

# **DUNGENESS A SITE AND B POWER STATION**

## **DUNGENESS SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING**

**The Assembly Rooms – New Romney**

**Thursday 12 January 2017**

**13:30 for 14:00**

### **ATTENDANCE:**

Cllr Lord Ampthill	-	Rother District Council
Mr J Beckwith	-	Magnox
Mrs R Cavanagh	-	Dungeness B Power Station
Cllr P Coe	-	New Romney Town Council
Mr P Fahey	-	EA (Dungeness A)
Mr S Fox	-	Magnox Communications
Cllr D Godfrey	-	Shepway District Council
Ms C Igoe	-	Romney Marsh Partnership
Mr J Jenkin	-	NDA
Cllr E Last	-	Lydd Town Council
Mr R Lavender	-	Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce
Cllr D Lawton	-	New Romney Town Council
Mr L Ollier	-	EDF
Mr E Osondu	-	Environment Agency
Cllr A Rodriguez	-	New Romney Town Council
Col. G Smythe	-	Independent Chairman
Mr A Stone	-	EA (Dungeness B)
Mr I Stewart	-	Dungeness B Power Station
Mr D Whitnall	-	Dungeness A Site
Cllr R Wilkins	-	Shepway District Council
Mr P Wilkinson	-	Dungeness A Site
Mr J Wroblewski	-	Dungeness B Power Station

### **I INTRODUCTION**

3560 Col. Smythe welcomed the attendees to the Site Stakeholder Group meeting (SSG). He advised a great deal has taken place since the last meeting and wanted to keep the introduction short. All experts were present apart from the Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR); however, both Site and Closure Directors have agreed to take on any queries from the ONR reports.

### **II APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

3561 The following apologies were received:

Mr B Botley	-	Kent Against a Radioactive Environment
Mr R Cook	-	ONR (Dungeness A)
Ms J Dear	-	Natural England
Mr D Dodman	-	Dungeness A Site
Cllr T Hills	-	Independent Member
Ms F Hunter	-	ONR (Dungeness B)
Mr D Illsley	-	Shepway District Council

Mrs H Morris	-	Dungeness A Site
Ms S Mortimer	-	Affinity Water
Mr J Simpson	-	Affinity Water
Ms M Stuart	-	Kent Against a Radioactive Environment
Mrs K Thomas	-	Dungeness A Site
Cllr Ms C Waters	-	Kent County Council

### III TO APPROVE THE MINUTES

3562 The minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> SSG meeting held on 6 October 2016 were agreed as an accurate record.

### IV CORRESPONDENCE

3563 A list of correspondence has been sent to members and some items will be covered in the meeting.

### V MATTERS ARISING – GEORGE SMYTHE

3564 Chair advised that reference point 3543 in the previous minutes regarding a request from EDF about a visit from the French SSG. Chair approached the NDA, who agreed and the SSG are happy to accommodate this group for benchmarking purposes. Chair is looking towards May 2017 for the visit.

### VI CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

3565 Chair gave an update on various meetings he has attended since the last SSG including the Chairs meeting on 23 November 2016 and delivered the following presentation that included: company update; waste strategy; decommissioning strategy; asset management programme and Care & Maintenance (C&M) programme update:

- *Intermediate level waste (ILW) strategy:* Chair summarised the company's waste strategy using a visual slide explaining that ILW packages will be transferred to Bradwell's existing interim storage facility and skips will go to Hinkley Point. Other IonSiv cartridges will be transferred to Oldbury. Chair advised that eventually ILW will go to a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). Dungeness will not have a store which will save the NDA and tax payers money and looks good for the site's situation.
- *Scope of Asset Management:* Chair went on to discuss the decommissioning strategy with Magnox and the NDA. In the Chair's view, it appears that, finally, all the agencies are coming together with a definitive objective. The next visual slide demonstrated the scope of asset management as: 'effective and sustainable through life management of our assets to ensure safe, efficient, predictable and optimised performance that enables the final closure of our sites' listing the following programmes to achieve C&M entry state:
  - Delivery programmes remove/remediate assets
  - Asset Management programme maintains assets either until removal or handover to C&M
  - C&M programme maintains remaining assets until Final Site Clearance (FSC)

Mr Paul Wilkinson, Closure Director for Dungeness A, added that the Asset Management programme is designed to ensure that the plant does not deteriorate further before FSC and as the site approaches C&M, it is expected that the asset will remain up to 80 years.

