

## **HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

### **SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER 2017**

- Hinkley Point B Station Director, Mr Peter Evans, reported on continued safe and reliable operation of the plant. He said that it was now more than 11 years since the last nuclear reportable event on the site and more than eight years since the last reportable environmental event. He said that the contract partner employee reported at the last meeting to have been injured by falling through a skylight on the site was expected to make a full recovery. Investigations of the circumstances of this accident were continuing.
- Mr Evans reported a discharge of liquid waste was performed without all of the required written analysis on the pre-discharge samples being completed. . The analysis showed that the waste was within permitted limits and the discharge had no impact on the environment. The event was reported to the Environment Agency as the actions had not followed the written procedure.
- Electricity production at Hinkley Point B during the past four months had amounted to 2.67 TWh. Both reactors had returned to service following short outages for the rectification of defects.
- Mr Peter Montague, Hinkley Point A Site Closure Director reported on activities on the site. He pointed out that manual sorting of fuel element debris was continuing but equipment was shortly to be installed to introduce some automation into this process. Work had commenced on the construction of an interim waste storage facility and a major programme of asbestos removal was in hand. Public information sessions were soon to be held to discuss proposals to allow some waste to be imported to Hinkley Point from other sites.
- Mr Bill Hamilton, representing the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, explained the background to a report from the National Audit Office on NDA's contract for the management of the Magnox sites; the issues raised by this report were shortly to be considered by the parliamentary Public Accounts Committee. NDA's contract procurement arrangements were also the subject of investigation by an inquiry chaired by Mr Stephen Holliday which had published an interim report.
- Members received reports from the Environment Agency and the Office for Nuclear Regulation Site Inspectors. No significant issues had been raised by their work. Members also received a report on the recent meeting of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee for the Hinkley Point sites.

## HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

### Minutes of the meeting held at The Canalside, Bridgwater on Friday 27 October 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**

Cllr T Ayre	-	Holford Parish Council
Cllr Ms A Bown	-	Somerset County Council
Mr R Corns	-	Natural England
Cllr H Davies	-	Somerset County Council
Mr A Debenham	-	Stop Hinkley
Cllr M Dewdney	-	West Somerset Council
Cllr Ms J Dillamore	-	Stogursey Parish Council
Cllr P Downing	-	Sedgemoor District 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
Mr J Mason	-	B Station Staff Representative
Cllr C Morgan	-	West Somerset District Council
Cllr M Phillips	-	Cannington Parish Council
Cllr L Redman	-	Bridgwater Town Council
Cllr J Ridout	-	Fiddington Parish Council
Cllr J Roberts	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council
Mr J Sivyer	-	Chairman, Stockland Bristol Parish Meeting
Ms M Smith	-	Forum 21
Mr T Wilson	-	Kilve Parish Council

#### **Co-opted Members**

Mr M Brown (Vice Chairman)
Mr M Short

#### **Appointed Members**

Mr W Hamilton	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr R Lee	-	Environment Agency
Mr E Osondu	-	Environment Agency
Mr M Khan	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr H Rickard	-	Wessex Water
Ms N Dawson	-	Somerset County Council
Mr P Browning	-	Somerset County Council

Mr B Nozad - Public Health England  
**EDF Energy**  
Mr D Uminski - Technical and Safety Manager  
Mr D Stokes - Communications  
Ms S Fletcher - Senior External Communications Manager  
Mr P Bryan - Independent Nuclear Assurance

**Magnox**  
Ms G Coombs

**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.
- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Insp T Howes, Cllr Ms A Reed, Mr G Alford, Dr R MacGregor, Mr R Wynne, Mr N Shaw, Mr D Bamsey and Cllr R Garner.
- 3 It was noted that there were sufficient members present to constitute a quorum for this meeting.

**OPEN PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

- 4 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 23 JUNE 2017**

**(a) Accuracy**

- 5 The minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2017 were approved as a correct record.

