

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 8 MARCH 2019

- Mr Peter Montague, Hinkley Point A Site Closure Director reported on the good progress which was being made with decommissioning projects on the Site. The contractor was making very visible progress with demolition of the former Turbine Hall with action taken to minimise dust produced during this work. The various wastes resulting from the demolition were being segregated in order to maximise opportunities for recycling.
- Equipment for the retrieval and processing of fuel element debris contained in the waste vaults was now fully operational. To date some 7 m³ of debris had been retrieved and sorted to segregate the more highly radioactive components. The Interim Storage Facility for intermediate level radioactive waste was due for completion in June. Mr Montague envisaged that an application for planning consent to allow the transfer of some wastes from other sites for storage in the Hinkley Point facility would be made when requirements relating to an environmental impact assessment were known.
- Hinkley Point B Station Director, Mr Peter Evans, reported on continued safe and reliable operation of the plant. He said it was over 12 years since the station had experienced a nuclear reportable event, over nine years since the last environmental event and over three years since the last lost time incident involving an EDF Energy employee.
- Mr Evans said that electricity production at the station since the previous meeting had amounted to 2.9 TW hours. He said that Reactor 3 was to be taken out of service later that day for a programme of statutory outage and inspection. Those inspections would include the examination of the graphite in 31 fuel channels within the reactor core. Mr Evans undertook to report at the next meeting on the results of those inspections.
- Mr Evans reported that some 1000 additional personnel would be employed at the site during the period of the statutory outage. In order to minimise the impact of increased traffic on roads to the site action was being taken to encourage the use of car sharing.
- Members received reports from Mr Jonathan Jenkin representing the NDA and from inspectors representing the Environment Agency and the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at Hill House, Otterhampton on Friday 8 March 2019

PRESENT

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

Elected Members

Cllr C Allen	-	Cannington Parish Council
Cllr T Ayre	-	Holford Parish Council
Cllr Ms A Bown	-	Somerset County Council
Cllr H Davies	-	Somerset County Council
Mr A Debenham	-	Stop Hinkley
Cllr Ms J Dillamore	-	Stogursey Parish Council
Cllr P Downing	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr R Garner	-	North Somerset Council
Cllr Ms S Goss	-	West Somerset Council
Mr A Jeffery	-	Bridgwater and West Somerset Green Party
Mr M Laver	-	West Hinkley Action Group
Cllr Ms B Maitland-Walker	-	West Somerset Council
Cllr C Morgan	-	West Somerset 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 J Jenkin	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr N Shaw	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr D Knowles	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Dr R MacGregor	-	Environment Agency
Mr R Lee	-	Environment Agency
Ms T Braithwaite	-	Environment Agency
Ms V Thomas	-	Environment Agency
Mr R Davies	-	Somerset County Council
Mr J Burton	-	West Somerset /Taunton Deane Council

Mr D Bamsey - Sedgemoor District Council
Mr G Alford - Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service

EDF Energy

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

Magnox

Ms G Coombs
Mr S Payne

IN ATTENDANCE

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 Cllr M Philips, Cllr Ms P Earnshaw, Cllr R Habgood, R Perrett, and Ms N Dawson.
- 3 It was noted that there were sufficient members present to constitute a quorum for this meeting.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- 4 In secret ballots members eligible to vote elected Cllr M Caswell and Mr M Brown as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively of this Group. These appointments were for the period until the next election in 2021.

