

**BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE  
SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY 2016**

- 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.
- An assessment of potential hazards indicated that there was no credible potential accident which could require an off-site emergency plan. This matter was to be submitted to the ONR for approval.
- Following receipt of the necessary consent from ONR, retrieval of radioactive waste debris from underground storage vaults had commenced on 12 January.
- The packaging of control rod components into storage containers as intermediate level waste was nearing completion. Significant savings had been made by the segregation of waste materials which could be classified as low level waste.
- Studies had demonstrated that the interim storage facility was suitable for the storage of waste in concrete box packages. Subject to the necessary consents and approvals it was envisaged that this type of package would be used in future. In the meantime ductile cast iron containers would continue to be used.
- It was proposed that packages of intermediate level waste would be transferred from Oldbury for storage on site at Berkeley. Discussions were taking place with Gloucestershire County Council on planning consent aspects of this proposal.
- Mr M Heaton, currently Site Director at the Oldbury Site was to take responsibilities for both the Berkeley and Oldbury Sites on the forthcoming retirement of Mr Neal.
- Members received reports from the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency on the results of their inspection activities at the Berkeley Site. No adverse comments were raised.
- Members gave initial consideration to the possible scope for combining some of the functions of this Group with the Oldbury SSG. This matter would be considered further at the next meeting.

## **BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE**

### **SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

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

**THE BERKELEY ARMS HOTEL ON WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY 2016**

#### **PRESENT:**

Cllr Mrs P Wride (Chair)	-	Stroud District Council
Cllr Mrs L Ashton	-	Stroud District Council
Rev R Avery		
Cllr P Case	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Cllr S Chandler	-	Hamfallow Parish Council
Cllr J Cordwell	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr G Vaughan Lewis	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr J Stanton	-	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr B Tipper	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Mr J Woodward	-	Hamfields Leisure

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr J Jenkin	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr P Dickenson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr A Davis	-	Environment Agency
Mr P Fahey	-	Environment Agency
Mr G Thomson	-	Environment Agency
Mr J Beckett	-	Stroud District Council
Mr M Lynden	-	Oldbury on Severn SSG Chairman
Mr D Wride	-	Lower Severn Drainage Board
Mr B Lewis	-	Bilfinger GVA
Mr A Moore	-	Magnox CFP
Mr A Neal	-	Site Director
Mr M Heaton	-	Site Director, Oldbury on Severn
Ms G Coombs	-	Magnox
Mr B Bridgewater	-	Magnox
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 extended a particular welcome to Mr Heaton, Site Director at Oldbury, and to Mr Fahey and Mr Thomson who were attending from the Environment Agency as observers.

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs H Molyneux, Mr Neil Carmichael MP and Cllr J Sant.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **(a) Accuracy**

- 3 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 29 July 2015 and of the meeting held jointly with the Oldbury SSG on 28 October 2015 were approved as accurate records.

### **(b) Matters arising**

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

## **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. This performance was particularly creditable having regard for the nature of the work undertaken on the site.
  - (ii) An evaluation of potential hazards had demonstrated that there was no credible potential accident which could result in a release of radioactivity requiring off-site emergency plans. This matter would be submitted to the ONR for its approval.
  - (iii) Following receipt of the necessary consent from ONR the retrieval of fuel element debris from the waste vaults had commenced on 12 January.
  - (iv) Control rod components removed from the Chute Silo had been loaded into 10 Mosaic DCIC containers. One further container would be required to take the remainder of this waste and this work would be completed by March. The segregation of some of this waste material as Low Level Waste had resulted in significant cost savings.
  - (v) The conditioning facility was being used successfully to dry ion-exchange resin waste in DCIC containers.
  - (vi) Some funds were available for donations to local activities and organisations as part of the socio-economic support scheme. The NDA had agreed to purchase equipment for the engineering workshop at the college on the Berkeley Centre site.
  - (vii) Recent studies had demonstrated that the existing Interim Storage Facility would be adequate for handling and storing wastes in concrete box containers. Planning consent would be required for an encapsulation plant in due course.

