

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE SPEECH HOUSE HOTEL,  
COLEFORD, ON WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL 2010**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr M Lynden(in the chair)	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr M Brady	-	Chepstow Town Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Assn of Parish and Town Councils
Cllr K Graupner	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr N Griffiths	-	Power Station Staff Representative
Cllr N Halsall	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr Mrs P Parsloe	-	Thornbury Town Council
Ms A Paine	-	Stroud Green Party
Cllr M Pirie	-	Falfield Parish Council
Rev D Primrose	-	Oldbury Power Station Chaplain
Cllr M Quaile	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr J Whitney	-	Falfield Parish Council
Cllr B Willcox	-	Alveston Parish Council
Cllr D Wride	-	Stroud District Council
Cllr Mrs P Wride	-	Berkeley SSG

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms A French	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Dr M Ghannad	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Dr P Mountford-Lister	-	Environment Agency
Mr D Harrison	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr J Lamonby	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr P Clarke	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr M Pratt	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms Z Young	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms E Vaughan Lewis	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms S Lang	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms V Simm	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mrs J Kempster		
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

- 1 Cllr Lynden welcomed everyone to this meeting of the Oldbury on Severn Site Stakeholder Group.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Mrs A Chapman, Mr R Churchill, Mr B Delve, Mr G Dunlop, Mr W Gill, Dr L Hales, Cllr M Hawkins, Mr M Lester (represented by Mr Harrison), Cllr Ms J Lyons, Mr P Page, Ms P Page, Cllr M Riddle, Ms S Stagg, and Cllr Ms V Tutin.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **(a) Accuracy**

- 3 The minutes of the SSG Meeting held on 20 January 2010 and the minutes of the Socio-Economic Sub-Group meeting held on the same date were approved as accurate records.

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

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

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

- 5 Cllr Lynden invited members of the public to raise any matter which might not arise in discussion on subsequent agenda items. No issues were raised.

## **CHAIR'S ANNUAL REVIEW OF 2009/10**

- 6 Cllr Lynden invited members to comment on the activities of the Group during the past year and to consider whether the Group was achieving its objectives as an interface between the station and the community and a vehicle for two-way communications.
- 7 Cllr Brady felt that the socio-economic funding was important for local communities but questioned why details of applications considered at the Sub-Group were not aired at meetings of this Group. Cllr Lynden suggested that others might join the Sub-Group if they wished. He said that at some sites where power stations were no longer operating, particularly in those areas where there was little alternative employment, this type of support for local communities was a far more significant issue.
- 8 Ms Paine commented that meetings were always held during the working day and questioned whether attendances might be increased if meetings were held in the evening. Cllr Lynden said that evening meetings had been held in the past. He said that the Visitors' Centre at the power station was currently being refurbished and it was hoped that greater use would be made of that facility for these meetings to save the expense associated with meetings held in hotels. Cllr Mrs Wride said that meetings of the Berkeley SSG were often held in the evenings but she drew attention to the need to consider regulators and others who were attending meetings as part of their normal working day. Cllr Lynden said that the next two meetings had been provisionally arranged to be held in the afternoons but he would consider the timing of future meetings.
- 9 Cllr Mrs Parsloe commented on the open and honest way in which information was provided at these meetings. She said that if information needed to answer a question was not immediately available to power station staff or regulators they were prepared to say that they did not know but would provide information in due course; she said this gave confidence in the information which was provided.

- 10 Commenting on the activities of this Group during the past year, Cllr Lynden said he felt that it had been a very successful year with good relationships between the Site and the local community. He expressed congratulations to power station staff on a successful year's operation. He drew attention to the large volume of work for local councillors in recent months in dealing with consultations on various activities associated with new power station construction and transmission system reinforcement.

## **QUARTERLY REPORTS**

### **Nuclear Decommissioning Authority**

- 11 Ms French presented a report on matters of current interest to the NDA, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The successful generation of more than 2.6 TWh at Oldbury during the past year had provided a significant contribution towards the funding of the NDA's decommissioning work. The approval obtained for the continued operation of Reactor 2 into the current financial year would provide a further contribution.
  - (ii) The NDA had published its Business Plan with expenditure of £2.8 billion for next year. Copies of the plan were available for members and were accessible on the NDA website. Funding continued to be prioritised on work which led to the greatest hazard reduction; major expenditure was planned at Sellafield. Other projects completed recently included the removal of asbestos from the former Calder Hall power station and the transfer of Magnox depleted uranium from Chapelcross Capenhurst.
  - (iii) The NDA was publishing a quarterly "Insight" newsletter which provided information on NDA work and activities.
  - (iv) The NDA's prime focus continued to be on safe and secure operations in all of its activities.

