

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at Hill House, Otterhampton on Friday 31 October 2014

PRESENT

- Cllr M Caswell (Chairman) - Stockland Bristol
- Mr R Schroder - Site Director, Hinkley Point A
- Mr P Higginson - Technical Safety and Support Manager,
Hinkley Point B

Elected Members

- Cllr T Ayre - Holford Parish Council
- Cllr Ms A Bown - Somerset County Council
- Cllr M Brown (Vice Chairman) - Otterhampton Parish Council
- Mr R Corns - English Nature
- Mr A Debenham - Stop Hinkley
- Cllr J Edney - Somerset County Council
- Cllr R Garner - North Somerset Council
- Cllr Ms S Goss - West Somerset District 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 Ms B Oates - Stogursey Parish Council
- Cllr Mrs A Reed - Wembdon Parish Council
- Cllr S Stretton - Spaxton Parish Council
- Cllr T Williams - Kilve Parish Council

Co-opted Members

Miss B Child

Appointed Members

- Mr D Batters - Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
- Mr J Jenkin - Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
- Mr T Fediw - Environment Agency
- Mr I Wilson - Office for Nuclear Regulation
- Mr T Howes - Civil Nuclear Constabulary
- Mr H Rickard - Wessex Water
- Mr D Bamsey - Sedgemoor District Council
- Mr J Holbrook - West Somerset District Council
- Ms L Rolfe - Public Health England

EDF Energy

- Mr G Bell - Media Manager

Magnox

Ms A Prole	-	Communications Support
Ms G Coombs	-	Communications
Mr S Booth	-	Head of Environment

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr H Davies	-	Somerset County Council
Cllr Dr Keen	-	Kilve Parish Council
Ms A Watts		
Ms C Collingridge		
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 Mr P Evans, Mr D Stokes, Mr D Prescott, Dr R MacGregor, Dr S Harrison, Mr K ter Braak, Mr M Short, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr Ms A Fraser, Mr S Crago, Mr P Chilcott, Ms N Dawson, and Cllr A Moore.
- 4 It was noted that Cllr John Edwards had resigned from the Group and was to be replaced by Cllr Stretton as representative of Spaxton Parish Council. It was understood that Cllr Edwards was seriously ill and Cllr Caswell undertook to write to him expressing members best wishes.
- 5 It was noted that Mrs J Brown had resigned from membership of the Group.
- 6 Cllr Caswell introduced Mr Ron Schroder who had been appointed as the Site Director for Hinkley Point A with effect from 1 September when the Cavendish Fluor Partnership became the parent body organisation for the Magnox sites.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 JULY 2014

(a) Accuracy

- 7 The minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2014 were approved as a correct record.

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

Hinkley Point B Reactor Core Graphite

- 8 In response to a commitment given at a previous meeting, Mr Higginson displayed samples of some of the graphite blocks which formed the cores of the Hinkley Point B reactors. He explained how the blocks were designed so that they all fitted together to form the core. Mr Higginson said that he had hoped to bring a sample of one of the blocks which formed the fuel channels but it had been too heavy for the vehicle which was being used to bring it to the meeting. He undertook to bring a sample of a fuel channel block to a future meeting.

Off Site Emergency Plan (para 24 refers)

- 9 It was noted that the off site emergency plan which was currently subject to revision was to be amended to reflect issues arising during recent exercises. It was understood that a revised plan would be issued by Somerset County Council before the end of the current year.

Review of Membership (para 28 refers)

- 10 Cllr Caswell said that he and Cllr Brown intended to keep the membership of this Group under continuing review and would propose actions, for example, in the event of nominated representatives of member organisations failing to attend meetings.

