



WINFRITH SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG) MEETING – 2 NOVEMBER 2017

Meeting Reference SG23

Venue: Winfrith Newburgh Village Hall

Present:	Sandra Ellis (Chair)	Mr Peter Waldeck
	Barry Quinn (Deputy Chair)	Susan Adams - Magnox
	John Larkin - CPRE	Peter Fry
	Melvyn Loveless – Wool Parish Council	Michael Dunnett - Magnox
	Mr John Connor – Winfrith Resident	Emma Burwood - Magnox
	David Rushton – NDA	Kevin McIntyre - Magnox
	Adam Davis – EA	Nick Holt – Tradebe Inutec
	Bridget Downton – PDC	Denise Cardenas – Tradebe Inutec
	Cllr Peter Webber - PDC	Steve Parkinson - Nuvia
	Nic Johnson – Parish Council	Peter Hayes - ONR
	Leo Henley Lock – Dorset Wildlife Trust	Paul Jenneson - ONR
	Roz Tappenden - BBC	Alison Pugh – Magnox (minutes)
Apologies:	Tony Wormold – Owermoigne Parish Council	Andrew New – Magnox

MINUTES

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

Mrs Ellis welcomed everyone to the meeting. She said that future meetings would now be held during the afternoon due to better attendance at afternoon meetings.

Earlier in the year Mrs Ellis attended a meeting of SSG chairs in London. She had hoped to learn more about the non-compliant Competition bid from Cavendish Fluor, but had been disappointed that little information had been available and there had been no clarity over future arrangements. SSG Chairs had been briefed on how Magnox intended to improve its safety plans.

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2017 were accepted as an accurate record.

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

Michael Dunnett said that the NDA had reviewed the current Magnox contract with Cavendish Fluor Partnership (CFP); this would run to 31 August 2019 when new management arrangements would be put in place. The Lifetime Plan for Winfrith remained with an end date of 2023 and covered milestones and different payment arrangements to ensure work was carried out cost effectively and overheads were reduced. There would be some staff changes post-2019 as CFP staff would move from Magnox, however business would continue as usual until 2019 and beyond. Staff changes would be limited to the Site Closure Director and two or three other individuals.

Mrs Ellis said that the SSG had enjoyed an excellent working relationship with Michael Dunnett and the Winfrith site, and that she would be sorry to see Michael leave Winfrith at the end of the contract with Cavendish-Fluor.

There had been no significant nuclear safety, security or environmental issues since the last meeting and the ONR continued to carry out regular inspections and assessments to ensure that the site adhered to plant modifications, records, and waste management regulations. Areas for improvement would also be identified.

Tradebe-Inutec had submitted an application to license its own site and Magnox Winfrith would need to relicense their site as part of this.

Industrial Safety

Michael Dunnett reported that there had been no incidents this year or last, but emphasised that the site would not be complacent and staff would continue to focus on safety. The site would be looking at how to deal with historical asbestos, which was an issue of concern across the Magnox estate.

The Company Safety Improvement Plan (SIP) covered generic issues across all 12 Magnox sites and a separate Harwell-Winfrith SIP had been adopted for specific concerns at Harwell-Winfrith or other areas not covered by the Corporate plan. All actions were on track.

The October Target Zero topic had concentrated on Mental Health awareness and staff and Line Managers could seek advice through the Workplace Wellness employee assistance scheme or from one of the mental health first aiders who had recently been appointed across Magnox. The Target Zero topic for November would be slips, trips and falls.

Environmental Management

All environmental monitoring, gaseous and liquid discharges remained within required limits. A couple of events had been recorded in relation to waste spreadsheets, mainly related to how we deal with changes and how contents of the spreadsheet should be validated. The site would learn from these and processes would be strengthened to ensure no repeats.

A new environmental management contract had been set up with AMEC and a period of shadow working would soon start for that.

Programme Update

SGHWR

There had been some delays in work in the Primary Containment due to asbestos issues, but work would continue with asbestos enclosures where possible.

