

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at the Canalside, Bridgwater on Friday 25 October 2013

PRESENT

Cllr M Caswell (Chairman)	-	Stockland Bristol
Cllr M Brown	-	Otterhampton Parish Council
Mr L Talbot	-	Site Director, Hinkley Point A
Mr M Harrison	-	Station Director, Hinkley Point B

Elected Members

Cllr Ms A Bown	-	Somerset County Council
Mrs J Brown	-	Parents concerned about Hinkley
Mr R Corns	-	Natural England
Mr A Debenham	-	Stop Hinkley
Cllr J Edwards	-	Spaxton Parish Council
Cllr Ms S Goss	-	West Somerset District Council
Mr A Jeffrey	-	Sedgemoor and West Somerset Green Party
Ms B Oates	-	West Hinkley Action Group
Cllr M Phillips	-	Cannington Parish Council
Cllr Ms M Smith	-	West Somerset District Council
Cllr J Taylor	-	Fiddington Parish Council
Mr T Williams	-	Kilve Parish Council

Co-opted Members

Miss B Child
Mr M Short

Appointed Members

Mr D Batters	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr J Jenkin	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Dr P Mountford-Lister	-	Environment Agency
Mr T Fediw	-	Environment Agency
Mr D Prescott	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr I Wilson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Ms N Dawson	-	Somerset County Council
Mr J Holbrook	-	West Somerset District Council

EDF Energy

Mr P Higginson	-	Technical and Safety Support Manager
Mr D Hill	-	
Mr D Stokes	-	Community Liaison Officer
Mr M Speed	-	Hinkley B LJC Representative

Magnox

Ms A Prole	-	Communications Support
Ms G Coombs	-	Communications
Mr K Ellett	-	Staff Representative
Dr S Wilmott	-	Waste, Baseline Strategy

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms A Watts		
Mr J Brooking	-	UKNR
Mr M J Davis	-	Secretary
Cllr A Keen	-	Kilve Parish Council

OPEN PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

- 1 Cllr Caswell welcomed all those present to this meeting of the Site Stakeholder Group for Hinkley Point A Site and Hinkley Point B Power Station. He invited questions from members of the public on any issue which might not be covered in later discussion. No questions were raised.

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 It was confirmed that there was a quorum of elected members present at the meeting. As the numbers attending were close to the limit defined by the quorum it was agreed that there should be a review of membership to ensure that membership of the Group was only extended to those organisations who wished to be represented.
- 3 Apologies for absence were received from Mr G Roberts, Mr S Crago, Mr K ter Braak, Cllr D Yeomans, Mr P Kennedy, Cllr N Jones, Cllr R Garner, Cllr Ms A Frazer and Cllr P Grierson.
- 4 The following changes affecting membership were noted:
 - (i) Cllr J Taylor was attending as representative of Fiddington Parish Council to succeed Mr Short, who had been co-opted to membership of the Group.
 - (ii) Cllr Ms Bown was attending as a representative of Somerset County Council to succeed Cllr Edney.
 - (iii) Mr Jeffrey was attending for the first time as representative of Sedgemoor and West Somerset Green Party.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 JUNE 2013

(a) Accuracy

- 5 The minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2013 were approved as a correct record.

(b) Matters Arising (other than matters to be covered in later discussions)

Possible Future Use of Hinkley Point A Site Turbine Hall (paras 9/10 refer)

- 6 Copies of correspondence between Cllr Caswell and EDF Energy in relation to the former Hinkley Point A Turbine Hall had been circulated to members.

Hinkley Point B emergency exercise (para 19(v) refers)

- 7 Mr Wilson pointed out that the B Station's emergency arrangements had been demonstrated satisfactorily but a number of learning opportunities had been identified and these were to be demonstrated in the future exercises.

Visit to Hinkley Point A Site (para 27 refers)

- 8 Mr Talbot said that the visit by members to the Hinkley Point A Site had provided a valuable opportunity for members to see activities on site at first-hand; a further visit would be arranged for new members if this was required. Mr Harrison offered to make arrangements for members to visit B station.

