

Minutes of the Wylfa Site Stakeholder Group held on

Thursday 21 May 2015 in the Information Centre Classroom

Present:

Mr Stuart Law	Site Director Magnox Wylfa
Mrs Karin White	Magnox SSG Secretariat
Aled Williams	Waste Manager, Magnox
Mrs Lowri Joyce	Magnox Communications Officer
Mr Derek Jones	Magnox Emergency Preparedness Officer
Dr Fred Brookes	Magnox Magnox E H S S & Q Manager Wylfa
Mr M Saunderson	SJC Representative, Wylfa Site
Mr Mark Ellsworth	Magnox Health Physics and Chemistry
Mr Tim Poole	CPRW
Cllr A Rowlands	Isle of Anglesey County Council – Seiriol Ward
Cllr K P Hughes	Isle of Anglesey County Council – Talybolion Ward
Cllr LI M Huws	Isle of Anglesey County Council – Talybolion Ward
Cllr Aled M Jones	Isle of Anglesey County Council – Twrcelyn Ward (SSG Chair)
Cllr John Griffith	Isle of Anglesey County Council – Talybolion Ward
Cllr William T Hughes	Isle of Anglesey County Council – Twrcelyn Ward
Dr John Idris Jones	Energy Island Project Manager and Magnox Wylfa Site (part time)
Ms Carol Saretti	Energy Island Programme Office
Cllr J Dobson	Llanbadrig Community Council
Cllr J H Jones	Mechell Community Council
Cllr G W Roberts	Amlwch Town Council (SSG Vice Chair)
Fiona Clyne	Cefas
Alistair Dewar	Cefas
Rona Arkle	Environment Agency
Sarah Wallace	Environment Agency
Paul Wright	Natural Resources Wales
Roy Chape	Dwr Cymru
PCSO Katy Hughes	North Wales Police
Mr Geraint Hughes	North Wales Fire and Rescue
Mr H Jordan	Federation of Small Businesses, Glan Rhos Garage
Ms Annette Jones	Womens Institute
Mrs Jean Jones	Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones
Mr E T Morris	Deputy Headteacher Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones
Mr Roger Dobson	Member of Public
Mr Gordon Warren	Bull Bay Residents' Committee
Lowri Gwyn	Cymen – Simultaneous Translation
Guto Ifan	Cymen – Minute Taking

Apologies

Mr Albert Owen	Member of Parliament for Ynys Môn
Mr Rhun ap Iorwerth	Assembly Member
Mr Richard Parry Jones	Interim Chief Executive – Isle of Anglesey County Council
Mr Dylan Williams	Head of Economic Development – Isle of Anglesey County Council



Cllr Richard Owain Jones	Isle of Anglesey County Council – Twrcelyn Ward
Cllr Val Roberts	Amlwch Town Council
Mr Dave Clarke	ONR Civil Nuclear Security
Michelle Humphreys	Magnox
Mrs Jan Milburn	Magnox Decommissioning Manager Wylfa
Cllr Huw Morris Jones	Cylch-y-Garn Community Council
Cllr Elfed Jones	Llanbadrig Community Council
Mr R Foxhall	Horizon Nuclear Power
Mr Keith Williams	Head of Joint Resilience Unit, Welsh Ambulance NHS Trust
Mr Thomas Conway	Wylfa Retirees Association
Mr Steve Roberts	Local Resident
Mr Peter Harrup	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr Alan Smith	Horizon Nuclear Power
Ms Heidi Williams	Farmers Union of Wales
PC Louise Evans	North Wales Police
Mrs Helen Grove White	Anglesey Arts Forum
Mr Robin Grove White	Menter Mechell
Mr John Jones	National Farmers Union
Mrs Gwyneth Jones	Merched Y Wawr
Dr Derek Gadson	Member of the Public
Mr Gwyn Hughes	Emergency Planning Officer, North Wales Councils
Mr Mel O Hara	Local Resident/Member of the Waste Sub Group
Mr Richard Cowell	Magnox

1. Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting with the sad news that since the last meeting in November Mr Isgoed Williams OBE the chairman of the Trawsfynydd Site Stakeholder Group had passed away, he had been a longstanding member of the group for many years and as a mark of respect members stood for a minutes silence.

A warm welcome was extended to everyone and a special welcome to those attending for the first time.

Stuart Law advised members that stand downs had been held today for Magnox staff to cascade voluntary severance and transition arrangements. Across Magnox over the next 17 month period it is expected that the workforce will decrease by 1,600 – 1,700.

Stuart Law emphasised that although Magnox were looking to reduce the workforce, safe, compliant operation would be maintained at Wylfa. He explained that it wouldn't be a case of lots of people leaving today but rather an opportunity for a small group of people. He also explained that there was an opportunity for staff reskilling within the new Parent Body Organisation. Wylfa will be going through a separate transition later this year from when the site ceases generation and enters defuelling. He emphasised that it is important to keep people focussed on the job during this difficult period.

