



HARWELL-CHILTON CAMPUS LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS GROUP

Minutes of the 82nd meeting held at the Satellite Applications Catapult on Friday 5th Dec 2014

PRESENT

Chairman: Chris Broad Chilton Parish Council
Secretary: Angela Vincent, RSRL
Minutes Secretary: Malcolm Crook, RSRL

MEMBERS

John Sharp	East Hendred Parish Council
Paul Bryant	West Berkshire Council
Bill Hanks	Sutton Courtenay Parish Council
Derek Whitmell	Upton Parish Council
Julie Pearce	Oxfordshire Federation of Womens Institutes (OFWI)
Trevor Brown	Oxfordshire County Council
Terry Fraser	Grove Parish Council
Dee Boughton-Waite	Harwell Parish Council
David Marsh	Harwell Parish Council
Neil McColl	Public Health England
Margaret Turner	VWHDC
Andy Staples	RSRL
Paul Atyeo	RSRL
Lesley Cox	RSRL
Gareth Thomas	RSRL
Ian Shaw	Nuvia
Mike Curtis-Rouse	STFC
Silvana Westbury	Diamond Light Source
Bernard Cooper	Didcot Town Council

OBSERVERS

Rebecca Cleverley	EA
Rob MacGregor	EA
Kelly Duane	Magnox
Vincent Green	ONR
Richard Jenkins	RSRL
Matt Barnett	RSRL
Stuart Clark	RSRL
Jon Blackmore	RSRL
Graeme Stonell	RSRL
James Barguss	RSRL
Steve Moss	UKAEA
Duncan Rogers	Harwell Oxford
David Rushton	NDA
Ade Elsley	MRC
Peter Waldeck	Nuvia

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

John Wilkins
Peter Walker
Liz Softley
Andy Softley
Stephen Druce

APOLOGIES

Susan Adams
Sandra North
Sean Stewart
Catherine Pridham
Chris Thomas
Paul Steventon
Jane Murray
Antonia Shakerley
Reg Waite
Mark Lester
Stephen White
Angus Horner
Sandra Ellis
Emma Burwood

RSRL
Chilton Primary School
STFC
UKAEA
Food Standards Agency
Public Health England
Iron Mountain
Environmental Agency
VWHDC
CNC

Prorsus – Harwell Joint Venture
Winfrith SSG Chair
RSRL



HARWELL SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP 82ND MEETING

Date: Friday 5th December 2014
Time: 10:00 for refreshments, meeting starts 10:30
Venue: The Satellite Applications Catapult, Electron Building, Fermi Avenue, Harwell Oxford, OX11 0QR

AGENDA

1. Chairman's remarks:
 - Welcome guests
 - Chairman's Notes – Chris Broad (10)
 - Update on NDA's National Stakeholder Event – John Sharp (10)
 - Apologies for absence and changes in membership – paper at the back of the room.

2. Minutes of the 81st meeting held on Friday 11th April 2014

3. Matters arising:

4. **RSRL Licensed Site Matters**
 - (a) Closure Director's Site Report – Andy Staples (20)
 - (b) LETP Decommissioning – Richard Jenkins (15)

5. **Reports**
 - (a) Office for Nuclear Regulation – Vince Green (10)
 - (b) Nuclear Decommissioning Authority – David Rushton (10)
 - (c) Environment Agency – Rebecca Cleverley and Rob MacGregor (10)

7. **Campus Matters**
 - (a) Harwell Campus Joint Venture Partnership – Duncan Rogers (15)
 - (b) Science and Technology Facilities Council – Mike Curtis-Rouse (10)
 - (c) Diamond Light Source – Silvana Westbury (10)

8. **Any other business:**

9. **Meetings 2014:**
 - Sub-group meeting: 19 December 2014
 - Full meeting: Friday 24th April 2015 at 10:30
 - Sub-group meeting: June 2015 (tbc)
 - Full meeting: Thursday 2nd July 2015 at 17:30
 - Sub-group meeting: September 2015
 - Full meeting: Friday 4th December 2015 at 10:30

Angela Vincent - SSG Secretariat

Malcolm Crook - Minutes Secretary

Research Sites Restoration Ltd, Harwell Oxford, 392.10 Rutherford Avenue, Didcot, OX11 0DF
Telephone: 01235 436902, Fax: 01235 436899, Email: angela.vincent@research-sites.com
SSG Agenda 5th December 2014

(1) Chairman's Remarks

The main points were as follows:

