

BERKELEY AND OLDBURY SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE JOINT MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2016

- Mike Heaton, Site Closure Director for the Berkeley and Oldbury Sites presented a report on recent activities. High standards of safety had been maintained and all operations had been compliant with relevant limits and requirements. Good progress was being maintained with the retrieval of fuel element debris from Vault 2 at Berkeley and processing it for storage within the Interim Storage Facility. The first redundant fuel skip had been removed from the Oldbury pond. Mr Heaton said that the planning consent granted by Gloucestershire County Council would allow fuel element debris and other operational wastes to be transferred from Oldbury to Berkeley for storage. It was anticipated that there would be some 70 packages of waste from Oldbury to be stored with the 600 packages containing the waste currently held on the Berkeley site.
- Mr Heaton explained that Magnox staff based at the Berkeley Centre had transferred to the Oldbury Technical Centre and this had become the headquarters for the company.
- Members received a report from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. This included a reference to a recent BBC Panorama programme on safety at Sellafield which the NDA felt had not given a balanced view of progress made against recognised challenges on the site. The report also included comment on a recent High Court ruling against the NDA on a claim from Energy Solutions relating to its unsuccessful bid for the parent body organisation contract for the Magnox and RSRL sites. NDA was seeking leave to appeal against this ruling.
- Reports were received from the Site Inspectors of the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency reported that the maximum potential radiation exposure to members of the public in the vicinity of the Berkeley and Oldbury sites was some 0.5% of the legal limit.
- 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.
- Horizon Nuclear Power gave an update on the development of their proposals for establishing new nuclear power stations at Wylfa and Oldbury. Wylfa is being pursued as the lead station which is anticipated to be in full operation by the late 2020's; development of the station at Oldbury will follow after that.
- The Environment Agency gave a presentation on the process of Generic Design Assessment which is being applied to all designs proposed for new nuclear power stations. The advanced boiling water reactor design of the type proposed for the Oldbury site is currently undergoing the assessment. As part of the GDA process public consultation will take place shortly; this will include a drop-in session near Oldbury in February 2017.

**BERKELEY AND OLDBURY SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS
MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING HELD AT THE OLDBURY
CONFERENCE CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2016**

PRESENT:

Mr M Lynden	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr Ms E Ashton	-	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr Dr J Cordwell	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr W J Cornock	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr D Dovey	-	Monmouthshire County Council
Ms G Ellis-King	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr J Greenwood	-	Lydney Town Council
Cllr D Griffiths	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr Ms J Hathway	-	Falfield Parish Council
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Cllr G Vaughan-Lewis	-	Alkington Parish Council
Ms K Lovell	-	Bristol Port Company
Cllr Ms H Priestley	-	Hamfallow Parish Council
Cllr Ms V Stanley	-	Falfield Parish Council
Mr J Stanton	-	Co-opted member
Cllr K Sullivan	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr Mrs P Wride	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr J Jenkin	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr A Davis	-	Environment Agency
Mr R Green	-	Environment Agency
Mr A McGoff	-	Environment Agency
Ms C Richards	-	Environment Agency
Mr J Gilbert	-	Horizon Nuclear Power
Ms S Stagg	-	James Reed PR
Mr A Slaney	-	South Gloucestershire and Stroud College
Mrs E Vaughan Lewis	-	Oldbury Parish Council
Mr M Heaton	-	Oldbury Site
Mr P Clarke	-	Oldbury Site
Ms K Basra-Steele	-	Oldbury Site
Ms G Coombs	-	Magnox
Mr B Delve		
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

I WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

1 Mr Lynden 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 Mr G Jones, Dr L Hales, Mr P Heath, Mr P Dickinson, Cllr G Rawlinson, Mr W Gill, Ms H Cook, Mr B Roberts,

Cllr C Evers, Cllr S Chandler, Mr C Berkeley, Mr Neil Carmichael MP, Cllr B Tipper, Cllr H Molyneux, Cllr J Sant , Mr D Wride and Cllr M Riddle.

III MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a) Accuracy

3 The minutes of the joint meeting held on 28 October 2015 and of the meetings held separately on 27 July 2016 were approved as correct records.

(b) Matters arising

Oldbury Lifetime Plan (Oldbury meeting 27 July para 14 refers)

4 Mr Heaton confirmed that a revised lifetime plan for Oldbury had been submitted to the NDA. He undertook to answer further questions raised by Ms Ellis-King outside the meeting.