- *Magnox external communications survey*: Chair explained that a Magnox survey was put to various local interested groups including the SSGs. The last two questions of the survey were on the SSGs:
  - How effective do you think your local SSG/LCLC is at engaging with the local community and acting as a conduit of information?
  - What, if anything, would improve the effectiveness of the local Site Stakeholder Groups/Local Community Liaison Council?
 Chair advised that results of the survey would be used to improve SSGs and Magnox are happy with the amount of respondents. The NDA are also holding SSG reviews with thoughts on how SSGs should be run in the future.
- *Workshop on the regulation of nuclear sites in the final stages of decommissioning and clean-up*: Chair advised that this meeting took place in Manchester on 28 November 2016. There was a great deal of discussion and thoughts on the way forward.
- *Current regulatory framework that governs clean-up of sites*: From the above meeting, Chair ran through the original timeline using a visual to talk about:
  - Design and construction – 10 years
  - Commissioning and operation – 50-60 years
  - Defueling and transition from operations to decommissioning – 10 years
  - Decommissioning including possible quiescent period – 10-100 years
  - Final stages of decommissioning and clean-up – 10s of years
 Chair also discussed the current and preferred approach to regulatory control throughout the lifetime of the site. New thoughts see that some of the agencies may not need to be involved in the latter stages and the Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR) may handover responsibility of certain sites earlier than planned to the Environment Agency (EA) and/or the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)
- *Timetable*: Chair then presented a slide produced by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), illustrating the likely timescale for concluding any legislative changes:
  - Nov-Dec 16 – Pre-consultation engagement
  - Nov 16-Mar 17 – Finalise proposals
  - Spring 17 – Consultation and further engagement
  - Summer 17 – Bid for Bill slot
  - From Summer 18 – Introduce new Bill & Parliamentary process
  - Summer 19 – Royal Assent
 Mr Phil Fahey from the Environment Agency (EA) advised that each site will have to create a waste management plan and identify a safety case for the future. Sites would still have environmental permits and will be regulated. The EA are looking to put this in place within the next two years.

## VII COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS REGARDING DUNGENESS A'S CLOSURE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – PAUL WILKINSON, CLOSURE DIRECTOR

3566 Mr Paul Wilkinson, Closure Director at Dungeness A delivered the following report:

- *Safety*: Mr Wilkinson began with the current programme 'Target Zero' which was introduced around six months ago and includes 'zero accidents'; 'zero non-compliance' and 'zero harm' to staff. Mr Wilkinson was pleased to report that the site had no significant injuries in the last six months.
- *Community Relations*: Mr Wilkinson drew members' attention to the socio-economic spend from 1 April 2016 to 1 January 2017 including the good neighbour donations to the community with some significant funds:
  - Good Neighbour donations:

- Warehouse Village Hall - £450 for school stage lighting with additional controllers etc.
- Dymchurch & District Heritage Group - £1,000 for purchase of heritage plaques for buildings on the trail
- Marsh Ink - £500 for funding towards cost of a writing workshop
- The IMOS Foundation - £1,000 to support the great tapestry of Romney Marsh
- Highways at Hamstreet Kindergarten - £650 for children's waterproofs
- Sustainable community donations:
  - Varne Boat Club - £2,385 for the purchase of two paddle boards and two buoyancy aids, plus seven accredited safety and instructor training courses
  - Jam on the Marsh - £4,704 for educational workshops for local school children in music, photography and creative play
- Mitigation donations:
  - Romney Marsh Partnership Co-ordinator - £25,000, final tranche of funding
  - New Romney Business Incubator Units - £8,709, final tranche of funding
  - Marsh Academy - £9,520, 3<sup>rd</sup> year of funding, yet to be released
  - Romney Marsh Partnership Group (RMPG) - £20,000 pa (£60,000 over three years) for a RMPG co-ordinator. Post funded for three years with support from Shepway District Council, Ashford Borough Council and East Sussex County Council
  - Shepway District Council - £40,000 for New Romney Economic Plan and Development of Mountfield Road Industrial Estate (NRTC £5,000 and SDC £35,000)
- *Site and Project News:*
  - *Ponds Programme:* Mr Wilkinson reported that Dungeness A are utilising divers in reactor two ponds and are set to finish in the next two weeks, transferring to the reactor one pond. The work is due to be completed in April/May 2017 before moving on to Sizewell A.
  - *Plant and Structures Programme:* Mr Wilkinson reported that there are 100 asbestos workers on site at the moment and the boiler house asbestos removal project is a significant ongoing asbestos programme.
  - *Waste Projects Programme:* Mr Wilkinson reported the ILW drying and encapsulation work is a critical path programme and is into the commissioning stages of the site's Advance Vacuum Drying System (AVDS).
- *Radiological Protection and Environment:* Mr Wilkinson advised that a decision has been made to continue to dissolve all Bradwell's Fuel Element Debris (FED) at Bradwell as the performance of the plant has significantly improved over the past few months. The Dungeness MXD plant will remain on standby and will be used only if there is a significant breakdown at the Bradwell plant.