- The last meeting took place in July and included a well organised site tour allowing those in attendance to see the progress RSRL has made in decommissioning the site. The tour included the opportunity to look around BEPO and was very popular. RSRL personnel were available to answer questions on the various annual reports following completion of the tour.
- The Chair and Vice Chair had continued their monthly meetings with Andy Staples and were trying to keep abreast with the slowly emerging changes as result of the recent awarding of the contract of management of the site to Cavendish Fluor Partnership (CFP). This is the most significant issue facing RSRL.
- The Chair and Vice Chair attended a meeting in Manchester on 1st September to mark the signing of the contract at which CFP were introduced. There was a signing of the Stakeholders and Socio-economic agreement. The meeting came early in the process so little detail was available.
- A further meeting for SSG Chairs with CFP was due Heathrow on 18th December at which it was hoped more detail about any programme changes may be forthcoming.
- The Chair attended a Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) event on 30th October. He felt the critical purpose of RWM was delivery of the National Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) but that the organisation was not solely focussed on this issue and had responsibilities for other tasks. He felt focus in the organisation was on the science of the project whereas successful delivery of GDF will require interaction between people, politics and relations between different groups. He felt the science was probably the easy part of the projects whilst the real issues were with the people and politics.
- The Chair had passed on his comments to the CEO of RWM and was awaiting his reply.

NDA National Event 29th October Birmingham – John Sharp Vice Chair

The main points were as follows:

- The Chair and Vice Chair had attended this event as representatives of Harwell SSG.
- This was a large event attended by around 70 people representing NDA, Government, Stakeholder reps and site reps etc. Senior NDA staff present included John Clark (CEO), Bill Hamilton (Head of Stakeholder relations), Anna Clark (Head of Site Restoration) and Sara Johnston (Head of Strategy Development).
- There were 5 presentations given on the day with focus on the current programme and development of a new strategy for the 2016-5 year review. It was disappointing that a planned presentation on Stakeholder engagement and socio-economics did not take place due to time constraints.
- RSRL currently receives £70m from the NDA budget of £3Billion for 2014/15. Spend at Sellafield is around ten times this amount.

- The new Parent Body Organisation (PBO) CFP is responsible for decommissioning 10 Magnox sites plus Harwell and Winfrith over the course of a 14 year contract. They are carrying out a review of current programmes as well as looking to consolidate systems and functions and will report back by April 2015.
- The current plan is to clear Winfrith site by 2021 and reach an interim state for Harwell by 2027. Sellafield remains the primary site for decommissioning and funding.
- There are key concerns in NDA regarding the next Government spending round in 2016 that will take place after the next election. NDA had been asked for initial cost assessments based on various levels of reductions.
- Key messages from presentations relating to current strategy were that the objectives are to restore designated sites and release them for other uses and achieve this as soon as reasonably practicable.
- NDA are looking to develop Strategy 3 for implementation from 2016. Early thoughts by NDA are key objectives remain the same but they propose to summarise those factors that can influence priority and rate of decommissioning which is an important factor.
- NDA will be looking to reiterate the position on Site End States and describe the role of interim states which is relevant to Harwell and potential impact on socio-economics.
- The deadline for consultation stage for Strategy 3 has a deadline of 31st December 2014 and the Harwell SSG will be responding via its sub-group on December 19th 2014.
- The SSG will be responding on the issues of site decommissioning, waste management, spent fuels and nuclear materials.
- SSGs have been asked whether a mechanism should be developed that clusters Magnox/RSRL stakeholders together as they share similar issues and opportunities.
- Overall John said the event was a good opportunity to meet and lobby senior NDA staff and was a networking opportunity to forge contacts with other SSGs.

(2) Minutes of the 81st meeting held on Friday 11th April 2014

These were accepted.

(3) Matters Arising

- There were no matters arising.

(4) RSRL Licensed Site Matters

(a) Closure Director's Site Report – Andy Staples

The main points were as follows:

Safety, Security and Environment

- Since the last meeting there had been one TRIR (Total Reportable Incident Rate) incident at both Harwell and Winfrith. Both incidents were caused by uneven floor plates resulting in injuries sustained from falls. RSRL is working towards minimising such incidents and is reinforcing the message across the sites that safety is important to everyone and this includes industrial (slips, trips and falls) as well as nuclear safety.
- Harwell held a successful annual Level 1 site emergency demonstration exercise in the summer and a materials transport exercise at the railhead at Berkeley involving rail companies, police, ambulance and various government departments etc. This was found to be a very useful exercise that showed the various organisations could work well together should the need arise in an emergency.
- Vince Green has taken over from Nick Blackburn as new ONR Site Inspector for RSRL.

