

## Joint Berkeley/Oldbury Site Stakeholder Group

Wednesday 2 November 2016  
Oldbury Conference Centre, Oldbury Naite, Thornbury, BS35 1RQ  
Buffet served from 12.30, Meeting starts at 13.00

### AGENDA

- |       |     |   |
|-------|-----|---|
| 13.00 | 1.  | Welcome and Chair Introduction  |
| 13.10 | 2.  | Apologies for absence   |
| 13.15 | 3.  | Minutes of Meetings held on 28 October 2015 & 27 July 2016<br>a) Accuracy<br>b) Matters arising |
| 13.25 | 4.  | Public Forum  |
| 13.35 | 5.  | Site Director Reports for Berkeley & Oldbury – Mike Heaton                                      |
| 14.05 | 6.  | NDA update – Jonathan Jenkin  |
| 14.15 | 7.  | ONR reports – Peter Dickenson   |
| 14.25 | 8.  | Environment Agency reports<br>- Adam Davis, Berkeley<br>- Rob Green, Oldbury                    |
| 14.45 | 9.  | Horizon Update – John Gilbert, Head of Strategy, Horizon  |
| 15.00 | 10. | EA discussion on GDA for Hitachi ABWR design – Alan McGoff                                      |
| 15.15 | 11. | SGS College update – Andy Slaney  |
| 15.25 | 12. | Environmental monitoring report   |
| 15.35 | 13. | Chairs report   |
| 15.50 | 14. | AOB and close   |

A breakout room will be available after the joint meeting for each separate SSG to discuss site specific matters.

Date of next joint meeting: 25 October 2017, time and venue TBC  
Date of next Berkeley SSG: 25 January 2017, Berkeley Arms, 6pm  
Date of next Oldbury SSG: 25 January 2017, Oldbury Conference Centre, 12.30pm

## **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 m<sup>3</sup> 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

**BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE  
SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

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

- Mr Mike Heaton, Site Closure Director, reported on activities on the Site. He drew attention to the focus within Magnox on accident prevention and reported that since the previous meeting there had been one accident at Berkeley involving time lost from work. This accident resulted from an individual missing a step in the security lodge.
- Mr Heaton reported that some 100 Magnox personnel currently based at the Berkeley Centre site were to be relocated to the Oldbury Technical Centre.
- Retrievals of waste from the underground storage vault No 2 were continuing with the wastes being packaged and transferred to the Interim Storage Facility. Design work was in hand for plant needed to retrieve and process wastes currently held in vaults 1 and 3.
- Mr Heaton said that subject to the necessary regulatory and planning consent approvals it was proposed that after the retrieval of wastes from Vault 2 had been completed there should be a change in the packages used for storage of the waste. The proposal to use a concrete box storage package would require regulatory approval and planning consent for various aspects, including an encapsulation plant. It was intended that a planning application would be submitted in October 2016 and arrangements would be made to provide members of the public with information on the proposals.
- Mr Jonathan Jenkin presented a report from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, drawing attention to changes in the Authority's reporting arrangements following central government changes, the approval of additional storage facilities at the Low Level Waste Repository, and progress with decommissioning at Bradwell.
- Mr Peter Dickinson, Office for Nuclear Regulation Site Inspector, and Mr Adam Davis, the Environment Agency's Lead Regulator for the Site, reported on their inspection and regulatory activities.
- Ms Jessica Howell of Gloucestershire County Council and Ms Nikki Humphries of Stroud District Council gave a presentation on the legal framework and detailed arrangements made for an off site emergency plan for the Berkeley site. They explained the nature of the plan and the detailed arrangements made. It was noted that the Office for Nuclear Regulation was currently assessing a report which concluded that with the reduced level of hazards on the Site there was no longer any credible event which could require an off site emergency plan – results of this assessment were expected in the coming months.

## **BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE**

### **SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

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

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

#### **PRESENT:**

Cllr Mrs P Wride (Chair)	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Cllr Ms L Ashton	-	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr S Chandler	-	Hamfallow Parish Council
Cllr J Cordwell	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr J Sant	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Mr J Stanton	-	Co-opted member
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
Ms J Howell	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Ms N Humphries	-	Stroud District Council
Mr M Lynden	-	Oldbury on Severn SSG Chairman
Mr P Barrett	-	South Glos and Stroud College
Mr D Wride	-	Lower Severn Drainage Board
Mr M Heaton	-	Site Closure Director
Ms G Coombs	-	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.

