



HARWELL CHILTON CAMPUS LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

Minutes of the 93rd meeting held at the Jupiter Room, Catapult Satellite Applications, Electron Building, Fermi Avenue, Harwell on Thursday 13 December 2018.

PRESENT

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| Chairman | Chris Broad, Chilton Parish Council |
| Secretary | Emma Burwood, Magnox Comms |
| Minutes | Trudie Tomlinson, Magnox |

ATTENDEES

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| Ms Gill Brown | Magnox |
| Ms Rebecca Cleverley | Environment Agency |
| Mr Stuart Clark | Magnox |
| Mr Gary Coupar | OCC |
| Mr Andrew Davies | NDA |
| Mr Rob Gentry | Magnox |
| Mr Bill Hanks | Member of the public |
| Mr Paul Jenneson | ONR |
| Mr Paul Mann | OCC |
| Mr Neil McColl | Public Health England |
| Mr Steven Moss | UKAEA |
| Dr John Sharp | SSG |
| Ms Charlotte Simms | OCC |
| Ms Laura Street | Magnox |
| Cllr Daphne Boughton-Waite | Harwell Parish Council |
| Dr Peter Walker | Retired UKAEA |
| Mr Derek Whitmell | Upton Parish Council |
| Mr Richard Lee | EA |
| Dr Christine Williamson | MRC, Harwell |
| Dr John Wilkins | Member of the public |

1. Chairman's Remarks – Chris Broad

- At our last meeting we had an interesting tour of HIBS which is an impressive new facility. Since our last meeting progress on a number of issues has been at best limited. Perhaps the government has been distracted with other matters.
- The chairman reported attending some meetings which were worthy of report. First on 14 November the Magnox Executive SSG Chair's meeting. Disappointingly, the meeting was originally planned to include a presentation by RWM on the GDF. This was cancelled late in the day following, I believe, a government instruction. The meeting was an update on progress on contract handover and work at the Magnox sites.
- On 28 November, there was a Magnox Decommissioning workshop hosted by NDA who had a large presence but with an overview given by Keith Duncan of BEIS. It was clear there are cost reduction targets that any strategy needs to address.
- There was no big announcement, no decisions and no timescales given. It is unlikely that there will be any changes at Harwell arising from any strategy changes.
- The Holliday report is delayed until March 2019.
- The chairman had a meeting update with Rob Gentry on 3 December. Excellent progress has been made at Harwell, the site has changed dramatically.
- There were some noteworthy visits from Chinese and Japanese and it appears Harwell seems to be a flagship decommissioning site.
- It is with sadness that the chairman reported Penny Wride, Chair of Berkeley SSG, died at the weekend.

2. Apologies for absence

- Apologies were received from Paul Bryant, Peter Day, Cllr Stephen Druce, Cllr Terry Fraser, Carol MacKay, Liz Morris, Julie Pearce, Dik Third, Caron Weaver, Reg Waite.

3. Minutes of 92nd meeting

- The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record

4. Matters Arising

- There were no matters arising.

5. Magnox Harwell Licensed Site Matters

Harwell and Winfrith Closure Director's Site Report – Rob Gentry

The main points were as follows:

- **Safety and Environment**

There were some events to be reported. Namely, loss of emergency telephone line (alternative communications were put in place including mobile and radio); a Castell key (safety interlock) failed to operate correctly which prompted an investigation which has now been resolved; an enforcement letter from the ONR regarding the use of incorrect approved transport package was received. A warning letter

from the EA regarding control of low activity waste and out of scope waste was received. Some of the waste set off the vehicle alarm. We failed to follow the checks up to the point of the vehicle alarm check.

There were also some minor issues with lifting and lift planning but no significant issues. Magnox are continuing to focus on Target Zero.

Programme Update

- **LETP** – remediation commenced in May 2018. Over 18,000 bags of waste has been generated and shipped. Scheduled for completion, early 2020.
- **HIBS** – Civil construction is complete but installation work continues. B462 and support teams are on-board for T&C and handover. First submission of the LTQR (Lifetime Quality Records) has been commented on.