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

- 6 There were no matters arising which would not be covered in discussions later in the meeting.

**STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B**

- 7 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 11 years since the station had experienced a nuclear reportable event and more than eight years since there had been a reportable environmental event. It was more than a year since the last lost time incident on site involving a member of EDF Energy staff.
- (ii) The contract partner injured in the incident reported at the previous meeting involving a fall from height was expected to make a full recovery. Improvement Notices had been served by ONR on EDF Energy and the contract partner's employer. Investigations into the circumstances of the events were continuing with ONR and a report would be given to members when those investigations were complete.
- (iii) An operator had received facial injuries when struck by the lid of a filter which was being removed. This was a routine activity which was carried out on each shift and the circumstances were being investigated to ensure that any lessons might be learned to avoid a recurrence. The operator was not absent from work as a result of the incident. Other first aid injuries during the period were of a very minor nature.
- (iv) A surface water oil interceptor had been returned to service following maintenance and modification.
- (v) During August a discharge of radioactive effluent was performed without all of the required written analysis on the pre-discharge samples being completed. Analysis of the sample had confirmed that the contents of the tank had been appropriate for discharge and there had been no environmental impact. The event had been reported to the Environment Agency and had been defined as a non-conformance with the permit with no environmental detriment. Procedures had been modified to prevent a similar event in the future.
- (vi) Electricity production during the past four months had been 2.67 TWh (thousand million units).
- (vii) Reactor 4 had shut down automatically on 9 August when an electrical fault had caused the release into the reactor of a group of control rods. Some maintenance work had been undertaken whilst the reactor was off-line and the unit was returned to service on 18 August.
- (viii) Reactor 3 had been returned to service on the day before this meeting following a short planned shutdown. The unit had been taken out of service following the observation of high ambient temperatures in the vicinity of the turbine and subsequent investigations which had identified loose connections in an electrical busbar. Mr Evans had congratulated the

individuals involved on their vigilance and questioning attitude in identifying this fault.

- (ix) Investigations were continuing in order to identify the location of a fuel pin defect within Reactor 4.
  - (x) The station continued to host large numbers of visits and maintain its sponsorship of local organisations and activities. More than 69,000 people had used the Visitor Centre since it had been opened.
- 8 In reply to a question from Mr Debenham, Mr Evans said that all automatic shut down and post shutdown cooling systems had operated correctly following the electrical fault on Reactor 4 on 9 August. Following repairs to eliminate the cause of the fault, similar work had been undertaken on Reactor 3.

#### **CLOSURE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A SITE**

- 9 Mr Montague reported on activities at the Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The current focus of the company's safety campaign was mental health; volunteers had been identified to provide support to individuals on site when needed.
  - (ii) It was now some eight months since the last event on site causing time lost from work when an individual working in the kitchen had burned her fingers on a deep fat fryer.
  - (iii) Manual sorting of fuel element debris was continuing to separate highly radioactive springs from the magnesium oxide debris. Equipment was to be installed to introduce some automation into this process. This equipment, similar to that used in other industries, had been subject to off site trials and would be installed on site during the coming month.
  - (iv) Work had commenced on the construction of the Interim Storage Facility for intermediate level waste. This would be the fifth store of this type to be built on a Magnox site and construction was expected to be complete by February 2019.
  - (v) A major programme of work was in hand to remove asbestos; the work was expected to continue for three years. The demolition of the former Turbine Hall was due to commence in February; tenders from prospective contractors were currently being assessed.
  - (vi) As part of a general strategy for the management of waste it was likely that an application would be made for planning consent for the

importation of some radioactive waste to the Hinkley Point A Site. To provide information for local residents, drop in sessions would be held in Cannington and Stogursey on 8 November and in Wembdon on 13 November.