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Slaney, Cllr G Vaughan Lewis, Cllr Mrs H Molyneux, Mr Neil Carmichael MP, Mr P Case, Mr P Heath, Mr C Cherry, Rev R Avery and Mr A Moore.

#### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

##### **(a) Accuracy**

- 3 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 12 May 2016 were approved as an accurate record.

**(b) Matters arising**

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

**BERKELEY SITE CLOSURE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

7 Mr Heaton presented a report on current activities at the Berkeley Site, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) Attention within Magnox was being focused upon accident prevention following a recent increase in the number of minor injuries. Since the previous meeting there had been one accident at Berkeley involving time lost from work - a person coming onto the site and had missed a step in the security lodge and sustained broken bones in her foot. Investigations had been undertaken to find ways of preventing a recurrence.
- (ii) Approximately 100 Magnox personnel currently based at the Berkeley Centre site were to be relocated to the Oldbury Technical Centre.
- (iii) Retrievals of intermediate level waste from Vault 2 were continuing. Thirteen DCIC containers had been filled to date and transferred to the Interim Storage Facility. There was now a total of 37 packages stored in the ISF, the total capacity of the facility was some 700 packages.
- (iv) Design work was in hand on arrangements for the retrieval and treatment of wastes currently held within Vaults 1 and 3.
- (v) The application for planning consent for the transfer of wastes from Oldbury to Berkeley was to be considered by the Gloucestershire County Council's Planning Committee on the day following this meeting.
- (vi) Subject to the necessary planning approvals it was proposed that after Vault 2 had been emptied there would be a change from the use of DCIC containers to concrete box packages. It was intended that a planning application to build an encapsulation plant would be submitted in October 2016 and arrangements would be made to provide information to the public. An early start was to be made on modifications to the Interim Storage Facility to provide access for equipment used with concrete box packages; an early start when there were fewer items in the store would reduce radiation exposure to personnel involved in the modification work.
- (vii) Mr Heaton had made Mr Neil Carmichael MP aware of local concerns about the state of local roads during a recent visit to the site.

- 8 Cllr Ms Ashton questioned whether any potential S106 funding associated with approval of the waste encapsulation plant might be used for upgrading local roads. Members considered that with the limited impact on local roads associated with development of the encapsulation plant it was unlikely that the project would justify S106 funding.
- 9 In response to a question from Cllr Chandler on the modification of the ISF to allow access for concrete box packages, Mr Heaton said that the modifications would not preclude the continued use of the facility for DCIC packages. He said it was desirable that a changeover to a different type of package was achieved without interrupting the progress of retrievals. Mr Dickinson confirmed that the modifications did not reduce the level of radiological shielding or affect the safety of the ISF. In reply to a further question Mr Heaton said that the waste encapsulation plant was expected to have an operational life of approximately four years.

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

- 10 Mr Jenkin provided an update on issues of interest to the NDA, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The NDA's reporting arrangements had been changed following central government changes. The Department for Energy and Climate Change no longer existed and NDA now reported to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.
  - (ii) Planning consent had been granted for the construction of two additional storage vaults at the Low Level Waste Repository which would provide secure capacity for a number of decades.
  - (iii) NDA was organising a supply chain event to be held in November.
  - (iv) NDA had published its annual report and accounts. The report highlighted important milestones in hazard reduction with the progress of defuelling and decommissioning of legacy facilities at Sellafield.
  - (v) Bradwell had become the first of the Magnox sites to complete the emptying and decontamination of its waste vaults. The construction of a new structure to provide weather protection for Bradwell's former reactor buildings had been completed.
  - (vi) A major new training facility was being built for the Civil Nuclear Constabulary at Sellafield.
- 11 In response to a question from Mr Stanton, Mr Jenkin said that the operation of the fuel element debris dissolution plant at Bradwell has been demonstrated but there were problems associated with the rate of throughput. It was possible that some of the waste might be assessed as a low-level waste, reducing the volume of material to be processed in the plant.

