



# Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group

**Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group Meeting  
Friday 25 October 2013**

## **1. SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE**

Our safety performance remains consistent; we have achieved over six years without a lost time accident and had no personal contamination events for five and half years.

### ***Hinkley Point A 2015 Periodic Safety Review (PSR)***

The regulatory ten yearly review of safety continues. All plant walk downs have been performed and the associated reports produced and production of the technical reports is complete. Issues have been categorised and are being progressed with a number already being completed. The Outcome Report for the PSR is nearing completion and will be presented to the ONR before the 31 March 2014.

## **2. DECOMMISSIONING PROGRESS**

### **Fuel Element Debris (FED)**

The project has developed the concept design for retrieval and sorting of FED from the vaults and is now preparing to undertake the retrieval and characterisation trials. The team is currently investigating how these activities can be supported by the local supply chain.

The overall strategy for the project has been reviewed by the Independent Nuclear Safety Assessors and, in line with all major projects on site, the Office for Nuclear Regulation has appointed a specific Project Assessor to manage the assessment of the project.

Work on dissolution is still awaiting operational experience from Bradwell. The first portion of work for Hinkley will be the review of the Best Practical Means [BPM] study; this is part of our on-going requirements from the Environment Agency. As with previous BPM studies this will involve the local stakeholder community and is likely to take place in spring 2014.

### **Interim Storage Facility (ISF)**

The Design and Safety Case for the Interim Storage Facility is nearing completion, we have delayed some of the programme to benefit from lessons learned at Bradwell and Berkeley. The proposed start date for construction is now April 2014. On completion, the Hinkley ISF will be the second largest in the Magnox fleet and will accommodate all of Hinkley's Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) stored in Ductile Cast Iron Containers (DCIC's).

### **Ponds**

The reactor two [R2] ponds are now drained and the surface decontaminated. Pond floor entries have been made with the surfaces being fixed to prevent migration of contamination. The radiation levels found on R2 ponds were low requiring only non-intrusive decontamination and fixing.

The trial drain of the reactor one [R1] dispatch bay is complete and the drain down of the main ponds has started with about 1800m<sup>3</sup> remaining. The levels of contamination and radiation in this pond are higher than in R2, due to historical operational reasons. As a result the walls will require a more intrusive decontamination procedure; the project has invited companies to identify dry solutions for this. When it is deployed, dry wall decontamination will remove the need to treat the aqueous liquor and wet sludge observed from ultra-high pressure washing conducted at other sites.

The decontamination trials in the decontamination building (DCB) are now complete and the skips that have been processed during the trial have been decontaminated to a 'below regulatory interest' level. The material (swarf) removed has been sent for radionuclide

analysis which will contribute to a final close out report and optioneering study for future skip decontamination techniques across Magnox.

In parallel to this, the project has initiated a concrete decontamination trial; material removed will be analysed for its radionuclide content. Depending on the results of the trial and scalability of the technology, it may identify a means of removing the contaminated cement from the aggregate, therefore reducing the volume of radioactive wastes and the potential to recycle the aggregate within the concrete.

The project is also embarking on a contaminated metals trial utilising a laser as the cutting tool attached to a robotic arm, which together become a remote cutting technique. This trial is in support of the skips milling trial which, if successful, could lead to these new techniques being deployed across Magnox to create an automated production line for remote size reduction and decontamination of skips, minimising radiation exposure to personnel.

### **Systems and Structures Preservation Project**

Asset management work continues across the site on a range of systems and structures with the main focus on the civil estate. Current work includes refurbishment of ageing roofs, testing of the site's earthing system and upgrading of the site's goods lifts.

Work completed in this period includes; replacement of R2 ponds circulating pipework brackets, refurbishment of the weighbridge control room roof, disconnection of supplies and removal of a service bridge, rationalisation of the site's 50V direct current electrical system and an upgrade of the heating in the electrical switch rooms.

### **Wet Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) recovery**

The project to recover the waste inventory from settling tanks one, two and three is progressing well. Once recovered, the waste will be temporarily stored in mini stores while we await the results of a processing campaign. This portion of the intermediate level waste recovery programme is an acceleration of previously planned work due to the current tanks nearing the end of their useful design life. The regulator has asked for a milestone for the completion of this work [LC35 milestone] by March 2014.