Dragon

Work continued on design modifications to allow the Dragon Project to use a robotic arm to dismantle the reactor pressure vessel. Areas surrounding the pressure vessel would be cleared to remove the purge gas pre-cooler and if removed now it could save time and money. It was hoped to trial a robotic laser snake alongside laser cutting and the main shield and temperature blocks would be removed to allow easier access.

Plant and Structures

Buildings A56 and A58 had been demolished.

Waste Ops

Waste disposal remained an ongoing operation and the site would ensure that this was compliant, records were accurate and an auditable trail existed. Thorium from SGHWR would be removed and stored in the Treated Radwaste Store (TRS), pending final disposal. Enhanced fire alarm arrangements would be put in place due to the high flammability of thorium.

The Pipeline and Active Liquid Effluent System (ALES)

It was expected that the site would come off the ALES system in April/May 2018, however a lot of work remained to be done to enable switch off. The amount of water coming into ALES had reduced substantially and would reduce further so that ALES and the pipeline would no longer be needed.

End State

The option for the Winfrith end state would be for heathland at the final stage. Discussions are ongoing regarding the use existing site rubble to infill at SGHWR, in-situ disposal would have to be discussed at a high level in Government and regulations agreed. The Government was not yet in a position to detail how this might work and the timescales for changes in regulations were not yet known. We would continue to communicate with local stakeholders when more information was known.

Michael Dunnett explained that there would be gorse clearance happening at Blacknoll during early 2018 and tree felling on site and to the North West corner of external land holding. This is associated with heathland management and removing trees that are not natural to the heath.

Michael Dunnett reminded members that Magnox had access to a socio-economic fund and last year over £5000 had been donated to local projects. Funds were available for this year and applications should be submitted as soon as possible as the site wished to spend all the money available. Please contact Emma Burwood for further information (Tel: 01305 203107) or on the website: www.magnoxsocioeconomic.com

3. Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Report – David Rushton

The annual report and accounts for the last year had been issued and available on-line: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-decommissioning-authority-annual-report-and-accounts-2016-to-2017>

The National Audit office interim enquiry report into the Competition contract termination had been published in September 2017 and was known as the Holliday or Magnox report. <https://www.nao.org.uk/report/the-nuclear-decommissioning-authoritys-magnox-contract/>
The final report would be due in the first quarter of 2018.

David Rushton said that a set scope of work had been agreed to take Magnox to 31 August 2019. We would be reliant on the government to change legislation to allow in-situ disposal for the end state work. This could be delayed due to negotiations over Brexit and we would need to understand the risks if the legislation was not in place to support this.

Heads of Terms had been agreed for the transfer of the Winfrith B4 area to Tradebe-Inutec.

Sandra Ellis expressed concern at the cost to the taxpayer of the Magnox enquiry, including funds to settle the appeal from Energy Solutions. She hoped that the enquiry would reveal what had happened and where things had gone wrong. David Rushton understood her concerns and explained that the Competition bidders originally made a bid against the plan, but that since then many changes had been made to the plan and the value had changed considerably. A revised plan had now been agreed and no major changes were anticipated.

ONR – Peter Hayes

Copies of the most recent six-monthly report were available at the meeting.

A new Chief Inspector, Mark Fox, had been appointed from 30 October 2017. He had a wide experience of work in defence and nuclear programmes.

The Harwell-Winfrith Annual Review of Safety Security and Environment meeting had been held in September to look at performance and successful learning. ONR, EA and NDA had all been in attendance.

In April a specialist ONR fire safety team carried out a fire safety inspection on the Magnox site and the Tradebe-Inutec facility. No major findings were identified. The ONR would consider Tradebe-Inutec's application for a Nuclear Site Licence and it was anticipated that the decision would be published in the next few months.

The ONR would take an interest in the development of the safety case for the SGHWR decommissioning plan, in particular hazard assessments on works to be undertaken.