## **UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION**

- 12 Mr Dickinson, ONR Site Inspector, reported on his inspection activities at the Berkeley Site. He explained the nature and scope of his various inspections and described his involvement in discussion with Magnox staff on various matters including the commissioning of new plant items, plans for future decommissioning and managerial changes.
- 13 Mr Dickinson pointed out that further work had yet to be done to justify the use of the proposed concrete boxes for storage of intermediate level waste. In reply to a question from Mr Wride, Mr Dickinson said that concrete boxes had been used for specific types of waste from the Windscale AGR but further work had to be done to justify their use for other wastes. He said that Magnox was aware of the issues and was addressing them.
- 14 In response to a question from Cllr Tipper, Mr Dickinson said that the design of storage facilities was required to be such as to allow individual packages to be retrieved if necessary. He emphasised the importance of careful characterisation of wastes and maintenance of effective records of the contents of individual packages, referring to the effect of the decay of radioactivity in wastes after periods of time in storage.
- 15 Mr Lynden referred to discussions with the Chairs of other SSGs on the importance of the attendance of ONR and EA inspectors at SSG meetings. Mr Dickenson said there was a recognition within ONR that with the significant reduction in hazards at the decommissioning sites there was a reduction in the regulatory effort required by these sites. Members felt that it was essential that ONR and EA personnel attended these meetings to report on their activities and give the benefit of an informed, independent view on matters reported by the site operators.

## **UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

- 16 Mr Davis presented a report on the Environment Agency's inspection activities at the Berkeley Site. He drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) During a recent inspection of non-radiological aspects together with colleagues, Mr Davis had been impressed by high standards of housekeeping on the site.
  - (ii) The Site had reported two events involving failure to comply with requirements for monitoring wastes generated on site. There had been no environmental consequences and appropriate actions had been taken on the Site to improve compliance with monitoring procedures.
  - (iii) Liquid and gaseous discharges of radioactivity from the Site remained well within permitted limits.

- (iv) The Agency had provided a response to Gloucestershire County Council in relation to the planning application for transfer of waste from Oldbury to Berkeley.
- 17 In response to a question from Cllr Ms Ashton on the failures to comply with monitoring procedures, Mr Davis emphasised the importance of open and transparent reporting and the willingness of personnel to investigate and learn from events.
- 18 In response to a further question from Cllr Ms Ashton, Mr Jenkin outlined actions in hand in relation to the preparation of proposals for a deep geological disposal facility.

### **EMERGENCY PLANNING**

- 19 Ms Howell and Ms Humphries gave a presentation on the statutory framework and detailed arrangements made for an off-site plan for dealing with an emergency at the Berkeley site. Ms Howell explained the Council's obligations under the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations for preparing such a plan. She outlined the contents of the plan and described the arrangements governing alerting procedures, countermeasures, and warning and informing members of the public.
- 20 Ms Howell said that operators were required to submit periodically to ONR assessments of potential hazards on nuclear licensed sites. An assessment for Berkeley submitted to ONR in January 2016 had concluded that there were no credible potential events on site which would require an off-site emergency plan. This was currently awaiting approval by ONR assessors. Mr Dickenson confirmed that this report had been received by the specialist staff involved and would be assessed in due course. Ms Howell said that the plan would be maintained until such time as the requirement was changed. She emphasised the importance of the links to other supporting plans. Ms Humphries gave details of the Stroud District Council's rest centre plans.
- 21 It was noted that a version of the off-site emergency plan for the Berkeley Site was available to the public on request.

### **CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE**

- 22 Cllr Mrs Wride reported on recent meetings with NDA and representatives of other SSGs, referring specifically to discussions on radioactive waste strategy.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No Business

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

- 19 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group, a joint meeting with members of the Oldbury SSG, was scheduled to be held at the Oldbury Conference Centre on Wednesday 2 November 2016.

MJD

5 August 2016

**OLDBURY ON SEVERN POWER STATION  
SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP  
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 27 JULY 2016**

