

DUNGENESS A SITE AND B POWER STATION
DUNGENESS SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING

The Assembly Rooms New Romney

Wednesday 30th January 2013

18:30 for 19.00pm

Attendance:

Mrs G Baker	-	NR, Lydd & Greatstone Res Asso
Ms M Barnes	-	EDF Energy
Mrs L Barton	-	Lydd Airport Action Group
Sgt J Bloomfield	-	Kent Police
Cllr M Burgess	-	Ashford Borough Council
Mrs R Cavanagh	-	Dungeness B Power Station
Mr S Coates	-	Dungeness B Power Station
Cllr Mrs V Dawson	-	Lydd Town Council
Mr S Fox	-	NDA
Dr L Franks	-	Minute Taker
Dr V Green	-	ONR (Dun B)
Cllr T Hills	-	New Romney Town Council
Cllr D Lawton	-	New Romney Town Council
Mr J Maundrell	-	Dungeness A Site
Ms J Moakes	-	Environment Agency
Mrs H Morris	-	Dungeness A Site
Mr A Parry	-	Independent Vice Chairman
Mr T Preston	-	Defend our Coast
Mr J Prosser	-	Kent County Council
Mr D Scott	-	Lydd Airport Action Group
Col G Smythe	-	Independent Chairman
Cllr S Souster	-	Rother District Council
Mr R Starbuck	-	Dungeness B Power Station
Cllr C Waters	-	Kent County Council

I INTRODUCTION

- 3004 Col. Smythe welcomed members and guests to the Annual General Meeting of the Site Stakeholder Group (SSG) and encouraged them to ask questions.

II APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 3005 The following apologies were received:

Mr D Clarke	-	ONR Security
Dr P Hayes	-	ONR (Dun A)
Mr R Jepps	-	Dungeness A Site
Dr S Nicholson	-	ONR (Dun A)
Mr M Pearson	-	Dungeness B Power Station
Mr R Price	-	Environment Agency
Cllr P Simmons	-	Shepway District Council
Mr J Tallack	-	ONR Security
Mrs K Thomas	-	Dungeness A Site
Mr D Whitnall	-	Dungeness A Site
Mr D Williams	-	Dungeness A Site
Cllr J Wilson	-	Hastings Borough Council

III MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

- 3006 The minutes of the 15th SSG meeting held on 04.10.12 was agreed as an accurate record.

IV CORRESPONDENCE

- 3007 A list of correspondence distributed to SSG members was made available to attendees. The Chairman advised that this list includes all points raised via email, encouraging attendees to request hard copies of information as required.

V MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 15th MEETING

- 3008 Chairman drew attention to paragraph 2993 and reported that a Dungeness SSG Waste sub group had met on 18th October 2012 and that an update including report of this meeting had been circulated to members and would be discussed under Agenda item XII.

VI DUNGENESS A SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 3009 John Maundrell was welcomed as the representative for the Site Director. Mr Maundrell drew attention to the Site Director's Report, previously circulated, and commented in particular on the following aspects:
- *Safety Performance*: 2 years without a lost time accident despite moving from a defueling to a decommissioning site in June.
 - *Removal of 99% of radioactive hazard*: completed by April 2012.
 - *South Side Site Clearance (SSSC)*: NDA have agreed to provide an additional £12.8million over the next 3 years to accelerate site clearance. Magnox operatives to render buildings 'cold and dark' before specialist contractors undertake final demolition and removal.

- *Emergency Preparedness*: Main radiological hazard is radioactive waste which is in a passively safe state. No significant threat to safety now exists however, enhancements are being undertaken to enable an improved response in the aftermath of an event.
- *Electrical Overlay Scheme*: site reconfiguration due to complete in summer 2013.
- *Systems and Structural Preservation Project*: noted as on track.
- *Socio-economic funding*: £30,000 sanctioned, list of recipients in report. Bids for support encouraged.
- *Interim Storage Facility*: Project has been deferred for two years until a decision has been made about whether to have site or regional storage.
- *Energy Solutions*: has been acquired by Energy Capital Partners
- *Competition for Magnox Sites*: progressing and will conclude Sept 2014

3010 Chairman added that with regards to the competition, one concern that had been shared at the National Stakeholders Group meeting held at Manchester was the lack of consideration for the individual sites needs in terms of socio-economic package. After some consideration of other proposals, this SSG has now tendered a set of proposals for inclusion in the competition process, one aspect of which is to meet each of the bidders when they visit the Dungeness site.

