

## **HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

### **SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2015**

It was reported that Cllr Ms Sue Goss had been appointed as a representative of this Group for discussions with the sites on standards of driving on local roads.

Mr Ron Schroder, A Site Closure Director, reporting on activities at the A Site described continued high standards of safety performance and good progress with decommissioning work. Progress was being made towards implementation of a revised organisational structure which would involve a reduction of 60 - 70 posts in the coming months. Underground diesel oil contamination reported at the previous meeting had been found to be less severe than previously envisaged and remedial work would be completed in the coming months in advance of work starting on dewatering the C Site. Proposals were being developed for the transfer to Hinkley Point of pond skips from Oldbury, Dungeness A and Sizewell A Sites for decontamination treatment and storage. This would involve some 25 lorry deliveries to the Site over a period of two years and would result in an additional 15 waste packages being held in the storage facility on site. It was recognised that this changed approach to the treatment of pond skips would require planning consent approval by Somerset County Council.

Station Director Mr Peter Evans who had taken up his post permanently in August to succeed Mr Mike Harrison, reported on continued high standards of safety and reliable operation at the B station. The station had received renewed certification against various international management systems standards and had been awarded the Order of Distinction by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. Both reactors had operated continuously at nominal full load since the previous meeting except for a short period during August when Reactor 3 had been out of service following an automatic shutdown during routine protection testing on the turbine. Work to be undertaken during the forthcoming statutory outage included the exchange of a large transformer which would be transported via the Comwich Wharf - local residents would be informed of proposed arrangements in due course. Actions taken in response to the Fukushima accident had been completed.

Members received reports from the Office of Nuclear Regulation and Environment Agency inspectors. No substantial issues had been raised by their inspections.

A report was received from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. It was emphasised that reductions in manpower and improvements in efficiency at Magnox sites resulted from the competition process undertaken last year for the management of these sites. Changes being introduced by Cavendish Fluor Partnership were in line with its successful bid for the contract. NDA had a statutory obligation to update its strategy document every five years and submit it for public consultation. A draft was currently available for comment; a final draft to reflect any changes which might be required by the outcome of the government's spending review would be published in January.

## HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

### Minutes of the meeting held at Hill House, Otterhampton on Friday 30 October 2015

#### **PRESENT**

Cllr M Caswell (Chairman) - Sedgemoor District Council  
Mr R Schroder - Site Director, Hinkley Point A  
Mr P Evans - Station Director, Hinkley Point B

#### **Elected Members**

Cllr T Ayre - Holford Parish Council  
Cllr Ms A Bown - Somerset County Council  
Mr M Brown (Vice Chairman) - Otterhampton Parish Council  
Mr A Debenham - Stop Hinkley  
Cllr J Edney - Somerset County Council  
Cllr R Garner - North Somerset Council  
Cllr Ms S Goss - West Somerset District Council  
Cllr R Habgood - Taunton Deane District Council  
Cllr Mrs A Hamlin - Sedgemoor District Council  
Cllr M Hogg - Nether Stowey Parish Council  
Mr A Jeffrey - Sedgemoor and West Somerset Green Party  
Mr M Laver - West Hinkley Action Group  
Cllr C Morgan - West Somerset District Council  
Cllr M Phillips - Cannington Parish Council  
Cllr S Stretton - Spaxton Parish Council  
Cllr L Redman - Bridgwater Town Council  
Cllr J Sivyer - Stockland Bristol Parish Council  
Cllr P Tipney - Stogursey Parish Council  
Ms Elinor Harbridge - Forum 21

#### **Co-opted Members**

Mr M Short

#### **Appointed Members**

Mr W Hamilton - Nuclear Decommissioning Authority  
Mr M Koskeleinen - Nuclear Decommissioning Authority  
Mr T Fediw - Environment Agency  
Mr P Dickenson - Office for Nuclear Regulation  
Mrs N Dawson - Somerset County Council  
Mr G Robinson - Somerset County Council  
Mr R Davies - Somerset County Council  
Mr H Rickard - Wessex Water

#### **EDF Energy**

Mr D Stokes - Communications  
Mr G Bell - Communications  
Mr C Ware - Staff representative

#### **Magnox**

Mr R Wynne - Executive Sponsor

Ms G Coombs - Communications  
Mr B Bridgewater - Waste team

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Cllr H Davies - Somerset County Council  
Ms M Matthews - Member of the public  
Mr John Roberts  
Mr Robert Birkenhead  
Mr M J Davis - Secretary

#### **CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 1 Cllr Caswell welcomed all those present to this meeting of the Site Stakeholder Group for Hinkley Point A Site and Hinkley Point B Power Station. He expressed a particular welcome to Cllr Mrs Hamblin and Cllr Habgood who were attending for the first time as representatives of Sedgemoor District Council and Taunton Deane District Council respectively.
- 2 It was confirmed that there was a quorum of elected members present at the meeting.
- 3 Apologies for absence were received from Dr R MacGregor, Mr I Wilson, Ms S Harrison, Cllr Ms A Reed, Mr P Higginson and Cllr M Dewdney.

