



## **WINFRITH SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG) MEETING**

**Date** Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2014

**Venue** Winfrith Newburgh Village Hall

Meeting Reference Nov/2015

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Welcome and Introduction – Mrs Sandra Ellis SSG Chairman**

Apologies: Peter Wharf, Bridget Downton (PDC)

Mrs Ellis explained that her term as Chairman was up and at the last meeting she had invited anyone who was interested in the role to nominate themselves, an email was also sent as a reminder. To date Mrs Ellis reported that no one had come forward to trigger an election and therefore said she was happy to continue if the group agreed. This was proposed and seconded by members of the SSG group.

Mrs Ellis continued the meeting with an overview of what work she had performed since the last meeting.

In October the SSG Chairs, NDA and RWM Ltd met and the NDA discussed upcoming strategies. The GDF facilities were talked about and this included the option of having three GDF facilities rather than one. Mrs Ellis said the opportunity for communities to volunteer for a GDF hadn't gone down very well with stakeholders. Volunteer communities had been offered £1m for informing and engaging the local community.

A Vox Pox type of survey for people up to the age of 70 had been conducted and showed people to have no ideas or knowledge re: Nuclear Waste. A White Paper re: GDF is available and can be found on the internet. Mrs Ellis also commented that Winfrith was talked about as a top priority for the NDA.

The SSG Chairs were invited to attend the NDA share transfer event in Manchester on 1<sup>st</sup> September when Cavendish Fluor Partnership took over the role of Parent Body Organisation for RSRL and Magnox. Mrs Ellis explained that RSRL will change name and there will be change within the organisation as RSRL and Magnox become one Site Licensed Company. Mrs Ellis reported that she will continue to be involved and will ask about socio-economic activities and areas that concern the SSG.

An area the CFP executive reported on was their commitment to find current employees roles when their existing roles end. Mrs Ellis expressed concerns for those who will be unable to relocate to take on a new position.

The SSG Chairs met the following day with the NDA executive and issues relating to the Dorset Green Site going into administration and socioeconomic funding were discussed.

Looking forward, the next meeting will be another Chairs meeting with CFP, if there were any issues the group would like raised, please submit them through emma.burwood@research-sites.com.

Mrs Ellis finished her introduction by explaining that the RSRL Newsletter 'Restore' had been stopped by CFP, with no plans for a replacement for an external audience. She had challenged this and been referred to social media i.e. Twitter. Mrs Ellis feels this is inappropriate for many stakeholders who would find a paper newsletter more useful.

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## **2. RSRL Winfrith Report - Michael Dunnett – Winfrith Closure Director**

Mr Dunnett gave an overview of what has been happening on the Winfrith site since the last meeting and also future plans.

### **Safety & Environment**

**Nuclear Safety** - there have been no significant issues. A few minor issues have been identified by ONR. These relate to Incident Reports, Working Controls and Local Rules. The plans for decommissioning the SGHWR primary containment including sampling the core will be rigorously reviewed by ONR. He noted that Vince Green had taken over from Nick Blackburn on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**Conventional Safety** is now also regulated by ONR and not by HSC. There have been no reportable incidents on site.

Mr Dunnett explained that driving is one of the highest risk activities undertaken by RSRL staff and that there will be an internal focus on how to drive defensively to minimise risk. He informed the meeting that a road safety campaign has been launched for RSRL staff which will include talks to staff from Dorset Police. Safety remains a top priority within RSRL.

**Environmental monitoring** shows Winfrith to be within permitted limits and fully compliant with all permits. Mr Dunnett explained that the EA are reviewing land contamination with a view to the end state for Winfrith, how this will be achieved continues to be discussed stakeholders.

### **Programme Update:**

**SGHWR:** The ITT for the next stage of decommissioning the reactor core is to be issued shortly. Primary Containment decommissioning is well underway and good progress has been made to date. Deplanting has been ongoing to strip out in preparation for work on the core. This stage of the project is due to be finished in mid to late 2016. Then the next stage to decommission the reactor core will start.

**East Pipelines:** Work on the East pipelines has been successfully completed with both old concrete and more modern plastic pipes removed. The land between the tanks and SGHWR has been cleaned.

**Dragon:** Mr Dunnett gave an overview of the work on Dragon and explained that equipment around the reactor pressure vessel has been removed including heat shields, shield blocks and asbestos.

The scheme design for removing the pressure vessel is being reviewed by CFP and the strategy will be agreed shortly.

**ALES:** Works continues on how to decommission ALES. The break tank containing active sludges has been cemented up and the removal of drains is almost complete.

