



Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group

**Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group Meeting
Friday 26 June 2015**

Hinkley Point A Site Directors Report

1. SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

The site has had no accidents or injuries since the last SSG. However, during deplanting operations of the R2 pond crane, two near miss events occurred. A radio clipped onto a workers harness was knocked off and fell onto the work area. All hand held equipment items are now tied on and bespoke lanyards have been ordered. Whilst hot cutting of the crane framework, a nut fell onto a rook and started smouldering. The firewatcher immediately deployed the fire extinguisher to prevent a fire developing. Catchment arrangements were reviewed to consider if local areas to burning sites could be improved.

Work for the periodic safety review (PSR) has been progressing all through the year including plant walk downs, hazard identifications and assessments against modern standards. This stage of the work was completed with all of the raised findings and observations successfully submitted to the Nuclear Safety Committee (NSC).

We have received a letter from the Environment Agency expressing their concern over the diesel located under-ground that may be affected by the de-watering of C site. With a pause taking place on C site work, we are looking into the best way to address this issue and working in partnership with B and C sites to assure the best way forward.

We are pleased to note that the ONR has confirmed that there are no longer hazards at the Hinkley Point A nuclear licensed site that require it to have a local authority off-site emergency planning area as defined by the regulations. We still have other legal duties to protect the public and we will continue to work closely with the local authorities and the emergency services to ensure appropriate arrangements are in place. Magnox is required by law to assess the potential hazards of its sites and submit the assessment to the regulator (the Office for Nuclear Regulation). The regulator uses this information to determine the extent of the required off-site emergency arrangements.

2. DECOMMISSIONING PROGRESS

Ponds

The reactor two (R2) pond has been drained and stabilised.

The R1 pond is 87 per cent drained. The team is now in the process of desludging the area. A concrete shaving tool (see pictures below) is being used to remove the surface layer of contaminated concrete on the walls and floor of the long pond. This will reduce dose rates from the exposed surface. Forty three per cent of the ponds surface is now decontaminated. A new process that may be suitable in providing an even lower dose alternative will be evaluated on the R1 pond discharge well. The process is called 'elution' and uses a chemical decontamination technique to remove the captured contamination from the concrete surfaces.

The remaining work to stabilise all surfaces should be complete before the end of the year.



Skip decontamination trials

The pond skip size reduction and decontamination trials are nearing completion, the third skip has been size reduced and is in the process of being decontaminated. Laser size reduction worked well and conventional milling techniques have demonstrated that substantial amounts of activity can be removed from the bulk plates with the potential to reduce the categorisation of the majority of the waste. Important experience has been gained regarding what can be achieved and this is currently being reviewed to work out whether skips can be decontaminated to 'out-of-scope' or low level waste.

Following completion of the trial, Magnox will be making a recommendation to the NDA regarding the pond skip strategy. It is anticipated that we will be in a position to share these proposals with you later in the summer.

Wet Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) recovery (settling tanks)

There is now a total of 37 DCICs in the purpose built buffer store filled with waste from the settling tanks.

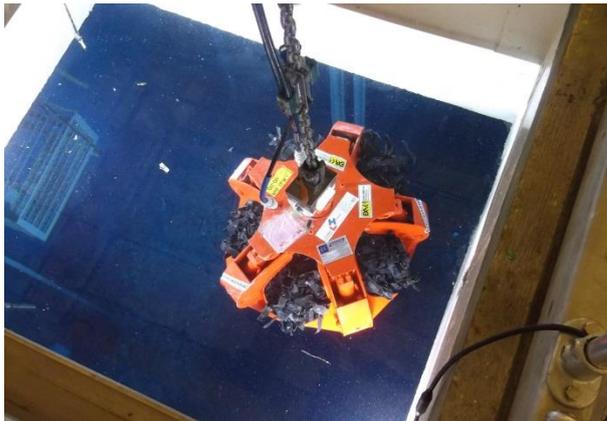
Settling tank three has 12m³ of waste remaining to be retrieved. This work should be complete by September 2015.



Fuel Element Debris (FED)

The project is currently undertaking retrieval and sorting trials within the Magnox wet vaults. Samples of the waste are being characterised for the physical, chemical and radiological properties to ensure we have the latest data available.

The NDA has endorsed the encapsulation and interim storage strategy for FED at Hinkley and that they will be publishing a Paper for Information on this topic shortly. We are also trying to develop the LLW disposal route for some FED. This would help reduce the number of packages requiring interim storage at site.



Asset Management

As part of the asset management project removal of five redundant site buildings was conducted at the end of the financial year including:

- Building 44 - a store and civil workshop
- Building 55- tertiary feed pump house – A backup system once used for emergency reactor cooling in the event of a failure of feed water.
- Building 56 - a 120000 gallon tank used to feed the tertiary feed system
- Building 71 – a redundant electrical workshop
- Building 32 – reactor emergency indication centre

The buildings were demolished removing over nine tonnes of hazardous waste from the site and sending 108 tonnes of non-hazardous waste for recycling.

The redundant R2 flask crane was also removed recently (see picture below right). The R1 crane will be demolished in September.



3. WASTE STRATEGY

Dependent upon Magnox receiving endorsement from the NDA with respect to pond skips, we hope to be in a position to explain the planning permission implications (and associated opportunities for stakeholder engagement) at the next SSG meeting.

4. COMPANY MATTERS

The company has recently made announcements about proposed structural changes within the organisation. We are currently in a period of consultation with our staff and with the trade unions.

It is important to recognise that Magnox is involved in a programme to decommission and close a number of nuclear sites and that the number of staff employed by Magnox will follow a profile of reducing numbers over the coming years.

Decisions on resourcing have not been taken lightly and following a review of the requirements for delivering the Magnox closure programme, we have communicated to staff across the organisation that we expect there to be 1,400-1,600 reductions across the 12 sites over the period to September 2016. This reduction includes staff, agency and contract resource.

These reductions arise from expected step downs in the Magnox programme at a number of our sites and also as a result of the implementation of a more streamlined operating model to more effectively deliver the decommissioning programme at the 12 Magnox sites.

These planned reductions will not impact on our safe, compliant and secure delivery of the work programme

We will seek wherever possible for these reductions to be through voluntary means and we will endeavour to re-train staff in roles where we are currently reliant on agency resources. It is our intent to further mitigate the impact of these reductions by offering alternative roles in the wider Cavendish Nuclear/Fluor business and elsewhere through a number of existing mechanisms, including potential opportunities in the wider nuclear sector.

We will work with the Trades Unions to support our employees and to ensure that changes are managed fairly, with respect for the individuals involved and in a way which makes best use of the important skills the workforce have built up

5. COMMUNITY NEWS

Socio-economic

All socio-economic information can be accessed at www.magnoxsocioeconomic.com

Last year £880,666 was donated to organisations near Magnox sites. Over £35,000 of that money was donated to the South West region - £13,400 to organisations near Hinkley.

All of our socio-economic activity supports the NDA's socio-economic policy, the aim of which is to mitigate the impact of decommissioning.

Charity of the year

Last year personnel on site raised a fantastic £17,600 for S.U.R.E – the Somerset Unit for Radiotherapy Equipment – based at Musgrove Park Hospital. It allowed them to purchase some much needed new calibration equipment that will save the Beacon Centre time and money.

The charity for this year, chosen by staff, is Children's Hospice South West.