Hinkley Point Off Site Emergency Plan (para 28 refers)

- 9 Ms Dawson reported on the updating of the off-site plan for an incident at Hinkley Point. The review would take account of organisational changes and changes in practice and the format would be in line with other similar plans. It was intended that a revised draft should be circulated to all agencies for comment in December. In due course a public information version of the plan would be produced and copies would be made available for members. She undertook to provide members with copies of a detailed brief on the off-site plan (attached as an appendix to these minutes).

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 10 Mr Harrison reported on activities and performance at Hinkley Point B since the previous meeting of this group, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) On the Monday prior to this meeting the Prime Minister and others had been on site at Hinkley Point B to make announcements in relation to Hinkley Point C. The station had been proud to host this high profile visit

which had been arranged at relatively short notice and had attracted a large volume of press and media interest.

- (ii) The station had maintained its high standards of safety. It was now more than six years since the last reportable nuclear event and four and a half years since the last reportable environmental event.
- (iii) There had been one recordable injury sustained by a person who had cut a hand in an office environment. Attention was focused upon an apparent increased trend in the number of minor injuries requiring first aid treatment.
- (iv) An annual surveillance visit by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance had confirmed accreditation against the international standards for quality management, environmental management and occupational health and safety. Following an assessment at the power station the occupational health team had received external quality benchmark accreditation.
- (v) The failed fuel pin in Reactor 3, which had been reported at previous meetings of this Group, had been located. The fuel stringer containing the failed pin would be removed in the next refuelling campaign in December.
- (vi) The station's electricity production during the current year had just exceeded 6 TWh.
- (vii) There had been one shutdown during September for repair of turbo alternator electrical brushgear. The unit had returned to service after an outage of eight days. This was the only unplanned outage during 2013 to date.
- (viii) An exercise of the station's counter terrorism arrangements had been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Office for Nuclear Regulation.
- (ix) Six new apprentices had been recruited from local schools during the summer and had started their training.
- (x) More than 7000 people had visited the new visitor centre in Bridgwater since it opened and more than 2000 people had made visits to the station this year.

11 In reply to a question from Mrs Brown, Mr Harrison described the arrangements for inspection, sampling and analysis of reactor core graphite and assured her that specialist staff maintained a close awareness of all relevant technical developments. He explained that safety cases, which were prepared to justify the safety of all aspects of plant, were subjected to independent assessment within the company, submitted to the Nuclear Safety Committee and, if supported, submitted

- to the Office for Nuclear Regulation. The ONR then carried out its own independent assessment before deciding if the safety case could be accepted.
- 12 Cllr Ms Smith emphasised that the Hinkley Point site was within the administrative area of the West Somerset District Council and felt that some meetings of this group should be held at Williton. Cllr Caswell said that it was for members to decide where meetings of the Group should be held but the Group existed to represent residents and communities centred on Hinkley Point.
- 13 Cllr Ms Smith emphasised the importance to West Somerset District Council of information on any reductions in power station output as these were reflected in a rebate on the Station's business rate payments. Mr Harrison was prepared to provide information which was required in an appropriate format.
- 14 In response to a question from Mr Debenham, Mr Harrison said that the Hinkley Point B reactors were currently operating at 80% of their original design capability. The change from the 70% rating previously adopted followed the preparation and approval of safety cases which examined all relevant parameters. The adoption of a higher rating could have an effect upon the ultimate operating life of the plant; the current forecast, based upon assessments of life limiting factors affecting key components, was that the plant would operate until 2023.
- 15 In reply to a further question from Mr Debenham, Mr Harrison explained the likely nature of the defect which had been described as a fuel pin failure. After removal from the reactor the affected component would be subjected to examination to determine the cause of the problem. The effect of the defect was detectable during the operation of the reactor but it had not given rise to any significant increase in radiation or contamination levels.
- 16 Cllr Williams commented that EDF Energy appeared not to have invited Kilve Parish Council to send a representative to the community forum which was meeting to discuss aspects of Hinkley Point C construction.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A

- 17 Mr Talbot reported on activities at Hinkley Point A Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) It was now more than six years since the most recent lost time accident on the Hinkley Point A Site. This represented more than 5 million man hours worked without such an accident and was a credit to all staff and contractors working on the site. This was the best performance of any Magnox Site but there was no complacency and continuing efforts were made to maintain high safety standards.