**End State:** A preferred option paper was submitted to the NDA earlier this year. Work continues on what will be done with each project to achieve the end state and deal with the waste.

**New Parent Body Organisation:** Mr Dunnnett confirmed that Cavendish Fluor Partnership took ownership of RSRL and Magnox on 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. On this date the new PBO replaced the secondees in Magnox and RSRL (40 people in Magnox). The change was less significant for Winfrith with Micheal Dunnnett continuing in his role. He explained that the role of the secondees is to act completely in the interests of the SLC and not the PBO company.

Andy Staples and Paul Knight continue in their roles. Tony Wratten is no longer RSRL but has a new role in H&S at Magnox. Kenny Douglas is the MD for RSRL and Magnox.

The new contract is target cost which changes the way cost control is managed. Costs can be reduced by integrating Magnox and RSRL. This will be achieved by relicensing as one SLC with name TBC. All RSRL staff will be TUPE transferred into the new company, this is likely to happen mid 2015. A key focus with all of this change is managing staff concerns, maintaining morale, safety record etc.

Harwell and Winfrith staff will be made redundant in next 14 years – the next 7 for Winfrith. This is inevitable with Nuclear Decommissioning. CFP aim to find alternative jobs within the parent companies where possible.

#### **Socioeconomic Funding:**

Mr Dunnnett was previously in charge of socioeconomics at Dounreay where 1/3 of all employment in the local area was at the Dounreay site. Mr Dunnnett said he would be happy to work with councils/representatives to help with applications for socioeconomic funding if anyone felt that would be helpful.

Mrs Ellis commented that no one had really taken this on for Winfrith in the past. Mr Dunnnett confirmed he would be happy to point people in the right direction for applications where appropriate.

#### **Future Plans:**

Focus for the next 12 months is on the SGHWR primary containment decommissioning and sludge tanks. Work on the reactor pressure vessel and reactor top in Dragon and on the strategies for ALES, Blacknoll, Tenants and End State.

Q. How much waste is recycled?

A. About 99% of waste is recycled. Options are available. Tradebe Inutec are a waste management company who operate on site.

Mrs Ellis commented: NDA saved over £10 million last year. All sites are making progress but Winfrith is the lead site. Winfrith will be the only site returned to green field for the foreseeable future.

### **3. Nuclear Decommissioning Report - David Rushton - NDA**

Mr Rushton is the NDA Programme Manager covering Harwell, Winfrith, Berkley and Bradwell sites. Mr Rushton explained that the competition process meant a change in Parent Body organisation but that RSRL was the enduring entity and therefore RSRL employees continue regardless of the changes. He explained that RSRL is regulated by ONR and EA.

He clarified that the Cavendish Fluor Partnership is made up of staff from Cavendish Nuclear and staff from Fluor being seconded to CFP. CFP staff are then seconded into the SLCs. The NDA is separate and reports directly to the government.

The NDA contract with CFP is a 14 year contract broken into two 7 year phases.

The 12 month consolidation phase allows the 2 versions of the programme to be aligned. Regarding the Winfrith site, Mr Rushton said the safety performance was good with focus on constant reviewing to improve.

Good progress had been made on SGHWR and Dragon and that the A59 project was now complete with all waste now removed from site.

The NDA monthly update refers to socioeconomic funding at Hunterston. He suggested talking to other SSGs around the estate for support with looking for socioeconomic funding.

### **4. Regulators**

#### **4a: Office for Nuclear Regulations (ONR) Overview of site performance – Vince Green**

Vince Green introduced himself to the SSG, having taken over from Nick Blackburn as the ONR site nuclear safety inspector.

He noted that ONR focus at Winfrith going forwards would be:

- a. Conventional Health and Safety (next year).
- b. Relicensing to merge RSRL and Magnox Limited (next 6 months).
- c. Licensing of Tradebe Inutec (license application expected in April 2015 and ONR's assessment process is expected to take approx. 12 months).

He noted that an ONR team would be on site later in the week to discuss the SGHWR core segmentation work, fleshing out the detail and looking at how ONR plan to interact with the project going forward.

**4b: Environment Agency (report only).**

[Environment Agency Report to the Winfrith Site Stakeholder Group - 4 November 2014](#)

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**5. Decommissioning the SGHWR Reactor - Kevin McIntyre – RSRL Senior Project Manager**

Mr McIntyre talked through the decommissioning plans for SGHWR and reported that work is currently happening to decommission the primary containment, turbine hall and 300 rooms. He explained that the team, are developing a 6m box on behalf of CFP for the storage/transportation of radioactive waste.

