

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

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

PRESENT:

Mr M Lynden (in the chair)	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr R Birch	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr D Dovey	-	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Assn of Parish and Town Councils
Dr L Hales		
Cllr N Halsall	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr P Hassell	-	Bristol City Council
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Ms R Kitson	-	Hill Parish Meeting
Cllr G Vaughan-Lewis	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr J O'Neill	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Mrs P Parsloe	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr M Riddle	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr J Stanton	-	Vice Chair, Berkeley SSG
Cllr Mrs P Wride	-	Chair, Berkeley SSG

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr M Lester	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr D Batters	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr S Barker	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr P Dickinson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Dr R MacGregor	-	Environment Agency
Mr P Wilson	-	Welsh Government
Ms G Ellis-King	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr M Heaton	-	Site Director
Ms L Jones	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mrs E Vaughan-Lewis	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr J Kempster		
Mr B Delve		
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 Cllr C Clifford, Mr C Fayers, Mr Jonathan Jenkin, Mr W Gill, Mr M Johnson, Mr P Kennedy, Cllr Ms J Lyons, Mr J McNally, Ms P Page, Mr P Page, Ms A Paine, Ms S Stagg, Cllr Ms V Tutin, Mr B Vallely, and Cllr B Willcox.

- 3 Mr Lynden said that Cllr Brady had written saying that he would no longer be attending these meetings as a representative of Chepstow Town Council; Cllr Brady had said that he had enjoyed taking part in what he regarded as the worthwhile discussions at these meetings. Mr Lynden said he had also been informed that Mr BS (Steve) Kirk would no longer be able to attend future meetings due to ill health; members extended their best wishes to him.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) Accuracy

- 4 The minutes of the SSG Meeting held on 18 April 2012 were approved as an accurate record.

(b) Matters arising

- 5 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 6 Mr Lynden pointed out that under the new arrangements for administration of socio-economic support, members would not be receiving at these meetings minutes of meetings held to consider applications. Information had however been provided for members on the current position regarding local applications for support.

PUBLIC FORUM

- 7 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 ONE REPORTS

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

- 8 An update on current NDA issues had been made available to members. Mr Batters drew attention to the following:
- (i) The NDA's Annual Report and Accounts had been approved by being laid before Parliament. The accounts were audited by the National Audit Office.
 - (ii) The nuclear provision, representing the discounted cost of decommissioning all sites, had been increased slightly due to increased costs at Sellafield resulting from government policy issues; the costs of decommissioning all other sites had been reduced.
 - (iii) The process for appointing a parent body organisation for the Magnox and RSDL sites was underway; a conference for all potential bidders was to be held on the day following this meeting.

- (iv) Energy *Solutions*, the current parent body for the Magnox sites, had announced its intention to sell its interests in the UK and Europe. The NDA had raised no objection to the sale in principle.
- 9 Cllr Birch asked about the arrangements for auditing annual reports. Mr Batters said that the National Audit Office audited the NDA accounts; their audit fee had reduced significantly in recent years. Magnox accounts were audited by Price Waterhouse. Copies of the NDA annual report and accounts were available for members on request or otherwise were accessible on the NDA website.
- 10 Mr Lynden pointed out that Mr Barker was shortly to leave the NDA to take up another post. He thanked Mr Barker for the support and help he had given to this SSG in the past.

Site Director's Report

- 11 Mr Heaton presented a report on current activities at the Oldbury power station site. He said that he was proud, as the newly appointed Site Director, to lead the first class workforce on the site and said that his key aim was to maintain the focus on safety and compliance whilst maintaining high standards in all work activities. He drew particular attention to the following:
 - (i) The Site had been presented with the RoSPA President's Award in recognition of the high standards of occupational health and safety over the past 10 years. It was now more than 900 days without any time lost as a result of an accident.
 - (ii) The human performance training provided as part of the Site's commitment to reducing errors and events had been recognised as being the "best in the UK" by the company's human performance specialist.
 - (iii) With both reactors permanently shut down a small amount of forced cooling was needed to keep maximum fuel temperatures at less than 100°C. During June a defect on a circulating water pump which supplied river water to coolers on site caused the pump to trip. Planned procedures were followed to put another pump into service in a timely fashion and compliance with requirements was maintained throughout.
 - (iv) The fire and rescue service had been summoned to the Site on the day prior to this meeting when a small fire had occurred on a roof. The fire had been extinguished by a site team but the fire service had been summoned to confirm that it was out.
 - (v) Magnox had recently published its operating plan which covered the arrangements for the removal of fuel from the site. This involved the despatch of some 300 flasks of irradiated fuel from the site with all fuel being removed by mid-2015. In preparation for defuelling operations, a team from Dungeness A site had carried out a readiness review.

