

BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE

SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT

STONE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 30 JULY 2014

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs P Wride (Chair)	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Cllr Mrs L Ashton	-	Stroud District Council
Mr F Baker	-	National Farmers' Union
Mr N Carmichael MP		
Cllr P Case	-	Hamfields Leisure
Cllr S Chandler	-	Hamfallow Parish Council
Cllr J Cordwell	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr J Sant	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr J Stanton	-	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr G Vaughan Lewis	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr B Tipper	-	Gloucestershire County Council

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr P Dickenson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr R Hedley	-	Environment Agency
Mr M Lynden	-	Oldbury on Severn SSG Chairman
Mr T Beasley	-	Stroud College
Mr J Dalton	-	Radioactive Waste Management Ltd
Mr S McNally	-	Site Director
Ms C Huggard	-	Berkeley Site
Ms G Coombs	-	Magnox Ltd
Mr D Wride	-	Lower Severn Drainage Board
Mr A Neal	-	Cavendish Fluor Partnership
Ms K Duane	-	Cavendish Fluor Partnership
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 Cllr G Craig, Cllr R Birch, Mr J Jenkin, Ms K Anderson and Rev R Avery.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 30 APRIL 2014

(a) Accuracy

3 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 30 April 2014 were approved as an accurate record.

(b) Matters arising

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

BERKELEY SITE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

5 Mr McNally reported on current activities at the Berkeley Site. He drew particular attention to the following:

- (i) It was now more than 124 weeks since time had been lost from work on site due to an accident. There had been two minor events requiring first aid treatment since the previous meeting.
- (ii) There had been one event involving the Liquid Effluent Compliance Plant when, during routine discharge operations, some particulate material had been found in an in-line filter. No such material had been discharged and it had been found that it had been introduced into the system from a container which had not been cleaned properly. Procedures were being reviewed.
- (iii) Retrievals from the Chute Silo were now complete and the materials removed had been monitored to determine the treatment required as waste. A substantial volume of material had been cleared for disposal as Low Level Waste and potentially Very Low Level Waste.
- (iv) Trials had been undertaken within the shielded area on the former Berkeley Centre site to retrieve metallic items and measure their radiation dose rates. This allowed items with low measured dose rates to be removed and provided a better understanding of the characteristics of other items to be dealt with.
- (v) The first module of the equipment for retrieving intermediate level waste from the vaults had been installed on site. A further module was to be delivered to site during September; this would be a large load delivered by road and arrangements for transport to the site would be the same as those made for other similar deliveries. Retrievals from the vaults using this equipment were due to commence during the first part of the next financial year.
- (vi) Installation of the vacuum drying system for conditioning wastes within DCIC containers was nearing completion. Following testing and commissioning it was envisaged that the drying of the first package would commence at the end of October.

- (vii) A supply of empty DCIC containers was being held within the Interim Storage Facility to be ready for use when required.
- (viii) One of the reactor Safestores had been opened ahead of the planned maintenance inspection scheduled for next year. This had been done at the request of the ONR to provide information which would help them in consideration of the request to allow Bradwell to enter a care and maintenance state. The opportunity had also been taken to allow a visit by delegates from an International Atomic Energy Agency conference.
- (ix) An RSRL emergency exercise scheduled for 17 September would involve activities at the Berkeley railhead.
- (x) Consignments of irradiated fuel from Oldbury to Sellafield via the Berkeley railhead were, for the first time, being transported as mixed loads together with consignments from RSRL sites.

6 Cllr Ms Ashton raised her concerns at reports she had heard of radioactive material found on the outside of a container from Oldbury transported via the Berkeley railhead. Mr McNally said that a Flatrol wagon used to transport a fuel flask carrying spent nuclear fuel from Oldbury had been found on arrival at Sellafield to have radioactive contamination on its surface. Locked and secured covers over the flask during transport would have prevented any access to the area where this contamination was found and there was no question of any increase in exposures to members of the public. Mr McNally said however that this contamination should not have been present on the outside of the flask and the circumstances were being investigated by staff at Oldbury. He had not yet seen a report on those investigations but undertook to ensure that Cllr Ms Ashton was provided with information when the report was available. Mr Dickenson said that ONR had also carried out its investigations into this event. Mr Lynden said that he had been informed of this event on the day it occurred and was satisfied that the matter was being taken very seriously at Oldbury. He said that the event would be discussed at the Oldbury SSG meeting on the following day and the minutes of that meeting could be made available to the Berkeley SSG members. He invited Cllr Ms Ashton to join the Oldbury SSG meeting to express her concerns but she said that she would be unable to attend.

7 Mr McNally pointed out that the NDA's Site Stakeholder Groups' website (www.sitestakeholdergroups.org.uk) was now closed but information on SSGs was now available on the www.magnoxsites.co.uk website.

