

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER 2018

- Mr Peter Montague, Hinkley Point A Site Closure Director reported on the continuing high standards of safety on the Site and on the good progress with decommissioning activities. The contractor was making good progress with the demolition of the former Turbine Hall, with special efforts to minimise dust arising during the work; dust levels were being monitored on the Site.
- Mr Montague said that eddy current separation techniques were being used to sort various components within fuel element debris. Some remote manual sorting was still necessary and efforts were being made to minimise this.
- Mr Montague reported on progress with the construction of an Interim Storage Facility for intermediate level radioactive waste. Commissioning of the completed facility was scheduled to commence in March 2019.
- Mr Montague said it remained the intention to transfer some wastes from other sites for storage in the facility at Hinkley Point. At the moment those wastes were safely stored at the “donor” sites. An application for planning consent covering the transfer of these wastes would be made in due course.
- Hinkley Point B Station Director, Mr Peter Evans, reported on continued safe and reliable operation of the plant. He said that following an external audit the station’s accreditation against international standards for quality, environment, occupational health and safety, and asset management had been confirmed. The company’s Training Standards Accreditation Board had also agreed to award continued accreditation in 20 of the station’s training programmes.
- An international team of nuclear experts working under the auspices of the World Association of Nuclear Operators had just completed a routine peer review at Hinkley Point B. They had identified the station’s fire and smoke training facility as an example of good practice to be shared with other sites.
- Mr Evans reported that both reactors had remained in continuous operation since the date of the previous meeting.
- Members received reports from Mr Bill Hamilton, representing the NDA and from inspectors representing the Environment Agency and the Office for Nuclear Regulation.
- Mr Brown, SSG Vice Chairman, reported on a visit which he and Cllr Caswell had made to Hunterston B for discussions regarding cracking within the reactor graphite cores.

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at Hill House, Otterhampton on Friday 26 October 2018

PRESENT

Cllr M Caswell (Chairman)	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Mr P Montague	-	Closure Director, Hinkley Point A
Mr P Evans	-	Station Director, Hinkley Point B

Elected Members

Cllr T Ayre	-	Holford Parish Council
Cllr H Davies	-	Somerset County Council
Mr A Debenham	-	Stop Hinkley
Cllr M Dewdney	-	West Somerset Council
Cllr Ms J Dillamore	-	Stogursey Parish Council
Cllr P Downing	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr Ms S Goss	-	West Somerset Council
Mr A Jeffery	-	Bridgwater and West Somerset Green Party
Mr J Mason	-	B Station Staff Representative
Cllr Ms R Perrett	-	Otterhampton Parish Council
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
Ms M Smith	-	Forum 21
Mr K Talintyre	-	Stockland Bristol Parish Meeting
Cllr M Walton	-	Kilve Parish Council
Cllr A Warner	-	Pawlett Parish Council

Co-opted Members

Mr M Brown (Vice Chairman)
Mr M Short

Appointed Members

Mr B Hamilton	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr D Prescott	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr D Knowles	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Dr P Mountford-Lister	-	Environment Agency
Mr R Davies	-	Somerset County Council
Mr H Rickard	-	Wessex Water
Mr J Burton	-	West Somerset Council

EDF Energy

Mr D Stokes	-	Communications
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Mr A Cockcroft - External Communications Manager
Mr D Uminski - Technical & Safety Support Manager

Magnox

Ms G Coombs
Ms J Callander

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr R Birkenhead
Mr B Brennan
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.
- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Dr B Nozad, Mr M Laver, Dr R MacGregor, Mr R Lee, Mr N Shaw, Cllr R Habgood, Insp T Howes, Cllr Ms B Maitland-Walker, Ms N Dawson, Mr G Alford, Cllr R Garner, Mr I Liddell-Granger MP and Cllr Ms A Bown.
- 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.
- 5 Mr Birkenhead asked whether it might be possible to preserve some of the control and display equipment from the former A Station control room, either in situ or in some other place. He felt that it would be appropriate to include this in visitors' tours of the B and C sites in future. Mr Montague said that to retain any parts of the existing control room in situ would require a change in the decommissioning plan and the overall decommissioning "three box" strategy. Ms Coombs said that the possibility of preserving some of the control room panels had been discussed previously with Bridgwater College. Mr Evans suggested that 3D modelling techniques used on B Station for training purposes could be adopted to create a virtual reality presentation of the control room. Cllr Caswell agreed that further consideration could be given to this possibility.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 JUNE 2018

(a) Accuracy

- 6 The minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2018 were approved as a correct record.