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- Q: Is there a connection between the change in plans at Bradwell and the problems anticipated with Essex County Council?
- A: There is no connection; Essex County Council passed the planning permission for Dungeness to transfer waste to Bradwell independent of the issues. It was more associated with Dungeness being slow to respond and receive the FED and the fact that Bradwell's performance has improved considerably.

## VIII COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS REGARDING DUNGENESS B'S STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – IAN STEWART, STATION DIRECTOR

3568 Mr Ian Stewart introduced himself as the new Station Director at Dungeness B:

- *Introduction:* Mr Stewart advised that he has been at Dungeness since July but his career began in 1977 when he joined the CEGB on a five year technical staff training programme. Mr Stewart holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees and is a chartered engineer. Mr Stewart went on to explain that most of his career was at Sizewell B in Suffolk where he held a number of engineering and maintenance positions prior to moving into management around the time of the millennium, becoming a Commercial Manager, Engineering Manager and finally Plant Manager. Mr Stewart moved to Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors (AGRs) in 2007, initially as Plant Manager and has been a Station Director since 2009 (at Hunterston B and Heysham 1)
- *Safety:* Mr Stewart was delighted to report that Dungeness has just completed one of its best ever years from a safety perspective – there has been no nuclear safety, no environmental or industrial safety events. The main change in safety is in security and Mr Stewart advised that Dungeness has upgraded their security arrangements and expectations including a visible armed police force provided by the Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC). The site has been recognised by the regulator on its assessment of the security arrangements including cyber, personal, site and information security.
- *Output:* Mr Stewart reported that 2016 saw Dungeness B deliver its best ever output – 7.699TWh of low carbon electricity. The previous best was in 2002 (6.6TWh). Mr Stewart advised that there were no statutory outages last year, but seven refuelling outages that were well managed and delivered safely to plan.
- *Plan:* Mr Stewart revealed EDF Energy's plan to run Dungeness B through to circa 2028 and are investing significant resources to achieve that ambition. A strong portfolio of investment has been delivered throughout 2016 including, Main Water Treatment Plant (MWTP); Acid Dilution System replacement; Cooling Pond Heat Exchanger 21 (Fuel Route); Ponds Coolers 22; new 'Outer' and 'Inner' security fences and gates and new security cameras. The 2017 investment portfolio is one of the largest EdF Energy has undertaken at any site and includes the replacement Nitrogen Plant that was discussed at the previous meeting.
- *People:* Mr Stewart reported that the visitors centre continues to be really popular with over 4,000 visitors in 2016. Dungeness B continues to support the local schools. The apprentice and graduate programme continues to be positive adding that the current apprentice programme closes on 17 January 2017.
- *World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO):* Mr Stewart advised that in August, Dungeness B conducted a WANO Peer Review and an experienced international team of approximately 30 experts carried out assessments at Dungeness B. The Peer Review happens every four years and experts are invited from around the world to assess the plant and the way Dungeness manage nuclear safety.
- *Future:* Mr Stewart advised that unit 22 is currently shutdown after a problem with the main boiler feed-pump which is due to be changed. The unit should be back in service in early February. Unit 21 continues to operate at full power. Mr Stewart reported that there will be a statutory outage scheduled for June 2017 which he is challenging the organisation to deliver in under 80 days – this aims to be the shortest time Dungeness B would have ever achieved a

statutory outage. Mr Stewart is happy with preparations in readiness for the outage. Mr Stewart added that the work is partly to do with a plan for the life extension and part is to do with ensuring that everything they do has Nuclear Safety as the overriding priority.

- 3569 Q: It was mentioned that no maintenance was carried out last year. Is the site expected to carry out extra maintenance this year bearing in mind the problems with the boiler feed-pump breaking down?
- A: The site does continue to carry out maintenance work but do not shut the plant down. Different maintenance is carried out when the plant is shutdown. Seven outages were carried out last year to refuel and some maintenance was carried out during that time. The feed-pump should last a number of years and certainly more than three. This feed-pump has only lasted two, so it is suspected that either something went wrong with the last maintenance overhaul or some material has failed before it was expected. It is not normally expected to change a cartridge on a more regular basis than the three year statutory outage period.