- 10 Cllr Caswell emphasised that if an application for planning consent was submitted for the importation of waste to the Hinkley Point A Site he would convene a special meeting of this Group to allow members to discuss the proposals. In reply to questions Mr Montague said that if a planning application was to be made the volume of material to be imported would be relatively small (less than 6% of the total volume of the store).
- 11 In response to a question from Cllr Ms Goss, Mr Montague described how pigeons had entered the Reactor 1 pond building and spread contamination within the building; he explained actions being taken to deal with this situation.
- 12 In reply to a question from Mr Sivyer, Mr Montague said that the magnox dissolution plant at Bradwell had successfully completed its work but the use of such a plant was not appropriate for Hinkley Point.
- 13 In reply to a question from Cllr Ms Dillamore on the disposal of asbestos waste, Mr Montague said that it could be sent off site for final disposal at suitably licensed facilities. Mr Short said he had thought that asbestos removal had been substantially completed several years ago. Mr Montague said that the bulk of the asbestos had been removed but a final cleanup was now needed in all areas. He said that a large volume of asbestos would remain within the reactor buildings until final site clearance.
- 14 Mr Brown expressed an interest in the eddy current separation device to be used for the segregation of fuel element debris. Mr Montague said that this equipment was used in other waste metal industries; its application to the segregation of the fuel element debris would be developed on site in the light of experience.
- 15 Mr Caswell emphasised the value of members visiting the sites regularly and praised the recent site visits conducted in the summer. He urged people to make themselves available when the next tours were organised. He said that all Parish Councils were able to send groups on visits to see the C Site construction if they contact the visitor centre in Angel Place.

#### **UPDATE FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY**

- 16 Mr Hamilton presented a report on current issues of interest to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. He emphasised the following:

- (i) He felt that asbestos was probably the most significant clean up issue across all of the NDA sites.
  - (ii) Following the mutual decision by NDA and the Cavendish Fluor Partnership to terminate the contract for the management of the Magnox sites, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy had established an inquiry under the chairmanship of Mr Stephen Holliday. That inquiry had published an interim report addressing issues associated with NDA's procurement processes; NDA was already responding to these issues.
  - (iii) A report had been published by the National Audit Office on NDA's contract for the management of the Magnox sites. Issues raised by this report were to be considered by the Public Accounts Committee during the coming month. There was a degree of overlap between the recommendations of the National Audit Office report and the Holliday report; action was already being taken by NDA.
  - (iv) The decision taken to terminate the contract with CFP for the management of the Magnox sites was not a reflection on CFP performance. The scope of the work required had been found to be much larger than assumed during the competition process and a decision had been taken to terminate the contract rather than accept the risk of further legal action. Attention was now focused within NDA on maintaining progress of work at the Sites during the remainder of the contract with CFP and on identifying arrangements to follow after the termination of the contract. Mr Hamilton hoped that proposals for such future arrangements would be published by the time of the next meeting of this Group.
  - (v) At a national meeting with stakeholders during the past month thoughts had been aired on the possibility of advancing work on reactor dismantlement. Decisions had not yet been taken but consideration was being given to the possibility that dismantlement work could be accelerated on some sites.
- 17 During discussions Cllr Morgan said that accelerating work on reactor dismantlement could help to avoid the considerable loss of expertise during the decades between plants being placed into care and maintenance and final site clearance.
- 18 In reply to comments by Mr Sivyer on the storage of waste on the site, Mr Hamilton said it had always been the long-term plan that sites would be cleared completely but that wastes would be stored on sites in interim storage facilities pending the availability of a geological disposal facility. He said that consultation on the choice of a location for a GDF was about to start.

