

## **HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

### **SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2016**

- Station Director Mr Peter Evans reported on continued high standards of safety and reliable operation at the B station. The station's programme of emergency exercises had been completed satisfactorily. Mr Evans provided a report on the progress of work during the current statutory inspection and overhaul of Reactor 3. With reference to a block of graphite similar to those installed within the reactors, he explained the nature of the inspections undertaken on reactor core graphite. He reported that 12 of the station's training programmes had received certification as meeting the required standards by an independent accreditation panel. He pointed out that the station had recently completed 40 years of operation and said that very high standards of operational performance had been maintained in recent years.
- Mr Evans and Mr Ron Schroder, A Site Closure Director, were encouraging all personnel travelling to the sites to use the newly-opened Cannington bypass. Both outlined their serious response to any reports of bad driving on local roads or inconsiderate parking within local communities.
- Mr Schroder, reporting on activities at the A Site, described continued high standards of safety performance and good progress with decommissioning work. He pointed out that the transition to a new organisational structure to meet future work requirements would involve a smaller reduction in staff numbers than had previously been envisaged. The required reduction of 35 posts would be achieved largely by individuals leaving voluntarily. Mr Schroder's report on progress with decommissioning projects included completion of the draining and stabilisation of the former cooling ponds, the dismantling and removal of the Reactor 1 pond crane, and the imminent start of work on remediation of underground diesel oil contamination.
- Mr Schroder outlined plans for pond skips from Oldbury, Dungeness A and Sizewell A to be transferred to Hinkley Point for encapsulation and interim storage. Transport of this waste would involve 1 – 2 lorry deliveries to Hinkley Point per month over a two-year period and a small addition to the number of packages to be stored at Hinkley Point. Planning consent issues were under discussion with Somerset County Council.
- Members received reports from the Office of Nuclear Regulation and Environment Agency inspectors. No substantial issues had been raised by their inspections.
- A report on current activities was received from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

## HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

### Minutes of the meeting held at Hill House, Otterhampton on Friday 26 February 2016

#### **PRESENT**

Cllr M Caswell (Chairman) - Sedgemoor District Council  
Mr R Schroder - Site Director, Hinkley Point A  
Mr P Evans - Station Director, Hinkley Point B

#### **Elected Members**

Cllr T Ayre - Holford Parish Council  
Cllr Ms A Bown - Somerset County Council  
Mr R Corns - Natural England  
Mr A Debenham - Stop Hinkley  
Cllr P Downing - Sedgemoor District Council  
Cllr J Edney - Somerset County Council  
Cllr R Garner - North Somerset Council  
Cllr Ms S Goss - West Somerset District Council  
Cllr M Hogg - Nether Stowey Parish Council  
Mr A Jeffery - Sedgemoor and West Somerset Green Party  
Cllr R Keen - Sedgemoor District Council  
Mr M Laver - West Hinkley Action Group  
Cllr C Morgan - West Somerset District Council  
Cllr M Phillips - Cannington Parish Council  
Cllr S Stretton - Spaxton Parish Council  
Cllr L Redman - Bridgwater Town Council  
Mr J Sivyer - Chairman, Stockland Bristol Parish Meeting

#### **Co-opted Members**

Mr M Short  
Mr M Brown (Vice Chairman)

#### **Appointed Members**

Mr J Jenkin - Nuclear Decommissioning Authority  
Mr T Fediw - Environment Agency  
Dr R MacGregor - Environment Agency  
Ms R Butler - Environment Agency  
Mr R Lee - Environment Agency  
Mr P Dickenson - Office for Nuclear Regulation  
Mr I Wilson - Office for Nuclear Regulation  
Mrs N Dawson - Somerset County Council  
Mr G Robinson - Somerset County Council  
Mr T Howes - Civil Nuclear Constabulary  
Dr S Harrison - Public Health England