**IX COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS ON ONR REPORTS – ROWLAND COOK, ONR INSPECTOR, DUNGENESS A AND FIONA HUNTER, ONR INSPECTOR, DUNGENESS B**

- 3570 Chair reported both ONR inspectors have forwarded their apologies and noted that no questions were raised from either reports.

**X COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATES – PHIL FAHEY, EA INSPECTOR, DUNGENESS A AND ANDREW STONE, EA INSPECTOR, DUNGENESS B**

- 3571 Mr Phil Fahey and Mr Andrew Stone delivered a joint report and summarised key points as follows:

- *Inspections:* the EA carried out inspections of the combustion plant, the equipment used for monitoring low level radioactive waste that is sent off site for treatment or disposal and an inspection of the district survey laboratory monitoring facility at Denge for Dungeness B. Mr Fahey reported that the EA has been working with Dungeness A and the fuel element debris (FED) project. The EA will be liaising with Dungeness A in case FED does come from Bradwell, to ensure that the operation and disposal routes are in place and meet EA expectations.
- *Surface water drains:* Mr Stone mentioned that the report contains information on some work that EDF are carrying out on the surface water drains.
- *Publication of RIFE Report:* Mr Stone advised that the annual 'Radioactivity in Food and the Environment' (RIFE) has been published and presents results of the national monitoring programmes conducted by the Environment Agencies and the Food Standards Agency.

- 3572 Q: Are there a lot of cancer clusters around nuclear sites or does the actual percentage of cancers within this area fall within the national average?
- A: Clusters have not been identified as necessarily associated with discharges in relation to the environment. There is a report by the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE) which has recently studied areas around Dounreay. The conclusion was that there was no significant increase in cancer

incidence compared to anywhere else. Mr Stone added that there is a compensation scheme for workers who are exposed to radiation or suffer from ill health from working with radiation.

Q: There used to be surveys carried out in the communities around nuclear sites and at the time there were no increase in percentage around the sites. Are these surveys still carried out? The group would be interested in that information.

A: **Action: The EA has suggested that Public Health England (PHE) present it's information at a future SSG meeting to explain the results and conclusions of surveys that it has carried out.**

## XI NDA UPDATE

3573 Mr Jonathan Jenkin delivered the following key points from the report:

- *New NDA Chairman:* Former Energy Minister Baroness Neville-Rolfe has announced the appointment of Mr Tom Smith as Chairman of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). He will assume the role from 1 March from Stephen Henwood, who will step down as Chair after nine years in the role.
- *OBE for Dr Adrian Simper:* the NDA's Strategy & Technology Director, Dr Adrian Simper has been awarded an OBE for 'services to the UK nuclear industry in Japan'. He was particularly closely involved with the Japanese nuclear authorities in the aftermath of the Fukushima event and as a consequence Japan has now made significant developments in terms of its decommissioning plans.
- *Lifetime achievement award for John Clarke:* the NDA Chief Executive, John Clarke has been given a lifetime achievement award for services to the nuclear industry at the annual Nuclear Industry Association (NIA) Dinner.
- *Harwell reaches platinum jubilee:* the Harwell site in Oxfordshire has just celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> year. Harwell played a particular important role in the early years of the atomic programme including pioneering developments of the first nuclear reactor in Western Europe and the first fast reactor in the UK. There is more information on the NDA and Magnox websites.
- *Radioactive sludge removed from Sellafield pond:* another important milestone has been reached in the clean-up of the world's oldest nuclear fuel pond, the Pile Fuel Storage Pond. There was significant development involving the first retrieval of the radioactive sludge from that pond and the project is now ten years ahead of schedule and at half the expected original cost. This is more evidence that Sellafield is really tackling the higher hazard legacy facilities.
- *Funding available for decommissioning innovation:* Mr Jenkin reported that organisations can apply for funding to develop innovative technologies for nuclear decommissioning. The NDA, Sellafield Ltd and Innovate UK are to invest up to £3 million in projects and sponsoring innovation.
- *Draft Business Plan consultation:* the NDA has just started a consultation on their draft Business Plan which sets out the NDA's spending plans and what will be happening across the sites and internally within the NDA for the next three financial years with particular focus on 2017/2018. The consultation is open until 3 February 2017 and the NDA welcomes any views or comments.
- *Nuclear Skills Strategic Plan launched:* the Nuclear Skills Strategic Plan has been published. This group's work is to ensure the UK is able to recruit the right skilled people at the right time to deliver all of the nuclear ambitions of the UK that include decommissioning and the delivery of new build. The plan

sets out 19 strategic actions which will be turned into a detailed action plan and it is an important development in terms of the UK skills strategy.

