



## HARWELL CHILTON CAMPUS LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

Minutes of the 88<sup>th</sup> meeting held at the Satellite Applications Catapult on Thursday 15 June 2017

### PRESENT

<b>Chairman</b>	Chris Broad, Chilton Parish Council
<b>Deputy Chair</b>	John Sharp, East Hendred Parish Council
<b>Secretary</b>	Emma Burwood, Magnox Comms
<b>Minutes</b>	Trudie Tomlinson, Magnox
<b>SSG Secretariat</b>	Tracey Finn

### ATTENDEES

Mrs Julie Pearce	Oxfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes
Paul Bryant	West Berkshire Council
Stuart Clark	Magnox
Stephen Druce	Chilton Parish Council
Michael Dunnett	Harwell Closure Director
Mrs A Palmer	OCC
Gary Reid	Magnox
David Rushton	NDA
John Sharp	SSG Deputy Chairman
Dik Third	Prospect for Harwell/Winfrith & Chairman of HLRA
Dr Peter Walker	Retired UKAEA
Ms Christine Williamson	Head of Health and Safety, MRC Harwell
Mr John Wilkins	Member of public
Stuart Watson	Magnox
Mr Derek Whitmell	Upton Parish Council
Cllr Rita Atkinson	Sutton Courtenay Parish Council
Mr Jon Blackmore	Magnox
Mr Bill Hanks	Member of public
Ms Laura Holland	Diamond Light
Mr Dave Johnson	OCC
Ms Elise Kinderman	OCC
Dr Caroline Livingstone	UKAEA
Ms Liz Morris	Chilton Primary School
Mr Gary Coupar	OCC



## HARWELL SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP 88<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

**Date:** Thursday, 15 June 2017  
**Time:** 10:00 for refreshments, meeting starts 10:30  
**Venue:** The Satellite Applications Catapult, Electron Building, Fermi Avenue, Harwell Oxford, OX11 0QR

### AGENDA

1. **Chairman's remarks:**
  - Welcome guests
  - Chairman's Notes – Chris Broad (10)
  - Apologies for absence and changes in membership
2. Minutes of the 87<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 8 December 2016
3. Matters arising:
4. **Magnox Harwell Licensed Site Matters**
  - (a) Closure Director's Site Report – Michael Dunnett (20)
5. **Reports**
  - (a) Office for Nuclear Regulation – Not attending, paper report supplied (10)
  - (b) Nuclear Decommissioning Authority – David Rushton (10)
  - (c) Environment Agency – Not attending, paper report supplied (10)
6. Update B462 operations – Stuart Watson (15)
7. **Campus Matters**
  - (a) Harwell Campus Joint Venture Partnership – Duncan Rogers (15)
  - (b) Science and Technology Facilities Council – Joe Kelleher (15)
  - (c) Diamond Light Source – Laura Holland (10)
8. **Any other business:**
9. **Next Meetings:** Thursday, 7 September 2017  
Thursday, 7 December 2017

Emma Burwood – Communications and Socio-economics Lead  
Tracey Finn - SSG Secretariat  
Trudie Tomlinson - Minutes Secretary  
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SSG Agenda 15 June

### **1. Chairman's Remarks – Chris Broad**

- No site tours are planned for this year but one is planned for next summer's meeting.
- This meeting was previously scheduled for May but was delayed due to the General Election being called.
- John Sharp and Chris Broad continue to have update meetings with Michael Dunnett. A meeting of the sub-group was held looking specifically at the removal of EPZ. The sub-group was reassured by ONR that the removal of EPZ was entirely appropriate as no credible risk could justify its retention.
- New emergency arrangements have now been put in place at Harwell.
- In March we were informed that the CFP contract had been mutually terminated and would come to an end in 2019.
- The Vale of White Horse local plan Part 1 had indicated that 1400 houses were planned for the area. This was rejected but now Part 2 of the plan introduces 1000 houses to the north of the campus affecting Harwell/Hendred/Chilton. There seems to be little difference between the two proposals and it is not made clear why this second proposal is more acceptable. The local parishes view this allocation as generally too high and will impact on the local villages. There is also the view that the housing allocation should be made available to local Harwell people and employees.

