

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2018

- Hinkley Point B Station Director, Mr Peter Evans, reported on continued safe and reliable operation of the plant. He said that the contract partner's employee previously reported to have been injured by falling through a skylight on the site was making a full recovery. The requirements of an Improvement Notice issued by ONR following that event had been met and other sites had been informed of actions taken to prevent any such accident in future.
- The location of a single fuel pin which had developed a pinhole leak had been identified by systematic monitoring of fuel channels within the reactor. The defective fuel had been removed from the reactor.
- Electricity production at Hinkley Point B during the past four months had amounted to 2.51 TWh. Reactor 4 was to be taken out of service later in March for statutory overhaul and inspections. The results of recent inspections of graphite within Reactor 3 had been in line with expectations.
- The Site Directors confirmed that actions were taken on both sites in response to any reports of dangerous or inconsiderate driving on local roads by personnel travelling to the sites.
- Mr Peter Montague, Hinkley Point A Site Closure Director reported on activities on the site. He pointed out that equipment had been installed to sort highly radioactive components from other fuel element debris waste. This equipment, which had been commissioned using non-radioactive materials, would shortly be put into service sorting contaminated material.
- Work was continuing on construction of the Interim Storage Facility; this was due for completion in summer 2019. Preliminary works were progressing to allow the demolition of the former Turbine Hall to commence in the summer.
- After more than 50 years, shift working by operational staff at the A Site was due to come to an end. Security staff, who would continue to be on site on a 24-hour basis, were receiving training on actions which they might be required to take.
- Mr Jonathan Jenkin, representing the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, reported on items of current interest and described a review being undertaken by the NDA of its strategy in relation to reactor dismantling and final site clearance.
- 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 Hill House, Otterhampton on Friday 23 February 2018

PRESENT

Cllr M Caswell (Chairman)	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Mr P Montague	-	Site 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
Mr A Debenham	-	Stop Hinkley
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
Cllr C Morgan	-	West Somerset District Council
Cllr M Phillips	-	Cannington Parish Council
Cllr Ms A Reed	-	Wembdon Parish Council
Cllr M Reid	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council
Mr J Sivy	-	Stockland Bristol Parish Meeting
Ms M Smith	-	Forum 21
Cllr S Stretton	-	Spaxton Parish Council

Co-opted Members

Mr M Brown (Vice Chairman)
Mr M Short

Appointed Members

Mr J Jenkin	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr N Shaw	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr R Lee	-	Environment Agency
Ms N Dawson	-	Somerset County Council
Ms E Lawson	-	Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Mr G Alford	-	Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service

EDF Energy

Mr D Uminski	-	Technical and Safety Manager
Mr D Stokes	-	Communications
Ms A Cowie	-	External Communications Manager
Mr T Price		

Magnox
Mr P Heath
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 Cllr H Davies, Cllr Ms R Perrett, Cllr M Dewdney, Insp T Howes, Mr B Nozad, Cllr L Redman, Ms S Povell, Dr R McGregor and Mr M Khan.
- 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 27 OCTOBER 2017

(a) Accuracy

- 5 The minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 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 two years since the last lost time incident on site involving a member of EDF Energy staff.

- (ii) The contract partner injured in a fall from height as reported at previous meetings was making a full recovery. Actions had been taken to meet the requirements of the Improvement Notice issued by ONR and to make further improvements in relation to the safety of work being carried out on roofs in the future; other sites had been kept informed of these actions.
 - (iii) Systematic analysis of gas flowing through each fuel channel had identified the location of the fuel pin with a pinhole leak reported at earlier meetings; it had been removed from the reactor and new equipment was being installed to help deal with such events in the future.
 - (iv) The fire brigade had been summoned as a precaution when a burning smell had been detected in the vicinity of an extract fan. The source of the smell was quickly traced to a slipping belt and remedial action was taken.
 - (v) Electricity production had been 2.51 TW hours during the past four months. Load factors (during periods excluding planned shutdowns) had been 93.7% for Reactor 3 and 100% for Reactor 4.
 - (vi) Inspection of the graphite in 26 channels of Reactor 3 which had recently been completed had produced results in line with expectations with no evidence of keyway root cracking. A statutory outage of Reactor 4 was due to commence at the end of March.
 - (vii) Four exercises of emergency arrangements had been completed recently.
 - (viii) There were currently 544 employees on-site, 20 apprentices and 200 contractors' personnel.
 - (ix) Actions were taken when there was evidence of unsafe or inconsiderate driving by personnel travelling to the site on local roads.
- 8 In reply to a question from Mr Debenham, Mr Evans said that the current expectation was for Hinkley Point B to operate until 2023. The results of plant inspections were fed into safety case assessments. Mr Evans emphasised that the reactor would only be operated if it was safe to do so.
- 9 Cllr Ms Goss drew attention to the difficulty of identifying the registration numbers of vehicles being driven at excessive speed on local roads. She suggested it would be helpful if police speed monitoring vehicles were used more frequently. Cllr Phillips said that the practice of passing to the sites the registration numbers of vehicles being driven without due consideration had been questioned. Ms Lawson said there were clearly limits on the monitoring which

could be undertaken by the police but she said there was no problem with the legality of passing registration numbers to the sites.