- (ii) It was more than five years since the most recent personal contamination event which was a good performance record having regard for the challenging nature of the work undertaken on the Site.
 - (iii) Good progress was being maintained with the preparation of the periodic safety review which was due to be submitted to the ONR in March 2014.
 - (iv) Design work for the Interim Storage Facility was complete and the safety case was nearing completion. It had been decided to delay the start of construction until April 2014.
 - (v) The concept design of equipment for the retrieval and sorting of fuel element debris from the vaults was complete and preparations were now being made for retrieval and waste characterisation trials. Work on the dissolution plant was awaiting operational experience from Bradwell.
 - (vi) The Reactor 2 cooling ponds were now drained and the surface of the structure decontaminated. Contamination and radiation levels in the Reactor 1 ponds were more challenging due to historical operational reasons. Options for using a dry decontamination procedure for the R1 pond structure were being considered to avoid the need to treat liquid effluent produced by the decontamination process.
 - (vii) Good progress was being maintained with the project to recover the waste from Settling Tanks 1, 2 and 3. This work was required by the Regulator to be completed by March 2014. The waste was to be removed from these tanks and stored temporarily in ductile cast iron containers (mini stores). The equipment to retrieve and transfer the waste had been procured and was nearing completion; a filling house and a temporary buffer store to house the mini stores had been built on site.
 - (viii) The new car park and supporting security systems had been completed. Separation of the A and B Stations' security systems was planned for the end of the calendar year.
- 18 Mr Talbot reminded members of the public consultation undertaken earlier this year on arrangements for the storage of intermediate level waste and treatment of fuel element debris at the Magnox sites. He said that in response to the feedback from the consultation options for Hinkley Point A to store intermediate level waste from Dungeness and to treat fuel element debris from Sizewell had been discounted. Consideration was still being given to the possibility of transporting fuel element debris from Oldbury for processing at Hinkley Point. This would not require any change to the plant which was proposed for construction at Hinkley Point A, it would merely operate over a longer period. If this approach was adopted transfers of fuel element debris from Oldbury would start in about 2020.

- The construction of a processing plant for the fuel element debris would require planning consent.
- 19 In reply to a question from Cllr Edwards, Mr Talbot said that a dry procedure for removing contamination from concrete walls involved the use of liquid nitrogen. The change of state of the nitrogen on contact with the concrete caused the contaminated material to be removed and there was no resulting liquid waste.
- 20 In response to further questions Mr Talbot said that the Interim Storage Facility would be smaller than the store originally proposed to house the Site's ILW waste. He said that the fuel element debris dissolution process would result in a small discharge of radioactivity to sea but that the bulk of the radioactivity in the debris was represented by small springs and these would remain on site stored in mini stores.

REPORT FROM THE EMERGENCY PLANNING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

- 21 Mr Higginson presented a report on the meeting of the emergency planning consultative committee held on 5 September 2013. Copies of the report had previously been circulated to members. He pointed out that issues discussed at the meeting included organisational changes within the health service, arrangements for the distribution of potassium iodate tablets and providing advice in relation to their use, emergency exercises and national developments on nuclear emergency planning matters.
- 22 Mr Higginson pointed out that potassium iodate tablets were being distributed to residents within the detailed emergency planning zone by TNT during the current month. If delivery to a particular property was not successful and signed for on the second attempt then TNT would leave a card informing residents that tablets were available for collection from Cannington Health Centre. Cllr Ms Goss said that not all residents had received envelopes for the disposal of old tablets; it was confirmed that any tablets which were no longer required could be returned to Cannington Health Centre.
- 23 Cllr Williams requested information on the qualifications of staff at Somerset County Council involved in the preparation of off site the emergency plans. Ms Dawson said that the County Council had a responsibility under the REPIR regulations to produce an off site plan; preparation of the plan involved the compilation of contributions from the various services and specialists involved.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- 24 Mr Fediw reported on the Environment Agency's monitoring and regulatory activities relating to the Hinkley sites since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) A planned inspection visit to Hinkley Point A had been cancelled due to other inspection activities associated with the NDA's competition for management of the Magnox sites. In addition to the planned inspection visits the Agency maintained close telephone contact with the sites.
- (ii) Magnox would be required by the Agency to demonstrate that in developing proposals for ILW waste storage and treatment, best available techniques had been used to minimise impacts upon the environment.
- (iii) Consent had been given to vary the A Site's permit to recognise two atmospheric discharge routes for the new DCIC buffer store and the Interim Storage Facility. This did not represent any change in the site's discharge limits.
- (iv) Discharges of radioactivity from both sites had remained well within limits specified in permits and there had been no instances of non-compliance.
- (v) Inspections at Hinkley Point B had confirmed that procedures for ensuring that the environment was protected when making changes to the plant were appropriate and properly implemented.
- (vi) The annual report on Radioactivity In Food and the Environment which was prepared jointly with the Food Standards Agency had recently been published.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORTS