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 11 Mr Higginson reported on activities and performance at Hinkley Point B since the previous meeting of this group, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The station had maintained safe and successful operation throughout the period with both reactors at nominal full load except for periods of planned refuelling.
 - (ii) It was now almost eight years since the station had had a reportable nuclear event and over five years since the last environmental event.
 - (iii) There had been no recordable injuries at the power station since the previous meeting. The station had received a fifth consecutive President's Award from RoSPA in recognition of its continuing high standards of occupational safety performance.
 - (iv) Six new apprentices had been recruited and had undergone team building training together with new recruits from other power stations.

- (v) Eight operations training programmes had received re-certification against the objectives of the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations by an independent Training Standards Accreditation Board which included international representatives.
 - (vi) Hinkley Point A, B and C sites had jointly organised a family day for employees at the end of August. More than £1000 had been raised at the event for charity.
 - (vii) The station had completed its programme of emergency exercises including an exercise which demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the regulators, the station's arrangements for dealing with both radiological and security emergencies.
- 12 Cllr Garner asked whether, in view of current concerns regarding national margins of available generating capacity over potential demand for electricity, any consideration was being given to increasing the output of the B Station even if this would be at the expense of shortening future operating life. Mr Higginson emphasised that commercial considerations were always secondary to the overriding objective of maintaining high standards of nuclear safety. He said that the current operating regime was optimised to provide reliable continuous operation. Any change in this regime would require review of safety cases and approval of the regulator but this was not proposed. Steady reliable generation was a valuable contribution to the electricity generation system.
- 13 In reply to a question from Mr Debenham, Mr Higginson said that the current plant output rating represented 80% of the design intention. Steady operation at that level was consistent with proposed continued operation to 2023.
- 14 Cllr Ms Bown said she was pleased to hear of the good cooperation which existed between the station and the emergency services in relation to the exercise of emergency plans.
- 15 Mr Jeffrey referred to recent reports of a different type of cracking detected in graphite blocks at the Hunterston B power station and asked whether this type of cracking had been found at Hinkley Point B. Mr Higginson said that this type of cracking - keyway root cracking - had been predicted in the safety case to occur at Hunterston B within certain blocks due to their particular manufacture. Inspection results were consistent with those safety case predictions. No such cracking had been observed at Hinkley Point B. In response to further questions from Mr Jeffrey, Mr Higginson said that cracks in graphite blocks did not necessarily have an impact on operation of a reactor as the blocks within the core were fitted tightly together and bounded by a constraint system. The only potential for disturbance of a core with serious operational consequences would arise from a major seismic event. Super-articulated control rods and a nitrogen injection

system were being provided to address the operational aspects of such core disruption, even though this was extremely unlikely to occur.

- 16 Mr Jeffrey asked about the position in relation to permissible limits on graphite weight-loss. Mr Higginson said that the limits were not being approached at Hinkley Point B. He undertook to provide actual figures at the next meeting. He emphasised that graphite weight-loss was not consistent throughout the whole reactor but the effect was dependent upon conditions experienced in specific areas.
- 17 Cllr Ms Goss drew attention to continuing local concerns in relation to the speed of traffic travelling to and from the Hinkley Point site. She said that the situation was particularly bad in the late afternoon and particularly on the roads and lanes which linked to the main C182 station approach road. Mr Higginson said that the three sites worked together on this in collaboration with the police and action was taken in relation to any reported incidents.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A

- 18 Mr Schroder said that he had been appointed as A Site Director with effect from 1 September when the Cavendish Fluor Partnership had been given responsibilities as the parent body organisation for the Magnox Sites. He said that he had previously worked with the Fluor Corporation in the United States. He reported on activities at Hinkley Point A Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) After a period of seven years with no time lost from work as a result of an accident, there had been two injuries sustained by personnel working in the canteen area. In one accident the individual had caught a heel in the gap between the floor and the turnstiles which gave access to the site; in the other the individual had sustained a back injury whilst turning at work.
 - (ii) A warning letter had been received from the Environment Agency following an event in March when liquid leaking from a broken pipe had escaped via a damaged secondary containment. The environmental consequences were negligible but the event drew attention to the need for continued vigilance.
 - (iii) Good progress was being maintained with the ponds decontamination project. The Reactor 2 ponds had been drained and the surfaces decontaminated and fixed to prevent migration of contamination. Removal of water from the Reactor 1 pond was continuing and a concrete shaving tool was being used to remove contaminated concrete from the wall surfaces.

