

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 29 JUNE 2018

- Mr Peter Montague, Hinkley Point A Site Closure Director reported on activities on the Site. He reported on a beach clean-up which had been conducted in conjunction with staff from B and C Sites. He referred to the preparations being made for demolition of the former Turbine Hall; the demolition work would take approximately one year.
- Mr Montague described progress with the commissioning of eddy current separation equipment for sorting fuel element debris waste. He said that this equipment was currently separating approximately 90% of the highly radioactive springs from the Magnox debris. Some time-consuming manual sorting was therefore needed to complete the process and efforts were focused on reducing the extent of manual sorting required.
- Mr Montague described progress with the construction of an Interim Storage Facility for intermediate level radioactive waste. It was anticipated that the building would be completed by March 2019 and become fully operational by August 2019.
- Hinkley Point B Station Director, Mr Peter Evans, reported on continued safe and reliable operation of the plant. He said that there had been 26 injuries requiring first aid treatment during the very busy period since the previous meeting. He said that the station had developed a training facility capable of simulating hot, smoke-filled environments.
- Mr Evans said that during the statutory overhaul inspection of Reactor 4, 31 channels within the reactor graphite core had been inspected. A single hairline crack, originating from a keyway root, had been found in one brick. The conditions leading to such cracking were well understood and it had been anticipated that such cracks would develop. Analysis had confirmed that the reactor graphite was behaving as anticipated and within the parameters defined in the safety case.
- Members received reports from Mr Jonathan Jenkin, representing the NDA and the Environment Agency and the Office for Nuclear Regulation Site Inspectors.
- Dr Selwyn Runacres, representing the Food Standards Agency, described the habit survey undertaken during the past year to analyse local consumption of foodstuffs so that potential exposure to radioactivity in the vicinity of Hinkley Point could be assessed. He said that the maximum potential exposure to a member of the public from the consumption of foodstuffs during the past year in the vicinity of the site had been assessed as 13 micro Sieverts, well within the national limit of 1000 micro Sieverts.

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at The Canalside, Bridgwater on Friday 29 June 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
Cllr H Davies	-	Somerset County Council
Mr A Debenham	-	Stop Hinkley
Cllr Ms J Dillamore	-	Stogursey Parish Council
Cllr P Downing	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr R Garner	-	North Somerset Council
Mr A Jeffery	-	Bridgwater and West Somerset Green Party
Mr M Laver	-	West Hinkley Action Group
Mr J Mason	-	B Station Staff Representative
Cllr M Phillips	-	Cannington Parish Council
Cllr L Redman	-	Bridgwater Town Council
Cllr Ms A Reed	-	Wembdon Parish Council
Cllr M Reid	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council
Mr J Sivyer	-	Chairman, Stockland Bristol Parish Meeting
Cllr S Stretton	-	Spaxton Parish Council
Mr K Talintyre	-	Stockland Bristol Parish Meeting

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 M Khan	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr D Knowles	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr M Coleby	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr S Johnson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr P Butler	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Dr S Runacres	-	Food Standards Agency
Mr G Alford	-	Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service
Ms S Povell	-	Somerset County Council

Mr R Davies - Somerset County Council
Mr A Onishi - University of Manchester

EDF Energy

Mr D Stokes - Communications

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. He expressed a particular welcome to those who were attending a meeting of this Group for the first time and to those who were attending as observers.
- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Dr R MacGregor, Mr R Lee, Mr N Kimmins, Ms N Dawson, Insp T Howes, Mr H Rickard, Cllr Ms B Maitland-Walker, Mr P Heath, Mr I Liddell-Granger MP, Ms M Smith, Mr D Uminski, Cllr Ms S Goss, Cllr R Keen and Cllr R Habgood.
- 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 FEBRUARY 2018

(a) Accuracy

- 5 The minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2018 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.

CLOSURE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A SITE

- 7 Mr Montague reported on activities at the A Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The focus of the company's Target Zero safety campaign had recently been environmental awareness. A Site staff had participated with B and C Site staff in a beach clean-up.
 - (ii) Arrangements had been agreed and implemented for there to be no operational staff on shift overnight. Normal working hours for the Site were from 6:30am - 6:30pm and security guards were the only personnel on site outside of these times. Security guards had been trained in responses to any plant alarms which might arise. Three alarms had been initiated during the seven weeks since this arrangement was introduced; only one of these had resulted in other personnel being called in to the site.
 - (iii) Preparations were being made for demolition of the former Turbine Hall. It was anticipated that this would be completed by July/August 2019. Action had been taken to discourage birds from nesting on the roof in order not to delay this work.
 - (iv) Eddy current separation equipment was undergoing active commissioning, sorting fuel element debris. Experience to date indicated that the equipment was approximately 90% successful in separating the highly radioactive stainless steel springs from the remaining Magnox debris. This was due to springs being caught up in the Magnox debris. As a result it was necessary to carry out some remote manual sorting of the waste after using the eddy current separator. Attention was focused upon ways in which this manual sorting could be minimised.
 - (v) Good progress was being made with construction of the Interim Storage Facility for intermediate level wastes. During the coming months a crane would be installed and external cladding would be applied to the building. It was anticipated that the building would be handed over for inactive commissioning in March 2019 with the facility being fully commissioned by August 2019.
 - (vi) A planning application for the importation of waste from Oldbury, Dungeness A and Sizewell A Sites was being delayed as there were adequate arrangements for the continued safe storage of those wastes on the "donor" sites. The proposed strategy was unchanged and further consultations would take place in due course.
- 8 In reply to a question from Mr Debenham, Mr Montague said that concrete waste arising from demolition of the Turbine Hall would be used for in-filling voids,

