

DUNGENESS A SITE AND B POWER STATION

DUNGENESS SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING

The Visitor Centre, Dungeness B Power Station

Wednesday 16th October 2013

09:30 for 10.00am

Attendance:

Cllr D Baker	-	Shepway District Council
Mrs G Baker	-	NR, Lydd & Greatstone Res Asso
Ms M Barnes	-	EDF Energy
Ms L Barton	-	LAAG
Mr D Batters	-	NDA
Sgt J Bloomfield	-	Kent Police
Mr A Blumenthall	-	UK Nuclear Restoration
Cllr M Burgess	-	Ashford Borough Council
Mr I Cuthbert	-	Dungeness A site
Cllr A Clifton-Holt	-	Shepway District Council
Cllr Mrs V Dawson	-	Lydd Town Council
Mr K Franks	-	Independent Member
Dr L Franks	-	Minute Taker
Ms C Gamble	-	Dungeness A Site
Mr S Goddard	-	Marsh Academy
Mr J Goodsell	-	SJC Dungeness A Site
Dr V Green	-	ONR (Dun B)
Dr P Hayes	-	ONR (Dun A)
Mr P Hetherington	-	Magnox
Mr R Lavender	-	Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce
Cllr D Lawton	-	New Romney Town Council
Ms E Lyons	-	Kent and Essex Fisheries
Ms J Moakes	-	Environment Agency
Mrs H Morris	-	Dungeness A Site
Mr M Pearson	-	Dungeness B Power Station
Mr J Prosser	-	Kent County Council
Mr M Salisbury	-	Kent County Council
Ms J Sanders	-	EDF Energy
Col G Smythe	-	Independent Chairman
Mr R Starbuck	-	Dungeness B Power Station
Mr P Warham	-	Dungeness A Site
Ms L Whenday	-	Dungeness Residents Association
Mr P Wilkinson	-	Dungeness A Site

I INTRODUCTION

3093 Col. Smythe welcomed members and guests to the 18th Meeting of the Site Stakeholder Group (SSG) and encouraged them to ask questions. He advised that there had been several meetings for SSG Chairmen since the Dungeness SSG meeting was last convened.

II APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3094 The following apologies were received:

Mr T Harwood	-	Kent County Council
Cllr Mrs M Masters	-	Lydd Town Council
Mr P Mountford-Lister	-	Environment Agency
Mr A Parry	-	Independent Vice Chairman
Ms D Ward	-	NDA
Mr N Younghusband	-	Dungeness A Site

3095 Col. Smythe reported that Cllr Mrs M Masters was unwell and that Mr A Parry had family medical issues.

III MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

3096 The minutes of the 17th SSG meeting held on 16 May 2013 were agreed as an accurate record.

IV CORRESPONDENCE

3097 A list of correspondence distributed to SSG members was made available to attendees. Chairman advised that many of these were regarding Fuel Element Debris (FED) and Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) storage and that these matters would be discussed at this meeting under Agenda item XIV.

V MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 17th MEETING

3098 Chairman drew attention to the following:

- Paragraph 3088 confirming that a workshop had been convened to debate waste options.
- Paragraph 3089 regarding the attendance of representatives of Kent County Council at SSG meetings, advising that two representatives were in attendance at this meeting.

VI DUNGENESS B POWER STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

3099 Mr Martin Pearson drew attention to his written report dated 16 October 2013 and to the following aspects in particular:

- *Visitor Centre:* has received more than 3000 visitors and to mark this milestone the Rotary Club were given 3000 daffodil bulbs to plant locally. School groups are re-booking for the next academic year. Guide numbers to be increased from 5 to 8 to cope with visitor numbers. Every operating station in the EDF Energy fleet will have a functioning Visitor Centre once Hartlepool opens in the near future.

