

**BERKELEY AND OLDBURY ON SEVERN SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2019**

- Chairman Mr Malcolm Lynden welcomed members to the meeting.
- Mr Mike Heaton reported on recent activities at the Oldbury and Berkeley Sites. He referred to the continued high standards of safety, environmental and security performance at both Sites. He pointed out that following receipt of the necessary approvals, arrangements had been introduced for there to be no operational staff on site at Oldbury outside normal day working hours.
- Mr Heaton said that the draining of water from the former cooling ponds at Oldbury had been completed and equipment which had been used in the pond for the handling of irradiated fuel was being prepared for disposal. He said that four packages of intermediate level waste had been sent in "Mosaik" containers to Berkeley for interim storage.
- Mr Heaton said that following the transfer of retrieval equipment from Vault 2 at Berkeley, quantities of waste had been retrieved from Vault 1. He said that construction of the waste encapsulation plant at Berkeley was due for completion by the end of the year.
- Mr Heaton said that with priority being given to the funding of projects dealing with the removal of higher-level hazards, work on some projects at Oldbury was being delayed. The current focus of work in the former cooling ponds would continue.
- Reports were received from the local site inspectors of the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency. No significant issues had arisen from their inspection activities.
- Mr John McNamara presented a report on behalf of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. He said that good progress was being made with the appointment of senior personnel to posts within Magnox Ltd which would become a wholly-owned subsidiary of the NDA in September.
- Mr Guy Hutchinson gave a presentation on the contingency plans in place at the Berkeley and Oldbury sites for dealing with any incident which might occur.
- Mr Ian Warner outlined consideration being given to the optimised end state for each of the former Magnox power station sites and the arrangements for dealing with the residual wastes on sites at that time.

**BERKELEY AND OLDBURY ON SEVERN SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE OLDBURY CONFERENCE
CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2019**

PRESENT:

Mr M Lynden (in the chair)	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Mr S Andrews	-	Staff Representative
Cllr Ms C Collinson	-	Aust Parish Council
Cllr C Davies	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr D Dovey	-	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr Ms L Green	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr Ms J Lyons	-	Olveston Parish Council
Cllr Mrs H Molyneux	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr M Riddle	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr B Roberts	-	Thornbury Chamber of Commerce
Mr J Stanton	-	Berkeley SSG
Cllr K Sullivan	-	Oldbury on Severn 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 J McNamara	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr N Shaw	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr A Davis	-	Environment Agency
Ms S Gallagher	-	Environment Agency
Ms G Ellis-King	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr M Heaton	-	Oldbury and Berkeley Sites Closure Director
Mrs E Vaughan Lewis	-	Magnox Communications
Mr G Hutchinson	-	Magnox, Berkeley
Mr I Warner	-	Magnox
Ms J Young	-	Magnox
Ms O Gordon	-	Magnox
Mr A Murdoch	-	Magnox
Mr A Khuttan	-	Magnox
Ms S Stagg	-	James Reed PR for Horizon Nuclear Power
Mrs E Ashton		
Mr G Vaughan Lewis		
Mr J McHugh		
Mr T Hellen		
Ms J Hellen		
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- 1 Mr Lynden welcomed everyone to this joint meeting of the Berkeley and Oldbury on Severn Site Stakeholder Groups.

- 2 Mr Lynden reported that Dr L Hales had resigned from membership of the Oldbury Site Stakeholder Group. He proposed and members agreed unanimously that Mr J McHugh should be co-opted as a member of the Oldbury SSG, acting in the capacity of a technical adviser as Dr Hales had done.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 3 Apologies for absence were received from Mr David Drew MP, Dr R MacGregor, Cllr G Craig, Cllr Dr J Cordwell, Mr A Lord, Mr M Johnson, Mr W Gill, Mr A Slaney, Mr J Beckett, Mr P Barrett, Mr A Mitchell and Cllr Ms H Priestley.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) Accuracy

- 4 The minutes of the Berkeley/Oldbury SSGs joint meeting held on 31 October 2018 were approved as an accurate record.

(b) Matters arising

- 5 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meetings.

PUBLIC FORUM

- 6 Mr Lynden invited members of the public to raise any issues which might not arise in discussion later in the meeting. No issues were raised.

SITE CLOSURE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 7 Mr Heaton reported on recent activities at the Oldbury and Berkeley Sites, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Both Sites had maintained high standards of safety, environmental and security performance. There had been no significant events at either site.
 - (ii) Following receipt of the necessary approvals, Oldbury Site had changed to an arrangement with no operational staff on shift outside normal working hours.
 - (iii) The focus of decommissioning work at Oldbury was on work in the former cooling pond. The draining of water from the pond had been completed more quickly than at other sites due to the good environmental conditions which had been maintained in the pond throughout its operational life. Equipment which had been used for handling irradiated fuel in the pond was being cut up for disposal.
 - (iv) As had been anticipated, liquid discharges from the cooling pond to the River Severn via the authorised discharge route had reached the Quarterly Notification Level earlier in the year. The Environment

Agency had been advised of this in advance; Mr Davis pointed out that this did not represent a breach of the permitted discharge level.

