

# DUNGENESS A SITE AND B POWER STATION

## DUNGENESS SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

### The Assembly Rooms New Romney

Thursday 26 January 2012  
18:30 for 19.00pm

#### Attendance:

Mr C Albrow	-	Independent Member
Mrs G Baker	-	Lydd & Greatstone residents Association
Sgt J Bloomfield	-	Kent Police
Mr B Botley	-	Kent Against a Radioactive Environment
Mr C Brown	-	Lydd Airport Action Group
Cllr M Burgess	-	Ashford Borough Council
Ms J Dear	-	Natural England
Mr D Dicker	-	Dungeness A Site
Mr J Earnshaw	-	Dungeness B Power Station
Cllr T Fawthrop	-	East Sussex County Council
Dr L Franks	-	Minute Taker
Dr V Green	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)
Mr T Hills	-	Varne Boat Club
Mr D Illsley	-	Shepway District Council
Mr R Jepps	-	Dungeness A Site
Cllr D Lawton	-	New Romney Town Council
Mrs H Morris	-	Dungeness A Site
Dr P Naylor	-	Environment Agency (EA)
Cllr Mrs J Newton	-	New Romney Town Council
Mr A Parry	-	Vice Chairman
Mr M Pearson	-	Dungeness B Power Station
Mr T Preston	-	Defend our Coast
Col G Smythe	-	Independent Chairman
Cllr A Snoad	-	New Romney Town Council
Ms M Stuart	-	Kent Against a Radioactive Environment
Mr K Thomas	-	Dungeness Residents Association
Mr D Urquhart	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)
Mrs L Whenday	-	Dungeness Residents Association
Mr D Whitnall	-	Dungeness A Site

#### Guests:

Mr M Chevis	-	Magnox Ltd
Ms J Moakes	-	Environment Agency
Ms C Thompson	-	EDF Nuclear Generation
Ms D Ward	-	NDA
Ms P Waterman	-	EnergySolutions

## **I INTRODUCTION**

2852 Col. Smythe welcomed members and guests to the Annual General Meeting of the Site Stakeholder Group (SSG) and encouraged them to ask questions. He commented that it had been an interesting year with the NDA restructuring, Magnox regrouping, the defuelling and decommissioning on Dungeness A site and the continued generation of power from Dungeness B site.

## **II APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The following apologies were received:

Ms H Able	-	Dungeness A Site
Mr G Callahan	-	Dungeness B Power Station
Cllr Mrs V Dawson	-	Lydd Town Council
Mr J Gilliland	-	ONR CNS
Mr G Holt	-	SE Region Health Protection Agency
Cllr Mrs M Masters	-	Lydd Town Council
Mr M Reynolds	-	Kent & Essex IFCA
Cllr S Souster	-	Rother District Council
Mr V Todd	-	Dungeness A Site

## **III MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS**

2853 The minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> SSG meeting held on 12 October 2011 were agreed as an accurate record.

## **IV CORRESPONDENCE**

2854 No correspondence was noted.

## **V MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 12<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

2855 Environmental Statement queries: John Earnshaw noted to be covering this in his presentation (item VIII).  
Re 2846: Socio-Economic Impact Assessment and Action Plan has now been drafted (copies available on request) with final meeting concerning this on Monday 30 January. Chairman commented that this should drive the socio-economic plan forward.

## **VI DUNGENESS A SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

2856 Ray Jepps, Site Director, drew attention to the Report for Dungeness A and commented on the following:

### Safety

- A good year with no lost time accidents and seven minor first aid events, despite the number of personnel increasing by over 100.
- Key safety programmes introduced, including human performance.
- Received another ROSPA award for Occupational Health & Safety.

### Defuelling

- Progressed well with approx 25,000 fuel elements removed during the year.

- Reactor 1 has now been site verified as fuel-free.
- Reactor 2 currently 90% defuelled progressing to 100% by March 2012.
- Site should be formally declared fuel-free by April / May 2012.

2859 Transition

- All staff have received aspirational counselling and most have re-skilled into project engineering or management roles, moved to Dungeness B or volunteered for severance. Only four members of staff have futures yet to be resolved.