- *Concrete flood defence wall*: now under construction and should be completed to a height of 1.5m around the site by Christmas. This forms part of the post Fukushima response programme.
- *Training Programmes*: 13 of 14 training programmes were recently accredited to an Internationally recognised standard by the Training Standards Accreditation Board.
- *Elevated Tritium Levels in groundwater*: cause identified as cracks in drainage system which have now been relined and has led to a drop in groundwater tritium concentration.
- *Emergency Arrangements*: residents within the detailed emergency planning zone will be re-issued with Potassium Iodate tablets as the current batch will expire at the end of November.
- *Generation*: both units currently producing power. Fault in emergency stop valves for the main turbine had led to a shutdown. One more refuelling outage is planned for November. Business plan target for power production will be met.
- *Community Relations*: Heart Radio did a live broadcast during June; a CBBC programme about discovering radioactivity featuring 'Dick and Dom' was filmed at the station and will be aired in early 2014; the New Romney Country Fayre was supported; physically impaired visitors have attended the Visitor Centre and the station are considering how to adapt the station tour to enable disabled access; Aldington Soap Box Derby was attended and involved many EDF Energy apprentices; the EDF Energy apprenticeship scheme was promoted by current apprentices at the Folkstone Careers Fayre; station representatives attended the Labour Party Conference and colleagues from other sites attended the Conservative Party Conference and the Liberal Democrat Party Conference.
- *New Nuclear Build*: check the press for current and expected developments.

- 3100 Q: Cllr Baker asked whether the new flood defence wall covered possible new build.
A: Flood defence wall has margin incorporated to ensure adequacy in the future, however, it is specifically for Dungeness B station. Any new station would have flood defences built into the design.
- 3101 Q: Cllr Clifton-Holt asked whether there was any further feedback from the successful supplier fayre held last year in Folkstone.
A: Positive feedback received after this event and local suppliers are being assisted to meet company purchasing requirements.
- 3102 Q: Ms Whenday asked whether the flood defence wall could withstand a tsunami.
A: Flood defences have been built to withstand a postulated 'beyond design basis' event that could happen once in 10,000 years and this includes tsunamis. In addition, the flood defence wall provides a security upgrade to the station.
- 3103 Q: Chair questioned whether the new wall will be sufficient to support a lifetime extension for the site.
A: The wall has sufficient margin to support the safety case for a lifetime extension to 2028.

VII OFFICE for NUCLEAR REGULATION (ONR) REPORT FOR DUNGENESS B

3104 Dr Vince Green, Dungeness B Site Inspector, drew attention to the quarterly report (1 April 2013 to 30 June 2013) and explained that since the beginning of April the ONR have adopted system-based inspections that over a five year period will look at all the safety systems on site to ensure compliance with licence condition arrangements. To date, three of approx twenty five systems have been inspected and found to be satisfactory.

3105 Particular attention was drawn to the following sections of the written report:

- A challenging Level 1 Emergency Exercise was conducted 8 May 2013 and the site gave an adequate demonstration of emergency arrangements.
- Annual Review of Safety held in April reviewed safety performance over the past year and determined safety improvements necessary to enable plant life extension. Both the review and the plans were found to be adequate. A separate programme to consider plant life extension in more detail will be conducted over the next three to six months.
- Three significant items from the non-routine matters section include:
 - *flooding issue*: short term local flood protection measures were in place May-July and are being replaced by the new flood defence wall which will re-establish the design basis for the site by the end of this year.
 - *graphite weight loss issue* has identified a postulated fault. The site have received approval for an interim justification for continued operation until the problem can be resolved.
 - *elevated ground water tritium levels* have reduced now that appropriate corrective levels have been put in place.

3106 Since June the ONR granted an extension to the tri-annual periodic shutdown of one reactor due in July 2013 to March 2014.

3107 Q Ms Whenday referred to the shingle bank and asked whether the ONR had plans to feed or raise the level of this and the source of this feed.