#### **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

- 4 It was noted that Cllr Caswell and Mr Brown had been nominated to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair of this group respectively for the coming year. No other nominations had been received. It was agreed unanimously that Cllr Caswell and Mr Brown should be elected to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair of this group respectively for the coming year.
- 5 Cllr Edney expressed members thanks and appreciation to Cllr Caswell and Mr Brown for their hard work and commitment in fulfilling these roles on behalf of the Group.

#### **OPEN PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

- 6 Cllr Caswell invited questions from members of the public on any issue which might not be covered in later discussion.
- 7 Ms Matthews asked whether decisions on extending the operating lifetime of Hinkley Point B were affected by the timescale for building a new power station. Mr Evans said that there was no connection between these two issues. The currently planned date for ending generation at Hinkley Point B was 2023; this

situation was reviewed each year in the light of the results of inspections of key components. Decisions on operating lifetime were based upon safety considerations and were not in any way related to the timescale of completion of Hinkley Point C.

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2015**

### **(a) Accuracy**

- 8 The minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2015 were approved as a correct record.

### **(b) Matters Arising (other than matters to be covered in later discussions)**

#### **Summary sheet**

- 9 Cllr Phillips said that the summary sheet attached to the previous minutes had been helpful in providing feedback to members of his Council.

#### **Standards of driving on local roads (para 9 refers)**

- 10 It was noted that Cllr Ms Goss had been nominated to represent this Group in discussions with the sites on matters relating to standards of driving on local roads.

#### **Hinkley Point B Reactor 4 buffer store storage tube (para 19(iv) refers)**

- 11 Mr Evans reported that the ONR had been satisfied with the company's investigation of the event reported at the previous meeting together with actions taken subsequently to prevent recurrence.

## **CLOSURE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A**

- 12 Mr Schroder drew attention to the change in his job title to reflect more clearly his purpose in cleaning up the Site. He reported on activities at Hinkley Point A Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) There had been no accidents involving time lost from work on the A Site since the previous meeting and no accidents requiring first aid treatment since May. Efforts to maintain levels of safety awareness had been focused on aspects of working at height.
  - (ii) Progress continued with consultations and implementation of a revised organisational structure for the Site. Reductions in manpower numbers of some 60 - 70 were anticipated over the coming months.

- (iii) The Reactor 1 pond had been drained. This represented a significant reduction in hazards on the site. The surfaces of the pond floor and walls would now be treated with a concrete shaving system to remove contamination and then the surfaces would be stabilised. This work was expected to be completed by the end of the current year.
- (iv) Removal of the waste remaining in Settling Tank 3 was expected to be completed during the coming month.
- (v) Consideration was being given to the design of equipment for the retrieval and packaging of fuel element debris. This included consideration of possible compaction of waste in drums to reduce its volume.
- (vi) Studies indicated that the area of land affected by the the underground leakage of diesel fuel reported previously was relatively small and the quantity of oil involved was significantly less than had previously been envisaged. Remediation work would be completed before planned dewatering of the C station site.
- (vii) Detectable contamination has been found on respirators returned to site from an external laundry contractor. The contamination was at a relatively low level but the issue was being fully investigated in conjunction with the external contractor.
- (viii) Pond skip size reduction and decontamination trials had been completed and waste strategy proposals were being developed. Some skip components could be decontaminated sufficiently to reduce the waste classification of the material. Other components, due to the physical shape and configuration of the material could not be decontaminated easily by milling techniques. Following these trials it was proposed that skips should be transported from Oldbury, Sizewell A and Dungeness A to Hinkley Point for decontamination and storage. With volume reduction before despatch from sites this would represent some 25 lorry deliveries to Hinkley Point over a period of two years. Components which could be successfully treated by milling techniques would be processed to reduce the waste classification to either low level waste or free release. Resulting low level waste arisings would be despatched to the Drigg repository. Components which could not be readily decontaminated by this technique would be encapsulated in due course for storage on site. The skips from other sites would represent a total of 15 packages of waste which would have a minimal impact on the total storage of some 1000 packages on site.

