



**WINFRITH SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
MEETING – 1 NOVEMBER 2018
Meeting Reference SG25
Venue: Winfrith Newburgh Village Hall**

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| Present: | Sandra Ellis (Chair) | Richard Wilson – PDC |
| | Barry Quinn (Deputy Chair) | Mike Garrity – DCC |
| | Andrew Davies – NDA | Andrew Anderson – Tradebe Inutec |
| | Rebecca Cleverley – EA | Mike Twissell, Tradebe Inutec |
| | Fiona Bowles – Poole Harbour Catchment Initiative | Sarah Powell-Pisareva – Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership |
| | Peter Fry | Rob Gentry - Magnox |
| | Melvyn Loveless – Wool Parish Council | Kevin Kostelnik, Magnox |
| | Councillor Peter Webb - PDC | Susan Adams - Magnox |
| | Councillor Cherry Brooks – Dorset CC/PDC | Emma Burwood - Magnox |
| | Nic Johnson – Parish Council | Will Matheson - Magnox |
| | Carole Matthews - WLPC | Andy Philips - Magnox |
| | Leo Henley Lock – Dorset Wildlife Trust | Alison Pugh – Magnox (minutes) |
| Apologies: | Dr Paul Jenneson - ONR | Andrew New – Magnox |
| | Dr John Larkin – CPRE | Laura Street - Magnox |
| | Richard Conway – PDC | Adam Davis – EA |
| | Denise Cardenas, Tradebe-Inutec | |

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introduction – Mrs Sandra Ellis, SSG Chairman

Mrs Ellis welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no amendments to the minutes of the last meeting and they were accepted as a true record.

Mrs Ellis and Barry Quinn attended a meeting in London on the BEIS consultation. The outcome of this had since been published, together with the government response to the proposals on waste disposal and in-situ disposal.

Mrs Ellis informed the meeting that she had attended an NDA stakeholder summit at Berkeley, which had been interesting and informative, although not everything had been relevant to Winfrith. At the meeting Alex Chisholm, Permanent Secretary to BEIS, had congratulated Winfrith stakeholders for helping to define the option for recovery to heathland. Mrs Ellis also reported that she will attend the Magnox Exec Chairs meeting on the 19th November in London.

Question 1: Sandra Ellis asked if there would be sufficient rubble available from inside the site to fill any voids?

Rob Gentry said that, subject to regulatory approval, there should be and this would alleviate the need to purchase rubble, and would therefore result in fewer lorry movements.

2. Magnox Winfrith Report – Rob Gentry, Harwell-Winfrith Closure Director

Rob Gentry explained that the CFP contract with Magnox will expire on 31 August 2019 when Parent Body Organisation (PBO) secondees would leave current roles to take up new assignments within their organisations. This would leave a number of vacancies, which

would be advertised externally and internally within Magnox. The recruitment process would be gradual and to date half of the vacancies had been advertised, including the MD role. As part of a programme to visit all Magnox sites, Nigel Lowe (NDA) had visited Harwell and Winfrith to present the new model and to reassure staff that business would continue as normal. There would be no change to staff Terms and Conditions and staff had been given an opportunity to ask questions..

The NDA recognised that company transitions could cause staff to be distracted, and they would bring in a number of initiatives to encourage people to stay focussed.

The LTP would be revised and updated in readiness for the handover.

A major NDA milestone had been achieved at Dragon where qualifying trials for the reactor core segmentation machine had been completed and the relevant paperwork submitted.

Industrial Safety

There had been no reportable nuclear safety events at Winfrith since the last SSG. There had been one RIDDOR event in the last 12 months due to a subcontractor having to take time off work due to a finger injury. Most injuries needing first aid were minor and associated with slips trips and falls. The site would continue to focus on situational awareness.

Magnox would continue to support Tradebe-Inutec (TI) with its site licence application and any resulting transfers arising from this.

Both the ONR and EA had carried out inspections at Winfrith. These had gone well and learning points had been suggested, which would enable the site to continuously improve.

The site continued to work carefully with asbestos in SGHWR; this would be managed by Kaefer and with our own asbestos ancillary licence.

In addition to the Magnox Corporate Safety Improvement Plan, Harwell and Winfrith had produced a local plan; both plans were on schedule. Monthly Target Zero campaigns focussed on topics such as chemical safety, Display Screen Equipment (DSE) and Quality etc. A future campaign would focus on winter preparedness and driving.

Environmental Management

All environmental monitoring, gaseous and liquid discharges remained within required limits and there had been no environmental concerns since the last SSG.

There had been a slight increase in dose rates at the perimeter fence near Tradebe, which had been due to waste brought in and processed on its site. Levels had been within legal limits, however the matter had been recorded and rates had since reduced.

In future spreadsheets of waste disposal data would be password protected and quality controlled. Waste could not be shipped off site until this had been put in place.

Programme Update

SGHWR – Preparations had started for cutting and lifting out the steam drum, a particularly difficult and demanding task. Deplanting work continued in the Primary and Secondary Containments.