From 3 November Peter Hayes would be moving to another site and Paul Jenneson would replace him as the licensed Site Inspector for Harwell and Winfrith and would attend future SSG meetings. Peter Hayes said that he had very much enjoyed the working relationship with the Winfrith SSG and thanked the Winfrith Village hall staff for their excellent hospitality.

Peter Hayes referred to a survey recently issued to stakeholders. Sandra Ellis said that she had been unable to access this and Peter Hayes would take this back to the ONR.

Environment Agency – Adam Davis

Copies of the most recent EA report had been made available at the meeting.

Adam Davis said that he would be sad to say goodbye to Peter Hayes and that they had enjoyed a good working relationship. He looked forward to working with Paul in future.

Adam Davis said that whilst the UK had good experience in the decommissioning of components and facilities within a Nuclear Licensed site, it had not yet achieved this in a systematic way across the whole of a site. Regulatory requirements would need to be met and stakeholder involvement would be crucial to its success, particularly in the way the work was interpreted through and by the wider community. The pace would increase over the next six years and the SSG would be used as a vehicle to speak to the local community. He believed that this could be an opportunity for a real success story to be told about the ambitions for this work as Winfrith would be one of the more difficult of the Magnox sites and good decision making and a skilled workforce would be required.

He realised that good communication work had been ongoing between the site, PDC, and DCC. Communications between Magnox Winfrith and the EA regulator were particularly good, and communications with the public and local stakeholders formed part of the compliance requirements under the General Guidance on the Requirements for Release of Nuclear Sites from Radioactive Substances Regulation (GRR) Requirements R1 and R2.

He asked that SSG members relay the issues associated with GRR through all the groups and communities which they represent. He was pleased that PDC and DCC were closely linked to the GRR work through attendance at the GRR trial Winfrith End State Group meetings as this would give a positive message and would be further reinforced by closer liaison over planning and permitting matters.

Bridget Downton (PDC) said that a significant amount of effort from Magnox staff had been put into stakeholder engagement, and that local people felt confident about the site. Levels of communication from the site had been excellent and very well received. She added that the wider community should be made aware as more waste was generated because it would mean more traffic. She said that the local community were happy with what Magnox had been doing and had been very much included in end state consultations and local public exhibitions. PDC would use its newsletter to spread the word on restoration of heathland, wildlife etc to every household in the Purbecks.

Adam Davis continued by explaining that another big challenge would be the Tradebe-Inutec transfer as there would be permitting implications and these would need to be resolved.

In terms of permit type issues, discharges remained very low but would increase as the decommissioning work continued. These would be reported back to future meetings.

The next edition of the annual document would be out in October and the annual report would be issued in December and would be sent out to the SSG.

6. Tradebe-Inutec Update - Nick Holt

Nick Holt was proud to report that Tradebe-Inutec had recently been awarded the 2017 ROSPA Presidents' Award, this was in recognition of being awarded 14 consecutive ROSPA gold awards. There had been no reportable accidents or injuries in Tradebe-Inutec for over nine years and no LTA in 2016 or so far in 2017. There had been no significant safety or environmental issues on the nuclear site licence. Tradebe-Inutec had recently introduced the PROUD (Pause, Reflect, Outline, Understand, Do) safety campaign.

The business had been doing well and recruitment for graduate project engineers and apprentices would be ongoing. Investment in the building infrastructure and the facilities around it continued. Investments had been made to improve labs and facilities to support operations and the application for a site licence had been a significant investment.

Tradebe-Inutec would separate from ALES by the end of December 2017 and would have its own discharge route, with a new foul system to Wessex Water. Changes in environmental permitting were well advanced and on programme.

The current expectation would be to get the site licence before summer 2018. Heads of Terms for the freehold purchase had been drawn up and this would have to go through the government approval process.

Reactors Programme – Kevin McIntyre

Kevin McIntyre (Magnox Reactors Programme Manager) gave an update on progress at SGHWR and work to be completed over the next six months.

