



## HARWELL CHILTON CAMPUS LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

Minutes of the 94th meeting held at the Jupiter Room, Catapult Satellite Applications, Electron Building, Fermi Avenue, Harwell on Thursday 25 April 2019

### ATTENDEES:

<b>Chairman</b>	Chris Broad, Chilton Parish Council
<b>Secretary</b>	Emma Burwood, Magnox
<b>Minutes</b>	Alison Pugh, Magnox
Mr Paul Atyeo	Magnox
Cllr Paul Bryant	Speen
Ms Rebecca Cleverley	Environment Agency
Mr Stuart Clark	Magnox
Cllr Jennie Corrigan	Sutton Courtenay Parish Council
Ms Vanessa Cox	Magnox
Mr Andrew Davies	NDA
Cllr Stephen Druce	Chilton Parish Council
Cllr Terry Fraser	Grove Parish Council
Mr Bill Hanks	Member of the public
Ms Mary Beth Harris	South Oxfordshire Value of White Horse
Mr Robin Hewat-Jaboor	Magnox
Dr Paul Jenneson	ONR
Ms Laura Male	Diamond
Mr Paul Mann	OCC
Mr Steven Moss	UKAEA
Mrs Julie Pearce	Oxfordshire Federation of Woman's Institutes
Mr Gary Reid	Magnox
Ms Emma Southwell-Sander	Science and Technology Facilities Council
Dr John Sharp	SSG Deputy Chairman
Ms Laura Street	Magnox
Mr Dik Third	Prospect, Magnox
Dr Derek Whitmell	Upton Parish Council
Dr Christine Williamson	MRC, Harwell
Dr John Wilkins	Member of the public

### 1. Chairman's Remarks – Chris Broad

- The Chair and Deputy attended a site update meeting with Rob Gentry, earlier in the year. Progress had been satisfactory, but an issue had arisen over Novopak containers, the Harwell Interim Box Store (HIBS) had run late but a final snagging list would be compiled.
- A further update was received in late March, informing of specific deferrals at Harwell, these included the BEPO scheme design contract, B220 characterisation and B462 Post Operational Tool development.

- The NDA meeting of SSG Chairs was held in London on 9 April, attended by the Chair and Deputy Chair. An update was given on key issues at each site. A presentation was given on the Socio-Economic fund for neighbourhood project funding ([www.magnoxsocioeconomic.com](http://www.magnoxsocioeconomic.com)).
- There had been a changed the approach to finding a site for the GDF; more policy had been published but there appeared to be little change since the RWP presentation at an earlier SSG. This was a nationally vital issue, and essential to the nuclear industry.
- David Peattie (CEO, NDA) had given SSG Chairs an update on the Holiday Report and commented that timing of the 1 September transition would be tight.
- A Stakeholder Summit would be held in Anglesey on 9 and 10 July.

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Rob Gentry, Susan Adams, Peter Day, Carol Mackay, Will Matheson, Liz Morris, Duncan Rogers, Charlotte Simms, Reg Waite, Dee Waite, Caron Weaver, Claire Williams and Sue Wilthew.

### **2. Minutes of 93rd meeting**

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record

### **3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **4. Magnox Harwell Licensed Site Matters**

#### **Harwell and Winfrith Closure Director's Site Report – Laura Street**

The main points were as follows:

#### **Safety and Environment**

There had been a number of events since the last meeting.

- A late submission of data had gone to the EA as part of the permit; data had been correct but the issue had been that it was late.
- There had been a compliance issue regarding the registration element of IRR17 regulations and the Security X-Ray scanner.
- A number of F-gas items had been found on site; although these had been adequately maintained and managed, they had not been identified as part of the regulations in the management system.
- An environmental monitoring spreadsheet had not been controlled properly and separate copies had been made, which meant that some results had not been included in calculations. Other spreadsheets had been checked to ensure that there would be no repeat of the issue.
- The TRIR rate for the site stood at zero and the site intended to keep it that way.
- Recent Target Zero topics included complacency, working at height, wellbeing and asbestos.
- Vanessa Cox had been appointed as Environmental Manager and had received a comprehensive handover from the previous post holder. Annual engagement sessions would continue with the EA to discuss concerns and ensure regulations were up to date.
- Environmental monitoring of liquid and gaseous discharges were all well within the required limits.

## Programme Update

- **LETP** – over 28,000 bags of waste had been generated and shipped from the site. The project was scheduled for completion around 2020.
- **HIBS** – Final stages of decommissioning and snagging continued and this mainly entailed final stages of paperwork to hand over to B462, who would be operating it in future.

