

**BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE AND OLDBURY ON SEVERN
POWER STATION SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS
MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING HELD AT THORNBURY GOLF
CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2014**

PRESENT:

Mr M Lynden (in the chair)	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr Mrs P Wride	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Cllr Mrs L Ashton	-	Stroud District Council
Rev R Avery		
Mr F I Baker	-	National Farmers Union
Cllr R Birch	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr Dr J Cordwell	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr D Dovey	-	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Assn of Parish and Town Councils
Dr L Hales	-	Co-opted member
Cllr P Hassell	-	Bristol City Council
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Cllr S Heaven	-	Tytherington Parish Council
Cllr Ms S Hunter	-	Olveston Parish Council
Cllr G Vaughan-Lewis	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr Mrs J Lyons	-	Olveston Parish Council
Cllr Ms H Priestley	-	Hamfallow Parish Council
Mr B Roberts	-	Thornbury Chamber of Commerce
Cllr J Sant	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Mr J Stanton	-	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr B Tipper	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Ms V Tutin	-	Olveston Parish Council

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr J Jenkin	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr P Dickenson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr P Reynolds	-	Environment Agency
Mr A Smith	-	Horizon Nuclear Power
Mr K Sato	-	Hitachi-GE Nuclear Energy
Dr L Hounsome	-	Public Health England
Ms C Johnson	-	Public Health England
Ms G Ellis-King	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr T Beasley	-	South Gloucestershire and Stroud College
Mr A Slaney	-	South Gloucestershire and Stroud College
Mr R Ledger	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr P Clarke	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms L Miles	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mrs E Vaughan Lewis	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr J McNally	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr A Neal	-	Berkeley Licensed Site
Ms M Kolodnytska	-	Berkeley Licensed Site
Ms E Rolfe	-	Berkeley Licensed Site

Ms G Coombs - Magnox
Ms H Edwards - Environment Agency
Ms S Postans - Horizon Nuclear Power
Mr B Delve
Mr W Gill
Mr Page
Mr S Rodliffe
Ms S Stagg
Ms L Hutchinson
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)

I WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

1 Mr Lynden welcomed members of the Oldbury and Berkeley Site Stakeholder Groups to the meeting which was being held jointly for the consideration of monitoring reports and other items of interest to both SSGs.

II APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Heaton, Ms D Bramley, Mr N Carmichael MP, Cllr S Chandler, Ms H Cook, Ms K Duane, Mr P Chilcott, Mr R Headley, Ms J Kempster, Cllr G Locke, Mr A Mitchell, Cllr J O'Neill, Cllr M Riddle, Cllr Ms F Shipston, Mr D Wride and Mr G Craig.

III MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2013

(a) Accuracy

3 The minutes of the joint meeting held on 12 November 2013 were approved as a correct record.

(b) Matters arising

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

IV MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON 30 AND 31 JULY 2014

(a) Accuracy

5 The minutes of the SSG meetings held on 30 July and 31 July 2014 were approved as correct records.

(b) Matters arising

6 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous SSG meetings.

V PUBLIC FORUM

7 Mr Lynden invited members of the public to raise any issues which might not arise in later discussions. No issues were raised.

VI SITE REPORTS

(a) NDA Update

8 Mr Jenkin reported on issues of current interest to the NDA, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) Government funding had been secured for the development of an engineering training centre on the Berkeley Centre site.
- (ii) A major supply chain event was to be held during the coming week.
- (iii) Consent had been received for electricity generation at Wylfa to continue until the end of 2015.
- (iv) NDA had taken the lead in organising a national risk management forum.
- (v) Following completion of the competition process, Cavendish Fluor Partnership had taken over as parent body organisation for the Magnox Sites with effect from 1 September. When completing the legal formalities all parties had entered into a commitment to maintain open engagement with stakeholders and provide socio-economic support in the areas around the Sites.
- (vi) The final flask of irradiated fuel had been despatched from Sizewell.

9 In response to requests at SSG meetings during discussions on the 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. Mr Jenkin said that the competition process had secured savings of £1.5 billion compared with previous plans.

10 In reply to questions from Cllr Hassell, Mr Jenkin and Mr Neal explained the incentives incorporated within NDA's contract with the parent body organisation intended to ensure that decommissioning target costs and timescales were achieved.