A Mr Pearson advised that the planning application for this is currently with Kent County Council. Cllr Baker advised that at the last meeting of New Romney Town Council the Environment Agency were asked to investigate and advise whether a conveyor belt system inside the sea wall could be deployed to replenish the shingle from the west side of the power station to Jury's gap to reduce lorry transfers through Lydd. Col. Smythe cautioned that a hard structure in the impact area would lead to an increase in the danger area out to sea with inevitable negative impact on the fisherman and suggested that a detailed study would need to be conducted to consider this. The source of the shingle feed was clarified as from the point.

VIII DUNGENESS A SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

3108 Paul Wilkinson, Site Director drew attention to the written report previously circulated, and commented in particular on the following aspects:

- *Safety*: remains primary focus. Site have adopted 'safety question of the week' to engage staff in a safety first mentality. Significant challenges as site evolves from operating site to decommissioning site. Industrial and Environmental

safety peers invited to site to challenge safety protocols and resulting report was positive. Recent lost time accident resulting from poor housekeeping.

- *Lessons from other sites:* previous roles at Sizewell A and Bradwell sites enable transfer of good practice to Dungeness A. Key challenge is to continue and build on previous success whilst evolving into a decommissioning site. Moving to a project-based system with milestone end dates that predominantly uses supply chain to ensure that waste is compliantly packaged. Necessitates reshaping and reducing employed staff.
- *Programmes of Work 1 - Plant and Structures:* the demolition of the turbine hall starts at the end of October following the redirection of the electrical systems to the reactor building.
- *Programmes of Work 2 - Intermediate Level Waste (ILW):* conditioning work ongoing, shared with Chapelcross
- *Programmes of Work 3 - Fuel Element Debris* – Dungeness has only functioning dissolution plant as Bradwell not yet on line. Currently taking Bradwell FED to secure their programme.
- *Programmes of Work 4 - Ponds:* ILW needs to be removed prior to pond drainage and stabilisation. Programme not scheduled to start yet.
- *Systems and Structural Preservation Project:* no need to build flood defences as flood consequences are far less than for B site, however, have taken precautions like move water sensitive equipment from ground floor to first floor and waterproofing doors.
- *Community Matters:* Marsh Million initiative started 23 September 2013. The NDA contributed £0.5million in a joint venture to support local businesses with interest free loans to mitigate against consequences of site closure. Also contributed to business incubator and for a business partnership coordinator.
- *Relocation:* Mr Wilkinson noted to have moved to Wittersham.

3109 Cllr V Dawson advised that Shepway District Council had contributed £50,000 to the Marsh Million initiative. Cllr Burgess added that Ashford Borough Council had matched this funding.

IX OFFICE for NUCLEAR REGULATION (ONR) REPORT FOR DUNGENESS A.

3110 Dr P Hayes, Site Inspector for Dungeness A, advised that system inspections were also being carried out at Dungeness A to ensure that facilities were being appropriately maintained in a safe condition until final decommissioning and removal. A primary circuit system inspection has been undertaken with a satisfactory outcome.

3111 The Annual Review of Safety was undertaken in May enabling the site to reflect and learn from operational practice. The outcome was that the site gave a very good account and has subsequently formulated an action plan to ensure continued improvement.

3112 Attention was drawn to the written report dated 1 April 2013 to 30 June 2013. Dr Hayes added that in August the site undertook an annual demonstration exercise that was considered from both a safety and security aspect and found to be adequate.

3113 The Site has received several visits from a Specialist Fire Inspector and a Health and Safety Executive FOD Inspector with no significant concerns regarding the practice at Dungeness A.

3114 Q: Mrs H Morris asked for clarification of the primary circuit.

A: Primary circuit describes the pipework and pumps that were used to feed coolant to the reactor core. With no fuel on site, there is no heat generation, however during operation fuel burst will have caused localised contamination of the core and activation will have caused steel work to become radioactive. The integrity of the primary circuit ensures that this potentially mobile radioactivity does not escape into the environment.

