

1. Apologies for absence

Mr Andy Mcteer	Magnox
Mr Robin Phillips	Magnox
Mr Robin Ward	Magnox
Mr Nick Woodcock	Magnox
Mr John Idris Jones	Magnox
Mr Paul Kennedy	Food Standard Agency
Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas	Assembly Member
Mrs Shirley Hughes	Gwynedd Council
Mr Dewi Lewis	Gwynedd Council
Mr Richard Nannes	CCW
Mr Keith O'Brien	Snowdonia National Park Authority
Mr Elfyn Llwyd	Member of Parliament

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended his congratulations on behalf of the SSG to Cymen for receiving the 'Innovation award' during Gwynedd Business Week. Magnox also sponsored the Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award in the awards ceremony.

2. Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December, 2010

Minute 4 -It was noted that Mr Glenn Vaughan had not left the NDA as stated, but merely relocated to another station within the NDA.

Also, it should be noted that the NDA as a central body would receive a budget of £3 billion and not the Trawsfynydd site.

Minute 6.2 – It's the graphite core that is being protected.

The minutes were approved and accepted as being a correct record of the proceedings.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the meetings held on 6 December 2010

No matters arose from the minutes of the last meeting.

4. Chairman's Address

4.1. Mr Dave Wilson was welcomed as the new Site Manager. A meeting was arranged in February between Mr. Wilson and the members of the SSG which was beneficial to all.

4.2 A meeting was held in London, which Mr Idwal Williams attended on the Chairman's behalf. Mr Idwal Williams will give a short report during the meeting.

4.3. Following the tragic circumstances in Japan over the last few months, the Chairman extended his sympathies and thanked Mr Richard Foxhall for ensuring clear communication lines with the SSG group. The Chairman assured the members there was no cause for alarm regarding the Trawsfynydd site and that there was nothing to report on this matter.

4.4. - Mr Idwal Williams – Report

Mr Williams expressed his gratitude to Magnox Chairman and Executives for a warm welcome and relayed Mr Neil Baldwin's appreciation that Trawsfynydd site was represented in the meetings. Mr Richard Sexton, who is responsible for the Trawsfynydd and Bradwell sites, was very pleased with the acceleration of the site. The company's mission plan was outlined and the five points will be discussed at a later time.

A report was given for each individual site. Cutbacks were an integral part of the discussions and it was indicated that the Unions would need to discuss negotiations.

At the time of the meeting, the crisis in Japan was a focal discussion point and Mr Joe Lamonby gave a presentation outlining how the UK was supporting and assisting Japan through the crisis. It was also said that due to natural circulation in the UK, such an event as this would not occur in the UK.

5. Site Director's Report

Mr Dave Wilson expressed his appreciation to be in Trawsfynydd and thanked the community and the workers for their warm welcome.

5.1. Mr Wilson stated that the safe and compliant delivery of the Trawsfynydd site into Care and Maintenance state is scheduled for December 2016. The safety message is being pushed and various tools and safety measures are in place to ensure a safe and secure workplace.

5.2. The key concern across all sites is funding. The budget for 2011/12 is £84 million and future funding will be in accordance with the necessary requirements.

5.3. It was reported that a small fire occurred on-site. The local emergency services were called and the fire was put out with a fire extinguisher. The fire was a result of an overheated and melting isolator, which caused a great deal of smoke. The emergency services were to be commended for their work, and it was an exemplary response to a fire on site.

5.4 The Intermediate Level Waste Store is now in place. There are 53 packages in store and approximately 250 in total ready for Care and Maintenance phase.

5.5 The target completion for Reactor 1 is August 2011, and Reactor 2 by September 2011.

5.6. Fuel Element Debris – Retrieval and Encapsulation

Engineering Gate 4 is due to be completed by December 2011. New equipment is to be installed which will take material out quicker and more efficiently

5.7 Magnox Debris Handling and Storage Facility

Discussions are in place with Dungeness to process the remaining 100 drums and despatch by late 2011. The funding is available and the process operable.