#### **EDF Energy**

Mr D Stokes - Communications  
Ms A Cowie  
Mr C Ware

Mr J Roberts

**Magnox**

Ms G Coombs

- Communications

Mr S Booth

Dr S Wilmott

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms J Smolden

Ms S Aubrey

Ms C Marsden

Mr M J Davis

- Secretary

**CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 1 Cllr Caswell welcomed all those present to this meeting of the Site Stakeholder Group for Hinkley Point A Site and Hinkley Point B Power Station.
- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Crago, Mr H Rickard, Cllr Ms D Hill, Cllr M Dewdney, Cllr P Tipney, Mr R Wynne, Mr R Davies, Ms M Smith and Mr P Higginson.
- 3 Cllr Caswell pointed out that Mr Brown, the elected vice chairman of this Group, was no longer a representative of Otterhampton Parish Council. Mr Brown left the meeting whilst members considered his position. Proposed by Mr Sivyer and seconded by Cllr Ms Goss, it was unanimously agreed that Mr Brown should be co-opted to membership of this Group and that as a co-opted member he should continue to act as Vice Chairman. Mr Brown rejoined the meeting and thanked members for their support.

**OPEN PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

- 4 Cllr Caswell invited questions from members of the public on any issue which might not be covered in later discussion. No issues were raised.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 OCTOBER 2015**

**(a) Accuracy**

- 5 The minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2015 were approved as a correct record.

**(b) Matters Arising (other than matters to be covered in later discussions)**

- 6 It was noted that all issues identified as matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting would be addressed in later discussions.

## STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 7 Mr Evans reported on activities and performance at the power station since the previous meeting of this Group, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The station had maintained very high standards of safety and reliability. It was now more than 9 years since the station had had a reportable nuclear event and more than 6 years since the last reportable environmental event.
  - (ii) There had been one lost time incident in December after an individual had caught a ring on one of his fingers on a bolt whilst getting down from a plant item he had been inspecting. He had lost part of his finger as a consequence. The company was introducing a "no jewellery" policy at all of its sites to avoid similar events in future. There had been 22 minor first aid injuries since the previous meeting.
  - (iii) The station had successfully completed its programme of emergency exercises. A demonstration exercise would be held later in the year.
  - (iv) All personnel coming to the site were encouraged to use the newly-opened Cannington bypass and it had now been confirmed that the approved route for the flask transporter could be changed to use the new bypass. Any reported incidents of bad driving or any other road safety issues were taken very seriously.
  - (v) Both reactors had operated at nominal full load since the last meeting except for periods of refuelling and shutdowns for planned overhauls. Reactor 3 was currently shut down for its statutory inspection and overhaul. Work during the outage would include the replacement of two gas circulators and major transformers and various programmes of inspection and maintenance.
  - (vi) Mr Evans used a graphite block similar to those installed in the reactors to illustrate inspections which were undertaken during the outage. 31 fuel channels were being inspected during the current outage in support of the probabilistic safety case; the inspection of 12 channels had been completed to date. The inspections included examinations to identify any cracking taking place at the root of key-ways within the graphite blocks. Such cracking might be expected but none had been found to date. Mr Evans emphasised the stability of the graphite core structure but referred to the installation of a number of super-articulated control rods in each reactor and the provision of a nitrogen injection plant to give additional means of shutdown in the event of seismic disruption of the reactor core.

- (vii) In January twelve of the station's training programmes had been awarded certification against INPO (Institute of Nuclear Power Operations) objectives by an independent Training Standards Accreditation Board.
  - (viii) The station had recently completed 40 years of operation. Its safety and operational performance in recent years had been exceptionally good.
  - (ix) Personnel on site had raised over £21,000 for charities and good causes during the past year.
- 8 In reply to a question from Mr Jeffery, Mr Evans said that key-way root cracking had been found in a very small number of blocks during inspections at Hunterston B power station but safety case implications were negligible. In reply to a further question he explained that there were 81 control rods in each reactor and 12 super-articulated control rods had been installed in each. The insertion of a minimum number of 10 control rods was required to effect a reactor shutdown.
- 9 In reply to a further question Mr Evans explained the chemistry of the processes which resulted in oxidation of reactor core graphite and the actions taken to minimise this effect.
- 10 Cllr Ms Goss drew attention to the importance of safety and consideration when parking vehicles in local communities. She said this was a particular issue during the outage when large numbers of visitors to the area were working at the station. Mr Evans explained actions taken to identify any examples of bad driving or lack of consideration on local roads and described actions taken to follow up any reported incidents. Regular staff briefings included references to road safety and parking in local communities.
- 11 Expressing congratulations at the 40 years of operation at the station, Mr Jeffery asked about the future planned life. Mr Evans said that future operation was currently planned until 2023 subject to the continued satisfactory demonstration of safety case requirements.