Security

- An exercise had taken place at Harwell and work is ongoing to ensure the company complies with current regulations.
- Civilian guard force personnel had taken over management of the main gate with CNC deployed elsewhere. Further physical changes will be introduced over coming months.

Environment

- Several waste routes are in use with LLW (Low Level Waste) going to a repository at Sellafield in Cumbria, VLLW (Very Low Level Waste) going to the Auegan site in Northampton. Materials such as oils are incinerated whilst metals etc. are sent for recycling where possible.
- Some errors had come to light in reports we provide to EA which are being addressed.

Major work areas 1/9/2014

- CFP became the new PBO from 1st September 2014. Not too much change at present.
- The data from the bid put in by CFP is currently being rationalised against the current situation on the ground. The bid was submitted based on information known in 2013. A validation process is also underway to ensure that the contents of the bid are relevant to achieving the site end points.

- RSRL and MAGNOX will be relicensed and rebranded as a single licensee. Part of this process will be to consolidate the IT used by the two companies. The license will be Magnox whilst Harwell and Winfrith will have its own site license.
- The relicensing documentation was submitted to ONR in the week prior to this meeting. RSRL is currently going through “shadow” operation ahead of the new licenses being granted. It was hoped to achieve the new license by the end of March 2015 but ONR had indicated the process would take 6 months from the point at which the application was made.
- The entire process will see formation of one company and RSRL will become part of Magnox that will have an integrated IT system.

Summary of work associated with material transfers

- Around 2000 containers have now been transferred from the total of 7000. This work is dependent on the availability of flasks and there is an issue with availability of the flasks that will mean the programme will have to be slowed down next year. RSRL is still on target to achieve transfer of 70% of the material from Harwell by 2017/18. This will be an important milestone as it allows transportation of decommissioning materials from Winfrith to Harwell for storage in the new Intermediate Level Waste Store (ILW).
- The new ILW will be constructed as planned and detailed design would commence in 2015 with construction hoped to commence in 2016.

RSRL Harwell project Wins NDA Supply Chain Award

- During 2013 Aurora Health Physics and Steve Vick International Limited were awarded a contract by RSRL to seal loose contamination found in the storage tubes of the former BEPO reactor Storage Block.
- The approach adopted proved to be very successful and was based on a novel use of expanding foam to seal contamination ahead of the eventual dismantling of the storage block.

The success of this project was recognised at the NDA 2014 Supply Chain Awards under the category of Best application of an innovative solution. This technique will be able to be used on similar decommissioning projects across the nuclear industry.

Recent Delicensing

- Andy provided a map detailing the area of the Harwell site that has been delicensed pending future usage by the campus. Once delicensed the land also has to be de-designated at which point it can be passed on for re-development. It was planned to achieve delicensing of the Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant (LETP) by 2019.

Drilling of new boreholes to facilitate LETP Decommissioning and Remediation

- Five new boreholes were constructed within the LETP complex to replace existing ones that conflicted with future decommissioning operations.

Groundwater Summary

- Groundwater operations during 2013 saw the highest amounts of water treated since operations commenced in 1994. The plant had achieved 99.9% operational availability between January 2013 and March 2014 which exceeded the 95% target.
- The monitoring of condition of the groundwater around the site continues to provide reassurance that contamination concentrations across the plume are understood and showing generally downwards trends.

Environmental Summary

- The Replacement Effluent Treatment Plant (RETP) located at the B462 complex has commenced operation which has allowed shutdown of LETP and further reduced discharges from site.
- Several sections of the Sutton Courtenay pipeline were removed during the year and brought back to Harwell. This work included the actual discharge point at the Thames. RSRL is liaising with Milton Park and associated development companies to facilitate removal of further sections of pipe as and when development work there allows.
- A de-permitting exercise is underway to coincide with delicensing the B353 and VEC areas. The permits involved are managed by the EA.
- The Whessoe tanks have been removed from their location at LETP and during the project air concentrations remained well within current health standards.
- All discharges to air and water systems continue to be well within permitted limits. Ongoing environmental monitoring confirms low impact of discharges.

Questions:

(Q1) With regard to the question of security of the fence and just outside the fence, is there any monitoring of that because there is a caravan and trailer that have been parked opposite the main gate for a couple of months?

(A1) That is a matter for Thames Valley police.

(Q2) Is any further decommissioning of the pipeline in the Sutton Courtenay Parish planned in the near future?

(A2) There are no plans to do any further work until 2024. This could change depending on funding levels and whether developers enable us to remove further sections in order to facilitate their work.

