



**WINFRITH SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)  
MEETING – 6 APRIL 2017  
Meeting Reference SG22  
Venue: Winfrith Newburgh Village Hall**

<b>Present:</b>	Sandra Ellis (Chair)	Phil Gale
	Barry Quinn (Deputy Chair)	Heather Gale
	John Larkin - CPRE	Peter Fry
	Mel Loveless – Wool Parish Council	Michael Dunnett - Magnox
	Fiona Bowles – Winfrith Newburgh & East Knighton Parish Council	Andy Philps - Magnox
	Tony Wormald, Owermoigne Parish Council	Emma Burwood - Magnox
	Adam Davies – EA	Tony Seward
	David Rushton – NDA	Bridget Downton – PDC
	Nic Johnson – Parish Council	Nick Holt – Tradebe Inutec
		Alison Pugh – Magnox (minutes)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Peter Hayes – ONR	Cllr Peter Wharf – Egdon Heath
	Andrew New – Magnox	Rob Brunt – Dorset Wildlife Trust
	Richard Wilson – Purbeck District Council	Cllr Cherry Brooks – Wool Ward

## **MINUTES**

### **1. Welcome and Introduction – Mrs Sandra Ellis, SSG Chairman**

Mrs Ellis welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

Mrs Ellis reported that she had attended a meeting in London in November 2016 for the Magnox SSG Chairmen, which just gave an overview of work carried out to date for each site. A video was shown to the group and this can be viewed on the Magnox web site.

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 November were accepted as an accurate record.

### **2. Magnox Winfrith Report - Michael Dunnett, Harwell-Winfrith Closure Director**

On 27 March the NDA announced its intention to terminate its contract with the Parent Body Organisation (CFP) on 31 August 2019, with a two year termination period commencing 1 September 2017. Magnox would continue with business as usual. CFP would continue to be 100% committed to delivering the existing programme to the end of August 2019. It was likely that more information should be available in the future on what would happen after 1 September 2019.

CFP are disappointed with the NDA's decision, but would facilitate an early transition to any new arrangements, and would continue to support staff and the local community. Focus would be given to delivering the programme and the interim end state by 2023.

There were approximately 50 CFP secondees in Executive, Programme Manager or Site Closure Director posts. Winfrith had three secondees, one of which was Michael Dunnett.

## **Safety and Environment Overview**

### **Industrial Safety**

Michael Dunnett said that since the last SSG there had been no significant safety issues or reportable events at Winfrith. This had been a great achievement considering the amount of work going on around the site. Focus would continue on improving awareness of slips, trips and falls, and housekeeping. Magnox would continue to work with its contractors to keep people safe and to share their learning.

A Counter Terrorism exercise had been held at Winfrith on 8 March and this had been judged as Adequate. The scenario involved a group of unruly protesters who had broken onto the site, one of whom had scaled up the side of the reactor, fallen and hurt themselves.

The ONR had carried out a number of inspections and assessments which had identified some areas for improvement. The site boundary would need to be re-marked once Tradebe obtained their own site licence. Magnox would continue to support Tradebe with its application and would need to relicence its site at the same time.

Asbestos had been found in a number of buildings on the site, including SGHWR. An asbestos register had been set up and a plan put in place on how the material should be removed and how it should be kept safe before removal.

Company and local Harwell-Winfrith Safety Improvement Plans had been produced and these would cover issues such as contractor safety and the wellbeing and mental health of staff. All actions from last year's plans had been completed.

### **Environmental**

All environmental monitoring, gaseous and liquid discharges, had been within required limits.

Winfrith's environmental permit had been breached after a piece of metal had been found in a drum of plastic pipes sent to Fawley. A management investigation had been held and this had identified that the item had been put into the wrong drum due to inadequate signage and working in a confined space. Better signage had been introduced and lessons learned.

### **Programme Update**

#### **SGHWR**

Work to remove pipework around the SGHWR Primary Containment had been carried out. This had taken place in a high asbestos and high dosage environment, and considerable planning and preparation had been essential. It would be necessary for work in the Primary Containment to be completed before the final design could be approved.

Pipework from the bottom of the reactor would be removed in early April and would allow better access to the area to see what could be done with the below ground structures. A considerable amount of modelling had been done on the core jacking system and a reactor mock up would be built to assist with this.

#### **The Pipeline and Active Liquid Effluent System (ALES)**

The Active Break Tank had been dismantled, removed and the sludge cemented. Sludge tanks would be moved into a sea tank to be dismantled and in readiness for disposal. Delay tanks had been removed and robotics used to chop up the tanks.