- 25 Mr Prescott and Mr Wilson presented reports on the ONR's regulatory and inspection activities, copies of which had previously been made available to members. They outlined the scope and nature of inspections against licence conditions and statutory requirements. It was noted that the ONR was introducing an additional series of inspections to examine safety-related systems against the claims made upon them in safety cases. The programme of these inspections would ensure that all significant safety-related systems were inspected within a five year cycle.
- 26 Mr Wilson pointed out that further information on ONR inspections was available on the HSE website. He offered during his visits to the site to meet with any member who wished to discuss any issue relating to Hinkley Point B.
- 27 In reply to a question from Mrs Brown, Mr Wilson explained that the continued operation of a reactor was dependent upon the ONR being satisfied that adequate safety standards were demonstrated and that there was compliance with all site licence conditions and safety cases. Mr Harrison said that following a statutory

overhaul outage the operator had to apply to the ONR for consent to start up the reactor and such consent would not be given unless the ONR was satisfied that all safety case requirements had been met.

REPORT FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 28 Mr Batters reported on current NDA issues, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) NDA had decided to extend its Sellafield management contract with Nuclear Management Partners into a second five year period.
 - (ii) The four consortia bidding in the competition for the management of the Magnox and RSRL sites had been officially invited to submit their final tenders to the NDA. These would then be assessed and the identity of the preferred bidder would be announced in March 2014.
 - (iii) The share of the NDA's total contract spending placed with smaller businesses had increased to 13% over the past year. A target had been adopted for this share of the expenditure to increase to 20% by 2015.
 - (iv) The NDA had published its annual report and accounts.
- 29 Mr Debenham commented on the renewal of the Sellafield management contract following critical independent reports on the progress made by the contractor. Mr Batters explained that it was a 17 year contract with a break clause after five years. The NDA recognised the need for improved performance at Sellafield and following a review of the various options had decided to extend the existing contract.
- 30 Cllr Ms Goss commended the intention to increase the level of expenditure placed with small businesses and asked whether any supply chain events were organised locally. Mr Talbot said that he had been organising such events for a number of years.
- 31 In response to a question from Mr Jeffrey, Mr Batters confirmed that the NDA's expenditure represented some two thirds of the total budget of the Department of Energy & Climate Change.

REPORT ON FED AND ILW MEETINGS

- 32 Cllr Brown reported on key issues arising from various meetings relating to the storage of intermediate level waste and the treatment of fuel element debris on the Hinkley A Site. He drew particular attention to the following:

- (i) The documents provided as a basis for the public consultation had identified various credible options. Of the various submissions made in response to the public consultation earlier this year, a good number had been sent by organisations and individuals with an interest in the Hinkley Point Site.
- (ii) In the earlier consultation, much of the local comment had been concern about the transfer of wastes from the East of the country to Hinkley Point for storage or processing. Those options had now been discounted and whilst there still might be some concern about FED from Oldbury being processed at Hinkley Point it was clear that the same plant would be used for the treatment of Hinkley and Oldbury wastes and the transport of such waste to the site would have a relatively small impact.
- (iii) In earlier discussions on possible dissolution processes, members had favoured a slow process involving the use of carbonic acid. It was now clear that the required timescale for this work necessitated the use of a higher reactive acid. Nitric acid was being used at Bradwell. This matter would be discussed again in relation to the proposed plant at Hinkley Point in the light of operational experience with the Bradwell plant.
- (iv) There would be a further opportunity to obtain information on waste optimisation options at a drop-in session to be held on Friday 1 November at Cannington College. The NDA was to publish its preferred options towards the end of the year.
- (v) It was hoped that there would be an opportunity for some members to visit the Bradwell Site to see the Magnox dissolution plant in operation early in the New Year.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