REGULATORS' UPDATE

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

8 Mr Dalton, representing Radioactive Waste Management Ltd, provided an update on proposals for the geological disposal of higher active radioactive wastes. He reminded members of the background to the government's policy of adopting deep geological disposal and referred to the recent publication of a

White Paper "Implementing Geological Disposal" which set out how the policy was to be pursued.

- 9 Mr Dalton outlined the actions set out in the White Paper to carry out a national geological screening, to establish a policy framework for planning decisions, and to develop arrangements for working with local communities. He said that formal discussions with potential host communities would not start until these actions were completed; it was anticipated that that would be in 2016/17.
- 10 Mr Dalton pointed out that the White Paper was available online at www.gov.uk/government/publications/implementing-geological-disposal, and that individuals could register for additional information at www.nda.gov.uk/rwm/subscribe.
- 11 In reply to questions from Mr Lynden, Mr Dalton outlined arrangements for ensuring that the geological screening exercise received appropriate and independent geological advice. The screening would be undertaken as a desktop exercise using existing data. Mr Lynden emphasised the need to have regard to the current location of waste when selecting the location for a waste disposal facility.
- 12 In reply to a further question from Cllr Vaughan-Lewis, Mr Dalton said he could not prejudge the outcome of the geological screening exercise but he anticipated that it might identify a range of areas which were more or less likely to provide suitable conditions for the establishment of a disposal facility.

Office for Nuclear Regulation

- 13 Mr Dickenson presented a report on his inspection activities at the Berkeley Site. A report on those activities had been made available to members. Mr Dickenson drew attention to the consultation being undertaken by ONR on its strategy for the years 2015 – 2020
- 14 Mr Dickenson outlined the scope of ONR inspections carried out at Berkeley Site during the past quarter. He pointed out that he had entered the Reactor 2 Safestore when it had been opened. He said that there had been some evidence of water ingress in peripheral buildings but the conditions within the main building were very dry. This had given confidence that, with the planned five yearly inspections, any developing problems would be identified in good time. He said that the scheduled access next year would involve entry to the Reactor 1 Safestore.
- 15 Mr Dickenson said that investigation of the event involving contamination on the irradiated fuel flask from Oldbury has identified lessons which could be learned and actions which could be taken to prevent a similar event in the future.

Environment Agency

- 16 Mr Hedley presented a report on the Environment Agency's inspection activities at the Berkeley Site.

- 17 Referring to the event associated with liquid effluent plant reported earlier by Mr McNally, Mr Hedley said that the gravel which had caused a filter to be blocked should not have been in the system but throughout the period of the blockage the Site had remained compliant with its permitted discharge limits. He said that the Agency had reviewed management actions taken to address this issue.
- 18 Mr Hedley outlined future planned inspections, including a "themed inspection" on arrangements for the management of radioactive waste which was to be undertaken across the Magnox fleet to compare operator performance at the various sites.
- 19 Mr Hedley drew attention to a survey which was to be undertaken to provide information on the diet and activities of people in the vicinity of nuclear sites which might influence their exposure to radioactivity. These "habit surveys" were undertaken periodically to help assess potential exposures from radioactivity in food and the environment. A survey was to be undertaken in the near future by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science.

UPDATE ON BERKELEY CENTRE

- 20 Mr Beasley reported that government funding of £5 million had been secured to develop part of the Berkeley Centre site as a training and skills centre with focus on the renewable energy and nuclear sectors. He said that further consultations had to be undertaken, decisions taken and legal and planning issues had to be addressed before a start could be made on refurbishment. He hoped that staff would be on site during 2015 with training courses commencing in September 2016.
- 21 Cllr Mrs Wride said that she and other members of this Group would be glad to provide any further assistance which might be required. Mr Carmichael said he was delighted that this project was going ahead and looked forward to seeing progress with the refurbishment of the facilities.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

- 22 Cllr Mrs Wride reported on a meeting of Magnox Site SSG chairmen with Energy Solutions which had included discussions on the smooth handover of the Sites to Cavendish Fluor Partnership, the way forward for SSGs, and good practices for working with the new parent body organisation. She hoped that the good relationships which had existed with Engineering Solutions would continue with Cavendish Fluor.
- 23 Cllr Mrs Wride reminded members of her report at the previous meeting on her discussions with RoSPA competition judges. Subsequently Magnox had been awarded the Sir George Earl Trophy which was the most prestigious award presented by RoSPA for occupational health and safety performance.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr S McNally

- 24 Cllr Mrs Wride expressed members' thanks to Mr McNally for the relationship he had maintained with the Group and the way he had kept members informed of progress with work on the Berkeley Site. As this would be the last of these meetings to be attended by Mr McNally she expressed members' best wishes to him for the future.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 25 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group, a joint meeting with members of the Oldbury SSG, was scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 29 October 2014.

MJD
5 August 2014