(b) Matters Arising (other than matters to be covered in later discussions)

Beach Clean-up (para7(i) refers)

- 7 It was noted that arrangements were being made for future beach clean-up sessions.

SSG Constitution (paras 26-28 refer)

- 8 Cllr Caswell said that it had been found necessary to give further consideration to the revised constitution of this Group. He would be convening another meeting of the sub group in order to produce a further draft for submission to members.

CLOSURE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A SITE

- 9 Mr Montague reported on activities at the A Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) It was now some 19 months since the most recent lost time accident on the Site. The current theme of the company's Target Zero safety campaign was workforce well-being and actions were in hand on site in support of this.
 - (ii) As a means of improving awareness of environmental impacts, plastic cups were no longer used on the Site and had been replaced by reusable ones.
 - (iii) Good progress was being made with demolition of the former Turbine Hall. Action was being taken by the demolition contractor to reduce dust emissions during demolition work; air sampling was being undertaken to monitor dust levels around the Site and all personnel were required to wear light eye protection.
 - (iv) Eddy current separation equipment had been installed on wet vaults to sort fuel element debris waste. Some manual sorting was still required to deal with highly radioactive springs which had become entangled in lower active Magnox material. Considerable efforts were being made to establish whether it was necessary to remove all of the more highly radioactive components or whether some could safely be packaged with the lower

active material. Actions were also in hand to find alternative means of identifying the more highly radioactive items in order to reduce the time spent in manual sorting.

- (v) Good progress was being made with construction of the Interim Storage Facility. Construction was approximately 80% complete and inactive commissioning of the completed facility was due to commence in April 2019.
 - (vi) It remained the intention in the future to transfer waste items from Oldbury, Dungeness A and Sizewell A for storage in the Interim Storage Facility at Hinkley Point. At the moment these items were being held safely at the other sites. An application for planning consent to cover the proposed transfer of these wastes would be submitted in due course and information would be provided for members and for the general public at that time.
 - (vii) Members were invited to apply for socio economic funding for suitable community projects and activities.
- 10 Cllr Caswell confirmed his intention to convene a special meeting of this Group when an application was submitted for planning consent for the proposed importation of waste from the other sites.
- 11 In response to a comment from Cllr Caswell on visits to the Site for new members of this Group, Mr Montague said that it was not practicable to organise visits to the A Site at the moment with the high level of contractors' work on site and the limited availability of car parking spaces.
- 12 In reply to a question from Cllr Ms Goss, Mr Montague outlined the actions taken on site to monitor air samples for the presence of dust and asbestos.
- 13 In reply to questions from Mr Debenham, Mr Montague said that the eddy current separation equipment was capable of removing some 80% of the highly radioactive components; some of the remainder could be removed relatively easily by manual sorting but a disproportionate amount of time was taken locating the last ones. Mr Montague said that it might be possible to leave some of the highly radioactive components to be packaged with the Magnox waste if this was acceptable to all parties and if it satisfied requirements for final disposal. He said that the radiation exposures to personnel involved in the manual sorting were lower than those previously experienced when the station was in operation.
- 14 Cllr Ms Dillamore congratulated the Site on its safety record but asked how many "near miss" accidents occurred and how many of these were investigated. Mr Montague said that near misses were reported in "loss control" forms and about 20 to 30 of these were raised each week. Staff and contractors personnel

were encouraged to report anything which might help to avoid a future accident. All of these reports were investigated, the extent of the investigation being dependent upon the potential severity of any accident which might arise.

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 15 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) EDF Energy and Doosan Babcock Ltd had been prosecuted following the incident reported earlier to members in which a contractor's employee had fallen through a skylight while working at Hinkley Point B. Both parties had pleaded guilty to the charges and the matter had been referred to the Crown Court for sentencing.
 - (ii) Following inspections by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance, the station's continued accreditation under the international standards for quality, environment, occupational health and safety, and asset management had been confirmed.
 - (iii) Investigations were being undertaken following an incident in which a small quantity of tritiated water had been spilled into a contained bund when maintenance work had been started on the wrong item of plant.
 - (iv) An international team of nuclear experts had just spent three weeks carrying out a routine peer review under the auspices of the World Association of Nuclear Operators.
 - (v) Both reactors had remained in continuous operation since the previous meeting of this Group.
 - (vi) The station had successfully demonstrated its emergency arrangements to the satisfaction of the Office for Nuclear Regulation.
 - (vii) There were currently 526 staff employed at the power station, 14 apprentices, 200 contractors employees and one industrial placement.
 - (viii) The station's fire and smoke training facility, described at the previous meeting, had been officially opened by EDF Energy's Chief Executive Simone Rossi during a visit to the site. The facility had been recognised by the WANO peer review group as an example of best practice which would be promulgated to other sites.
 - (ix) Following a detailed review, the company's Training Standards Accreditation Board had agreed to award continued accreditation in respect of all of the 20 station training programmes submitted.