minimising lorry movements off-site. Care would be taken that such voids were above the natural water table. Steel waste arisings would either be recycled or disposed of as scrap.

- 9 Replying to a question from Mr Sivyer, Mr Montague said that the strategy for the co-location of radioactive waste remained unchanged. He anticipated that a planning application relating to the importation of waste from other sites to Hinkley Point might be made at the end of the current year.
- 10 In reply to another question from Mr Debenham, Mr Montague said that the Interim Storage Facility structure would have a design life of 110 years although it was intended that the waste packages would be transferred to a geological disposal facility before that time. Flexibility in the timing of dispatches to a geological disposal facility would allow advantage to be taken of the natural decay of radioactivity within the waste.

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 11 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 eleven years since the station had experienced a nuclear reportable event and more than nine 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 and one year since the last lost time accident involving a contract partner.
 - (ii) There had been 26 first aid injuries during the busy work period since the previous meeting. Many of these injuries had been sustained to hands and, following analysis of the circumstances, action had been taken to ban the use of certain knives and multipurpose tools.
 - (iii) The station had developed a training facility which could simulate hot, smoke-filled environments for training in searching techniques.
 - (iv) Statutory inspection and overhaul had been carried out on Reactor 4 from 26 March to 30 May. The programme of work had included graphite inspections of 31 channels within the reactor. During those inspections a single hairline keyway root crack had been identified in one brick. Each reactor contained 6000 graphite bricks, including 3000 fuel channel blocks. Keyway root cracking was well understood and it was anticipated that such cracks would be found as the reactors got older. The inspections confirmed that the graphite within the reactor was behaving as predicted by experts and gave confidence in the ability to operate these reactors to 2023 and beyond.

- (v) There were currently 534 employees on-site, 20 apprentices and 200 contractors' personnel. Mr Evans undertook to circulate a paper on average pay received by male and female employees. He described actions taken to increase recruitment of female employees into engineering jobs. Male and female employees were paid the same rate of pay for all jobs.
- 12 Mr Evans invited all members to arrange to come on a visit to the power station when they could see any aspect which interested them. Cllr Caswell emphasised the importance of SSG members visiting sites to ensure that they were aware of current changes and developments.
- 13 Cllr Ms Dillamore, commenting on the reported first aid injuries, asked whether there were any vibration injuries to hands. Mr Evans said there were no reports of such injuries; care was taken to ensure that tools which might cause vibration injuries were used appropriately. He said that reports of injuries were assessed to identify any recurring issues.
- 14 In reply to a question from Cllr Ms Reed, Mr Evans said that the fire training facility might be used by the fire and rescue service. The internal configuration of the facility could be changed to simulate different plant areas.
- 15 In reply to comments by Mr Sivyer on the extent of the beach cleaning undertaken, Mr Evans said he would be happy to arrange joint clean-up sessions with local groups.
- 16 In reply to comments by Mr Debenham, Mr Evans said that the conditions leading to the development of keyway root cracking in graphite blocks was well understood and inspections were focused upon those channels which were more likely to be subject to such cracking. Mr Debenham questioned Mr Evans's use of the phrase 2023 "and beyond" in relation to the operating life of these reactors. Mr Evans explained that the currently assessed life expectancy was for operation to 2023; the results of inspections were fed into future assessments. The reactors would not be operated unless it was safe to do so and there was no connection between planned operating life for these reactors and anticipated commissioning dates for Hinkley Point C.
- 17 In reply to comments by Mr Jeffery, Mr Evans said that the results of graphite inspections were shared with Hunterston B. In answer to a question from Cllr Ayre on the significance of the crack which had been found, Mr Evans said that there was a large margin in the safety case which mentioned a figure of 350 cracks. Cllr Caswell said that he and Mr Brown were to visit Hunterston B in August and would be interested to see similarities and differences compared with the Hinkley Point B station.

