

**BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE  
SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

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

- Alan Neal, Site Director, presented a report on activities at the site. High standards of safety had been maintained and good progress was being made with decommissioning projects.
- There was to be significant organisational change within Magnox Ltd, with the loss of some 1400 - 1600 jobs within the next 18 months. Many of these job losses were associated with the completion of work programmes. Losses at the Berkeley site were likely to be smaller than elsewhere as, although some projects were nearing completion, others were about to start.
- Events reported at the previous meeting relating to the control of waste material sent off site for disposal had been the subject of a warning letter from the Environment Agency. The Agency had been pleased with the actions taken at the site in response to the warning letter which it was felt would reduce the likelihood of any recurrence.
- Good progress was being made with the development of equipment and systems for the removal of radioactive waste materials from vaults in order to place them in containers for storage on site.
- £5½ thousand had been raised by personnel on site during the past year for their chosen charity, Acorns Children's Hospice. Charity fundraising would continue during the coming year on behalf of the Everyman charity appeal.
- Kelly Anderson, reporting on behalf of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, pointed out that consideration was currently being given to the potential impact of funding restrictions which might result from the government's spending review. The outcome of that review would be known later in the year.
- Adam Davis, representing the Environment Agency reported on the results of his inspection activities at the Berkeley site. There had been no non-compliances with requirements of the site permit and the environmental impact of activities on the site was very low.
- Andrew Slaney, vice principal of South Gloucestershire and Stroud College, reported on the good progress which was being made with the development of facilities for the College on the Berkeley site. Members were pleased with this progress which they felt provided a significant boost for the local community.

## **BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE**

### **SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

#### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT**

**STONE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 29 JULY 2015**

#### **PRESENT:**

Cllr Mrs P Wride (Chair)	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Cllr Mrs L Ashton	-	Stroud District Council
Mr F Baker	-	National Farmers' Union
Mr Neil Carmichael MP	-	Member for Stroud
Mr C Cherry	-	Vale Vision
Cllr G Vaughan Lewis	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr Ms H Molyneux	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr S Paterson	-	Hinton Parish Council
Cllr J Stanton	-	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr B Tipper	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Mr J Woodward	-	Hamfields Leisure

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms K Anderson	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr A Davis	-	Environment Agency
Mr A Slaney	-	South Gloucestershire & Stroud College
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 E Vaughan Lewis	-	Magnox Ltd
Ms S Sugars		
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. She reminded members that it was now 10 years since the SSG had been established in its present form. She felt that the Group had helped to achieve much greater public understanding of the activities on the Site and expressed her appreciation of the openness shown by Magnox and the NDA in providing information for the Group.

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Rev Avery, Mr P Case, Cllr Dr J Cordwell, Cllr S Chandler, Mr P Dickenson, Mr M Johnson, Cllr J Sant and Cllr G Craig.

## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 29 APRIL 2015**

### **(a) Accuracy**

3 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 29 April 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) There had been no accidents involving time lost from work since the date of the previous meeting. In fact there had been no such accidents on the site for more than four years.
- (ii) There was to be substantial organisational change within the company but significant efforts were being made to ensure that those changes did not cause staff to become distracted from their normal tasks.
- (iii) Considerable efforts continued to be applied to arrangements for learning from experience, and such learning was shared between sites.
- (iv) The events relating to the control of solid waste sent off site for disposal reported at the previous meeting had been the subject of a Warning Letter issued by the Environment Agency in April. Actions taken in response to these events included improvements in waste management arrangements, management procedures and training.
- (v) Shortcomings in the emergency communications arrangements within the new vault control module identified in the ONR report to members had been rectified.
- (vi) Proposed organisational changes would result in the loss of 1400 - 1600 jobs within Magnox over the next 18 months. Many of these were associated with the completion of specific programmes of work at individual sites. Staff losses at Berkeley would be less than at other sites since whilst some work programmes were coming to an end others were starting.
- (vii) Changes in management responsibilities within Magnox included the appointment of three Programme Directors associated with decommissioning, waste management and asset management. Job titles for Site Directors, who remained the agents of the licensee, were, for all except Wylfa and Oldbury sites, to be redefined as

Closure Directors, emphasising their continuing responsibilities for safety and security of all activities on the sites.

- (viii) Equipment for the removal of waste from the vaults was being tested by commissioning with non-radioactive waste materials. It was anticipated that the first radioactive waste would be removed and placed into storage containers at the start of October.
- (ix) Cutting up of the control rods stored as waste in the chute silo was now complete and the start of removal of this waste and transfer to storage containers was imminent.
- (x) £5½ thousand had been raised by personnel on site during the past year for the chosen charity, Acorns Children's Hospice. The chosen charity for the coming year was the Everyman charity appeal.
- (xi) The Site continued to make donations to local organisations as part of the company's socio-economic support programme.

