

**BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE
SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL 2018**

- Mr Mike Heaton, Site Closure Director, reported that high standards of safety had been maintained and the Site had achieved an accident frequency rate of zero during the past year.
- Mr Heaton said that with the reduction in the amount of work required to be done on the Site overnight it was proposed that shift working of operational staff should be terminated at the end of May 2018. Staff would be redeployed to day working and necessary training was being undertaken.
- Mr Heaton reported on the progress of decommissioning work on the Site. More than 100 tonnes of fuel element debris had been retrieved from Vault 2 and processed for storage in the Interim Storage Facility.
- Mr Heaton said that trials were to be undertaken in Vault 3 using a high-pressure water jet to pierce cans containing radioactive waste releasing any pressure which might have developed during storage.
- Mr Heaton said that intermediate level wastes were being processed for storage in ductile cast iron containers. It was anticipated that it would be possible to use concrete boxes for the storage of these wastes from late 2019.
- Reports were received from the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency on the results of their regulatory and inspection activities at the Berkeley site.
- Mr Bill Hamilton presented a report on behalf of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. He provided an update on issues of current interest and invited members of the Group to attend a stakeholder event to be held at the South Gloucestershire and Stroud College's Berkeley campus on 10/11 July.
- Mr Leon Flaxman and Mr David Watson provided members with an update on behalf of Horizon Nuclear Power. They outlined progress with the development of proposals for construction of a new nuclear power station at Wylfa in Anglesey and described the successful completion of the regulatory process which had approved the design of the Advanced Boiling Water Reactor as being suitable for construction in the UK. They pointed out that Wylfa Newydd was Horizon's lead station and said that detailed development of proposals for a new station at Oldbury would follow after firm decisions were taken on construction at Wylfa.

BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE

SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND STROUD COLLEGE, BERKELEY ON WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL 2018

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs P Wride (Chair)	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Mr S Andrews	-	Staff Representative
Cllr J Cordwell	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr C Davies	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr Mrs H Molyneux	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr Ms H Priestley	-	Hamfallow Parish Council
Mr J Stanton	-	Co-opted member
Cllr B Tipper	-	Gloucestershire County Council

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr W Hamilton	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr M Lynden	-	Oldbury on Severn SSG Chairman
Mr M Heaton	-	Site Closure Director
Ms G Coombs	-	Magnox
Mr L Flexman	-	Horizon Nuclear Power
Mr D Watson	-	Horizon Nuclear Power
Ms C Loveday	-	Horizon Nuclear Power
Ms S Stagg	-	James Reed PR
Mr P Barrett	-	South Gloucestershire and Stroud College
Mr G Ridd	-	South Gloucestershire and Stroud College
Cllr C Molyneux	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Mrs E Ashton		
Mr G Lewis		
Mr V Polley		
Mr G Wheeler		
Dr T Hellen		
Ms C Mayo		
Ms B French		
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Cllr Mrs Wride welcomed all those present to this meeting of the Berkeley Nuclear Licensed Site Stakeholder Group. She expressed a particular welcome to Cllr Ms H Priestley, who was attending for the first time as representative of Hamfallow Parish Council.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Mr D Drew MP, Mr K Warren, Mr N Shaw, Mr P Reynolds and Mr C Cherry.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) Accuracy

- 3 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 31 January 2018 were approved as an accurate record.

(b) Matters arising

- 4 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM

- 5 Cllr Mrs Wride invited members of the public to raise any issues which might not arise in discussion later in the meeting. No such issues were raised.

BERKELEY SITE CLOSURE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

- 6 Mr Heaton presented a report on current activities at the Berkeley Site, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The Site had maintained its high standards of safety and there had been no accidents or injuries to report. The Site had a zero accident frequency rate during the past year. A Production Technician had received a special award from the company for efforts in the Target Zero safety campaign.
 - (ii) The Site's internal systems had identified a potential non-compliance with requirements relating to documentation associated with a waste shipment. The circumstances had been reported to the Environment Agency.
 - (iii) With the reduction in the amount of work required to be done overnight, it was planned that shift working for operational staff would be terminated at the end of May. Staff would be redeployed to day working and a programme of necessary training was in hand.
 - (iv) Training and exercising of new emergency arrangements was continuing.
 - (v) More than 100 tonnes of fuel element debris had been retrieved from Vault 2 and processed for storage in the Interim Storage Facility.
 - (vi) A trial was to be undertaken within Vault 3 to pierce 10 cans containing sludge using a high-pressure water jet. This would release any pressure which might have developed in the cans during storage. These trials would be undertaken under a blanket of inert gas.

- (vii) Equipment for the retrieval of wastes from Vault 3 was to be delivered to Site in modular form as had been done with the equipment installed on Vault 2. The first delivery to Site was expected in late May.
- (viii) Intermediate level wastes were currently being packaged in ductile cast iron containers. Concrete box containers were planned to be used on site from late 2019. The boxes would be manufactured off-site and after being loaded with waste would be filled with grout and a concrete lid would be cast over the waste. Regulatory approval for the use of these concrete boxes was to be sought later this year. The use of concrete boxes for storage of waste would represent a saving of some £25 million for Berkeley. It was anticipated that the encapsulation plant which was under construction would be operated for a period of some three years.
- (ix) Work had started on the retrieval, sorting and processing of cans of mixed laboratory waste.
- (x) Accumulations of low-level waste had been packaged and despatched to the Low Level Waste Repository.
- (xi) Members were invited to apply to the company for socio-economic funding which was available to support local worthy causes.

