

**BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE  
SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL 2015**

- The Site Director reported on good progress with decommissioning activities and said that the Site had been awarded the RoSPA Order of Distinction for its continued high standards of industrial safety performance
- There had been two events involving the consignment of solid low level waste to contractors for disposal. Procedures covering the consignment of such materials had not been fully complied with although all waste materials had been sent to appropriate contractors who were able to deal with them correctly and there was no impact on the environment. A warning letter had been received from the Environment Agency in respect of these events.
- The Harwell and Winfrith sites had been relicensed to Magnox, bringing all of the Magnox and former Reactor Sites Restoration Ltd sites under the management of a single site licence company.
- It was reported that consideration was still being given to the choice of containers - ductile cast iron containers or concrete boxes - to be used for the storage of intermediate level wastes on site. A decision as to which container to use on the various sites depended on a number of factors including the cost of building a concrete encapsulation plant and the volume of wastes to be stored.
- The first DCIC container of intermediate level waste had been conditioned for storage on site using plant manufactured by a local contractor which removed moisture from the waste.
- Reports were given by the Site Inspectors from the Office for Nuclear Regulation and Environment Agency, outlining their inspection activities. Discharges from the site were reported as being very low compared with permitted levels. The assessed impact of radioactivity in the environment on members of the public consuming locally produced foodstuffs was very low compared with the government's recommended limits.
- A report was given on arrangements for providing support to local communities to mitigate the effects of the closure of power station sites.

**BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE**

**SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT**

**THE BERKELEY ARMS HOTEL ON WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL 2015**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr Mrs P Wride (Chair)	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Cllr Mrs L Ashton	-	Stroud District Council
Cllr G Vaughan Lewis	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr J Stanton	-	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr H Priestley	-	Hamfallow Parish Council
Cllr J Sant	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr B Tipper	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Mr J Woodward	-	Hamfields Leisure

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr P Dickenson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr A Davis	-	Environment Agency
Mr M Lynden	-	Oldbury on Severn SSG Chairman
Mr D Wride	-	Lower Severn Drainage Board
Mr A Neal	-	Site Director
Ms G Coombs	-	Magnox Ltd
Mrs H Morris	-	Magnox Ltd
Mrs E Vaughan Lewis	-	Magnox Ltd
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

**INTRODUCTION**

- 1 Cllr Mrs Wride welcomed all those present to this meeting of the Berkeley Nuclear Licensed Site Stakeholder Group.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Chandler, Cllr G Craig, Rev Richard Avery and Cllr S Patterson.

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28 JANUARY 2015**

**(a) Accuracy**

- 3 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 28 January 2015 were approved as an accurate record.

**(b) Matters arising**

- 4 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

## **BERKELEY SITE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

- 5 Mr Neal reported on current activities at the Berkeley Site. He drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) The site had been awarded the RoSPA Order of Distinction for its continued high standards of industrial safety performance.
  - (ii) The site had been re-accredited against the ISO standards 9001, 14,001, and 18,001.
  - (iii) There had been two events relating to the control of solid waste sent off site for disposal. In one event 112 drums of desiccant sent to a contractor had been described as originating from the Berkeley Site. Three of the drums, although containing similar material, had been found to originate from other sites. In the other event relating to waste sent for incineration, paperwork which was related to a specific bin of waste was transferred to another bin. In both cases the wastes were dealt with appropriately in suitable facilities and neither event had any environmental impact but the correct procedures had not been followed. A warning letter had been received from the Environment Agency.
  - (iv) An event had occurred at the Berkeley railhead during operations to remove an empty fuel flask returning to Oldbury from its Flatrol rail wagon. When attempting to lift the flask from the wagon the crane had started to lift the wagon itself. The event was being investigated.
  - (v) A fuel flask transporter returning from the Berkeley railhead to Oldbury had become stuck after the driver had stopped at the side of the road.
  - (vi) The Harwell and Winfrith sites had been relicensed to Magnox, bringing all 12 of the Magnox and former RSRL sites under a single site licence company.
  - (vii) Consideration was still being given as to whether to change from DCIC containers to 6 m<sup>3</sup> concrete boxes for the storage of intermediate level wastes. The business case depended on a number of factors including the costs of building an encapsulation plant and the numbers of boxes to be filled. Work was in hand to inform a decision which would be taken later in the year.
  - (viii) The first DCIC container of intermediate level waste resin had been successfully conditioned for storage. The drying process developed on site had worked very well.
  - (ix) All the equipment required for the retrieval of fuel element debris from the vaults had now been installed and commissioning would take place later in the summer. It was expected that the retrieval of these

wastes would take three years to complete, working 24 hours a day for five days a week.