### **Oldbury Power Station**

- 12 Mr Lamonby reported on recent activities at Oldbury Power Station, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) During the 2009/10 financial year the station had produced 2.695 TWh (thousand million units) of electricity. This had been achieved in a year during which there had been two major maintenance outages. Income of more than £100 million resulting from this production helped to fund the NDA's decommissioning work.
  - (ii) The NII had confirmed its support for continued operation of Reactor 2 up to a core irradiation level which corresponded to operation until the end of the current year. It remained the station's aim to secure agreement

to a core irradiation limit which would allow operation of Reactor 2 until June 2011, in line with Reactor 1.

- (iii) A competition involving Magnox South and Magnox North had given recognition to innovations developed by Oldbury staff. The Oldbury innovations were associated with sludge retrieval and a novel approach to replace "tacky mats" which were used to help control the spread of contamination.
- (iv) During a successful annual review meeting, the NII's Site Inspector and Superintending Inspector had toured the site and had commented favourably on the enthusiasm and knowledge of staff, the state of the plant and evidence of continued investment in the station.
- (v) Generic assessments of options for the interim storage of intermediate level wastes were to be followed by studies of site specific issues. These studies would help to determine whether the currently planned arrangement with a shielded ILW store might be changed to incorporate the use of robust, shielded metal waste containers (mini stores). Stakeholders would be involved in those discussions during the coming summer.
- (vi) Good progress was being made with an accelerated rate of refuelling. This was being undertaken in order to optimise the benefit to be derived from the reloading of the remaining new fuel.
- (vii) There had been no lost time accident since the previous meeting of this Group. It was now more than 100 days since the most recent such accident.
- (viii) A requirement of the Maintenance Schedule had been breached during the past three months. This was associated with routine testing of a Chute Head Box (an item of equipment used during refuelling). The testing had not been undertaken as required after a specified number of occasions on which the equipment had been used. Functional testing had demonstrated that there had been no significant consequence of delaying the routine checks but the matter was taken very seriously and a formal investigation had been established to prevent any recurrence.
- (ix) The proposed timescale announced by Horizon Nuclear Power for the construction of a new power station at Oldbury would affect the scope for the transfer of staff from the existing station to the new station. With their proposed timescales there would be a gap between the end of defuelling and the new station's requirement for operational staff.

13 In reply to a question from Ms Paine, Mr Lamonby explained that the arrangements developed at the station for the disposal of sludge made more effective use of the capacity available at the Low Level Waste Repository.

## **Nuclear Installations Inspectorate**

- 14 Mr Ghannad reported on his activities as NII Site Inspector for Oldbury, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Routine inspections had continued throughout the period; there had been no significant issues or events.
  - (ii) Reactor 1 had undergone a full maintenance outage at the end of 2009. The NII was content with operation of the reactor in accordance with the core irradiation limits justified in the graphite safety case; it was currently envisaged that the reactor would operate until the end of June 2011.
  - (iii) Following discussions with the licensee on the Reactor 2 graphite safety case the Inspectorate had confirmed that it had no objection to the continued operation of Reactor 2 until an interim core irradiation limit was reached. The reactor was to be taken out of service at the end of 2010 and further work undertaken to demonstrate a justification for operation beyond that time.
  - (iv) Investigations by the NII following the station's report of the breach of a maintenance schedule requirement had confirmed that this would not have led to a significant nuclear safety hazard although it could have resulted in increased corrective maintenance.
  - (v) No major issues had arisen during the NII's annual Safety Review undertaken earlier in the current month.
  - (vi) Work was continuing to restructure the HSE Nuclear Directorate as a Nuclear Statutory Corporation.

## **Environment Agency**

- 15 Dr Mountford-Lister presented a report from the Environment Agency, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) A single system of environmental permitting was being introduced under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations. The existing Radioactive Substances Act authorisations were to be deemed to become EPR Environmental Permits. Dr Mountford-Lister said that the EPR system would increase the amount of information held on public registers.
  - (ii) The Agency was working with NII on issues associated with the surrender of the nuclear licence for part of the Oldbury site.
  - (iii) The station was compliant with new requirements relating to the monitoring of liquid effluent flow.