(Q3) At the last meeting there were concerns about the pipeline going under Backhill Lane underneath the railway at Milton and whether it would hold up the work going on at the Milton Interchange. Has this been resolved?

(A3) RSRL is coordinating with the developers and where appropriate removing sections of pipe. This work is in tandem with the developers and is causing no holdups to the road works.

(Q4) With regard to the rebranding of RSRL as part of Magnox and associated consolidation, would I be right in assuming the primary reason is economies i.e. to remove duplication of effort?

I am slightly concerned because I am wondering how it will affect RSRL, will it come under the jurisdiction of Magnox and will it be able to carry on doing their own thing or will it subsumed into one big large organisation?

(A4) If I take it in two parts, rebranding will mean we will all become part of Magnox and there will be no RSRL. The Magnox overall programme that's old Magnox and old RSRL will be managed as a single programme. The senior management team is made up of people from CFP and RSRL. It will be managed as an integrated whole so bluntly where decommissioning work is a higher priority that will occur. Neither RSRL or Magnox will be given a fixed sum of money to work there will be an overall pot that has been negotiated in the bid and how that is allocated will depend on the priorities.

(Q4a) Will it affect the staff? When rebranding is complete will the staff have to have new contracts and will there be issues with pensions etc?

(A4a) No. The arrangements are that staff pensions are covered by a separate arrangement. All the staff will transfer under what's called Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) regulations into Magnox at the point we become one organisation and will take their existing terms and conditions with them and there will be no impacts on them as a result of this transfer.

(Q4b) And there will be no redundancies?

(A4b) Redundancies are a different matter. We do have a situation at the moment where we may have redundancies at Harwell which are linked to closure of LETP. Over the next two years we will have a number of people that may have identified future role. We are doing our best to minimise that but redundancies are going to be a natural follow on from the closure because all of Magnox and all of RSRL by 2027 will be in a minimal care and maintenance state. Harwell will just have the B462 area which will be an ILW store whilst everything else will be finished. Over the period of the contract going up to 2027 there will be up to 3,500 redundancies.

(Q5) During the planning application for the ILW store there was considerable local interest in how much of the waste going into the store was generated on the Harwell site and how much was being brought in from other sites. Is that likely to be reconsidered following the provision of the contract to CFP?

(A5) The new store will go ahead. The quantities of material will be the same as previously indicated. There may be differences in timing due to changes in decommissioning operations but actual quantities will be the same.

(Q6) Why not locate the ILW waste store at Berkeley rather than at Harwell?

(A6) There are no plans to look at that as far as I am aware.

(Q7) On one of your slides you referred to "de-permitting". Please can you explain what this is?

(A7) This is related to the environmental perspective. We have a permit from the EA which defines the area in which we can work under that permit. As this has now had a significant radioactive operation taken out of it we can shrink the boundary of the permitted site.

David Rushton of NDA made the following comments regarding the ILW store:

Harwell have a planning permission for bringing material into the store which initially allows material to be imported from Harwell, Winfrith and Culham. To bring in material from other sites would require a change in the planning permission. The NDA is doing some work on consolidation of waste storage around its estate and Harwell has already been taken out of this due to the arrangement to take waste from Winfrith.

(b) LETP (Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant) Decommissioning – Richard Jenkins

The main points were as follows:

- Richard began by providing an aerial photo showing location of LETP and explained the current LETP project is to demolish all above ground structures down to base slab level by 2016 after which a second project team will take over to carry out removal of subsurface structures and remediation of the land with the objective of delicensing the site.

LETP Decommissioning Progress 2014

- Since commencement of the project in 2014 several buildings and structures have been decommissioned or removed that include B336.13, B336.16, Tank 2-Tank 7 Pipe Bridge, Tank 1, Tanks 4A and 4B and the Trade Waste Clarifier. Richard provided photographs and basic details of these structures in operation and separate images showing the location post decommissioning. All of the work described was carried out successfully and safely with no injury to personnel.
- It is planned that the first phase of the work to demolish above surface structures will be complete by March 2016 after which the land remediation team under Paul Atyeo will take over.
- Richard highlighted two pieces of equipment known as “Dynasand Filters” which provided primary filtration of effluent. When the sand was removed from these machines it was found to be of fairly low level radioactivity which helped in the final decommissioning and waste disposal process. Much of the metal was size reduced and cut up into more manageable pieces in order to be sent for recycling or to an out of scope metals route.
- A photograph of Tank 1 showed the work carried out by Health Physics technicians to indicate areas with the internal tank structures that would require further decontamination work in due course.
- There were no environmental issues incurred during the course of the decommissioning operations undertaken so far.
- The remainder of 2014/15 financial year will involve waste clearance in order to facilitate further decommissioning in the 2015. Waste from decommissioning activities is handled in a way that it is compliant with all current regulatory regulations.