- 10 Cllr Ms Bown was disappointed that there had been no representatives of A site or B station at a recent meeting of the Hinkley C site Transport Forum. Mr Evans explained that this had been due to the fact that the matter was able to be dealt with at this meeting.
- 11 In reply to a question from Mr Jeffery, Mr Evans explained that there were 200 contractors' personnel regularly employed on the site; additional personnel were employed on the site at certain times for specific purposes.
- 12 In reply to a further question from Mr Jeffery, Mr Evans said that the proportion of female staff was approximately 25 - 30% of the total. Pay scales were the same for male and female staff for all posts and some senior engineering positions were held by female staff. Mr Evans recognised the importance of attracting female personnel at an early age to take up careers which enabled them to advance to senior positions. He understood that the company was shortly to publish information analysing pay by gender.

CLOSURE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A SITE

- 13 Mr Montague reported on activities at the A Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
 - (i) Equipment using eddy current techniques to sort fuel element debris waste had been installed and commissioning using non-radioactive materials had been completed. The sorting of contaminated material was due to commence during the following week. Equipment was to be installed on each of the four vaults.
 - (ii) Construction of the Interim Storage Facility was progressing and was due for completion in summer 2019.
 - (iii) Work was continuing to enable the demolition of the former Turbine Hall buildings to commence during June/July.
 - (iv) No application had yet been made for planning consent for the importation of waste to the Hinkley Point A Site pending clarification of the Council's requirements in relation to the possible need for an environmental impact assessment.
 - (v) It was now more than 10 years since the most recent event involving personal contamination with radioactive material. This was particularly creditable having regard for the challenging conditions in which work had been carried out.

- (vi) It was now more than a year 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.
 - (vii) The group were informed that during the coming months shift working for the small number of remaining operational staff would come to an end. This would be a major change after more than 50 years of shift operations. Security guards who would remain on shift outside of normal working hours were receiving training in actions which they might be required to take.
 - (viii) A “near- miss” event had occurred when the stored energy in a spring hanger had been accidentally released during asbestos removal work. It had not been possible to identify this potential event by the inspections which were undertaken before the work commenced. These hangers were used to support pipework systems in all types of plants and information on the event had been widely circulated to other sites and power stations.
- 14 In reply to a question from Cllr Morgan on the recycling of cabling and other metallic waste materials, Mr Montague said that demolition contract arrangements were designed to maximise the quantities of waste materials recycled. Income from sales of scrap were shared with the contractor and on some contracts the income from those sales was greater than the cost of paying the demolition contractor for his work.
- 15 In reply to a question from Mr Debenham, Mr Montague said that the fuel element debris sorting equipment could be operated if necessary in parallel on the separate vaults.
- 16 In response to a question from Cllr Ms Reed, Mr Montague confirmed that support mechanisms were in place for staff who might be affected by changes in lifestyle when changing from shift working. Cllr Ms Bown and Mr Sivyer questioned whether a change from shift working might increase traffic flow at peak times. Mr Montague felt that this was unlikely to be the case; normal opening and closing times for the site would be 6:30 am to 6:00 pm. In response to a comment by Cllr Phillips, Mr Montague confirmed that the change from shift working would require approval by the ONR. Mr Shaw confirmed that ONR was involved in discussions on this matter and that the company's management of change risk assessment had covered aspects of potential stress which might be experienced by individuals.
- 17 In response to interest expressed by Cllr Phillips and Cllr Ayre in the eddy current separation technique to be used for sorting fuel element debris waste, Mr Montague explained that the throughput of the equipment could be adjusted to optimise the separation of the highly radioactive springs and checks would be

undertaken to ensure that separated Magnox waste did not include any highly radioactive items. He said that there were 750 m³ of fuel element debris to be dealt with; it was anticipated that it would take a four-year programme of work to complete the separation and packaging of this waste. Residual items of waste in the vaults at the end of the retrieval process would be removed by remote manual operations.