- 6 In response to a question from Mr Lynden, Mr Neal said that some of the waste currently stored within the chute silo might in due course be classified as low level waste. This would become clear once the items clearly identified as intermediate level waste had been removed. In relation to the possibility of changing from DCIC containers to concrete storage boxes he explained that the economic case for changing would depend on the number of containers needed, having regard for the need to provide processing facilities.
- 7 Cllr Ms Ashton drew attention to a recent example of inconsiderate driving of a lorry returning through Berkeley having delivered a DCIC container to the Site. Mr Neal undertook to raise this with the contractor involved.
- 8 In reply to a question from Cllr Stanton, Mr Neal said that he would remain the company's principal point of contact with this Group but that he might in future involve a Programme Director for discussion on a particular project.
- 9 In reply to a question from Cllr Vaughan-Lewis, Mr Neal said that studies were being undertaken to assess whether the existing storage facility would be adequate to take the waste on the site if stored in concrete boxes. He said that there were two types of concrete storage boxes which could be used, the choice of which box to use was dependent upon the level of radioactivity of the contents.
- 10 In response to concerns expressed by Cllr Vaughan Lewis on the potential for distraction of individuals contemplating uncertainties over their future positions, Mr Neal emphasised the actions being taken; he had not seen any evidence to suggest that this was a particularly significant issue.

## **UPDATE FROM NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY**

- 11 Ms Anderson provided an update on issues of interest to the NDA, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The NDA had published its annual report and accounts which were available on the website.
  - (ii) A recent issue of the NDA's Insight magazine focused attention on progress made during the 10 years since NDA had been established.
  - (iii) The impact of the government's forthcoming spending review on funding for NDA activities was not yet known. The NDA's funding represented some 70% of the total allocation to the Department of Energy and Climate Change and some reductions were therefore likely. Consideration was being given to the impact of potential restrictions in funding which might be imposed. The results of the spending review would be announced in November.
  - (iv) The Chairs and Vice Chairs of all SSGs were being invited to a national stakeholder group meeting in September which would include a visit to the Sellafield site.
- 12 In reply to a question from Cllr Vaughan Lewis, Ms Anderson said there were currently no plans within NDA to change arrangements for Site Stakeholder Groups although she felt it would be appropriate to give consideration to the arrangements as Sites progressed into a care and maintenance state. She said that the NDA recognised the value of SSGs in communicating with the public in the vicinity of sites; one possible development for consideration was the broader consultation which currently took place with Chairmen and Vice Chairmen at national level being extended to involve consultation with members at regional levels.

## **REGULATORS' UPDATE**

### **Office for Nuclear Regulation**

- 13 Mr Dickenson had been unable to attend this meeting. Cllr Mrs Wride invited members to raise any issue which they might want to be referred to Mr Dickenson. No such issues were raised.

### **Environment Agency**

- 14 Mr Davis presented a report on the Environment Agency's inspection activities at the Berkeley Site. He drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) Inspection visits since the last meeting had included assessment of the management of gaseous and liquid discharges, progress with intermediate and low level waste storage and clearance procedures for off-site disposal of very low level radioactive wastes.

- (ii) Mr Davis was pleased with the response from the Site following the issue of a Warning Letter in April and was satisfied with the steps taken to minimise the possibility of recurrence of the events which had led to the issue of the Warning Letter.
  - (iii) There had been no non-compliances with requirements of the site permit since the previous meeting.
  - (iv) The Environment Agency was awaiting a decision by Magnox on the recruitment of a replacement Head of Environment at the Berkeley Site.
  - (v) The results of environmental monitoring confirmed that potential doses to individual members of the public in the vicinity of the site remained very low at levels less than 1% of the national dose limit set for the protection of members of the public.
- 15 Cllr Ms Ashton drew attention to published information on the incidence of diseases from which it was difficult to identify whether or not there were issues affecting the health of people in local areas. Cllr Mrs Wride said that a representative of the Health Observatory for the South West would be invited to a future meeting of this Group and would be able to provide helpful information.

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

- 16 Mr Slaney reported on the excellent progress which was being made with development of the facilities at the Berkeley site for South Gloucestershire and Stroud College.
- 17 Mr Baker drew attention to the problems which he could foresee in relation to traffic travelling to the college on the Berkeley site. Mr Slaney said that many of the students were young people who were likely to use the bus services which would be provided and some highway improvements were planned by the County Council.
- 18 Cllr Ms Molyneux expressed her appreciation of the college's links with the Forest of Dean and hoped that these would continue.
- 19 Mr Slaney said that the developments on the Berkeley site would in due course include a conference facility. Ms Anderson felt that the NDA would be interested in using such facilities for stakeholder events.
- 20 Cllr Tipper expressed the view shared by members generally that the development of the college facilities at the Berkeley site was warmly welcomed by the local community. He felt that the activities of the college would lead to other new developments in the area.

## **CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE**

- 21 Cllr Mrs Wride invited members to contact Gemma Coombs if they wished to make a visit to the site. She said that during the coming weeks she would be attending national stakeholder meetings and meetings with Magnox and Cavendish Fluor; she would report back on those meetings at the next meeting of this Group.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No business

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

- 22 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group, a joint meeting with members of the Oldbury SSG, was scheduled to be held on Wednesday 28 October 2015 at the Gables Hotel, commencing at 1.00pm; lunch would be available from 12.00 noon.

MJD

7 August 2015