- Chairman Mr Malcolm Lynden welcomed members to the meeting
- Site Director Mr Mike Heaton reported on the continued safety of activities at the Oldbury Site. Compliance had been maintained with all Operating Rule limits and conditions and all Maintenance Schedule requirements. There had been no significant conventional safety issues.
- Mr Heaton reported that good progress was being made with decommissioning activities in the cooling pond area. Characterisation of the waste skips held in the pond showed that a large proportion (85%) of them had been assessed as low level waste. Removal of these low level waste items from the pond was planned to commence in October. Mr Heaton said that a number of Magnox staff currently based at the Berkeley Centre site were to be relocated to the Oldbury Technical Centre.
- It was noted that support for local organisations and activities was available from the company's socio economic fund. Members were invited to draw the availability of this support to organisations and individuals within their communities.
- Mr Jonathan Jenkin presented a report on behalf of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. He referred to the NDA's changed reporting arrangements following central government changes, the approval given to increased storage capacity at the Low Level Waste Repository and the building of a new training facility for Nuclear Constabulary personnel in Cumbria.
- Mr Peter Dickenson, the Office for Nuclear Regulation's Site Inspector, reported on his inspection activities. He pointed out that the successful demonstration of the Site's emergency arrangements in an exercise during June had shown the very effective working relationships which existed between the emergency services and site personnel.
- Mr Peter Reynolds reported on the Environment Agency's inspection activities. He pointed out that liquid and gaseous radioactive discharges from the Oldbury Site remained low and well within permitted limits.
- Members emphasised the importance which they are attached to the attendance of ONR and EA inspectors at these meetings so that they were able to report on their work and provide an informed, independent view of information provided by the company.
- Mr Simon Hailwood, South Gloucestershire Council's emergency planning manager gave a presentation on the arrangements for the coordination of the responses of the various agencies in an off-site plan which was prepared by his Council.

**OLDBURY ON SEVERN POWER STATION  
SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE OLDBURY CONFERENCE  
CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 27 JULY 2016**

**PRESENT:**

Mr M Lynden (in the chair)	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr D Dovey	-	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Assoc of Parish and Town Councils
Ms G Ellis-King	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Dr L Hales	-	Independent Environmental Consultant
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Cllr Ms J Lyons	-	Olveston Parish Council
Cllr J O'Neill	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Ms A Paine	-	Stroud Green Party
Cllr M Riddle	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr B Roberts	-	Thornbury Chamber of Commerce

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr P Dickenson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr P Reynolds	-	Environment Agency
Mr S Hailwood	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Ms S Stagg	-	James Reed PR for Horizon Nuclear Power
Mr M Heaton	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr P Heath	-	Magnox
Mr W Gill		
Cllr D Griffiths	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Mr A Mitchell		
Cllr K Sullivan	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr Ms V Tutin	-	Olveston Parish Council
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

- 1 Mr Lynden welcomed everyone to this meeting of the Oldbury Site Stakeholder Group. He expressed a particular welcome to Mr Hailwood of South Gloucestershire Council who was attending to give a presentation on the off site plan for dealing with an emergency at the Oldbury Site.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Mr T Pyper, Mr G Vaughan-Lewis, Cllr Mrs H Molyneux, Cllr D Chubb, Cllr Mrs P Wride, Mr G P Simms, and Mr R Green.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **(a) Accuracy**

- 3 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 27 April 2016 were approved as an accurate record.

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

#### **Proposals for development of new nuclear generation facilities (para 8 refers)**

- 4 It was noted that following discussion at the previous meeting on the state of the development of proposals for establishing new nuclear plant, a statement from Horizon Nuclear Power had been circulated to members with the minutes of that meeting.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

- 5 Mr Lynden invited members of the public to raise any issues which might not arise in discussion later in the meeting. No such issues were raised.

## **QUARTERLY REPORTS**

### **Nuclear Decommissioning Authority**

- 6 Mr Jenkin provided an update on issues of current interest, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The NDA's reporting arrangements had been changed following central government changes. The Department for Energy and Climate Change no longer existed and NDA now reported to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.
  - (ii) Planning consent had been granted for the construction of additional storage vaults at the Low Level Waste Repository which would provide secure capacity until the middle of the century.
  - (iii) NDA was organising a supply chain event to be held in November.
  - (iv) NDA had published its annual report and accounts. The total costs of decommissioning identified in those documents represented a reduction from previous forecasts.
  - (v) Bradwell had become the first of the Magnox sites to complete the emptying and decontamination of its waste vaults. The construction of a new structure to provide weather protection for Bradwell's former reactor buildings had been completed.
  - (vi) A major new training facility was being built for the Civil Nuclear Constabulary at Sellafield.

- 7 Ms Payne asked about the provision made for coastal erosion at the Low Level Waste Repository. Mr Jenkin was aware that this issue had been addressed but did not have any specific information available at the meeting; he undertook to provide information separately following the meeting.
- 8 Cllr Riddle asked whether the need for Civil Nuclear Constabulary personnel to be based in the vicinity of individual nuclear sites was kept under review. Mr Dickenson confirmed that security at all nuclear sites was kept under continuous review.
- 9 In response to questions on possible changes in funding for NDA activities following changes in government, Mr Jenkin said he understood that there would be no changes in funding for current plans as approved in last year's spending review.
- 10 In reply to a question from Mr Gill on the need for an external cladding structure at Bradwell, Mr Dickenson said that this was to provide protection from the elements for the reactor structures and boilers.