- (viii) It was proposed that some 70 containers of waste would be transferred from Oldbury for storage in the Interim Storage Facility. Planning consent issues were being discussed with Gloucestershire County Council.
- 6 Mr Neal pointed out that he was retiring at the end of the current week and that Mr M Heaton, Site Director at Oldbury was to take responsibility for both the Berkeley and Oldbury Sites.
- 7 Cllr Ms Ashton asked about radioactivity in water removed as part of the process of drying wastes in containers. Mr Neal said that water removed from the containers was filtered and discharged via a normal discharge route. The water contained very little radioactivity.
- 8 Cllr Ms Ashton asked about the advertising of recruitment vacancies. Mr Neal said that with numbers of staff reducing at other Magnox sites these vacancies were being advertised internally.
- 9 In reply to a question from Mr Beckett, Mr Neal confirmed that if the ONR endorsed the assessment of potential hazards then it would be no longer necessary to have off-site emergency plans and exercises.
- 10 Mr Stanton asked whether equipment provided for processing wastes on the Berkeley site might later be transferred for use elsewhere. Mr Moore confirmed that consideration was given to such arrangements - it depended upon timescales and matching the needs of sites to the availability of surplus equipment.
- 11 Mr Chandler asked for clarification about wastes transferred to Oldbury from other sites. Mr Bridgewater said that Ionsiv filters and cartridges transferred from Dungeness A and Sizewell A for consolidation at Oldbury would produce some 10 packages of waste.
- 12 In reply to a question from Mr Wride, Mr Neal said that there were expected to be 600 packages of waste stored in the Interim Storage Facility. Apart from the 70 packages which it was intended to transport from Oldbury, these packages would all contain waste currently held on the Berkeley Site. Mr Case was pleased that there was to be no proposal to build additional storage facilities but asked how the storage of waste from Oldbury could be accommodated within the approved planning consent. Mr Bridgewater said that this matter was under discussion with Gloucestershire County Council.
- 13 In reply to a further question from Cllr Ms Ashton, Mr Neal explained that the Interim Storage Facility had been designed to store DCIC containers. He said that Cavendish Fluor Partnership had identified the use of concrete box packages as a means of reducing costs whilst maintaining the same standards of safety. An encapsulation plant would be required to enable the use of concrete box packages. He envisaged that it would take a couple of years to effect a change-over to concrete box packaging; in the meantime DCIC containers would continue to be filled (he estimated approximately 180 of these) after which the remaining wastes would be placed into some 400 concrete boxes.

## **UPDATE FROM NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY**

- 14 Mr Jenkin provided an update on issues of interest to the NDA, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The NDA had published its draft strategy and business plan documents for consultation. The documents reflected the outcome of the government's spending review. The level of funding provided following that spending review - £16 billion over the next four years - would require savings and efficiency improvements but would allow major work programmes to continue.
  - (ii) The NDA had launched an online decommissioning blog which was accessible via its website. The website content was being moved to the central government website ([www.gov.uk/nda](http://www.gov.uk/nda)).
  - (iii) Under changed management arrangements, Sellafield Ltd was to become a wholly-owned subsidiary of NDA. Mr Tony Fountain was to become chairman of Sellafield Ltd.
  - (iv) The removal of all fuel from Oldbury represented a significant milestone in the reduction of hazards on the site and allowed the site to move into its decommissioning phase.
  - (v) Generation at Wylfa power station had ceased on 30 December 2015. This was five years later than had originally been planned. The extended generation at Wylfa and Oldbury had produced additional income of £1 billion which had helped to fund decommissioning projects.
  - (vi) NDA had recently published a copy of its Insight magazine.
  - (vii) A successful supply chain event had been held in Manchester.
  - (viii) Significant progress was being made with decommissioning projects at Sellafield. A novel approach to storage of waste material had resulted in substantial savings in the costs of cleaning up the Magnox Swarf Storage Silo and good progress had been made recently in the removal of fuel from the Pile Fuel Storage Pond.
  - (ix) The Environment Agency had granted a permit which would enable disposals of wastes at the Low Level Waste Repository to continue for many years to come.