- (vi) The ONR had issued a Licence Instrument permitting the implementation of a changed Operating Rule which simplified compliance arrangements following the end of generation. This had allowed the insertion of all remaining control rods into the reactors and for them to be physically and electrically isolated, making it impossible for them to be withdrawn from the cores.
 - (vii) Following consultation with staff and necessary clearance from the regulator a revised organisational structure was being adopted; overall staff numbers would be reduced by 50 to 369 by March 2013.
 - (viii) Good progress had been made in hazard reduction by removing hydrogen, carbon dioxide and turbine lubricating oil from the site.
 - (ix) Following the shutdown of the reactors the source of steam for heating systems on site was no longer available. Heating systems in a number of buildings were being converted from steam heating to electric heating.
- 12 Cllr Hassell asked whether it would become progressively more difficult to achieve staffing reductions by voluntary means. Mr Heaton said that currently there were more volunteers than could be released and some 20 of those potential volunteers were being retained because of the need for their particular expertise. He said that there would be opportunities for recruitment to decommissioning projects and skill broadening was used to help match manpower to work requirements.
- 13 In reply to a question from Cllr Mrs Wride, Mr Heaton said that numbers of contractors employed on the Site were currently low and would not increase significantly until defuelling was completed. He said that future manpower and contractor requirements would be dependent upon future decisions on the rate at which decommissioning work was to be progressed.
- 14 In reply to a question from Cllr Stanton, Mr Heaton said that current plans indicated that retrieval of ILW would commence in 2019/20.
- 15 In response to questions from Cllr Evers about the failure of a pump on the circulating water system, Mr Heaton said that Pump 1A which had failed had been replaced by Pump 1B which was connected to the same culvert. The other culvert could not have been used immediately but other sources of cooling would have been available in the event of the failure of Pump 1B. He said that plans for actions to be taken in the event of plant failures of this nature were well understood by operating staff.
- 16 In response to a question from Mr Lynden, Mr Dickinson explained the requirement for operators to arrange insurance cover for nuclear accident risks. Mr Batters outlined actions being taken by NDA to minimise the costs associated with this requirement.

Office for Nuclear Regulation

- 17 A report from the Office for Nuclear Regulation on its activities during the past quarter had been circulated to members. Mr Dickinson introduced himself as the ONR Site Inspector for Oldbury. He outlined the arrangements for monitoring compliance with the conditions attached to the Nuclear Site Licence.
- 18 Mr Dickinson said that he had examined the situation which had existed at the time of failure of the circulating water pump. He had been satisfied that consideration had been given to such circumstances in advance of any such failure and said that various systems in place provided defence in depth. He said it was apparent that operations staff involved at the time had understood the situation and had acted appropriately.
- 19 Mr Lynden drew attention to the comments in the ONR report that as the reactors had been shut down for more than 90 days there was no longer a need to take iodine tablets in the event of a release of radioactivity. Mr Heaton confirmed that all those households and other establishments to which potassium iodate tablets had been pre-distributed were being contacted and the tablets which were no longer needed were being collected.
- 20 In response to a question from Cllr Riddle, Mr Dickinson explained the arrangements and procedures for overseeing and where necessary approving changes in safety cases.

Environment Agency

- 21 A report from the Environment Agency on its monitoring activities during the past quarter had been circulated to members. Dr MacGregor outlined the Agency's inspection activities at the Site since the previous meeting. He said that there had been no changes to the Site's Environment Permit and inspections had not revealed any matters of non-compliance; no enforcement action had been necessary. He said that the independent environmental monitoring undertaken by the Environment Agencies and the Food Standards Agency had shown that the assessed maximum potential radiation dose to members of the public in the vicinity of the Oldbury and Berkeley sites during 2010 was well below government dose limits and also well below the average radiation exposure from natural sources.
- 22 In response to comments by Dr Hale, Dr MacGregor said that the programme for the Site's environmental monitoring was defined in its Permit; it would be for the Site to seek permission to change that programme if it was felt appropriate to do so in the light of changed circumstances.
- 23 Cllr Dovey drew attention to potential concerns over the effects of discharges into the Severn estuary and the movement of sediments into other river systems. Dr MacGregor emphasised the very large dilution of discharges entering the estuary and said that the monitoring undertaken, which included the monitoring of sediments, covered the whole of the country and would reflect the impact of discharges from all sites.

REPORT FROM SSG CHAIRS' MEETING IN LONDON

- 24 Mr Lynden reported on a recent meeting of the Chairs of the various SSGs with Energy *Solutions* representatives in London. The meeting had reviewed good progress and improvements at Magnox Sites over the past year and had received an update on progress at Sellafield. Consideration had also been given to various issues associated with intermediate level wastes and the programme for competition for a parent body organisation.

REPORT ON THE MoDeRn PROJECT

- 25 Cllr Hawkins reported on his involvement with the MoDeRn project which was examining monitoring requirements associated with deep geological disposal. Experimental work was being undertaken in two underground facilities within different geological conditions in Switzerland. Cllr Hawkins undertook to keep members informed of future developments.

MAGNOX OPERATING PLAN UPDATE

- 26 It was agreed that consideration of this item should be deferred to the next meeting which would be attended also by members of the Berkeley SSG.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No business

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 27 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group, a joint meeting with members of the Berkeley SSG, was scheduled to be held on 24 October 2012 at the Tortworth Court Four Pillars Hotel, commencing at 1.00pm.

MJD

22 July 2012