2860 Acceleration of site clearance

- Strategy to accelerate decommissioning, demolition and deplant of redundant buildings received additional funding of £2.5million in early summer 2011. This has been used for enabling works for aggressive acceleration of site clearance. A video clip detailing these enabling works was played (see 2865).
- An increasing rate of degradation due to the hostile environment has meant additional expenditure on maintaining buildings until scheduled for demolition.
- Overall saving of £4-5million to be realised by accelerating site clearance.

2861 Emergency Scheme Arrangements

- Aspects of the October 2011 level 1 exercise that the site and the ONR were unhappy with, will be re-demonstrated on 22 February 2012 when the site will conduct a witnessed exercise of the proposed new Emergency Scheme arrangements.

2862 Community Relations

- Two of the four applications for socio-economic funding have been successful - the Kent Wildlife Trust and Romney Marsh Skills.
- Sponsorship & donations have been distributed as detailed in the report.

2863 Q: Clarification sought of the fuel remaining on site and when this will be dispatched.

A: Last fuel from Reactor 1 to be dispatched 10 February 2012. Remaining fuel from Reactor 2 scheduled to be removed to the ponds by the second week of March and dispatched by early April 2012. Various verification and auditing processes to be undertaken and an evidence pack submitted to the ONR who will then correspond to confirm that the site is completely fuel-free.

2864 Q: It was questioned whether the sponsorships and donations money would continue to be available into the future.

A: Mr Jepps advised that he held every expectation that this would continue. Chairman added that it was likely that additional monies would be available via socio-economic funding.

2865 A seven minute video clip showing planned demolition works with significant milestone dates was played. Attendees noted that the site is hoping to complete the programme of work at least 6 months in advance of the dates specified.

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

2866 Donald Urquhart introduced himself as the new Site Inspector, advising that the good safety performance of the site over the last year enables the ONR to focus on looking forward. The compliance status for the site has been considered and also found to be good. He emphasised how the major hazard on site, used fuel, informs

the frequency and focus of inspections and once the site has been verified as fuel-free, a substantial amount of the work on site will fall within conventional industrial safety. This will then inform future inspections.

2867 The following additional points were made:

- The artificiality of the October emergency exercise affected outcomes and some aspects will be re-demonstrated on 22 February 2012.
- Fuel-free verification is the next key focus as this allows the removal of the nuclear safety regulatory footprint from many aspects of the site's work.
- Once fuel-free, the following aspects will be prioritised:
  - Emergency scheme reduction to that appropriate for a decommissioning site.
  - Adoption of the decommissioning safety case for the site.
  - Changes to the on-site skills-base.
  - Adequate maintenance of assets.
  - Appropriate organisational capability to be established and maintained.

2868 No questions were forthcoming.

## VIII DUNGENESS B POWER STATION SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2869 Martin Pearson, Site Director of Dungeness B, presented his report and reminded attendees that he had now been in post for four months and that the annual review included the work of his predecessor, Graham Finn. Particular attention was drawn to the following:

### 2870 Safety

- No EDF Energy lost time accidents.
- Contract partners have achieved over four years without a lost time accident.
- Over 700 days without an environmental reportable event.
- No contamination events during the year.
- Two nuclear reportable events, both INES level 1 (para 2818 details these), during the year.

### 2871 Emergency Arrangements

- All exercises judged as adequate.
- ONR Inspector verbally commented that the recent security exercise was good.

### 2872 Community & Charity

- Over the last 6 months, the site has tried to engage more with the community.
- Apprenticeship scheme has been pro-actively promoted at local schools and an open day was held during November 2011.
- EDF Energy has a sustainability partnership with the 2012 Olympics and the site staff undertook a cycle ride to raise £2,500 for Paralympics GB and promote Team Green Britain.
- Working towards re-opening the visitor centre and offering site tours to the public. In response to an enquiry, Mr Pearson explained that the actual date of re-opening the visitor centre would be advised as soon as this was known, indicating that this was likely to be during the summer months.

### 2873 New Build & Wider Company

- There are plans for two European Pressurised Reactors (EPR's) to be built at Hinkley Point in Somerset, with a further two at Sizewell in Suffolk.
- Fukushima event has informed design considerations.

