

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER 2016

- In a question and answer session at the start of the meeting interest was shown as to whether any items of furniture and equipment in the Hinkley Point A control room were to be preserved as museum pieces; it was noted that representatives of Bridgwater College were to consider whether they wished to preserve any items. It was questioned also whether it was now appropriate to include C station issues on the agenda for this meeting; it was understood that EDF wished to have a separate forum for liaison with the community on Hinkley Point C.
- Mr Ron Schroder, Hinkley Point A Site Closure Director, described continuing high standards of safety performance on the Site. He said that all personnel and visitors were reminded of the need for care and consideration when driving to and from the site. He described good progress with a number of decommissioning projects, including the demolition of a large pipe bridge and the remediation of underground diesel contamination which was now nearing completion. Mr Schroder explained a recent application for planning consent for the construction of a storage facility for radioactive waste. He pointed out that an application for consent for the construction of a waste encapsulation facility was expected to be made in January/February 2017 and consideration was being given to a possible application later in 2017 for consent for importing certain radioactive components from other sites.
- Mr Peter Evans, Station Director, Hinkley Point B, reported on continued safe and reliable operation of the plant. He explained two events in which reactors had been shut down due to faults on equipment associated with the turbo alternators; in each case the reactors had been returned to service following rectification of the defects. He said that the station had purchased a new fire tender of the same type and capability as those operated by the fire and rescue service. Mr Evans said that an international group of nuclear experts representing the World Association of Nuclear Operators had visited the station to assess progress being made following a peer review undertaken in 2014; the group had concluded that good progress was being made. Mr Evans pointed out that a new intake of apprentices had started their training.
- Mr Russell Davies of Somerset County Council gave a presentation on the arrangements for the coordination of the responses of the various agencies in an off-site emergency plan which was prepared by his Council.
- Members received reports from the Environment Agency and the Office for Nuclear Regulation Site Inspectors. No significant issues had been raised by their work.
- Mr Jonathan Jenkin presented a report on matters of interest to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.
- Cllr Brown reported on a meeting of the sub group which had considered the A Site's proposals for handling and storage of intermediate level radioactive wastes. It was noted that a special meeting of the SSG would be convened in the event of an application for consent to import waste items from other sites.

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at Hill House, Otterhampton on Friday 28 October 2016

PRESENT

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

Elected Members

Cllr T Ayre	-	Holford Parish Council
Cllr J White	-	Over Stowey Parish Council
Cllr Ms A Bown	-	Somerset County Council
Mr R Corns	-	Natural England
Mr A Debenham	-	Stop Hinkley
Cllr M Dewdney	-	West Somerset 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 Jeffrey	-	Sedgemoor and West Somerset Green Party
Cllr R Keen	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Mr M Laver	-	West Hinkley Action Group
Cllr M Phillips	-	Cannington Parish Council
Cllr L Redman	-	Bridgwater Town Council
Cllr A Reed	-	Wembdon Parish Council
Cllr J Ridout	-	Fiddington Parish Council
Mr J Sivyer	-	Chairman, Stockland Bristol Parish Meeting
Ms M Smith	-	Forum 21
Mr T J Williams	-	Kilve Parish Council

Co-opted Members

Mr M Brown (Vice Chairman)
Mr M Short

Appointed Members

Mr R Lee	-	Environment Agency
Mr P Dickenson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr I Wilson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr M Khan	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr J Jenkin	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Ms N Dawson	-	Somerset County Council
Mr R Davies	-	Somerset County Council

EDF Energy

- Mr D Stokes - Communications
- Ms A Cowie
- Mr P Higginson - Technical Safety and Support Manager
- Mr C Ware - Workers representative

Magnox

- Ms G Coombs - Communications
- Ms J Callander - Secretariat
- Mr D McCubbin - Workers representative

IN ATTENDANCE

- Mr M J Davis - Secretary
- Mr B Birkenhead - Member of the public

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 Cllr C Morgan, Cllr H Davies, Dr S Harrison, Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger MP, Mr H Rickard, Insp T Howes, Dr R MacGregor and Cllr S Stretton.
- 3 It was noted that there were sufficient members present to constitute a quorum for this meeting.

