

**BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE AND OLDBURY ON SEVERN
POWER STATION SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS
MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING HELD AT TORTWORTH COURT
FOUR PILLARS HOTEL ON TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2013**

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs P Wride (in the chair)	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Cllr Mrs L Ashton	-	Stroud District Council
Rev R Avery		
Mr F I Baker	-	National Farmers Union
Cllr R Birch	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr D Burgess	-	Alkington Parish Council
Mr M Bruton	-	Gloucestershire Local Enterprise Partnership
Cllr P Case	-	Ham & Stone Parish Council
Mr C Cherry	-	Vale Vision
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Assn of Parish and Town Councils
Cllr R Griffin	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Dr L Hales	-	Co-opted member
Cllr N Halsall	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr Ms R Kitson	-	Hill Parish Meeting
Cllr G Vaughan-Lewis	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr Mrs J Lyons	-	Olveston Parish Council
Cllr Mrs P Parsloe	-	Thornbury Town Council
Mr M Redding	-	Trade Union Representative
Mr B Roberts	-	Thornbury Chamber of Commerce
Cllr Ms F Shipston	-	Tytherington Parish Council
Mr J Stanton	-	Co-opted Member
Cllr Ms V Tutin	-	Olveston Parish Council
Mr D Wride	-	Lower Severn Drainage Board

IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr B Burnett	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr P Dickenson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Dr R MacGregor	-	Environment Agency
Mr A Davies	-	Environment Agency
Mr P Reynolds	-	Environment Agency
Mr J Gilbert	-	Horizon Nuclear Power
Ms K Johnson	-	Public Health England
Ms A Presdee	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Ms G Ellis-King	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr N Haycock	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr M Heaton	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr P Clarke	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mrs E Vaughan Lewis	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr P Chilcott	-	EHS&Q Oldbury Site Inspector
Ms G Coombs	-	Magnox
Ms S Postans	-	Magnox

Mr B Bridgewater - Magnox
Ms A Lamcraft - Magnox
Mr S McNally - Berkeley Licensed Site
Ms C Huggard - Berkeley Licensed Site
Ms H Edwards - Berkeley Licensed Site
Ms M Kolodnytska - Berkeley Licensed Site
Ms M Kirschel - UK Nuclear Restoration Ltd
Mrs M Burgess
Mr B Delve
Mr W Gill
Mr J Kempster
Mr K Simpson
Mr G Craig
Ms S Stagg
Ms L Hutchinson
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)

I WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

1 Cllr Mrs Wride welcomed members of the Oldbury and Berkeley Site Stakeholder Groups to the meeting which was being held jointly for the consideration of monitoring reports and other items of interest to both SSGs. She expressed a particular welcome to new members who were attending one of these meetings for the first time.

II APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Lynden, Ms H Cook, Mr P Kennedy, Cllr J O'Neill, Cllr M Riddle, Mr B Willcox, Cllr C Biddle, Cllr J Cordwell, Mr M Johnson and Cllr J Sant.

III MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING HELD ON 24 OCTOBER 2012

(a) Accuracy

3 The minutes of the joint meeting held on 24 October 2012 were approved as a correct record.

(b) Matters arising

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

IV PUBLIC FORUM

5 Cllr Mrs Wride invited members of the public to raise any issues which might not arise in later discussions. No issues were raised.

V ITEMS OF JOINT INTEREST

(a) NDA Update

6 Dr Burnett reported on issues of current interest to the NDA, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) On recent visits to both Oldbury and Berkeley Sites he and other senior NDA officers had been impressed by the progress on both sites and the high standards which were being maintained.
- (ii) Following consideration of all options the NDA had decided to extend its Sellafield management contract with Nuclear Management Partners into a second five year period.
- (iii) The four consortia bidding in the competition for the management of the Magnox and RSRL Sites had now submitted their bids and had made presentations to the NDA on their proposals. These bids would now be assessed and the identity of the preferred bidder would be announced in March 2014. There would then be a period of transition before the new management team was put in place in September 2014.
- (iv) The Department for Energy and Climate Change had initiated a public consultation on the process for selection of a site for a geological disposal facility for higher activity waste.
- (v) The Sizewell A reactors were now more than 50% defuelled and completion of defuelling was expected by September 2014.
- (vi) One of the Wylfa reactors remained in operation. The value of the electricity production at Wylfa since its planned closure date in 2010 was now in excess of £850 million.
- (vii) Dr Burnett said that Mr Atkinson would continue to provide the Berkeley SSG with updates on progress with securing alternative uses for parts of the Berkeley site.

