



HARWELL CHILTON CAMPUS LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

Minutes of the 85th meeting held at the Satellite Applications Catapult on Thursday 12 May 2016

PRESENT

Chairman Chris Broad, Chilton Parish Council
Secretary Emma Burwood, Magnox Comms
Minutes Trudie Tomlinson, Magnox
SSG Secretariat Tracey Finn

APOLOGIES

Susan Adams, Magnox
Rob Bryant, West Berkshire Council
Rob Gentry, Magnox
Peter Hayes, ONR Inspector
Insp Mark Lester, CNC Police
Cllr Stewart Lilly, Oxfordshire County Council
Jane Murray, Restore Scan Ltd
Julie Pearce, Oxfordshire Federation of WI's

ATTENDEES

Paul Atyeo Magnox
Rebecca Cleverley Environment Agency
Mike Fox-Davies Member of the public
Michael Dunnett Harwell Closure Director
David Farrell North Drive Residents Committee
Bill Hanks Member of the public
Laura Holland Diamond Light Source
Norman Jorgensen Nuclear Technologies
Joe Kelleher ISIS Pulsed Neutron and Muon Source
David Marsh Chair, Harwell Parish Council
Steven Moss Head of Property, UKAEA
Alick Natton Vale of White Horse District Council
Andy Parkes Radioactive Waste Management
Nick Parry Managing Agent, Hendred Estate
Roy Payne Radioactive Waste Management
David Prior Didcot First
Gary Reid Magnox
Ian Shaw Director Southern Region, Nuvia
John Sharp Deputy SSG Chairman
Paul Steventon Public Health England
Laura Street Magnox
Graeme Stonell Magnox
Sergio Vazzana ECSAT
Angela Vincent Magnox
Reg Waite Blewbury and Harwell Ward
Dee Bougton-Waite Harwell Parish Council
Derek Whitmell Upton Parish Council
Claire Williams Environmental Advisor
Christine Williamson Head of Health & Safety, MRC Harwell
John Wilkins Member of the public
Mike Wise Tetronics Ltd

Peter Walker, UKAEA Ltd



HARWELL SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP 85TH MEETING

Date: Thursday, 12 May 2016
Time: 10:00 for refreshments, meeting starts 10:30
Venue: The Satellite Applications Catapult, Electron Building, Fermi Avenue, Harwell Oxford, OX11 0QR

AGENDA

1. Chairman's remarks:
 - Welcome guests
 - Chairman's Notes – Chris Broad (10)
 - Apologies for absence and changes in membership
2. Minutes of the 84th meeting held on 4 December 2015
3. Matters arising:
4. **Magnox Harwell Licensed Site Matters**
 - (a) Closure Director's Site Report – Michael Dunnett (20)
 - (b) Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant (LETP) – Gary Reid (15)
5. **Reports**
 - (a) Office for Nuclear Regulation – Report on table (10)
 - (b) Nuclear Decommissioning Authority – David Rushton (10)
 - (c) Environment Agency – Rebecca Cleverley (10)
6. **GDF Presentation** – Roy Payne and Andy Parkes (25)
7. **Campus Matters**
 - (a) Harwell Campus Joint Venture Partnership – Duncan Rogers (15)
 - (b) Science and Technology Facilities Council – Joe Kelleher (15)
 - (c) Diamond Light Source – Laura Holland (10)
 - (d) ESCAT overview – Sergio Vazzana (10)
8. **Any other business:**
9. **Next Meetings:** Wednesday, 7 September 2016
Thursday, 1 December 2016

Emma Burwood – Communications and Socio-economics Lead

Tracey Finn - SSG Secretariat

Trudie Tomlinson - Minutes Secretary

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1. Chairman's Remarks

The main points were as follows:-

- In January there was a meeting of the National SSG chairs. The two topics discussed were the government spending review and the NDA business plan and strategy consultation. There was nothing of concern for Harwell. Magnox is fully funded for the first year and is OK for subsequent years.
- In February there was a meeting of the Harwell campus to discuss the master plan on future development plans. There is pressure from the Campus to release land for development but the NDA focus is on hazard reduction. There was some concern that the unique nature of Harwell was not being recognised. Angus Horner promised consultation but it has not appeared as yet. There were issues with the Vale of White Horse local plan proposals for large housing sites to the north and east of the campus. The campus have opposed this and instead proposed 1400 houses north of the campus. No agreement was reached. The chairman noted that there appeared to be lots of misinformation about Magnox activities especially decommissioning.
- The pay dispute at Harwell has been settled.
- The chairman thanked Angela Vincent for supporting the group in the past and explained that due to restructuring Angela had moved on to a more corporate role and Emma Burwood would be the future first point of contact, supported by Tracey Finn as the SSG secretariat.

