

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 23 JUNE 2017

- Mr Peter Evans, Station Director, Hinkley Point B, reported on continued safe and reliable operation of the plant. He said that it was now more than 10 years since the last nuclear reportable event on the site and more than eight years since the last reportable environmental event. Mr Evans said that there had been a lost time incident involving an employee of a contract partner who had fallen through a skylight on a gas turbine control room roof; the circumstances of this incident were the subject of investigations by EDF Energy and ONR.
- Mr Evans reported that planned interim maintenance and inspection outages had been completed on both reactors. Work during these outages had included the inspection of graphite within the reactor cores to confirm its predicted safe condition.
- Mr Evans said that routine monitoring suggested that there was a defect in the stainless steel cladding of a fuel pin within Reactor 4; further monitoring was continuing to identify the location of the suspected fuel pin defect.
- Mr Evans said that Hinkley Point B had recently demonstrated its emergency arrangements to the satisfaction of the Office for Nuclear Regulation.
- Cllr Caswell welcomed to the Site Stakeholder Group Mr Peter Montague, recently appointed Hinkley Point A Site Closure Director in succession to Mr Ron Schroder. Mr Montague described the continuing efforts to maintain high standards of safety on the Site. He said that there had been a lost time accident when an individual in the kitchen had burned her fingers on a hot fat fryer.
- Mr Montague said that equipment was shortly to be installed to help with the sorting of fuel element debris in order to segregate within the waste those items which needed to be handled and stored separately. He said that work had started on the construction of the Interim Storage Facility for intermediate level wastes. Mr Montague said that a programme of work had recently been started to remove asbestos remaining on the site; specialist contractors were being used for this work which was expected to take three years to complete.
- Mr Bill Hamilton, representing the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, explained the background to the decision taken mutually by NDA and Cavendish Fluor Partnership to terminate the contract awarded to CFP for the overall management of the decommissioning of the Magnox sites. He pointed out that work on sites would continue to be carried out by Magnox and consideration was being given to future management arrangements. Mr Hamilton explained NDA's view of the safety, security and financial advantages of the consolidation of radioactive waste storage on a limited number of Magnox sites; this strategy had been endorsed as government policy. Mr Hamilton said that normal planning consent processes were used if it was proposed that waste storage should be consolidated at individual sites.

- Members received reports from the Environment Agency and the Office for Nuclear Regulation Site Inspectors. No significant issues had been raised by their work.

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at The Canalside, Bridgwater on Friday 23 June 2017

PRESENT

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

Elected Members

Mr T Ayre	-	Holford Parish Council
Mr R Corns	-	Natural England
Mr A Debenham	-	Stop Hinkley
Cllr Ms J Dillamore	-	Stogursey Parish Council
Cllr R Garner	-	North Somerset Council
Cllr Ms S Goss	-	West Somerset District Council
Cllr R Habgood	-	Taunton Deane Borough Council
Mr A Jeffery	-	Bridgwater 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 Ms A Reed	-	Wembdon Parish Council
Cllr M Reid	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council
Mr J Sivyer	-	Chairman, Stockland Bristol Parish Meeting
Ms M Smith	-	Forum 21
Cllr S Stretton	-	Spaxton Parish Council

Co-opted Members

Mr M Brown (Vice Chairman)

Appointed Members

Mr W Hamilton	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Dr R MacGregor	-	Environment Agency
Mr R Lee	-	Environment Agency
Mr P Dickenson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr T Howes	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr H Rickard	-	Wessex Water
Mr P Browning	-	Somerset County Council
Mr D Bamsey	-	Sedgemoor District Council

EDF Energy

Mr D Uminski	-	Technical and Safety Manager
Mr D Stokes	-	Communications

Magnox

Ms J Callender - Communications
Ms A Vincent - Communications
Mr S Booth

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr M J Davis - Secretary

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. At the invitation of Cllr Caswell members stood in silence as a mark of respect for those who had lost their lives in recent terrorist atrocities in Manchester and London and in the tower block fire in North Kensington.
- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Khan, Ms G Coombs, Cllr PJS Downing, Mr M Short, Dr S Harrison, Ms S Povell, Cllr Ms A Bown, Mr R Wynne, Mrs N Dawson, Mr R Davies, Mr A Hurford and Mr J Mason.
- 3 Cllr Caswell reminded members that Mr Schroder had been promoted within Magnox to be replaced as Hinkley Point A Site Closure Director by Mr P Montague. He welcomed Mr Montague to this meeting of the SSG.
- 4 It was noted that Mr J Edney was no longer a Somerset County Councillor and would therefore no longer be representing the Council at meetings of this Group. Cllr Caswell expressed members' appreciation of the contribution to the work of this Group made by Mr Edney over a good number of years.
- 5 It was noted that Cllr Ms J Dillamore was attending this meeting for the first time as representative of Stogursey Parish Council.
- 6 It was noted that there were sufficient members present to constitute a quorum for this meeting.

