

**OLDBURY ON SEVERN POWER STATION
SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE OLDBURY CONFERENCE
CENTRE ON THURSDAY 31 JULY 2014**

PRESENT:

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| Mr M Lynden (in the chair) | - | Oldbury on Severn Parish Council |
| Cllr R Birch | - | Forest of Dean District Council |
| Cllr C Evers | - | Glos Assoc of Parish & Town Councils |
| Dr L Hales | - | Co-opted member |
| Cllr P Hassell | - | Bristol City Council |
| Cllr M Hawkins | - | Aust Parish Council |
| Cllr G Vaughan-Lewis | - | Alkington Parish Council |
| Mr J McNally | - | Staff Representative |
| Cllr J O'Neill | - | South Gloucestershire Council |
| Cllr M Riddle | - | South Gloucestershire Council |
| Mr J Stanton | - | Vice-Chair, Berkeley SSG |
| Cllr Mrs P Wride | - | Chair, Berkeley SSG |

IN ATTENDANCE:

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Ms K Anderson | - | Nuclear Decommissioning Authority |
| Mr P Dickenson | - | Office for Nuclear Regulation |
| Mr P Reynolds | - | Environment Agency |
| Mr R Payne | - | Radioactive Waste Management Ltd |
| Ms G Ellis-King | - | South Gloucestershire Council |
| Mr R Ledger | - | Oldbury on Severn Power Station |
| Ms L Miles | - | Oldbury on Severn Power Station |
| Mrs E Vaughan-Lewis | - | Oldbury on Severn Power Station |
| Ms G Coombs | - | Communications Officer |
| Mr P Chilcott | - | EHS&Q Site Inspector |
| Ms S Stagg | - | James Reed PR |
| Ms C Johnson | - | Public Health England |
| Mr A Smith | - | Horizon Nuclear Power |
| Ms K Duane | - | Cavendish Fluor Partnership |
| Mr A Neal | - | Cavendish Fluor Partnership |
| Ms A Payne | - | Stroud Green Party |
| Ms B Brown | - | Stroud Green Party |
| Mr G P Simms | | |
| Mr A Mitchell | | |
| Ms L Hutchinson | | |
| Mr M J Davis (Secretary) | | |

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- 1 Mr Lynden welcomed everyone to this meeting of the Oldbury on Severn Site Stakeholder Group. He extended a particular welcome to those who were attending a meeting of this Group for the first time.

- 2 Mr Lynden drew members' attention to the recent death of Mr Bernard Willcox, a long-standing member of this Group; Mr Lynden expressed members' appreciation of Bernard's contribution to the work of this Group and his long service to the nuclear industry.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 3 Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Heaton, Ms D Bramley, Ms H Cook, Cllr D Dovey, Mr J Jenkin, Mr S Rodliffe and Cllr Ms F Shipston.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) Accuracy

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

(b) Matters arising

- 5 There were no matters arising from the minutes.

PUBLIC FORUM

- 6 Mr Lynden invited members of the public to raise any issues which might not arise in discussion later in the meeting. No issues were raised.

QUARTERLY REPORTS

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

- 7 Ms Anderson reported on current NDA issues, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) NDA had launched a new website setting out information on the UK inventory of radioactive waste.
 - (ii) The NDA's annual report and accounts was available on the website. A report on progress against key programmes and projects in the Business Plan had also been published and was available on the website.
 - (iii) Radioactive Waste Management Ltd had developed an issues register to manage any issues raised by regulators and stakeholders in relation to the development of a geological disposal facility.
 - (iv) Consideration of options for optimisation of intermediate level waste storage and fuel element debris treatment was in abeyance during the period of transition in order to review how the identified preferred options aligned with proposals put forward by the parent body organisation Preferred Bidder.

- (v) A major supply chain event was to be held in November.
 - (vi) Government funding had been secured to refurbish facilities at the former Berkeley Centre for use as a training and skills centre with focus on the renewable energy and nuclear sectors.
- 8 Mr Payne, 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 Payne 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 "volunteerism" remained central to the process of site selection but formal discussions with potential host communities would not start until these actions set out in the White Paper were completed. He anticipated that these actions would be completed in approximately 2 years.
- 10 Mr Payne 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.