2. Minutes of the 84th meeting held on Friday 4 December 2015

- These were accepted as a true record of the meeting. It was requested that in future a link to the minutes be made on the Magnox website as they are currently hard to find.

3. Matters Arising

- There were no matters arising.

4. Magnox Licenced Site Matters

Closure Directors Report – Michael Dunnnett

The main points were as follows:

Safety and Environment

- There were no significant nuclear safety issues identified.
- There was one notification to ONR when a waste shipment to Sellafield contained the wrong drum. This was due to an incorrectly labelled drum which breached the transport container limit. An investigation is currently ongoing.
- A new emergency plan is being developed as the hazards at Harwell have significantly reduced. The SSG sub-group will be briefed once the plan is finalised.
- Successful counter terrorism exercises have been held.

- There has been one recordable injury at Harwell where a worker at B462 became disorientated and tripped and fractured his arm. This was due to the new exit arrangements which had been put in place during the day and the shift worker had not been aware of it when he finished his shift. An investigation on this has been completed.
- Liquid and gaseous emissions remain well below permitted limits.

Magnox Restructuring

- Magnox is now entering the final phases of restructuring. It has completed the best fit exercise to allocate staff to roles within the organisation. Vast majority of staff reductions have been achieved through VER, resignations and retirements and there are a very small number now of staff who are unallocated. Magnox is aiming to reduce compulsory redundancies to zero.

New lifetime plan for Harwell

- The new LTP has been revised as part of the consolidation phase of Cavendish Fluor Partnership Contract but is it still subject to NDA verification.

Programme Update

- RM2 retrievals have made excellent progress in FY 15/16 and have met the target despite it looking impossible at one point.
- WEP inactive commissioning will be complete mid-2016 and then active commissioning will start prior to ONR approval to operate.

Nuclear Material Transfers

- Phase 1 of CHILW transfers completed March 2016 with the target having been met
- Phase 2 requires manufacture of Novapaks which will start early 2017.
- Phase 1 of CLD's (concrete lined drums) awaits manufacture of internal furniture for FHISOs. This is being done by Sellafield. Phase 2 awaits TN Gemini flask modifications and regulatory approval and modifying B462.17 to allow loading of the Gemini flask.

ILW Store

- The contract for the ILW store has been placed and a safety case is in progress. Work is due to commence June 2016.
- LETP – Gary Reid will provide information at his presentation later.
- OMAD decommissioning is now complete and the legacy active drains project commenced.
- The future programme for Harwell for the next 12 months – continue to retrieve cans and process them through Head End Cells in B462. Options for POCO of tubes will be developed including sludge removal. The CHILW drums move will recommence following commissioning of Novapaks.

Magnox Socio-economic scheme

- There are three levels of funding available – up to £1,000 for small projects neighbouring Magnox sites; up to £10,000 capital expenditure towards a sustainable project and over £10,000 to support large projects that help towards mitigating the effects of decommissioning. Last financial year Harwell awarded £4,048 under the Good Neighbour scheme. Further information on how to apply for this scheme is at www.magnoxsocioeconomic.com.

Questions

Q1: You mentioned the new emergency plan being developed. Can you consult the stakeholders before it is concluded?

A1: Our assessment still needs to be concluded. We are still in the middle of that but when it is ready we will come back and talk to the Stakeholder group. This should be in about 2-3 months' time.

Q2: You mentioned that the IRS will stand down at some point. Does that mean you will become reliant on the local fire services?

A2: We already are reliant on the local fire services.

Q3: Are you aware of all the traffic measures around Harwell recently, eg traffic calming and the 10 week road closures?

A3: No, I was not aware of them but they will be taken into consideration.

Q4: Re the job losses at Harwell, what are the numbers there now?

A4: There are approximately 240 staff at the moment but this will come down to 220.

Q5: You talked about the delays in nuclear material transfers. Does this affect the end-date?

A5: It hasn't been officially changed but it is at risk.

Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant Land Remediation Project Update – Gary Reid (Harwell Integration Manager)

- The LETP is at the north of the Harwell site. LETP operated to treat effluent from the main nuclear site and involved removal of radioactivity before discharge of the water to the Thames. The Sewage farm was used for foul sewage until site connection to Thames Water foul sewer in 2003. As the nuclear site ceased operations, the LETP was replaced by a smaller plant. Now most of the buildings have been demolished to ground level.
- The land remediation involves removal of the contaminated structures and soils and cleaning so that the Environmental Permit and Nuclear Site Licence are no longer needed. There are specific, stringent targets set by the EA and ONR for this.
- Gary Reid presented slides of what has been achieved in terms of decommissioning at the LETP and outlined the work that is still left to do.
- All the steel work will go for recycling after being cleaned.