Oldbury Reservoir (Oldbury meeting 27 July para 15 refers)

5 Mr Heaton confirmed that the Site no longer had any operational requirement for the reservoir and it had been identified as land which was available for disposal. The disposal would be managed by NDA.

Berkeley Emergency Arrangements (Berkeley meeting 27 July para 19 refers)

6 Cllr Vaughan Lewis, who had been unable to attend the previous meeting, questioned the attention given to an off-site plan for Berkeley when he understood that such a plan was no longer required. Mr Heaton said that a report setting out a justification that there was no longer any credible event on site which could give rise to an off-site release requiring such a plan had been submitted to the ONR. He said that the report was currently being assessed by ONR assessors.

IV PUBLIC FORUM

7 Mr Lynden invited questions on any issues which might not arise in later discussions.

8 Cllr Ms Ashton commented that the drop-in sessions on the Berkeley planning consent application had not been well attended; she asked whether any report was available. Ms Coombs said that a leaflet was available for any members who had been unable to attend the drop-in session. Cllr Greenwood said that his Council had been disappointed that drop-in sessions had not been held in Lydney. Ms Coombs said that a decision had been taken to hold these sessions in areas of the greatest potential effect on the local community. Mr Lynden suggested that Cllr Greenwood might take this matter up with Gloucestershire County Council if he wished.

9 Cllr Sullivan drew attention to proposals for major new housing developments in Thornbury. He questioned whether, with the reducing requirement for off-site emergency plans for the Oldbury Site, housing development might be approved which

would be inconsistent with future emergency plan requirements associated with a new power station. Mr Heaton said that Oldbury had submitted a report similar to that submitted by Berkeley setting out arguments that demonstrated that an off-site plan was no longer required for Oldbury; this submission was awaiting assessment by ONR. He said that the detailed emergency planning zone for the Oldbury Site was included within a radius of 1 km from the Site which would therefore not include proposed new housing developments. He pointed out that an emergency planning zone for a new station would be determined by the inventory of radioactive materials on the site and any potential fault scenarios. Mr Gilbert said that Horizon Nuclear Power were aware of applications for new housing developments and would be making representations during the consultation period.

V SITE REPORTS

10 Mr Heaton reported on recent activities at the Berkeley and Oldbury Sites, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) There had been no accidents involving time lost from work or requiring first aid treatment at either site.
- (ii) There had been no issues of non-compliance with maintenance schedule requirements.
- (iii) If the hazard assessment reports referred to earlier were approved by ONR and there was no longer a requirement to maintain a capability to support an off-site plan, then numbers of staff on shift would be reduced whilst still maintaining capability to deal with any on site event.
- (iv) Repairs were being carried out to the roof of the active effluent treatment plant at Berkeley to prevent water ingress.
- (v) The introduction of the encapsulation plant at Berkeley and new equipment for retrieval of wastes from the vaults would probably require changes in the Site's discharge permit.
- (vi) The first pond skip had been removed from the Oldbury pond using the installed overhead crane. The treatment of the remaining 120 skips would depend upon the assessed contamination levels on each skip. All the remaining tools and handling equipment would be removed from the pond before any draining took place.
- (vii) During the coming week divers were to be used at Oldbury to seal off a redundant circulating water culvert to avoid the possibility of water ingress to the site.
- (viii) Good progress had been made with removal of asbestos insulating material within the Oldbury Turbine Hall.
- (ix) Some 18 ductile cast iron containers had been filled to date with fuel element debris waste from Berkeley Vault 2; the challenging target was for 35

containers to be filled by the end of the current year. Equipment was being designed for the retrieval of waste materials from Vaults 1 and 3.

(x) The planning consent approved by Gloucestershire County Council would allow the transfer of fuel element debris, sludges and resins from Oldbury to Berkeley. These wastes, which would be generally contained in DCIC packages, would be stored in the Interim Storage Facility at Berkeley. There would be an estimated 70 packages from Oldbury to add to the estimated 600 containers required for waste currently held on the Berkeley site.

(xi) Each ductile cast iron container filled from Berkeley Vault 2 held approximately 1.65 tonnes of waste material. The 6 m³ concrete boxes, which would be able to be used in future with use of the encapsulation plant, would hold approximately 3.2 - 3.6 tonnes of waste per box. The waste would be contained within a liner inside the concrete block to allow for any possible expansion and would be encapsulated in cement to form a solid block.

