

**BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE
SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 12 MAY 2016**

- Mr Mike Heaton, Site Closure Director, reported on activities on the Site. High standards of safety had been maintained. He reported on progress with decommissioning projects and waste strategy developments, addressing issues raised by Councillors and members of the public in recent meetings.
- Magnox had submitted a report to the Office for Nuclear Regulation making the case that there was no longer any foreseeable potential event on site which could lead to a release of radioactivity requiring off-site emergency arrangements.
- Attention was focused upon the need to maintain buildings in appropriate condition following the recent ingress of water through the roof of an effluent treatment plant building. This rainwater had been discharged via an established discharge route.
- All wastes had been removed from the Caesium Removal Plant building and the Chute Silo, packaged appropriately and transferred to the Interim Storage Facility (ISF) on site. The waste from the Chute Silo had been segregated into intermediate- and low-level waste, reducing the volume of material to be stored in the ISF.
- A good start had been made with commissioning the equipment and systems for processing fuel element debris waste stored in Vault 2. Waste retrieved to date had been stored in 10 DCIC containers and transferred to the ISF. It was proposed that the remaining waste in this Vault (expected to fill 175 containers) would be stored in similar containers and at that stage there would be a change to the use of concrete box containers. This would represent considerable savings compared with the use of DCIC containers. This approach required regulatory approval and the construction of an encapsulation plant which would require planning consent. Details of the proposals would be presented to members at the next meeting.
- It was not anticipated that a change to concrete box packages would require any extension of storage facilities on site. The existing ISF was considered to be adequate to take all of the intermediate level waste on the site together with the waste which it was proposed to transfer from Oldbury.
- Mr Jonathan Jenkin presented a report from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, drawing attention to recent publications and the good progress which was being made with the decommissioning of facilities at Sellafield.
- Mr Adam Davis presented a report on the Environment Agency's inspection and regulation activities at the Berkeley site. He felt there had been an improvement in housekeeping standards and there had been no issues of non-compliance with environmental requirements.
- Mr Barrett gave an update on the development of the South Gloucestershire and Stroud College campus on the Berkeley site.

BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT

THE BERKELEY ARMS HOTEL ON THURSDAY 12 MAY 2016

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs P Wride (Chair)	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Cllr Mrs L Ashton	-	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr S Chandler	-	Hamfallow Parish Council
Cllr G Vaughan Lewis	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr J Sant	-	Stinchcombe 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 A Davis	-	Environment Agency
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 K Duane	-	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 to this, the first meeting of this group he had attended in his capacity as Berkeley Site Closure Director.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs H Molyneux, Mr J Beckett, Mr A Slaney and Mr P Dickenson.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) Accuracy

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

(b) Matters arising

Discharges of radioactivity (para 14(ii) refers)

- 4 Mr A Davis explained by way of clarification that discharges of radioactivity had remained at very low levels with the resultant potential exposure to members of the public being at approximately 1% of the permitted limit.

Waste Strategy

- 5 Cllr Ms Ashton felt it would have been helpful if the minutes relating to the wastes to be received from Sizewell and Dungeness via Oldbury had been summarised in the covering summary sheet.
- 6 Cllr Ms Ashton felt that the location and timing of the waste "drop in" sessions had not been ideal - it would have been better if they had been held on a weekend in the centre of Berkeley. Cllr Mrs Wride said that the timing had been dictated by meeting venue availability and also the availability of the individuals involved.

BERKELEY SITE CLOSURE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

- 7 Mr Heaton introduced himself by outlining his previous career experience within the nuclear industry and said that he had been happy to accept responsibilities for the Berkeley Site in addition to his responsibilities for the Oldbury Site. He said that this arrangement was providing opportunities for learning and sharing between the Sites and in recent months some 40 staff had transferred from Oldbury to take up posts at the Berkeley Site. He presented a report on current activities at the Berkeley Site, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Discussions with Councillors and members of the public on waste strategy had identified a number of their concerns including transport arrangements and the condition of local roads, the need for consistent messages from the Site and more open communications. Mr Heaton would attempt to address these issues.
 - (ii) There had been no instances of non-compliance with the requirements of Operating Rules or the Maintenance Schedule. There had been no accidents involving time lost from work.
 - (iii) A report has been submitted to ONR setting out a justification that there was no longer any foreseeable potential event on site which could require emergency plans for dealing with any off-site impact.
 - (iv) Maintenance of the fabric of ageing structures and buildings presented a significant challenge for all Magnox sites. The roof of the Active Effluent Treatment Plant at Berkeley had leaked allowing the ingress of rainwater which had needed to be discharged via an established route.