- B336.34 – a contractor is currently dismantling it but a lot of pre-demolition work has to go on behind the scenes because it has to be done in a controlled manner, and this takes time.
- The HLA will be the biggest challenge.
- Other work to do at the LETP consists of removing B336.1 Tank 2; B336.34, B336.10A and disposal of waste from decommissioning activities.
- Planning permission has been granted for the land remediation project (April 2016).
- Reptile fencing has been installed around the sewage farm due to the presence of common lizards and toads which were found during an ecological survey. Ecologists are working on a place to relocate them.
- Sampling of materials from the site will commence in July 2016. This will involve drilling boreholes and trial pits across the area to be remediated. The main works will begin in October with the construction of the temporary waste storage and assay buildings.
- The Icknield way will be diverted to allow the main remediation works to begin early in 2017. This diversion will remain in place for approximately 30 months.

Questions

Q1: The reptile fencing is facing onto North Drive and doesn't surround the LETP so they can enter from the field and the Icknield way so it is not really encapsulated.

A1: We have taken advice from ecologists and we will convert the area into a stone yard. We will recover the animals, check them and re-home them in appropriate areas. The fencing is a short term measure.

Q2: What does the fencing look like?

A2: It is fencing made of green, flexible material with posts embedded about 12 inches into the ground.

Office for Nuclear Regulation

- A report was submitted by the ONR but there was no representation. The report can be found on the Magnox website under communications or the ONR website <http://www.onr.prg.uk/llc>.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority – Dave Rushton

- Dave Rushton is the Programme Manager for Harwell and also some wider NDA areas. He said NDA has been keeping in close contact with the progress at Harwell and B462 and LETP. He recognised there was a lot of work going on at Harwell in terms of decommissioning though it is not always visible. Harwell is very good with dealing with the funding it receives and still delivering very good progress.
- Sellafield is no longer an SLC but a subsidiary of the NDA. This happened on 1 April and was done so that NDA can focus better on SL activities as Sellafield. It is a unique site because of the hazards associated with it. Direct ownership by the NDA will help SL to accelerate progress and improve efficiency. Tony Fountain is now the new chairman for Sellafield Ltd.

- Entire bulk stocks of historic nuclear fuel were removed from one of the site's oldest ponds to a modern on-site storage building. This means that radioactivity levels at the 68 year old spent fuel pond have now been cut by 70% reducing the potential risk to people and the environment.
- The strategy and NDA business plan for the next 5 years was published in April 2016.
- He said the key focus for his role over the next 12 months is the consolidation of the Magnox plan. This phase is coming to an end and the new LTP will be available to go forward by the end of May.
- The NDA's website address is (www.gov.uk/nda).

Environment Agency – Rebecca Cleverley (regulator for the Harwell site)

- The EA conducted an asset management inspection recently with no non-conformances.
- Three permit breaches were raised as a result of a waste mis-consignment. There was no environmental impact from the event. After due consideration the Environment Agency response to the event was advice and guidance and actions have been placed on the operator.
- The discharges from the site are well within the permitted levels.
- Harwell Radiological Habits Survey completed and published. This is a hefty document that can be read on the website if desired. Rebecca left a hard copy of the document with the Chairman.

Questions

Q1: I can't find the information on releases from site etc. The links don't seem to work. Can you give us a better website address or make the links work please?

A1: I will go and check the links but for some documents you may need to come to the office to read.

Post meeting note:-

- The correct URL for the Harwell Habit Survey is <https://www.cefas.co.uk/publications/environment/harwell2015.pdf>
- The correct URL to access RIFE reports: <https://www.food.gov.uk/science/research/radiologicalresearch/radiosurv/rife>
- Our RASCARs are not available on the web. The procedure for accessing them is to email our Customer and Engagement team who will be able to provide a copy of requested reports as this is easier than people having to make the trip into our office to view them. The contact email address is WTenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Radioactive Waste Management Report – Andy Parkes (Head of Site Characterisation)

- RWM is part of the NDA with a mission to manage the radioactive wastes so that it is safe for the future. The UK were pioneers in the use of nuclear energy over the past 60 years and have 650,000 m³ of higher activity waste which is currently held in interim stores at 30 sites around the UK. A decision was made by CoRWM that geological disposal is the safest permitted solution decided by a panel of experts.

