

**BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE
SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 1 AUGUST 2018**

- Mr Mike Heaton, Site Closure Director, reported that generally high standards of safety had been maintained but he referred to an event in which an individual had sustained a back spasm when moving an object. He drew attention also to the fact that a number of muster readers had been found not to have been tested in accordance with the scheduled maintenance requirements.
- Mr Heaton said that after arrangements had been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the ONR, shift working of operational staff had been terminated. Individuals had been redeployed on day working.
- Mr Heaton reported on the progress of decommissioning work on the Site. He said that the equipment used for the retrieval of waste from Vault 2 was being relocated to Vault 1 in order to facilitate the retrieval of wastes which could most appropriately be stored in ductile cast iron containers.
- Mr Heaton said that the trial of techniques in Vault 3 for piercing cans of radioactive waste using a high-pressure water jet had been completed successfully. This was undertaken in order to release any pressure which might have built up within the can during storage.
- Mr Heaton described the progress of construction of a facility for encapsulating wastes within pre-manufactured concrete boxes.
- 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. The Environment Agency inspector had been unable to attend the meeting.
- Mr Bill Hamilton presented a report on behalf of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, providing an update on issues of current interest. He drew particular attention to the government's approval of revised management arrangements for the Magnox Sites, with Magnox Ltd becoming a subsidiary of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority in due course.

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE BERKELEY ARMS, BERKELEY ON WEDNESDAY 1 AUGUST 2018

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs P Wride (Chair)	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Mr S Andrews	-	Staff Representative
Cllr S Chandler	-	Hamfallow Parish Council
Cllr J Cordwell	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr C Davies	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Mr J Stanton	-	Co-opted member
Cllr B Tipper	-	Gloucestershire County Council

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr N Shaw	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr W Hamilton	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr M Lynden	-	Oldbury on Severn SSG Chairman
Mr M Heaton	-	Site Closure Director
Mrs E Ashton		
Mr G Wheeler		
Ms C Mayo		
Ms B French		
Mr D Wride		
Mr O Yapp		
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.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Mr D Drew MP, Mr K Warren, Mr A Slaney, Mr Gethin Lewis, Cllr G Craig and Mr J Jenkin.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) Accuracy

- 3 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 25 April 2018 were approved as an accurate record subject to changing the date quoted in Para 3 to 31 January 2018.

(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 a good overall standard of safety performance but Mr Heaton reported on a number of issues (recorded below).
- (ii) An individual had sustained a back spasm whilst moving a bag located as a safety device around a trailer to prevent injury if someone fell from the trailer. Working practices had been amended following this event.
- (iii) During an inspection the previous week it had been found that a number of muster readers had not been tested in accordance with the requirements of the maintenance schedule.
- (iv) Shift working for operational staff had been terminated as indicated at the previous meeting. The new arrangements had been tested to the satisfaction of the regulator. Individuals transferred from shift operations to day working had opportunities for redeployment to a wider range of new jobs.
- (v) Equipment which had been used for the retrieval of wastes from Vault 2 was being transferred to Vault 1. This would allow the retrieval of containers of wastes, including ion exchange resins which had relatively high radiation levels, to be processed for storage in ductile cast iron containers. It was anticipated that the transfer of this equipment would be completed by the time of the next meeting.
- (vi) Tests had been carried out in Vault 3 to pierce containers using a high-pressure water jet. Twelve cans had been pierced successfully during the trial and the process would now be developed to deal with all of these containers. Equipment was being installed for the retrieval of wastes from Vault 3.
- (vii) Work had started on the retrieval of wastes from the shielded area in the former laboratories.

