

**BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE**

**SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT**

**HAM AND STONE VILLAGE HALL ON 3 FEBRUARY 2010**

**PRESENT:**

|                          |   |                                 |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Cllr Mrs P Wride (Chair) | - | Ham and Stone Parish Council    |
| Mr F I Baker             | - | National Farmers' Union         |
| Cllr D Burgess           | - | Alkington Parish Council        |
| Cllr G Vaughan-Lewis     | - | Alkington Parish Council        |
| Cllr M Lynden            | - | Oldbury SSG Chairman            |
| Cllr J Sant              | - | Stinchcombe Parish Council      |
| Cllr V G Sheno           | - | Forest of Dean District Council |
| Cllr J Stanton           | - | Stroud District Council         |
| Cllr H Tovell            | - | Hamfallow Parish Council        |
| Cllr D Wride             | - | Stroud District Council         |

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

|                          |   |                                   |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Dr D Warner              | - | Nuclear Decommissioning Authority |
| Mr M Eagle               | - | Nuclear Decommissioning Authority |
| Ms D Ward                | - | Nuclear Decommissioning Authority |
| Mr G Jones               | - | Gloucestershire County Council    |
| Mr K Littlewood          | - | Environment Agency                |
| Mr S Sargent             | - | Berkeley Site Director            |
| Mr S McNally             | - | Berkeley Deputy Site Director     |
| Ms M Yeung               | - | Mini Stores Project               |
| Mr S Wilmott             | - | Mini Stores Project               |
| Mr S Payne               | - | Berkeley Licensed Site            |
| Ms A Presdee             | - | Gloucestershire First             |
| Ms E Vaughan-Lewis       |   |                                   |
| Mr C Berkeley            |   |                                   |
| Mr R Hellen              |   |                                   |
| Mr M J Davis (Secretary) |   |                                   |

**INTRODUCTION**

- 1 Cllr Mrs Wride welcomed all those present to this meeting of the Berkeley Nuclear Licensed Site Stakeholder Group.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from:

|                   |   |  |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Mr David Drew MP  |   |  |
| Mr Mark Harper MP |   |  |
| Cllr B Booth      | - | Gloucestershire County Council         |
| Cllr N Cooper     | - | Stroud District Council                |
| Cllr C Evers      | - | Glos Assoc of Town and Parish Councils |
| Ms J Simmonds     | - | Health Protection Agency               |
| Mr M Pennington   | - | Gloucestershire Police                 |
| Rev R Avery       |   |  |
| Mr P Kennedy      | - | Food Standards Agency                  |
| Mr G Wheeler      | - | Vale Vision                            |
| Ms A Sinton       | - | Berkeley Site                          |

## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8 JULY 2009**

### **(a) Accuracy**

- 3 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 4 November 2009 were approved as an accurate record subject to the inclusion of Cllr N Cooper in the list of persons present at the meeting.

### **(b) Matters arising**

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

## **BERKELEY SITE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

- 5 Mr Sargent reported on current issues at the Berkeley Site, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Safety and compliance remained the highest priorities on the Site. It was now 12 weeks since the most recent lost time accident.
  - (ii) A revised organisational structure to meet the reduced core compliance requirements on the Site had been approved by the NII just before Christmas; a transition plan was in place to bring about necessary changes to implement the revised structure. It was envisaged that reductions in core compliance staffing would be offset by increases in staff requirements for projects on the Site.
  - (iii) The Site's emergency arrangements and its security arrangements had been successfully demonstrated to the satisfaction of regulators on 10 November and 20 October respectively.
  - (iv) Work was proceeding on the business case to justify separation of the power station and Berkeley Centre sites.
  - (v) Socio-economic funding had been agreed for the G11 Community Project in Cam.

- (vi) The prospective use of mini stores had a significant impact on proposals for dealing with intermediate level wastes stored in vaults on the Berkeley site. The costs associated with the current plan to encapsulate these wastes in concrete within stainless steel boxes for storage in a shielded store building were such that this work was likely to be deferred. With mini stores the container itself provided more shielding and therefore needed a less substantial store building; this reduced significantly the costs and timescales associated with starting the processing of these wastes. The NDA had given the necessary approval for the feasibility of this approach to be examined in detail and a two-year programme of work was in hand. Piling for the foundations for building the ILW store on site would be completed by 1 April; that preparatory work would be used in due course if plans were to change and a building was required for the mini stores. If the use of mini stores proved not to be feasible then the wastes would be processed in line with current plans.
- 6 Commenting on the innovative approach towards the storage of intermediate level wastes, Mr Hellen asked how this had been developed and whether new approaches were being developed in other areas. Mr Sargent said that early development work on the use of mini stores had been undertaken by Energy Solutions and Magnox South. Other new approaches included wider application of a dissolution process for Magnox waste, and different arrangements for the organisation of project programmes across Sites and organisational restructuring on Sites. Cllr Lynden was pleased to see the new ideas and the co-operative working between sites which was now apparent.
- 7 In reply to a question from Cllr Burgess on the extent of the work required to allow separation of the Berkeley Centre site, Dr Warner said that consideration was being given to the scope of the work which should be done before at the site was marketed and the extent to which this work could be left to be undertaken by the purchasers.
- 8 Cllr Stanton and Cllr Tovell raised questions on the processing and storage of intermediate level wastes. Mr Sargent said that although the storage building required for mini stores would be less substantial than the currently proposed store, security aspects would be taken into account in the design of such a building. He said that good information on the nature of the wastes in the underground vaults was available from sampling and photography techniques. In reply to a further question from Cllr Tovell on the steel boiler shells, Mr Sargent said that these contained only very low levels of radioactivity; he said that there were no plans currently to dismantle these further although they were to be moved to a different location on site.