5.8. Ponds

Mr Wilson stated that they were currently reviewing where they stand in conjunction with experts and regulators in regards to the ponds, and would report back if any progress was made. Options are being reviewed for the final end state.

5.9. Socio-economic Employment

Total Employment	682
Staff	199
Agency/CSW	184
Contractors	379

Total with LL postcode 386

(Not all agency and contractors work full-time at the site)

(Numbers fluctuate over time and with various projects)

Mr Wilson expressed his wish to support the community and recognize talented individuals and various contributions.

5.10. An invite was extended to any groups and agencies that would benefit from a visit to the site.

5.11. The major projects in hand are progressing well, and communications with a wide range of stakeholders are in place – communities, SSG, schools, politicians and regulators.

5.12. - Questions

a. Regarding the scabbing, does that mean you'll be reconsidering the completion date further into 2016, and will you be saving money for taxpayers or will it mean less work?

There is a lot of work to be done. We are, at present, at the stage of discussing what 'clean' represents in the facility, and we need to be clear about what is left at the end.

The issue regarding the height reduction is limited depending on the funding available. The NDA focuses on the high hazard cases generally, but we will receive as much money as we need to deal with high hazard waste. By managing this as a general programme, it will result in saving £1 billion for the tax-payer through the NDA. Generally, by doing the work quicker, it will save money with the overheads. By extending the date to 2016, there is a bit more space to schedule the work.

b. The previous director mentioned job opportunities for 300 employees. My concern is that some local people have been interviewed and have been given the work, but are yet to receive any work. It seems like good PR, but this needs to be addressed. The local people are being misled. The credibility of the NDA is going downhill with new timescales given every year.

By 2014, there will be a significant ramp to get the necessary work done. More people will be needed for a shorter space of time. We are making the best use that we can of the workforce on the site at the moment, and sustaining levels over longer periods of time. We try to focus on local men, but we need the right skills to do the work. We will continue to work with councils and the NDA to get the work done.

It's a tricky time. We received a better settlement than was expected and we are lucky that we have this level of funding. We must sustain employment. We are in a pretty good position and we hope to sustain this position.

c. I am slightly concerned regarding the delay reducing the height of the building. When it comes to 2016, will there be some other excuse to delay it even further?

There isn't much we can do in that respect other than note your concern. The funding has been allocated and it is in our schedule as so.

d. How long will it be before we reach the point where you are satisfied - will it mean spending millions more? What will the cut-off point be when something has to be done?

We can't look at this in black and white. We do the inspections, and each inspection will require maintenance. The repairs at the moment are based on the schedule given, which should be complete by 2026.

e. Jobs are being offered and given to people from outside of the area. It is a great shame that they are being offered jobs at the expense of the local people.

It is difficult to comment on specific examples. We are trying to give the local people as much work as we can and advertise in local job centres, but if they do not have the skills needed we must look to other people. Individual cases cannot be discussed, but we ask you for any feedback so that we may improve the opportunities available.

f. Unemployment figures in the area are very high because there are so many jobs available on the site, but they are not being given jobs here.

Several of the jobs needed are project managers, engineers and so on. If we are unable to get the qualifications locally, we must look elsewhere. Project managers by nature tend to move around a lot. I do agree it is a shame if people cannot get jobs locally. Several of the jobs are 5 years at best, and then numbers will begin to go down.

g. I am not talking about the high-end jobs. I am talking about labour work. A site such as this is an ideal place to start working.

We are not recruiting at the moment. If there is no work available, there is nothing to offer, but we are working with the unions. We must also make use of the men we already have working here.

Mr Richard Foxhall

The site has been supporting young, local people and offering 3 apprenticeship schemes. Gyrfa Cymru haven't been advertising in this area, but a surge of advertising is expected in Meirionnydd (in the Cambrian News) so there may be more interest and opportunities available then.

h. Another thing that raises concerns is the fact that young graduates aren't even being considered for an interview here.