- (v) All the waste had been removed from the Caesium Removal Plant and stored in the Interim Storage Facility. The Caesium Removal Plant buildings were now ready for demolition.
- (vi) Emptying of the Chute Silo had been completed. This waste had comprised largely of control rods which, dependent upon the function of the individual components within the reactors could be classified as either intermediate level or low level waste. By segregating the waste in this way it had been possible to reduce the volume of waste to be stored in the ISF – the interim level waste from the Chute Silo had been contained within 11 "mosaic" DCIC containers – this was fewer than had been anticipated.
- (vii) Having completed the emptying of the Chute Silo, attention was now focused upon removal of fuel element debris from Vault 2. Active commissioning of the facilities for the retrieval and handling of this waste had proceeded successfully with 10 DCIC containers of waste being processed to date; the remaining fuel element debris was expected to fill another 175 containers.
- (viii) Mr Heaton explained how waste packages were transferred across the site and stored within the Interim Storage Facility. The total storage capacity of the Interim Storage Facility was some 700 DCIC containers.
- (ix) Mr Heaton explained the intention to complete the removal of waste from Vault 2, a process which was expected to take approximately two years to complete, and at that point to change from the use of DCIC containers to 6m³ concrete boxes for processing the wastes from Vaults 1 and 3 and the former laboratory shielded area. Considerable work had yet to be done to secure the necessary approvals for the use of concrete boxes. If the ability to use concrete box packages had not been established by the time Vault 2 emptying was complete, then the packaging of waste into DCIC containers could continue.
- (x) An encapsulation plant would be required on site to encapsulate waste in concrete box packages. This would be a substantial plant and some modification of roads on site might be necessary to transfer packages to the ISF. Design work was currently in hand. The designer would be used by all sites with a requirement for such plant and the plant would be demolished when waste packaging was complete. Details of a possible encapsulation plant design would be provided for members at the next meeting.

8 In reply to a question from Cllr Ms Ashton, Mr Heaton said it was anticipated that it would be possible to contain all waste packages, including concrete boxes, within the Interim Storage Facility; it was not anticipated that it would be necessary to provide any additional storage capacity. It was estimated that a

change to the use of concrete box waste packages at Berkeley would result in a net saving of some £10 million - £15 million.

- 9 In reply to a question from Cllr Stanton, Mr Heaton said that active commissioning of the Vault 2 waste retrieval and handling systems had taken place between January and April. Commissioning had provided experience in the amount of waste which could be stored within each container. At the end of this period of commissioning containers were being filled at an approximate rate of one container every three days.
- 10 In response to a question from Mr Wride, Mr Heaton said that the crane at the Interim Storage Facility could be used for concrete box packages as well as for DCIC containers. Some software changes would be required to the computer system which was used for loading packages within the store and some relatively minor building changes might be required to allow access for concrete packages.
- 11 Cllr Ms Ashton asked whether the number of waste packages to be stored on site had been overestimated in the initial design of the storage facility. Mr Heaton said that in some cases it was not possible to be certain about the number of packages required until the waste had been retrieved and characterised. Experience to date with the waste from the Chute Silo and the fuel element debris retrieved from Vault 2 was that the number of packages required had been fewer than previously anticipated.

UPDATE FROM NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 12 Mr Jenkin provided an update on issues of interest to the NDA, drawing particular attention to the following:
 - (i) Sellafield Ltd had become a fully owned subsidiary of the NDA with effect from 1 April 2016. It was felt that this arrangement was better suited to the management of the Sellafield site having regard for the nature of the challenges it faced.
 - (ii) Bulk stocks of fuel had been removed from the Pile Fuel Storage Pond and transferred to a modern on-site storage facility. This had significantly reduced radioactivity levels in this legacy fuel pond.
 - (iii) NDA had published its strategy document and business plan. Both documents were accessible on the NDA website.
 - (iv) NDA was organising a supply chain event in November, providing opportunities for businesses of all sizes to demonstrate their capabilities and meet key personnel in nuclear decommissioning.
 - (v) NDA was sponsoring research projects and supporting an initiative to encourage smaller businesses to develop innovative solutions to some of the energy industry's technical challenges.

UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION

- 13 Mr Dickinson had been unable to attend this meeting. A report on his inspection activities had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

UPDATE FROM THE 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) The Agency, together with ONR was closely involved with Magnox in discussions on ILW waste treatment strategy.
 - (ii) Mr Davis had met with Mr Heaton to ensure that he understood the arrangements for the management of the Berkeley and Oldbury sites. He believed that the new arrangement provided opportunities for synergy improvements.
 - (iii) He believed that increased attention to housekeeping standards on the site had provided noticeable improvements.
 - (iv) There was no issue of non-compliance with environmental requirements or permitted limits.
 - (v) Mr Davis had been disappointed with the fact that the roof on the AETP had deteriorated to the point of allowing water ingress. He felt that this situation should have been foreseeable and the resulting secondary waste could have been avoided.
 - (vi) A report on radioactivity in food and the environment for 2014 had been published. It showed that potential radiation exposure to members of the public in the vicinity of the Berkeley Site was less than ½% of the permitted dose limit.
 - (vii) The retrieval and packaging of waste from the Chute Silo provided a good example of waste minimisation. Mr Davis felt it was unlikely that similar success could be achieved with waste from the other vaults but the approach and attitude of staff was very encouraging.
 - (viii) Mr Davis commended the Site's decision, following the filling of 10 DCIC containers with waste from Vault 2, to proceed with a further limited number of containers in order to solve any potential issues before proceeding with bulk processing.
- 15 In reply to a question from Cllr Tipper, Mr Davis said that arrangements for the storage and handling of radioactive waste were taken into account in the assessment of new designs for future nuclear stations.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

- 16 Cllr Mrs Wride gave details of her forthcoming meeting with NDA and representatives of other SSGs. She drew attention to the new central mailbox – Berkeley.ssg@magnoxsites.com – which was available for use by members for all contacts relating to SSG meetings.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 17 Mr Barrett outlined progress with development of the South Gloucestershire and Stroud College campus on the Berkeley site. He said that some students would be taking courses there from September 2016 but full-time courses would not commence until September 2017. He said that an open evening at the college was to be held on 9 June 2016.
- 18 Mr Heaton referred to a number of groups of visitors to the Site in recent weeks including some Japanese visitors involved in the Fukushima project who had been impressed by decommissioning techniques used on the site.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

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

MJD

18 May 2016