OPEN PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

- 7 Cllr Caswell invited questions from members of the public on any issue which might not be covered in later discussion. No such issues were raised.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 FEBRUARY 2017

8 Accuracy

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2017 were approved as a correct record subject to the deletion of the name of Cllr Berry from the list of those present at the meeting.¹

9.

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

- (i) Planning application for relocation of encapsulation facility (para 10(v) refers)

It was noted that Magnox had submitted an application for planning consent for the relocation of the proposed waste encapsulation plant on the Hinkley A Site.

- (ii) Water ingress Hinkley Point B (para 20(ii) refers)

Mr Evans drew attention to the continued programme of investment at Hinkley Point B which included roof repairs.

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

10 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) It was now more than 10 years since the station had experienced a nuclear reportable event and more than eight years since there had been a reportable environmental event.
- (ii) It was more than a year since the last lost time incident on site involving a member of EDF Energy staff but during April there had been such an incident involving an employee of a contract partner. The individual concerned had fallen through a skylight whilst working on a gas turbine control room roof, sustaining injuries which had been confirmed at hospital as a number of cracked vertebrae. He was expected to make a full recovery from these injuries and return to work shortly. The circumstances of the incident were being investigated by the company and ONR.
- (iii) During the past week the station's emergency arrangements had been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

¹ It was later confirmed that Mr Berry was present for the February meeting.

- (iv) Both reactors had been shut down for interim maintenance and graphite inspections. 18 channels within the reactor core graphite had been inspected on Reactor 4 and 26 channels inspected on Reactor 3. The results of all these inspections confirmed the expected safe condition of the reactor graphite. No keyway root cracking had been found.
 - (v) During the return to service of Reactor 4 following its interim maintenance and inspection outage, a perturbation within the turbine's vacuum system caused the reactor to be shut down manually. The unit had remained out of service for some 25 days whilst investigations and repairs were completed. Some similar work was undertaken on Reactor 3 on a precautionary basis following its subsequent interim maintenance and inspection outage.
 - (vi) Routine monitoring of coolant gas within Reactor 4 had given indications of a fuel pin defect. With 36 fuel pins in each element, and 8 elements within each of the 308 fuel channels, there were 88,704 pins in each reactor. Monitoring was continuing to detect the location of the failed fuel pin; when it had been identified it would be removed from the reactor and the cause of the failure investigated. A defect in the stainless steel cladding of the pin which encapsulated the fuel was permissible within the safety case and the reactor remained in normal operation.
 - (vii) The station continued to host large numbers of group visits and maintain its sponsorship of local organisations and activities. More than 62,000 people had used the Visitor Centre since it opened in December 2012
- 11 In reply to questions from Ms Smith, Cllr Garner and Cllr Ms Dillamore on the reported lost time incident, Mr Evans said that the safety documentation and controls appeared to have been adequate and correctly implemented for the planned work in hand but no arrangements had been made to prevent access to the skylight in an adjacent area of the roof. He said that lessons learned from the investigation of this incident would be promulgated to other power stations.
- 12 In reply to a question from Mr Jeffery on reactor graphite inspections, Mr Evans explained the nature of potential cracking and inspection methods used. He drew attention to information on Reactor graphite provided in the EDF energy website at: <https://www.edfenergy.com/energy/nuclear-lifetime-management>. In reply to further questions from Ms Smith and Mr Debenham, Mr Evans said that the behaviour of reactor graphite during operation could be predicted and scheduled inspections were undertaken to confirm that conditions continued to be consistent with those predictions.
- 13 Mr Jeffery asked whether individual schools had established regular arrangements for visits each year by particular school year groups. Mr Evans and Mr Stokes confirmed that this was the case; school groups of all ages, some as young as five or six years old, visited the site. Cllr Ms Goss suggested that five or six years of

age was possibly too young to gain most advantage from a station visit; she suggested that school years 5 or 6 were more appropriate.