LETP Decommissioning 2015/2016

- From April 2015 Onwards the decommissioning/demolition contractors will be remobilised.
- The next buildings to be demolished will be B175 and B336.26 and work will commence on the B336.10A/31 facility. This work will be followed by further waste processing.
- B336.10/31 remains the most challenging decommissioning project at LETP as part of it contains 6 tanks that have historically held high activity liquors. This project is proving to be challenging but is planned that the building will be ready for demolition by around December 2015.
- The remaining above ground LETP buildings and structures will be decommissioned during the financial year ending March 2016 after which the site will be handed over to the land remediation team. Waste processing will be completed during 2016.
- Richard stressed that there is great emphasis during this work of protecting the environment and also safety of the personnel carrying out the tasks.

Questions:

(Q1) Are there any plans to remove the kink in the cycle path that currently exists in between the LETP and former Sewage Farm site?

(A1) It's not part of the current plan but RSRL will look in to the issue. It is possible that this may only be achieved post land remediation. There are also no plans to divert the footpath during the demolition phase of the project.

(Q2) There is land north of the LETP site that housed the former Sewage Farm that has been allocated for housing. Is it possible to build housing on it today and if not, how long will it be before it is ready to be built on?

(A2) There is an area of land north of LETP that is owned by the estate and which RSRL still operates. RSRL will be using this area for during the land remediation project for LETP. Following remediation of LETP this area will be subject to final clearance before it is released for further development. The timescale we are working to is that by 2019 the LETP project work will have been completed and by 2020 it will have been delicensed and de-permitted.

(5) Reports

(a) Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) – Vince Green

The main points were as follows:

- Vince introduced himself and explained he was taking over from Nick Blackburn as the ONR Site Inspector for Harwell and Winfrith.
- A report detailing the period 1 July-30 September 2014 had been produced and copies were available at the meeting. Many of the items covered in the report had been discussed at the meeting.
- ONR had recently varied the site license in order to reduce the licensed boundary of the site as discussed earlier in the meeting. When ONR permissions an activity like this they produce a Project Assessment Report justifying the decision as part of their “openness and transparency” policy. This and other similar reports such as notes of site visits are published on their website.
- Going forward ONR focus at Harwell and Winfrith will be on conventional health and safety. When ONR became a statutory corporation they took on a number of specific functions one of which is health and safety. This aspect is managed by specialists attached to ONR from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) who visit sites.
- During the next 3-6 months Vince is leading ONR on the re-licensing project leading to Harwell and Winfrith becoming part of the new Magnox Licensee. One of the objectives for ONR is to get the 10 Magnox sites plus the current RSRL sites to agree common compliance Site Licensee principals.
- LCI 36 is one of the most important conditions as it covers organisational capability and change. The ONR will continue to monitor for any future changes that will affect their license conditions.
- ONR fully supports the decision to go ahead with construction of the ILW store.

(b) Nuclear Decommissioning Authority – David Rushton

The main points were as follows:

NDA Contract Model

- In order to try and achieve consistency across the various Magnox and RSRL Stakeholder Group Meetings in relation to the NDA Contract Model David provided a slide detailing the arrangements of the competition process. The purpose of the exercise had been to select a new Parent Body Organisation (PBO) to manage decommissioning of the RSRL sites and the ten Magnox sites. The successful bidder was the Cavendish Fluor Partnership. NDA holds separate agreements with the PBO and the SLC.
- The Site Licensee Company (SLC) is the enduring entity. It is a legal entity with a board of directors with their own responsibilities and duties in law. The SLC holds the nuclear site license. There are 36 license conditions that the licensee has to adhere to.

- David explained NDA was formed in 2004 as part of the Energy Act. The mission of NDA is to secure decommissioning and clean-up of UK civil nuclear sites which include first generation nuclear reactors at MAGNOX, RSRL, Sellafield and Dounreay. NDA manages its requirements through the SLCs and is accountable to Government and Parliament through the Department of Energy and Climate Change.
- The PBO is the entity that changes during the cyclical period. The current contract is for a 7+7 year period. At the end of this period Harwell will probably be the last site to be cleared in 2027. The PBO do not directly employ any staff but incorporate joint ventures that second people in. PBOs are selected via the commercial competition process to deliver value for money. Fee is earned via completion of milestones and metrics.
- Regulators such as ONR and EA sit alongside the other bodies and the main route for engagement is through the SLC. The NDA has high level engagement through its strategy team.