Work continued in the Secondary Containment, Primary Containment and on the Detailed Design and Build to take the main reactor core apart. The Secondary Containment, which can be seen from the road, houses the turbine alternator. The lutes above the ponds on the south side have been decommissioned and the north side lutes would be mobilised before the end of the financial year. This would complete all the work in the SGHWR Secondary Containment.

In November 2016 optioneering was completed to remove 1.5 km of steam feeds and steam risers. Before decommissioning work commenced the work had been modelled through the

use of a £300 mock up. This had showed that the methodology was wrong and the work could be dangerous; £300 well spent.

Pipework under the core had been removed to allow access directly to the core and the next phase would be to jack the core. Steam risers would be removed from the Primary Containment.

Over the next few months there would be some changes outside the SGHWR facility. In early 2018 cutting trials would start on the two 67 ton steam drums and they would be removed in summer 2018. Subject to planning approval, a grout plant would be built in February 2018, which would alter the skyline at the back of SGHWR. The construction would be a stainless steel plant on a stainless steel structure.

An interim curing facility, or temporary store, would also be located at the facility (subject to planning). This would be concrete based and look like a tent. It would not change the skyline but there would be construction activities, which should not create more noise than a normal house build.

Work had finished on the initial scheme design so it was known how to take the core apart and what equipment would be needed.

Sandra Ellis said that Winfrith should be regarded as the flagship site for decommissioning and should be proud of work completed and ongoing as it demonstrated a good team effort.

8. Any Other Business

Future meetings were scheduled for 19 April and 1 November 2018.

Peter Waldeck, a former Winfrith apprentice, said that he had been impressed with the work completed so far and that he had never envisaged seeing the end of SGHWR in his lifetime.

Emma Burwood SSG Secretariat
Alison Pugh Minutes Secretary

01305 2020317
emma.burwood@magnoxsites.com

28 November 2017

Questions and Answers

The following questions were tabled at the meeting.

Question 1 (Peter Fry): Has the future of the Blacknoll Reservoir been discussed?

Answer: Kevin McIntyre said that a number of people had been approached to see who might wish to use the reservoir but no one had wanted it so it would have to be decommissioned. The reservoir was part of a conservation area and sensitive management of the environmental situation would be needed.

Question 2 (John Larkin): An option suggested at the April meeting would be for the large amount of concrete at SGHWR to be covered with a one metre topping of heathland soil, which would be carefully monitored to ensure that there would be no risk to anyone. Was this option still under consideration?

Answer: Michael Dunnett replied that this was still an option one and another option would be to take it out entirely, but the latter option would not be sensible.

Question 3 (Peter Waldeck): Who will be running the Magnox sites Post 2019?

Answer: Dave Rushton said that a transition team had been set up to focus on this and a delivery team would look at the delivery of the Magnox contract.

Question 4 (Sandra Ellis): Would there be much noise during construction of the curing facility at SGHWR?

Answer: Kevin McIntyre said that there would be no more noise than a normal house build.

Question 5 (Peter Fry): What is the size of the curing tent at SGHWR?

Answer: Kevin McIntyre said that this would be approx. 30 metres long x 5 metres high.

Question 5 (Sandra Ellis): Will the curing tent be located at the back of the SGHWR facility once the other facility has been taken down?

Answer: Kevin McIntyre confirmed that this would be the case.

Question 6 (Peter Waldeck): Could WETP have been adapted to deal with the 6m³ boxes?

Answer (Kevin McIntyre): No.

Question 7 (John Larkin): How big are the boxes?

Answer: Kevin McIntyre replied that they were 6m³ or 1.5 m³ usable volumes.

Question 8: (Sandra Ellis): Are the boxes a standard size?

Answer: Kevin McIntyre confirmed that they were and that Magnox would be developing the box to use across all Magnox sites and others were looking at it. Filled boxes would go by road to the Harwell ILW store, which was currently under construction. Waste from SGHWR and Dragon would go there.