7 In response to questions Mr Heaton undertook to confirm the dimensions of the waste vaults and their proposed end state. *[Secretary's note: Mr Heaton subsequently confirmed that the dimensions of each vault were 18m long by 8m wide by 6.4 m deep and that the end state of the vaults was still under discussion.]*

UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION

8 Mr Shaw had been unable to attend this meeting. His report to members had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

9 It was noted that Mr P Reynolds had been appointed as successor to Mr A Davis as the Environment Agency's Inspector for the Site but that Mr Reynolds had been unable to attend this meeting. A report from the Environment Agency had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

UPDATE FROM NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

10 Mr Hamilton provided an update on issues of current interest, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) The Princess Royal had unveiled a plaque to commemorate the official opening of the nuclear archive at Wick.

- (ii) NDA had published information on differences in average earnings between men and women throughout its organisation.
- (iii) NDA had also published a report on the socio-economic funding it had provided to local communities during the past year. This amounted to some £20 million.
- (iii) The parliamentary Public Accounts Committee had published a report on its consideration of NDA's contract for the management of the Magnox Sites. Recommendations contained in the report had all been acted upon or were in the process of being acted upon. The report of the Holliday inquiry established by the Secretary of State was awaited. It was understood that the Secretary of State would shortly be giving consideration to NDA's recommendations on the future management model for the Magnox sites.
- (iv) A possible change in strategy to accelerate reactor dismantling, as discussed at the previous meeting of this Group, was shortly to be considered by the NDA Board. If such a change was accepted by the NDA Board, government approval would be required before consideration could be given to possible priorities for advancing work at individual sites.
- (v) Government was to initiate a consultation on regulatory controls which might be proportionate to residual hazards remaining on nuclear sites at the end of the decommissioning process. This consultation was scheduled to commence in May and there would be a series of workshops which it was hoped representatives of SSGs would be able to attend.
- (vi) A stakeholder summit was to be held at the South Gloucestershire and Stroud College Berkeley campus on 10/11 July. The event would include displays and presentations by senior personnel from government, the NDA and the industry. Mr Hamilton invited all members of the group to attend - details of the agenda would be circulated in due course.

10 In reply to a question from Cllr Davies relating to the future management model for the Magnox sites, Mr Hamilton acknowledged that there would be insufficient time to carry out a competition process for a new parent body organisation similar to the previous one before the termination of the current contract with Cavendish Fluor Partnership.

HORIZON UPDATE

11 Cllr Mrs Wride said that this item had been included on the agenda to provide information for members. The SSG's terms of reference did not include consultation on new nuclear construction but members would be able to address any questions they might have to the Horizon Nuclear Power representatives after the meeting.

- 12 Mr Flexman outlined progress being made by Horizon Nuclear Power with the development of proposals for establishment of a new nuclear power station at Wylfa in Anglesey. He said it was anticipated that an investment decision would be taken in 2019/20. He emphasised that Wylfa Newydd was Horizon's lead site and development of proposals for a new station at Oldbury would follow after a decision was taken to proceed at Wylfa. In relation to proposals for a new station at Oldbury, he said that Horizon was committed to the use of hybrid forced draft cooling towers which would have less visual impact and further work would be required on flood protection issues.
- 13 Mr Watson explained the progress which had been made in securing regulatory approval for the Advanced Boiling Water Reactor design proposed for use at Wylfa Newydd. He pointed out that reactors of this type were in operation and under construction around the world and had been completed within planned timescales and budget estimates. He said that the generic design assessment process, which had been completed successfully in December 2017, confirmed that the reactor type was suitable for use in the UK. Proposals for developments at specific sites would have to demonstrate that the site-specific conditions were bounded by the conditions assumed in the generic assessment. The generic design assessment process had taken account of international trends, lessons from the Fukushima accident and specific UK requirements. Changes introduced during the generic design assessment process would be incorporated into future global standards.
- 14 During brief discussion Mr Flexman acknowledged that further consideration needed to be given to road access to the Oldbury site; in relation to grid system connections to the site he said that existing transmission towers could be used with conductors being re-strung.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

- 15 Cllr Mrs Wride reported on her meeting with the Chairs of other Site Stakeholder Groups. She said that they had met with the Chief Executive of the NDA for informal discussions and they had also had an opportunity to discuss with Mr Stephen Holliday the progress of his inquiry into the Magnox management contract. She said that there had also been discussions with representatives of BEIS in relation to a geological disposal facility; she and Mr Stanton had submitted a response to the consultation process. She said that many of the same concerns were shared by representatives from all of the SSGs.
- 16 Cllr Mrs Wride apologised that information on the constitution of the group had not been circulated with the minutes as promised at the previous meeting. Copies of a revised constitution and guidance issued by the NDA were available for members. Cllr Mrs Wride invited members to advise her or Ms Coombs of any comments they might have on the proposed constitution in advance of the next meeting.
- 17 Cllr Mrs Wride suggested that it would be appropriate for two of the meetings of this Group each year to be held jointly with the Oldbury SSG, with the other two

meetings held separately by each Group. She said that this arrangement would make better use of the time of regulators and others presenting information to the groups on matters of common interest. She had discussed this proposal with Mr Lynden and the proposals had received support from the Oldbury SSG during the afternoon prior to this meeting. She invited members to contact her if they had any comments on this proposal.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No business

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

30 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was to be held on Wednesday, 1 August 2018. This was a change from the previously scheduled date of 25 July. The venue for the meeting would be confirmed in due course.

MJD

30 April 2018