3011 Q: Are there any pictures of how Dungeness A will appear in 10 years time?
A: Yes, artistic impressions have been formulated that reflect the skyline changes anticipated by 2015. This was verbally described using the current aerial photo of the site.

3012 Q: How will asbestos waste be disposed of?
A: Via registered landfill.

3013 Q: How will general building material be disposed of?
A: Much of this will be used to backfill current voids on site.

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

3014 Dr Hayes and Dr Nicholson were noted as having given apologies and Dr Green, ONR Site Inspector for B station, agreed to take any questions arising. Dr Green drew attention to the written report dated 01.04.12. to 30.09.12. adding that Dr Hayes had advised that he was satisfied with the progress now being made to improve radioactive waste management on the site.

3015 No questions about this quarterly report were forthcoming.

VIII DUNGENESS B POWER STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

3016 Mr Steve Coates was welcomed as the representative of the Station Director of Dungeness B. He drew attention to the Station Director's Report and the visual display that reflected station events in 2012, highlighting following aspects in particular:

- *Safety*: No recorded lost time injuries for staff (960 days to 31.12.12) or contractors (1914 days to 31.12.12.). The station won the RoSPA Electricity Industry Sector award during 2012.
- *Electricity Generation*: achieved 4.079TWh (target 4.62TWh) during 2012, a marked improvement on 2011 generation of 1.3TWh.

- *Community*: continuing to work alongside local community; such as sponsoring the New Romney Country Fayre.
- *Apprentices*: successful open day and likely to recruit six more apprentices this year.
- *Olympics/Paralympics*: EDF Energy provided all the electricity for these events, many games-makers, four torch-bearers and a coach (Lee Pullen) for the GB boxing team. Torch-bearers have now been out into the local community to share their experiences.
- *Challenge 1- Control Rod Misalignment*: extensive investigation of 29 years of records identified that the wrong type of rod had been fitted in 2003 with an initiating event in 1996. The exhaustive review proved that this was a one off event and measures have now been implemented to mitigate against reoccurrence. ONR have been fully briefed.
- *Challenge 2- Response to Potential Severe Flooding Event*: Further to the events at Fukushima, investigation into the flooding safety case has identified the potential for influx of seawater onto the site over the top of the shingle bank in front of the station. Temporary flood protection has been implemented and will be replaced with permanent improved flood protection. ONR have been fully involved.
- *Challenge 3- Elevated Tritium Levels in two bore holes*: identified and resolved the cause in one bore hole and ongoing methodical and systematic investigation to identify the cause in the other. The Environment Agency, the ONR and Local water companies have been notified.
- *Visitor Centre*: will be opened 15th February 2013. Visitors will undergo basic security checks and tours must be pre-arranged. Attendance was strongly encouraged.

- 3017 Q. Why does the station occasionally emit a loud high pitch noise?
 A. In June/July 2012 the cause was the passing of steam through the boiler safety relief valve. Apologies and explanations for the noise pollution were provided to the community. More recently, the relief valves have been tested to ensure correct operation, resulting in short periods of noise pollution. Station is considering how to forewarn local residents of this routine work.
- Q. Are residents aware of the importance of safety valves?
 A. Yes, as this was explained when the apology was provided for the noise pollution.
- 3018 Q. How deep are the bore holes and to what level does the water rise?
 A. The bore holes are 5m in depth and the water is 3m below ground, moving with the water table.
- 3019 Cllr Tony Hills expressed concern about the western end of the station, commenting that this was marked as at risk of flooding on the Environment Agency maps. He advised that flooding via Denge Marsh was rated as a one in five risk. He commented that the stations were at a greater risk of flooding via Denge Marsh than from overtopping of the shingle bank. Mr Steve Coates responded by saying that this potential risk had been considered and that the flooding safety case would be satisfied by the additional permanent protection being installed on site. Cllr Hills reminded attendees of the potential for a Dungeness C and the importance of involving the Environment Agency (EA) in mitigating the rising risk of flooding. Ms Jo Moakes advised that the EA are in conversation with EDF Energy regarding flood risks.