- (iv) Residual waste materials had been removed from Settling Tanks 1 and 2 and transferred to a further four ductile cast iron containers. There was now a total of 30 DCICs in the buffer store. Work had now been started on the removal of residual waste from Settling Tank 3; the nature of the waste in this tank meant that different techniques had to be used.
 - (v) Samples of fuel element debris were being retrieved from the Magnox wet vaults for characterisation and analysis. Mr Schroder said that the baseline plan for treatment of fuel element debris developed by Energy Solutions was for dissolution of the Magnox waste. The results of early operation of the Magnox dissolution plant installed at Bradwell were being reviewed and consideration was also being given to other possible approaches. There would be public consultation on any proposal to adopt an alternative approach.
 - (vi) The skip decontamination trials using a milling process had been completed and analysis of the material removed would be taken into account in considering future use of this technique by other sites. This process represented a major reduction in the volume of material which needed to be treated as radioactive waste. Arrangements were in hand for use of laser equipment for size reduction of skips prior to decontamination.
 - (vii) Asset management projects included the removal of redundant plant and buildings and the maintenance of structures and facilities required for the safety of personnel and for necessary protection from the weather.
 - (viii) Consideration was being given to the possibility of bringing forward work on the demolition of the Turbine Hall, currently scheduled for 2019, in order to avoid lorry movements associated with this work coinciding with a peak of lorry movements required for C station construction.
- 19 In reply to a question from Cllr Williams, Mr Schroder said that radiation dose rates at the top of the settling tanks had been less than 10µSv/hr.
- 20 In reply to a question from Mr Jeffrey on the timescale for construction of an intermediate level waste store, Mr Schroder said that this would be determined after a decision had been taken on the arrangements for the treatment of fuel element debris.
- 21 Referring to parking problems which he had seen during a visit to a nuclear plant under construction in France, Cllr Morgan emphasised the need for close cooperation between the three sites in relation to car parking. He suggested that park and ride arrangements for all staff would significantly improve the situation on local roads.

REPORT FROM THE EMERGENCY PLANNING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

- 22 A report on the meeting of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee held on 29 April had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Mr Higginson drew attention to the successful completion of the exercises of the off-site emergency plans.

DECC WHITE PAPER: IMPLEMENTING GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL

- 23 It was noted that this item would be addressed later in the meeting in the report from the Vice Chair.

ANNUAL REPORT ON RADIOACTIVE DISCHARGES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

- 24 A report on radioactive discharges and environmental monitoring at the Hinkley Point A Site and Hinkley Point B Power Station during 2013 had been made available to members at the previous meeting. There had been no questions raised by members on the report since that time.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- 25 Mr Fediw presented a report on the Environment Agency's monitoring and regulatory activities relating to the Hinkley Point A and B sites since the previous meeting. He outlined the nature and scope of the various inspections undertaken by the Agency and its meetings with the companies and other regulators. Referring to the warning letter issued to Hinkley Point A previously mentioned by Mr Schroder, he said that although the environmental impact of this event had been negligible, it had drawn attention to the fact that arrangements for maintenance of parts of the containment system were less than satisfactory.
- 26 Mr Fediw said that discharges of radioactivity from both sites had been well within the permitted limits and the results of environmental monitoring had been in line with expectations. He said that the Agency would be reviewing its independent environmental monitoring arrangements around all nuclear sites. The monitoring programme around Hinkley Point had been unchanged for a number of years and the review would ensure that in the light of changed circumstances at the sites the programme remained appropriate and proportionate to potential risks.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORTS