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.
- 5 Mr Birkenhead asked whether arrangements were being made for any of the furniture and equipment in the former A Station control room to be preserved as museum pieces. Mr Schroder said plans were being made for the control room to be demolished as part of the turbine hall demolition which was due to commence in summer 2017. He said that he would be glad to offer items to anyone who wished to keep them as museum pieces; representatives of Bridgwater College were coming to site in December to consider whether they wished to preserve any of these items.
- 6 Cllr Edney asked whether, as approval had been given for the construction of Hinkley Point C, it was now appropriate for matters relating to C site being considered at this meeting. Cllr Caswell said that EDF Energy had taken a decision to have have a separate forum for liaison with communities in relation to

C site construction issues. He believed that it might be appropriate to have a single forum once C Station became operational.

- 7 In reply to a question from Cllr Keen, Mr Schroder said that the application submitted to Somerset County Council for planning consent for a radioactive waste storage facility was related to wastes currently stored on the Hinkley Point A Site. Consideration was being given to the possible transfer of certain items from other Magnox sites to Hinkley Point A but this would be the subject of a further application for planning consent.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 JUNE 2016

(a) Accuracy

- 5 The minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2016 were approved as a correct record subject to adding the name of Mr Short to the list of persons offering apologies for absence.

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

- 6 It was agreed that all matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting would be covered in later discussion at this meeting.

CLOSURE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A SITE

- 7 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. Attention was directed towards avoiding minor injuries which, due to the nature of the work on Site, included focus on avoiding hand and finger injuries.
 - (ii) Priority was given to emphasising the need for high standards of road safety on journeys to and from the Site.
 - (iii) The success of the ponds remediation project on site had been recognised with the award of a Babcock International Excellence Award as the "Project of the Year".
 - (iv) During visits to the Site in August members had been given an opportunity to visit the ponds building and observe manual sorting of fuel element debris. This was being undertaken to separate springs with higher radiation dose rates from the remainder of the debris as part of the process of designing equipment to carry out this work automatically.

- (v) Good progress was being made with the removal of a pipe bridge which was being demolished due to its poor condition. The work, which involved a considerable amount of scaffolding and temporary enclosure of the area, was scheduled for completion by December.
 - (vi) The remediation of underground diesel contamination was well advanced. Some 215,000 litres of groundwater had been removed and 1000 litres of diesel had been recovered. Pumping was to be completed shortly and the work would be finished by the end of the year. There would be no impact on the scheduled dewatering of the C site which was to commence shortly.
 - (vii) A planning consent application had been submitted to Somerset County Council to vary the plans for a radioactive waste storage facility in order to facilitate a change in waste packaging strategy from the use of ductile cast iron containers (DCICs) to concrete boxes. It was anticipated that an application for consent to build an encapsulation plant would be submitted to the Council in January/February 2017. The use of 6 m³ concrete boxes represented a cost saving of some 80% compared with the use of DCICs.
 - (viii) Consideration was still being given to importing pond skip components from other Magnox sites to Hinkley Point A Site. It was anticipated that it would be the subject of a planning consent application in summer 2017.
 - (ix) The site continued to support local organisations and activities including support for the Bridgwater Carnival.
- 8 Cllr Ayre said that he had found the visit to the cooling ponds building very helpful in giving an appreciation of the nature and scale of the work involved in processing waste held in the cooling ponds. In response to a question from Cllr Williams, Mr Schroder said that the radiation dose rate on the small nimonic springs contained within the fuel element debris was approximately one thousand times higher than the rate on the remainder of the waste.
- 9 Cllr Garner commented on the fact that in a photograph of members' visit to the pond building none of the visitors were wearing hard hats. Mr Schroder explained that the personal protective equipment to be used for all activities undertaken on the site was determined in advance by risk assessments. The wearing of safety helmets would not normally be considered necessary within the ponds building.
- 10 In reply to a question from Mr Jeffery, Mr Schroder said that some pond skips at Dungeness A which were categorised as intermediate level waste were being cut up underwater. This had the benefit of providing additional shielding for the person carrying out the work. Skips classified as low level waste were being cut up outside of the pond.