(b) Oldbury Site Update

11 Mr Ledger reported on current activities and issues at the Oldbury Site, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) The site had remained compliant with all Operating Rule limits and conditions and all Maintenance Schedule requirements.
- (ii) The station had hosted a number of visits and reviews examining standards of operations and maintenance. All responses had been positive and all findings were followed up in order to maintain continuous improvement.
- (iii) Both reactors remained permanently shut down and required no forced cooling for removal of residual decay heat.
- (iv) 50% of the fuel (amounting to 26,000 individual fuel elements) had now been removed from the reactors. With defuelling having been completed at Sizewell A, the company's priority was now on defuelling Oldbury. Flasks were being despatched from site at a rate of two or three per week and a further 170 flasks would be required to complete defuelling; it was anticipated that defuelling would be completed by early 2016. Removal of the fuel represented the removal of 99% of the radioactivity from the site.
- (v) Further hazard reduction work included the removal of the three Rolls-Royce gas turbines and their associated supply of fuel; the removal of bulk chemicals from the redundant main water treatment plant; and the removal of oil from various redundant transformers.
- (vi) The largest project on site currently was the installation of an alternative active effluent discharge line. It was planned that during December a "jack-up" barge would be positioned in the estuary to pull the new discharge pipe through the existing circulating water culvert.

(c) Berkeley Site Update

12 Mr Neal introduced himself as the Site Director of the Berkeley Site, appointed with effect from 1 September when Cavendish Fluor Partnership had become responsible as the parent body organisation. Mr Neal reported on activities at the Berkeley site, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) The site maintained its high standards of safety performance. The site's emergency and security arrangements had been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the regulators.
- (ii) Two large loads bringing major components for a waste retrieval system were to be delivered to site by road on

11 November. Mr Neal apologised for any inconvenience which this might cause.

- (iii) Following the removal of gravel which had been on the floor of the Chute Silo, components were being cut up within the silo.
- (iv) The vacuum drying equipment developed for removing moisture from wastes within ductile cast iron containers had been demonstrated to operate effectively.
- (v) Facilities were being provided on site for staff from Stroud College.
- (vi) Smelting of the material which formed the Berkeley power station boilers had now been completed. Most of the material had been released for reuse with a small percentage classified as radioactive waste being returned for disposal at the Low Level Waste Repository at Drigg.

13 In response to a question from Cllr Vaughan Lewis, Mr Neal said that the proposed date for entry into a care and maintenance state with no personnel remaining on-site at Berkeley was April 2021; Mr Ledger said that the equivalent date for Oldbury was 2027/28.

14 In reply to a question from Dr Hales on progress with the dissolution of Magnox fuel element debris, Ms Kolodnytska said that the plant at Bradwell was in operation but was working at a slower rate than had been hoped; future plans for treatment of Magnox fuel element debris remained under consideration.

(d) Office for Nuclear Regulation Update

15 Mr Dickenson reported on the ONR's inspection activities at the Berkeley and Oldbury sites. He outlined the programme of inspections which had been completed satisfactorily and said that staff at the sites were generally working effectively to improve safety. Mr Dickenson also described the measures taken with new equipment for processing radioactive waste which included checks during the manufacturing and installation processes to confirm that equipment worked effectively before consent was given for operation.

(e) Environment Agency

16 Mr Reynolds reported on the Environment Agency's inspection activities in relation to the Berkeley and Oldbury sites. He outlined the programme of inspections at both sites and said that no instances of non-conformance had been identified. Monitoring confirmed that all discharges of radioactivity were well within permitted levels.

(f) Environmental Monitoring Report

17 Mr Clarke and Ms Kolodnytska reported on the monitoring of discharges and radioactivity in the environment undertaken by Magnox. A report had previously been made available to members. Mr Clarke pointed out that monitoring in the area around the sites had been undertaken since 1959, before operations had commenced at either site. Regular reports of discharges of radioactivity from the sites submitted to the Environment Agency were available on public register and the results of the environmental monitoring undertaken by Magnox were consistent with the results of the Environment Agency's and the Food Standards Agency's independent monitoring programmes.

18 Mr Clarke said that a new type of instrument for measuring radiation exposure, a thermo luminescent dosimeter, was to be installed at locations around sites during the coming months; this change to replace existing monitoring arrangements was being made at all nuclear power station sites. He referred to the difficulty often experienced in obtaining sufficient supplies of local foodstuffs for monitoring purposes.