Site Director's Report

- 11 Mr Lynden expressed congratulations to Magnox Ltd on the award of RoSPA's Sir George Earle Trophy. He said that this was the most prestigious award presented by RoSPA for occupational health and safety performance.
- 12 Mr Ledger reported on recent activities at the Oldbury site, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The Site had maintained compliance with all Operating Rule limits and conditions and all Maintenance Schedule requirements.
 - (ii) During the past week an accident had occurred which had resulted in time lost from work. A member of staff attending an outdoor course in the Forest of Dean had jarred his back when his foot fell into a hole in the ground.
 - (iii) A significant near miss had occurred when a piece of auxiliary lifting equipment had fallen from the pile cap crane. The equipment, weighing some 18 kg, had become detached when the crane was being moved and had fallen to the pile cap. No one had been in the vicinity at the time and no one was injured but the event was taken very seriously and was being thoroughly investigated.

- (iv) A Flatrol railway wagon used for transporting a fuel flask carrying spent nuclear fuel from the Site had been found, when monitored at Sellafield, to have small fragments of contaminated debris which had originated from the Oldbury cooling ponds. These three small fragments of metallic debris appeared to have been stuck under the foot of the flask. In that position it would not have been possible for any member of the public to gain access to the debris during transit. This significant event had been investigated thoroughly and a number of actions taken to prevent any possible recurrence. Mr Dickenson said that consideration of the circumstances of this event by ONR indicated that it might have been appropriate to issue an Improvement Notice. It had been decided instead to deal with this matter in the form of a Warning letter to the Site but any such event in the future would result in the issue of an Improvement Notice.
- (v) A demonstration exercise of the Site's emergency arrangements had taken place during the day before this meeting.
- (vi) Defuelling at Sizewell A was now complete and priority was being given to the allocation of transport flasks for defuelling the Oldbury reactors. Despatches were now taking place at a rate of 2–3 flasks per week. Subject to continued satisfactory performance of the reprocessing plant at Sellafield, defuelling should be completed within 18 months.
- (vii) For the first time consignments of irradiated fuel were being transported by rail in mixed loads with radioactive waste materials from the RSRL site at Harwell.
- (viii) The trial use of a mobile water treatment plant had been completed successfully. This allowed the main water treatment plant to be declared non-operational and hazardous materials associated with that plant to be removed.
- (ix) Redundant circulating water plant was being cleaned out and left in a safe state in readiness for future decommissioning. This work would also facilitate the installation of the alternative effluent discharge pipeline; work on this was due to start in the autumn.
- (x) Demolition of the redundant mobile crane store had yielded some 39 tonnes of metal for recycling.
- (xi) During the period of transition good progress was being made with the transfer of knowledge to nominees of the new parent body organisation.

13 In reply to a question from Cllr Birch, Ms Anderson said that the introduction of competition for the management of the Site Licence Companies had been a requirement of the Energy Act 2004. Mr Lynden said that the competitive tendering process had identified significant potential savings in costs of decommissioning.

- 14 In relation to reports of “near miss” events, Mr Simms, who during his career in the industry had been Station Manager at Oldbury, commented that extra vigilance was required at times of significant organisational change to ensure that high standards were maintained and that individuals’ attention was not distracted. Managers within the industry were well aware of this. Mr Chilcott referred to the role of the EHS&Q Site Inspectors in providing independent assurance; he referred also to the steps being taken to ensure that incoming personnel nominated by the new parent body organisation were adequately trained and briefed in advance of taking up their responsibilities.
- 15 In reply to questions from Cllr Riddle on the fuel flask event, Mr Ledger explained that the fragments of contaminated debris were probably picked up on the foot of the flask when it was placed in the cooling pond. After being filled with irradiated fuel, flasks were washed down, inspected and monitored. It appeared that these debris fragments had been pressed into the foot of the flask and had been missed by subsequent visual inspection and radiological monitoring. Ms Miles said that since the event monitoring practices and procedures had been reviewed and revised to ensure that there could be no recurrence of such an event.
- 16 Cllr Hassell commented that decommissioning was a significant part of the industrial history of the site and asked whether any steps were being taken to provide a permanent record of the work which was being done. He suggested that action was necessary to preserve materials which could form a local archive. Cllr Riddle undertook to enquire whether Thornbury Museum might be able to offer advice or assistance.

