

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE CONFERENCE CENTRE  
ON WEDNESDAY 19 JANUARY 2011

**PRESENT:**

Cllr M Lynden (in the chair)	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr M Brady	-	Chepstow Town Council
Cllr D Dovey	-	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Assn of Parish and Town Councils
Dr L Hales		
Cllr P Hassell	-	Bristol City Council
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Cllr Ms J Lyons	-	Olveston Parish Council
Cllr P Mair	-	Falfield Parish Council
Cllr Mrs P Parsloe	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr M Pirie	-	Falfield Parish Council
Mr B Roberts	-	Thornbury Chamber of Trade
Cllr Ms V Tutin	-	Olveston Parish Council
Cllr B Willcox	-	Alveston Parish Council
Cllr Mrs P Wride	-	Chair, Berkeley SSG

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Dr M Ghannad	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Mr M Lester	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Dr P Mountford-Lister	-	Environment Agency
Mr G Astley-Jones	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Ms H Brazier	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Ms J Morris	-	Avon Fire and Rescue
Mr J Lamonby	-	Chief Operating Officer, Magnox North
Mr D Wride	-	Lower Severn Drainage Board
Dr P Sprague	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mrs A Chapman	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr M Pratt	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms Z Young	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mrs E Vaughan Lewis	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms S Lang	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms S Stagg		
Mr D Collier		
Mr B Delve		
Mr W Gill		
Mr R Grey		
Mr J Kempster		
Mr J Molloy		
Mr P Page		
Ms P Page		
Ms L-J Gillespie		
Ms L Hutchinson		
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

- 1 Cllr Lynden welcomed everyone to this meeting of the Oldbury on Severn Site Stakeholder Group. He expressed a particular welcome to Dr Sprague who had been appointed as Site Director to succeed Mr Lamonby who had taken up a senior appointment within Magnox. On behalf of the Group, Cllr Lynden thanked Mr Lamonby for the support he had given to the SSG during his time as Site Director and gave him a small token of appreciation.

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Mr Cullimore, Ms G Ellis-King, Rev Bruce Goodwin, Mr N Griffiths, Cllr N Halsall, Mr R Hopes, Mr M Johnston, Cllr Mrs S O'Neill and Cllr M Riddle.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **(a) Accuracy**

- 3 The minutes of the SSG Meeting held on 6 October 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 Cllr Hawkins drew attention to a book on the local population of Elburton which had been printed and published with help from staff at the power station. He expressed his appreciation of this support.

## **QUARTER 3 REPORTS**

### **Nuclear Decommissioning Authority**

- 5 A report from the NDA on current issues had been made available for members. There were no questions arising from the report.

### **Site Director's Report**

- 6 Dr Sprague presented a report on current activities at the Oldbury power station site, drawing particular attention to the following:
  - (i) There had been no accidents involving time lost from work at the site for more than a year; determined efforts were being made to maintain this good safety performance.
  - (ii) Just before Christmas the Site had hosted a World Association of Nuclear Operators human performance conference. This had allowed valuable exchanges of information between human performance specialists from around the world.

- (iii) Both reactors were currently on load producing an output of some 435MW of electricity.
- (iv) An outage of Reactor 2 to allow inspections of the graphite core had been completed as planned in September / October. Following return to service a gas circulator fault had caused an unplanned trip from full power on 11 November; the consequential further inspections and work had been completed and the reactor returned to service on 4 January. A further unplanned shutdown had occurred during routine testing on 8 January and the Unit returned to service on 13 January.
- (v) The limits defined in the current safety case allowed operation of Reactor 2 to continue until mid-February. Approval was being sought from the NII to extend the operating life beyond this date; a meeting was due to be held later in the week of this meeting. Work was continuing to demonstrate a justification for extending the operating life of Reactor 1.
- (vi) Progress was being made with the re-integration of Magnox North and South into a single Site Licence Company. Focus was being maintained on optimising generation at Oldbury and Wylfa power stations, on defuelling and on decommissioning, including the demonstration of accelerating decommissioning work at Bradwell and Trawsfynydd.
- (vii) Actions were in hand as necessary to allow the delicensing of part of the site so that it could be transferred to Horizon.
- (viii) The site maintained its support for a number of local educational activities.