19 Ms Kolodnytska reported on the environmental monitoring relating to the Berkeley site. She pointed out that the reported discharges of Tritium and Carbon-14 from the former reactor buildings were estimates based upon known discharges in previous years and variations in atmospheric pressure and temperature. Measurements taken during an entry to one of the reactor buildings during the past year indicated that actual discharges were approximately one third of the predicted levels. She pointed out that following decontamination and smelting, approximately 95% of the materials from the former boilers had been recycled. She said it was possible that discharges from waste conditioning facilities would increase when new facilities were operated but the discharges would remain very low compared with permitted limits.

VII UPDATE ON GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL

20 Consideration of this item was deferred as there had been no representative from Radioactive Waste Management available to attend the meeting.

VIII PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND

21 Referring to a report to this Group by Dr Julia Verne some years ago, Dr Hounsome provided an update on monitoring of the incidence of cancers in areas surrounding the power station sites. The areas monitored were at various distances from the site and comparisons were drawn with other areas. Dr Hounsome said that from the monitoring it could be concluded that the incidence of cancers and mortality associated with the disease in areas in the vicinity of the site were the same or less than the average in the South-West of England. He said that some reported increases were associated with a greater level of screening; this effect was apparent in all areas. From this monitoring he concluded that the population in areas around the power station sites was not exposed to any increased risk of cancers.

22 In reply to a question from Cllr Dovey, Dr Hounsome said that data was collected on the incidence of cancers in South Wales. He undertook to establish what information was available and arrange for it to be sent to Cllr Dovey.

IX HORIZON NUCLEAR POWER UPDATE

23 Mr Smith and Mr Sato reported on activities of Horizon Nuclear Power in relation to the development of a new nuclear power station at Oldbury and in particular to the progress of the generic design assessment for the Hitachi Advanced Boiling Water Reactor. The following points were noted during discussion:

- (i) Horizon regarded Wylfa as their lead site for development. Currently they were carrying out pre-application public consultation for that site. It was envisaged that plant at Wylfa would become operational during the period 2020-2025.
- (ii) It was envisaged that construction at Oldbury would start after completion of construction of Wylfa.
- (iii) The Hitachi ABWR was operating safely and reliably in other countries and further plants were under construction. Hitachi had demonstrated that they were capable of building plants to time and budget.
- (iv) The generic design assessment had to be completed successfully before consent could be given for development. It was envisaged that it would be completed for the ABWR by the end of 2017.
- (v) The ABWR was a modern design which incorporated many improvements from earlier designs. Lessons learned from the Fukushima accident had also been incorporated. Whilst the system used a direct cycle with steam from the reactor passing through the turbine, radioactivity within the circuit during operation decayed within a few minutes of reactor shutdown.
- (vi) Proposals had been developed for major items required during the construction of Wylfa to be delivered by sea. It was envisaged that similar arrangements would be made for Oldbury.
- (vii) Grid system infrastructure improvements would be needed for a new station at Oldbury. Sea defences and site levels would need to be raised. The design would incorporate the use of cooling towers but it was envisaged that these would be of the hybrid type, the height of which would be similar to that of the existing reactor buildings.

24 In reply to questions from Mr Stanton, Mr Smith said that the plant design would be determined at the end of the generic design assessment process.

At that stage it would be possible to assess construction costs and future prices for the sale of its electricity. The major components for an ABWR would be manufactured in Japan and transported to site but it was envisaged that some 70% of the total cost of construction would be spent in the UK.

25 In reply to a question on Horizon's intentions in relation to the former Windbound site, Mr Smith said he hoped that it would be possible to demolish the buildings during the coming year and make appropriate improvements to car parking.

26 Mr Smith said that he would be happy to come to future meetings of this Group and report on progress. He envisaged that some form of project liaison group with representation of members of the local public would be established in due course.

IX NSG REPORT

27 Cllr Stanton, Cllr Mrs Wride and Mr Lynden reported on their attendance at a recent meeting of the National Stakeholder Group. Issues discussed included the development of the NDA's strategy and current position in relation to the development of a deep geological disposal facility.

X ANY OTHER BUSINESS

28 Mr Beasley explained the background to plans for the establishment of an engineering skills centre on part of the former Berkeley Centre site. £5 million of government funding had been secured for the development of the facility by South Gloucestershire and Stroud College. Consultation on the planning submission was about to start. It was envisaged that training courses would commence on site in September 2016; some staff would be located there during the coming year. Mr Beasley acknowledged the strong support for the project shown by Cllr Mrs Wride and the Berkeley SSG.

X DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT JOINT MEETING

29 It was noted that the next meetings of the Oldbury and Berkeley SSGs were scheduled to be held on 28 January 2015. The times and venues for these meetings would be confirmed in due course.

MJD
20 November 2014