UPDATE FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 18 Mr Jenkin presented a report on current issues of interest to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. He emphasised the following:
- (i) The government had initiated two consultation processes relating to the development of a long-term arrangement for the disposal of radioactive wastes.
 - (ii) The National Nuclear Archive being established at Caithness had received official recognition for the meticulous approach it was adopting in drawing together records from all of the sites.
 - (iii) Following the completion of consultation, NDA had submitted its Business Plan to government. It was anticipated that following government approval the plan would be published during the coming month.
 - (iv) The Wylfa reactors were now more than 50% defuelled.
 - (v) The NDA had introduced a new digital newsletter *#Decomm* to replace its Insight magazine.

REACTOR DECOMMISSIONING STRATEGY

- 19 Mr Jenkin reported on a review of decommissioning strategy which was being undertaken by the NDA. He explained that the current strategy for all Magnox reactors was to defer reactor dismantlement with planned interventions during an interim period of care and maintenance to ensure, for example, that structures remained suitably weatherproof. This approach took advantage of the natural decay of radioactivity which allowed easier access for carrying out the dismantling work and benefited from the discounting of costs incurred in future years. Deferral of dismantlement could also avoid costs associated with the interim storage of wastes arising before a long-term storage facility was available. Possible alternative strategies included deferred reactor dismantlement with minimum interventions and continuous decommissioning leading to site clearance.

- 20 Mr Jenkin said that potential advantages of a programme of continuous dismantlement leading to final site clearance might include earlier completion of work and release of sites, together with advantages from maintaining continuity of employment and retention of skills. He emphasised that each site was unique and that structures on some sites were showing evidence of greater than expected degradation due to exposure to weather conditions. He said that accelerated dismantlement could require the construction of interim storage facilities on sites due to the volumes of waste arising before a long-term waste disposal facility was available. He said that interim storage facilities might in any case be required with deferred dismantlement due to the logistical requirements of transferring wastes from the various sites to a disposal facility.
- 21 Mr Jenkin emphasised that no decision had been taken on any potential change in strategy. The review would identify whether the current strategy remained appropriate for all Sites.
- 22 During discussion Mr Short questioned the logic of proceeding with reactor dismantlement in advance of the availability of a long-term disposal facility, having regard for the volumes of intermediate level waste arising from dismantlement and the volumes of waste currently intended for interim storage on sites. Mr Jenkin drew attention to the potential need for a different approach at some sites which were experiencing faster than expected deterioration of structures due to local weather conditions.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT

- 23 Mr Lee reported on the Environment Agency's inspection activities at the Hinkley Point A Site and Hinkley Point B power station. Reports had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.
- 24 Mr Lee said that a report was being prepared on the findings of the habit survey undertaken in the vicinity of the site last year and information would be provided for members at the next meeting.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORT

- 25 Mr Shaw introduced himself as the ONR Site Inspector for Hinkley Point A, appointed to succeed Mr Dickenson with effect from 1 October 2017. He 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.
- 26 Referring specifically to his involvement with A Site, Mr Shaw outlined discussions in relation to a change from shift operations working; he had observed a training exercise on the previous evening covering actions to be taken by security guards. He confirmed that the management of change assessment

undertaken by the Site had included consideration of the effect of the change on members of staff. Implementation of these changes could not take place until a Licence Instrument had been issued by ONR.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 27 Mr Brown reported on discussions at a recent meeting between representatives of the various SSGs and the NDA. Items discussed included the review of strategy in relation to decommissioning of reactors and responsibilities for the oversight of decommissioned sites in the longer term. He said that during discussions the Chairman and Chief Executive of NDA had confirmed their view of the importance of discussions with stakeholders.
- 28 Cllr Caswell reported on a recent presentation he had attended on the consultations associated with the establishment of facilities for the long-term disposal of radioactive waste. The two consultations were on "Working with Communities: Implementing Geological Disposal" and "National Policy Statement for Geological Disposal Infrastructure". The consultations had opened on 25 January and would run until 19 April. Details were available on the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy website.
www.gdfprogramme@BEIS.gov.uk

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 29 Cllr Caswell referred to a request from NDA that the Group should review its current constitution and terms of reference against NDA guidelines. He proposed that a subgroup should meet to carry out such a review and that membership of the subgroup should include himself, Mr Brown and Mr Short. He invited any other members who wished to participate in this review to contact him after the meeting.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 30 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on Friday 29 June 2018. The venue for the meeting would be announced in due course; arrangements would be made for the meeting to commence at 9.00am as discussed at the previous meeting

MJD
26 February 2018