The design packages for various facets of the work are complete. The devices for attachment of the waste transfer hoses to the mini stores are being built in Milford Haven and are nearing completion. A temporary buffer store has been built on site and is currently being commissioned. A filling house has been built in the turbine hall and moved into the radiation controlled area [RCA] adjacent to the building that houses the waste. This has now been completed and is nearly ready for commissioning.

The waste retrieval equipment has been purchased, assembled and tested in Chorley, Lancashire and has been shipped to a local offsite location in Bridgwater to be integrated with the control system which has been built by AM Sensors at Chedzoy, Bridgwater- integrated testing is on-going. The mini stores will be moved around site using a purpose built cross site transporter which was built in Peterborough; this is currently being tested on site. The empty mini stores are loaded onto the cross site transporter and the full mini stores are unloaded and placed into the buffer store by a bespoke electric fork lift truck which has been manufactured in America and successfully delivered to site. The first three mini stores have arrived on site and various tests and trials are on-going for the cross site transporter and the forklift as well as training the operatives and drivers. The remaining packages are all due to arrive in October to allow integrated commissioning to commence.

### **Car Park Project**

The construction of the car park is now complete and the newly installed Hinkley Point A [HPA] security systems supporting its use have been commissioned. The car park cannot be used however until the separation of HPA and Hinkley Point B [HPB] security systems has been completed. Separation is planned for the end of this calendar year.

## **Site Security Separation Project**

Installation and fit out of the new reception building has been completed as has the installation and commissioning of the new site entrance arrangements. Quadrant Security Group Ltd [QSG] has completed the installation of the first phase of security systems to allow separation of HPA from HPB. The second phase of the works will commence upon successful separation of the sites and will be completed by the end of the financial year 2013/14.

### **3. WASTE MANAGEMENT**

At Hinkley Point A, the waste team has geared up to both receive mini stores and to transport them across site using bespoke handling equipment. Several empty mini stores have already arrived on site and earlier this year some team members from Berkeley and Sizewell came to share learning.

In September 20m<sup>3</sup> of combustible low level waste [LLW] was shipped from site to the Tradebe incinerator near Hythe under our framework agreement for low level waste repository [LLWR]. This arrangement allows the site to benefit from LLWR negotiations with the supply chain to secure collection dates and best market rates. Later this year two half-height freight containers of solid LLW are planned to be shipped to the national LLWR for grouting and disposal.

Early in the New Year the site will be looking to utilise a new disposal route for very low level waste. As the name implies, this is waste where the specific activity is low enough for disposal to a licensed landfill site – this is good news since any waste diverted from LLWR extends its operational capacity. The site has targets set each year for the amount of waste diverted from LLWR.

The site continues to take advantage of the exemption order and characterised 14 tonnes of metal as 'out of scope' – an excellent start against a target of 42 tonnes of metal to be diverted.

### **4. COMPANY MATTERS**

Magnox continues with the engagement process into the possibilities of waste optimisation as the NDA seeks to reduce the number of treatment options for Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) storage and Fuel Element Debris (FED) treatment at Magnox sites. More than 50 responses were received to earlier consultation papers. There will be drop-in information sessions held in several locations over the coming weeks and preferred options will be published towards the end of the year.

The Hinkley specific drop in session will be held on Friday 1 November from 14.00-16.00 at Cannington College.

The four bidding consortia in the Magnox/RSRL competition have now been officially invited to submit their final tenders to the NDA. This marks the end of the nine-month information-gathering phase, where bidders were able to visit Magnox and RSRL sites, as well as take part in a series of face-to-face sessions with SSG representatives. The identity of the Preferred Bidder will be announced in March 2014, followed by a period of transition before Share Transfer takes place in September.

### **5. COMMUNITY NEWS**

#### **Charity of the year**

The chosen site charity for this financial year is the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. Fundraising has continued with various events including a Lands End to Hinkley charity bike ride, the Hinkley fun run and a masked charity ball. More events are planned for the remainder of the year including a Christmas Fair. So far this year just under £6000 has been raised.

## **Socio-economic**

The scheme is web based and can be accessed at [www.magnoxsocioeconomic.co.uk](http://www.magnoxsocioeconomic.co.uk)  
All applications must be submitted through this system.

So far there have been over 500 applications to the scheme from across the country.  
Over £1.5m has been donated to various projects including a total of nearly £50,000 to projects near Hinkley. £20,000 was recently awarded to the Spaxton Community Shop project, to pay for fixtures such as fridges and freezers.

All of our socio-economic activity needs to support the NDA's socio-economic policy, the aim of which is to 'mitigate the impact of decommissioning'.