- (iv) The Agency had participated in a best practicable means assessment of proposals for treating Oldbury fuel element debris by a dissolution process. Dr Mountford-Lister supported this process which brought about a reduction in the volume of waste material.

16 In reply to a question from Cllr Mrs Parsloe, Dr Mountford-Lister explained the importance of the careful process followed in relation to delicensing part of the site.

### **National Stakeholder Group**

17 Cllr Lynden reported on the meeting of the National Stakeholder Group held in Manchester during March. He felt that this had been one of the most successful of these meetings with discussions on a range of relevant issues. There had been useful discussions on the assessment of the NDA's priorities and on the conduct of public consultations. Cllr Lynden said that the current approach to public consultation was placing a very large burden of work upon Parish Councils; he felt that it might be appropriate to safeguard openness and transparency by making information available on public registers etc for members of the public to consult if they wished.

18 Cllr Lynden said that the National Stakeholder Group meetings provided a very valuable opportunity for discussion with representatives of other SSGs who might be facing similar issues or who might have valuable experience of decommissioning work already completed on their sites. He said it had become clear in discussions that the reports on preferred end states produced some years ago could be subject to review in the light of changing circumstances. He said it had also become clear that the NDA's aspiration of decommissioning within a 25 year timescale was not achievable.

### **SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2010/11**

19 Ms Young reported on the socio-economic development plan for Oldbury for the coming year. She said that the plan would be made available on the SSG website shortly. She said that the report gave details of the local socio-economic context compared with sites in areas with fewer employment opportunities. She explained the contribution made by the station into the local economy in terms of direct expenditure and staff salaries.

20 Ms Young explained the priority and criteria used for assessing requests for socio-economic funding. The level of funding remained the same as in previous years. Cllr Halsall said that a higher level of funding might be appropriate in future years when significant numbers of staff were to become redundant.

21 Cllr Brady suggested that there was little evidence of funding for projects on the west of the River Severn. Ms Young said that projects based in the Forest of Dean had received funding in the past; the current plan reflected the applications received during the current year.

## **REVIEW OF VISIT TO BERKELEY SITE**

- 22 Members who had joined the recent visit to the Berkeley Site confirmed that this had been a worthwhile visit giving an indication of the impressive extent of the work which had been done and the state of the remaining facilities.

## **A VIEW OF OLDBURY POWER STATION FROM NORTH OF THE RIVER**

- 23 Cllr Brady gave his impressions of public perceptions of Oldbury Power Station from Chepstow and other areas to the north of the River Severn. He said that the power station was very visible from this local area and most people's thoughts would be focused upon whether the plant was safe. He felt that meetings of this Group were helpful in providing information on the way in which risks were managed and eliminated and members could report back to their own Councils on discussions at these meetings.
- 24 Cllr Brady suggested there was a perception that defuelling represented an elevated level of risk compared with normal operations. He said there was also some concern to know that emergency contingency plans were put in place consistently on both sides of the river.
- 25 Mr Clarke explained the nature and scope of the station's emergency arrangements. He explained the arrangements which were in place within the detailed emergency planning zone and described the way in which those arrangements were extendable if such action became necessary. Cllr Brady suggested that it would be helpful to have a brief on the emergency arrangements which were in place. Mr Lamonby undertook to provide such a brief.
- 26 Mr Lamonby explained that the operational activities associated with removing fuel rods from the reactor had been performed as part of normal operations throughout the operational life of the plant. Mr Ghannad pointed out that the potential hazard associated with the plant reduced significantly when the reactors were shut down.
- 27 In reply to a question from Cllr Halsall, Cllr Brady said that local attitudes towards new nuclear build were largely a reflection of political views. He was not aware of any local discussion on the possibility of cooling towers associated with a new station at Oldbury.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 28 Cllr Lynden pointed out that it would be necessary at the next meeting to appoint a Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Group for the coming year. He invited members to submit any nominations to Ms Young before the next meeting.
- 29 Cllr Evers asked whether any data had yet become available on the chemical or radioactive content of the ash carried into the atmosphere from the recent volcanic eruption in Iceland. Mr Clarke said that he had not yet received any

such data and local monitoring had not given any indication of radioactivity from this source.

**DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

30 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on 28 July 2010 in Oldbury Village Hall, commencing at 1.00pm.

MJD  
26 April 2010