Nuclear Material Transfers

- **CHILW transfers** – 2593 drums transferred to date out of 4004. The shipments are mostly by Novapak Type B packages. Shipments have been paused until more Novapaks become available from supplier.
- **CLD's (Concrete Lined Drums)** – 804 drums out of 2332 transferred by IP2 FHISO. Higher activity CLDs will require TN Gemini Type B flasks. Three are currently being modified in France.
- **Dragon Waste** – Active commissioning is ongoing. The first active move left site in November 2018. 126 transfers over 3.5 years.

462 Can Retrievals

- RM2 retrievals are being hampered by water in tubes and technical failures. There are 247 tubes to go.
- RM1 restart delayed due to technical resource availability. Commissioning is making progress.
- Head End Cell progress is on target – 599 cans this FY.
- GLEEP fuel processing is complete, marking the end of a historical project to process fuel from UK and Western Europe's first reactor.

462 Waste Encapsulation Plant (WEP)

- Successful grout trials demonstrated to Regulator. WEP Inactive Commissioning is due to complete December 2018. ONR approval for active commissioning is expected in April 2019 prior to full operations.
- Offsite Discharge Pipeline Sutton Courtenay Village
- Discussion with the villagers impacted by the works is underway. Removal of the remaining pipe through the village has commenced. Some footpath closures will be enacted in stages. Work will continue through to the spring.

- B220 Lab Facility – bulk asbestos removal starts next year. Characterisation also starts next year. This will be followed by a construction of a Waste Management Facility and building decommissioning.

Future programme for Harwell

- **462 waste retrievals** – this will continue. Options for POCO of tubes including sludge removal will be developed. Long cans will be surveyed and potentially reduced. RM1 to return to service with radon abatement system.
- **NM transfer project** – continue movement of CHILW drums in Novapaks. FHISO movements of CHILW drums will restart. Movements of LEU drums in Novapaks will be commissioned and started. Inactive commissioning of CLDs in TN Gemini will start.
- **Other 462** – further categorisation work to be done on RIPPLE crates; ILW Store to be completed, WEP commissioning to be completed. Remediation work of LETP phase 2 to continue.
- Other topics being progressed are the transition to new PBO; asbestos remediation and pay negotiations including new starter T&C's and market re-alignment.

Magnox Socio-economic scheme

Harwell 2018-19 Good Neighbour funding to date is £2,230 with £3,770 remaining until March 2019. To apply go to www.magnoxsocioeconomic.com.

Questions

Q1: Re the Castell key failure. We have been using these for 60 years, why do you view this as a failure of the process?

A1: No, we regard this as a failure of the key, not of the process.

REPORTS

Office for Nuclear Regulation – Paul Jenneson

- ONR have made regular inspections to the Harwell site. ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements to be adequate in the areas inspected. Where improvements were necessary, satisfactory commitments to address the issues were made.
- Inspectors have concluded after the Annual Review of Safety for Harwell and Winfrith that the licensee is maintaining plant and facilities in a safe manner. No safety concerns were identified.
- Magnox-Harwell has taken the learning very well from enforcement on Novapaks.
- Dragon fuel move to Sellafield – this was a very large piece of work well done.
- H10 – we have been encouraged by legacy asbestos removal and the good relationship between Magnox and contractor.
- The transition to new PBO – we have no immediate concerns here.

NDA Report – Andrew Davies

- The NDA plan to attend the funeral of Penny Wride.
- Bradwell in Essex has gone into Care and Maintenance, the first site in the UK to reach that end-state.
- NDA has appointed Lawrie Haynes as chair designate for the NDA subsidiary Magnox Ltd. The new subsidiary will come into being on 1 September 2019 when the current Parent Body Organisation, the CFP, hands over to the NDA.
- NDA has published its business plan for consultations which sets out plans for 2019-2022. Views are sought from members of the public, nuclear regulators etc. The consultation closes on 4 February 2019.
- The Holliday report has not yet been delivered. This has been put on hold and a request for a judicial review has been made.
- NDA archive Nucleus (the Nuclear and Caithness Archives) has been described as ‘beautifully sculpted’ and voted as one of the most stylish buildings in the UK, collecting top awards including being named best building in Scotland.
- The NDA has celebrated 10 years of its nuclear graduate scheme. The NDA Chief Executive David Peattie pledged a renewed boost to the scheme over the next 10 years in a bid to help futureproof and diversify the UK’s nuclear workforce. To date, 344 graduates have completed the programme.
- Sellafield Ltd will fund 50 new apprenticeships for small companies in Cumbria to boost opportunities for local people.