2874 No questions were forthcoming.

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

2875 Dr Vince Green advised that from 1 April 2012 Dungeness B would have a new Site Inspector (Mr Tim Allmark). He drew attention to the annual review of safety that had taken place on 12 May 2011 and to the report for 1 July to 30 September 2011 and commented on the following:

- Outcomes of the annual review of safety were satisfactory. The site adopts a robust challenging attitude towards safety issues.
- Non-routine matter concerning control rods will be followed up as a corporate issue.
- Non-routine matter concerning a fuel route incident on 4 August 2011 has been satisfactorily resolved and no further follow up is required.
- Non-routine matter reported on 16 September 2011 concerning a safety case anomaly relating to the travel of the fuelling machine has now been resolved. The fuelling machine has been suitably modified and tested and has now returned to service.
- A recent event with a back-up diesel generator will be followed up to ensure that appropriate learning has been taken on board.
- Future focus will be the return to service of Reactor 21 and the preparations for the periodic shutdown of Reactor 22.

2876 No questions were forthcoming. The Chairman thanked Dr Green for his support of the SSG during his tenure as Site Inspector.

**X ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE FOR DUNGENESS B.**

2877 Paul Naylor, Site Inspector for Dungeness B, presented an Environment Agency Nuclear Regulation Report. He advised that Jo Moakes would be taking over this role. The following points were noted:

- Discharges reporting error occurred for one month for one radionuclide at a much higher level than actual, however, this was still well below the legal limit.
- Expanded programme of repairs for surface drainage was completed in 2011, an ongoing programme to replace equipment used to monitor gaseous radioactive discharges and recent work to replace discharge lines for aqueous waste.
- Relief drainage route had been incorrectly connected to the foul sewer rather than the active effluent drain. Unlikely that any significant radioactive discharge via this route. Investigation ongoing.
- Unplanned discharge of reactor gas was well below site limits.
- Site environmental review outcomes reflect a significant improvement.
- Radioactivity in Food & the Environment (RIFE) report published October 2011 reflects that at Dungeness most of radionuclides analysed were at, or close to, the limits of detection. An assessment of total max radiation dose for a member of the public was 0.022mSv, approx 2% of the legal dose limit.
- The Food Standards Agency are willing to provide more details about food monitoring on request.

2878 No questions were forthcoming.

## **XI NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER GROUP (NSG) FEEDBACK**

- 2879 Chairman reported that Andrew Parry, the Vice Chairman, and he had attended the meeting in Manchester and felt there were three key points to note:
- I. Socio-economic funding: the NDA are letting the funding cascade down
  - II. The set time frame for progress towards an end-state has been replaced by an events timetable which details significant milestones.
  - III. Storage of low level waste (LLW) on existing nuclear power station sites is becoming a more viable possibility now that robust storage systems, like yellow boxes, are available. Chairman advised he would continue to monitor developments and report findings to the SSG.
- 2880 No questions were forthcoming.

## **XII A AND B SITE'S RESPONSE TO THE WEIGHTMAN REPORT ON THE JAPANESE EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI.**

- 2881 Chairman drew attention to the final Dr Mike Weightman, HM Chief Inspector Nuclear Installations report, now available on the ONR website. Martin Pearson gave a presentation which provided detailed explanations of the following:
- The earthquake, tsunami and resulting sequence of key events that occurred at the Dai-ichi power plant in Japan during March 2011 and thereafter.
  - How a boiling water reactor (those used at the Dai-ichi plant) functions compared with an advanced gas-cooled reactor (operated by EDF Energy at seven sites in the UK).
  - The UK response to the events, including extracts from the interim and final reports authored by Dr Mike Weightman, HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations.
- 2882 Mr Pearson explained the UK nuclear industry safety principles, giving examples, and these were noted as follows:
- Safety in design with built in multiple safety systems
  - Strong safety culture of "safety first"
  - Continuous improvement through training
  - "Strength in depth" to include diversity of protection system design, multiple systems available and placed in varied locations.
- 2883 An overview of the EDF Energy position was provided and this included a thorough review of all systems and processes and the development of a formal programme of work including stress test examinations. It was noted that no shortfalls have been identified in the B site operational safety cases although opportunities to enhance resilience were found. The outcomes of the stress tests were submitted to the regulator in October 2011.
- 2884 The lessons learnt from the events in Japan were detailed and noted to include:
- Europe-wide stress testing programme undertaken to investigate the capability of nuclear plants to withstand extreme events. Findings will be shared across the world to enable learning and sharing of best practice.
  - UK has undertaken a thorough review of nuclear plant and processes and the ONR have concluded there is no reason to curtail the operation of UK nuclear power plants or nuclear facilities.