- (x) The station continued to host a variety of visits by a range of different groups and maintained its support for local community activities.
- 16 Mr Evans invited all new members to arrange to come on a visit to the power station when they could see any aspect which interested them; Mr Stokes would make the necessary arrangements.
- 17 Cllr Redman said that attention had been drawn at a recent meeting of Bridgwater Town Council to operations at the railway siding in Bridgwater. He asked whether there was any increased use being made of this facility for spent fuel transport. Mr Evans said that there was no change in the company's use of this facility; all movements of irradiated fuel were coordinated within a plan covering all of the AGR power stations. He said that if at any time in the future there was any change in the use of the railway sidings he would let members know.
- 18 In reply to a question from Cllr Ms Dillamore, Mr Evans described actions taken to make young people aware of career opportunities in the industry. He outlined efforts to encourage female applicants for apprenticeships and emphasised the importance of making parents aware of these opportunities. Mr Stokes described the company's efforts at educational open days and in various events at the visitor centre to publicise employment opportunities.
- 19 Mr Debenham asked about factors which might change the planned closure date of 2023 for the B station. Mr Evans said that current assessments covered an operating life to 2023; the results of safety reviews and assessments were continuously taken into account. The plant would not be operated unless it was safe to do so. In reply to a further question Mr Evans described actions taken in response to lessons learned from the Fukushima accident in Japan.

UPDATE FROM EMERGENCY PLANNING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

- 20 Mr Uminski reported on the most recent meeting of the Hinkley Point Emergency Planning Consultative Committee which had been held on 12 September. The meeting included representatives from each of the three Hinkley Point sites together with local authority and emergency services representatives. The meeting had reviewed lessons learned from exercises of emergency arrangements, discussed possible future emergency exercises and considered potential future developments.

UPDATE FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 21 Mr Hamilton presented a report on current issues of interest to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. He emphasised the following:

- (i) Referring to earlier discussion on reports of "near miss" accidents, Mr Hamilton confirmed that these, and other aspects of safety performance, were regularly reviewed at senior level within the NDA.
 - (ii) The focus of the NDA's national stakeholder event next year, which was to be held on Anglesey, would be on education and training.
 - (iii) Attention within the NDA was being given to the arrangements for the transition from Cavendish Fluor to NDA ownership of Magnox Ltd. "Stand downs" were being held at all sites to allow information to be provided for all staff and arrangements were made for any issues raised by staff to be addressed. Appointments to senior posts within the NDA would shortly be announced.
 - (iv) Government approval had been given to carry out a review of decommissioning strategy which could allow dismantlement work to be brought forward at some sites. A range of decommissioning options were to be considered and factors to be taken into account would include the state of degradation of buildings and structures and future potential uses of the sites. Further consultations were to take place with stakeholders and SSG members would be kept informed of developments.
 - (v) It was understood that the report of the Holiday Inquiry into the Magnox management contract competition would be issued shortly. Actions taken in response to the recommendations of the interim report included significant senior level appointments within NDA.
- 22 Mr Montague said that the change to NDA ownership of Magnox Ltd would make very little practical difference to the work on site at Hinkley Point.
- 23 In response to questions from Mr Debenham, Mr Hamilton said he understood that government was shortly to make an announcement on a future process for selection of a site for a radioactive waste geological disposal facility. He said that funding commitments were in place for current plans; expenditure after 2021 would be subject to approval within the next comprehensive spending review.
- 24 In response to a question from Cllr Ms Goss, Mr Hamilton said that Magnox Ltd, as a subsidiary of NDA, would continue to have responsibility for all of the Magnox sites.
- 25 Mr Short drew attention to the reported manufacture of "self shielded boxes" to be used for the storage of waste from the Magnox Storage Pond at Sellafield. Mr Montague said that this did not represent a change in strategy for the storage of wastes at the Magnox sites. At those sites use would be made of both self shielding ductile cast iron containers and robust concrete boxes, depending upon local circumstances. He said that the contents of ductile cast iron containers which

had been used at Hinkley Point for the storage of wastes from settling tanks would in due course be transferred to concrete boxes and the empty ductile cast iron containers transferred to Berkeley for use there. Mr Hamilton suggested that the choice of a self shielded container for use at Sellafield might be related to the particular nature of the waste to be stored.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT

- 26 Dr Mountford-Lister reported on behalf of the Environment Agency on its monitoring and regulatory activities in relation to Hinkley Point.
- 27 Dr Mountford-Lister referred to the habit survey undertaken on behalf of the Food Standards Agency as reported at the previous meeting of this Group. He said that the results of the survey had indicated a change in the “critical group” (those most exposed to radioactivity from Hinkley Point) and a change in the level of the potential dose which might be received by this critical group compared with the potential exposure of the previously identified critical group. The assessed potential maximum exposure to members of the newly identified critical group was 0.032 milliSieverts (mSv) per year compared with a potential exposure of 0.013 mSv per year for the previously identified critical group. Dr Mountford Lister said that this assessed exposure represented some 3% of the public dose limit of 1 mSv per year and compared with an exposure of 2.7 mSv per year from natural background radiation. He said that information on the habit survey was available on the CEFAS website; the report on Radioactivity In Food and the Environment was available on the government website.
- 28 Dr Mountford-Lister said that measurements of radioactivity in sediments in the vicinity of the site had confirmed low levels of radioactivity, below the level at which it would be considered as radioactive waste. Measurements had also been taken by Stop Hinkley; Dr Mountford Lister would discuss aspects of those measurements with Mr Jeffery after the meeting.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORT

- 29 Mr Knowles reported on ONR’s regulatory activities in relation to Hinkley Point B Power Station. He described ONR’s involvement in inspections and in witnessing emergency exercises and referred to the prosecution under the Health and Safety at Work Act. He emphasised that as a new inspector he had been impressed by the clearly proactive approach to safety at the station and the company’s willingness to engage with him in a positive manner.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 30 Mr Brown reported on a visit which he had undertaken with Cllr Caswell to Hunterston B and on their discussions with senior station personnel and

representatives of the Site Stakeholder Group. He drew particular attention to the following:

- (i) The Hunterston B reactors were similar to those at Hinkley Point B but those at Hunterston were the lead reactors in terms of operational service
 - (ii) Keyway root cracking found in the reactor graphite cores of the Hunterston B reactors was more extensive than that found at Hinkley Point B.
 - (iii) Following routine inspections earlier in the year, both reactors at Hunterston B had been shut down for further graphite inspections and assessments.
 - (iv) The cracking which had been found during inspections at Hunterston had no impact on the normal operation of the reactors. The only potential impact was in the event of a major earthquake with consequential interference with shutdown devices. The reactors were fitted with articulated control rods and nitrogen injection plants had been installed as a backup to ensure shutdown capability. Computer modelling of the behaviour of the reactor cores had been supported by an extensive research programme.
 - (v) It might be possible to explain differences in the behaviour of particular graphite bricks by some variability in the quality of the graphite. Different suppliers were used during the construction of the AGR reactors.
 - (vi) It was possible that improvements in inspection techniques and camera technology now enabled the identification of cracks which might not have been evident in the past.
 - (vii) The results of the latest Hunterston B inspections and assessments would be included in safety case submissions to ONR later in the year.
- 31 Mr Brown drew comparisons between the different needs for socio-economic support in the areas surrounding the Hunterston and Hinkley Point sites, referring to the apparent lack of industrial investment and development at Hunterston. Cllr Caswell was pleased to highlight the open relationship enjoyed between Hinkley Point B and its SSG and made recommendations to Hunterston on how that could be emulated.
- 32 A report from Cllr Caswell on his activities as Chairman of this Group had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting; its contents were noted.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 33 Cllr Caswell said that following further consideration of the Group's constitution by the subgroup he would convene a special meeting of this Group if necessary to consider the proposals.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 34 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on Friday 8 March 2019 rather than on 22 February as previously indicated. The venue for the meeting would be announced in due course.

MJD

29 October 2018