### 462 Can Retrievals

- There were now less than 238 tubes to be processed.
- The start of RM1 had been delayed due to lack of resource, but processing of cans had continued through the Head End Cell.

### 462 Waste Encapsulation Plant (WEP)

- WEP Inactive Commissioning had been completed and licence instruments received for the active decommissioning.
- Work continued on the Offsite Discharge Pipeline and Magnox Harwell continued to work with the community to ensure all affected were kept up to date. It was hoped to complete the final stages of the work in the summer, and care would be taken to avoid damage to wildlife and trees.
- The B220 Lab Facility had not been progressed in line with the original plan due to prioritisation of safety work in other areas and funding limits.
- The site had made significant progress on the huge quantity of legacy waste remaining on site and it hoped to continue reducing that waste during the next year.

### Future Programme for Harwell

- Work continued on 462 waste retrievals.
- It was hoped to complete the ILW store and continue with active commissioning of the WEP plant.
- Continue the land remediation work at the LETP.
- Work would continue on the B220 decommissioning plan.
- The appointment of the new Harwell and Winfrith Closure Director had not yet been announced. There would be a detailed handover between Rob Gentry and the incoming Closure Director.  
*(Secretary's note: Dr Andrew Munro was appointed to the role on 20 May.)*
- Assurance had been given that if Interserve (Magnox FM provider) were to be placed into administration there would be no impact on service delivery or payment to suppliers.

### Questions

Q1: What percentage of the 555 containers of waste was found to be radioactive?

A1: 25% of the waste was radioactive when removed. Radioactive isotopes would be looked at and a decision made on how to tackle, decommission and segregate the waste.

Q2: Is there a designated radius of the site for applications for neighbourhood funding projects?

A2: This would usually be within a 10 mile radius of the site.

Q3: What will the NDA funding be for this year compared to previous years?

A3: Andrew Davies said that funding for Harwell and Winfrith would be approximately £70M.

Q4: Has there been any discussion about additional funding to clear areas for Campus development.

A4: This was still under discussion.

Q5: Will Icknield Way be restored to its original state?

A5: The schedule could change; LETP physical works should be finished by 2020 but this will be followed by reinstatement and delicensing. It is hoped to reopen by late 2020.

Q6: How is the site doing with volumes of waste in relation to the published European directive?

A6: It varies by area; data will be reviewed as we go along and the relevant inventories and Atom database would be updated. Waste at LETP had been higher than expected.

Q7: Will you be going under Appleford Road for work on the offsite pipeline?

A7: We have had discussions with the local authority and local residents about this but a final decision on whether we close the road has not yet been made.

Q8: Are you using beta as well as gamma for analysis on the site?

A8: Areas would be split into sections based on usage and composition; blocks had been checked for beta.

## REPORTS

### Office for Nuclear Regulation – Paul Jenneson

The latest report had been circulated to members. Highlights included:

- ONR and Magnox had worked closely together on the waste encapsulation plant, which had been in active commissioning for 12 years before entering into the next stage of commissioning.
- There had been some international regulatory interest in LETP and a lot of praise had been given for the way the project had been managed.
- There had been issues around Novopaks as packages that did not conform to the approved design could not be used on the road. Magnox and ONR had worked with LLWR to improve site and consignment arrangements, with a marked improvement in safety performance and compliance.
- ONR would oversee NDA transition arrangements. To date they had been content with Management of Change (MOC) submissions and would ensure that the nuclear baseline would be populated with the right people.

### Question

Q1: In relation to international regulatory interest, would there be any likely commercial opportunities arising from technology developed at Harwell?

A1: There could be a business opportunity but the ONR was more interested in internal learning, which could be shared across the NDA estate. Business opportunities would come under NDA Intellectual Property rights.

### NDA Report – Andrew Davies

The NDA was satisfied with performance and safety on the Harwell site. NDA updates for March and April had been circulated to members. Highlights included:

- LETP had been a strategic land remediation project in the UK; this had been challenging at times, but had progressed very well.
- A milestone had been achieved 1000 Concrete lined drums had been transferred off site for storage at Sellafield. The Waste Encapsulation Plant would go into active commissioning. The planning application had been submitted and approved in a short time, thanks to the amount of teamwork going into this.

- The NDA Business plan covering a three year period and showing primary activities being done at 17 nuclear NDA sites was available on the NDA's website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/nuclear-decommissioning-authority> The annual report and accounts would be published in July and would also be available on the website.
- Gwen Parry-Jones had been appointed as the new Magnox Chief Executive. She had been an Operations Director for Horizon and had a lot of experience of the nuclear industry. The transition was running late but the NDA hoped to get people in place for handovers.
- A Judicial Review of The Holliday enquiry would be held in the High Court on 4 and 5 June.
- Results of the spending review for the next 4 to 5 years would be announced in July/August.
- There had been confusion over deferrals but should extra funding become available from Sellafield or DRSL then Magnox would be offered the opportunity to apply for that. Some programmes had been slowed down or would not start until there was more certainty over funding.