13 During discussion Cllr Caswell pointed out that these proposals for processing of pond skips at Hinkley Point would require planning consent approval from Somerset County Council. He envisaged that SCC would refer any such application to District and Parish Councils. He said that if an application for such

consent was made he would convene a special meeting of this Group to consider the issues.

- 14 Mr Schroder said that the milling of skip components could be undertaken more economically at Hinkley Point having regard for the costs of providing facilities at the other sites and training staff in the required techniques.
- 15 Mr Short said he was confident that appropriate controls would be applied to the transport and processing of these skips. In reply to his question, Mr Schroder said that these proposals represented a saving of some £1.5 million compared with current plans and the processing of these skips would provide employment at Hinkley Point for some 7 - 10 people for a period of 2 - 3 years.
- 16 In reply to a question from Cllr Habgood, Mr Schroder explained that there was no advantage to be gained from partially decontaminating a skip component if its waste categorisation remained the same following treatment.
- 17 In reply to a question from Mr Debenham, Mr Schroder explained that the organisational changes within the company were designed to focus attention upon key functions with effective accountability arrangements. In reply to a question from Cllr Morgan on the potential effects of reductions in funding, Mr Schroder said that priority would remain focused on the treatment and storage of intermediate level wastes. In response to a question from Mr Jeffrey, Mr Schroder said it was intended that components with high radiation dose rates would be separated from Magnox fuel element debris before compaction.
- 18 In reply to a question from Cllr Redman, Mr Schroder said that there were some 235 staff working on site currently; anticipated reductions would reduce numbers to some 175; some of the staff leaving Hinkley Point would transfer to projects at other sites. In response to a further question from Mr Redman on the timescale for consideration of pond skip decontamination proposals, Cllr Caswell said he understood that proposals might be submitted to Somerset County Council in January 2016. Mr Schroder said the earliest possible date for transfer of skips from other sites to Hinkley Point was September 2016. Cllr Caswell repeated his commitment to convene a special meeting of this Group if an application was made to Somerset County Council for planning consent for the management of pond skips as outlined by Mr Schroder.

## **STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B**

- 19 Mr Evans reported on activities and performance at the power station since the previous meeting of this Group, drawing particular attention to the following:
  - (i) The station had maintained very high standards of safety and reliability. It was now more than 9 years since the station had had a reportable nuclear event and more than 6 years since the last environmental event.

- (ii) Following audit by Lloyds Register Quality Assurance, the Station had retained its certification against various international management system standards.
- (iii) RoSPA had awarded the site its Order Of Distinction following 15 consecutive years of winning the RoSPA Gold award.
- (iv) There had been two lost time incidents since the previous meeting. Both of these involved individuals striking their heads against fixed items whilst moving around the site. Both individuals had received first aid treatment and had made full recoveries. Consideration was being given to the possibility of issuing a different type of safety protective helmet for moving around the site.
- (v) Since the previous meeting the station had demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Office for Nuclear Regulation its emergency planning arrangements for dealing with terrorist events and accidents involving transport of radioactive materials.
- (vi) Reactor 4 had operated continuously at nominal full load since the previous meeting. Reactor 3 had operated similarly apart from a period between 16 and 22 August following an automatic shutdown during routine protection testing on the turbine. During that shutdown one of the 81 control rods on the reactor had not entered fully into the reactor core. Investigations had shown this to be due to a displaced component within the control rod actuator. Actions had been taken to ensure that this fault did not recur. The safety case requirement was for a minimum of 26 control rods out of the 81 to be fully inserted into the core to safely shut down the reactor.
- (vii) Station staff and contract partners had raised £11,000 which had been presented to the Elliot's Touch Fund, established by a Hinkley Point B worker in memory of his young son who tragically had died of cardiomyopathy.
- (viii) Work to be undertaken during the forthcoming statutory outage would include the exchange of a large transformer. The replacement transformer would be delivered via Comwich Wharf; local residents would be advised of proposed transport arrangements in due course.
- (ix) EDF Energy was working to change teenage girls' perceptions of science and encourage them to pursue careers in science and engineering.

