

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT OLDBURY VILLAGE HALL,  
OLDBURY ON SEVERN, ON WEDNESDAY 28 JULY 2010**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr M Lynden(in the chair)	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr R Birch	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Assn of Parish and Town Councils
Cllr T England	-	Rockhampton Parish Council
Mr L Hales	-	Independent Environmental Analyst
Cllr N Halsall	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Cllr Mrs R Kitson	-	Hill Parish Meeting
Cllr Mrs P Parsloe	-	Thornbury Town Council
Rev D Primrose	-	Oldbury Power Station Chaplain
Cllr B Willcox	-	Alveston Parish 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
Cllr C Clifford	-	Thornbury Town Council
Mr W Gill	-	Member of the public
Rev B Godwin	-	Member of the public
Cllr Mrs J Hales	-	Oldbury Parish Council
Cllr P Hassell	-	Bristol City Council
Ms L Hutchinson	-	Bristol Evening Post
Mr J Jackson	-	Member of the public
Ms C Marshall	-	Thornbury Gazette
Mr J Nichols	-	Member of the public
Mr P Page	-	Member of the public
Mrs P Page	-	Member of the public
Ms A Paine	-	Stroud Green Party
Ms S Paynter	-	James Reed PR
Mrs S Postans	-	Magnox North
Mr B Seward	-	Socialist, Environmental and Resources Association
Cllr B Turner	-	Oldbury Parish Council
Mr J Lamonby	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms S Lang	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms V Simm	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms Z Young	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station

## **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 Cllr M Brady, Mrs A Chapman, Mr B Churchill, Mr M Davies, Mr G Dunlop, Mr P Kennedy, Mr M Lester (represented by Mr D Harrison), Mrs E V Lewis, Cllr G Locke, Cllr Mrs J Lyons, Cllr Ms S O'Neill, Mr M Pratt, Cllr M Riddle, Mrs S Stagg (represented by Ms S Paynter) and Mrs V Tutin.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **(a) Accuracy**

- 3 The minutes of the SSG Meeting held on 21 April 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.

## **QUARTERLY REPORTS**

### **Nuclear Decommissioning Authority**

- 6 Ms French presented a report on matters of current interest to the NDA, drawing particular attention to the following:
  - (i) 2009/10 was an excellent year for generation at Oldbury, with the site outperforming all of its targets for the year, resulting in an additional £300 million being put back into Government funds. This performance has been repeated in Quarter 1 of 2010/11, with the site having taken on new responsibility for the running of the Magnox Operating Plan (MOP) team.
  - (ii) The NDA had published its Business Plan with expenditure of £2.8 billion for the current financial year. Copies of the plan were available for members and were accessible on the NDA website.

Oldbury's funding for the 2010/11 remains consistent with that that was planned.

- (iii) The NDA's organisational effectiveness review has now been completed and the organisation is likely to see an internal reduction of around 25% with 80 staff likely to be lost. The aim is for the site contractors to take on more responsibility for delivery with the NDA taking on more of monitoring role. There will be a presentation on the NDA's strategy development at the October 2010 meeting of the SSG.
  - (iv) Oldbury's focus for the coming quarter remains constant – MOP activities, the Generation Optimisation project and delicensing.
- 7 In response to a question from Rev D Primrose, Ms French confirmed that transition arrangements with the site were currently being worked on to ensure any increase in workload did not have an impact on Oldbury's performance.
- 8 Cllr Evers asked what the NDA were doing to progress geological disposal of waste, and Ms French confirmed that the Radiological Waste Management Directorate (RWMD) were still part of the NDA organisation and progressing this issue. Local areas had been given the opportunity to volunteer as a potential site for a geological disposal facility but to date only Cumbria had come forward.
- 9 Cllr Wilcox asked how the reintegration of Magnox North and South would affect the NDA's review, and Ms French confirmed that the NDA would be likely to mirror its organisation to match that of the new Magnox company.

### **Oldbury Power Station**

- 10 Mr Lamonby reported on recent activities at Oldbury Power Station, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Generation at Oldbury continued to remain high, with 434MW being generated today which would result in a good profit for the NDA. The site is still putting in new fuel to the reactors to see the benefit of continued high output until the end of generation. The bulk of the new fuel will be added by the end of September, which will be the last of the fuel manufactured for Oldbury.
  - (ii) Oldbury will undertake an outage in September, which will include taking graphite samples from the reactor core to confirm the weight loss predictions made by the site are accurate. This outage will also involve many camera inspections of the graphite core, as well as additional routine maintenance work.
  - (iii) Reactor One has a safety case to operate until June 2011 and the site is still engaging with the NII to bring Reactor Two in line with this date, as part of the Generation Optimisation programme. The site is currently undertaking early feasibility work on the possibility of operating one

reactor beyond June 2011. This would involve taking the best fuel from both reactors in order for the one to continue operating. The site is currently seeking support from the NDA in order to prepare safety case work.