Competition Progress

- Share transfer took place on 1st September 2014. The arrangement is now in a consolidation phase which is the period where the new PBO review the plan by looking back at what was planned to be achieved between April 2013 and September 2014 against what has been done.
- This period also allows the PBO to embed new priorities and initiatives. The PBO is moving towards a “programmed” approach to delivering the work. This period runs from 9 to 12 months. From completion of this point things move into the general period of contract management.
- The baseline which the PBO reports against will be reset and will commence from April 1st 2015.
- Overall for RSRL sites there should not be any significant changes in approach.

RSRL Issues

- Although there had been the safety issues detailed earlier in the meeting David said that overall the good performance is continuing and NDA will continue to monitor.
- RSRL were continuing to deliver decommissioning as per the current programme. The main projects for Harwell are LETP decommissioning and B462 storage can process work. Current indications are that the B462 team will achieve the targets for this financial year. Good progress has been made on material transfers off-site but as indicated by Andy there will be future problems due to transport flask availability.
- One of the things RSRL is good at is use of innovative techniques in order to deliver the work. NDA feed back to MAGNOX that they should liaise with RSRL on techniques that can be helpful in carrying out decommissioning activities.
- Copies of the monthly NDA update were available to the meeting.

Questions:

(Q1) You said that the Harwell site will be the last to be decommissioned. Is that a change in the sites status and has it been pushed back due to RSRL becoming part of MAGNOX?

(A1) No. When we went out to competition the lifetime plan and baseline we went out to competition on was the situation as at April 2013. We took the dates for key points of decommissioning at MAGNOX and RSRL that were in that plan and this was used for the competition.

There are various levels of milestones within the competition which include site finish dates which for some sites can mean care and maintenance or in the case of Winfrith its interim end state. These milestones have been in the plan for several years and as they were part of the Competition bid process could only be moved by CFP with very good reasons that NDA would have to sanction.

The NDA optimised plan brought the closure date for Harwell forward to 2027 at which point there will be a small storage function located in the B462 area awaiting eventual opening of the national Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

John Wilkins (former Harwell Head of Site) commented that when David talks about the MAGNOX sites being finished before the Harwell, there will still be massive reactor buildings remaining on those sites. Harwell will look much more complete by 2027 just by the physical appearance of the site. All that will be left by 2027 will be a small waste storage facility around B462.

(Q2) Can you please explain the relevance of the term “ownership” in relation to the PBO and SLC? Is this meant to just refer to the ownership between the two organisations or the actual site ownership?

(A2) The PBO owns the shares of the SLC for the period of time of the contract. The contract provides a mechanism whereby the PBO can get its money back through the SLC completing its work and earning fee. The NDA owns the land at all of the sites apart from Harwell. Harwell is slightly unique because the land is owned by the Harwell Oxford Campus which has various links back into government via the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority(UKAEA) Link.

Steve Moss (UKAEA) confirmed that UKAEA still owns the freehold of the land.

(Q3) David you say that 2027 is a good date for completion of Harwell. Our original date was 2025 so we are still two years out.

(A3) That was a previous date that was being planned for back in 2007.

(c) Environment Agency – Rob MacGregor

The main points were as follows:

Permitting

- There had been no changes to the Harwell Permit covering waste issues during the last period although negotiations with RSRL are ongoing with regard to transfer of the permit into the new MAGNOX organisation. A management of change case has been sent to EA for consideration. All existing permits will need to be transferred and Rob's

colleague Rebecca Cleverley is liaising with the RSRL environment team on this issue.

Regulation

- The site is visited on a regular basis to carry out inspections.

Incidents/Enforcement

- There had been no major incidents or enforcement issues but EA had raised a few non-compliance notices in relation to waste storage issues during a visit to Harwell with ONR in July. These notices were raised at the lowest level and there was no detrimental environmental impact incurred at the time. The issues were addressed by RSRL and appropriate action taken.
- Some issues relating to data recording had also been raised with RSRL that also required non-compliance notices. These are also being addressed.

Discharge

- As part of the permit requirements each site has to inform EA what materials and in what quantity is being discharged to the environment. Once received the relevant reports are assessed by EA and then put into the public register with the EA assessment reports. The Harwell site is well below the current national discharge limits for gaseous and liquid materials.