## **CLOSURE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A SITE**

- 12 Mr Schroder reported on activities at Hinkley Point A Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) There had been no accidents involving time lost from work on the A Site since the previous meeting and only one such accident in the past eight years. There had been one recordable injury during December when an individual engaged in housekeeping activities in the office building had fallen after walking into an open drawer. The individual was later found to have a broken collarbone but had recovered and had remained at work throughout the period.

- (ii) The transition to a new organisational structure was in its final stages. This had resulted in smaller staff reductions than had previously been envisaged - staff numbers were to be reduced by 35, of which all except 8 were volunteers. These reductions would be implemented by 1 May. The reductions would not adversely affect safety, security or the delivery of work programmes. Mr Schroder anticipated that numbers of staff on site would remain relatively stable for the next five years and then further reductions would take place as work on the demolition of buildings involved greater use of contractors. Draft plans indicated that demolition work would continue until 2027 when the site would enter a care and maintenance state.
- (iii) Both of the former cooling ponds had been drained and stabilised. This represented a significant hazard reduction and the completion of a major programme of work involving the removal of active sludge and all pond equipment followed by draining, decontamination and surface stabilisation.
- (iv) The Reactor 1 flask crane had been dismantled and removed from site with the scrap metal being recycled.
- (v) Assessment of the extent of underground diesel contamination reported at an earlier meeting had shown that it was smaller than previously envisaged. A contractor was currently undertaking design work and remediation would start in April and was expected to be completed by the end of September.
- (vi) It was intended that pond skips from Oldbury, Dungeness A and Sizewell A Sites classified as intermediate level waste would be transferred to the Hinkley Point A Site for encapsulation and interim storage. Skips classified as low level waste would be sent directly from those sites to the low level waste repository. Transfers of these components to Hinkley Point would be contained within 25 - 50 lorry movements over a period of two years. The waste after packaging would represent an additional 15 packages within the storage facility which would accommodate some 1000 packages. Planning consent aspects of this proposal were being considered with Somerset County Council as part of an application for consent for an interim store and an encapsulation plant.

13 In reply to a question, Mr Schroder confirmed that the recent serious accident during the demolition of structures at the former Didcot A power station would be examined in order to identify any factors which might be applicable to future work on the Hinkley Point A site.

- 14 In reply to a question from Cllr Edney on income from the sale of recycled materials, Mr Schroder said that this matter would be covered by the conditions of contracts but benefits would generally be returned to the NDA.
- 15 Cllr Garner asked whether the potential delay in entering a care and maintenance state was due to financial or other considerations. Mr Schroder said that the critical path activity was treatment of wet intermediate level wastes. Progress with this work was dependent upon the level of funding but current plans were based upon anticipated funding levels.
- 16 In reply to a question from Cllr Ayre, Mr Schroder said it was always planned that the underground diesel contamination would have been removed at some stage but removal on the current timescale meant that dewatering for C site construction activities would not be affected.
- 17 In reply to a question from Mr Short on the removal of redundant plant items, Mr Schroder said that plant was retained, and maintained in a safe condition, if it was likely to be used in future; otherwise arrangements were made for it to be removed.
- 18 Cllr Caswell confirmed that a special meeting of this Group would be convened to consider a planning application to Somerset County Council for waste encapsulation and storage when details of that application were known.
- 19 Cllr Garner suggested that road signs at the ends of the Cannington bypass could be improved to ensure that the route was used as much as possible. Cllr Ms Goss confirmed that this matter was under consideration.
- 20 In reply to questions from Cllr Edney, Mr Schroder said it was proposed that the sites sending pond skips to Hinkley Point would cut them into sections before despatch. It was envisaged that there would be 1 - 2 shipments per month over a period of two years. In reply to a comment from Cllr Morgan, Mr Schroder said that it had been shown that there was no business case for use of the milling techniques which had been developed for treatment of pond skip components.

