

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at The Canalside, Bridgwater on Friday 4 July 2014

PRESENT

Cllr M Caswell (Chairman)	-	Stockland Bristol
Mr L Talbot	-	Site Director, Hinkley Point A
Mr P Evans	-	Acting Station Director, Hinkley Point B

Elected Members

Cllr Ms A Bown	-	Somerset County Council
Mrs J Brown	-	Parents concerned about Hinkley
Mr A Debenham	-	Stop Hinkley
Cllr J Edney	-	Somerset County Council
Cllr J Edwards	-	Spaxton Parish Council
Cllr R Garner	-	North Somerset Council
Ms E Harbridge	-	Forum 21
Cllr M Hogg	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council
Mr A Jeffrey	-	Sedgemoor and West Somerset Green Party
Mr M Laver	-	West Hinkley Action Group
Cllr C Morgan	-	West Somerset District Council
Cllr M Phillips	-	Cannington Parish Council
Cllr L Redman	-	Bridgwater Town Council
Cllr Mrs A Reed	-	Wembdon Parish Council
Mr T Williams	-	Kilve Parish Council

Co-opted Members

Mr M Short

Appointed Members

Mr J Jenkin	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Dr R MacGreggor	-	Environment Agency
Mr D Prescott	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr I Wilson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr T Howes	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr H Rickard	-	Wessex Water
Ms N Dawson	-	Somerset County Council

EDF Energy

Mr D Stokes	-	Community Liaison Officer
Mr G Bell	-	Media Manager
Mr D Hill	-	Environmental Safety Group Head

Magnox

Ms A Prole	-	Communications Support
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Ms G Coombs - Communications
Mr P Montague - Emergency Planning Strategy Director
Mr D McCubbin - Works Representative

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr H Davies - Somerset County Council
Mr M J Davis - Secretary

OPEN PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

- 1 Cllr Caswell welcomed all those present to this meeting of the Site Stakeholder Group for Hinkley Point A Site and Hinkley Point B Power Station. He invited questions from members of the public on any issue which might not be covered in later discussion. No questions were raised.

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 It was confirmed that there was a quorum of elected members present at the meeting.
- 3 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Brown, Cllr Ms B Oates, Ms B Child, Cllr Ms S Goss, Mr K ter Braak, Cllr Ms D Hill, Cllr Ms A Fraser, Cllr T Ayre, Mr S Crago, Mr T Fediw, Dr S Harrison, Mr P Higginson and Mr C Ware.
- 4 It was noted that Cllr P Grierson was to replace Cllr Ms M Smith as representative of West Somerset District Council on this Group.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 FEBRUARY 2014

(a) Accuracy

- 5 The minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2014 were approved as a correct record.

(b) Matters Arising (other than matters to be covered in later discussions)

Hinkley Point A Periodic Safety Review (para 14(ii) refers)

- 6 Mr Talbot confirmed that the Periodic Safety Review outcome report had been submitted to the Office for Nuclear Regulation in February. Final close out of findings from the report was expected to be completed in March 2015.

Settling Tanks 1 – 3 Hinkley Point A Site (para 14(vi) refers)

- 7 Mr Talbot said that the bulk of the wastes had been removed from Settling Tanks 1 - 3. Work was continuing on the retrieval of the remnant waste.

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 8 Mr Evans reported on activities and performance at Hinkley Point B since the previous meeting of this group, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Earlier in the current week pipework containing Nitrogen had failed. Operation had not been affected and repairs had been completed.
 - (ii) Investigations had been completed into the event reported at the previous meeting involving mis-alignment of a valve in the reactor pressure vessel cooling water system. Procedural changes with hold points and independent verification had been introduced to prevent any recurrence.
 - (iii) It was now more than 7 years since the last reportable nuclear event and more than 5 years since the last reportable environmental event. It was more than a year since the last accident on site involving time lost from work.
 - (iv) The interim outage of Reactor 3 had been completed with no recordable injuries or reportable events. Work completed in the outage had included the inspection of 18 fuel channels, the exchange of two gas circulators, the replacement of main lubricating oil pump motors on two gas circulators, the modification of the turbine control fluid system and the completion of some 2500 work order tasks.
 - (v) Reactor 3 had operated at nominal full load following its return to service after the interim outage and Reactor 4 had operated at nominal full load throughout the period.
 - (vi) Investment in the enhancement of facilities and equipment for dealing with potential emergencies included issues identified from consideration of the Fukushima accident.
 - (vii) Six apprentices had been recruited at the power station. They would spend a period off-site on initial training before gaining practical experience and training at the station.
 - (viii) The company maintained its support for local charities and organisations.
- 9 In response to a question from Mr Debenham, Mr Evans said that there were 308 fuel channels in the reactor. The fuel channel graphite inspections carried out

during the interim outage were part of a rolling programme which included 31 channels in a normal statutory outage.