7 In reply to a question from Cllr Hassell, Dr Sprague confirmed that the intention remained to seek justification for operation of Reactor 2 until June 2011 and for the operation of Reactor 1 until December 2012 with the expectation that the remaining fuel would support operation of Reactor 1 until the summer of 2012.

8 Mr Collier questioned the words used in the report circulated to members which suggested that unplanned shutdowns such as those which had occurred on Reactor 2 were "to be expected" after a period of outage. Dr Sprague explained that the plant conditions and operational activities following an outage were such that unplanned shutdowns were more likely to occur at those times than during periods of stable operation. Unplanned shutdowns had occurred only infrequently at Oldbury in recent years.

### **Nuclear Installations Inspectorate**

9 Dr 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.

- (ii) Reactor 1 had operated in accordance with the core irradiation limit justified by its graphite safety case. That limit was likely to be reached by May/June 2011. Discussions on the possibility of operating this reactor until the end of 2012 were ongoing.
- (iii) The core irradiation limits within the current safety case for operation of Reactor 2 would be reached during February 2011. Discussions on a justification for extending those limits to allow operation to the end of June were ongoing. The licensee proposed to permanently shut down the reactor by the end of June 2011.
- (iv) The unplanned shutdown of Reactor 2 on 11 November had resulted from a fault on a gas circulator during a routine test procedure. In accordance with requirements following a trip from full power, a programme of graphite inspections had been undertaken; no issues affecting the graphite safety case had been found. The reactor had not been at full power at the time of the subsequent unplanned shutdown on 8 January and it had not been necessary to carry out a further programme of inspections. The automatic systems had operated correctly and effectively during these unplanned shutdowns.
- (v) During a recent visit the Inspectorate's specialist fire inspectors had been satisfied with improvements made at the station.
- (vi) A newly-installed fuel integrity monitoring system had recently been put into operational service. This provided a separate, diverse system for detecting any leakage from a fuel element.
- (vii) As part of a programme of change designed to improve its standards of regulation, the Inspectorate would be publishing more information on the reasons for its decisions.

10 In reply to questions, Dr Ghannad explained that the Burst Can Detection System had operated effectively at Oldbury and at each of the other Magnox stations for many years to detect any leakage from a fuel element. The Fuel Integrity Monitoring System which had been installed recently provided a separate means of detecting any such leakage and it was faster-acting than the BCD system. It had been installed as a prudent safety measure; little credit was taken in the safety case for the operation of this system. Cllr Lynden said it was commendable that improved safety systems were still being installed even at this stage in the station's operating life.

### **Environment Agency**

- 11 Dr Mountford-Lister presented a report from the Environment Agency, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) In its response to the consultation on the NDA Strategy, the Environment Agency had emphasised: the need for the demonstration of a plan for accelerated decommissioning; the need for care and maintenance

regimes to prevent degradation of facilities which might lead to increased risk to people and the environment; and the importance of ensuring that delays in decommissioning do not result in increased risk to the environment due to the loss of expertise and knowledge.

- (ii) The Agency had reviewed the proposals for the re-merger of Magnox North and Magnox South.
- (iii) Work on actions necessary to delicense part of the Oldbury Nuclear Licensed Site was nearing completion.
- (iv) Extreme weather events periodically resulted in the station's sewage plant exceeding its discharge consent limits for short periods of time. Modern permits for this type of plant included "extreme weather waivers" which allowed such minor non-compliances to be ignored in certain conditions. The Oldbury discharge consent did not include such a waiver but the Agency had recently issued advice to its inspectors allowing them to act as if an extreme weather waiver existed.

- 12 Dr Mountford-Lister referred to questions raised at the previous meeting about apparent increases in reported potential radiation exposures to members of the public in the vicinity of the Oldbury and Berkeley sites. He said that the reported figures related to radioactivity in fish and the apparent increase in levels during recent years had been associated with changes in sampling practices. More recent samples had been taken from a different location and different species of fish had been sampled; the increased level of radioactivity was largely associated with naturally occurring Potassium 40. Dr Hales thanked Dr Mountford-Lister for his explanation.

### **Report on visit to Hinkley Point SSG**

- 13 Cllr Lynden reported on his attendance at a recent meeting of the SSG for the Hinkley Point A and B power station sites. He said that the prospect of new station construction was a very live issue at Hinkley Point; it had been interesting to see how the SSG addressed issues relating to both sites. He said that generally the issues were similar to those at Oldbury but, possibly due to the more imminent programme for new build, the meeting seemed to be attended by more local government officers. The Hinkley Point SSG had only three meetings per year; Cllr Lynden believed that it was more appropriate to have four meetings per year. Copies of minutes of the Hinkley Point SSG meeting were available for members if they wished to see them.