3020 There was a short debate about how to ensure that the positive reports from this meeting were disseminated to the community and it was noted that they are available on the web under the station website and the NDA website. Mr Coates also agreed to consider this matter further.

3021 Q. Extension to the operating life of the station has been reported as 10 years in the Times newspaper – is this true?

A. There is an exhaustive process to examine whether life extension is feasible and economically viable. Once this process has been undertaken the life extension will range from no extension beyond 2018 to up to ten years. The goal is ten years.

3022 Q. Can anyone drop in to the Visitor Centre or do you need to book in advance?

A. There will be a communication about how to book for groups or to participate in a site tour however, individuals can just drop in.

IX OFFICE for NUCLEAR REGULATION (ONR) REPORT FOR DUNGENESS B POWER STATION

3023 Dr Vince Green, Dungeness B Site Inspector, drew attention to the quarterly report (01.07.12. to 30.09.12.) and commented on the non routine matters section as follows:

- Two trips of the reactor were, - caused by instability of the gas circulators. Gas circulator instability, - has been followed up during December and January and the ONR are satisfied with the actions being undertaken by EDF Energy.
- The self-ignition of a can of paint was followed up during December and the ONR were satisfied with the investigation and corrective actions taken by EDF Energy. All the corrective actions had been completed.
- Release of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) in the Irradiated Fuel Disposal Facility is still being investigated and will be reported on at the next meeting.

3024 No questions about this quarterly report were forthcoming.

3025 Dr Green referred to the three challenging events previously mentioned (in paragraph 3016 above) advising that items 1 and 2 below had been categorised as INES 1 events “anomaly” and that they would also appear in the “Statement of Nuclear Incidents at Nuclear Installations” for the period 1 October to 31 December 2012 (this statement has now been published at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/quarterly-stat/2012-4.htm>):

1. *Response to Potential Severe Flooding Event:* higher predicted overtopping rates of the shingle bank in front of the station means that bank is no longer considered to be sufficiently robust to prevent standing water accumulating on the site in either a 1 in 10,000 year or a 1 in 1,000 year sea state. This means that key equipment on the site has to be locally protected against standing water to ensure continued cooling of the reactors. EDF Energy has investigated this and provided temporary local flood protection to support an interim justification for continued operation valid until 31 January 2013. More permanent local flood protection supporting a revised interim justification for continued operation would be in place from 1 February 2013. An ONR external hazards expert, the ONR site inspector and an EA flood protection expert have inspected the temporary and more permanent flood protection that was being put in place and considered this protection to be adequate. EDF Energy will next provide further protection against the 1 in 1,000 year sea state and protection against the 1 in 10,000 year sea state. This work will be monitored by ONR.

2. *Control Rod Misalignment*: ONR has monitored the investigation and the safety justification work undertaken by EDF Energy and are satisfied that this was adequate and reflects satisfactory safety margins and a very low chance of an incorrect type of control rod being loaded in the future.
3. *Elevated Tritium Levels in two bore holes*: EA and ONR have and continue to monitor the work undertaken to establish the causes.

3026 Q. The move from 1 in 10,000 to 1 in 1,000 - is this the result of climate change or an error in the original calculations?
 A. It is the result of improved methodology of assessing extreme events and ensuring a conservative estimate.

3027 Q. What are the alternative methods of ensuring cooling of the reactors?
 A. Several options are being considered, such as protecting additional equipment or raising the shingle bank.

X ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE FOR DUNGENESS B.