- 27 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.
- 28 Mr Wilson gave an outline of the inspections against Site Licence Conditions and other statutory requirements and the system inspections which had been carried out since the previous meeting. He said that the arrangements made and implemented in response to the safety requirements had been found to be adequate in the areas inspected.
- 29 In response to a question from Cllr Williams in relation to the super-articulated control rods, Mr Wilson confirmed that he had seen the relevant safety submissions and witnessed the manufacture of these components. He said that approximately half of them were currently installed and half were awaiting installation.
- 30 In response to a question from Mr Debenham, Mr Wilson said that ONR and EA inspectors worked closely together, carrying out joint inspections when appropriate.

REPORT FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 31 Mr Batters and Mr Jenkin reported on current NDA issues, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) NDA was convening a major supply chain event during the coming week.
 - (ii) Necessary consent had been received for electricity generation at Wylfa to continue until the end of 2015.
 - (iii) On successful completion of the NDA's competition process, Cavendish Fluor Partnership had become the parent body organisation for the Magnox and RSRL sites. Any changes to current decommissioning plans proposed by CFP would be considered within in a change control process.
 - (iv) Government funding had been received for the establishment of an engineering training centre on part of the Berkeley Centre site. A rig hall formerly used for research purposes was to be refurbished by South Gloucestershire and Stroud College to create a modern training facility meeting the needs of nuclear and renewable energy sectors.
- 32 In response to comments at various SSGs during the recent competition process, Mr Jenkin outlined the contract model for the management of the Magnox sites.

He explained that these arrangements allowed Magnox Ltd, as the enduring entity responsible for the day-to-day operation of the sites to hold the licences and permits issued by the regulators. The NDA, as the owner of the sites and associated assets and liabilities, allocated funding and contracted with the Site Licence Company. Upon completion of the competition process required by legislation, Cavendish Fluor Partnership had become the parent body organisation responsible for ensuring that contract obligations and targets were achieved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 33 Cllr Brown reported on meetings of the National Stakeholder Group which he and Cllr Caswell had attended together with representatives of all other SSGs. He referred to the process of share transfer to Cavendish Fluor Partnership on 1 September and to the commitment to open and transparent stakeholder engagement and socio-economic support signed at that time by NDA, CFP, Magnox and by Cllr Caswell on behalf of all SSGs. A copy of that commitment is attached to these minutes.
- 34 Cllr Brown reported that at an NSG meeting during the past week SSG representatives had received presentations on various subjects including the generic design assessment for proposed new reactor plant and the current state of proposals for a deep geological disposal for radioactive waste.
- 35 It was noted that Cllr Caswell had been reappointed as Chairman of the SSG Chairman's Forum.

INFANT AND PERINATAL MORTALITY IN SOMERSET

- 36 A report from Public Health England on infant and perinatal mortality in Somerset during the period 1995 to 2012 had been circulated to members. Members were able to raise any questions on this report with Ms Rolfe of Public Health England after the meeting.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- 37 Cllr Caswell left the meeting whilst the election of Chairman was discussed. Cllr Brown reported that a nomination had been received for Cllr Caswell to be Chairman of the Group for the coming year; no other nominations had been received. Proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Edney it was agreed that Cllr Caswell should be elected Chairman of this Group for the coming year.
- 38 Cllr Caswell rejoined the meeting and Cllr Brown left the meeting whilst the election of Deputy Chairman was discussed. Cllr Caswell reported that a nomination had been received for Cllr Brown to be Deputy Chairman of the Group for the coming year; no other nominations had been received. Proposed by

Cllr Carswell and seconded by Mr Debenham it was agreed that Cllr Brown should be elected Deputy Chairman of this Group for the coming year.

- 39 Cllr Edney expressed members appreciation of the work done on their behalf by Cllr Caswell and Cllr Brown in their roles as Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Group.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

No business.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 40 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group would be held on Friday 27 February 2015 at Hill House, Otterhampton.

MJD

6 November 2014