(xii) The Sites continued to support local events and activities.

(xiii) Magnox staff previously located at Berkeley Centre had been transferred to the Oldbury Technical Centre which became the head office for the company.

11 In response to a question from Cllr Vaughan Lewis, Mr Heaton said that members would be welcome to visit the Berkeley site.

12 Cllr Stanton asked whether there had been any interest from other sites in using the techniques developed locally for drying wastes within DCIC packages. Mr Heaton said that the techniques were being adopted widely throughout Magnox but he was not aware of any interest shown by overseas visitors to the Site.

VI NDA UPDATE

13 Mr Jenkin reported on issues of current interest to the NDA, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) NDA had been disappointed with the content of a BBC Panorama programme broadcast in September on safety at Sellafield. Information had been provided openly to the BBC but it was felt that the programme had failed to provide a balanced view of progress against recognised challenges.
- (ii) Essex County Council had granted planning consent which would permit wastes to be transferred from Dungeness A and Sizewell A to Bradwell for storage. This was similar to the arrangements agreed for transfers between Oldbury and Berkeley.
- (iii) Documents recently made available on the NDA website included an updated estimate of the costs of decommissioning all sites and a new edition of the Insight magazine.

- (iv) NDA's chief executive, Mr J Clarke, would be retiring next year. The chief operating officer, Mr P Lutwyche, had recently left to take up a post in the private sector and the chairman, Mr S Henwood, was coming to the end of his third term of office.
- (v) A High Court judge had ruled against the NDA in respect of a claim from Energy Solutions over its unsuccessful 2014 bid to secure the parent body organisation contract for the Magnox and RSRL sites. Further hearings would take place to assess whether damages were merited. The NDA was seeking leave to appeal against the ruling.

14 In reply to a question from Cllr Stanton, Mr Jenkin explained that Energy Solutions was not seeking to overturn the decision in relation to the award of the PBO contract but was claiming costs and damages relating to the tender evaluation process which they felt had not been applied fairly. Cllr Dovey asked whether the recently announced retirements of senior officers were related to the circumstances associated with the award of the PBO contract. Mr Jenkin said that this was not the case. Mr Clarke was leaving for personal reasons and had given notice of his intention to leave next year, Mr Henwood had served three terms as chairman and Mr Lutwyche was moving to pursue his career with another company. Mr Jenkin said that the NDA believed there were good grounds for appeal against the High Court ruling but if that proved to be unsuccessful and damages had to be paid then these would have to be funded from within the NDA's budget. In such circumstances site funding would be prioritised in order to minimise the impact on decommissioning programmes.

VII OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORT

15 Mr Dickenson had been unable to attend and report on the ONR's inspection activities at the Berkeley and Oldbury sites but written reports had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. No issues of concern were raised by members.

VIII ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

16 Mr Davis and Mr Green reported on the Environment Agency's inspection activities in relation to the Berkeley and Oldbury sites. Reports on their activities had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

17 Mr Green pointed out that a report on radioactivity in food and the environment for 2015 (RIFE 21) had recently been published by the Environment Agency, the Food Standards Agency and others. He said that the potential maximum radiation exposure to members of the public in the vicinity of the Berkeley and Oldbury sites was assessed as 0.005 mSv's - less than 0.5 % of the legal dose limit.

18 Mr Green said that in the Environment Agency's inspection and regulation of the Oldbury and Berkeley Sites in future he would be working more closely with Mr Davis, mirroring the arrangements by which the sites worked more closely together. Mr Davis said he welcomed the integration of the management of both sites which he felt allowed the company to focus more clearly on issues of interest to the regulators. He said that with the progress of decommissioning the number of nuclear safety issues of interest to

the ONR was reducing but the issues of interest to the EA, largely associated with the retrieval and transfers of wastes, were increasing.

IX HORIZON NUCLEAR POWER UPDATE

19 Mr Gilbert reminded members of the background to the establishment of Horizon Nuclear Power and reviewed its current position in relation to plans for development of new power stations at Wylfa and Oldbury. He pointed out that Hitachi advanced boiling water reactors of the type proposed for construction at Wylfa had been completed to time and budget and were operating successfully in Japan. Horizon had decided that Wylfa Newydd would be the lead station for development with Oldbury following after. It was anticipated that a final investment decision in relation to Wylfa would be taken in early 2019 with the station becoming fully operational by the late 2020s.