Environmental Impact

- RSRL conducts an environmental monitoring programme as required by its permit. The EA also carry out an independent monitoring programme along with the Food Standards Agency (FSA). Each year EA produces a public report entitled "Radioactivity in Food and the Environment" which is usually published in around November or December.
- EA will be reviewing the independent environmental review it carries out in the new-year because it hasn't changed for Harwell site for many years and because discharges and hazards from site have reduced. They want to ensure the surveying they carry out is fit for purpose and proportionate to the work now being carried out here.

Questions:

(Q1) Is feedback relating to difficulties encountered during the decommissioning and decontamination work carried out here being fed back into the construction of new nuclear power stations to ensure we don't get these problems and these plants can be dismantled easier in the future?

(A2) When the first generation nuclear power stations were built decommissioning was not a big consideration so there have been some quite extensive engineering challenges. In terms of the new design stations to be constructed in the near future decommissioning has been much higher in the thought process.

The regulators are carrying out what's known as the "generic design assessment" to look at the new designs and decommissioning is one of the prime considerations. We have to

ensure we take on board lessons learned in managing the new generation plants to ensure the same mistakes are not made. The new designs have been put together in order to reduce the amounts of waste materials produced in the decommissioning phase.

(7) Campus Matters

(a) Harwell Campus Joint Venture Partnership – Duncan Rogers

The main points were as follows:

- The Harwell Campus has also been undergoing a rebranding exercise involved consultation with various organisations to change the Harwell brand in order to give it a better presentation and meaning. This process starts with a new website due to launch shortly. The website will focus on the science and technology work being undertaken on campus. The new website will be Harwellcampus.com
- There are several new buildings under construction on site especially along Fermi Avenue. Visible development of this kind is helpful in encouraging potential new companies looking to locate here and shows the campus is growing and moving towards the next generation of science and engineering research.
- The Joint Venture has been working on its own new development projects to come soon. They will shortly be submitting a planning application to erect a terrace of new research and development units on the site of the former Harwell restaurant. The campus is in negotiations with several potential tenants for these units.
- There are plans to create a new hub or heart to the campus on land that was previously taken up by Hangars 7 and 8. It is hoped to get a planning application in for this work in the new-year that will include provision for a new innovation centre, new retail units, catering, gymnasium etc. It is hoped that these facilities will be available for local stakeholders to use.
- Important infrastructure work happening next year will be a new road that will connect existing roads across the campus. This is referred to as the north-south link road which means that the two sections of the former Harwell Eight Street will be re-joined so that the two halves of the campus will be linked together making transit around campus easier. This road will allow other areas of the site to become available for development. A planning application for this road will be submitted shortly.
- The campus is awaiting hand-over of the Zone 11 Eastern Area from the NDA in order to facilitate the re-development work described above.
- The campus has its own residential development plans. They are looking at the housing on the opposite side of the A4185 and are in the process of putting together representations for that land.

Questions:

(Q1) Will the plans of the proposed new developments be on the website?

(A1) I am not sure to what extent the plans will be available but we will keep people advised of what we are doing. All plans should be available through the normal Vale of the White Horse District Council (VWHDC) Website.

(Q2) Who will freehold of the land remain with? Will you be picking it up gradually?

(A2) No. the freehold remains with the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. There is already a mechanism in place so that the joint venture partnership draws down land on long lease-hold arrangements which will continue.

(Q3) Will the companies that come in be on a subsidiary lease?

(A3) Yes. There is a leasing structure in place which is on a building by building, development by development basis. Some of the buildings I have discussed like the hi-tech terrace where there are multi occupants, we retain that level of control as opposed to leasing a plot of land similar to what we did with Element 6.

(Q4) Can I return to the plan we were talking about that may or may not be publicised. Are we talking about your master plan for the site rather than what is going to the planning authority for planning applications?

(A4) No. I think we are talking about two different things. There are plans that have been formed by others for a residential development on land on the other side of the A41865 from the campus which is entirely separate from the campus. We will make our own representations for that. The individual developments on the campus already described will form part of a planning application and will be available on the VWHDC Website. With regard to whether we actually upload these plans and make them available on our own website, there should not be a problem but there are no plans to do so at present.

(Q5) Do your individual planning applications follow a master plan that has been agreed with the Vale?

(A5) Yes largely. We are in consultation with the Vale on an ongoing basis. The master plan is constantly changing and never stays fixed in one point because it is there to accommodate demand and it is not always possible to see how buildings will sit or be configured. We are in ongoing dialogue with the vale regarding our development plan and that is a process that won't stop.