Dragon - Work continued on testing the reactor core segmentation machine and operators were proficient and confident. **Transient Foul System (TFS)** – This had been completed in readiness for future decommissioning of the ALES system and was now on line and functional.

Waste – The site continued to ship waste off site.

ALES – Decommissioning would start on ALES now that nearly half the system had been taken off line.

End State – We continued to look at what the site would look like eventually.

Rob Gentry reminded the SSG that Magnox had access to a socio-economic fund. Last year over £5000 had been donated to local projects and funds were available for this year. Applications should be submitted as soon as possible to enable the site to spend all available money. Please contact Emma Burwood for further information (Tel: 01305 203107) or apply via the website: www.magnoxsocioeconomic.com

Question 2: Cherry Brooks asked if Rob Gentry could explain the acronyms on the waste slide.

Rob Gentry replied that VLLW described Very Low Level Waste, which was just above out of scope. TRS was the Treated Waste Store and LLWR was the Low Level Waste Repository.

Question 3: Sandra Ellis asked if anyone knew in which direction the lorry movements in November and December would be travelling.

Rob Gentry said that he would check and let Mrs Ellis know. He hoped that agreement could be reached with DIP for heavy goods vehicles to access via their site.

3. Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Report – Andrew Davies

Andrew Davies said that the NDA remained satisfied that the site was being operated safely and that environmental and safety performances were as expected. The NDA Monthly Update for November 2018 had been issued and would be available on-line at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/nuclear-decommissioning-authority>

The NDA business plan had been published and was available on the website above. The report highlighted activities for the next three years, details of funding and principal activities. The NDA Annual Report and Accounts had been published in July.

The Public Accounts Committee report had been issued in May. The NDA had been criticised for their commercial approach to the competition bid won by CFP, and this had led to termination of the contract at 31 August 2019, as announced in 2017. The Holiday inquiry had looked into NDA's failures leading up to procurement and an interim report had been published in March; however the final report was still awaited and stakeholders would be sent a link to the report once it was issued. Andrew Davies explained that termination of the contract had been due to failure in the procurement process, which had been legally challenged by others, and was not due to CFP's performance.

The NDA would form a subsidiary company for Magnox from 1 September 2019 when the CFP/NDA partnership would be replaced with a new management team. A preferred candidate for the MD post had been identified and it was hoped to release the name before Christmas and the successful candidate be in post by March 2019. Winfrith had achieved many 'firsts' in recent months. Dragon was the first nuclear site to use a laser snake, and the technology had now been adopted at Sellafield and Dounreay. Winfrith was the first site to obtain an asbestos ancillary licence thanks to a lot of hard work and this would allow for asbestos and radiological workers to operate in the same areas.

The final Magnox reactor at Wylfa was now approx. 12 months away from the end of defueling. Sellafield's THORP would reach the end of its life in November 2018 and was the only one of its type in Europe. This handled huge amounts of reprocessing and had earned more than £9 billion over its life. The Bradwell site would go to Care and Maintenance in November 2018, an interim state where the site would be closed down and secured, and once radioactivity levels had reduced (approx. 40 – 60 years) it would be decommissioned.

A presentation on the laser snake had been given at the Berkeley SSG and Mrs Ellis said that this had been made possible from R&D funding for innovation projects available from the NDA. She was pleased to see knowledge sharing across the Magnox estate.

4. Regulators

(a) ONR – Paul Jenneson

Copies of the latest quarterly report had been made available. Paul Jenneson could not attend the meeting due to illness; but would be happy to answer any questions by email.

Environment Agency – Rebecca Cleverley

The EA report for November 2018 had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Rebecca Cleverley, lead EA regulator for Harwell, explained that there had been a number of site inspections since the last SSG, including a joint EA/ONR inspection on management of radioactive waste by Adam Davies and Alex Lord (EA) and Paul Jenneson (ONR).

Adam Davis had made an inspection of environmental monitoring work, looking at land quality management and ground water monitoring as part of end state restoration. Some good practices and recommendations were highlighted. A low activity inspection on joint management arrangements for Harwell and Winfrith had taken place at Winfrith in October. This had identified good practice around environment processes, and they were particularly pleased to see waste team members getting involved with projects from the onset.

Tradebe's EA's Inspector, Tim Fediw, had undertaken an inspection to review waste handling and processing, and a joint EA/ONR inspection of radioactive waste management had taken place. No compliance issues were identified during the inspection; some observations and recommendations were made. The EA continued to have discussions with Tradebe and Magnox to discuss permits, and the EA had received a joint permit transfer application from Magnox/TI to transfer land from the Magnox permit to Tradebe.

Winfrith would be a key pilot site for the new GRR decommissioning regulations. The EA would work with Winfrith to ensure development of the appropriate materials plan to manage decommissioning waste from demolished buildings on site. Guidance had been published on the SEPA website and a link to this could be found at the bottom of Adam Davis' report.