Arthur Jones asked if the decrease was in Wales sites only or did it cover the whole company? Stuart Law replied that the figure given was for the whole company

The chairman went on to apologise that the April meeting had to be re arranged to today, this was due to the non-attendance of the NDA at public meetings during the purdah period leading up to the general election, this had affected all of the Magnox sites.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 13 November meeting

There were no changes to the minutes of the previous meeting and they were proposed by Cllr William T Hughes and Seconded by Gareth Winston Roberts.

3. Matters arising from the previous minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

4. Site Director's Report

Stuart Law reported some issues that had happened on site recently. At the end of December three valves were found in the closed position on the Gas Circulator diffuser support pad cooling systems when they should've been open. Following this, a review of the routine plant monitoring was carried out, for the purpose of increasing accountability for completion of checks.

Due to poor sealing of the cut off valves, a justification for continued operation was presented to the Nuclear Safety Committee. The Company has also carried out an independent review of site operations and the site is responding with an improvement plan. During normal refuelling operations there had been a problem retrieving fuel, following a cool-down period remote camera inspections took place to investigate, the fuel was removed as it was slightly bent, there was no fault found with the fuel. We are continuing to make conservative decisions as the station reaches the end of its life.

There had also been an incident where a quantity of Reactor Auxiliary Cooling Water was released, where an operator left a valve in the open position. The problem was contained within the Reactor Building but should not have happened. The operator should have discussed the process with the Team Leader or the Shift Charge Engineer, but failed to do so, which compounded the problem, and so it was a procedural issue, not a mechanical one.

He said that a group of independent people had been invited to look around the site for a review, which was a mixture of other people in the company and members of the safety committee, who would then compile a report and an action plan would be devised. The site returned to power and long standing boiler leaks were fixed, which is not an abnormal occurrence. The Reactor is on nominal full power as the end of operation approaches. The amount of reactivity in the fuel decreases, and no new fuel has been delivered since 2011. At the end of the fuel cycle there is likely to be a reduction in power.

A quantity of Desiccant was sent off site recently which is the first ever shipment of Intermediate Level Waste to leave site for final disposal. The fuel records system which is used to monitor the tracking of fuel around the site is being reviewed as several software errors had been identified.

It was confirmed that the plan was to remove the CNC (Civil Nuclear Constabulary) by the end of April 2016. This release was subject to regulatory approval.

Once the site comes to the end of its generating phase we will be looking to end the operation of the Information centre and cafe which will mean that these facilities will be unavailable to both Magnox staff and members of the public. Arthur Jones asked if the valves were manually operated and what would have been the worst case scenario

Stuart Law replied that the valves are there in case of a failure of the Reactor Vessel pipework, which would then allow the Pressure Vessel Cooling Water pipework to become pressurised. At the time, we presented a safety case to the safety committee for comment relating to this event.

Arthur Jones asked why the valves on the cooling system had closed, and was it due to wear rather than mechanical failure.

Stuart Law said that it was not a mechanical error, but could not be sure what the reasons for the valves closing were. The system now has alarms in place to avoid a repeat event. Ken Hughes expressed his concerns, while this was a human error event, were the procedures in place not robust enough to notice this sooner.

Stuart Law replied that on a monthly basis the Plant Manager will review the procedures in place. Arthur Jones asked for an update on the inter reactor transfer fuelling issues mentioned at the previous meeting, had the slightly bent elements now been taken out of the Reactor? Stuart Law advised that all the elements had now been removed from the channel and both the channel and the elements were okay.

5. SSG Chairman's Report

The Chair spoke about the activities he had undertaken since the last meeting.

On the 29 April he met with a member of the Magnox Executive team at Gloucestershire for an emergency meeting to discuss Magnox Socio Economic Scheme issues, which would be covered in the Socio Economic Update later on in the meeting (No9 on the Agenda).

He also spoke about the next comprehensive spending review, regarding the next funding phase for the decommissioning work, and that the last Government felt it was a moral obligation to spend healthily on decommissioning, and that it remains to be seen whether the new Conservative Government would keep to this. The figures were expected to be released in the Autumn. Uniform systems were being adopted across all sites between August 2015 and March 2016.

There were no questions from members.

6. Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Update

Jonathan Jenkin firstly apologised that only the April update was available, the May update had been cancelled. Due to Purdah, there was more sensitivity than usual as to how the NDA could communicate in the period leading up to the General Election.

A major step in the Sellafield decommissioning process had taken place, which was the first removal of old radioactive sludge. These were trials, with the sludge taken from one of the site's old legacy fuel ponds, before the main retrieval works which are due to start in April 2016. This is a crucial step, and there are many challenges involved, as there is 1500 cubic metres of sludge to be removed, but the water has to be kept to provide a radioactive shield for the stored nuclear fuel.