It is very difficult to generalise, but we must consider that by the time these young men will have completed internships and so on, we will be reducing numbers. The way things are, they would be the first to leave. There is no purpose in training unnecessarily.

i. There is talk of 500 or so workers going to Wylfa and so forth. What is happening?

There are certain things within our control. We are holding sessions with the unions on site with Wylfa to decide whether there is any scope to co-operate. However, the Wylfa site is very different to the Trawsfynydd site.

Cllr. Isgoed Williams

There is a general concern regarding employment. We would be very grateful for any developments in this matter.

6. Report for the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee

Mr Herbert Renfield was welcomed to present the report on behalf of Mr Robin Ward.

6.1. Regulatory Issues

The annual exercise review meeting was held with the NII at which, the details for this year's level 1 demonstration exercise was discussed. The exercise is to take place on July 19.

6.2. Arrangements

The on-site fire response team has been formally disbanded after an extensive discussion period with the fire service and site staff representatives. A new Rescue Team is presently being constituted to support daytime work activities on site.

6.3. Emergency planning forum

Internet forums are in place to discuss with the on-site personnel what it is they want from the schemes, and to attempt to work with them and ensure the best value from the exercise. The Emergency Planning Forum continues to meet regularly.

Training sessions have been held with the North Wales Fire and Rescue Services, which have been very useful. Five of the local responding Fire Stations have now been visited for specialised training and staff from the Welsh Ambulance Service have visited the site and have been discussing with our teams. Although there are areas to improve, concentrating on areas such as First Aid has been deemed successful.

6.4. The heavy snowfall last winter resulted in the site closing for a week before Christmas to non-essential personnel. Communication was maintained through the website and worked extremely well.

6.5. The fire on May 5th was recorded in the *Daily Post*, although it was stated in the report that 'staff were evacuated' which was not the case.

Questions

a. You mentioned that you got rid of the fire team. Did you also get rid of the fire brigade?

No, they are an integral part of our arrangements. The fire brigade attended on May 5th because the site team decided that the situation should be dealt with by experts.

b. During the fire, a woman from Maentwrog asked the fire service what was happening and they replied that there was a fire on-site. She was naturally very worried but no one in the locality knew what was happening. It is a pity that there isn't more communication with the local council and community. We need to know the circumstances if there is an incident such as this.

Cllr. Isgoed Williams

I accept your point, but I did receive a phone call to inform me what was happening. They explained the circumstances and I was assured that it was only a small incident. If a serious incident had occurred, then I would, of course have contacted you.

We have to remember that the media tends to over-react and that would have misled the public. Should the incident be significant, the media would know about it. Mr Richard Foxhall is the Communications Officer and he would have notified you if there was a serious incident. As it was, he was away on holiday, but the media were dealt with efficiently; talks were had with the *Daily Post* and *Radio Cymru*. It was suggested that members' phone-numbers and e-mail address were collected to ensure communication in an incident such as this.

c. There have been complaints before. People aren't aware of what is going on. It wouldn't take much time or effort to send a note to the radio. Something should be in place so that the local people were kept informed. But it would only have been a small matter for *Radio Cymru* to make an announcement.

Regarding the emergency procedures, a statement was issued to the press within 20 minutes to inform them that there had been a fire but there was no cause for alarm. We had contacted Radio Cymru. A statement was issued within 20 minutes and we tried our best. We are willing to listen to any ideas so that we can improve.

d. There is a helicopter landing on the site. Can it, and is it being used by the air ambulance?

Yes, it can be used, and it has been used a lot recently, mostly by the RAF (with Chinook helicopters) but it could certainly be used by the Air Ambulance.

7. Report by the Nuclear Installation Inspectorate

Mr Chris Kemp was welcomed and he apologised if members were yet to receive the report for the first quarter. The periodic safety review assessment has begun and the verdict should be determined in 5 months.

