

**BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE  
SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 30 JANUARY 2019**

- Mr John Stanton welcomed members to the meeting. Members paid their respects to the memory of Cllr Mrs Penny Wride, Chair of the Group since its inception, who had died in December.
- Mr Jim Payne, Site Infrastructure Manager, reported on recent activities at the Site. He said that high standards of safety and environmental performance had been maintained. He reported on a multi-agency exercise which had been organised on the Site by the emergency services to test their responses in the event of a terrorist event. The Site had provided very suitable facilities for the exercise which had provided valuable learning for all involved.
- Mr Payne reported on progress with the retrieval and processing of wastes from the waste vaults. Over 160 tonnes of waste had been removed from Vault 2, retrieval of wastes from Vault 1 had started and equipment was being installed for the retrieval of waste from Vault 3. Some 2.5 tonnes of waste had been retrieved from the shielded area in the former laboratories on the Site.
- 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.
- Mr Jonathan Jenkin presented a report on behalf of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, providing an update on issues of current interest.

## **BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE**

### **SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

#### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE BERKELEY ARMS, BERKELEY ON WEDNESDAY 30 JANUARY 2019**

##### **PRESENT:**

Mr J Stanton (Chair)	-	Co-opted member
Mr S Andrews	-	Staff Representative
Cllr S Chandler	-	Hamfallow Parish Council
Cllr J Cordwell	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr C Davies	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr Ms L Green	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr B Tipper	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Mr K Warren	-	Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board

##### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr J Jenkin	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr M Lynden	-	Oldbury on Severn SSG Chairman
Mr P Reynolds	-	Environment Agency
Mr J Payne	-	Infrastructure Manager, Berkeley Site
Mrs E Vaughan Lewis	-	Magnox Communications
Mr P Barrett		
Mrs E Ashton		
Mr G Vaughan Lewis		
Mr G Wheeler		
Mr T Hellen		
Mrs J Hellen		
Mr J French		
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

##### **INTRODUCTION**

- 1 Mr Stanton welcomed all those present to this meeting of the Berkeley Nuclear Licensed Site Stakeholder Group. He referred to the recent passing of Cllr Mrs Penny Wride and paid tribute to her contribution to the work of this Group and the respect which she commanded from everyone involved. Members stood in silence in her memory.

##### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Heaton Mr D Drew MP, Cllr Mrs H Molyneux, Cllr G Craig, Mr N Shaw and Ms B French.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

### **(a) Accuracy**

- 3 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 1 August 2018 were approved as an accurate record.

### **(b) Matters arising**

#### **Errors in waste consignment spreadsheet (paras 16/17 refer)**

- 4 Cllr Chandler emphasised that his comment expressing regret that there was no representative of the Environment Agency present at the meeting had been made solely in the context of the errors in a waste consignment spreadsheet which the Site had reported to the Agency.

#### **Holliday Inquiry (para 18(ii) refers)**

- 5 Mrs Ashton asked whether the report of the Holliday Inquiry into the NDA's award of the Magnox decommissioning contract and its subsequent termination had yet been published. Mr Jenkins pointed out that a judicial review was currently being undertaken to examine issues relating to the way the inquiry was conducted. The judicial review was being undertaken at the instigation of former senior NDA personnel.

#### **Information on concrete box storage system (para 11 refers)**

- 6 Mr Stanton hoped that it would be possible to receive the proposed presentation of information on the concrete box storage system at the next meeting.

#### **Implications of leaving the Euratom treaty (para 8 refers)**

- 7 Mr French asked whether the implications of leaving the Euratom treaty were now clear and whether this would be affected by Brexit arrangements. Mr Jenkin understood that appropriate measures were in place in the short term and that a different relationship with Euratom might be achieved in the longer term. He said that the NDA and site licence companies were making contingency plans to deal with matters which might arise in the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

- 8 Mr Stanton invited members of the public to raise any issues which might not arise in discussion later in the meeting.
- 9 Mr Barrett provided an update on progress at the South Gloucestershire and Stroud College on the Berkeley site. He acknowledged the enormous contribution made by Penny Wride in securing the development of the college on the site. He said that there were now some 350 students on the site and that the college would be operating at its full capacity within 12/18 months.

- 10 Mr Barrett referred also to progress with regeneration of parts of the site as a technology park. A good number of existing tenants were expanding their activities rapidly and other new tenancies were shortly to be announced.