- 2885 Mr Pearson explained the specific impact for Dungeness B and this was noted as the site being more open and transparent plus physical modifications to mitigate events affecting electrical supplies and cooling systems, including infrastructure enhancements, and a ramping up of emergency exercises to counter the unexpected.
- 2886 Ray Jepps described the specific impact on Dungeness A explaining that the same stress tests were undertaken, however, given the very low level of fuel on site the outcomes were insignificant. Mr Jepps went on to provide an overview for the rest of the Magnox fleet, advising that by the end of February 2012 only one site will still be generating. Some plant modifications will be undertaken at several sites.
- 2887 Vince Green provided the ONR perspective by advising that the stress tests completed by October 2011 were compiled into a National UK report published on the ONR website during December 2011. European regulators are currently undertaking a robust peer review of all the National UK reports. The peer review of the National UK reports will inform plant modifications and improvements to severe accident management to deal with unexpected events.
- 2888 Questions were invited and it was queried why power stations are built on the coast given their vulnerability to tsunamis. A short debate ensued with explanations including that coastal locations are required for the cooling systems, that new builds will have “beyond design basis” built in and that resilience to seismic and un-thought of events was part of the stress testing programme. Continuous improvements in design and human performance will enable ongoing enhancement of resilience to events.
- 2889 Q: If a cataclysmic event occurred that affected all power stations near, for example, the channel, how will all the affected stations get support.  
A: Stations elsewhere in the UK will be able to provide effective support.
- 2890 Q: Where would back-up generators be stored and if Dungeness was isolated, how would these be brought to site?  
A: Storage would be off-site away from the possibility of flooding. The additional infrastructure being put into place has considered this eventuality and transport via air or sea will be enabled.

### **XIII ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

- 2891 John Earnshaw, Environmental Coordinator for Dungeness B, drew attention to the report and added the following comments:
- No reportable events were recorded during 2011.
  - Fleet certification of the Environmental Management System to ISO14001 was achieved.
  - Two biodiversity projects are ongoing involving encouraging Sussex Emerald Moth caterpillars and creating habitat for indigenous plant populations.
  - The reduction overall in non-hazardous waste recycling during 2011 is primarily due to 104 tonnes of non recyclable ion-exchange resin being created.
  - All discharges are within environmental permit limits.
  - Four plant improvement programmes have been undertaken as detailed in the report.
- 2892 There ensued a debate about the volume of liquid radiological waste discharged throughout 2011 and it was noted that volume is somewhat dependent on the

operational state of the station. There was reassurance that best practicable means were applied to reduce these discharge volumes to a minimum. Concern was expressed that these discharges are linked to thyroid cancer. It was pointed out that the volume measurement bore no correlation to radioactivity levels and that most discharges are virtually inert.

2893 Q: Does the liquid discharge integrate with the cooling water?

A: Mr Earnshaw confirmed this explaining that all the discharges are combined.

#### **XIV NDA UPDATE**

2894 Deborah Ward, NDA Communications, drew attention to the NDA Monthly briefing for January 2012, available in hard copy at this meeting, advising that this provides details of ongoing work. The following additional points were noted:

- Change in frequency and style of National Stakeholder Group meeting to an annual shorter event, seem well received.
- NDA are considering ways of optimising waste storage including improved segregation and characterisation. "The Strategy Development Programme for Integrated Waste Management" document, available on the NDA website, provides details. Comments are sought by 24 February 2012.
- Attention was drawn to the following sections of the NDA monthly briefing:
  - survey of stakeholders with outcomes to be published at the end of March.
  - options for accelerating Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) implementation
  - Acting CEO in post whilst recruitment is ongoing.
  - competition for running the Magnox sites will be launched this year.
- A report from the National Stakeholder event was published very recently on the NDA website.

2895 Chairman commented that the recent National Stakeholder event was the best he had attended and enables networking with other Site Stakeholder Group Chairmen and two way communication with the leadership of the NDA.

