

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE CONFERENCE CENTRE
ON WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL 2012**

PRESENT:

Mr 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 R Griffin	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Dr L Hales		
Cllr P Hassell	-	Bristol City Council
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Cllr G Vaughan-Lewis	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr J Lyons	-	Olveston Parish Council
Mr J McNally	-	Staff Representative
Cllr J O'Neill	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Ms A Paine	-	Stroud Green Party
Cllr Mrs P Parsloe	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr M Riddle	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr B Roberts	-	Thornbury Chamber of Commerce
Cllr B Turner	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Mr D Wride	-	Lower Severn Drainage Board
Cllr Mrs P Wride	-	Chair, Berkeley SSG
Mrs V Tutin	-	Olveston Parish Council

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr M Lester	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr I Streatfield	-	Environment Agency
Mr J Jenkin	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Ms G Ellis-King	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr J Gilbert	-	Horizon Nuclear Power
Mr L Flexman	-	Horizon Nuclear Power
Ms S Stagg	-	James Reed PR
Mr R Connor	-	DECC
Mr R Ledger	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr R Murray	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mrs E Vaughan-Lewis	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mrs G Coombs	-	Communications Officer
Mr B Vallely	-	Oldbury EHS&Q Site Inspector
Ms P Waterman	-	Energy Solutions
Mr J Kempster		
Mrs R Riddle		
Mrs P Page		
Mr P Page		
Mr & Mrs J Wilson		
Mr M Bloomfield		
Mr D Smith		
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 Dr P Sprague, Cllr R Birch, Mrs A Chapman, Cllr C Clifford, Dr M Ghannad, Cllr N Halsall, Mr R Hopes, Mr M Johnson, Mr P Kennedy, Cllr G Locke, Dr R MacGregor, Mr M Pratt, Ms H Thomas, and Cllr B Willcox.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a) Accuracy

- 3 The minutes of the SSG Meeting held on 18 January 2012 and the minutes of the Socio-Economic Sub-Group meeting held on the same date were approved as accurate records.

(b) Matters arising

Geological disposal facility for radioactive waste (para 10(iii) refers)

- 4 Mr Jenkin pointed out that three communities in two areas of West Cumbria had expressed an interest in acting as a host location for a deep geological storage facility.

Socio-economic Support

- 5 Ms Coombs outlined the new scheme which had been introduced to administer socio-economic support arrangements for Magnox as a whole. Following the re-combination of Magnox North and Magnox South, which had used slightly different systems, the new scheme would apply to all sites. Applications for support should be made through the new web based system at www.magnoxsocioeconomic.com.
- 6 Mr Lynden said that the Socio-Economic Subgroup had given consideration to the new arrangements and, while they felt that the existing system has operated well for some considerable time, the new arrangements would be equally effective. Cllr Riddle supported these comments and said that the new scheme, with monthly meetings, could provide speedier outcomes.

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.

QUARTER 4 REPORTS

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

- 6 Mr Jenkin provided an update on current NDA issues, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) During the past week the final flask of irradiated fuel had been despatched from Dungeness A to Sellafield and the defuelling of one of the reactors at Chapelcross had been completed.
 - (ii) It had been decided that Wylfa Reactor 2 would cease generation at the end of the current month as remaining stocks of fuel were insufficient for the continued operation of both reactors. This would enable the optimisation of generation on Reactor 1 which was allowed to operate until 2014.
 - (iii) The process of competition for management of the Dounreay site had been completed with Babcock Dounreay Partnership taking over responsibility for decommissioning the site. Formal notification of the start of the competitive process to appoint a new Parent Body Organisation for the Magnox and RSRL sites would be given during the coming month.
 - (iv) The NDA had published its Business Plan for 2012 - 2015. The plan was accessible on the website.
 - (v) Five boilers had been removed from the Berkeley site for recycling at a plant in Sweden. Most of the material would be released for reuse.
 - (vi) John Clarke had been appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the NDA following the departure of Tony Fountain.
 - (vii) An NDA paper on strategy for site restoration had been published for stakeholder comment; the deadline for comments was the end of May 2012. The NDA had also published an overview of higher active waste on its sites, detailing where material had arisen and how it was being dealt with.
 - (viii) Large tracts of land at Berkeley and Oldbury had become available for new development after the site licence regulations had been revoked.
- 7 Cllr Brady asked whether, in the light of possible delays with new station construction, any consideration had been given to restarting the Oldbury reactors. Mr Ledger confirmed that the plant was being rendered inoperable and would not be operated again.