- (v) Of the 10 “Mosaik” DCIC packages containing IONSIV components removed from the cooling ponds, four had been despatched to Berkeley for interim storage. The remaining six were being held awaiting the necessary transport licence. The number of packages to be sent to Berkeley for storage would be considerably fewer than the 73 originally envisaged.
- (vi) At Berkeley, following the transfer of retrieval equipment from Vault 2 to Vault 1, some 30 tonnes of waste had been retrieved from Vault 1. Some of the waste in Vault 1 was in containers which had degraded allowing the contents to leak. During retrieval operations in Vault 1 on five occasions sparks had been observed; this had apparently been caused by the mechanical action of the grab on metallic waste, possibly exacerbated by the effect of the waste from the containers. No such effects had been observed during operations in Vault 2 which did not contain any containerised waste. Investigations had demonstrated that the conditions were within the parameters of the safety case and that it was appropriate to continue these operations.
- (vii) Three containers had been filled with wastes retrieved from the shielded area in the former laboratories on the Berkeley Site. Retrieval equipment was being installed on Vault 3 and similar equipment would be installed on Vault 4 later in the year.
- (viii) Construction of the concrete waste encapsulation plant at Berkeley was due for completion by the end of the year. It was anticipated that the warming effect of the solidification of the grout within the concrete containers would cause the release of tritium from waste items. Discussions were taking place with the Environment Agency on the anticipated effect on tritium discharges.
- (ix) With the allocation of funding within the company being prioritised towards the elimination of high hazards and the completion of work at some sites, some projects at Oldbury were being delayed although the current focus on work in the cooling ponds would continue. All projects in hand at Berkeley were fully funded.
- (x) The transition from Cavendish Fluor Partnership to Magnox as a subsidiary of the NDA would have little impact on the Berkeley and Oldbury sites which had no CFP staff.

8 Mrs Vaughan Lewis reported on the grants given to local community organisations and projects under the socio-economic support scheme. She invited members to consider any activities in their local areas which might qualify for support. Details of the socio-economic scheme were available on the Magnox website.

- 9 In response to a question from Cllr Davies, Mr Heaton said that a small number of concrete boxes of the type intended for use at Berkeley had been manufactured off-site and simulated loading and grouting trials were in hand. He said that the regulatory approval process for the use of these containers had not yet been completed. Information to demonstrate the suitability of the packages as containers for ultimate disposal was shortly to be submitted to Radioactive Waste Management Ltd and it was anticipated that the approval of the use of this system would be secured by early 2020.
- 10 Mrs Ellis King asked whether delays in certain projects at Oldbury would affect the date for entry into care and maintenance. Mr Heaton said it was possible that the current planned date of 2027 might be extended. He said that once established, the new executive team within Magnox would examine lifetime plans for each Site.

NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 11 Mr McNamara, the newly appointed head of stakeholder relations for the NDA to replace Mr Bill Hamilton, reported on current issues, drawing attention to the following:
- (i) The transfer of highly enriched uranium from Dounreay to the United States had been completed. The material was to be used in the preparation of fuel for power plants and in the manufacture of isotopes for medical use.
 - (ii) Supply chain agreements had been concluded with major contractors for work at Sellafield and Dounreay.
 - (iii) Invitations had recently been sent to members to attend a regional NDA engagement event to be held in Bristol on 20 June. The event would include updates on current strategic issues and a presentation on the geological disposal programme.
 - (iv) Good progress was being made with filling posts within the new Magnox executive structure in advance of the transfer of responsibility from CFP in September.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION

- 12 Mr Shaw presented reports on ONR's regulatory activities in relation to the Oldbury and Berkeley Sites, copies of which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.
- 13 Mr Shaw said that ONR was seeking the views of stakeholders in the preparation of its strategy document for the period 2020 – 2025. He said that details were available on the website and comments should be submitted to contact@onr.gov.uk. Mr Lynden said that members could, if they wished, respond individually; he would consider with Mr Stanton whether a joint response should be made on behalf of both SSGs.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- 14 Mr Davis introduced Ms Sophie Gallagher who had recently been appointed as the Environment Agency site regulator for Berkeley. Reports on the Agency's regulatory activities in relation to the Berkeley and Oldbury Sites had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.
- 15 Mr Davis reported that gaseous and liquid discharges from both Sites were now very low compared with the authorised limits. Referring to the facts reported earlier relating to the quarterly notification level for liquid discharges from Oldbury being reached, he acknowledged that some hazard reduction work could lead to temporary increases in discharges. He referred also to the anticipated application from Berkeley for an increase in permitted tritium discharges relating to the operation of the concrete encapsulation plant. He explained that the Agency's response to the application would include consultation with the Berkeley SSG.
- 16 Mr Davis referred to the report on radioactivity in food and the environment published jointly with the Food Standards Agency and other environmental agencies. He said that the assessments of exposures resulting from monitoring of radioactivity in the environment in the vicinity of the Berkeley and Oldbury sites were very low; the assessed maximum potential exposure of members of the public represented less than 0.5 % of the statutory limit.
- 17 Mr Davis confirmed that regulators had been involved in discussions in relation to the transition from Cavendish Fluor Partnership to Magnox responsibility for management of the Magnox Sites.
- 18 On behalf of Environment Agency regulators associated with Berkeley site, Mr Davis paid tribute to the work and achievements of Penny Wride. He said that she had personally been associated with many of the decommissioning milestones passed at Berkeley and had been a very strong advocate for the local community with the most significant lasting legacy being the establishment of the college campus on the Berkeley Site.

EPCC UPDATE

- 19 Mr Lynden said that he and Mr Stanton had both attended a meeting of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee for the Berkeley and Oldbury Sites during the past week. He said that their attendance had been identified as a good practice which might be followed at EPCC meetings for other sites.
- 20 Mr Hutchinson described the nature of the contingency arrangements which were in place for dealing with any incident which might occur on either of the Sites. He explained that throughout the operational life of the power stations the focus of emergency plans had been on arrangements for dealing with significant radiological hazards. The current contingency arrangements reflected the reduction in hazards on the Sites and addressed the various potential events which could occur. Mr Hutchinson gave as examples current plans for rescuing

casualties who might be working in a confined space or at height and also plans for dealing with anaphylactic shock resulting from a wasp sting. He said that during decommissioning there were some areas on Sites, such as an asbestos containment area, where the Site personnel could not have access for dealing with a casualty and it was for the contractors working in that area to make their own contingency plan arrangements.

- 21 Mr Hutchinson referred to a multi-agency emergency exercise which had been held on the Berkeley Site during the past year. The Site had provided good facilities for testing responses to a terrorist attack and the exercise had proved to be a valuable learning opportunity for all parties.
- 22 Mr Lynden said that he had been impressed and reassured by his attendance at EPCC meetings. He felt that there were clearly good relationships between the Sites and the emergency services and it was reassuring to see the efforts made to ensure there were effective plans for dealing with any potential events.

END STATE UPDATE

- 23 Mr Warner described work in hand to consider the optimum end states for the former Magnox power station sites. He emphasised that this was concerned with the state of sites after decommissioning was complete and items identified as intermediate level radioactive waste had been removed from the sites. At that stage there might be large volumes of low-level waste remaining on sites in the form of concrete structures and redundant buildings. The volumes of residual waste on sites would be such that it would not be feasible to use the traditional route of disposal at the low-level waste repository. During recent years, progress had been made in establishing alternative routes for the disposal of low-level waste, with incineration of combustible materials, the smelting and recycling of metals and the disposal of certain wastes in landfill sites.
- 24 Mr Warner said that consideration had been given to the arrangements which might be required to allow Nuclear Site Licences to be withdrawn at the end of final site clearance, allowing some wastes to remain on sites and leaving the sites to be regulated in the same way as any other site. There had been consultation on such arrangements during the past year and guidance had been issued by the Environment Agency. The implementation of such arrangements would require amendment of the Nuclear Installations Act.
- 25 Mr Warner said that Magnox was in the process of producing for each Site an optimised waste management plan identifying how residual wastes might best be dealt with. These wastes were essentially large volume but low hazard wastes resulting from the demolition of redundant structures. These plans would be based upon the individual circumstances at each Site and would be required to demonstrate how regulatory requirements would be met. He said that work was starting on consideration of the circumstances at Berkeley and it was proposed that there would be a stakeholder event on this matter later in the year. Mr Lynden said that there would be an opportunity at the next meeting to consider the form which that stakeholder event might take.

- 26 In reply to a question from Mr Vaughan Lewis, Mr Walker said that options to leave wastes in situ might require the issue of permits and planning consents, both involving consultation with stakeholders.

CHAIR'S UPDATE

- 27 Mr Lynden reported on his and Mr Stanton's recent activities as chairmen of these Groups. He reiterated comments made earlier by Mrs Vaughan Lewis inviting members to consider any activities in their local areas which might qualify for support from the company's socio-economic scheme.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No Business

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 28 It was noted that the next meetings of these Groups were to be held on 31 July, the Oldbury meeting in the Oldbury Conference Centre commencing at 1:00pm and the Berkeley meeting at the Berkeley Arms commencing at 6:30pm. The next joint meeting of these Groups was scheduled for 30 October 2019.

MJD

28 May 2019