7.1. This afternoon and tomorrow, the annual review for safety meeting will take place to inspect all the reactors and to meet with Magnox chief executive and staff. In July, the annual demonstration exercise will take place, with the aim of demonstrating to us that they work. There were no questions.

8. Report by the Environment Agency

Mr Steve Howard was absent from the meeting therefore no report was given.

9. Report by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Ms Amanda French was welcomed and she introduced Mr Jonathan Jenkin who would be discussing what the site has been delivering. Over the last 6 months, work has been done to deliver NDA requirements safely. The financial year came to an end in March and it was a good year with significant work completed. The site continues to meet the commitments made to the NDA. There were no questions.

9.1. Jonathan Jenkin

The NDA strategy has been published, which is a document that outlines the overall strategy for the national mission, key milestone dates, maintenance, decommissioning costs and so forth. All the information is available on the website, and there are also hard copies available.

9.2. The latest business plan has been published, which is a document containing details of the spending plans for the current year and for the years ahead. All the information is available via the website.

9.3. There have been discussions with key agencies in Gwynedd and Anglesey and considerable funding has been dedicated to the area in the sum of £4 million.

9.4. Sub-developments

NDA and Magnox have experienced significant changes and as part of those changes, Magnox take a greater role in delivering socio-economic benefits. The decommissioning plans will impact the society, and it is expected that Magnox will deliver the Social Economic Plans by the end of September. With additional funding, there will be a greater capacity for Magnox to fund various projects.

9.5 Questions

a. Are there any developments in relation to Maentwrog?

The land strategy includes building on and off site. The main duty is to maximise value for money. We review and evaluate all of our assets from time to time. It is very likely we will review the site, but I don't know when that might happen. There are no plans for a sale however. Value for money is a key consideration as well as the views of the stakeholders. We will look at the situation overall and arrive at the best decision that meets the various needs.

b. According to the minutes of the last meeting, it mentions a co-operation with Gwynedd. Do you have anything to contribute on that matter? And do you have anything to say on the Hyder report?

Mr Gwyn Roberts:

Hyder mentioned a 5 point plan. The work has been done on 2 of these points in particular. The first was to establish a centre of excellence, which would capitalise on Magnox's expertise and use the available resources. A monitoring centre is also being taken into consideration and the next phase will be to look closer at the available options.

Developing a data centre was considered and Trawsfynydd is a favoured location. A lot of power needs to be generated as well as a lot of water for cooling processes. Therefore, Trawsfynydd has the necessary resources. The plans will be developed if enough interest is shown in the project.

c. There is a strong sense of cynicism in response to the factsheet that was distributed. People don't believe what the authorities tell them. A few of the points on this factsheet are misleading. You talk about a 'low carbon industry' but this isn't true; digging for uranium, building a coal-burning power station, decommissioning will all generate carbon throughout the process.

We publish what we consider factual information. Nuclear generation is generally considered to be a low-carbon industry. There are carbon-emissions in regards to solar panels, windmills and so forth. Carbon appears in all form of generation.

10. Any other business

10.1. There has been a request from the head of radiation and pollution prevention in Cardiff to meet the stakeholders. It would be greatly appreciated if there were representatives present.

10.2. It has been a long time since the stakeholders visited the site and the members were reminded that the site was always open if anyone wished to organise a visit. Following the recent fire, it would be a good opportunity to visit the fire safety site and to see how it is operated. It was suggested that it would be possible to do so on September 26 and to combine the meeting and the site visit and was passed by the other members.

10.3. Due to re-structuring in the communications department, the number of staff has been reduced to 1. Mr Ian Edwards will be responsible for the stakeholders and is looking forward to co-operating with the members. The contact details remain the same – trawsinfo@magnoxnorthsite.com or 01766543384.

Sian Jones and Delyth Heath were thanked for their contribution to the group and the Chairman wished them well in their careers.

10.5. The Chairman wished Mrs Angharad Reyner and her husband the best of luck on the birth of their upcoming child.

11. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 5 December 2011, which will double up as the Annual General Meeting.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions.