

BERKELEY AND OLDBURY SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE JOINT MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2015

- Alan Neal, Berkeley Site Director, presented a report on activities at the Site. High standards of safety had been maintained and good progress was being made with the retrieval, packaging and storage of intermediate level wastes. It was assessed that the capacity of the storage facilities at Berkeley was sufficient for the storage of all of the Berkeley Site waste together with a further 100 packages which might be transferred to Berkeley from Oldbury. Against a background of a general reduction in manpower within Magnox there was some recruitment at Berkeley for the operation of waste retrieval systems.
- Mike Heaton, Oldbury Site Director, reported on activities at Oldbury. High standards of safety and been maintained and the site had remained compliant with all relevant limit and requirements. Defuelling of the reactors had been completed on 4 October, four months ahead of programme. Despatches of irradiated fuel from the Site were scheduled for completion by January 2016 and work was in hand to verify that the site was "fuel free". It was proposed that a small number of Ionsiv filters and cartridges would be transferred from Dungeness A and Sizewell A to Oldbury for consolidation and temporary storage in the cooling ponds. Progress was being made towards adoption of a revised organisational structure to reflect the transition to the decommissioning phase.
- Reports were received from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and from the Office for Nuclear Regulation and Environment Agency inspectors. No significant issues were raised.
- Direct Rail Services reported on an event at the Berkeley railhead on 15 March when a rail vehicle had been partially lifted by the crane removing a fuel flask from the vehicle. The results of the investigation of this event were explained and details were given of actions taken to prevent any similar event in future.
- Representatives of the Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science gave details of the results of a radiological habit survey undertaken during the past year and gave the results of the monitoring of radioactivity in food and the environment. These results confirmed the reported outcome of monitoring undertaken by the Site.
- Members received a report on progress with the development of facilities on the Berkeley Centre site for use by the South Gloucestershire and Stroud College.
- The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority gave details of a revised strategy document which is being made available for public consultation.

**BERKELEY AND OLDBURY SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS
MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING HELD AT THE GABLES HOTEL,
FALFIELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2015**

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs P Wride (in the chair)	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Mr M Lynden	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr D Chubb	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Dr J Cordwell	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr D Dovey	-	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Assn of Parish and Town Councils
Cllr P Hassell	-	Bristol City Council
Cllr Ms S Hunter	-	Olveston Parish Council
Cllr G Vaughan-Lewis	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr Mrs J Lyons	-	Olveston Parish Council
Cllr Mrs H Molyneux	-	Forest of Dean Council and
Cllr Molyneux	-	Tidenham Parish Council
Cllr J O'Neill	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Ms A Payne	-	Stroud Green Party
Cllr J Sant	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr K Sullivan	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr B Tipper	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Mr D Wride	-	Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms K Anderson	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr M Koskelainen	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr P Dickenson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr A Davis	-	Environment Agency
Mr P Reynolds	-	Environment Agency
Ms K Palmer	-	Direct Rail Services
Mr S Price	-	Direct Rail Services
Ms F Clyne	-	Cefas
Mr A Dewar	-	Cefas
Mr A Slaney	-	South Gloucestershire and Stroud College
Mr P Heath	-	Cavendish Fluor Partnership
Mr M Heaton	-	Oldbury Site
Mr P Clarke	-	Oldbury Site
Ms L Miles	-	Oldbury Site
Mr P Chilcott	-	Oldbury Site
Mr J McNally	-	Oldbury Site
Ms E Ciezarek	-	Oldbury Site
Mr A Neal	-	Berkeley Site
Ms E Rolfe	-	Berkeley Site
Ms G Coombs	-	Magnox
Mr B Bridgewater	-	Magnox
Mr W Gill		
Ms J Chubb		
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

I WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

1 Cllr Mrs Wride welcomed members of the Oldbury and Berkeley Site Stakeholder Groups to the meeting which was being held jointly for the consideration of monitoring reports and other items of interest to both SSGs.

II APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Stanton, Cllr Ms L Ashton, Ms H Cook and Cllr S Patterson.

III MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING HELD ON 5 NOVEMBER 2014

(a) Accuracy

3 The minutes of the joint meeting held on 5 November 2014 were approved as a correct record.

(b) Matters arising

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

IV PUBLIC FORUM

5 Cllr Mrs Wride invited members of the public to raise any issues which might not arise in later discussions. No issues were raised.

