



Magnox

Dr Phil Sprague
Oldbury Site Director

Report on Oldbury activities to SSG **April 2012**

You may have heard by now that at the end of April, I will be moving onto a new role as Intermediate Level Waste Programme Director. This is a nationwide programme to deal with all Magnox sites ILW.

I have been Site Director at Oldbury since January 2011 and although I am sad to leave I am of course immensely proud of our achievements this year. It has been an honour and a privilege to have been here during this historic period, and I wish the site well for the future.

Mike Heaton, Oldbury Deputy Site Director, will take over from me and report to Joe Lamonby as the site moves into its next phase of defuelling and decommissioning, from 1st May 2012.

Mike, a graduate from Manchester University where he studied Chemistry BSc, joined the nuclear industry in 1991 as a Management Trainee at Sellafield. He has worked at Oldbury since 2000. He has had various roles, Head of Health Physics and Chemistry, Outage Manager, EHS&Q Manager and Operations Manager.

Alison Chapman, currently EHSS&Q manager will be leaving to take up a new role with EdF at Hinkley C. Her replacement will be Chris Fayers who will be joining us in May

Adrian Mitchell, Head of Projects will also be moving to a new role supporting the ILW programme within Strategic programmes. Chris Burden will take over as Head of Projects as well as looking after the Transition programme.

End of electricity generation at Oldbury



After more than 44 years and 137.5 TWhrs of safe operation, Oldbury finally ceased generation at 11am on Wednesday 29th February. Oldbury has been a real success story for Magnox. Since the scheduled closure date of 2008, the plant has generated an additional 7.4TWhrs of electricity, worth an estimated £350 million to the taxpayer and saving around 3.5 million tonnes of carbon from being released in the atmosphere. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone involved in the site, support staff and contractors, for their excellent performance and dedication through the years. There was a lot of media activity on the day with the shutdown broadcast on live on national breakfast news and

local BBC points west.



As part of the end of generation activities, previous Site Managers/Directors came to site on Tuesday 28th February. They toured the site and were very impressed with the state of the plant. Vic Brown (Site Manager 1974-1978), Clive Smitton (1983- 1986) and Peter Webster (1995 -1998) were interviewed as part of the end of generation vodcast.

Special recognition award for Oldbury at the i4 final at Cardiff

Every year, Magnox holds a company campaign called 'i4' which recognises innovation across all 10 sites.

The day after Oldbury shutdown the i4 final was held in Cardiff, (Thursday 1st March). I was very proud to accept a special recognition award on behalf of Oldbury. This award was given to highlight all of the work undertaken to keep the site operating since the original planned shutdown of 2008.

What Happens Post Generation?

Post generation there are a number of key targets that the site will need to focus on as the next chapter at Oldbury starts. In the coming weeks we will need to treat these in exactly the same way as we have treated generation to make sure they are as successful.

Maintaining Safety and Compliance

Despite the reactors now being shutdown, our focus on nuclear safety will remain constant. Our attention to detail in these areas must continue to be high. Likewise, continued use of the human performance tools, complemented

by the conduct of operations and maintenance standards will remain a focus for the site.

Preparations for Defuelling

Following the Reactor 1 shutdown a number of outage activities now need to commence to reduce the hazards on site and prepare the site for bulk defueling. Activities include:-

- removal of CO2 and capping of supplies to the reactors
- removal of turbine oils
- removal of boron dust equipment
- isolation of control rod supplies

Transition Programme

Aside from all the physical works above there will be a strong focus on progressing transition activities. In addition to this, minor amendments to our post operational defuelling safety case has already been submitted to a NSC and discussions with the regulator regarding proposals to change our emergency scheme commenced in March.

Safety and Environment

We have completed over 800 days without a lost time accident.



Last month we saw the final dispatch of a shipment of LLW metals for recycling – the first time the site has been able to recycle radioactive waste, which is normally buried or burnt. This container was sent to Germany where it will be melted down. The melting process separates out much of the radioactive content, which can leave the metal clean enough to enter the conventional recycled metals market. If the metal is still radioactive after smelting then it will be turned into ILW containers – so Oldbury may get the metal back one day in the shape of a yellow box!

Oldbury's consignment was part of a Magnox programme to take advantage of this new metal processing route; the site had committed to send 10 tonnes of metal this year, but eventually managed to send just over 11 tonnes in 2 HHISOs – no small feat for a site which until recently sent only one HHISO per year of all wastes combined.

Security demonstration

The annual security demonstration exercise, which took place recently, was agreed by the regulator as a successful demonstration. Many good comments and learning points from both the site teams as well as the regulator were raised.

MP visit to site



Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP for the Cotswolds visited Oldbury on Friday 16th March; he met with members of staff from Horizon, Energy Solutions and Mike Heaton, Oldbury Deputy Site Director. He enjoyed a tour of Oldbury and was very impressed with the good level of housekeeping on site.

Community Involvement



To mark the end of electricity generation at the plant after 44 years and to ensure that the events was remembered for decades to come, I turned to Oldbury's future, the local children attending the primary school. Two weeks after Oldbury reactor one shutdown, local councillors and myself gathered at Oldbury primary school for a special commemorative ceremony. As part of the festivities, six oak trees were

planted in the primary school field over looking Oldbury Power Station. The trees will be here for more than 100 years. It is the power station's legacy to the village. .