### **Environment Agency – Rebecca Cleverley**

The EA report had been issued before the meeting. Highlights included:

- Radioactive waste disposal would be regulated through environmental permits and EA requirements would be made more consistent with other Magnox sites. Variations to include Radioactive Substances and GRRS could be made and the Harwell environmental application would be back on track next month.
- Vanessa Cox had been appointed as Environmental Manager and had received a comprehensive handover from the previous post holder. She would meet regularly with the EA.
- An inspection of environmental resource had been held in March, following a previous inspection in January 2018. More environmental resource had been brought into the team and a matrix of providers for radioactive substance advice had also been established.
- The EA was working on inspection of gaseous waste arrangements at Harwell and Winfrith.
- An environmental inspection had been made where the off- site discharge pipeline had been stored. The EA was confident that it was stored in a secure, dry and well aired location.
- There had been no enforcements since the last SSG and all actions had been closed out.
- Monthly gas legacy discharges were well below site permit limits.
- Transition arrangements would be covered in notification requirements in the permit, and sites would have to notify of any changes which might have an effect on the permits.
- The EA continued to raise the importance of getting involved in site projects at an early stage.
- The nuclear waste assessment team from Penrith would carry out a planned inspection with Paul Atyeo and ONR. Inspections would continue at LETP to ensure compliance with permit and the EA would continue to look at arrangements for on-site pipeline removal and cases for in situ disposal.
- Under the new permit there should be good opportunities to use the site wide environmental case and management plan to enable land remediation to ensure it can be used by the Campus.

### **Questions**

Q1: Will the EA be checking that nothing has been left on site once the pipeline has been removed?

A1: Magnox take soil samples and get them checked. The site would then submit a report to the Agency for removal of the permit. Activity levels in the pipeline had been very low and barely radioactive in some parts.

Q2: Are samples still being taken and monitored?

A2: Yes – they are being taken and monitored.

Q3: Are the reports published?

A3: We used to bring the annual report to this meeting until interest dropped off, but we could produce something. There are areas of contamination and areas of pollution that will be cleaned up, but the pipe would have to flush itself out and this could continue for many decades.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Nuclear Materials Transfer Project – Gary Reid**

- The project started in 2013 and was scheduled to finish in 2023. Sites holding nuclear material containing uranium and plutonium needed enhanced security and accounting arrangements with heavily armed patrol officers. Therefore it had been decided to ship the waste from Harwell to reduce the costs. This would also mean that land where waste had been stored could be delicensed. Winfrith had already done this, which had resulted in huge savings and Sellafield was a more appropriate location for waste.
- From an NDA perspective it made sense to have waste in one area and so a planning requirement of the HIBS store had been that it would take waste from Winfrith and Culham once 70% of Harwell waste had been moved off site. It was hoped to reach this in approx a year.
- One challenge for shipping the waste is that it has to go on the public highways so a specialist steel package that could take approx. 25 drums would be needed. **Questions**

Q1: Have any of these packages been involved in a road traffic collision whilst on the move?

A1: No.

Q2: What would be the contingency arrangements should there be an accident.

A2: Radsafe would be called in. They acted as a very quick and capable first response and would talk to the site to determine what was in the package.

## **CAMPUS MATTERS**

### **Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) – Joe Kelleher**

Joe Kelleher gave an update on recent progress and future plans for the STFC. A new visitor centre would soon be built on the site.

### **Diamond Light Source - Laura Male**

Laura Male spoke about the work being done at the Diamond Light Source facility. She advised that Diamond regularly held open days for the community and local schools. Admission would be via a ballot system as the Open Days were very over-subscribed.

### **Questions**

Q1: Did teachers themselves film the video we have just seen?

A1: No, but there are lots of resources available from the website with contact information for public engagement from schools and universities.

### **The EnergyTec Cluster: Multidisciplinary Innovation at Harwell – Emma Southwell-Sander**

Emma Southwell-Sander explained that the Cluster worked with the Science Council under the Joint Venture Council. Her role was to pull in knowledge from companies across the Campus and it was

hoped to develop new technologies to meet national and global energy challenges. It was also hoped to strengthen links with universities and a number of VIP visitors had raised the profile of the Campus.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nothing to report.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Wednesday 11 September 2019

Thursday 5 December 2019

**Chairman** Chris Broad

**Secretary** Emma Burwood

**Minutes** Alison Pugh

23 May 2019