(b) Oldbury Site Update

7 Mr Heaton reported on current activities and issues at the Oldbury Power Station site, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) The site had maintained compliance with all Operating Rule and Maintenance Schedule requirements.
- (ii) It was now more than 300 days since time had been lost from work on site as a result of an accident. The site's conventional safety performance had been recognised by the British Safety Council which, following an assessment, had awarded the site its

Sword of Honour. This internationally recognised award had been given to only 68 companies worldwide this year.

- (iii) Priority in the allocation of irradiated fuel transport flasks was currently given to Sizewell A. When defuelling at that site was completed priority would be given to Oldbury; in the meantime defuelling was continuing at a rate of one or two flasks per week. When priority was given to Oldbury, despatches of fuel would be at a rate of three flasks per week; trials had been undertaken to demonstrate that this rate was achievable. It was anticipated that defuelling the Oldbury reactors would be completed by early 2016. Currently Reactor 1 was 20% defuelled and Reactor 2 was 27% defuelled.
- (iv) Both reactors were now adequately cooled by the natural circulation of air through the cores and there was no requirement for the operation of gas circulators. Maintenance requirements were reduced progressively as plant items were taken out of operational service. Work was in hand to allow the main circulating water system to be taken out of service, allowing significant savings in operational costs and further reductions in maintenance requirements. It was hoped that this work, which included the design of an alternative discharge line for liquid effluent waste, would be completed by mid-2014.
- (v) A new 11kV cable was currently being installed to supply electricity to the site. Further electrical installation work on site would continue next year to allow existing electricity supply systems to be removed from service.
- (vi) Proposed revised emergency arrangements for the site were to be demonstrated to Office for Nuclear Regulation inspectors in an exercise during December.
- (viii) Preferred options for the storage and treatment of intermediate level wastes were to be presented at a drop-in session at the Cossham Hall, Thornbury later in the week. The preferred options included, in relation to Oldbury, the transfer of packaged intermediate level waste to Berkeley for storage and the transfer of fuel element debris to Hinkley Point for treatment in a dissolution plant to be built at that site.
- (ix) Magnox socio-economic support funding included a donation towards the proposed establishment of a village community shop in Oldbury on Severn.

8 In reply to a question from Cllr Mrs Ashton, Mr Heaton explained that the liquid radioactive effluent discharged from the site arose from the treatment of water in the station's cooling ponds and from contamination removed by

washing. The low level of the radioactivity in the effluent and the minimal impact upon the environment would be demonstrated in a later presentation.

9 In relation to the proposal that intermediate level wastes might be transferred to Berkeley for storage, Mr Stanton pointed out that the current planning permission for the storage facility at the Berkeley site did not permit the storage of wastes transferred in from other sites.

(c) Berkeley Site Update

10 Mr McNally reported on activities at the Berkeley site, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) It was now more than 87 weeks since the most recent absence from work on site resulting from an accident.
- (ii) The station's emergency arrangements and the arrangements for dealing with security threats had been demonstrated to the satisfaction of Office for Nuclear Regulation inspectors.
- (iii) Within the Magnox decommissioning sites, lessons learned and experiences gained were used for the benefit of other sites which faced similar problems.
- (iv) The current planned date for the Berkeley site to enter into a care and maintenance state was 2021 but this was kept under review in the light of progress with the various projects on site.
- (v) Good progress was being made with the design and commissioning of equipment which would be used to remove moisture from radioactive sludges to allow the wastes to be stored in the Interim Storage Facility.
- (vi) Good progress was also being made with the manufacture of equipment for handling and processing items stored in the intermediate level waste vaults on site.
- (vii) The Interim Storage Facility was nearing completion having been based on design and safety case work undertaken for the store at the Bradwell power station site.
- (viii) A drop-in session on preferred options for the storage and treatment of intermediate level wastes was to be held at Berkeley Library later on the day of this meeting.
- (ix) The site continued to support local activities within the socio-economic support scheme and personnel on site were giving specific support to chosen charities.

11 In reply to a question, Mr McNally said that the process for removal of moisture from radioactive sludges involved heating the container in which the waste was held and creating a vacuum above the waste. Trials using non-radioactive materials suggested that radioactivity from the waste would not be carried over in the discharge from the vacuum system but the filtration to be applied to this discharge would be determined as a result of further trials.

(d) Office for Nuclear Regulation Update

12 Mr Dickenson referred to the reports on the ONR's inspection activities at the Berkeley and Oldbury sites which had been circulated to members. He pointed out that further information on inspection visits to the sites was available on the ONR website. He invited members if they wanted any further information to contact him via his office or via either of the sites.