Mr Jenkin also spoke about the NDA's business plan for 2015/16 which has just been published. As well as the spending and income plans for the year ahead, it also contains a list of general targets for the next 20 years and a list of activities over the next 3 years. The full plan can be seen on their website.

The NDA have recently been given the go ahead for a nuclear archive, and Mr Jenkin said that planning permission had now been granted for the facility, which is to be based in Scotland. The building work is to be completed by the end of 2016, and will include over 70 years of information about the UK's nuclear industry, including up to 30 million digital records.

Next, Mr Jenkin spoke about the target that the Government had set to itself and all public bodies, which was that they must spend at least 20% of their annual expenditure with Small and Medium-sized Enterprises. The NDA had achieved this target, with at least 21% of its spend with SMEs, and the Government has increased the target to 25% by the end of the current Parliament, a figure which the NDA is ahead of, and confident it will be met. The workforce transition scheme has also been a success story. The scheme, which was launched to support workers who would be losing their jobs due to the decrease in employment at Trawsfynydd and Wylfa, and provided them with career coaching, has seen over 1,400 workers sign up, well over the target of 1,200. It is called Shaping the Future, and is funded by the NDA, the European Social Fund through the Welsh Government, and Gwynedd and Anglesey County Councils.

The NDA will be going out to public consultation as part of the review of its strategy, a review is done every 5 years under the Energy Act. The final document will be subject to approval by UK and Scottish ministers. Members were encouraged to submit their feedback during the consultation period.

Questions

Gordon Warren asked about the 1,500 cubic metres of sludge, what will be done with it once it leaves the first generation Magnox storage pond and how will it be stored longer term. Also was the sludge that was to be removed high level waste? Mr Jenkin replied that it wasn't, and that it was intermediate level waste. The ponds are spent fuel from Magnox sites, cleaning this and other silos as well is a very complex engineering task to do.

Arthur Jones asked if there was a final end date for the Sellafield decommissioning process, to which the answer was yes, and that the plant is due to close down in 2020, however the full decommissioning process would last for decades longer, up to 110 years. There are issues that the Government need to decide on, but the Wylfa lifetime plan goes on to 2150. Arthur Jones went on to mention that at a previous SSG meeting a few years ago it was stated that Wylfa fuel needs to be at Sellafield by 2020. Stuart Law explained that this was a different question which is for the regulators to decide. The chair reminded that there were numerous facilities at Sellafield. Arthur asked how many other sites were using Magnox fuel. Stuart explained that once Wylfa is shut down, there will be none.

Jonathan went on to explain that the aim was to get all the fuel from Wylfa by 2018.

7. Update from Wylfa SSG Waste Sub-Group

The chair welcomed Aled Williams to the meeting who took over from Mark Thornton in March 2015 as Waste Manager. Aled Williams spoke briefly about his time with the company, explaining that he had been part of its operations work since 1978, working in the control room and in the engineering side of things, amongst other roles. He is now in the Waste Manager role. He had been the Defuelling Manager for a few years, and had recently been on a secondment with WANO (World Association of Nuclear Operators), whose primary emphasis is on achieving the highest possible standards of nuclear safety. He had

learned a great deal about the standards that they expect, and he would now bring those standards to the Wylfa Site. He noted that Wylfa had a good reputation already.

The highlight in the waste arena recently was the availability of funding for the first shipment of Intermediate Level Waste to be taken off site, which was good teamwork by everyone involved.

Arthur Jones asked where had the dessicant gone and how will it be processed? Aled Williams explained that the disposal strategy had changed, it was now a wash and burn process with the ILW being washed at Winfrith and burned at Fawley. Arthur sought reassurance that Dessicant wouldn't be stored at Wylfa anymore. Aled W confirmed that no it wouldn't but there is more in the Reactor. Arthur asked if this is all the ILW on site? Aled W replied that it wasn't but a small amount will be dealt with as we go forward.

8. Emergency Planning Consultative Committee Report

Fred Brookes discussed the full Emergency Exercise program that had been carried out, along with an additional exercise this year which involved Beyond Design Basis training exercises, culminating in an observed exercise on the 11th of September 2014 . The ONR were there to observe, and they stated that they were confident that the correct equipment was being used and that they were being deployed properly.

The annual fire drills test was carried out for the second year, and the drills were completed during out of hours and normal hours and were unannounced. The response was judged to be good, and better than the previous year.

Maentwrog site's exercise in March had been one of command and control involving the small team based at the site.

On the Wednesday before the meeting, a counter terrorist exercise was carried out with the ONR-CNS in attendance. The drill involved a demonstration of the sites counter terrorist arrangements including CNC's response to such an incident, and the deployment of the EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal). This was a challenging scenario, done out of hours, and the ONR said that it was a well performed exercise and was satisfied with how everyone responded.