#### **XV BEACH FEEDING**

2896 Chairman reported that there was an emotive public meeting held recently and that the views expressed are being considered by the planning committee of Kent County Council and a decision by them is awaited. By way of a summary he advised the following points:

- The two power station sites need to remain protected.
- Historically, a lot of information available from fisherman is not always sought or considered and perhaps there is more that can be done to ensure that this is not overlooked.
- More could be done, for example, set up a stakeholder group steering committee to move this situation forward.

2897 Support for this approach was expressed. Concern was expressed that the power stations are not engaging sufficiently with the community about this topic. This was debated and the Chairman encouraged consultation to move this situation forward. Exasperation was expressed that environmental projects are in place but that the public appears to come last.

#### **XVI SOCIO-ECONOMIC UPDATE**

2898 Chairman explained that historically bids for large sums had not been forthcoming. The review of socio-economic funding enables improved access to large sums and

during 2011, two out of four bids were successful. The Impact Assessment and Action Plan have now been drafted, with the final meeting scheduled for Monday 30 January, and this document is a useful resource for putting a bid together. Chairman concluded by encouraging the community to submit bids.

## **XVII MAGNOX SOCIO-ECONOMIC SCHEME 2012**

2899 Mark Chevis introduced his presentation by saying that the way that socio-economic funding is managed is changing. The following key points were noted:

- Magnox Optimised Decommissioning Programme (MODP) requires an assessment of the socio-economic implications for local communities and led to the development of a Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP). Copies of the SEDP for 2011-15 are available at this meeting for attendees.
- The SEDP details the key elements of the MODP and describes the impact of the MODP on the Dungeness site as “significant”.
- Magnox sites have been prioritised in terms of the relative impact of the MODP and opportunities for alternative employment. Dungeness was noted to be one of three sites that would benefit from further socio-economic development work in the short to medium term.
- The NDA vision to “support the creation of dynamic, sustainable local economies for communities living near our sites” is underpinned by four priorities:
  - Employment
  - Education & Skills
  - Economic & Social Infrastructure
  - Economic Diversification
- Key change to the management of the funding is that Magnox will manage a large proportion of the funding via a single on line application process.
- New scheme will be implemented from 1 April 2012 with three levels of funding of less than £10,000, between £10,000 and £100,000 and over £100,000. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.
- The revised socio-economic arrangements meet the legal requirements of the Energy Act 2004.
- Going forward the focus will be to work with Col Smythe, the community, Regeneris and the local council.

Mark concluded by inviting any interested parties to contact him for advice and support with the bidding process.

2900 Q: Would the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) qualify for funding?

A: Previously funding has been awarded to the CAB and future bids would be considered. This was debated further and other sources of funding for CAB discussed.

2901 Q: What is the likely turnaround time from application to decision?

A: It is anticipated that overall the timeframe would be between 6 and 8 weeks.

2902 Q Can only one application be made during the calendar year?

A: If it is for the same scheme then yes, but if the same group want to apply for funding for an alternative project then additional bids would be considered.

2903 Q: Can the Local Authority apply for support?

A: Yes providing they have a suitable project.

2904 Q: Is funding available for a multi-year project?

A: Multi-year funding can be applied for in a single bid with outcomes decided on the business case presented. Better to apply once for multiple years than to keep applying annually for ongoing support for the same project.

2905 Q: are the application forms the same irrespective of the level of funding sought?  
A: No, the forms vary depending on which bracket that the level of funding required falls into.

2906 A comment was made to the effect that the availability of this funding was a catalyst for regeneration of the area and enabled greater confidence that regeneration was sustainable. Mr Chevis concurred.

2907 Dave Illsley advised that the Regeneris report had been emailed to all SSG members and would be circulated to libraries, Parish Councils and other community forums. Mr Chevis added that he could provide paper copies on request. Chairman endorsed the usefulness of this report when preparing a bid and encouraged applications from the local community.

#### **XVIII ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

2908 Q: The 'T' piece landmark in the middle of Dungeness is in need of repair, would either of the sites be prepared to fund this?  
A: Chairman suggested a short meeting immediately after this meeting to discuss this further.

#### **XIX NEXT MEETING**

2851 The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Dungeness SSG will now be held on Thursday 24 May 2012 at 10.00 and not the 19 April as previously agreed.

Meeting closed at 21.35hrs