- 10 In response to interest shown by Mr Jeffrey in the enhancement of emergency facilities, Mr Evans undertook to show Mr Jeffrey what had been done during a site visit. Cllr Caswell drew attention to the fact that arrangements were being made for members of this Group to visit the A site and B station on 13 August.
- 11 In reply to Cllr Edney who asked whether apprentices were recruited from the local area, Mr Evans said that this was predominantly the case; he thought that one of the recent intake might have been from outside the immediate area. He said that the individuals were appointed on merit from some 250 - 300 applications. Apprentices were recruited to meet anticipated future manpower requirements and Mr Evans felt the level of intake could increase to meet future C station requirements and to respond to the current age profile of B station staff. Cllr Garner felt it was important that the selection of apprentices was not taken purely from local candidates. Mr Evans said that in addition to basic engineering training, apprentices were able to follow their chosen specialism and had opportunities for further education; he himself had started his career as an apprentice.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A

- 12 Mr Talbot reported on activities at Hinkley Point A Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The site had now achieved 7 years without having an accident on site resulting in time lost from work. Some 6 million man hours had been worked during that time and this represented the best performance ever achieved at any Magnox Site. RoSPA had presented the Site with its Order of Distinction for the fourth consecutive year.
 - (ii) The bulk of the waste material had been removed from Settling Tanks 1, 2 and 3 and was now stored in 26 ductile cast iron containers in the purpose-built buffer store. Work to remove the residual waste at the bottom of the tanks was continuing.
 - (iii) Following decontamination, the surfaces of the Reactor 2 ponds had been treated with fixative to prevent any migration of contamination.
 - (iv) The radiological conditions within the Reactor 1 ponds were more onerous than in Reactor 2 and would require a more intrusive decontamination procedure. A concrete shaving tool which would remove 10 mm of concrete from the surface was being used; this dry decontamination technique would avoid the need to treat liquors and sludges produced by the alternative high-pressure water washing techniques.

- (v) Trials undertaken on site had successfully demonstrated the effectiveness of a milling technique for removing contamination from pond skip components. The trials had used skips from Dungeness, Bradwell and Sellafield and the results of these trials would be taken into account in determining arrangements for processing other skips within the company. Further trials involved the use of remote handling and automation techniques; three further skips would be sent to site for these purposes.
 - (vi) Preparations were being made for the retrieval of small quantities of fuel element debris so that the material could be characterised before decisions were taken on the processing of these wastes. Information from Bradwell on the operation of the dissolution facilities at that site would also be taken into account. Members of this group would be involved in the decision-making process.
 - (vii) Magnox had been awarded the Sir George Earle Trophy, RoSPA's highest accolade, for its occupational health and safety performance.
 - (viii) The chosen charity for the Site for the current year was the Somerset Unit for Radiotherapy Equipment based at Musgrove Hospital.
- 13 In response to questions Mr Talbot said that dependent upon the nature of the debris removed by the dry decontamination process in the Reactor 1 ponds, the material would either be stored on site or despatched to the Low Level Waste Repository. He said that current plans were for the cooling pond structures to be demolished; this had been done at some sites but other sites had made a case to leave them in situ until final site clearance.
- 14 In response to questions from Mr Short, Cllr Redman and Ms Harbridge, Mr Talbot said that there were some 500 pond skips at Magnox sites to be processed and more at Sellafield. Decisions had not yet been taken on the decontamination process to be used or the location at which this work would be carried out. The three skips to be brought from Sellafield for the further trials would be transported in an approved container and delivered to the Site by road from the railhead.

REPORT FROM THE EMERGENCY PLANNING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

- 15 A report on the meeting of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee held on 29 April had been circulated in advance of the meeting. No questions were raised by members.