3115 Q: Is site clearance still scheduled for the end of this century?

A: Mr P Wilkinson confirmed this was the case.

X / XI ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE FOR DUNGENESS A AND B.

3116 Jo Moakes, EA Site Inspector for Dungeness B, drew attention to the previously circulated Environment Agency Nuclear Regulation Report for both sites and apologised for the absence of the Dungeness A Inspector, Mr P Mountford-Lister. The following points were noted:

- *Flood Risk Management:* support provided to ONR to understand flood risk using EA modelling of the Lydd coastline. Provide flood warning information to sites in addition to the Met Office. EA are providing assessment reports about the landscaping and visual impact of beach feeding.
- *Bathing Water Directive:* Macerated fish content may affect blue flag status but does not impact on bathing water quality. This is indicated by *e.coli* levels from sewage and livestock waste.
- *Groundwater Tritium:* satisfied that operator has identified source and resolved this matter. Formal response from the EA was Advice and Guidance.
- *Discharges:* all noted as within limits of permit with use of best available techniques to minimise discharges.
- *Asset Audit:* concerted effort to reduce minor oil leaks on site. Clear demonstration that operational learning has been incorporated into procedures.
- *District Survey Lab:* inspection of the calibration of equipment used to analyse environmental samples resulted in several actions to improve arrangements to best practice.

3117 Q: Clarity about the source of *e.coli* was sought.

A: *e. coli* found in mammalian sewage and specifically not in macerated fish.

3118 Q: Cllr Clifton-Holt asked about future blue flag status and questioned whether the power station output of macerated fish impacted on this.

A: Bathing water quality limits for bacterial loading have been reduced and there remains uncertainty whether the blue flag will be regained in 2015. Macerated fish content does not impact on this. Sources of *e.coli* in bathing water are being investigated and could be from sewage farms, livestock faeces or other sources of mammalian sewage.

3119 Cllr Clifton-Holt commented that Southern Water have implied that it is contamination from the power stations that has impacted on bathing water quality.

Ms Moakes advised that evidence of cause needs to be gathered before definitive statements about sources could be made.

XII ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR DUNGENESS A

3120 Ms C Gamble drew attention to the published Environmental Management Plan, advising that this was a condition of the HSE Consent to Decommission at Dungeness A granted in 2006. The decommissioning project is divided into three phases:

- Care and Maintenance Preparations
- Care and Maintenance
- Final Site Clearance

3121 The report was noted to list the environmental assessment topics (p8) and detail the mitigation methods employed at the site to reduce the environmental impact of decommissioning activities. Several examples were detailed:

- Nesting birds have been discouraged from nesting on the turbine hall in readiness for demolition (p28)
- Planting on the SSSI, a collaborative project with the B site, was described as encouraging the Sussex Emerald Moth (p29)
- Survey and improvement of surface water drainage (p31)
- Minimising noise and vibration (p30)
- Landscape and Visual impact (p30)

Monitoring of mitigation methods will be undertaken, including photographic evidence, to enable further reporting.

3122 No questions were forthcoming.

XIII EPCC REPORT

3123 Mr P Warham advised that since the last meeting the emergency handbook for the site has been issued to the site and appropriate off-site agencies and the REPIR Hazard Identification Risk Evaluation (HIRE) report for post de-fuelling has been internally validated and is currently being scrutinised by the ONR. The HIRE will inform the revised off-site emergency plan and initial consultation about this has been undertaken in anticipation of ONR approval. The current off-site emergency plan remains in place until the revised version is agreed.

3124 The 2013 exercise programme is now complete and learning from this has been incorporated into the 2014 exercise programme; dates for demonstrations to be advised to the SSG once confirmed.

3125 Mr Warham advised that he was leaving the company at the end of October and hence this would be the last SSG meeting he would attend. Chairman thanked Mr Warham for his support at this and previous meetings.