20 Mr Gilbert outlined the various consent and regulatory processes which had to be followed in order to establish a new nuclear power station. The advanced boiling water reactor was currently undergoing generic design assessment; it was hoped that this would be completed during 2017. Mr Gilbert said that most of the engineering design work would be undertaken in Japan but there was scope for up to 60% of the value of the project to be spent in the UK if the local supply chain was capable of providing the necessary goods and services.

21 Mr Gilbert said that the timescale of the development of proposals for Oldbury would be influenced by the progress achieved at Wylfa. In the meantime Horizon owned some 420 acres of land at Oldbury and would maintain this in good stewardship; existing buildings would be put to good use where appropriate and the Windbound public house was being demolished. Mr Gilbert said that Horizon would maintain community engagement at Oldbury commensurate with the state of development of the project.

22 In relation to the possible use of the existing reservoir mentioned earlier in the meeting, Mr Gilbert said that the proposed new station would not necessarily require a reservoir as it would have an indirect cooling system which would require considerably smaller quantities of water from the Severn.

23 In response to a question from Cllr Mrs Wride, Mr Gilbert said that Horizon was working closely with a local college at Wylfa and he would expect similar arrangements to be made with the South Gloucestershire and Stroud College in due course.

X GENERIC DESIGN ASSESSMENT

24 Mr McGoff explained the background to the identified need for new nuclear generation in the UK and the various regulatory and approval processes which had to be followed. He described the generic design assessment process, an in-depth analysis of the design, which was undertaken by the Environment Agency, the Office for Nuclear Regulation and Natural Resources Wales.

25 Mr McGoff said that of the new reactor designs currently under consideration, the EPR design had completed generic design assessment during 2013 and the

Westinghouse AP1000 was expected to complete the process in the first quarter of 2017. He said that the generic design assessment of the Hitachi ABWR had started in January 2014 and was still in progress. The generic design assessment process included public consultation and this was about to commence for the ABWR. Mr McGoff felt that the U.K.'s regulatory system was robust and that a successful outcome of the GDA process represented value added for the reactor vendors. One major advantage of the system was that it enabled any issues of concern to the regulators to be addressed well in advance of construction starting.

26 Mr McGoff encouraged members to participate in the process of public consultation with stakeholders which was due to start on 12 December and run until 3 March 2017; it would include a drop-in session near the Oldbury site during week commencing 6 February 2017.

XI SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND STROUD COLLEGE UPDATE

27 Mr Slaney described progress with the development of facilities on the Berkeley Centre site for the South Gloucestershire and Stroud College. He illustrated the progress which had been made with conversion of some buildings and the demolition and replacement of others to create modern facilities for the College. An open day was being held on the Saturday following this meeting.

XII ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT

28 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. Mr Clarke explained that some changes had been made to the environmental monitoring programme to reflect the changed operations on the Oldbury Site as it moved into decommissioning. Changes included less terrestrial monitoring in view of the reduced level of gaseous discharges; aquatic monitoring remained substantially unchanged. Mr Clarke thanked members of the local community for providing access to enable environmental samples to be taken.

29 Mr Clarke said that levels of tritium in liquid discharges from Oldbury during 2015 reflected the increased level of defuelling activity but had since reduced; levels of tritium and carbon-14 in gaseous emissions from Berkeley had increased due to the introduction of new processing plant but the levels remained very low. He pointed out that no new sources of radioactivity were now brought to the sites and all the radioactivity which remained was the legacy of earlier operations.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

30 Cllr Stanton reported on a meeting which he and Mr Lynden had attended with representatives of Radioactive Waste Management Limited. The meeting had demonstrated the commitment to proceed with the establishment of a deep geological disposal facility for radioactive waste. It was anticipated that identification of the most appropriate site and completion of the necessary approval processes would take some 15 - 20 years and that construction of the facility would commence from 2030 onwards. Substantial economic benefits would be received by local areas volunteering to host such a facility. Public consultation was to commence shortly.

XV ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No business.

X DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT JOINT MEETING

31 It was noted that the next meetings of the Oldbury and Berkeley SSGs were scheduled to be held on 25 January 2017 and the next joint meeting was scheduled to be held on 25 October 2017.

MJD

6 November 2016