangements had been effective. This unfortunate event had ended a period of more than three years without a lost time accident.
 - (ii) The site had maintained compliance with all Operating Rule limits and conditions.
 - (iii) Following an improvement in the availability of reprocessing plant at Sellafield, bulk defuelling of Reactor 2 had commenced in December 2012. This reactor, which had been partly defuelled as part of the inter-reactor transfer of fuel before Reactor 1 ceased operation, was now 15% defuelled. Defuelling of Reactor 1 was due to commence in the coming months and the plan remained for both reactors to be completely defuelled by mid-2015.
 - (iv) Natural circulation of air within Reactor 2 was now adequate to maintain sufficient cooling of the fuel and it was therefore no longer necessary to run gas circulators for this purpose. This allowed maintenance requirements to be reduced and would enable further hazard reduction by the disposal of gas circulator lubricating oil.
 - (v) The revised organisational structure was now fully in place and some 400 staff and agency employees were engaged on the site. A small number of further reductions would be possible as plant maintenance

requirements were reduced but staffing would remain broadly at this level until defuelling was completed.

- (vi) The site had hosted a meeting of members of the South Gloucestershire Local Nuclear Authorities Group and the Conference Centre had been used for various meetings including a series of workshops involving local secondary schools to promote careers in science and engineering.
- 9 Cllr Dovey emphasised the importance of making school students aware of opportunities for careers in engineering and science. Mr Gilbert confirmed that this was recognised by Horizon Nuclear Power. In this connection Mr Lynden emphasised the value of visits to operational plants. Cllr Mrs Wright referred to the Energy Severn Vale initiative which sought to encourage investment in low carbon energy industries; she undertook to provide Cllr Dovey with information on Energy Severn Vale.
- 10 Cllr Hassell suggested that it might be appropriate to produce some form of commemorative public display showing the history of Oldbury Power Station; this might take the form of an exhibit in Thornbury Museum.
- 11 Cllr Hassell asked how improvements in efficiency in carrying out decommissioning work resulted in reductions in costs to the taxpayer. Mr Jenkin explained that the NDA's funding was provided in part directly by government and in part by income from NDA activities. The NDA provided incentives for Site Licence Companies (SLC's) to make efficiency improvements, which could result in savings or in additional work being carried out within the existing funding. Efficiency improvements resulted in reduced demands for government funding. The target cost model that the Magnox/RSRL PBO competition will introduce will mean that the PBO will share the risk for delivering programme over the agreed target cost, but earn more fee for delivery below target cost.

Office for Nuclear Regulation

- 12 Mr Dickenson presented a report on ONR inspection and regulatory activities relating to the Oldbury Nuclear Licensed Site during the previous quarter. He pointed out that further, more detailed information was available on the ONR website.
- 13 In response to a question from Dr Hales, Mr Dickenson said that the Licence Instrument which had been issued to Oldbury during the past quarter had been related to the regulator's agreement to proposed changes in Operating Rules. He explained that some of the rules which had been associated with operation of the plant were no longer relevant.

Environment Agency

- 14 Dr McGregor had been unable to attend to present the report from the Environment Agency which had been circulated to members. Members reviewed issues raised in the report, noting the following points during discussion:

- (i) Liquid and gaseous discharges from the site had remained at levels well within the permitted limits.
- (ii) Consideration was being given to potential changes in arrangements for liquid discharges from the Site to take effect when it was no longer possible to use the station's circulating water system.

REPORT ON ENERGYSOLUTIONS CONFERENCE

15 Mr Lynden reported on a conference organised in London by *EnergySolutions*, the Parent Body Organisation for the Oldbury site, which he had attended together with representatives from other Site Stakeholder Groups. He said that discussions at the conference had included the following:

- (i) The effect of actions taken to accelerate decommissioning work at Bradwell and Trawsfynydd sites and progress made at those sites in developing systems which would benefit future work at other sites.
- (ii) Progress with the reprocessing plant and arrangements for the despatch of fuel from power station sites to Sellafield.
- (iii) Savings in the costs of intermediate level waste stores at power station sites resulting from the revised approach to containment of these wastes.

16 Mr Lynden said that a further meeting was to be held in the near future to consider in more detail aspects of arrangements for dealing with wastes at all Magnox sites. He would report on the outcome of those discussions in due course.

UPDATE FROM HORIZON NUCLEAR POWER

17 Mr Gilbert provided an update on Horizon Nuclear Power and the development of proposals for new nuclear power station construction alongside the Oldbury site. He drew particular attention to the following:

- (i) Horizon Nuclear Power had been established by E.ON and RWE (German owned utilities) to develop new nuclear construction capability at Wylfa and Oldbury.
- (ii) It had been decided at an early stage that it was not feasible to develop both sites in parallel and a decision had been taken to adopt Wylfa as the lead site.
- (iii) Following a strategic review and in response to domestic circumstances in Germany the original shareholders had decided not to proceed with the development of new nuclear power plants in the UK.
- (iv) Hitachi had acquired Horizon Nuclear Power as a going concern in November 2012, taking over the company, its assets and staff.