- 18 Mr Evans drew members' attention to a report on a recent meeting of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

UPDATE FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 19 Mr Jenkin presented a report on current issues of interest to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. He emphasised the following:
- (i) Representatives from the Japan Atomic Energy Authority had visited Dounreay and Sellafield to see work on decommissioning and hazard reduction programmes.
 - (ii) NDA had given a presentation on its decommissioning activities at an event in the Scottish Parliament. Plans were being made for similar events at Westminster and Cardiff.
 - (iii) The Princess Royal had opened the nuclear archive in Wick. Records from all NDA sites would be held in this facility.
 - (iv) The Public Accounts Committee had published its report on the contract for the clean-up of the Magnox Sites. The report contained recommendations for the NDA and government. Publication of the report of the Holiday inquiry had been delayed. The Secretary of State had not yet responded to proposals for future management arrangements for the Magnox sites.
 - (v) The NDA had published a report on differences in average earnings between men and women within its organisation. Reasons for the apparent disparity were recognised and actions were being taken to address this issue.
- 20 In reply to a question from Ms Povell, Mr Jenkin said that a possible strategic change to bring forward dates of reactor dismantlement had yet to be considered by the NDA Board and the Government. He emphasised that it would not be feasible to accelerate decommissioning at all sites and the selection of any site where work might be accelerated would be dependent upon local circumstances such as the rate of deterioration of structures and the cost of associated maintenance.
- 21 Cllr Redmond pointed out that the NDA's "monthly" update report was not published each month. Cllr Caswell agreed that it would be better to have a set frequency for these reports.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT

- 22 Apologies for absence had been received from Dr McGregor and Mr Lee. A report on their regulatory activities had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORT

- 23 Mr Shaw and Mr Khan reported on their regulatory activities at Hinkley Point A Site and Hinkley Point B Power Station respectively, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Mr Shaw described the process undertaken by ONR to assess the proposed change in emergency arrangements at Hinkley Point A Site.
 - (ii) Mr Shaw outlined recent inspections of arrangements for the maintenance and testing of plant and the control of radiation exposures.
 - (iii) Mr Khan described the inspections undertaken by ONR during a statutory outage to confirm that activities were being undertaken in line with defined arrangements and he outlined the formal process of consent for reactor start-up.
 - (iv) Mr Khan confirmed that ONR was fully aware of the programme of work for the inspection of reactor graphite; he confirmed that the keyway root crack detected on Reactor 4 did not challenge the safety case.
 - (v) An exercise of the off site arrangements for dealing with an emergency on B Station had been undertaken successfully in June.
- 24 Mr Debenham asked whether recent earthquake activity in southern England had had any effect at Hinkley Point. Mr Evans said that no response had been detected by the seismic instrumentation installed on B Station.
- 25 Mr Khan introduced Mr Knowles who was to take over his responsibilities as Site Inspector for the B station with effect from the following week. Cllr Caswell thanked Mr Khan for the valuable contribution he had made to meetings of this Group.

REVIEW OF SSG CONSTITUTION

- 26 Mr Brown reported on the meeting of the Sub Group which had proposed a revised draft constitution for the Group as circulated to members in advance of the meeting. He pointed out that in preparing this draft the Sub Group had taken account of the NDA's guidelines.

- 27 Mr Brown invited members to consider the revised draft constitution and submit any proposed amendments to the Chair by 15 October. This would allow time for consideration to be given to any amendments in advance of the next meeting. It was hoped that it would be possible to approve a revised constitution at the next meeting of this Group to be held on 26 October.
- 28 Mr Alford pointed out that references to the fire service in the draft constitution should be changed to the "Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service".

FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY HABIT SURVEY

- 29 Dr Runacres reported on the radiological habit survey undertaken on behalf of the Food Standards Agency last year and on the results of monitoring of radioactivity in foodstuffs. He pointed out that it was necessary to carry out a habit survey periodically in order to provide information on local consumption of various foodstuffs and on time spent over sediments so that potential pathways for radiation exposure could be assessed. He said that notable changes in the most recent habit survey included an increase in the consumption of fish, a reduction in the consumption of crustacea and molluscs, less grazing of sheep over areas of sediment, and an increase in the time spent over sediments due to reduced dredging in Watchet Harbour. He said that in the assessment of potential exposures it was assumed that all food was taken from the local area even though a large proportion was sourced elsewhere.
- 30 Dr Runacres said that the assessed maximum potential dose from the consumption of foodstuffs in the vicinity of the Hinkley Point site last year was 13 μSv (micro sieverts), well within the national limit of 1000 μSv . Potential exposures in the vicinity of the Sellafield site were 10 times greater than those in the vicinity of Hinkley Point.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 31 Mr Brown reported on a meeting he had attended with representatives of the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy in May on the consultation regarding the regulation of nuclear sites in the final stages of decommissioning and clean-up. He said that, providing certain specified criteria could be met, there appeared to be opportunities for simplified regulation when only very small amounts of radioactive material remained on sites. He said that the consultation was due to end on 3 July.
- 32 Cllr Caswell reported on the large number of meetings and site visits which he and Mr Brown had attended and were scheduled to attend during the coming months.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 33 Mr Short expressed some surprise that the report on environmental monitoring and discharges at Hinkley Point A Site circulated to members in advance of the meeting had been produced by a different contractor rather than by the EDF Combwich Laboratory as in previous years. Mr Montague said that this was a commercial arrangement adopted in common with all other Magnox Sites.

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 26 October 2018. Following some discussion it was agreed that the meeting would commence at 10.00 am at Hill House, Otterhampton.

MJD
4 July 2018