OPEN PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

- 5 Cllr Caswell invited questions from members of the public on any issue which might not be covered in later discussion. No issues were raised.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 OCTOBER 2018

(a) Accuracy

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

(b) Matters Arising

7 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

CLOSURE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A SITE

8 Mr Montague reported on activities at the A Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) The current focus of the company's Target Zero safety campaign was wellness, with briefings provided for staff on various aspects of health and well-being. There had been one lost time accident at the end of last year when a contractor's employee had broken a toe after standing on a piece of ducting.
- (ii) A number of events were taking place to mark International Women's Day. Actions had been taken to reduce the gender pay gap within the company.
- (iii) There were a large number of contractors employed currently with a total of 450 – 500 personnel on the Site. The numbers of parking spaces on the Site were limited and arrangements had been made to bring some personnel to the site in minibuses.
- (iv) Good progress was being made with demolition of the former Turbine Hall which was to be reduced to ground level.. The project was being well-managed by the experienced contractor who was employing dust suppression techniques and segregating the various waste streams and disposing of them appropriately. The transport of these wastes off site was resulting in a significant number of lorry movements currently.
- (v) The equipment for the retrieval and sorting of fuel element debris was now fully operational. Some 7m³ of debris had been removed from the vault and sorted effectively. The system had correctly identified a small piece of fuel contained within the waste.
- (vi) The Interim Storage Facility was due for completion in June. Most of the wastes to be stored in this facility would be packaged in concrete boxes with some of the more highly radioactive items being packaged in “Mosaik” ductile cast iron containers. An application for planning consent for the importation of waste from other sites would be made when it was known whether an environmental impact assessment would be required.
- (vii) Grants made under the company's socio-economic support scheme included funding for Watchet East Harbour and Clevedon Pier.

- 9 Cllr Caswell confirmed his intention to convene a special meeting of this Group if and when an application was submitted for planning consent for the proposed importation of waste from other sites.
- 10 In response to comments by Mr Debenham, Mr Montague described current plans for the Magnox reactors to be left in a care and maintenance state for some 60 years before final site clearance. He drew attention to the experience of the rate of deterioration of structures in aggressive environments and referred to the consideration being given within NDA to the possibility of advancing the dismantlement of some reactors.
- 11 In reply to a question from Mr Short, Mr Montague said that there were no plans currently to demolish the cooling ponds buildings. Consultants were providing advice on this to the NDA who would take a decision on this in due course. Any such action could only take place after all fuel element debris had been dealt with.
- 12 In response to questions from Cllr Ms Dillamore, Mr Montague said that staff on the Site away from the main area of demolition were required to wear light eye protection. He described air sampling undertaken to detect any dust arising from demolition work and explained arrangements for the recycling of materials arising from the demolition. He said that consideration was being given, in conjunction with the Environment Agency, as to whether crushed concrete could be used to infill voids on the site.
- 13 In reply to a question from Cllr Ms Reed, Mr Montague outlined the pick-up arrangements for the minibus service in Wembdon. Cllr Ms Goss asked both Site Directors to discourage lorry drivers from parking in a layby on the C182.

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 14 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) It was now more than 12 years since there had been a nuclear reportable event at the Station, more than nine years since there had been an environmental event and more than three years since the last lost time accident involving an EDF Energy employee.
 - (ii) EDF Energy had been fined £200,000 in respect of an accident previously reported at meetings of this Group in which an employee of Doosan Babcock had fallen through a skylight in the course of his duties. The company and Doosan Babcock had pleaded guilty to charges under the Health and Safety at Work Act. Actions had been taken in relation to lessons learned from the event.