- 14 Mr Sivyer suggested that the use of the term "forced outage" in relation to the period when the reactor was kept out of service following planned work gave the impression that something was seriously wrong. He recognised that this might be a term commonly used within the industry but suggested that the outage might be better referred to simply as "unplanned".
- 15 In reply to further questions, Mr Evans said that the monitoring indications which gave rise to suspicion of a fuel pin failure were at a very low level. It was anticipated that a defect in the stainless steel cladding of a single fuel pin was allowing occasional leakage of gas from within the pin into the coolant gas stream. Monitoring of the gas within individual fuel channels was being undertaken to identify the location of the suspected failed pin. There had been experience of failed fuel pins in the past but there was no indication of any adverse trend.

CLOSURE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A SITE

- 16 Mr Montague introduced himself as the Hinkley Point A Site Closure Director appointed to succeed Mr Schroder who had been promoted within the company. He reported on activities at the Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
 - (i) There had been an accident involving time lost from work when an individual working in the kitchen had burned her fingers on a deep fat fryer. There had been a potential personal contamination event when an operator had been splashed with water from a hose which had previously been used within a contamination controlled area; investigations had confirmed that the individual had not been subject to any contamination.
 - (ii) Equipment was to be installed shortly to assist with sorting fuel element debris and segregating different types of waste items. The use of this eddy current separation equipment was expected to make a substantial improvement in the progress of this work.
 - (iii) Construction work on the Interim Storage Facility had commenced recently.
 - (iv) Work on the removal of asbestos remaining on the site was being accelerated. This included residual quantities which remained following the bulk removal of asbestos from plant items some years ago. The work was being undertaken by specialist contractors and was expected to take three years to complete.

- (v) Plans were being made for decommissioning of the sludge canning plant which had been built in the 1970s to deal with waste materials arising from a cooling pond event.
 - (vi) Work on the demolition of the former Turbine Hall was expected to commence in January 2018 and be completed by July 2019.
- 17 Cllr Caswell emphasised that the planning consent for the construction of an Interim Storage Facility had been granted on the basis that it was for the storage of waste from the Hinkley Point A Site only. He said that if at any time it was proposed that the facility should be used for the storage of wastes from other sites he would convene a special meeting of this Group to enable members to be fully briefed on the proposals and give their feedback.
- 18 In response to Cllr Phillips who expressed surprise at the reported cost of the Interim Storage Facility, Mr Montague said that the structure included all necessary handling facilities and environmental control systems. He said that the proposed relocation of the waste encapsulation plant would reduce the distance from that plant to the ISF, facilitating the transfer of encapsulated wastes. In response to further questions Mr Montague said that packages stored within the ISF would be largely 6 m³ concrete boxes and some mosaic flasks designed to contain higher dose rate items.
- 19 In reply to a question from Mr Sivyer, Mr Montague said that asbestos waste removed from the site was sent to licensed landfill sites for disposal. In reply to a further question from Mr Sivyer he confirmed that the planning consent for the ISF and the application for consent relating to an encapsulation plant was based upon the handling and storage of wastes arising on the Hinkley Point A Site only.
- 20 Mr Montague said that current plans leading to entry into a care and maintenance state by the year 2027 were not affected by the decision taken mutually by NDA and the Cavendish Fluor Partnership to terminate the contract for the management of the Magnox Sites at the end of August 2019.

UPDATE FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 21 Mr Hamilton presented a report on current issues of interest to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. He emphasised the following:
- (i) Mr Hamilton referred to the intention when the NDA had been established to introduce private sector managerial expertise into the management of the sites owned by the NDA. The competition for the management of the Magnox and RSRL sites had resulted in the contract being awarded to the Cavendish Fluor Partnership. The award of this contract had been the subject of a legal challenge by unsuccessful bidders. This legal challenge had been upheld with a High Court judge finding that NDA had not

followed its rules during the competition. NDA had subsequently reached a settlement with the unsuccessful bidders and in view of the increased scope of the contract since it had been let and to avoid the possibility of legal challenge by CFP, had mutually agreed with CFP that the contract should be terminated. This was not in any way an indication of NDA's view of the performance of CFP who would continue to oversee the management of the sites until the contract was terminated at the end of August 2019. Work on the sites would continue to be managed by Magnox and the cost of this work would continue to be met by NDA. Consideration was being given to arrangements which would follow after termination of the current contract. Mr Hamilton said that further information would be provided by the NDA at its meetings with the Chairs of the Site Stakeholder Groups.