13 Mr Dickenson pointed out that ONR had recently published a Chief Nuclear Inspector's Report. This was the first time such a report had been published. The report summarised ONR's independent judgements on the areas it regulated. It identified three levels of regulatory priority and explained how the sites were prioritised taking account of the levels of hazard and risks. The report can be downloaded at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/documents/cni-annual-report-2013.pdf>. ONR had also published a guide to nuclear regulation in the UK which can be downloaded at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/documents/a-guide-to-nuclear-regulation-in-the-uk.pdf>.

(e) Parent Body Organisation Competition Update

14 Cllr Mrs Wride reported on meetings she had had together with representatives of other SSGs with the four consortia bidding for the management of the Magnox and RSRL sites. She said that all of the bidders had been impressive and all of them had said that they were keen to maintain dialogue with local community representatives. She said that the NDA was due to announce the identity of the successful bidder on 31 March 2014.

15 Dr Burnett said that in the presentations given to the NDA by the bidding consortia each of them had shown commitment to maintaining the good liaison which currently existed with local community representatives.

(f) National Stakeholder Conference Update

16 Cllr Mrs Wride reported on a meeting of the National Stakeholder Conference which had been held at the Bradwell site. This had provided an opportunity for members to see evidence of the progress made at Bradwell which was one of the accelerated decommissioning sites. Mr Stanton said that he had been particularly impressed by the fuel element debris dissolution plant which was a compact plant in itself but which would achieve a major reduction in the volume of the radioactive waste associated with fuel element debris.

VI ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

(a) Food Standards Agency

17 Cllr Mrs Wride said that the Food Standards Agency no longer sent a representative to meetings of this Group but information on their monitoring activities was available on their website.

(b) Environment Agency

18 Dr MacGregor reported on environmental monitoring undertaken by the Environment Agency. He explained that limits on discharges from nuclear licensed sites were specified in the permits authorised by the Agency and the results of the monitoring of those discharges were available on public register.

19 Dr MacGregor referred to the programme of monitoring undertaken independently by the Environment Agency and the Food Standards Agency. The results of this monitoring were published in an annual report entitled Radioactivity in Food and the Environment; the report on monitoring undertaken in 2012 had recently been published and was available on the websites. Dr MacGregor said that from the monitoring undertaken in the vicinity of the Berkeley and Oldbury sites the assessed maximum potential exposure to radioactivity by an individual from the consumption of locally produced foodstuffs during 2012 was 14 microSieverts (μSv); this value was higher than that assessed for the previous year but was low when compared with the government's annual dose limit of 1000 μSv and the average annual UK exposure to natural radiation which amounted to 2700 μSv .

(c) Magnox Ltd

20 Mr Clarke presented a report on environmental monitoring undertaken by Magnox Ltd in relation to the Oldbury and Berkeley sites during the past year. He outlined the nature and scope of the environmental monitoring programme and briefly summarised the results.

21 Mr Clarke pointed out that there had been a significant reduction in aerial discharges from Oldbury following the shutdown of the reactors. This was to be expected whereas liquid discharges remained similar to those in previous years as the operations which affected these discharges remained, during defuelling, similar to those whilst the reactors were in operation.

22 Mr Clarke said that monitoring had shown that there had been no significant change in radioactivity in the environment in the vicinity of the sites. He pointed out that a new type of thermo-luminescent dosimeter (TLD) was being used alongside ones which had been used for many years in the vicinity of the sites for the monitoring of radiation levels. He pointed out that a new environmental monitoring vehicle had been acquired and might be seen in the vicinity of the sites. He outlined the nature and volumes of solid radioactive waste and controlled wastes arising on the Oldbury site.

23 Ms Kolodnytska outlined the results of monitoring of discharges from the Berkeley site. She reported on progress with the processing of the boilers which had been removed from the Berkeley site. The processing of three of the boilers had been completed and the volume of material retained as radioactive waste represented some 5% of the total volume of the material contained within the boilers as they left the site. Metal released by the process would be recycled on the international metal market.

24 Mr Clarke said that all discharges remained well within the limits set by the Environment Agency, with minimal doses to the public.

25 Cllr Evers asked whether consideration was given to reducing the limits on discharges specified in the sites' permits when the level of discharges reduced dramatically as had been the case with some discharges following the cessation of generation. Mr Clarke said that consideration was being given to the longer term discharge requirements in order to determine whether it was appropriate to apply for a reduction in the levels of certain permitted discharges.