- It is internationally accepted that the safest option for managing higher activity radioactive waste in the long term is geological disposal: placing the solid waste deep underground in specially constructed facilities. The facilities contain multiple engineered barriers which work together with the geological environment to contain the radioactive material so that it does not cause harm to people or the environment. Some of the wastes will remain hazardous for hundreds of thousands of years and the geological environment has an important role in providing safety in the very long term. By placing the waste deep underground it will be protected in the event of earthquakes, tsunamis and environmental changes such as future ice ages.
- National geological screening will present an overview of existing information about the geology to a depth of about 1000 metres or so beneath England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It will focus on aspects of the geological environment that are relevant to the long-term safety of a geological disposal facility (GDF). In particular, screening will set out the available information on the distribution of suitable rocks with low groundwater flow in which a GDF could potentially be built.
- UK Government's policy is that higher activity waste should be managed through geological disposal
- The 2014 White Paper proposed a revised siting process as Cumbria as an option was dropped. The new White Paper published saying willing communities had to be part of the process as well as good land use planning and a national geological screening.
- The National Geological Screening was to provide authorised information that can be used in discussions with communities which may help RWM focus its engagement activities. It will focus on long term environmental safety of the GDF, the requirements, considering existing geological information.
- Public consultation on draft guidance was held in September-December 2015.
- One of RWM's actions is to provide more information on the geology of the UK
- RWM are currently visiting all SSG's to explain their work and demonstrate a '3D fly through of a potential Geological Disposal Facility'. This was then demonstrated to the SSG.

Questions

Q1: It seems that only a certain depth is what you are looking at. Could you go deeper?

A1: It depends on the rock type. The stress of rock weight on the GDF could also be an issue. In the end it comes down to cost/benefit when you are considering the higher stresses that rock weight could bring. It depends on what communities come forward.

Q2: What will be launched on 18 June?

A2: The three initial actions I mentioned earlier will be launched. Also guidance on the principles of working with the communities and GDF results.

Q3: I note that Scotland was excluded?

A3: Yes.

Q4: What progress has Sweden made on this?

A4: Finland has made the best progress. They have done a lot of characterisation, put down a spinal drift and have been awarded construction permits. Sweden had recommended a site and put in an application and they are working with regulators to get this through. Other countries are moving at varying stages through the process.

If you are interested you can sign up to receive e-mail updates at this web address:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKRWM/subscriber/new>

Campus Matters – Duncan Rogers

There was no representation at the meeting.

Science and Technology Facilities Council – Joe Kelleher

- Joe Kelleher works in the RAL ISIS facility. ISIS is a neutron source providing neutron radiation used by universities and industry. The facility contains neutron detectors used for work for industry and also for nuclear new build.
- STFC announced a new delivery plan 2016-2020 for the next 4 years. This includes:- expanding the apprenticeship scheme, increasing opportunities for graduate employment, creating more high value jobs and economic growth for the benefit of the UK, delivering a strong programme of public engagement in inspirational science to sustain the STEM skills pipeline.
- Joe Kelleher then gave an illustration of graphite and its uses for example on the ENGIN-X beam line.

ESCAT Overview – Sergio Vazzana (Head of Facility Management)

- Sergio Vazzana gave a presentation on the activities of ESCAT, the European Space Agency's new centre in the United Kingdom based at the Harwell Science, Innovation and Business Campus.
- ESCAT is a sustainable building which is now a new landmark on the campus, It has been named after ESA's first Director General, Roy Gibson.
- The expansion of European Space Agency activities matches the increased importance given to space by the UK. The UK space industry turnover has been growing and is worth approximately £11.3 billion to the UK economy. 100 ESA employees are now based at Harwell and will be expanding. ECSAT supports activities related to telecommunications, integrated applications, climate change, technology and science, and the development of commercial space-based products and services. It supports Telecommunications and Integrated Applications (TIA), Earth Observation Climate Office, planetary protection and contamination control, and nuclear power for space.

Diamond Light Source – Laura Holland (Public Engagement Manager)

- Laura briefly explained what the Diamond facility is all about. Diamond Light Source is the UK's national synchrotron science facility. Diamond is a particle accelerator and accelerates electrons around the doughnut shaped building at almost the speed of light. These are then passed through special magnetic fields with the result that light or energy is released. Light is used for experiments the most common of which is x-rays. The applications for a facility like this are very broad – eg vaccine design, radioactive research, solar cells research, and antibiotic resistance.
- There will be open days on May 21st, and in August and October.

- A Science and Spirituality event will be launched on 27 May. 17, 16
- They will be present at the Vale and Downland Museum in Wantage on 1st June and at the Oxford Science Festival on 26th June.
- Diamond had a stand at the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition.

Any Other Business

- The Medical Research Council improves human health through world-class medical research. They fund research across the biomedical spectrum, from fundamental lab-based science to clinical trials, and in all major disease areas. Their research has resulted in life-changing discoveries for over a hundred years.
- Medical Research Council will be holding a festival on Saturday 18th June which will be an open day for families. Google the link to <http://www.mrc.ac.uk/?nav=main> to apply for tickets.

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 7 September (evening meeting)

Thursday 1 December (day meeting)

Emma Burwood
Harwell and Winfrith Communications and Socio Economic Lead

Trudie Tomlinson
Minutes Secretary

17 May 2016