- (iii) On 9 December some 40 litres of dilute acid had been spilled in the water treatment plant area. The acid had been contained within a bunded area and no personnel had come into contact with it. Investigations had shown the cause to be related to the rating of the pipework material and modifications had been undertaken to prevent recurrence.
 - (iv) Electricity production at the station since the previous meeting had amounted to 2.9 TW hours. Reactor 3 was to be shut down later on the day of the meeting for statutory outage and inspection. Those inspections would include 31 fuel channels and five control rod channels. Inspection of the graphite channel bores would identify any cracking, including those emanating from the roots of keyways. In previous inspections one keyway root crack had been identified on Reactor 4 and none had been identified on Reactor 3. Mr Evans undertook to provide information on the results of the forthcoming inspections at the next meeting of this Group.
 - (v) There were currently 525 EDF Energy employees working at the station, together with 14 apprentices and 200 contract partners. There would be some 1000 extra personnel working on the site during the forthcoming maintenance outage. Mr Evans was aware of the impact of standards of driving on local roads and took what action he could to ensure good standards; he invited members to let him know of any instances of bad driving by persons travelling to the site. He emphasised action taken to encourage car sharing among personnel travelling to the site.
 - (vi) Some 95,000 people had used the Visitor Centre in Bridgwater since it opened in 2012 and during that time 18,500 individuals has visited the power station. Personnel at the station had raised £24,000 for the Breast Cancer Now charity and the station continued its support of local groups and activities.
- 15 In response to a question from Cllr Redman, Mr Evans described the graphite channel inspection techniques and said that the results of all these inspections were reviewed by a graphite assessment panel; the inspections and analysis were coordinated with those undertaken at Hunterston B. Mr Evans explained that the core was comprised of 3000 graphite blocks all keyed together and surrounded by a core restraint system within the reactor's concrete structure. In reply to a question from Ms Smith, Mr Evans said that the Hinkley Point B and Hunterston B reactors were of the same design and the results of inspections at one station were taken into account when planning inspections at the other site.
- 16 Cllr Ms Goss drew attention to the impact on local rental accommodation of the reported 1000 extra staff working on the B station site during the overhaul outage. Mr Evans said that some personnel were staying at the campus in Bridgwater whilst occupancy levels were still relatively low.

- 17 Cllr Ms Dillamore asked about processes for ensuring that safety procedures were followed by all personnel on site. Mr Evans described efforts to ensure that required standards were clear and understood. He said that individuals in leadership roles were required to undertake observations of work in progress to ensure that required standards were being followed; action was taken in relation to any trends in performance identified by these observations.
- 18 Cllr Garner felt it would be helpful in future reports to this Group to receive information on the average daily level of electricity production.
- 19 In response to a comment by Mr Jeffery, Mr Evans undertook to report at the next meeting on the results of analysis of samples of graphite removed from the reactor. This analysis identified the extent of weight loss in the graphite which varied dependent upon its position within the reactor.
- 20 Mr Jeffery referred to a report he had seen of large quantities of fish being killed by the power station's cooling water system. Mr Evans said that the quantity of fish caught on the cooling water system's intake screens was not large; seaweed and silt were bigger problems.
- 21 Cllr Ms Dillamore expressed thanks for support given by the power station to Stogursey Employment Hub.

UPDATE FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 22 Mr Jenkin presented a report on current issues of interest to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. He emphasised the following:
- (i) Mr Bill Hamilton would be taking up an appointment as Communications Director for Magnox Ltd in September.
 - (ii) Following the publication of a government policy statement on arrangements for determining the location of a future geological disposal facility for radioactive waste, NDA had commenced consultation on site evaluation criteria. A number of events had been planned around the country, including ones at Cheltenham and Exeter.
 - (iii) Bradwell had become the first of the Magnox power station sites to enter into a state of care and maintenance
 - (iv) Magnox Ltd was to become a subsidiary of NDA with effect from September 2019. Mr Lawrie Haynes had been appointed Chairman Designate.
 - (v) The NDA would publish its Business Plan during the coming month.

- (vi) There was to be a meeting with the Chairs of the various SSGs in April and a national stakeholder summit was to be held in Anglesey in July.
- 23 Cllr Ms Goss felt that it would have been more appropriate for the consultation sessions on arrangements for siting a waste disposal facility to be located in areas with existing nuclear facilities. Mr Jenkin said that locations with good transport links had been chosen to enable access from all parts of the country. In reply to a question from Ms Smith, Mr Jenkins said that these consultation sessions were open to the public and the ultimate decision on a location would depend upon the willingness of a local community to host the facility.
- 24 Mr Short commented on the performance of the NDA and the apparent costs arising from changes in policy on waste packaging following changes in Parent Body Organisation arrangements. Mr Jenkin pointed out that the role of the NDA was to establish strategic policies and not to manage activities at the sites. A change in waste packaging strategy had been identified by the incoming Parent Body Organisation as a means of saving costs. He emphasised the NDA's successes, including the substantial progress with very challenging decommissioning work at Sellafield. He said that currently the NDA had some 220/230 employees.
- 25 In reply to a question from Mr Debenham, Mr Jenkin said that funding for NDA activities would be addressed in the forthcoming government spending review. Good progress was being made at Sellafield but it continued to require a large proportion of the resources allocated to NDA.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT

- 26 Dr MacGregor reported on behalf of the Environment Agency on its monitoring and regulatory activities in relation to Hinkley Point. Reports on those activities had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Dr MacGregor outlined the various inspection programmes and referred to forthcoming variations to permits to cover the maintenance of environmental protection standards during the interim and final end states of sites. He said that there had been no significant environmental events or any enforcement action taken by the Agency.
- 27 Dr MacGregor said that in the report on radioactivity in food and the environment published by the Environment Agency and the Food Standards Agency in November 2018 there had been a slight increase in the maximum potential radiation exposure to a member of the local public in the vicinity of the Hinkley site. He said that the potential exposure remained a small percentage of the statutory dose limit. The change in the assessed dose resulted from the results of the habit survey undertaken last year. The assessed maximum potential exposure to members of the public remained very low.

- 28 It was noted that in accordance with the Environment Agency's policy of moving its inspectors between sites periodically, Dr MacGregor and Mr Lee were to be replaced on 1 April by Ms Tracy Braithwaite and Ms Victoria Thomas as the Agency's Nuclear Regulators for Hinkley Point A Site and Hinkley Point B power station respectively.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORT

- 29 Mr Shaw and Mr Knowles reported on ONR's regulatory activities in relation to Hinkley Point A Site and Hinkley Point B Power Station respectively. Reports on these activities had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.
- 30 Mr Shaw outlined the nature of inspections he had undertaken on the A Site during February covering arrangements for the retrieval and processing of fuel element debris. He said that his inspections had covered the various requirements of the safety case relating to this work, examining how those requirements were enforced and implemented via instructions, training and supervision. By examining arrangements and interviewing staff involved in the work he had been satisfied that the safety case requirements were adequately implemented. He outlined the programme of inspections for the coming year.
- 31 In reply to a question from Mr Short, Mr Shaw said that the programme and proposed scope of inspections was given to the Site in advance to ensure that appropriate personnel were available during the process but he was also able to undertake unannounced inspections.
- 32 Mr Knowles referred to the prosecution of EDF Energy and Doosan Babcock following the accident involving a contractor's employee in April 2017. He said that the accident had been a conventional health and safety matter with no radiological risk to workers or the public. He referred also to an enforcement letter issued to the power station by ONR in relation to training in the irradiated fuel dismantlement facility.
- 33 Mr Jeffery asked about action taken by regulators to ensure that sites were prepared for potential rises in sea levels. Mr Knowles confirmed that this was covered within the system of periodic safety reviews.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 34 A report from Cllr Caswell on his activities as Chairman of this Group had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Members had also received a report on a visit to the Combwich Laboratory by Cllr Caswell and Mr Brown.
- 35 Cllr Caswell said that arrangements were to be made for members to visit the B Station. He suggested that this should take place after May as there might be changes in representation following local council elections. Mr Montague said

that a similar visit to the A Site should be deferred until after August when the number of contractors working on the site would be reduced. In reply to a question from Mr Jeffery, Mr Evans said that arrangements could be made for members to visit the Comwich laboratory or any other part of the station they might wish to see.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 36 Cllr Warner drew attention to problems for local residents caused by light pollution from the Hinkley Point C construction site. Members shared the concerns expressed by Cllr Warner but noted that this Group was not able to deal with any matters relating to the C site.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 37 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on Friday 28 June 2019 at the National College for Nuclear, Cannington.

MJD
12 March 2019