VII CO-LOCATION OF WASTE UPDATE

26 Mr Bridgewater showed members a video film dealing with the exercise which had been undertaken to identify optimum arrangements for the storage and treatment of intermediate level wastes at the Magnox sites. He explained the preferred option identified following the public consultation earlier in the year which focused upon regional rather than national solutions. In relation to the Oldbury and Berkeley sites the preferred option included arrangements for intermediate level wastes from Oldbury to be transferred to Berkeley for storage in the Interim Storage Facility and for fuel element debris to be sent from Oldbury for processing in a dissolution plant to be established at Hinkley Point. Compared with earlier proposals these arrangements represented significant savings and had a reduced impact on the environment. Mr Bridgewater referred to the drop-in sessions which were being held in Thornbury and Berkeley to explain these preferred arrangements.

27 Mr Baker expressed his disappointment at these proposals as he had always understood that the storage facility being built at Berkeley would be used only for the storage of waste which had arisen on the Berkeley site. He suggested that local roads around Berkeley would need substantial improvement if large quantities of waste were to be transferred to the Berkeley site. Mr Bridgewater said that there would be further opportunities for discussions on the proposed approach as specific proposals became the subject of planning consent applications. Mr McNally said that the Interim Storage Facility at Berkeley had been designed to accommodate 1000 ductile cast iron containers which at that time had been the number believed to be required to accommodate the ILW waste on the Berkeley site. He said it now appeared that the Berkeley waste could be accommodated in 860 containers which would provide sufficient spare storage capacity for the Oldbury waste. He said that any waste transferred to Berkeley for storage would be conditioned and packaged before transport to the site.

28 Mr Craig suggested that there could be an adverse effect on public confidence if it became apparent that assumptions used in the design of the Berkeley storage facility were no longer valid. He suggested also that the value of houses in Berkeley might be adversely affected if a perception became established that the Berkeley Site was a storage facility for other locations' wastes. Mr Bridgewater said that in designing any facility it was necessary to allow some contingency to cover uncertainty. In the design of the ISF some contingency had been allowed to cover the uncertainty in the volumes of wastes accumulated over the years within the Berkeley vaults. With further work that uncertainty had been reduced and it now appeared that there might be sufficient surplus capacity to accommodate the wastes from Oldbury. In response to the comment made by Mr Craig on the potential adverse effect on local house prices, Cllr Vaughan Lewis commented that many aspects of the presence of the site in the local community, such as the general improvement in local roads, had a positive influence on local house prices.

29 In reply to a question from Cllr Vaughan Lewis, Mr Bridgewater said that the current study was related only to the Magnox power station sites in England. Intermediate level waste storage arrangements in Scotland had been the subject of a separate exercise last year and the situation at Wylfa and Trawsfynydd would be reviewed at a later date.

VIII HORIZON NUCLEAR POWER UPDATE

30 Mr Gilbert provided an update on the current position of Horizon Nuclear Power Ltd in relation to the development of new nuclear power plants at Wylfa and Oldbury. He pointed out that Horizon had a staff of 130 based at its headquarters in Gloucester and there were plans to increase this to over 400 by the time that an application was made for a nuclear site licence. The company had been bought by Hitachi last year and the proposal was to build advanced boiling water reactors. Reactors of this type were operating successfully in Japan and Taiwan but for use in the UK the design now had to be subjected to the generic design assessment process. It had been decided that Wylfa would be the lead project.

31 Mr Gilbert said that with the need to complete the generic design assessment process and priority being given to development at Wylfa, it was unlikely that work on site at Oldbury would commence before the end of this decade. He said that initial consideration given to the design of a plant for Oldbury had identified the need for cooling towers; hybrid cooling towers which had a lower profile than natural draft cooling towers were preferred. Mr Gilbert said that until work started on site at Oldbury Horizon intended to act as responsible landowners

32 Cllr Griffin asked whether any consideration had been given to the use of plutonium as fuel to be used in the reactors to be established at Wylfa and Oldbury. Mr Gilbert said that mixed oxide fuel could be used in ABWR reactors but there was no proposal for this fuel to be used at these sites.

33 Cllr Halsall drew attention to the major impact on a local community during the construction of a large power station. Mr Gilbert said that the various issues including accommodation for workers and the impact on local traffic systems would be addressed in the planning process.

IX SOCIO-ECONOMIC UPDATE

34 Ms Postans reported on the operation of the Company's socio-economic support scheme. She drew attention to the level of the funding across the various sites aimed at mitigating the impact of site closure. She pointed out that the support given in the current year amounting to some £450,000 was directed predominantly at the sites most affected by the current work programme; priorities would change progressively as sites entered into care and maintenance.

35 Ms Postans explained how applications for socio-economic support had to be made via the company's website.

X DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT JOINT MEETING

36 It was noted that the next joint meeting was scheduled to be held on 29 October 2014. The venue for the meeting would be confirmed in due course.

MJD
19 November 2013