- (x) Operations were continuing to cut into sections control rods held within the chute silo. To date 78 of the 118 control rods had been cut up and it was hoped to fill the first DCIC container with these components during May.
- (xi) Some 250 m<sup>3</sup> of asbestos material and a quantity of steel ducting had been removed from the shielded area.
- (xii) Good progress had been made with the reduction of hazards in the active effluent treatment plant basement.
- (xiii) During the past year the Berkeley site had raised almost £5,500 for its chosen charity the Acorns Children's Hospice.
- (xiv) The Site Director invited members of the SSG for a site tour later in the year. A reminder email would be sent following the election.

- 6 Noting that there had been no reported lost time accidents, Cllr Vaughan-Lewis asked whether an accident in the car park should have been reported. Mr Neal said that the accident to which Cllr Vaughan-Lewis was referring involved a member of staff from Oldbury and would therefore in accordance with the company's procedures be recorded as an Oldbury accident.

## **REGULATORS' UPDATE**

### **Office for Nuclear Regulation**

- 7 Mr Dickenson presented a report on his inspection activities at the Berkeley Site. A report on those activities had been made available to members in advance of the meeting. Mr Dickinson said that these reports contained some standard information which was included for the benefit of persons who might be reading such a report for the first time. He pointed out that further information on his inspection activities was available on the ONR website.
- 8 Mr Dickinson gave an outline of the changes introduced by the Energy Act 2013 which established the Office for Nuclear Regulation as a separate independent entity. He gave details of the statutory obligations and powers of ONR and its inspectors. A copy of the slides used by Mr Dickinson for this presentation is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

### **Environment Agency**

- 9 Mr Davis presented a report on the Environment Agency's inspection activities at the Berkeley Site. He drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) In four visits to the Site since the previous meeting, Mr Davis had inspected radioactive waste management arrangements, reviewed

progress with ILW retrieval and conditioning and investigated reported events.

- (ii) A warning letter had been issued in relation to the non-compliance with requirements in the two events reported earlier by Mr Neal. The wastes had been sent to appropriate facilities and neither event had resulted in any environmental impact.
  - (iii) The Agency was awaiting a decision by Magnox on the recruitment of a new Head of Environment at the Berkeley site.
  - (iv) Discharges from the Berkeley site were broadly comparable with those of previous years and were quite low – aqueous discharges were less than 1% of the relevant limit and gaseous discharges were within the range 10 – 15% of the limit.
  - (v) The Environment Agency together with the Food Standards Agency had published its annual report on radioactivity in food and the environment. The assessed dose to local members of the public in the vicinity of the Site from radioactivity in food and environment remained less than 1% of the Government's dose limit.
- 10 In reply to a question from Ms Priestly, Mr Davis said that the measurements of radioactivity in the environment were taken from fixed locations at various distances from the site.
- 11 Cllr Ms Ashton asked about radioactivity in water removed from containers when conditioning waste. Mr Neil said that filters were installed to prevent any release of radioactivity. In reply to a further question from Cllr Ms Ashton, Mr Davis said that liquid wastes were discharged to the River Severn on the ebb tide.

#### **DISCUSSION FOLLOWING SPECIAL SSG HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY**

- 12 Cllr Mrs Wride reported that Magnox staff were still considering ILW strategy and the various issues raised at the special meeting. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

#### **UPDATE FROM STROUD COLLEGE**

- 13 Cllr Mrs Wride said that representatives of Stroud College were currently meeting with NDA representatives. She pointed out that planning permission for the college development on the Berkeley Site had been granted and that the first intake of students was expected in September 2016 with the main intake commencing in 2017.

#### **SOCIO ECONOMIC UPDATE**

- 14 Mrs Morris provided an update on the arrangements for providing socio-economic support to local communities. She pointed out that during the past

year some £5600 had been given to organisations in the vicinity of the Berkeley Site. She said that the release of part of the Berkeley Centre site for development as a college was a major item of socio economic support.

- 15 Mrs Morris described the arrangements for processing applications for socio-economic support with smaller donations being administered locally on a “good neighbour” basis and higher value grants being dealt with on a central basis with local input to the decision. She said that applications for socio-economic support should be made via the company’s online web portal.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE**

- 16 Cllr Mrs Wride invited members of the public to raise any issue which had not been covered in discussion at the meeting. No points were raised by members of the public.
- 17 Cllr Mrs Wride said that a brief summary sheet would be attached to minutes of meetings of this group in future outlining the main points discussed. She suggested that members might use this summary sheet in reporting back to the organisations they represented.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 18 In response to a question from Cllr Vaughan-Lewis, Mr Neal said that the conditioning plant which was used for drying wastes stored in DCIC containers would not be required if those wastes were stored in concrete boxes.

#### **DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 19 It was noted that the next meeting of this group was scheduled to be held on Wednesday 29 July 2015

MJD  
May 2015