- (iv) In the meantime the site is currently working on plans for defuelling, of which the need for less staff was of great importance. The site is currently working with staff and trade unions to develop a new organisational structure and the next step is to find out the aspirations of the current workforce.
- (v) Five Environment Agency inspectors had visited Oldbury recently as part of the site's annual review. The visit went well and the site received some valuable feedback on best practice. Before they left the team commented on the enthusiasm of Oldbury's staff.
- (vi) The nuclear industry is now investigating the use of ministores to hold intermediate level waste, with the advantages the 'boxes' bring of being moveable and not needing a separate highly shielded store to be built to house them. In August a site specific optioneering workshop is taking place with stakeholders to input into the decision about whether Oldbury should change its lifetime plan to accommodate ministores going forward.
- (vii) Work on the delicensing project is progressing well, which looks to take in silt lagoon 2, the former Information Centre, Oldbury Technical Centre and other small pockets of land. The project will release land to the NDA to pass to Horizon as part of the recent land sale agreements. As part of the work bore hole drilling and soil testing work will begin in these areas during August.
- (viii) The site has continued its excellent safety record, and has now achieved over 200 days without a lost time accident. The site runs ongoing campaigns to ensure this commitment remains high, recently focusing on lifting operations.
- (ix) The site team who entered the recent Oldbury Fun Run very much enjoyed their time being involved with the community, and the site has welcomed many visitors in the past quarter who have all commended the site and the work of the staff before they have left.

- 11 Cllr Lynden asked whether the government's current review of energy policy would pose any issues for the site. Mr Lamonby outlined that the review wouldn't necessarily fit well with Oldbury's current strategy as many of the skilled staff would have been released by 2019.

## **Nuclear Installations Inspectorate**

- 12 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) The NII are currently considering the request to extend the operating life of Reactor One. Reactor Two currently has an interim graphite safety case until the end of the year and the graphite assessment for generation until June 2011 is ongoing.
  - (iii) The NII's annual safety review, in the form of an exercise, has been carried out satisfactorily on site and no major issues have arisen as a result.
  - (v) The Inspectorate are involved with the site's current delicensing project and are pleased to see a lot of progress has already been made.
- 13 In response to a request from Cllr Evers for more information on the annual safety review exercise mentioned earlier, Mr Ghannad explained that this exercise involved multiple teams being dispatched to carry out search and rescue. The exercise also focused on the site's ability to control radiation doses to different teams in different areas of the site. Mr Ghannad confirmed that the purpose of these exercises is to show the site can manage a site incident as well as an off site incident with a release of radiation.

## **Environment Agency**

- 14 Dr Mountford-Lister presented a report from the Environment Agency, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Dr Mountford-Lister echoed Mr Lamonby's comments concerning the recent annual review by the Environment Agency. He commented that the inspectors were pleased with what they saw and the culture at Oldbury of being proactive in looking for issues and addressing them.
  - (ii) The Environment Agency will make comments to the NDA on its Strategy II document when it is produced, and is also looking at the proposed rejoining of Magnox North and South to ensure any new 'bundles' of sites are capable of meeting their regulatory requirements.
  - (iii) A single system of environmental permitting has now been introduced under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations. The existing Radioactive Substances Act authorisations have now become EPR Environmental Permits, but this has not meant any change in working practices on site.

- (iv) The Agency maintains its strategic consultee role in the delicensing project currently ongoing at site and will provide advice to the NII when required on an ongoing basis.
- (v) A recent incident highlighted that some Low Level Waste (LLW) had been disposed of incorrectly at Sellafield. As a result of this incident the Agency asked all other nuclear sites to demonstrate their process for LLW, Oldbury did this very well and their process proved to be very robust. The findings of the audit on a national level will be fed back soon.

15 In reply to a question from Mr Jackson, concerning the production of nuclear waste, Dr Mountford-Lister explained how much of an importance the Agency places on dealing with the waste created by nuclear sites, as well as discussing its impacts with the public. Dr Mountford-Lister reiterated that it was part of the Agency's role to ensure waste from any form of energy production was handled well and not produced unnecessarily.

#### **Report from visit to Dounraey site**

- 16 Cllr Hawkins presented a report from a recent stakeholder visit to Dounraey. Cllr Hawkins said the trip was fascinating but that the site was a very different one to Oldbury, especially in the socio-economic challenges facing the area. He added that he was particularly impressed with the idea of 'off the shelf' tooling that the site used, as well as a compactor used for dealing with conventional waste that potentially had uses at other sites. Cllr Hawkins concluded by saying the dedication of staff and the quality of the work done at Dounraey was impressive.
- 17 Cllr Halsall asked what lessons could be learnt from Dounraey and shared with Oldbury. Cllr Hawkins shared the sense of positivity at Dounraey for overcoming technical issues and the advanced engineering that is taking place there.

#### **DISSUCSSION ON LOCAL ISSUES RELATED TO ENERGY PRODUCTION**

- 18 Cllr England gave an update on proposed wind turbines near Oldbury and the pros and cons of wind energy production. This was followed by discussion led by Cllr Turner.
- 19 Cllr Halsall commented that energy production would be needed in the future if the country still wanted the lights to work, and that the proposals for the Oldbury area needed to be looked at objectively. Cllr Parsloe asked how such large equipment would be transported into the area, bearing in mind the road conditions nearby. Cllr Hawkins raised the issue of the switching gear needed for additional energy production in order to connect up to the national grid.

## **REAPPOINTMENT/ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

- 20 Ms Young confirmed there had been no other nominations for the posts of Chair and Vice Chair of the SSG. Cllr Lynden indicated he and Cllr Hawkins were willing to stand again, if members were in agreement. A vote was taken, and members voted unanimously in support of this motion.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 21 No business.

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

- 30 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group will be the annual joint meeting with Berkeley SSG, scheduled to be held on 6 October 2010 at the Ship Inn, Alveston, commencing at 1.00pm.

ZY

3 August 2010