Office for Nuclear Regulation

- 17 Mr Dickenson introduced his report on ONR inspection and regulatory activities relating to the Oldbury Nuclear Licensed Site during the previous quarter; copies of the report had previously been made available to members. He drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) A specialist transport inspector had provided assistance in relation to the fuel transport flask event.
 - (ii) The exercise of the emergency arrangements on the day prior to this meeting had provided challenging circumstances to be faced by personnel. Performance had been generally satisfactory but some areas for improvement and further training had been identified; Mr Dickenson and a colleague would follow up these issues.
 - (iii) Mr Dickenson had reviewed the company’s investigation of the fuel flask event and was satisfied that the actions being taken would eliminate the possibility of a repeat event.
 - (iv) ONR was engaging in a public consultation on its future strategy in the years 2015 – 2020. Comments from groups or individuals would be

welcome during the consultation period which ended on 6 October. Comments could be made on the ONR website.

- 18 Cllr Evers acknowledged the excellent performance achieved by Oldbury power station during its operational life. He asked whether there was any evidence that personnel at this site or any other found difficulty in adjusting to different roles after electricity generation ceased. Mr Dickenson said there was always a danger of complacency when good performance was achieved but he acknowledged the significant efforts made by the site management team to ensure that high standards were maintained. He said that he had inspected cooling pond activities some six months previously and said it would have been difficult to anticipate this particular issue with this flask; the issues only became apparent after the event. It was for the Site to maintain efforts to implement improvements to ensure that this could not happen in future. Mr Simms commented that managers on Sites were driven, not by regulatory pressure, but by their own professionalism to ensure that high standards were maintained; personnel on Sites responded to the attitudes and behaviours displayed by their managers. He said that this gave assurance that safe operations would be maintained whether in operation or decommissioning.
- 19 Cllr Vaughan-Lewis commented that the procedures for the filling and despatch of a fuel flask were exactly the same now as they were during plant operation; this was not an activity specific to decommissioning. Mr Ledger said that the cooling ponds at Oldbury had generally been very clean but over a period of years there had been an imperceptible change which had allowed debris to accumulate. The pond had now been cleaned and was in pristine condition.

Environment Agency

- 20 Mr Reynolds presented a report from the Environment Agency which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. He drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) The Agency had accepted the evidence of a Best Available Techniques assessment that the delay in installing a new active effluent discharge pipeline would have no significant effect on the environment or members of the public.
 - (ii) A survey 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 PBO TRANSITION

- 21 Mr Lynden reported on a recent meeting with Energy Solutions at which the company had emphasised its continuing responsibilities until the end of August and its efforts to secure a smooth handover to Cavendish Fluor partnership. In

correspondence with Mr Baldwin, Mr Lynden had expressed thanks for the help and support given to this SSG by Energy Solutions.

CONSULTATION ON GDA OF NEW REACTOR DESIGN

- 22 Mr Lynden drew members' attention to the fact that ONR and the Environment Agency had started their process of generic design assessment of the advanced boiling water reactor (ABWR) of Hitachi-GE Nuclear Energy Ltd. Mr Smith, representing Horizon Nuclear Power, explained the background to the choice of the ABWR reactor design and said that information on the design and the generic design assessment process was accessible via the following website: <http://www.hitachi-hgne-uk-abwr.co.uk/>. He said that this website also provided an opportunity to submit comments on the reactor design for consideration within the regulators' assessment process.
- 23 Mr Lynden said that there would be opportunities for further discussion on this matter at the next meeting. Cllr Evers emphasised the importance of any consultation events which might be organised being held in the local area where people affected by the facility could be given information on any concerns they might have.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 24 At the suggestion of Cllr Riddle, Mr Lynden agreed that it might be appropriate to consider views on the potential end state of the site at the meeting of this group scheduled for January 2015.

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 Berkeley Licensed Site SSG, was scheduled to be held on Wednesday 29 October 2014 although it was pointed out that this might need to be changed in view of a meeting being organised by the NDA for all SSG chairmen.

MJD
8 August 2014