V SITE REPORT BERKELEY

6 Mr Neal reported on recent activities at the Berkeley site, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) There had been no accidents involving time lost from work.
- (ii) Exercises during September had demonstrated the operation of counter-terrorism security arrangements and emergency arrangements to the satisfaction of the regulators.
- (iii) Following further review of arrangements for the management of intermediate level wastes it was envisaged that the existing interim storage facility on the Berkeley Site would be adequate for the storage of all wastes on the site and potentially some waste packages from Oldbury. It was estimated that 600 packages would be required to store the Berkeley waste and approximately 100 packages might be transferred from Oldbury. Intermediate level waste storage for other Magnox sites would be focused upon storage facilities at Bradwell and Hinkley Point A; the approach currently envisaged would provide savings of some £200 million.

- (iv) Changes in organisational structures were being introduced within the company with Programme Directors having responsibility for discrete functions across all Sites. Site Closure Directors would continue to be the agent of the licensee for their Site with particular responsibilities for safety and security.
- (v) Manpower reductions of some 1400 – 1600 were envisaged within Magnox during the next 18 months. Some reductions would naturally result from the completion of programmes of work at sites. Some recruitment was being undertaken at the Berkeley Site to provide necessary operational staff for the removal of ILW from waste vaults; this recruitment had provided opportunities for a number of staff from Oldbury.
- (vi) Current arrangements were for intermediate level wastes at Berkeley to be placed in ductile cast iron containers, conditioned as necessary using vacuum drying techniques before storage in the Interim Storage Facility. It was envisaged that at some point the process would be changed to enable wastes to be encapsulated in concrete boxes for storage.
- (vii) It was hoped that active commissioning of facilities for the retrieval and packaging of fuel element debris and other wastes would commence during the coming week. It was envisaged that the facilities would be handed over to operational staff at the end of the current year and that removal of the waste would be completed in about three years.
- (viii) Approximately 50% of the Control Rod components stored within the Chute Silo had been removed and transferred to ductile cast iron containers.
- (ix) The vacuum drying equipment installed for conditioning of wastes in DCIC containers was working successfully.

7 In reply to a question from Cllr Mrs Wride, Mr Neal said that a filtered ventilation system was installed within the vaults to ensure that no dust which might arise from movement of fuel element debris was released to the atmosphere. Mr A Davis said that the possible creation of dust when fuel element debris was disturbed had been a matter of concern to the Environment Agency. He complimented the Site on its structured approach to putting this equipment to work and said it had been shown that dust was not a significant problem.

8 In reply to a question from Mr Slaney, Mr Neal said that after removal of all the waste the vaults would be vacuum cleaned and possibly backfilled before being left until the time of final site clearance.

- 9 In response to comments made by Cllr Chubb, Mr Dickenson said that the manipulator equipment within the vaults was hydraulically controlled and was similar to equipment used in mines and other hostile environments.
- 10 Cllr Vaughan Lewis referred to rumours circulating around Berkeley that radioactive packages had been found during work to convert facilities for college use. Mr Neal said that three small cylinders designed for containing radioactive materials had been found by contractors in the engineering facility. They had been checked, found to be clean and disposed of appropriately.

VI SITE REPORT OLDBURY

- 11 Mr Heaton reported on recent activities and issues at the Oldbury Site, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The Site had remained compliant with all Operating Rule limits and conditions and all Maintenance Schedule requirements. There had been no significant conventional safety issues.
 - (ii) The Site had hosted a visit by the ONR Chairman, Nick Baldwin, who had been impressed with defuelling progress and hazard reduction on the Site.
 - (iii) Electricity production at Oldbury represented a lifetime load factor of 82.5%. Electricity generation had been extended after the closure of fuel fabrication facilities at Springfield by the development of techniques allowing the transfer of fuel between the reactors. These techniques had subsequently been used to extend operational life at Wylfa.
 - (iv) Defuelling had been completed on 4 October 2015. Completion of this work some four months ahead of the programme established 18 months ago reflected great credit on the teams involved. The fuel remaining in the Oldbury ponds would be despatched in a further 38 fuel flask shipments; it was anticipated that all fuel despatches from Oldbury would be completed by January 2016.
 - (v) It was planned that a small number of Ionsiv filters and cartridges from Dungeness A and Sizewell A would be received at Oldbury for consolidation and temporary storage in the Oldbury pond. Carrying out this consolidation work at Oldbury rather than at the despatching sites would result in significant overall savings. The potential impact on pond conditions at Oldbury had been assessed.