- (viii) Work was continuing on the construction of an encapsulation plant for processing pre-manufactured concrete boxes. After filling with wastes these boxes would be filled with grout and a concrete lid cast over the top.
- 7 In reply to a question from Cllr Davies, Mr Heaton said that modifications to facilitate the use of concrete boxes in the Interim Storage Facility included modifications to the crane and access arrangements and changes in the system used for determining where packages were placed.
- 8 Cllr Chandler asked about potential implications of leaving the Euratom treaty. Mr Heaton said that such implications were not yet clear. An audit had been carried out recently but, having regard for the amounts of material remaining on-site, this would not need to be repeated for another five years.
- 9 In reply to further questions, Mr Heaton confirmed that regulatory approval had not yet been given to the use of concrete boxes for waste storage. He said that the economic justification for changing from DCICs to concrete boxes was sufficiently robust to withstand a delay in securing regulatory approval.
- 10 Mr Heaton explained that the trial piercing of cans in Vault 3 had been undertaken under a blanket of Argon gas.
- 11 In reply to a question from Mr Lynden, Mr Heaton explained that the metal liner to be included within the proposed concrete boxes would provide a gap to allow for potential expansion of the contents. In view of the interest shown, Mr Heaton undertook to provide more information on the proposed concrete boxes at the next meeting.

UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION

- 12 It was noted that a report on ONR's regulatory activities in relation to the Berkeley site had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Mr Shaw said that no ONR inspections had been carried out during the period covered by the report.
- 13 Mr Shaw said that during the week preceding this meeting he had undertaken inspections on the Site accompanied with the Site's own trades union Safety Representatives. He said that the involvement of the Safety Representatives had been a very positive experience and they had jointly given feedback on the inspections to the Site. He said that he had visited the Site during April with ONR assessors for discussions on the use of Argon as a fire suppressant.
- 14 Cllr Chandler enquired about the progress of ONR's assessment of concrete boxes for waste storage. Mr Shaw said that the acceptability of packages for disposal in a future facility was a matter for Radioactive Waste Management. He said there was a regulatory hold point which prevented the encapsulation of boxes of waste until ONR approval had been given.

UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- 15 It was noted that a report on the Environment Agency's regulatory activities relating to the Berkeley site had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting but that no inspector from the Agency had been available to attend the meeting.
- 16 Mr Heaton referred to an issue reported at the previous meeting in which an error in a spreadsheet provided by a contractor had led to errors in documentation associated with two waste shipments. The matter had been reported to the Environment Agency who had confirmed that the issue had no impact on the environment and that the consigned waste did not breach the receiving site's acceptance criteria. The Agency had recorded this as two Category 4 (the lowest category) breaches of the environmental permit.
- 17 Cllr Chandler felt it was unfortunate that there was no representative from the Environment Agency at the meeting. Mr Lynden suggested that with the increasing number of joint meetings with the Oldbury SSG there might be advantages, from an SSG point of view, in having one Environment Agency inspector for both sites as was the case with the ONR inspectors

UPDATE FROM NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 18 Mr Hamilton provided an update on issues of current interest, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The Secretary of State had accepted NDA's proposals for a new management model for Magnox and as a result Magnox Ltd was to become a wholly owned subsidiary of the NDA with effect from 1 September 2019. This was consistent with the approach adopted earlier at Sellafield. Arrangements had been made to enable staff to ask questions and be given answers about the effects of these changes.
 - (ii) The report of the Holliday Inquiry into the award of the Magnox decommissioning contract and its subsequent termination was still awaited. Actions had been taken within the NDA following the publication of the inquiry's interim recommendations.
 - (iii) Very positive feedback had been received from those attending the recent stakeholder summit at the Berkeley campus of the South Gloucestershire and Stroud College. Mr Hamilton expressed thanks to all those involved at the college and in the local community for their help in making the event such a success.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

- 19 Cllr Mrs Wride reported on her activities as chairman of this Group. She referred specifically to an interesting meeting with the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy department on the consultation in relation to the regulation of nuclear sites at the end of decommissioning.

- 20 Cllr Mrs Wride said that following the stakeholder summit she had received a letter of thanks and appreciation from NuLeaf (the Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum for local authorities with nuclear legacy sites within their areas). NuLeAF had invited delegations of representatives from Spain and Hungary to attend the summit and the visitors, particularly the Hungarians, had been greatly impressed by the successful development of the college campus on the Berkeley Site.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No business

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 21 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group, a joint meeting with members of the Oldbury SSG, was to be held on Wednesday, 31 October 2018 at the Oldbury Conference Centre.

MJD

8 August 2018