### **Site Director's Report**

- 11 Mr Heaton reported on recent activities at the Oldbury site, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The Site had maintained high standards of nuclear and conventional safety performance and had complied with all Operating Rule limits and conditions and all Maintenance Schedule requirements. There had been no significant industrial safety issues.
  - (ii) There had been a successful demonstration of the Site's emergency arrangements in an exercise held on 22 June.
  - (iii) The primary focus for initial decommissioning work was the cooling pond area. A team of about 25 – 30 personnel, comprised of Oldbury staff and staff with experience of similar work from Hinkley Point had been established for this work. Initial activities included radiological characterisation of all items within the ponds and cleaning of the pond floor. Later the items would be removed for processing as appropriate before the pond was drained, decontaminated and sealed.
  - (iv) Characterisation of the redundant pond skips was substantially complete with a large proportion (124 out of 144) being assessed as low level waste. It was intended that removal of the skips classified as low level waste would commence in October. It was proposed, subject to receipt of the necessary planning consent, that skips assessed as intermediate level waste would be sent to Hinkley Point for storage.
  - (v) It was proposed that removal and treatment of Ionsiv cartridges and filters would commence next year.

- (vi) The application for planning consent to allow the transport of waste packages from Oldbury to Berkeley for storage in the Interim Storage Facility was to be considered by Gloucestershire County Council's Planning Committee on the day following this meeting.
  - (vii) A number of Magnox staff currently working at the Berkeley Centre site were to be relocated to Oldbury Technical Centre.
- 13 Mr Lynden asked whether divers were to be used for dealing with items in the cooling pond as he understood they were used at other sites. Mr Heaton said that this approach was used where this could result in time savings and reduced radiological exposure to personnel. Due to the relatively clean conditions in the Oldbury pond he felt that it was unlikely to be appropriate at this site.
- 14 In response to a question from Ms Ellis-King on the state of approval of revised lifetime plans, Mr Heath undertook to confirm the position in relation to the publication of key programme dates.
- 15 In response to a further question from Ms Ellis-King, Mr Heaton confirmed that there was no longer any operational need for the reservoir in the river and it could be made available for sale, either to Horizon Nuclear Power or other interested parties. Ms Stagg undertook to provide a note clarifying Horizon's position for circulation with the minutes of this meeting.
- 16 In reply to a question from Ms Payne, Mr Heaton explained that wastes classified as low level waste, including most of the redundant pond skips, would be dispatched to the Low Level Waste Repository at Drigg in Cumbria. Subject to the necessary planning consents it was proposed that skips assessed as intermediate level waste would be transferred to Hinkley Point for storage and operational intermediate level wastes would be transferred to Berkeley.
- 17 Mr Lynden drew attention to the availability of socio economic funding for appropriate projects in the area and invited members to draw attention to the availability of these funds within their local communities.
- 18 During discussion following comments from Cllr Evers on potential competition for NDA funding, it was noted that the focus of attention on removing higher potential hazards could result in less funding being available at Oldbury. Mr Heaton pointed out however that due to the conditions at Oldbury it was possible to make good progress relatively quickly and that experience with decommissioning of the concrete pressure vessel plant would be of benefit to AGR plants in due course.

### **Office for Nuclear Regulation**

- 19 Mr Dickenson presented his report on inspection activities at the Oldbury site. He drew attention to the recognition within ONR that with the significant reduction in hazards at the decommissioning sites there was a reduction in the regulatory effort required but he valued his time spent at the site and also his

attendance at these SSG meetings. Members expressed the view that it was essential that ONR and EA personnel attended these meetings to provide a report on their activities and give the benefit of an independent view on matters reported by the site operators.

20 Mr Dickenson described the nature and scope of his inspection activities at Oldbury. He pointed out that the exercise of the site's emergency arrangements had been deemed to be an adequate demonstration and had shown very effective cooperation between site personnel and the emergency services, the ambulance service in particular. He was confident that the various agencies would work effectively together in the event of an emergency.