XIV FEEDBACK FROM THE ILW WORKSHOP AND FUTURE FED SITES

- 3126 Chairman reminded attendees that the FED and the ILW optimisation study had been ongoing for some 18 months and had started with the Chairmen of the SSGs gathering at a meeting in London to receive a presentation about FED site options and ILW storage options. Subsequently, a local workshop was held for the SSG to consider and evaluate the options and then the Chairmen met again in Bristol to express local concerns. The SSG were then able to formally comment on the options being considered prior to a meeting in Manchester and a further local workshop. Chairman advised that a DVD had been produced to summarise the options and attendees were invited to watch this.
- 3127 In summary the DVD explained the proposals for dealing with intermediate level waste from Magnox sites in England until the deep geological disposal facility becomes available. Interim storage facilities have already been built at Berkeley and Bradwell sites. Reduction in volume of ILW resulting from FED can be achieved using dissolution, a process ongoing at Dungeness A site. The benefits of sharing dissolution facilities and reducing the number of ILW stores are under consideration, regional solutions have been developed and are currently open for comment. For the South East, this would involve moving FED from Bradwell and Sizewell A to Dungeness A for dissolution. ILW from all three sites would be stored at Bradwell and Sizewell A. These proposals would remove approximately 450 lorries from the roads, utilise rail transport of waste between sites, save around £40million and reduce the overall impact on the environment. Full details of these options are available on the NDA and Magnox websites. A third phase of review will be required to consider planning and regulatory approval.
- 3128 Chairman stressed that no decisions have yet been made. He reminded members that they had asked for rail transport to be used where feasible and hence this was now included in the options. Members had also asked about additional funding being provided to Parish and District Councils, however, the NDA advised that legally this was not feasible as it was Government funding. Mr D Batters, CFO of the NDA added that any additional funding would be deducted from the central government funding provided to that council.
- 3129 Chairman described all the credible options that had been considered and, using a series of slides, how the regional solution for the South East was derived. Ian Cuthbert was then welcomed to describe enhancements to the FED dissolution process.
- 3130 Mr I Cuthbert introduced himself as the Dungeness A staff member that has looked after the FED dissolution plant since 1999 and provided a presentation to attendees that described the feasibility study undertaken to consider how the current dissolution plant could be enhanced. It was noted that there had been no formal engagement with any regulator regarding this.
- 3131 An update on the dissolution of Bradwell FED was provided:
- Eight tonnes of FED dissolved
 - 11528kg FED loaded into reaction vessel
 - Five out of eight batches of FED have been received to date with a sixth due today.

- 3132 The feasibility study undertaken by Jacobs was described in detail and this was noted to include proposed improvements to the existing plant and the addition of a second stream which would increase throughput from 12 to 40 tonnes per annum. Improvements to the existing plant should commence within the next couple of months.
- 3133 Q: Cllr Clifton-Holt questioned whether the regional solution would impact on the Magnox Operating Plan for Dungeness site.
A: No, the site would still enter Care and Maintenance in 2018
- 3134 Q: Cllr Clifton-Holt asked whether an increased volume of FED would be coming onto site.
A: This is subject to the outcomes of the current NDA consultation. If the regional solution is agreed as proposed this would mean continued dissolution of an increased volume of FED until 2018.
- 3135 Q: Mr R Lavender questioned whether addition of the second stream would require additional staff to manage the increased throughput.
A: Current plant is manned by a team of five on a shift pattern to cover 16hrs/day.
A second stream would require some additional staff; estimated increase to a team of eight staff.
- 3136 Q: Mr K Franks asked what the throughput time was.
A: It is a batch process but the time taken varies with the nature of the FED to be processed; a crumbly FED will take far less time than the current 9 weeks for solid lumps.
- 3137 Q: Ms L Whenday commented on links with Thyroid cancer and questioned why the effluent could not be cleaned up even more.
A: The dissolution plant has an abatement system that means the current effluent is less than 1% of the station output limit. Prior to the addition of a second stream formal engagement with regulators will be undertaken which will include consideration of the best available techniques.
- 3138 Chairman summarised by advising that all stakeholders have been involved in the process. EDF Energy have not yet decided whether to encapsulate or utilise a dissolution process for their ILW, hence Dungeness B have not been taken into consideration. The next step will be for the preferred option to be publicly consulted upon. To enable the local community to be updated, Magnox have arranged drop-in days as follows:
- Tuesday 12 November 15.00 to 19.00 at the RNLI, Dungeness
 - Wednesday 13 November 16.00 to 20.00 at the Guild Hall, Lydd
 - Thursday 14 November 09.00 to 13.00 at the Old School, New Romney
- Chairman encouraged attendees to advertise these days as widely as possible.
- 3139 Mr R Lavender led a vote of thanks to the Chairman for representing the views and enabling current understanding amongst the SSG during this optimisation study.