- (vi) The removal of bulk asbestos from the de-aerator vessels on the Turbine Hall roof had been completed. Some 20 m³ of asbestos had been removed and disposed of safely and compliantly.
- (vii) Plans were well advanced for moving to a decommissioning organisational structure in March 2016. Structures had been agreed with trades unions and individuals had been consulted to identify their individual aspirations. Staffing numbers on site would be influenced by the scope of project work to be undertaken.
- (viii) The Site continued to provide socio-economic support to local projects and charities, including recent support to Thornbury Town Football Club for the provision of new kit.

VII NDA UPDATE

12 Ms Anderson reported on issues of current interest to the NDA, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) The timely completion of defuelling at Oldbury was an important milestone for the NDA as well as for the Site and Magnox.
- (ii) The NDA website was to be moved into the government's website portal. It was hoped that this change would be completed by the end of November.
- (iii) NDA had received the results of the stakeholder survey undertaken during the past year. The results were generally positive but there were a number of lessons to be learned and an action plan was being prepared to address issues raised. These matters would be discussed further at the next national stakeholder event.
- (iv) The NDA's annual report and accounts had been published and was available on the website.
- (v) The outcome of the government's spending review was due to be published at the end of November.

VIII OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORT

13 Mr Dickenson reported on the ONR's inspection activities at the Berkeley and Oldbury sites. Reports had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Mr Dickinson drew particular attention to the following:

- (i) Emergency and counter-terrorism arrangements for both sites had been demonstrated in exercises to the satisfaction of the ONR.

- (ii) Organisational changes on sites were subject to regulatory controls under the terms of a site licence condition.
- (iii) There had been no problem with dust when fuel element debris within the vault at Berkeley had been disturbed.
- (iv) A programme of work to demonstrate that no fuel remained on site had commenced at Oldbury

14 Mr Lynden and Cllr Mrs Wride referred to a meeting of the Joint Emergency Planning Consultative Committee for the Berkeley and Oldbury Sites which they had attended recently. They had been impressed by the good relationships which existed between the Sites and the various agencies which might be involved in dealing with an emergency on site. They felt that the close working relationships and the obvious attention given to emergency planning provided valuable reassurance for members of the public.

IX ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

15 Mr Davis reported on the Environment Agency's inspection activities in relation to the Berkeley site. He referred to the progress made with retrieval, conditioning and storage of ILW at Berkeley and said that some of his colleagues with responsibilities for the Sellafield site had visited Berkeley to see arrangements for the use of ductile cast iron containers. Mr Davis acknowledged the careful structured approach adopted in dealing with handling and processing of radioactive waste materials and referred to the scrutiny of proposals for changes in organisational structures and methods of working.

16 Mr Davis said that there had been no non-compliance with statutory or permitted requirements at Berkeley; discharges had been very low level and well within permitted limits. Mr Davis outlined the environmental monitoring programmes undertaken by Magnox and the EA and other Agencies. He said that the annual report on Radioactivity in Food and the Environment had been published on the day of this meeting and was available on the government's website. He said it demonstrated that the maximum potential exposure to radiation of a member of the public in the vicinity of the Berkeley and Oldbury Sites was equivalent to less than 0.5% of the statutory limit.

17 Mr Reynolds reported on the Environment Agency's inspection activities in relation to the Oldbury site. He acknowledged the good progress made with hazard reduction on site. Referring to the proposal to transfer Ionsiv filters and cartridges from other sites to Oldbury, he said he was satisfied that there was a low probability that this would result in any deterioration in the conditions within the Oldbury ponds.

18 Mr Reynolds said that the EA monitored proposed organisational changes to ensure that the Sites retained sufficient capability for dealing with environmental issues.

X DIRECT RAIL SERVICES REPORT

19 Ms Palmer explained the organisation and role of Direct Rail Services as a licensed rail operator providing transport services to the nuclear industry. She said that DRS had been formed in 1995 following rail privatisation and was now a wholly-owned subsidiary of the NDA.

20 Mr Price outlined the framework of regulations associated with the transport of nuclear materials and described the arrangements for the transport of fuel flasks between Sellafield and the Magnox sites.