21 Mr Dickenson referred to earlier comments by Mr Heaton that 85% of pond skips had been assessed as low level waste. He believed that this percentage was likely to increase if material on the surface of some skips initially assessed as intermediate level waste was removed by washing.

### **Environment Agency**

19 In the absence of Mr Green who had been unable to attend this meeting, Mr Reynolds presented a report on the Environment Agency's inspection activities at the Oldbury site. He drew particular attention to the following:

- (i) Liquid and gaseous radioactive discharges from the Oldbury Site remained low and well within permitted limits.
- (ii) The results of the Agency's inspections had been satisfactory with no instances of any non-compliance identified.
- (iii) Magnox had notified the Agency of an event involving the isolation of air filters in a ventilation and discharge system. The event had not resulted in any increase in discharges and there had been no effect on the environment. The Agency's investigations had confirmed that there had been no non-compliance as a result of this event.
- (iv) The Agency had undertaken consultation on draft proposals relating to arrangements for the release of sites from the requirement to comply with radioactive substances regulations.
- (v) Mr Reynolds said that if members of the public wished to obtain copies of reports on EA inspections at Oldbury, they should email their request to [nrg.south@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:nrg.south@environment-agency.gov.uk).

### **EMERGENCY PLANNING**

20 Mr Hailwood, South Gloucestershire Council's Emergency Planning Manager, gave a presentation on the statutory framework and detailed arrangements made for an off-site plan for dealing with an emergency at the Oldbury site. He explained how the Council met its obligations under the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations for preparing a multiagency

plan, providing information to the public and warning and informing. The off-site plan included detailed arrangements for coordinating the activities of responders within a radius of 1 km from the site and other arrangements for extending actions into a wider area.

- 21 Mr Lynden said that through his attendance at meetings of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee he had been greatly impressed by the detailed plans which were made for dealing with any potential emergency situation and by the excellent relationships which existed between the emergency services and the Oldbury site. He felt it was important that members reported back to their constituent groups on the comprehensive nature of the emergency plans and the effective coordination which was provided by South Gloucestershire Council.
- 22 Cllr Griffiths asked how warning and information was communicated to local residents. Mr Hailwood explained arrangements for direct contact with persons in the eight properties covered by the detailed plans; he said that information was provided over a wider area via local media. Cllr Sullivan drew attention to the poor coverage of cell phone signals in local areas. Mr Hailwood drew attention to the benefit of linking together community plans as these could help to identify individuals with particular support needs.
- 23 Mr Heaton said that a report had been submitted to the Office for Nuclear Regulation presenting a justification that, following the removal of all fuel from the site, there was no longer any potential event on site which could cause a release of radioactivity requiring the implementation of off-site plans. This report was to be assessed by ONR and, if it was approved, it would no longer be necessary to maintain off-site plans. Mr Dickenson confirmed that this report had been received by the specialist team in ONR which dealt with these matters and would be assessed in due course. In reply to questions Mr Dickenson said that there were no risks of an off-site release from the Interim Storage Facility at Berkeley as the stored packages were self-shielding.
- 24 In reply to comments from Cllr Dovey, Mr Hailwood confirmed that South Gloucestershire Council had effective relationships with neighbouring councils on emergency planning matters.

#### **INTERIM END STATE DISCUSSION**

- 25 Mr Lynden suggested that the subject of local preferences in relation to the interim end state for the Site should be kept on the agenda for future meetings of this group but that as this was so dependent upon the development of proposals for new construction and on progress with decommissioning it was not necessary to discuss it in detail at this time.

#### **CHAIR'S UPDATE**

- 26 Mr Lynden reported on recent discussions with chairs of SSGs from other sites. Many of the points discussed had emerged during earlier discussions at this meeting. Mr Lynden was conscious of the need for matters discussed at these

meetings to be promulgated more effectively via the local media and undertook to pursue this.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 27 In response to a suggestion from Dr Hales it was agreed that it would be appropriate to receive a report at the next meeting on progress with the development of proposals for new nuclear generation plant at Oldbury.
- 28 Mr Mitchell referred to discussion at the previous meeting on the proposed demolition of the former Windbound public house. Ms Stagg confirmed Horizon's intention to proceed with this when the necessary permits had been obtained. It was noted that information on the planning application was available on the South Gloucestershire Council's website.

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

- 29 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group, a joint meeting with the Berkeley SSG, was scheduled to be held on 2 November 2016 at the Oldbury Conference Centre.

MJD

3 August 2016