Plans for how to take the core apart have been worked on with several years optioneering, these plans have been internally and externally checked.

Mr McIntyre showed visuals of the reactor core and explained how it worked. Pointing out the 114 boiling tubes in the cylinder that would need to be removed.

He went on to explain the scheme design, showing new and existing walls, demonstrating the jacking-up of the core and how it would be size reduced with sawing.

Mr McIntyre confirmed the issue of the ITT is planned for 12<sup>th</sup> Dec, tenders due in 17<sup>th</sup> April and the preferred bidder announced 21<sup>st</sup> September with contract award 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

A full scale mock-up will be built to train all operatives. In 4 years cutting will start on the actual core. Mr McIntyre showed a video which demonstrates the cutting and removal of tubes, neutron shield in 10 ton sections and the jacking-up and cutting of the reactor core.

Q. Is the waste very high level?

A. Some high level. All will go to Harwell until the GDF has been agreed.

Q. What is the size and weight of the reactor core?

A. 270 tons. 4m x 8m

Q. Will the waste stay in boxes?

A. The waste is grouted in boxes – moved and stored for 28 days to ensure it is fully hardened and then moved. Boxes will weigh up to 55 tons.

Q. When the waste goes to the GDF will the boxes be the suitable/right size?

A. We are working within the criteria of RWM Ltd.

Michael Dunnett explained that there are 12 types of acceptable ILW package which are all approved, standardising packaging across the NDA estate for nuclear waste.

Q. Is this method a first?

A. This is the first reactor to be cut up like this but the method is tried and tested elsewhere.

Q. When you tender for work is mode of transport a requirement?

A. The contract is for the design and build. The segmentation, packaging and transportation will be managed in house by RSRL's experienced team. The waste might be transferred by road or rail and this will be agreed nearer the time.

### [Kevin McIntyre Presentation Slides](#)

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## **6. Any Other Business**

### **Update from Tradebe Inutec - Jorge Torres & Nick Holt**

Mr Torres gave a brief overview of the wider Tradebe organisation. A family owned international business mainly operating in UK, Spain and USA. Tradebe specialise in hazardous waste management and employ 2000 staff worldwide. Tradebe is still in expansion phase and purchased Inutec 12 months ago. In the UK Tradebe has a £87 million turnover, employing 800 staff across 30 sites.

Mr Holt explained the history of Inutec at Winfrith. Inutec have been onsite for 25 years (formally part of UKAEA). He said they specialise in high volume low level waste and some intermediate level waste.

Tradebe Inutec are a service provider offering waste treatment to the Nuclear Industry. They identify disposal routes, reuse and recycle, characterize and analyse waste and develop a solution for disposal, 90% of non-nuclear waste is recycled.

Mr Holt said they are progressing with the application for a Nuclear Site License and that they will need to own land and not be tenants for this to happen; discussions are happening with the NDA. They want to look at an area larger than the current footprint to allow for future growth and expansion. Expected timescale for license is mid to end 2016.

Q. Assuming you get a site license would you be bringing in Nuclear Waste from other countries.

A. We can't take waste from other countries but we can offer consultancy.

Q. Would you bring in general refuse?

A. No we only deal with Nuclear Waste.

Q. The road network has many problems; what are your views on this issue?

A. We've been talking to RSRL about the rail network. Where there are opportunities to use rail we will look at this. The plan is for the rail siding to remain post 2021. Road access across Dorset Green Site would make sense.

Q. The end state in 2021 is heathland; will there be a fenced area for Tradebe Inutec? What sort of area? Will there have to be a road across the heathland for access? Future of Dorset Green Site is in question...

A. We have had discussions with current Dorset Green Site owners but there is uncertainty. It is our aspiration to have access via Dorset Green Site.

Michael Dunnnett clarified that the end state for Winfrith is heathland. The rail siding will be retained. Road access through heathland is not practical as it's a long route and would affect wildlife. There have already been discussions with Dorset Green Site owners, working on the same aspiration and has to have happened by 2021 but we want to sort this sooner due to our own waste movements.

Q. Will Inutec bring Nuclear Waste in from other UK sites?

A. Yes, that is our business.

[Tradebe Presentation Slides](#)

Mrs Ellis thanked everyone for attending the meeting and announced that the next meeting would be April 30th @1800hrs.

All SSG info can be found on the RSRL website <http://www.research-sites.com/stakeholder-relations/stakeholder-minutes-and-reports>

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