- *Supply Chain Event success:* The sixth annual supply chain event was held at EventCity in Manchester in November with the best attendance yet with over 1,500 visitors and a number of companies representing all levels of the supply chain. Alongside the Innovation Zone, 2016 also saw the inaugural Skills Zone.
- *Steaming ahead at Winfrith reactor:* good progress at Winfrith with the decommissioning Steam Generating Heavy Water Reactor (SGHWR) particularly with isolating the outer areas to decommission the primary core.
- *Review of local stakeholder engagement arrangements:* the NDA used to review these every three years and this was last carried out in 2009. These reviews will be looking to improve SSGs to ensure they are represented well and presentations are relevant.
- *Pension consultations:* as part of Government thinking on the reformation of the final salary pensions in the public sector by 2018, the NDA have started a formal consultation of around 11,000 members of the site work force across 17 sites (representative of around 70% of the workforce on NDA sites). There are two options, one is a move to a career average pension scheme; the other option is to retain final salary pension schemes but with a cap on future pensions contributions. The consultation ends on 10<sup>th</sup> March with formal negotiations with trades unions within that period.

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Q: Has EDF, as a private company, made separate funding arrangements or provisions for a decommissioning strategy?

A: Mr Jenkin explained that when the NDA was set up there was provision for the Secretary of State to fund decommissioning costs although, at the time, there was no proper assessment of the true costs and no robust plans were in place. Ring fenced funds were used as liability funding that went into the treasury funds, however, the government is fully committed to funding decommissioning. The NDA has a formal oversight role on behalf of the Secretary of State to look after the Nuclear Liabilities Fund (NLF) to ensure enough money is contributed into that fund to pay for the decommissioning liabilities when needed and advise Government and New Build to make similar contributions to satisfy their conditions and requirements.

Q: Will New Build now have decommissioning liabilities as part and parcel of the deal to ensure lessons have been learnt?

A: Yes, as part of legislation, decommissioning will form part of the deal with all New Builds.

## **XII SOCIO-ECONOMIC UPDATE – GEORGE SMYTHE, SSG CHAIRMAN**

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Since the last meeting, Chair reported that the group has achieved a reasonable amount of socio-economic funding including money for the co-ordinator for the Romney Marsh Partnership and £40,000 for New Romney's study on development of the town which will enable an action plan to be formed. The group was also able to secure funding for Marsh Academy Community Hub (MACH), for the apprentice scheme although not finalised yet. Chair advised that there is still money left in the Good Neighbourhood scheme which recently saw funding to the local nursery for some safety equipment to enable them to conform to new regulations being implemented. There have been two major funding applications for this coming year that are currently being looked at; one is for MACH for a project which could bear fruition and one from the Romney Resource Centre for the business centre. Chair mentioned the NDA draft

Business Plan consultation and it was flagged up that there is going to be a slight reduction in the socio-economic package and prompted the group to keep applying for any worthwhile funding as these will filter to the top as Dungeness is one of the priority sites and there will always be some leeway for local bids. Mr Jenkin interjected to advise that the Magnox Socio-economic scheme budget is increasing each year in line with inflation and that money is guaranteed which any one Magnox site can apply for. Mr Jenkin confirmed that the planned reduction will be in the essential socio-economic budget that includes Sellafield and Dounreay. Mr Jenkin verified that the Magnox scheme budget is still in place and is increasing.

- 3576 Q: How much is in the Good Neighbourhood Scheme pot?  
A: Chair advised that this is a small pot of money and renewed every April and considers funding for applications of £1,000 or less. Chair confirmed that money is available at the moment. Chair added that the application only requires the first three sections to be completed and there is no requirement for a detailed business plan. If the pot is about to be overspent, the group can always approach the NDA for some more funding.

- 3577 Chair announced that Ms C Igoe is leaving. Chair thanked Catherine for all her help in supporting the Romney Marsh Partnership and wished her well.

### **XIII NOMINATION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN**

- 3578 Chair advised that no one has applied to be Vice Chairman and proposed that this selection is left to the next meeting. He has, however, spoken to somebody informally who may be interested. Chair will resend the Vice Chairman Nomination letter for formal application.

- 3579 Chair also had no Chairman applications which prompted Mr Richard Lavender of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce to propose the current Chair (Col. George Smythe) remain in place for the next three year term. This was seconded by Cllr Peter Coe of New Romney Town Council.

### **XIV ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 3580 No issues were raised

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

- 3581 11 May and 12 October 2017, both commence 10.00am for a 10.30am start.

Meeting closed at 3.25pm