- 11 In response to a question from Ms Smith, Mr Schroder explained the intention to leave the reactor buildings in place until the end of the care and maintenance period in about 2085. Dismantlement at that time would be substantially easier due to the effect of the decay of radioactivity and the probable development of robotic working methods.

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 12 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 10 years since the station had experienced a reportable nuclear event and more than 7 years since the last reportable environmental event. It was more than 250 days since the last accident on site involving time lost from work by an EDF Energy employee and more than three years since the last such accident involving a contract partner. There was close and effective cooperation with contract partners of safety matters.
 - (ii) Both Reactor 3 and Reactor 4 had been shut down manually since the previous meeting following the detection of faults on equipment associated with the turbo alternators. The units had been returned to service following rectification of the defects. During the shutdown of Reactor 3 only two of the four gas turbines had operated automatically. The operational requirement was for one gas turbine to be in operation following a shutdown to provide essential supplies in the event of disconnection from the electricity grid system.
 - (iii) The station had acquired a new fire tender of the same type as used by the Fire and Rescue Service.
 - (iv) The station had demonstrated its emergency arrangements and its counter-terrorism security arrangements to the satisfaction of the regulators.
 - (v) An international team of nuclear experts from the World Association of Nuclear Operators had visited the station during September to review progress made since the full peer review in December 2014.
 - (vi) Newly recruited apprentices had started their programme of training.
 - (vii) More than 50,000 people had visited the EDF Energy visitors' centre in Bridgwater since it opened in December 2012. Since that time over 10,300 people had visited the B station.

- 13 In response to a question from Cllr Ms Bown, Mr Evans confirmed that the station worked closely with the fire and rescue service on training in fire and rescue techniques.
- 14 Mr Evans pointed out that information on the graphite inspection programme had been provided to the BBC who were preparing a programme for broadcast during the coming week. He said that there was no change in the position from that previously reported to members of this Group.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT

- 15 It was noted that a report from the Environment Agency on their monitoring and regulatory activities in relation to the A Site and the B Station had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Mr Lee invited any questions which members might wish to raise. No issues were raised.

REPORT FROM EMERGENCY PLANNING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

- 16 A report on issues discussed at the meeting of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee held on 8 September had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Mr Higginson invited questions from members. No issues were raised.

HINKLEY POINT OFF SITE PLAN

- 17 Mr Davies gave a presentation on the statutory framework and detailed arrangements made for an off-site plan for dealing with an emergency at the Hinkley Point B site. He explained how Somerset County Council met its obligations under the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations for preparing a multi-agency plan in conjunction with all agencies and stakeholders involved. He said that the off-site plan, which was updated every three years, included detailed arrangements for coordinating the activities of responders within a radius of 3.5 km from the site. Those activities included the pre-distribution of stable iodine tablets and the issue of information in the form of a calendar.
- 18 Mr Davies referred to a survey of local residents which was to be undertaken in the coming weeks and the replacement of supplies of stable iodine tablets which was scheduled for mid-2017.
- 19 Mr Sivyer drew attention to the fact that the boundary of the detailed emergency planning zone, drawn as a radius from the site, included some but not all residents of Stockland Bristol. He suggested that it would be reassuring for residents if the boundary was extended to include all of them.

- 20 Cllr Ms Goss suggested that when stable iodine tablets were replaced, information should be provided on arrangements for the safe disposal of the old tablets. Mr Davies confirmed that this issue would be addressed.
- 21 In reply to a question from Mr Debenham, Mr Davies said that the 3.5 km radius of the detailed emergency planning zone had been determined at the time the plan was written and had been based at that time on emergency arrangements for the A site. The radius required for AGR sites was one kilometre.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORTS

- 22 Mr Dickenson and Mr Wilson reported on the ONR's regulatory and inspection activities relating to the A Site and B Station. Their written reports had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The following points were noted during discussion:
- (i) With the reduction in the number of nuclear safety issues to be addressed during decommissioning, ONR anticipated that its Site Inspector would visit the A Site once in each quarter.
 - (ii) Planned inspections had continued throughout the period and no major issues had been raised.
 - (iii) Mr Dickinson said that the proposed relocation of the waste encapsulation plant on A Site was supported by nuclear safety considerations as it would reduce requirements for the transport of radioactive waste around the site.
 - (iv) Reorganisation within ONR would separate responsibilities for new build, operational facilities, and decommissioning sites.
- 23 It was noted that Mr Wilson was shortly to retire as Site Inspector for the B Station and would be succeeded by Mr M Khan.