21 Mr Price described an event which had occurred at the Berkeley railhead on 15 March 2015. This event, which had been reported at an earlier meeting of this Group, had involved the lifting of an irradiated fuel flask from the rail wagon which had transported it from Sellafield. When an attempt was made to lift the flask the crane had started to lift the wagon with the flask. Mr Price said that investigations had shown that this had been due to the flask becoming stuck in the guides which located it on the wagon; there had been no experience of this occurring previously. Checks had confirmed that the crane had not been overloaded. Recommendations made following the event had included improved procedures for the alignment of the crane above the flask before lifting, improved maintenance of the guides on the wagon and improved briefing of staff on procedural requirements. Mr Price believed that these actions were appropriate to prevent any such events occurring in future and there had been no further incidents subsequently.

22 Issues identified during discussion included:

- (i) There had been no risk to the flask or the rail vehicle.
- (ii) There was an overload trip fitted to the crane but the weight lifted had not reached the limit to cause it to operate.
- (iii) Polishing of the guides would reduce friction between the vehicle and the flask.
- (iv) Staff briefing included appropriate observations to identify any lifting of the vehicle at the earliest opportunity.

XI CEFAS HABIT SURVEY RESULTS

23 Ms Clyne outlined the results of the habit survey which had been undertaken by the Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) last year in the vicinity of the sites. The survey had involved interviewing some 350 people over a period of 10 days in August last year, obtaining information on their behaviour and diet. Ms Clyne said that compared with the previous survey carried out in 2007 there appeared to have been a general decline in rates of consumption of locally produced foodstuffs and there had been changes in the times spent in occupation of different types of tidal areas. The results of the survey were used, together with the results of

radiological monitoring, to assess potential exposures of members of the public to radioactivity in the environment.

24 Mr Dewar outlined the results of the monitoring of radioactivity in food and the environment in the vicinity of the Berkeley and Oldbury site during 2013. A report on this monitoring was available on the website. He said that the assessed maximum potential exposure for members of the public in the vicinity of the sites was less than 1% of the statutory limit for such exposures. The assessed exposure was also very small compared with the UK average exposure to natural background radiation.

25 During discussion Mr Davis encouraged caution in the interpretation of any apparent trend in the results of this environmental monitoring. The levels measured were close to the limit of the monitoring capability of the equipment used and results could be influenced significantly by small changes in monitoring arrangements.

XII SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND STROUD COLLEGE UPDATE

26 Mr Slaney described progress with the development of facilities on the Berkeley Centre site for the South Gloucestershire and Stroud College. He said that contractors had started work on site on the conversion of facilities and the first student intake was scheduled for September 2016.

XIII NDA STRATEGY UPDATE

27 Mr Koskelainen described the process of review of the NDA's Strategy. It was a requirement of the Energy Act 2004 that the NDA should update its strategy and submit it for public consultation every five years.

28 Mr Koskelainen said that a draft strategy document was currently available on the NDA website. He said that comments would be very welcome at this stage; the formal document for consultation would be issued in January 2016, taking account of any possible impact of the outcome of the government spending review. Mr Koskelainen drew attention to changes in the draft strategy document compared with the previous document. Cllr Mrs Wride said she would consider how best to consult with members in providing a response to the NDA's consultation.

XIV ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT

29 Mr Clarke reported on the monitoring of discharges and radioactivity in the environment undertaken by Magnox. A report had previously been made available to members. He outlined the nature and scope of the environmental monitoring programme and said that monitoring had not identified any unusual results. He expressed thanks to members of the local community for their help in securing samples for monitoring. He said that the environmental monitoring programme would in due course be modified to reflect the reduced level of

hazard on the Oldbury Site after the removal of all fuel; this would be a matter for the approval of the Environment Agency.

30 Mr Clarke drew attention to the significant reduction in the level of gaseous discharges from Oldbury following the cessation of reactor operation; liquid discharges reflected the continuing work in the cooling ponds in dealing with fuel removed from the reactors. Gaseous and liquid discharges from Berkeley were at very low levels.

XV ANY OTHER BUSINESS

31 Cllr Mrs Wride pointed out that since the previous meeting Eirian Vaughan-Lewis and Stephen Payne had left Magnox. She expressed members' appreciation of the support which they had given to this Group in the past and their best wishes for the future.

X DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT JOINT MEETING

32 It was noted that the next meetings of the Oldbury and Berkeley SSGs were scheduled to be held on 27 January 2016 and the next joint meeting was scheduled to be held on 26 October 2016.

MJD
1 November 2015