3028 Jo Moakes, EA Site Inspector for Dungeness B, drew attention to the previously circulated Environment Agency Nuclear Regulation Report. The following points were noted:

- “Radioactivity in Food and the Environment” (RIFE) report for 2011 was published in Oct 2012 and hard copies are available for attendees. Total dose detected noted as unchanged from that found in 2010 at 2% of the dose limit.
- Inspection visits undertaken during October, November and January.
- Routine discharges and disposals all well within permit limits and quarterly notification levels.
- Installation of two Final Delay Tank discharge lines ongoing and to enable a more robust discharge system.
- Radioactive Waste Audit resulted in Radioactive Waste Recovery Plan being implemented and progress with action points has been noted. This includes the introduction of more sensitive equipment enabling better characterization of waste and therefore, more efficient use of the alternative disposal options.
- Elevated tritium in groundwater identified in 2009 led to improvements in the site drainage system and recent detection of elevated tritium at one bore hole has revealed that some of the lines leading to the main pipework were not relined. This remedial work is now being undertaken.
- A second borehole showing elevated tritium is being investigated to identify cause, including the possibility of false positives from samples.
- Food Standards Agency (FSA) is consulting on changes to the methods of sampling for the RIFE report.

3029 Q. Is an on-site laboratory used for pollution monitoring? Are results cross-checked with another laboratory?
 A. No, the testing is contracted out to an *accredited* laboratory and as such they should not need checking at other laboratories.

3030 Cllr Tony Hills expressed concern about rising water table levels and the questioned what impact this would have. Ms Moakes advised that the EA monitor the water table levels and the tidal effects. The station was noted to have flood water warning systems and is part of the critical infrastructure scheme.

XI ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE FOR DUNGENESS A.

3031 Chairman drew attention to the previously circulated Environment Agency Nuclear Regulation Report and advised that Rob Price was unable to attend today. No questions were forthcoming.

XII UPDATE ON THE KENT MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN

3032 Chairman advised that following the presentation by Dr Harrison at the previous SSG meeting about the Kent Minerals and Waste Plan, an SSG Waste sub group, chaired by Mr Parry, had met to debate this matter further. Chairman invited John Prosser to update members on progress with the plan. Mr Prosser drew attention to the written report and provided a verbal summary of the components of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. He reminded attendees of the extensive nature of waste produced by Kent and advised that low level nuclear waste (LLW) and very low level nuclear waste (VLLW) storage and disposal will be differentiated from other types of waste in the plan to ensure appropriate and pertinent policies are in place.

3033 Meetings with the operators, the regulatory agencies, the SSG and local representatives have resulted in a redrafted topic report that will feed into the overarching policy. The next consultation will be about the draft core strategy, including the policies for radioactive waste, and is likely to be held at the end of July.

3034 Q. Is there a glossary of terms available?
A. A list of acronyms used in each report is provided plus an overall glossary of terms pertinent to all reports will be provided.

3035 Cllr Waters commented that she now feels comfortable with the consultation process and thanked Mr Prosser for the work undertaken to ensure all relevant individuals are involved.

XIII FEEDBACK FROM NSG & MAGNOX MEETINGS

3036 Chairman provided a verbal update on issues raised at the meetings he had attended. He reminded members of the concern expressed (paragraph 3010) regarding inclusion of socio-economic funding in the NDA competition to run Magnox and RSRL sites. He advised that the NDA had held a second meeting to debate this matter and had taken into consideration the recommendations of the Dungeness SSG, one of which was that the Chairman will be invited to address the bidders when they visit the Dungeness site. Further updates regarding socio-economic funding to be advised under agenda item XV below.

3037 Chairman referred to proposed intermediate level waste storage until transfer to the geological disposal repository (GDR) and the recent news that the availability of the latter had been set back. He referred to the options being considered to store the waste on site and/or in a regional repository and to the conference to debate this being held in mid February, stressing that no decision had yet been made.

3038 Q. Do you believe that Cumbria is 'posturing' to try to increase the value of the community benefits?

A. I can't comment on this. Please ask the NDA representative this question. Irrespective, there needs to be a decision about where this waste can be stored until a GDR is available.

3039 Q. What happens now?

A. The waste is being generated as the site is being demolished. Currently it is being packaged into the yellow boxes in readiness for storage until it can be disposed of in the GDR.