## **ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT**

- 19 Mr Lee reported on the Environment Agency's inspection activities at the Hinkley Point A Site and Hinkley Point B power station. He drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) Inspections at Hinkley Point B had been focused on the characterisation and management of low level waste and the sampling of such waste destined for incineration.
  - (ii) As reported earlier by Mr Evans, a B Station Final Delay Tank had been discharged to sea before sample testing was complete. The test result had confirmed a measured value compliant with the permitted discharge limit. The Agency had however concluded that the failure of the written management system was a non-compliance with the permit. The Agency was satisfied with the operator's actions in response to this incident.
  - (iii) In relation to proposed dredging in Bridgwater Bay associated with C station development, Mr Lee said that the levels of radioactivity present in this sediment were very low. Disposal of the dredged material on the Cardiff grounds was subject to the approval of Natural Resources Wales after sampling and testing.
  - (iv) A habit survey had been undertaken during the summer to provide information which would be used when assessing potential radiation exposures which might be received by members of the public.
- 20 In response to comments made by Mr Jeffery, Mr Lee said he anticipated that levels of radioactivity in lower levels of sediment which might be exposed by dredging would be comparable with those at higher levels. In response to further questions from Cllr Ms Dillamore on permitted discharge limits, Mr Lee said that in addition to complying with permitted limits, operators were required to demonstrate that they were using the best available techniques in order to minimise discharges. He said that it was therefore not necessary to reduce permitted limits in order to ensure that discharges were minimised.

## **OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORTS**

- 21 Mr Khan reported on the ONR's regulatory and inspection activities relating to Hinkley Point A Site and B Station. He pointed out that Mr Shaw, the newly appointed Site Inspector for Hinkley Point A, had been unable to be present at this meeting. Written reports from the inspectors had been circulated to members in

advance of the meeting. Referring specifically to his report on B Station inspections, Mr Khan drew attention to the following:

- (i) Site Licence Condition compliance inspections and system based inspections had not identified any significant shortcomings
- (ii) As reported earlier by Mr Evans, Improvement Notices had been served on EDF Energy and Babcock's in relation to breaches of the Health and Safety at Work Act and the Working at Height Regulations in response to the accident reported at the previous meeting. Mr Khan said that ONR would monitor compliance with the improvement plans which had been prepared to address issues raised by the accident.

- 22 In response to a question from Cllr Ms Goss on potential nuclear safeguards arrangements post Brexit, Mr Khan said the safeguards bill is currently in parliament, ONR is working with BEIS in support of UK Govt intentions to maintain existing Euratom standards. Cllr Morgan suggested that this might be a suitable subject for discussion at future meetings.
- 23 Cllr Keen drew attention to the fact that various comments in the ONR inspectors' reports were clearly identical and appeared to be written in a standard format. Mr Khan said that in some cases comments in the reports had to reflect the legal nature of the regulatory relationship; more detailed reports on inspections were published on the website.
- 24 In response to comments made by Mr Jeffery, Mr Khan said that it was the operator, not the ONR, which determined inspection programmes for such things as graphite reactor cores. He said that the ONR ensured that the operator maintained compliance with safety cases at all times.

## **EMERGENCY PLANNING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

- 25 Mr Uminski reported on issues discussed at a recent meeting of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee. A summary report had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. He pointed out that the Committee dealt with emergency planning arrangements for the A, B and C Sites and its membership included representatives from local authorities, emergency services and other agencies with an involvement in emergency planning for these sites.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- 26 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 outlined issues discussed at various meetings with NDA, the chairs of other SSGs, the Magnox Executive and a national stakeholder summit meeting.

- 27 Mr Brown reported on a visit to the Sellafield site which had been associated with the national stakeholder meeting. He reported also on a visit to Bristol University to see an experimental device which simulated seismic effects on a reactor core structure.

**OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

- 28 Cllr Keen asked whether it would be possible for the scope of this Group to be extended to include Hinkley Point C site issues. Cllr Caswell said that this Group existed to provide dialogue in relation to the operational sites at Hinkley Point A and B. He said that EDF Energy was firmly of the view that this Group should not deal with any matters relating to C station until such time as it became an operational unit.

**DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 29 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on Friday 23 February 2018.

MJD  
31 October 2017