Rebecca Cleverley said that the EA had welcomed the work by Magnox on spreadsheet errors and re-iterated that there had been no environmental impact caused by that.

Site discharges were well below permitted limits and the new radiological and food report would soon be published. Discharges and exposures to individuals remained very low and the EA would continue to work with the site to ensure that it remained compliant.

Question 4: Sandra Ellis asked why radioactivity levels had risen around Tradebe.

Rebecca Cleverley explained that this had been due to a slight increase in dose rates at the perimeter fence near Tradebe, which had been mentioned earlier.

Question 5: Sandra Ellis asked whether there was still tritium on site.

Rebecca Cleverley confirmed that there was some tritium in the SGHWR and Dragon reactors and Will Matheson confirmed that this was controlled and within associated limits.

5. Dragon Reactor – Andy Philps

Andy Philps, Dragon Senior Project Manager, explained that Dragon currently used a reactor core segmentation machine (RCSM) for cutting and packing material for disposal. It was a new piece of equipment to be used for dismantling the reactor core and would ultimately be installed in an enclosed cell in the top of the reactor core vessel and would extend down into the reactor core on a telescopic mast. It would dismantle material from the top downwards and this would be packed in suitable containers for disposal. This would be done remotely from a cabin outside of the building to avoid very high gamma dose rates. Material from the core would be classed as Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) and would be packed into shielded concrete boxes and transported to the Harwell store. Very Low Level (VLLW) or Low Level Wastes (LLW) could go through the LLW waste route to Drigg in Cumbria.

A similar machine had been used in Germany, but the machine at Dragon had unique aspects. It had been designed and manufactured in Germany and delivered to Winfrith in the summer. It had been installed in A544 for use on the core mock up, a full scale model of a reactor pressure vessel and used to practice cutting and removal of items. Staff had been trained on the RCSM and had carried out trials using the various accessories. The laser snake used in the past also had a number of advantages as it could cut through metals up to 3" thick and the laser on the end of the snake could cut an 8 inch hole through 3m of shield in less than 3 hours. This had been tested in various lab conditions.

Question 6: Sandra Ellis asked whether the laser snake used at Dragon was the only one of its type in the world and whether videos would be available showing its use?

Andy Philps confirmed that it was the only one in the world and that videos of the Dragon laser snake could be found on You Tube.

Update on End State Project – Kevin Kostelnik

Kevin Kostelnik, Site Restoration Programme Manager for Magnox Site End State and Land Quality, explained that good progress had been made at Winfrith. The preferred option for Winfrith end state remained heathland with public access, which was consistent with the SSG's wishes. Winfrith would be the first NDA endorsed Magnox site end state and, once achieved, regulation of the site would move from ONR to EA. GRR guidance issued in July supported this and encouraged sites to use rubble from decommissioning to fill in voids in basements of those buildings. This would mean less exposure to workers, efficient waste management, and environmental and cost advantages due to few lorry movements. A large amount of work would be needed for the next phase of design and assessment.

The EIA for the end state would exclude the pipeline, which would be looked at separately and in more detail. Site representatives met with landowners on 29 October to obtain their input on the credible options for the pipeline and would meet with stakeholders on 14 November. A preferred option would be agreed for submission to the NDA. Once agreed the site would progress through local planning processes, and stakeholders and landowners would be kept informed. Magnox hoped to refine the overall end state for the site in 2019 and it was hoped to submit the application to the EA for permit variation and planning application for the site and pipeline in Spring 2020.

6 Tradebe – Andy Anderson and Mike Twissell

A licence application had been submitted to Parliament; a decision was not expected before April 2019. Environmental permits to transfer active effluent to Fawley had been received and shipments would start in November. DIP had agreed that HGVs could access TI through the DIP site and TI hoped to purchase land from DIP to enable lorries to park there.

Question 7: Richard Wilson asked if the amount of waste coming/going from the TI site would increase, due to increased readings found at the site boundary.

Andy Anderson said that TI was currently constructing a large shielded area for storage of waste and supercompactor drums. Meanwhile waste was being safely stored in another engineered area and tritium levels had vastly reduced so this should no longer be a problem.

Question 8: Cherry Brooks asked if the use of the railway siding to transport waste was still an option.

Andy Anderson said that TI would like to do this and they hoped to do a trial in the next year.

Question 9: Sandra Ellis asked if Brexit would affect TI's business.

Andy Anderson said that he had spoken to their Spanish owner who had thought that it should not affect them, especially as one third of the company was based in the UK.

Question 10: Sandra Ellis asked if all waste dealt with by TI came from the UK.

Andy Anderson said that approx. 99% of it was from the UK.

Question 11: Mrs Ellis asked if TI had thought about producing a flyer for the local community as a means of encouraging interest in their work.

Andy Anderson said that TI would welcome improving community engagement and this could be an option. Information was also available from its website: www.inutec.co.uk

8. Any Other Business

Dates for meetings in 2019 would be arranged in due course.

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15 November 2018