Site Director's Report

- 8 On behalf of Dr Sprague, Mr Ledger presented a report on current activities at the Oldbury power station site. He pointed out that Dr Sprague had been appointed as Intermediate Level Waste Programme Director with responsibilities covering all Magnox sites and Mr Mike Heaton would succeed him as Oldbury Site Director. Mr Ledger drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) Reactor 1 had been shut down for the last time on 29 February 2012. During more than 44 years of safe operation the power station had supplied 137.5TWh of electricity; since 2008 when closure had originally been scheduled, the plant had generated an additional 7.4TWh of electricity worth an estimated £350 million and avoided the release of 3.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide by other forms of generation. Former Site Directors who had visited on the day of the final shutdown had been very complimentary about the current state of the plant.
 - (ii) Actions taken since the shutdown of Reactor 1 had effectively removed hazards associated with the storage of carbon dioxide, hydrogen, lubricating oils and boron dust equipment. Actions had been taken to ensure that control rods could not be removed from the reactor.
 - (iii) A post operational defuelling safety case had been submitted to the Nuclear Safety Committee and discussions were taking place with the regulator on changes to the emergency arrangements to reflect the reduced level of hazards on the site.
 - (iv) It was now more than 800 days since the most recent lost time accident on site.
 - (v) Some 11 tonnes of scrap metals classified as low level waste had been sent from the site to Germany for recycling.
 - (vi) An exercise of the site's security arrangements had been demonstrated recently to the satisfaction of the regulator.
 - (vii) To commemorate the end of electricity generation oak trees had been planted in the Oldbury primary school field overlooking the power station.
- 9 Cllr Riddle asked about the effect on employment of ending generation at the site. Mr Ledger said that there would be no major change in the short term; small reductions in manpower requirements in the near future would be achieved by voluntary severance. Further, more significant reductions would be made when defuelling was completed; currently this was scheduled to be in mid-2015.
- 10 Cllr Hassell sought clarification of plans for removing spent fuel from the site. Mr Ledger said that the programme for the despatch of irradiated fuel from the site was dependent upon the capability of the plant at Sellafield to accept the

fuel. The rate of removal of fuel from the reactors would be regulated to allow despatch from the site without a lengthy period of storage in the cooling ponds. The intention was to complete defuelling and the despatch of fuel to Sellafield by mid-2015. In reply to a question from Cllr Evers it was confirmed that there was no time limit on the current safety case for the retention of fuel in the reactors.

- 11 In reply to a question from Cllr Griffin, Mr Ledger confirmed that fuel from the site was handled at Sellafield in a plant specifically designed for reprocessing Magnox fuel.
- 12 Dr Hales sought reassurance that the equipment installed in the cooling ponds was adequate for dealing with conditions if there were delays in the despatch of fuel. Mr Ledger said that the pond water treatment plant had recently been refurbished and further work was to commence later this year. In reply to a question from Cllr Evers, Mr Ledger said that stocks of irradiated fuel in the ponds were currently at low levels. He said that during reactor operation fuel had to remain in the cooling pond for a minimum period of 90 days to allow cooling and decay of radioactivity; following shutdown this delay was no longer required.

Office for Nuclear Regulation

- 13 A report from the Office for Nuclear Regulation on its activities during the past quarter had been circulated to members. No questions on the report were raised by members. Mr Lynden pointed out that Dr Ghannad was moving to a new post within the Office for Nuclear Regulation and would be succeeded as Site Inspector for Oldbury by Mr P Dickinson.