### **2. Minutes of 87<sup>th</sup> meeting**

The minutes were accepted as a true record

### **3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **4. Magnox Harwell Licensed Site Matters**

#### **Harwell and Winfrith Closure Director's Site Report – Michael Dunnett**

The main points were as follows:

#### **Magnox Harwell update**

Notice has been given of the termination of the PBO contract between NDA and Cavendish Fluor Partnership. It will officially cease on 31 August 2019. There will be no immediate impacts, it will be business as usual, the mission will still be delivery of the programme by 2027 and Magnox staff will be unaffected by this change. Magnox will continue as the Site Licence Company regardless of who the new PBO is. It is not known what the future arrangements will be, this is an NDA decision.

#### **Safety and Environment**

- Most of the actions associated with the mis-consigned drum event and the LETP elevated dose measurement have been closed out.

- One new event has been reported to the ONR when there was a nuclear material accountability irregularity for the drum sent from 220. The ATOM record was incorrect. (ATOM = ATOM nuclear material and source control database).
- ONR inspections did not reveal any significant issues but some improvements were required in record retention arrangements and Licence condition compliance matrix.
- L1 demonstration exercise in March was deemed adequate by the ONR. This was the follow up to the unsuccessful November exercise.
- A security exercise was held in January which was deemed adequate by the ONR.
- Overall ONR is confident in Harwell's arrangements.
- There were no recordable injuries in this period.
- No recordable injuries in the last 12 months so the TRIR is now 0.
- Further improvements have been identified in the form of 'Target Zero' programme, local safety improvements plan, asbestos arrangements and a mental health programme. Harwell is committed to placing mental health first aiders across the site.
- There were no significant environmental issues.

## **Programme Update**

### **LETP Decommissioning – HLA/Tanks**

- There is one big tank to decommission but unexpected high radiation levels have caused delays but it is expected to be complete in September of this year.
- Robotic machines have been used to dismantle tanks.

### **LETP Land Remediation**

- This decommissioning project is one of the biggest in the country. Preparations are underway to start remediation phase. New hardstanding and temporary storage buildings have been erected at site.

### **Harwell ILW Box Store (HIBS)**

- Good progress is being made with HIBS. The base slab is complete and the erection of concrete walls is going well.

### **Nuclear material transfers**

- **CHILW Transfers** – Novapak containers were delivered but problems were identified during commissioning which has delayed things. Transfers are expected to commence by July.
- **CLD's** – first transfer took place in May, 3 transfers were completed of 36 drums. Other CLDs require TN Gemini flask modifications and regulator approval. Transfer is hoped to start end of 2017.

- **Dragon waste** – modification are being carrying out to Dragon Flask and Modular Flask. Commissioning and verification with Sellafield is expected to commence in 2018.

#### 462 Can Retrievals

- Good progress has been made during 20016/17 and targets have been met.
- RM2 retrievals have been hampered by water in tubes but is still going well.
- RM1 restart has been delayed due to technical resource availability.

#### WEP

Inactive commissioning has been delayed due to DSEAR compliance issues - (DSEAR = Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations).

#### Stakeholder survey

There were 173 responses in total; 75% said they felt positive or fairly positive about their local site and feedback said sites were well managed and safely run. A total of 83% said they felt their local SSG was generally effective.