## **REGULATORS' UPDATES**

### **Office for Nuclear Regulation**

- 13 Mr Dickenson reported on his inspection activities at the Berkeley Site. He referred to his various meetings and discussions on waste management

arrangements, and on processes for the retrieval and conditioning of wastes. He referred also to his involvement in procedures for the management of change which ensured that all aspects of proposed organisational changes were considered and addressed. The proposal for a single Site Director to have responsibility for the Berkeley and Oldbury Sites was subject to these processes.

- 14 Mr Dickenson reported that Ms Adrienne Kelbie had recently been appointed Chief Executive of ONR and that the recruitment of a Chief Nuclear Inspector was currently in hand.

### **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) He had been very impressed by progress with the retrieval of waste from the Chute Silo and the significant savings resulting from the segregation of low level waste materials. He hoped to see the same planned systematic approach adopted towards other waste retrieval projects.
  - (ii) Discharges of radioactivity remained at very low levels – approximately 1% of the permitted limit.

### **CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE**

- 15 Cllr Mrs Wride reported on her attendance at a meeting of the National Stakeholder Group in Manchester on 13/14 January. She said that the meeting had included a presentation on the NDA's draft strategy. She had a copy of the draft strategy available if members wished to see it. She said that she and Mr Stanton had prepared a draft response to the consultation on the strategy document; she outlined the main points in that draft response and members were happy to support them.
- 16 Cllr Mrs Wride said that she and Mr Lynden had given initial consideration to the possibility of combining some of the activities of the Berkeley and Oldbury SSGs. She suggested that it might be possible to have more than the current one joint meeting per year. Although there were different issues to be addressed at the individual sites there appeared to be possible advantages in having more joint meetings as with a single director the sites would be working more closely together. She felt also that it could be more efficient to have more information presented jointly rather than in separate meetings. Cllr Mrs Wride invited members to consider these issues in order to have further discussions at the next meeting.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 17 Mr Lynden reported that a subcommittee of the Oldbury SSG had been established to give consideration to the preferred interim end state for the Oldbury site following decommissioning work.

- 18 Cllr Mrs Wride encouraged members to attend one of the open days at the Stroud and South Gloucestershire College facilities on the Berkeley site.
- 19 Cllr Ms Ashton felt it was important to issue factual information on the position regarding the proposed transfer of wastes from other sites for storage at Berkeley. Assurances had been given in the past that the store was to be used only for the wastes on the Berkeley site and she felt it was important that factual information was available rather than rumours. Mr Case was concerned that it appeared that the terms of the planning consent were being ignored. Mr Bridgewater said that discussions were taking place with Gloucestershire County Council on the possible need for revised planning consent. In response to concerns expressed by Mr Case on the possibility of more wastes being transferred to Berkeley, Mr Moore said that it was currently envisaged that some 70 packages of waste would be transferred from Oldbury; these included 10 packages containing the wastes currently being transferred to Oldbury for consolidation. The wastes currently on the Berkeley site together with these packages from Oldbury would fill the storage facility and there were no proposals to transfer any other waste to the Berkeley site.
- 20 Cllr Vaughan Lewis questioned whether the necessary consents had been obtained for adopting a change to the use of concrete box packages. Mr Dickinson pointed out that acceptance of different packaging arrangements would be subject to the demonstration of appropriate safety cases. Mr Neal said that DCIC containers would continue to be used whilst the authorisation process for use of concrete containers was being pursued.
- 21 Cllr Mrs Wride expressed her appreciation of the contribution which Mr Neal had made to the work of this Group and expressed members' best wishes for his forthcoming retirement.

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

- 22 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on Wednesday 27 April 2016.

MJD  
3 February 2016