XV NDA UPDATE

- 3140 Chairman advised that in the absence of Ms D Ward that attendees could consider the written NDA update (available on the NDA website) and forward any questions to either Ms H Morris or himself for resolution.
- 3141 Mr D Batters introduced himself as the CFO for the NDA with operating oversight for all sites except Sellafield. The following comments were noted:
- NDA main board plan to visit Dungeness A site next year.
 - Recent spending round with Government resulted in a 4% cut in annual budget, offset by increased income from sites.
 - Annual spend is £3 billion of which £1 billion is income from generation at Wylfa and reprocessing at Sellafield.
 - Encouraging the small/medium enterprise agenda with six regional panels and a National panel. Mr N Forman is Chair of local regional panel; Mr D Batters Chair of National panel. Supply Chain event in Manchester during November.
 - Across Government the target for use of small/medium enterprise is 25% and currently within Magnox this is around 12%.
 - Magnox/RSRL competition is ongoing and the four bidding consortia are meeting again with stakeholders. Preferred bidder to be announced in March 2014 with share transfer in September 2014.

XVI MAGNOX COMPETITION MEETING UPDATE

- 3142 Chairman advised that the SSG's are involved in this process, that the SSG Chairmen met with bidders for the second time at their meeting in Manchester and were given the opportunity to discuss expectations.

XVII SOCIO-ECONOMIC UPDATE

- 3143 Chairman summarised that this was all progressing well and encouraged attendees to submit bids, adding that bids are more likely to be successful if match funded.

XVIII GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL FACILITY (GDF); DECC CONSULTATION PAPER

- 3144 Chairman advised that DECC have reviewed and consulted upon the procedure for siting the GDF and had published the new process. Chairman advised that he had written to DECC to express the views of the SSG and was pleased that the points raised were contained within the publication on page 19. Chairman also drew attention to page 25 which described how DECC planned to approach the relevant councils and gain their views at an earlier stage and page 28 which provided a list of questions to consider if an application to host the GDF was being considered.

XIX MARSH ACADEMY COMMUNITY HUB

- 3145 Mr S Goddard introduced himself as the Director for the Marsh Academy Community Hub based at the Marsh Academy School. A key goal is to improve links between the business community and current / previous students and other local residents, hence the following:
- Develop an apprenticeship scheme in conjunction with the Romney Marsh Partnership

- Move out into the community and develop as a community facility.
- Engage with the business sector throughout the year, not just during the work experience weeks.
- Negotiating with Kent County Council to establish an satellite base for their services at the Hub

3146 Mr S Goddard advised that he had been in post for around seven weeks and had now begun to understand the depth of isolation of Romney Marsh residents. He added that he looked forward to attending future SSG meetings to provide updates about the Hub.

XX ANY OTHER BUSINESS

3147 Chairman advised that the NDA have been invited to attend the next meeting to describe the security of sites once in Care and Maintenance.

XXI NEXT MEETING

3148 The 19th meeting of the Dungeness SSG, the AGM, will be held Wednesday 29 January 2014. It was noted that elections for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be held at this meeting.

Meeting closed at 12.35