## **NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY UPDATE**

- 9 Dr Warner reported on issues of current interest to the NDA, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) A regulatory review of the Radioactive Waste Management Directorate had been completed.
  - (ii) The NDA had published a report on Integrated Waste Strategy; a copy of that report was available on the NDA website. Reports were also available on research and development and on the disposal of wastes which would arise from operation of the new reactor types being considered for construction in the UK.
  - (iii) Progress was being made towards securing competition for the management of the Dounreay Site.
  - (iv) Consultation had now closed on the NDA's draft business plan.
  - (v) The NDA was now publishing a quarterly newsletter. Access was available on the website or copies could be made available for members on request.
  - (vi) Consideration was being given to various scenarios and options which might be appropriate in view of the government's Public Value Programme. These options affected all NDA sites. Some involved the deferral of planned work; others involved accelerating work programmes. Proposals would be considered by the NDA Board during the following week in order to agree a submission to government. Safety and security remained the top priority in all cases.
- 10 During discussion Dr Warner explained that currently approximately half of the NDA's funding was met by income from commercial operations. This income would cease during future years and the funding required from government would therefore need to increase. The current process would enable government to make informed choices on proposed programmes.
- 11 Mr Baker emphasised the need for repair of the access road before the Berkeley Centre site was marketed. Mr Sargent said he understood that the County Council was planning to carry out repair work during the coming weeks. He pointed out that work on the piling for the ILW store would involve increased traffic to the Site with effect from 8 February.

#### **FEEDBACK FROM NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

- 12 Cllr Mrs Wride reported on her activities as Chairman of the Group. She said that she had visited the Harwell site during December and attended one of its SSG meetings. She said that she had been greatly impressed by the work done to develop new uses for the Harwell site and hoped that similar progress could be made at Berkeley. Issues of interest to the Harwell SSG were similar to those of this Group.
- 13 Cllr Mrs Wride drew attention to exhibitions and meetings taking place during the coming week as part of the consultation on proposals for the construction of a new power station at Oldbury.

- 14 Cllr Mrs Wride said that she had sent a submission on behalf of the Group as part of the consultation on the NDA's draft business plan. In her comments she had urged the NDA to ensure that adequate funding was made available for planned work at Berkeley, emphasising the importance of demonstrating that the older sites can be properly and safely decommissioned.
- 15 Cllr Mrs Wride hoped to attend the next meeting of the National Stakeholder Group which was to be held in March 2010.

### **MINI STORE UPDATE**

- 16 Ms Yeung provided an update on progress with the mini store project. She said that a generic study undertaken last year with stakeholders had examined the proposed use of these containers against a wide range of criteria. As part of that study the various stakeholders had been able to identify the importance they attached to each particular criterion. The outcome of this study had been that the use of mini stores was agreed as the preferred option for the storage of solid and wet intermediate level wastes. Sensitivity analysis had confirmed these results for the average site case.
- 17 Ms Yeung said it was now necessary to examine the specific circumstances relating to the use of mini stores at individual sites and to give consideration to potential discharges and techniques for drying wet wastes. She proposed that a meeting should be held with members of this Group in May 2010 to allow consideration of Berkeley Site specific information and capture any further thoughts from stakeholders.
- 18 In reply to a question from Cllr Shenoj on the potential savings to be made by using these mini stores, Mr Sargent said that substantial savings could be expected across the company as a whole. He said that the savings at Berkeley were less than at some sites as more containers would be needed due to the nature of the wastes. There were significant savings in the initial cost of establishing the process and a major reduction in the timescale for starting processing of these wastes.
- 19 Cllr Lynden asked whether these containers could be procured in the numbers required. Ms Yeung said that discussions were taking place with potential suppliers. Mr Sargent said he had been assured that adequate supplies of containers could be made available.
- 20 Mr Baker said that the volume of traffic on the local access road was the one factor of most significance to him. He felt this was of greater significance at Berkeley than at some other sites as all traffic to the Site had to travel through the town.
- 21 Cllr Lewis asked whether the use of these shielded containers might not increase the overall volume of material for ultimate disposal. Ms Young pointed out that current proposals for the use of stainless steel containers involved adding cement to the wastes; this was not necessary with mini stores. She said that the overall

volume of wastes was dependent on the balance of solid and wet wastes. Drying of wet waste reduced its volume. She said that for Berkeley the use of mini stores would have little effect on the overall volume for ultimate disposal. She said that it was not proposed to change the strategy for storage of ILW at Trawsfynydd where good progress was being made with the current approach.

- 22 It was agreed that a meeting would be held in May 2010 to allow local stakeholders the opportunity to review the results of site specific studies and identify the criteria of most importance to them.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 23 Cllr Mrs Wride suggested that at a future meeting it might be appropriate to revisit the report on the preferred end state for the Berkeley Site. She suggested that the company might give more publicity to the achievements in carrying out decommissioning work on the site. Mr Payne said that a brochure was currently being produced.

- 24 Cllr Mrs Wride suggested that members might do more to publicise meetings of this Group. Members of the public were welcome to attend and membership could be revised, if considered appropriate, within the established guidelines.

- 25 Copies of the report on radioactivity in food and the environment published by the Food Standards Agency and the Environment Agency were available for members.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

- 26 It was noted that the date and venue of the next meeting of this Group would be confirmed in due course.

MJD

7 February 2010