3040 Q. How many Magnox sites are currently being decommissioned?

A. Nine.

3041 Q. What happens in other countries?

A. They have geological disposal repositories.

3042 There followed a short debate about how the location of a GDR is decided and whether waste should be kept on site or at a regional storage facility in the interim.

XIV NDA UPDATE

3043 Sam Fox introduced himself as a Stakeholder Relations Advisor for the NDA and began his presentation with the recent news that Cumbria County Council had voted 7 to 3 to withdraw, whereas Copeland Borough Council voted 6 to 1 to continue, participation in the MRWS process. He added that the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) required that both County and Borough Councils must agree to proceed to remain in the programme. He added that DECC had expressed confidence that a site for the GDR could still be found.

3044 Mr Fox drew attention to the NDA Monthly briefing dated January 2013 and in particular to the following:

- *Magnox & RSRL competition*: Four global organisations to embark on next phase of the competition; Reactor Site Solutions, The Babcock Fluor Partnership, CAS Restoration Partnership and UK Nuclear Restoration Ltd. Formal dialogue between Magnox sites and these bidders, including a number of regional events to give local stakeholders (including SSG Chairs) the opportunity to meet each bidder, were likely to commence in April.
- *Site Development*: Part of the Harwell site has been released from nuclear regulations and is available for new development.
- *NDA stakeholder survey*: to be conducted on line; closes 31.01.13.
- *Dounreay material moved to Sellafield*: first transfer now completed.
- *Chapelcross*: third reactor now defueled and the site are on schedule to be fuel-free by mid-2013
- *October National Stakeholder Event Report*: now published and available on NDA website.
- *Higher Activity Waste Storage Guidance*: now published and on NDA website.
- *Dungeness A*: £12.8 million extra funding provided over three years to enable accelerated demolition work.
- *Engagement Plan*: plan published on NDA website to enable stakeholders to contribute to strategic decision-making.
- *FSA Consultation*: closes 06.03.13. and offers three options; no change to current system, cease monitoring, optimised 'fit for purpose' monitoring.

3045 Chairman invited questions and a debate ensued about whether given the recent vote, Cumbria was still able to rejoin the GDR programme and whether additional funding could persuade this outcome.

XV SOCIO-ECONOMIC UPDATE

- 3046 Chairman provided a brief recap of events regarding socio-economic funding advising that 2 years ago funding was provided to carry out research to formulate an economic regeneration action plan for Shepway and surrounding area and that this led to the formation of the Romney Marsh Partnership. This group have now met three times, most recently on 23rd January 2013. The action plan also recommended employment of a coordinator to drive interest, manage effective bids to enable the implementation of projects and that by May 2013 this person should be recruited.
- 3047 Magnox Socio-economic Scheme has between April to December 2012 allocated £34,730 to the following recipients: New Romney & District Sea Cadets; Grasshoppers Junior Football Club; New Romney Country Fayre; Kent Wildlife Trust; Rye International Festival; New Romney Old School Trust.
- 3048 Two larger proposals have now been submitted:
- New Romney Business Incubation Unit – progressing well and hopeful of success.
 - Rye Partnership – will be resubmitted shortly.
- 3049 Chairman closed by strongly encouraging bids and inviting any questions.
- 3050 The Chairman was thanked for his efforts and in particular on behalf of the New Romney & District Sea Cadets who had received £10,000 to purchase a minibus and on behalf of the Romney Marsh Partnership. The view that the coordinator will help to progress the submission of bids was expressed. Haf Morris was also recognised for her hard work with socio-economic funding.

XVI ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 3051 Mr Fox advised that the FSA had given a presentation to the Berkeley SSG and this would be circulated to members via Haf Morris.
- 3052 Chairman advised that this was the last year he would serve as SSG Chairman and invited nominations in writing for election at the next AGM.

XVII NEXT & FORTHCOMING MEETING DATES

- 3053 The 17th meeting of the Dungeness SSG will be held Thursday 16th May 2013 at Dungeness B. Subsequent SSG meetings have been scheduled for 16th October 2013 and 29th January 2014.

Meeting closed at 20.55