## **ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORTS**

- 21 Mr Fediw said that with effect from 1 April he would be transferring to other duties within the Environment Agency and he introduced Mr Lee who would be his successor as lead regulator for the B station.
- 22 Mr Fediw reported on the Environment Agency's monitoring and regulatory activities relating to the Hinkley Point A and B sites. The programme of inspection activities had not raised significant adverse comments. In reply to a question from Mr Debenham, Mr Fediw said that the Environment Agency's activities during a major plant outage were concerned with the effects of any

releases of radioactivity to the environment, the wastes generated by overhaul work and the inspection and maintenance of monitoring equipment.

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## **OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORTS**

- 23 Mr Wilson and Mr Dickenson reported on the ONR's regulatory and inspection activities relating to Hinkley Point A Site and B Station. The following points were noted during discussion:
- (i) planned inspections had all produced satisfactory results.
  - (ii) ONR had given its consent to the extension of the operating period of Hinkley Point B Reactor 3 by 47 days in order that the start of the outage programme could be delayed until after the Christmas period.
  - (iii) ONR had monitored the investigations undertaken following the failure of a control rod to fully insert during a trip of Reactor 3 in August 2015.
  - (iv) Plans for future operating life of plant were subject to inspections confirming compliance with safety case requirements, the ONR giving its consent for return to service following inspection and overhaul and satisfactory results from the periodic safety review process.
  - (v) ONR was involved in discussions on changes in staffing structures to ensure that nuclear safety standards were maintained.
  - (vi) Emergency arrangements for the A Site were being changed to reflect the reduced level of hazards on the site. Mr Dickenson had been impressed by attitudes displayed by staff in emergency exercises.
- 26 In reply to a question from Mr Short, Mr Dickenson said that the elution trials undertaken at Hinkley Point as a possible means of reducing the levels of contamination on pond wall surfaces had been carried out to assess the potential use of the technique at other sites.

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

- 27 Mr Jenkin reported on issues of current interest to the NDA, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The NDA had completed a public consultation on its draft strategy and business plan documents. Comments received would be taken into account and the final documents published by the end of March.

- (ii) The NDA had launched an online decommissioning blog which was accessible via its website. The website content was being moved to the central government website ([www.gov.uk/nda](http://www.gov.uk/nda)).
- (iii) Sellafield Ltd was to become a wholly-owned subsidiary of NDA with effect from 1 April. Mr Tony Fountain was to become chairman of Sellafield Ltd.
- (iv) Despatches of irradiated fuel from Oldbury had been completed ahead of schedule. This represented a significant milestone in the reduction of hazards on the site,
- (v) Generation at Wylfa power station had ceased on 30 December 2015. This was five years later than had originally been planned. The extended generation at Wylfa and Oldbury had produced additional income of £1 billion which had helped to fund decommissioning projects.
- (vi) NDA had recently published a copy of its Insight magazine.
- (vii) A successful supply chain event had been held in Manchester.
- (viii) Significant progress was being made with decommissioning projects at Sellafield.
- (ix) The Environment Agency had granted a permit which would enable disposals of wastes at the Low Level Waste Repository to continue for many years to come.

28 In reply to a question from Mr Jeffery, Mr Jenkin said that it was planned for storage facilities for intermediate level wastes at Magnox sites in the South of England to be based at Bradwell, Hinkley Point and Berkeley sites.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

29 Cllr Caswell and Mr Brown reported on their recent activities on behalf of this Group. Mr Brown reported on a meeting of the National Stakeholder Group which they had attended during January. That meeting had provided an update on NDA activities and had given opportunities for valuable dialogue with representatives of other SSG's on their arrangements and practices.

### **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

30 Cllr Caswell reported with sadness that Cllr Tipney's wife had died recently. He extended members condolences and best wishes to Cllr Tipney.

- 31 Cllr Caswell said that the Somerset Nuclear Energy Group had been reformed as the Somerset Energy Infrastructure Panel and was to include discussions on all forms of energy.
- 32 Cllr Caswell pointed out that arrangements were to be made for members to visit the power station sites during the coming summer. He encouraged members to take part in these visits.

**DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 32 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on Friday, 24 June 2016. The venue for this meeting would be confirmed in due course.

MJD  
2 March 2016