- (ii) Mr Hamilton referred to the NDA's view of the safety, security and financial advantages of consolidating the storage of radioactive wastes where appropriate in a smaller number of sites. This approach had been endorsed as government policy. He said that any proposals for the consolidation of waste storage were subject to the usual planning consent processes and he pointed out that consent had been received at other sites for such consolidation.
- (iii) The treatment of Bradwell's fuel element debris in the site's dissolution plant had been completed during the past week. Bradwell would be the first of the Magnox sites to enter into a care and maintenance state.
- (iv) A new Chairman and a new Chief Executive had been appointed to the NDA.
- (v) The NDA's annual report and accounts would be published within the coming weeks.

22 In reply to Cllr Ms Goss who expressed concerns at the identified shortcomings in the competition process, Mr Hamilton said that the retirements of the NDA's Chairman and Chief Executive had been for personal reasons (the Chairman at the end of his third three-year contract term) and had not been related to the issues arising from the competition process. He explained some of the issues associated with the NDA's scoring of the bidders where documentary evidence of changes in scoring had been inadequate. The settlement with unsuccessful bidders had amounted to approximately £100 million; the compensation which might be payable to CFP under the terms of their contract was a confidential matter. An independent inquiry had been established under the chairmanship of Mr Stephen Holliday to review the entire competition process.

23 Mr Sivyer sought clarification of the position in relation to the possible importation of radioactive wastes to the Hinkley Point Site. Cllr Caswell said that

existing planning consents had been granted on the basis that they related only to the storage of waste already on the Hinkley Point Site. Mr Hamilton said that the consolidation of waste storage on a limited number of sites was part of the NDA's strategy which had been endorsed as government policy. He said that if there was an intention to transfer wastes from other sites for storage at Hinkley Point A this would be the subject of a planning application.

- 24 Mr Brown was pleased that the Magnox dissolution plant at Bradwell had successfully completed its work. He asked whether, in the light of that success, any consideration was being given to the possibility of using a dissolution process for the fuel element debris at Hinkley Point A. Mr Montague said that no consideration was being given to such a proposal; the dissolution plant at Bradwell would be decommissioned when its work was complete.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT

- 25 Dr MacGregor presented a report from the Environment Agency, copies of which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.
- 26 Dr MacGregor outlined the results of recent EA inspections and referred to issues relating to the Hinkley Point sites which were of interest to the Agency. He said that the published report on radioactivity in food and the environment demonstrated that levels of radioactivity in the local area remained very low and exposures were well below the legal dose constraints. He said that during the coming month staff of CEFAS would be working in the local area carrying out a habit survey which would help in the assessment of potential radiation exposures from the environment and the consumption of locally produced foodstuffs.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORTS

- 27 Mr Dickenson reported on the ONR's regulatory and inspection activities relating to Hinkley Point A Site and B Station. Written reports from the inspectors had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.
- 28 Mr Dickinson outlined the nature and scope of the inspections undertaken by the Office for Nuclear Regulation at the Hinkley Point sites and the major issues discussed with the sites. He referred to the recent acceleration of work to remove asbestos from the A Site and said that ONR would maintain efforts to ensure that this work was pursued to completion. In reply to questions from Cllr Ayre and Cllr Ms Dillamore, Mr Montague said that the specialist contractors were able to analyse asbestos samples quickly; he said that the various different types of asbestos were all treated similarly in relation to their potential hazard.
- 29 Cllr Caswell pointed out that this would be the last meeting of this Group to be attended by Mr Dickenson before his transfer within ONR to other sites. He expressed members' thanks to Mr Dickinson for the contribution he had made to

the work of this Group and the open and helpful way in which he had provided information on activities at the sites.

RADIOACTIVE DISCHARGES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

- 30 It was noted that a report on radioactive discharges and environmental monitoring at the Hinkley Point sites had been made available to members in advance of the meeting and could be accessed online at <https://www.edfenergy.com/energy/power-stations/hinkley-point-b>.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 31 A report by Cllr Caswell on his recent activities on behalf of the Group had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. He said that there had been little activity on national issues during the period of purdah leading up to the General Election but national level meetings were to take place in July and September and reports would be given at the next meeting.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 32 No business

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 27 October 2017 at the Canalside, Bridgwater.

MJD

28 June 2017