The amount of water going into ALES would reduce as buildings were decommissioned, and this would enable ALES to be decommissioned in the next two to three years. Excavations to assess the pipeline would be done in nine locations; seven of which would be off site and two on site. This would allow Magnox to gather information, analyse the amount of radioactivity in the pipelines, and characterise waste. Landowners and tenants would be advised in advance, and any land disturbed in the process would be reinstated.

## **End State**

The EA had provided guidance on the optimisation of waste management and Magnox would work within that guidance. Optioneering workshops had been held with stakeholders, regulators and local councils. One preferred option would be in-situ waste disposal using low level radioactive waste to back fill; however a final decision would be made later this year once technical studies had been completed, and would be subject to approval by the EA. Documentation would be put in place to support this and a permit of variation application would be made in 2019 to cover the remaining radioactive disposals.

The recent stakeholder survey resulted in a response of 45% with 75% of the responses at very positive or positive and they were happy that the site was well managed and safely run.

A stakeholder event would be held at Winfrith on the evening of 12 July. Details had not yet been finalised.

Michael Dunnett reminded members that Magnox ran a socio-economic fund and last year over £5000 had been donated to local causes. Larger amounts could be available for bigger projects and more information would be available from Emma Burwood on 01305 203107 or on the website: [www.magnoxsocioeconomic.com](http://www.magnoxsocioeconomic.com)

## **Other Areas**

- A59 had been demolished and A42 and A44 would be demolished in the near future.
- The fire test facility had been completely cleared and the ground structures removed.
- The Zebra site had been cleared and returned to heathland.
- Nuvia had vacated A56 and this would be demolished shortly.
- The erection of a temporary building had allowed A58, a waste storage and treatment facility, to be vacated and this would also be demolished in the near future.
- The supercompactor had been moved and would be characterised before dismantling. A beryllium specialist would be brought in to do some sampling.
- Significant amounts of waste had been removed from site.

## **3. Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Report – David Rushton**

David Rushton said that good progress had been made at SGHWR and Dragon, with a lot of design and decommissioning work going on in the background. He was pleased to note that there had been no reportable injuries in the past year, despite the complexities of the work.

The NDA would carry out asbestos assurance reviews across all 12 sites and would probably look at SGHWR as part of the Winfrith review.

The termination of the NDA-CFP contract had been a mutual decision mainly due to the litigation case with Energy Solutions over the decision to award the contract to CFP. NDA had lost the case and had decided not to continue with an appeal but to settle the claim with Energy Solutions and Bechtel. More information would be available on the NDA's website:

[www.nda.gov.uk](http://www.nda.gov.uk). In addition, OJEU rules stated that where contracts exceeded a certain percentage of the original value they would have to stop. The NDA would prepare a work package of options for post 1 September 2019 and would share the information once it was available. An Independent enquiry would look at the competition process and the decisions made. All parties would be examined to identify any lessons to be learned.

Tom Smith has taken over from Stephen Henwood as NDA Chairman; he had already visited Harwell and would visit Winfrith on 25 May. David Peattie has taken up the role of Chief Executive w/c 1 April. The Annual Report and Accounts would be issued in early July and the NDA business plan for the next three years had recently been issued.

The Nuclear Archive at Wick had recently opened; this was part of a joint venture with the Highland Council to move records from around the NDA estate into one store. Access to the information would be available on line.

### **Environment Agency – Adam Davies**

Adam Davies, EA Inspector for Winfrith and Berkeley, said that Michael Dunnett's earlier presentation had demonstrated the huge amount of work that had been done at Winfrith and the scale of work to be completed. He said that the inter-dependencies of the different projects would be a big challenge but that the EA would look at how the works would be managed so that the public, workers and the environment were all protected.

There had been no environmental consequences arising from the non-compliance of the EA permit related to waste sent to Fawley, but it had been a reminder that certain operational risks, particularly those related to waste management, continued to be an additional constraint on site. The nuclear risk had reduced but the waste management risk had increased, and the EA would focus on that.

All monitored discharges were low in terms of permitted levels. Higher levels would be expected at SGHWR but these should still come in below permitted levels. Environmental monitoring showed that the environmental consequences were very small and were almost at natural background levels (less than one per cent of the dose prescribed by government).

Carl Isherwood would be brought in to help manage the environmental side for Tradebe-Inutec and this would have a likely knock on effect for Winfrith levels.

The EA worked closely with ONR and both regulators would do a joint inspection in May. There would be a lot of focus over the next couple of years on SGHWR and Dragon.