Questions

Q1: Are you able to comment on Euratom arrangements?

A1: ONR have a very good system in place which is just as good as the current Euratom system. Resources have been set up for a safe system of accountancy. We are getting to a point now where Brexit is irrelevant to the process.

Environment Agency – Rebecca Cleverley

- Magnox holds two permits under the Environmental Permitted Regulations (EPR) at Harwell, one covers the nuclear licensed site and the second covers smaller areas outside the nuclear licensed site boundary. No changes have been made to either permit since the last SSG. Magnox has not applied for any variations to its permits in 2018.
- We check compliance with the permit by making regular inspections at Harwell.
- We have found no non-compliances with the permits.
- The site environmental permit requires the operator to monitor and assess the impact of discharges on the environment. The impact of the site on the environment is low.

- The last report 'Radioactivity in Food and the Environment 2017' (RIFE 2017) is published on the gov.uk website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radioactivity-in-food-and-the-environment-rife-reports>.
- Total dose estimate from Magnox Harwell site 2017 is 0.046 mSv.
- Since the last SSG meeting EA have taken action over an event which occurred at the site. A misconsignment of waste from the site was averted by the final stage vehicle monitoring system. The event caused no harm to the environment but indicated failings in the management system and implementation arrangements. The EA categorised this as three separate non-compliances with the permit. A warning letter was issued to the site on 23 November.

PRESENTATIONS

Update on GDF, Radioactive Waste management – Mike Brophy and Simon Napper

- The UK government is committed to employing geological disposal for the safe and secure disposal of radioactive waste over the long term. Not a lot has changed since the last time RWM gave a talk to the SSG on the subject.
- There is international consensus that the safest permanent solution to managing radioactive waste is to isolate it deep underground in solid rock.
- It is important that people realise this is disposal and not storage of radioactive waste for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The first recommendation for this was in 1957 and in 2006 the last reiteration of government policy on this was made.
- The GDF would be sited below 2000 metres.
- The government favours a consent-based approach for selecting a site in partnership with local communities and has emphasised how it could support local economic growth. However, currently no sites have come forward or are under consideration.
- Communities are encouraged to come forward to say they would be interested in offering their site as a GDF. The community definition is the most difficult to define. At any point in the process the community can walk away. Investment funding can be up to £1M per year to the community so it is a significant investment.
- Safety is our number 1 priority.
- Boreholes would be constructed and the waste would be deployed to the desired position in the borehole and sealed. It would probably take about 10 years to drill a borehole.
- We are looking for land rich in rock such as granite. We have collated all the information where various rock types exist. If safe and suitable the community would have to show it was willing to accept the GDF and then we would need permission to build the facility.

Questions

Q1: The policy is not fully accepted then?

A1: it is up to the Secretary of State to decide.

Q2: Have you a printed policy?

A2: I can give you one of the draft policy.

Q3: You quote a 15-20 year timescales for boreholes yet 10 years to build it. Is that right?

A3: Yes, the facility would be constructing and operating at the same time.

Q4: Do you believe that?

A4: The biggest difficulty would be the social and community acceptance of it. This is long running, there are those who have started and finished their careers in GDF. There is likely to be a public consultation on this around the country to provide information so please look out for this.

CAMPUS MATTERS

There were no reports.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday 25 April 2019

Wednesday 11 September 2019

Thursday 5 December 2019

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| Chairman | Chris Broad |
| Secretary | Emma Burwood |
| Minutes | Trudie Tomlinson |
| Director | Rob Gentry |

18 January 2019