### **UK Decommissioning and Waste Conference**

- 14 Cllr Hawkins reported on his attendance at a UK Decommissioning and Waste Conference. He said that he had been impressed by the number of businesses interested in undertaking work associated with waste and decommissioning. Speakers had raised many issues including the potential value of plutonium as a fuel for future reactors and the need for Magnox fuel to be reprocessed. He said that there appeared to be a generally positive view on the prospects for

identifying a site for the location of a geological disposal facility. Attention had also been drawn to the potential socio-economic consequences of decommissioning power stations with the significant loss of income to local economies which, in more remote locations, had few other industrial activities. Cllr Hawkins said that he had been the only representative of an SSG at the conference. A CD of the proceedings would be issued in due course and could be made available to members if they wished.

## **Response to NDA Strategy II**

- 15 Cllr Lynden said that following the previous meeting he had met with Cllrs Parsloe, Halsall and Hawkins as a sub-group and had prepared and submitted, on behalf of the Group, a response to the consultation on the NDA's revised draft strategy.

## **EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS**

- 16 Mr Astley-Jones gave details of the arrangements associated with the South Gloucestershire Council's Off-Site Plan for dealing with an emergency at the Oldbury power station site. He explained the legal framework within which this plan was prepared and outlined the various groups which provided consultation and guidance on emergency planning issues. He explained that the Off-Site Plan provided for co-ordination of the activities of the various agencies having responsibilities for actions in the event of an incident.
- 17 Mr Astley-Jones explained the process by which the Off-Site Plan was produced, revised, updated and implemented and outlined the arrangements for exercising the plan. Exercises of the plan were evaluated by the NII. He said that in order to produce exercise scenarios which tested planned responses it was necessary to exaggerate the consequences of the postulated incident beyond those which could reasonably be expected. Lessons learned from other exercises undertaken by the various agencies were fed in to the further development of the plan.
- 18 Mr Astley-Jones explained the concept of the detailed emergency planning zone which was defined as being the area within one kilometre of the site boundary; it was considered that no reasonably credible accident would have any impact outside of that zone. Detailed plans were made for actions which might be necessary within that area and there were legal requirements for the provision of information on emergency arrangements for residents within that area. In the case of Oldbury this information was provided for residents within an area up to three kilometres from the site. Ms Chapman undertook to discuss with Mr Roberts why he appeared not to be aware of this information although he lived within that area.
- 19 Mr Astley-Jones described the extendibility arrangements which would be used to cascade any necessary actions into surrounding areas. In response to a question from Cllr Dovey, he explained the arrangements within the plans for notifying the various agencies in surrounding areas.

- 20 Mr Collier asked whether provision was made for complications which might arise from situations such as individuals taking action to evacuate themselves. Mr Astley-Jones said that the focus of the plans was on dealing with priorities on the site and in the immediate vicinity; situations which might arise more remote from the site were inevitably of a lower priority.
- 21 Ms Chapman described the arrangements which were in place at the station for dealing with emergencies which might arise from any cause. These arrangements were defined in an emergency plan and handbook and were exercised regularly. The emergency services were involved in these exercises as a means of familiarising their personnel with situations which they might face on the site.
- 22 Ms Chapman explained the arrangements for an Emergency Planning Consultative Committee which included representatives of each of the agencies having a role in relation to the station's emergency plans. This committee met twice yearly. It reviewed all aspects of emergency plans and exercises and provided a valuable means of liaison between the various agencies involved. In response to a question from Cllr Lynden on facilitating access to the site for emergency services personnel in the event of an incident, Ms Chapman said that arrangements were in place to allow such access whilst maintaining appropriate control over vehicles and personnel entering the site.
- 23 Insp Lester explained that the Avon and Somerset Constabulary provided the principal responses required from the police within the emergency planning arrangements. The Civil Nuclear Constabulary would maintain its responsibilities for guarding nuclear materials and providing security for the site throughout any such incident. He explained that there were separate arrangements for the exercise of the station's security arrangements.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No business

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

- 24 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on 20 April 2011 at Tockington Village Hall, commencing at 1.00pm.

MJD  
25 January 2011