(Q6) My understanding is that you haven't actually published a final vision for the site but only interim publications. Am I correct?

(A6) The master plan exists and is displayed on the current website and will subsequently be on the new website. As it evolves and changes are made updates will be provided. There is no formal process for establishing a master plan.

Terry Fraser commented that all future plans regarding development on the campus are sent via the Vale to local Parishes for consideration.

(b) Science and Technology Facilities Council – Mike Curtis-Rouse

The main points were as follows:

- Most of recent STFC activities have related to space research and in particular the project to land a small lander vehicle "Philae" from the Rosetta probe, onto Comet P67. Mike explained about the project and the chain of events leading up to and after the landing when the device was able to send some 50 hours of valuable data back to earth.

- RAL had contributed Ptolemy to the lander which was a shoebox size device consisting of ovens for heating analyses samples from the drilling system when looking for organic compounds.
- RAL constructed the Urthecast hi-resolution camera for a Canadian company which is now attached to the international space station. It is possible to purchase a slot to use the camera that can be accessed via www.orthecast.com/firstlight.
- Approval had been achieved for construction of the world's largest optical and infrared telescope known as the European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT) that will be constructed and operated in Chile.

The mirror inside the telescope will be 40m across. It will be manufactured from 6000 individual segments all which individually actuate so they can all move enabling the creation of a large focal point and gather a large amount of data from the sky. STFC is leading the industrial part of the programme and it is hoped that UK companies will be able to get involved in the construction phase.

- Several Talking Science lectures will be taking place at RAL in due course that can be booked via www.stfc.ac.uk/2840

(C) Diamond Light Source – Silvana Westbury

The main points were as follows:

- Diamond is the UK National Synchrotron Science Facility and is one of the largest research facilities in the country. The facility accelerates electrons so that it can generate intense light that is used for a large array of different experiments involving materials at the atomic and molecular levels in order to work out the structures and chemical makeups.
- The work covers a range of areas including improvements to health, environment, new devices and new industrial techniques for the next generation of such work. Examples of the work include disease analysis such as on Hepatitis C, analysis of oil flow through rocks, magnetic and electrical properties of materials, and the make-up of comet and meteorite samples.
- There are currently 24 beam lines operational with funding available for a total of 33. New beam lines will be added during the period up to 2018 as part of the Phase 3 work.
- Jane Tirrard has been appointed as the new Director of Finance.
- Researchers on Diamond have discovered a new super-material that has exciting electrical properties that could provide the technology for faster smart phones and computers.
- Research was being carried out on how bacteria create a form of camouflage making it resistant to antibiotics. This work is very important in the fight against superbugs. A large amount of the biological work carried out at Diamond is working towards establishing structure of diseases in order to assist in providing cures etc.

- A hub for access to the Hamburg “free Electric Laser” will be based at Diamond. The facility will train scientists to carry out this kind of work. Free electron lasers are used to study materials that cannot be crystallised.
 - A Diamond scientist Professor Dave Stewart solved the structure of the hand, foot and mouth virus which was recreated as a glass model.
 - Diamond was celebrating the historical pioneering work on crystallography and de-fraction techniques.
 - Diamond has taken part in a BBC4 documentary series on Quantum Mechanics.
 - Scientists have discovered the structure of the Hepatitis A virus. Research has shown that Hepatitis A may be the evolutionary missing link viruses that affect humans and animals and insect viruses.
 - A new facility being constructed at the rear of the RAL restaurant houses the Diamond X-ray nano-probe beam line (I14). This facility will be used as an electron microscopy centre for the physical sciences and is due for completion in Autumn 2015.
 - During 2015 Diamond will be celebrating International Year of Light that will involve engaging students and children.
 - There would be open days at Diamond on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th March 2015. <http://www.diamond.ac.uk/Public/VisitUs>
8. **Any other business:**
There was no other business.
9. **Meetings 2014:**
Sub-group meeting: 19 December 2014
Full meeting: Friday 24th April 2015 at 10:30
Sub-group meeting: June 2015 (tbc)
Full meeting: Thursday 2nd July 2015 at 17:30
Sub-group meeting: September 2015
Full meeting: Friday 4th December 2015 at 10:30

17th December 2014

Angela Vincent - SSG Secretariat

Malcolm Crook - Minutes Secretary

Research Sites Restoration Ltd, Harwell Oxford, 392.10 Rutherford Avenue, Didcot, OX11 0DF
Telephone: 01235 436902, Fax: 01235 436899, Email: angela.vincent@research-sites.co