ANNUAL REPORT ON RADIOACTIVE DISCHARGES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

- 16 A report on radioactive discharges and environmental monitoring at Hinkley Point A Site and Hinkley Point B Power Station during 2013 had been made available for members. It was agreed that members should be given an opportunity to raise any questions they might have on the information contained in this report, and questions should be sent to the secretariat before the next meeting.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- 17 Dr McGregor introduced himself as the Environment Agency's Lead Regulator for Hinkley Point A Site, recently appointed to succeed Dr Mountford Lister. He presented a report on the Agency's monitoring and regulatory activities relating to the Hinkley Point sites, pointing out that planned inspections had continued throughout the period. Inspections had not identified any issues of non-compliance, there had been no significant events and no enforcement actions had been required. He pointed out that reports on discharges and environmental monitoring submitted to the Agency by the operators were placed on public register. He added that the monitoring undertaken by the Agency in conjunction with the Food Standards Agency, published annually in November, continued to demonstrate that operation of the sites had a low impact on levels of radioactivity in food and the environment.
- 18 Mr Jeffrey said he understood that releases of radioactivity to the environment from nuclear plants in Germany were highest at times of refuelling and asked whether additional monitoring was undertaken during refuelling at Hinkley Point B. Mr Evans pointed out that refuelling of the AGR reactor was carried out with the plant on load and did not give cause to additional discharges to the environment.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORTS

- 21 Mr Prescott and Mr Wilson drew members' attention to the reports on the ONR's regulatory and inspection activities relating to Hinkley Point A and B, copies of which had previously been made available to members. They gave details of the planned inspections undertaken, none of which has identified any serious issues.
- 22 In response to a question from Mr Debenham, Mr Prescott described the current status and role of the Office for Nuclear Regulation, established as a public corporation with effect from 1 April.
- 23 In response to a question from Mr Jeffrey, Mr Wilson explained arrangements made for monitoring the integrity of reactor graphite cores. Data from inspections and assessments were used by the company as a basis for safety cases which were assessed by ONR specialists and subjected to independent assessment. Mr Evans undertook to bring to the next meeting a sample of graphite core block to illustrate the robust construction and integrity of the structure.

24 In response to a further question from Mr Jeffrey, Mr Prescott explained that revised principles were being used by ONR to determine the extent of the off site emergency planning areas around nuclear sites. He pointed out that further information was available on the ONR website. Ms Dawson said that the off site emergency plan was being revised and suggested that information could be provided at the next meeting on the revised arrangements and the extent of the off site emergency planning area.

REPORT FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 25 Mr Jenkin reported on current NDA issues, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) He expressed congratulations to Magnox on the winning of the Sir George Earle Trophy which he felt was a fantastic achievement.
 - (ii) Sellafield Ltd and TEPCO had signed an agreement to share knowledge in relation to their nuclear clean up operations at Sellafield and Fukushima.
 - (iii) NDA and Toshiba/GDF Suez had agreed commercial terms for an option to purchase NDA land near Sellafield for development as a new nuclear power station.
 - (iv) NDA had published its engagement plan which identified opportunities for stakeholders to contribute towards strategic decision-making. Details of the plan were available on the website.
 - (v) Cavendish Fluor Partnership had been identified as the preferred bidder in the competition for a new Parent Body Organisation for Magnox Ltd and RSRL. There was now a transition phase which, subject to satisfactory completion, would result in ownership of the Site Licence Companies being transferred to CFP on 1 September.
 - (vi) NDA had published its 2014-17 Business Plan. Planned expenditure for the current year was £3.2 billion of which £2.2 billion would be funded by government and £1 billion by income from commercial operations.
 - (vii) Consideration of options for the treatment of Magnox fuel element debris and the storage of intermediate level wastes was being held in abeyance pending decisions by the new parent body organisation on the approach which it wished to follow.
- 26 In response to a question from Mrs Brown, Mr Jenkin said that none of the potential developers of new nuclear power stations was proposing to use mixed

oxide fuel although the use of such fuel had been identified by government as a credible option for using stocks of plutonium.

- 27 In response to a question from Mr Jeffrey, Mr Jenkin confirmed that dissolution of Magnox fuel element debris was not the preferred option at all sites. Encapsulation of the waste was adopted at some sites; the approach was determined by the characteristics of the waste material.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

- 28 Cllr Caswell said that the review of membership of this Group was still outstanding and a meeting of the sub group would be called in due course. He asked members to advise him of public meetings held by the groups which they represented; he wished to attend those meetings when possible.
- 29 Cllr Caswell pointed out that this would be the last meeting of this Group to be attended by Mr Talbot as Hinkley A Site Director. He thanked Mr Talbot for the help and support he had given and the openness, honesty and integrity which characterised his relationship with this Group. He expressed members' best wishes for Mr Talbot's future career.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 30 Cllr Caswell reminded members of the arrangements which were being made for members to visit the A Site and B station on 13 August. Members should contact the sites if they wished to attend.
- 31 Cllr Caswell pointed out that information on A Site decommissioning milestones and progress against them was available on request from Amy Prole or Gemma Coombs.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 32 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group would be held on Friday 31 October 2014. The venue for the meeting would be confirmed in due course.

MJD
8 July 2014