UPDATE FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 24 Mr Jenkin presented an update on issues of interest to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. The following items were noted during discussion:
- (i) As part of a change in strategy for dealing with intermediate level wastes, planning consent had been obtained from Gloucestershire County Council to allow the transfer of intermediate level waste from Oldbury to Berkeley; similar consent had been obtained from Essex County Council which would allow such waste to be transferred from Sizewell A and Dungeness A to Bradwell. The changes in strategy were expected to deliver savings of £200 million across all sites.

- (ii) NDA had been disappointed with the content of a BBC Panorama programme broadcast in September on safety at Sellafield. Information had been provided to the BBC but it was felt that the programme had failed to provide a balanced view of progress against recognised challenges.
 - (iii) NDA had recently published a new edition of its Insight magazine.
 - (iv) 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. Cllr Ms Goss commented that if the claim resulted in the payment of substantial damages this could eliminate savings expected to result from the appointment of a different contractor. Mr Sivyer asked about the potential impact on the budget for Hinkley Point A if substantial damages had to be paid. Mr Jenkin said that NDA believed there were good grounds for appeal but that if that was unsuccessful and damages had to be paid these would have to be funded from within NDA budgets; site funding would be prioritised in order to minimise the impact on decommissioning programmes.
- 25 Mr Short drew attention to the fact that Hinkley Point A had discontinued the practice of submitting written reports to meetings of this Group; he questioned whether this was due to reductions in the site communications team required by the NDA. Mr Schroder pointed out that the NDA provided a budget for Magnox but it was for Magnox to determine how that budget was spent. The budget was reducing and savings had to be made.

WASTE SUB GROUP UPDATE

- 26 Mr Brown reported on a meeting of the Waste Sub Group which had been held on 20 October. He said that Mr Schroder had attended the meeting and had explained changes in strategy relating to Hinkley Point A ILW treatment and storage, together with proposals for seeking the necessary planning permissions for these activities.
- 27 In relation to the application for planning consent for an Interim Storage Facility, Mr Brown said that the current proposal reverted to the size and capacity envisaged in the planning consent granted in 2004. He said that consent had also been granted in 2004 for an encapsulation plant of the type now required but the new application, to be submitted in January/February 2017 would be based upon the plant being relocated to a site adjacent to the Interim Storage Facility. An application for consent to allow pond skip components to be imported from other Magnox sites would be submitted in April/May 2017.

- 28 Cllr Caswell confirmed his intention to convene a special meeting of this Group to consider any proposal to import from other Magnox sites wastes for storage at Hinkley Point A at the time when an application for planning consent was submitted.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 29 Cllr Caswell reported on his recent activities on behalf of this Group. He referred specifically to a meeting of representatives of SSGs with the Radioactive Waste Management group of NDA which had confirmed a commitment to establishing a deep geological disposal facility for radioactive wastes by 2040.
- 30 Cllr Caswell said that the visits to the A Site and B Station organised for SSG members had been well organised and had been appreciated by members. He felt it was important that all members had an opportunity to attend such visits and said that he would seek to arrange further visits if necessary.
- 31 Cllr Caswell asked members, when reporting back to the organisations which they represented, to report accurately on information presented at meetings of this Group.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 32 As this would be the last meeting to be attended by Mr Peter Higginson and Mr Ian Wilson, due to retirement and redeployment respectively, Cllr Caswell expressed members' thanks and appreciation of the significant contribution they had made to the work of this Group.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 33 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on Friday, 24 February 2017. The venue for this meeting would be confirmed in due course.

MJD

1 November 2016