#### Questions

- Q1: Regarding ONR safety inspections you mention that they assessed you as adequate. Surely, that's not a particularly good assessment.
- A1: Adequate in ONR speak means 'good'. It's just their use of terminology.
- Q2: On emergency preparedness you said you would have meetings to inform us on this?
- A2: There are number of different strands on this eg improvements in external emergency arrangements, campus interfaces with alarms etc, also a communications network from other companies on the Harwell campus if something happens their side. These threads are all important but all have different time scales so it is an ongoing process of us continuing to improve what we do and informing as and when.
- Q3: Perhaps you could bring us up to date with these threads at the next meeting?
- A3: Yes.
- Q4: In terms of the temporary storage building at LETP are they included in the planning process?
- A4: Yes. In December 2015 a planning application was submitted as it was radioactive waste we were processing. This can be seen at the Vale of White Horse.
- Q5: You talked about ponds at the LETP with levels of brickwork around them. Will radioactivity leak outside the pond area?
- A5: Yes, this is why we do characterisations. It was built so leaks can't travel very far. The main issue is that a leak has spread into the ground and this is part of the remediation project to remove all that radiation and ensure it is gone from the environment. These tanks were built in the 1940s and we are still finding things.

- Q6: You raised the issue of the dynamics of the campus changing. Are the dynamics of this group also going to change in terms of including other companies on the Harwell campus?
- A6: No. This group is really about decommissioning and that is its remit. It's appropriate this meeting does include other campus matters but primarily it is about decommissioning. I don't intend to change the remit of the group.
- Q7: In your safety plan you said you had to consider what the other companies on the campus could do to you.
- A7: Yes, but this is very much about local arrangements, emergency planning, decommissioning progress, communications and so on.
- Q8: This is an observation more than a question really. In terms of meeting the stated end state of 2027, we need to avoid these stop-go-stop situations such as the one you talked about with the NDA terminating the contract which was awarded to CFP only a while ago. The projects you are talking about here need momentum in order to achieve their targets.
- A8: Yes. NDA are supportive of us trying to move things forward.

### **Magnox Socio-Economic Scheme**

A video was shown re socio-economic donations made by Magnox across the sites in the UK.

There are three levels of funding available for a variety of potential local projects.

- £1,000 for small projects
- Up to £10,000 capital expenditure towards a sustainable project
- Over £10,000 to support large projects that help to mitigate impact of decommissioning.
- For further information on this, go to:- [www.magnoxsocioeconomic.com](http://www.magnoxsocioeconomic.com).

### **5. Reports**

#### **Office for Nuclear Regulation (no representative)**

The chairman said that the key ONR issues had been dealt with by Michael Dunnett in his report.

#### **Nuclear Decommissioning Authority – Dave Rushton**

- Dave Rushton reported that it had been an interesting 6 months with various changes and announcements being made. The original date of this meeting was changed because of the general election and this meant communications had to go into 'purdah'.
- The main point of interest was that the NDA decided to terminate the Magnox contract with the Cavendish Fluor Partnership by mutual agreement. The reason for this was it had become clear that there was a significant mismatch between the work that was specified in the contract as tendered in 2012 and awarded in 2014, and the work that actually needs to be done. The scale of the additional work was such that the NDA Board considered it would amount to a material change to the specification on which bidders were invited in 2012 to tender.
- The contract will terminate in September 2019 and CFP will remain as PBO until then. This was not a reflection on CFP's performance but largely about the scope of work. NDA will continue to look at options and the intention is to get some indicators this year.