Commercial operation at Wylfa is due to end in December 2015. The site will then enter a period of Bulk Defueling in April 2016, which, in concurrence with the end of generation, will reduce the hazard profile of the site significantly. This means that a change in the Emergency Scheme Arrangements will be appropriate, which will correspond to the reduction in hazard. Meetings and discussions have already started with the emergency services. With the end of generation, and the shift to the defueling phase, there will be less of a need for the rapid deployment of advance emergency teams, as the local emergency services should be able to deal with the new timescales and fault magnitudes. As part of the changes to the arrangements it is likely that CNC will withdraw from the site.

There were no questions from members

9. Socio Economic Scheme Update and Socio Economic Development Plan 2015-2018 Consultation

Lowri Joyce gave apologies on behalf of Michelle Humphreys and said that it has been agreed that the Magnox Socio Economic scheme will continue across all 12 sites. A socio

economic panel will be reviewing the good neighbour applications made up of site representatives and the SSG chair, each site will be allocated £6,000 per financial year.

A M Jones said that he was concerned that the total funding awarded to the 26 organisation had surpassed £16,000, considering the budget for Wylfa going forward was £6,000. An emergency meeting had been held on 30 April with the Magnox executive and the SSG Chair and Vice Chair of Chairs, the Executive had promised that they would look again at the funding process, as all of the funding isn't always used fully at all of the sites. However he urged organisations to apply, as on the whole the scheme is very successful.

A two week cycling festival commences on Anglesey; the Tour De Mon on 30 August followed by The Tour of Britain on the 6th of September 2015. The NDA is supporting this with £60,000 Magnox Socio Economic Scheme funding. The Tour of Britain starts in Beaumaris and will be shown live on ITV, giving the region and the whole of North Wales 3-4 hours of television exposure, and if this is done correctly, there could be more cycling festivals, which are always a great boost for the local economy.

10. Cefas - 2013 RIFE Report and Wylfa habit surveys

The chair welcomed Fiona Clyne and Alastair Dewar from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science on behalf of the Food Standards Agency who gave members a presentation on the Radiological Habits Surveys undertaken in 2013. These surveys were used in the RIFE report 19 and is available on the Cefas website.

Over 350 local people assisted with the survey and both Fiona and Alastair wished to thank them via this group for their time.

11. Open Forum Question and Answer Session

There were no questions

12. Any other business

The ONR Site Inspector apologised that the ONR slot was not on the Agenda - he had originally not been available to attend due to the change to the meeting date - he went on to say that the Site Director had already covered most of the content of the ONR report for the last quarter.

The ONR had recognised the significance of the diffuser support pad incident not that it would have harmed the public but for the mistakes that it had flagged up. A specialist inspector attended site to review human performance. No further actions arose, the ONR will continue to monitor the site as they close out the actions.

The RACW water leak investigations are continuing and the ONR are waiting for site to complete them they will jointly look at this event with the Environment Agency. It is worth noting the positive side to the incident in identifying weaknesses in the interpretation of procedures. The ONR have asked the site to put in place an Operations Improvement Programme and additional work to guarantee nuclear safety during the final months of generation and as the site goes forward to the defuelling period.

The conclusion was that there has been no disregard to the safety culture on the site, and that all staff are totally focused on safety, and not letting the uncertainty of their futures get in

the way of their duties. The chair thanked the ONR inspector for being totally transparent and independent.

Arthur Jones asked about the Dry Store Cell 1 problem that had been mentioned in the ONR report from a regulatory perspective. Stuart Law explained the interlock system was not working, the worst case scenario would have been that the Pile Cap Co2 alarms would have been set off.

The ONR inspector added that the reporting criteria is that of 1 week for site to let us know and that he was satisfied that site know what they are doing.

Arthur Jones asked about the problem with the fuel records system. ONR explained that it was part of the safeguards system. Stuart law answered that the calculations were not correct which gave a small percentage error which would have a knock on effect on Sellafield's waste streams. Arthur went on to ask about the fuel rods that had not been found. Stuart Law explained that it was thought that we had sent them off site – but that they were now back in the fuel records system.

The Vice Chair Gareth Winston Roberts wished to thank the whole staff on the site for their work, and proposed that the Chairman write on behalf of the group to thank them. Aled Jones agreed that he will write to the Site Director on behalf of the group.

Arthur Jones asked about the excessive noise that could be heard from the Station on Easter Monday. Stuart Law apologised for any inconvenience and explained that the noise was due to atmospheric conditions during the use of the Quick Start Air Ejectors, the station ensures that noise is kept to a minimum between 10pm and 7am.

13. Date and time of next meeting

The meeting finished at 6.15pm. The date and time of the next meeting is 19 November at 3pm.