Environment Agency

- 14 A report from the Environment Agency on its monitoring activities during the past quarter had been circulated to members.
- 15 In reply to a question from Cllr Evers, it was confirmed that the reported non-compliant discharge in December 2011 was related to non-radioactive liquid effluent. Mr Streatfield undertook to ensure that Cllr Evers was supplied with further information on the reported investigation and assessment of remedial plans for pond water treatment system pipe work.

UPDATE FROM HORIZON NUCLEAR POWER

- 16 Mr Gilbert provided an update on the situation in relation to new build at Oldbury by Horizon Nuclear Power. He said that following strategic reviews undertaken separately, Horizon's shareholders, RWE npower and E.ON, had decided not to proceed with developing new nuclear generation in the UK through Horizon. He said that the decision was influenced by the position faced by the companies in Germany against the background of difficult global economic circumstances; it was not due to any shortcomings in the projects being developed by Horizon. Mr Gilbert said that both of Horizon's projects

remained excellent development options and the shareholders were investigating opportunities for transferring their ownership of Horizon to new investors.

- 17 Pending the sale to new investors, Horizon was continuing to manage the property on its development sites. In reply to a question from Cllr Turner, Mr Gilbert said that most members of Horizon staff were seconded from the parent companies. In reply to a question from Cllr Hassell, Mr Gilbert said that the parent companies' decision should not be taken as an indication that the projects were not economically attractive – it was just that the companies were not in a position to provide the investment needed having regard for the circumstances they faced in Germany.
- 18 In response to questions from Cllr Riddle, Mr Gilbert said that Horizon's landholding at Oldbury amounted to some 420 acres; he was not able to comment on potential purchasers of the company or the timescale of a possible sale – these were matters for the parent companies but he said it was not in their interests to incur delays.

GENERIC DESIGN ASSESSMENT

- 19 Mr Streatfield outlined arrangements for regulating new nuclear power station construction, focusing particularly on the generic design assessment process. He said that this process had been introduced to streamline the regulation of new build and avoid the considerable delays which had been associated with planning inquiries for new stations in the past. The process for regulating new nuclear build had to address the reactor designs, the specific sites chosen for development and the organisation of the companies wishing to carry out the development. The generic design assessment, which had been undertaken by the Environment Agency and the Office for Nuclear Regulation had assessed the UK EPR and the AP 1000 reactor types.
- 20 Mr Streatfield said that the generic design assessment approach allowed any key issues to be identified and resolved before building started and, by dealing with all design aspects at the outset, simplified the subsequent site-specific phase. The two reactor types were being assessed separately – they were not being ranked. Plans for resolving identified issues had been developed and scrutinised. The generic design assessment would be followed by site specific licensing and permitting phases.
- 21 During discussion Horizon representatives acknowledged the value of the generic design assessment process which they believed had been well run. In reply to a question from Dr Hales, Mr Streatfield outlined the significant resource requirements associated with the process and described actions taken to recruit suitable staff.

MANAGING RADIOACTIVE WASTE SAFELY

- 22 Mr Ritchie provided an update on the government's Managing Radioactive Waste Safely process. He referred to the Government's policy set out in 2008 to adopt deep geological disposal for high activity waste and to implement this in

partnership with volunteer host communities. He described the multi-barrier concept for containing wastes and outlined the nature of a geological disposal facility. He said that geological disposal was taking place in a number of overseas countries within a variety of geological conditions.

- 23 Mr Ritchie said that three potential volunteer host communities had been identified within two areas. Discussions with these volunteer communities were proceeding and a West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership had been established. He said that there still remained opportunities for other communities to volunteer to act as host for the deep geological facility.
- 24 Cllr Hawkins reported on a MoDeRn workshop he had attended at Cockermouth in March. The MoDeRn project was seeking to develop monitoring processes which would be applicable during phases of the waste disposal process and to identify appropriate stakeholder engagement. Cllr Hawkins had attended together with representatives from four other power station sites and Sellafield; he was to attend a further meeting during the coming week and would report on future activities and outcomes.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No business

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 25 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on 18 July 2012 at the Oldbury Conference Centre commencing at 1.00pm

MJD

30 April 2012