In the next few months a big piece of work would look at the decommissioning and restoration of the site, and this should help Winfrith formulate its plans. The EA and Magnox would present findings at the October meeting of the WSSG.

### **6. Tradebe-Inutec Update - Nick Holt**

Nick Holt said that Tradebe-Inutec (TI) had been awarded the ROSPA 2016 Presidents' award.

There had been no safety or environmental issues and no reportable incidents or injuries on the TI site for over 9 years and no lost time accidents in 2016 or 2017 to date.

A site licensing application had been submitted to ONR in April 2016 to allow TI to take over the running of the A5 area under its own site licence. The company had gone through a number of assessment processes and five targeted inspections had taken place against a

number of licensing activities. It was hoped that the licence would be granted in October 2017, but the date could be pushed back as ministerial sign off would be required.

Ongoing discussions had been held on the acquisition of land and agreement of the final heads of term would be imminent. TI was close to signing heads of terms for long-term access to the Dorset Green site. Access would continue to be via the Gatemore Road entrance but once Magnox left the site this could change. In March 2017 DCC granted planning permission for an alternative route for effluent disposal in readiness for the decommissioning of ALES.

### **Dragon Project – Andy Philps**

Andy Philps (Dragon Project Manager) gave an update on the Dragon Reactor. The reactor had been a trans-European project for a prototype high temperature helium cooled reactor which had been developed in the late 1950s, built in the mid-60s and opened in 1965. The reactor ran until 1975.

Almost all of the active plant outside of the reactor core had already been removed, leaving the core of the reactor pressure vessel in the middle of the reactor building. The next task would be to decommission the core, and this would be done remotely because of high radiation levels and a lack of resource to do this manually. The core would be cut into small parts, removed, and transferred into shielded 6m<sup>3</sup> boxes for ILW. Around 20 to 25 boxes would be used; these would be grouted with high density grout and concrete lidded.

The air lock has been removed as it restricted access to for transit of the waste boxes and the project has installed a new high strength floor that can withstand the waste packages put on it.

Andy described an innovative method whereby the purge gas pre-cooler will be cut out and removed from the reactor core with a laser snake manipulator, used remotely.

Overall. work continued on the design and manufacture stage and the main part of the remit would be to ship waste to the Harwell store in 2019/20. The reactor should be decommissioned in 2021 and demolished in 2022.

### **8. Any Other Business**

Emma Burwood reminded members that the SSG constitution stated that the SSG Chair and Deputy Chair must be reappointed every three years and asked for nominations for both positions. Prior to the meeting letters asking for nominations for both positions had been sent out. Sandra Ellis and Barry Quinn both submitted their resumé and agreed to stand for Chair and Deputy Chair. There were no other nominations so both nominations were carried unanimously.

After some discussion it was suggested that future meetings be held in the afternoon as those meetings appeared to be better attended.

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Alison Pugh       Minutes Secretary

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15 May 2017

## Questions and Answers

The following questions were tabled at the meeting.

**Q1: *When would the pipeline excavations take place?***

A1: Excavations for the survey would take place off site from June 2017.

**Q2: *Would there be an exclusion area for the exercise?***

A2: There would not be an exclusion zone as the work would be very localised. A plan would be made available for people to look at.

**Q3: *Would the divers carry out inspections on the pipeline?***

A3: Inspections would take place later this year.

**Q4: *You mentioned the CT Exercise. What controls do you have, if any, for sub-contractors and contractors entering the site? Is it part of your remit?***

A4: Every person who comes onto the site has to pass a security check process and this includes contractors. The only people who are not security checked are visitors because they are escorted when they are on site. It is a very low hazard site and the security guards manage the gate and access to the boundary fence. They also carry out regular patrols.

**Q5: *How valid is your business plan now that the contract has been terminated?***

A5: The business plan was based on the SLC and this would not change.

**Q6: *If you are going to have to retender will it impact on your business plan?***

A6: The NDA does not yet know whether there will be a retendering exercise.

**Q7: *How many lorry movements were expected?***

A7: This would depend on a lot of factors and a number of things would need to be considered before Magnox could make a decision on the final impact.

**Q8: *Will the fence be removed?***

A8: Once the site licence has been granted there would be changes to the fencing as the boundary between the TI and Magnox sites would need to be marked. TI would need to secure its own boundary to meet the security requirements set in place.

**Q9: *Where will the new effluent system run?***

A9 A new infrastructure would be put in place to sit as part of the site system. Delay tanks would be used and transfer would be made by road to the Fawley site.