- (v) The Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (ABWR) had been identified by Hitachi as the proposed reactor technology for the planned developments at Wylfa and Oldbury.
 - (vi) Recently DECC had asked the regulators to begin formal discussions with Hitachi-GE in relation to a generic design assessment of the ABWR.
 - (vii) The ABWR had a proven operational record and had been built to time and cost in Japan within programmes of 37-43 months.
 - (viii) Hitachi had signed memoranda of understanding with Babcock's and Rolls-Royce.
- 18 During discussion Cllr Riddle expressed the hope that consideration to be given to the drainage arrangements for the new power station site would take account of the need to improve drainage in Oldbury on Severn Village. Mr Gilbert hoped that it would prove possible to make improvements which would be of benefit to the area as a whole.
- 19 Cllr Griffin asked whether it would be possible to make use of stockpiled plutonium in fuel for the ABWR reactor. Mr Gilbert said that the ABWR, as other reactor types, could use mixed oxide fuel which included plutonium but plans for these sites were based upon the use of uranium fuel. There was no intention that fuel from these reactors would be reprocessed.
- 20 In response to comments from Mr Elias and Cllr Dovey, Mr Gilbert outlined considerations which would be given to the use of local contractors where possible, the construction of accommodation for contractors on sites, and steps which might be taken to minimise the impact of transport to and from the sites.

UPDATE FROM DECC ON NEW NUCLEAR BUILD

- 21 Mr Payne provided an update on aspects of government policy in relation to new nuclear power station construction.
- 22 Mr Payne explained the position of new nuclear station construction within the framework of the government policy aimed at increasing the use of low carbon technologies. He said that the inclusion of new nuclear was dependent on it being competitive on cost and not requiring subsidy from the taxpayer. He said that the current passage of the Energy Bill and negotiations on contracts for energy to be supplied by the new plant would provide the financial framework for establishment of new stations.
- 23 Mr Payne said that the interest shown by Hitachi in developing new nuclear generation was welcomed by government and seen as a sign of confidence in the UK nuclear energy market.
- 24 Mr Payne said that the UK EPR had been granted generic design assessment approval and a Site Licence had been issued for Hinkley Point. The remaining

approval outstanding for Hinkley Point was the final decision by the Secretary of State on planning consent; this decision was expected in the coming months.

- 25 Mr Payne said that a community benefit policy was being developed to recognise the acceptance of new station construction by local communities; an announcement on this policy was expected in the near future.
- 26 In relation to comments by Cllr Halsall on changes in governments' attitudes towards nuclear power in past years, Mr Payne said that current policy was not to favour any particular technology but to establish robust long-term arrangements within which market forces would determine investment decisions.
- 27 Cllr Hassell drew attention to the reported facts that Hitachi was able to build an ABWR within a 37 month construction programme but the generic design assessment process which preceded that was expected to take four years. Mr Dickinson said that the generic design assessment which was undertaken jointly by ONR with the Environment Agency was a thorough process designed to ensure that the safest designs available were chosen for construction in the UK; it was important that all aspects of safety of the plant over its lifetime were properly considered. Cllr Hassell recognised the benefits in clearing issues before construction began in order to avoid unnecessary changes during construction but hoped that a balance could be achieved.

SOCIO ECONOMIC UPDATE

- 28 Mr Lynden said that socio-economic funding for local projects would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting. He had details of recent approvals and would make that information available to members on request.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Radioactivity in Food Monitoring Review

- 29 Mr Lynden pointed out that the Food Standards Agency was undertaking a consultation as part of its review of the way it monitored radioactivity in food and had invited responses from stakeholders. Having regard for the particular interests and expertise of Cllr Evers and Dr Hales, Mr Lynden had asked them to carry out a review of the proposals on behalf of members. Cllr Evers presented the results of this review, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The current annual programme of monitoring radioactivity in food had been running for more than 25 years and no food safety risks had been identified in that period. The costs of this programme were largely recharged to the nuclear industry.
 - (ii) As a basis for the consultation the FSA had identified three options for consideration. These were firstly to "do nothing" and to maintain the current monitoring programme, secondly to cease FSA radiological

monitoring of food and associated reporting, and thirdly to develop an optimised monitoring programme.

- (iii) Cllr Evers outlined the scope of the existing monitoring programme and the optimised programme which was proposed by the FSA. The optimised programme included closer monitoring around Sellafield, having regard for the effect of discharges in previous years. The FSA believed that their proposed optimised programme was compliant with all European and international obligations and was adequate to demonstrate food safety.
 - (iv) As a basis for the consultation the FSA had posed four questions relating to the adequacy of existing arrangements, the adequacy of the proposed optimised programme, the proposal within the optimised programme to discontinue monitoring which was not required to meet legal or international obligations, and the proposal that the independent monitoring programme should be maintained by FSA with costs recharged to the industry. Cllr Evers recommended that from the point of view of this SSG, all four questions could be answered in the affirmative and the proposed optimised monitoring programme could be supported.
- 30 During discussion Mr Fayers said that the environmental monitoring programme carried out by the site would continue. He believed that the proposed optimised programme was fit for purpose. He pointed out that it was necessary to consider possible future trends as well as the results of previous monitoring but said that existing authorisations and monitoring arrangements would draw attention to any adverse trend. Mr Ledger expressed his support for the proposed changes.
- 31 Following discussion members expressed their unanimous support for the approach recommended by Cllr Evers recorded in para 29(iv) above. Mr Lynden asked Cllr Evers to reply on behalf of the SSG to the consultation being carried out by the FSA. He thanked Cllr Evers and Dr Hales for the consideration they had given to this matter and the clear presentation given to members.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 32 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on 24 April 2013 at Oldbury Conference Centre, commencing at 7.00pm.

MJD
28 January 2013