#### **BERKELEY SITE CLOSURE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

- 11 Mr Payne presented a report on current activities at the Berkeley Site, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Good standards of safety performance had been maintained. A multi-agency exercise on the Site had allowed emergency services to test their responses to a terrorist event.
  - (ii) Over 160 tonnes of fuel element debris had been removed from Vault 2 and packaged for interim storage on-site. Retrieval of ion exchange resins and other wastes from Vault 1 had commenced.
  - (iii) Equipment for the retrieval of waste from Vault 3 was being installed. Further modular units of this equipment had still to be delivered to the Site; efforts would be made to minimise the impact of these deliveries on the local community.
  - (iv) Two DCIC containers of waste had been removed from the shielded area in the former laboratories. Due to the nature of the work undertaken previously in this area there was a wide range of different wastes. It was sorted in order to separate any items which were able to be classified as low-level waste. This work was scheduled to be completed later this year.
  - (v) It was anticipated that, subject to receipt of the necessary consents, it would be possible to start using concrete boxes for loading wastes early in 2020. A number of DCIC containers would be kept for the storage of more highly radioactive wastes as these containers provided more shielding.
  - (vi) Mr Payne reminded members that the deadline for submission of applications for socio-economic support for local causes was 15 February.
- 12 Mr Andrews said that he had been on the Site on the day of the multi-agency security exercise and had been very impressed by the professional responses of the emergency service personnel. Mr Lynden understood from discussions at an EPCC meeting that the exercise had provided very valuable learning for the emergency teams and that the facilities on the Site had been very suitable for their purposes.
- 13 In reply to a question from Cllr Tipper, Mr Payne said it was planned that the concrete encapsulation plant would be demolished in 2026.

- 14 In reply to questions from Mr French, Mr Payne explained that the intermediate level waste packages would be stored in the Interim Storage Facility on Site until a geological disposal facility was available. The interim store was designed to last at least 100 years. Decay of radioactivity during storage on site would further reduce radiation dose rates from these packages.
- 15 Mr Lynden drew attention to the company's socio economic support given to an Envision project designed to help children at local schools. He said that the results of the project had been very impressive.

#### **UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION**

- 16 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 had been unable to be present at the meeting. No questions were raised by members on the report which had been circulated.

#### **UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

- 15 Mr Reynolds presented a report on the Environment Agency's regulatory activities relating to the Berkeley site, copies of which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Mr Reynolds drew attention to an inspection of the Site's arrangements for the characterisation of wastes which had been undertaken successfully in October. He said that all discharges of radioactivity had been within permitted levels during the period.
- 16 Mr Chandler drew attention to the anticipated requirement for an increase in permitted levels of gaseous tritium discharges and the scale of the increase which was proposed. Mr Reynolds said that the increase would be required as a result of operation of the waste encapsulation plant. He said that even with the scale of the increase which had been proposed, the permitted level of gaseous tritium discharges would still be very low – only two other Sites had levels which were lower than the proposed level. He said that the assessed potential maximum exposure to members of the public from this increased discharge was very low compared with the statutory dose constraint. This assessment was based upon conservative assumptions. He undertook to provide Mr Chandler with information on the potential dose assessment.

#### **UPDATE FROM NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY**

- 17 Mr Jenkin provided an update on issues of current interest, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Following publication of the government's policy, Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) had commenced the process of identifying a site for a geological disposal facility. The process continued to be based upon a volunteer approach. Stakeholder events would be taking place around the country; one of these was to be held at Cheltenham on 26 February.

- (ii) Bradwell had become the first of the former Magnox power station sites to enter into care and maintenance. Some minor demolition and landscaping work remained to be completed on the site.
- (iii) The NDA had appointed Mr Lawrie Haynes as designate Chairman of Magnox Ltd which would become a subsidiary of the NDA on 1 September 2019. Mr Bill Hamilton was to become Communications Director of Magnox Ltd.
- (iv) NDA had published its latest draft business plan for public consultation.
- (v) A workshop meeting with representatives of SSGs, local government and other organisations had been held in November to review possible strategies for decommissioning of the Magnox sites. The meeting had helped to identify issues which stakeholders considered most important. Options discussed had included the possibility of continuous decommissioning, proceeding to final site clearance without a care and maintenance period. Issues raised at the workshop would be taken into account in considering a possible business case for continuous decommissioning. This would require approval by the NDA Board and government.

18 In response to a question from Cllr Davies, Mr Jenkin said that arrangements had been made for any necessary support at Bradwell during the care and maintenance period to be provided from Sizewell A.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE**

19 Mr Stanton reported on his recent activities on behalf of this Group. He referred to his attendance at the workshop session on decommissioning strategy. He said that issues identified at the meeting included the rate of deterioration of assets; the loss of skills; reduced radiation dose rates following a period of delay; potential increased difficulty in handling asbestos after a delay; progress with remote handling techniques and potential future use of sites. There had been workshop discussions on environmental protection; socio-economic impact; lifetime costs; resources and logistics. In due course these issues would be considered on a site by site basis.

20 Mr Wheeler asked whether the decommissioning of WAGR and SGHWR had provided valuable experience. Mr Jenkin commented that many remote handling techniques had been developed at those sites. Mr Payne said the opportunities were being taken to learn from experience at Winfrith. Mr Vaughan Lewis commented that the Magnox commercial reactors were on a much larger scale and dismantlement of these reactors would produce large volumes of waste.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

21 Mr Barrett suggested that the group might benefit from an understanding of the views of younger people. He suggested that younger people might be invited to attend meetings as guests.

## **DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 22 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, 24 April 2019 at the Oldbury Conference Centre.

MJD

1 February 2019