- 20 In reply to a question from Cllr Garner, Mr Evans said that the replacement of the transformer during the forthcoming outage was part of a planned maintenance investment strategy.
- 21 In response to a question from Cllr Ms Goss, Mr Evans outlined a number of safety enhancements including the newly installed nitrogen injection plant and the installation of super-articulated control rods, together with other improvements introduced following the Fukushima accident. The actions taken in response to the Fukushima accident, which were now complete, included the installation of dam boards, the provision of improved means of connecting alternative external electrical supplies and various emergency preparedness improvements.
- 22 Cllr Sivyer asked whether EDF Energy would be opposed to any proposed fracking activities in the area. Mr Evans said that any proposals which might affect ground structure would have to be taken into account in relation to the station's safety case. It was noted that no planning applications for fracking had yet been received by Somerset County Council.
- 23 Cllr Garner asked whether computer control systems on the power station or the grid system might be vulnerable to hacking. Mr Evans said that there was a rigorous approach to IT security and plant control systems within the station were self-contained.

## **OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORTS**

- 23 Mr Dickenson reported on the ONR's regulatory and inspection activities relating to Hinkley Point A Site and B Station. The following points were noted during discussion:
- (i) Mr Dickenson emphasised the requirement for sites contemplating organisational changes to demonstrate that structures were sufficiently robust to meet future safety and environmental needs.
  - (ii) Referring to earlier comments on future operating lifetimes, Mr Dickenson said that following maintenance and inspection outages the licensee was required to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the ONR that the plant was safe to be returned to service.
  - (iii) Cllr Ms Goss drew attention to wording in the ONR's published reports on its inspection activities which might be interpreted as a qualification of its approval of matters witnessed during inspections. Mr Dickinson said that the words used in these reports were common to all such reports. They were not intended to imply qualified approval but merely to highlight the fact that the ONR required issues identified during inspections to be acted upon.

- (iv) Cllr Ayre drew attention to the potential for traffic congestion on the A39 to restrict access for members of staff travelling to the site, particularly at times of shift changeover.

## **ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORTS**

- 24 Mr Fediw presented a report on the Environment Agency's monitoring and regulatory activities relating to the Hinkley Point A and B sites since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Discussions had taken place with A Site on an innovative technique for decontamination of the walls of spent fuel ponds. Following concerns raised by the Agency and ONR on additional solid radioactive waste arisings, the company was reconsidering its approach.
  - (ii) The Agency had accepted that Magnox proposals for changes in its ILW waste strategy represented the best available technique.
  - (iii) Proposed revised environmental monitoring arrangements for A Site taking account of current levels of discharge from the site had been reviewed and agreed with some modifications. The Agency had maintained dialogue with Magnox regarding the remediation of underground diesel contamination on the A Site.
  - (iv) The Agency had reviewed arrangements for the management of the district survey laboratory, noting improvements which had been made. It had been concluded that the operator was complying with its permits and a suggestion of further improvements had received a positive response.
  - (v) Inspections on B Station had included the management of solid radioactive waste and arrangements in respect of combustion plant on the site.

## **UPDATE FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY**

- 25 Mr Hamilton reported on issues of current interest to the NDA. Referring to earlier discussion on IT security, he said that this matter was taken very seriously by the NDA with any new systems being subjected to rigorous testing. He said that the current transfer of the NDA website into the government's web site portal had significant IT security benefits.
- 26 In relation to organisational changes and reductions in manpower levels, Mr Hamilton emphasised that these resulted from the competition process for management of the Magnox sites. Cavendish Fluor partnership were taking action on proposals they had included in their successful bid. He said that each of the bidders involved in the competition process had identified potential savings and

- substantial savings were expected over the life of the contract. Manpower reductions were not merely being implemented in response to funding restrictions.
- 27 Mr Hamilton said that the government spending review was nearing completion and the results would be announced at the end of November. The level of funding to be made available to NDA was not yet known but Mr Hamilton believed that a strong case had been made to support its proposed budgets.
- 28 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.
- 29 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.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- 30 Cllr Caswell reported on his recent activities as chairman of this Group. He said that the draft strategy referred to by Mr Koskelainen was due to be discussed at a meeting of the National Stakeholder Group in January 2016. He said that he had been asked to continue as chair of the SSG Chairs' Forum and was prepared to do so until June 2016.

#### **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

- 31 Mrs Dawson referred to the report on the meeting of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. She said that a draft revised off-site plan was currently circulating amongst those involved for comment and it was hoped that a revised document would be finalised within the coming month. She introduced Mr Davies who was working for Somerset County Council on off site planning matters.

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

- 32 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on Friday, 26 February 2016. The venue for this meeting would be confirmed in due course.

MJD  
3 November 2015