- The NDA withdrew its appeal against the High Court judgment made against it in 2016 and decided to settle. While these settlements were made without admission of liability on either side, it was clear that the 2012 tender process, which was for a value of up to £6.1 billion, was flawed. The NDA agreed settlement payments with Energy Solutions of £76.5 million, plus £8.5 million of costs, and with Bechtel of \$14.8 million, plus costs of around £462,000 – approximately £12.5 million in total. These costs had the potential to rise much further if the case had proceeded to trial and the NDA have moved now moved on from this.
- A written ministerial statement was made by Greg Clark and can be found on the NDA website. Steve Holliday, the former Chief Executive of National Grid will lead an independent inquiry into the award of the Magnox decommissioning contract by the NDA and its subsequent termination. The inquiry will investigate the procurement process from the beginning to the award of the contract, the management of the contract to the point where it was decided to terminate and the litigation that followed.
- David Peattie has been appointed as the NDA's new Chief Executive and Tom Smith has been appointed as the NDA chairman.
- The NDA's annual business plan has been published. This sets out the objectives for all the 17 NDA sites over the next three years. The plan can be found on the NDA website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/nuclear-decommissioning-authority-business-plan-2017-to-2020>.
- An updated inventory of the UK's radioactive waste has been published. The inventory provides information on levels of radioactive waste across the country. The inventory is updated every 3 years.
- A new nuclear archive has been opened in Scotland housing a variety of documents from the earliest days of the UK's nuclear industry. Material from all the 17 NDA sites will eventually be moved there.
- Impact of Brexit – one of the key issues is the impact on Euratom and what it means for the movement of nuclear materials. NDA have instigated a project to look into this. The plan was the UK would develop its own safeguard solution. UK would recruit experts to do this within the next 2 years.

## Questions

- Q1: You said the termination of the contract was no reflection on the performance of CFP. It is very much a reflection on the performance of the NDA with the penalty of a massive fine of over £12M. You say the NDA has moved on but has the tax paying public moved on? How are these sort of issues being addressed for the future?
- A1: It was felt that to settle out of court was the best route as it would have been even more expensive to go to court. We need to await the outcome of the Holiday Inquiry to see a way forward from this.

## Environment Agency

The EA sent apologies that there was no representative to talk through the provided report.

## 6. B462 Operations – Stuart Watson (B462 Operations Manager)

- Stuart Watson provided a slide show of the activities within B462 giving an outline of its origins from start of site in 1958 and the waste from 14 different research reactors, particle accelerators, PIE, radiochemical and waste from hospitals, industries and other sites.
- The mission of B462 is hazard reduction, recovery of waste from the tube store, encapsulation, and disposal of the waste to GDF eventually.
- Over 10,000 cans have now been processed – the 10,000<sup>th</sup> can has been recently celebrated - and there are 3500 left to do.

### Questions

Q1: Where are we with GDF?

A1: I believe they are revisiting the siting proposals and still looking at options.

Q2: Regarding the waste records of contents of cans. Are they usually accurate or are there some surprises?

A2: 99% of cans have a waste consignment certificate and these records are excellent. Sometimes a gamma scanner can be used to create records that don't exist but often there is a general description.

Q3: You said the cans were made of steel and had corroded. What are the tubes made of? Will they degrade?

A3: The tubes are made of steel as well. The wall is about 5mm thick. There is some corrosion and they are capable of holding water if there is water ingress. In terms of corrosion where tubes have contained loose waste we expect it to be contained. We are researching new methods and techniques for dealing with this. We are learning also from other countries, eg Canada about how they deal with this sort of thing. There are a whole range of options that are available such as filling with concrete or PU foam.

## 7. Campus Matters

### Diamond Light Source – Laura Holland

Diamond Light Source is the UK's national synchrotron science facility located at Harwell. Laura Holland gave a roundup of Diamond's developments so far:-

- Taken first light on vMXi beam line.
- Taken first users on ePSIC the new electron microscopy centre for physical science.
- Announced the Rosalind Franklin Institute will be coming to site.
- 'Project-M' for schools. The initiative allows 14-18 year olds to contribute to cutting-edge research, take part in genuine experiments and publish their results in a scientific peer-reviewed journal.
- Mararial egress and first observation of the parasite escaping from the red blood cell.
- There will be an family open day on 29 July.

## 8. Any Other Business

There was none.



## **9. Date of Next meeting**

Two further meetings are planned for 2017.

- 7 September 2017
- 7 December 2017

Michael Dunnett  
Director, Harwell Winfrith  
Trudie Tomlinson  
Minutes

12 July 2017