- 33 Cllr Caswell reported on his activities as Chairman of this Group. He repeated his request made at earlier meetings that members should report back accurately to their organisations and communities on matters discussed at meetings of this group.
- 34 Cllr Caswell emphasised the value of the recent visit to Bradwell with representatives of other SSGs when it had been possible to see the progress made with the accelerated decommissioning programme.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

- 35 Cllr Caswell left the meeting whilst the election of Chairman was discussed. Cllr Brown reported that nominations had been received for Cllr Caswell to be Chairman of the Group for the coming year; no other nominations had been

received. It was agreed that Cllr Caswell should be elected Chairman of this Group for the coming year.

- 36 Cllr Caswell rejoined the meeting and Cllr Brown left the meeting whilst the election of Deputy Chairman was discussed. Cllr Caswell reported that nominations had been received for Cllr Brown to be Deputy Chairman of the Group for the coming year; no other nominations had been received. It was agreed that Cllr Brown should be elected Deputy Chairman of this Group for the coming year.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

No business

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 37 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group would be held on Friday 28 February 2014. The venue for the meeting would be confirmed in due course.

MJD

30 October 2013

Appendix to Hinkley Point SSG Minutes 25 October 2013

Brief for Hinkley Point SSG Meeting provided by Ms N Dawson

Hinkley Point Off-Site Plan

Major rewrite in progress – REPPIR requires a review in 2014:

- Propose to issue for comment in Jan 14.
- Some elements have already been passed to nuclear operators and some responders for specialist input/comment.
- Will be validated in the forthcoming series of Level 2 exercises in 2014 & 2015.

The purpose of the Plan is to provide a detailed and integrated multi-agency response plan, which is site-specific to address a known hazard at a fixed location. The main objective of the Plan is to maximise preparedness in order to minimise response time:

- Requires some detailed information from the nuclear operators and emergency services.
- Requires updates from various responder organisations roles/tasks; in particular those brought about changes in the NHS organisation.
- Will include updates in “extendibility planning” (beyond “reasonably foreseeable accident – but less likely to happen) to meet updated national guidance post-Fukushima.
- The Plan will follow updating national guidance and best practice.

The intention is to provide a Plan that organisations can extract from to provide an appropriate response at all 3 levels (Strategic, Tactical and Operational):

- Plan optimised for action in the Emergency Response Phase.
- Will include sufficient information to consider Recovery Phase requirements during the Emergency Phase.

The Off-Site Plan will be supported by a Handbook providing more detailed information on:

- Radiation dose assessments for responders/emergency workers carrying out tasks in the DEPZ during the Emergency Phase.
- Public information and media response organisation in the Emergency Phase.
- Organisation and management of the Recovery Phase.

Once the Off-Site Plan has been finalised a separate public information copy will be provided.

Changeover of Potassium Iodate Tablets

The Director of Public Health (Somerset CC), in consultation with PHE & NHS England, has authorized the pre-distribution of PITs that can then be taken as a prophylaxis, by DEPZ residents and emergency responders in the event of an off-site nuclear emergency declared at Hinkley Point B. PITs are provided to all households within the DEPZ and bulk stocks are held by the emergency services and local authorities and Musgrove Park Hospital. Stocks are being changed over at present:

- EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd has arranged the issue and advised on the collection of old stock.
- The Tablets have been issued with a Fact Sheet.
- Information on when to take PITs is also included in the Emergency Instructions issued with the Hinkley Point Calendar and each packet of tablets contains instructions on storage, dosage and medical advice.

Once the changeover has been completed EDF Energy and Somerset CC will review the efficacy of the delivery arrangements and take additional action if shortfalls in delivery have been identified.