

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER 2019

- Mr Peter Evans, Hinkley Point B Station Director, reported on continued safe and reliable operation of the plant. He said it was now over 13 years since the station had experienced a nuclear reportable event, over ten 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 there had been two recent accidents on the site which emphasised the importance of avoiding any sense of complacency.
- Mr Evans said that both B Station reactors had remained in normal operational service since the previous meeting of this Group and discharges of radioactivity to the environment remained well within permitted levels.
- Mr Des Uminski reported on a recent meeting of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee at which representatives of each of the three Hinkley Point sites met with emergency services and other organisations having involvement in emergency planning for any event at Hinkley Point. Mr Russell Davies of Somerset County Council reported on changes in regulations relating to emergency plans and described public consultation which was being undertaken in relation to the definition of the detailed emergency planning zone for Hinkley Point B.
- Mr Peter Montague, Hinkley Point A Site Closure Director reported on the continued high standards of safety performance on the Site and the progress with decommissioning projects. He said that the Interim Storage Facility for intermediate level radioactive waste was now complete; the waste encapsulation plant building had been completed and internal services and plant items were being installed.
- Members received reports from the NDA and from inspectors representing the Environment Agency and the Office for Nuclear Regulation.
- Cllr Caswell and Mr Brown reported on their activities as chairman and vice-chairman of the SSG. Cllr Caswell said that he had been disappointed at the number of members who had attended the visit to A and B Station sites which had been arranged during the summer. Arrangements would be made for a further visit and he hoped for a better attendance then. Cllr Caswell said that with the help of a subgroup he would be reviewing members' attendance at recent meetings of this group.

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at Hill House, Otterhampton on Friday 25 October 2019

PRESENT

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

Elected Members

Cllr T Ayre	-	Holford Parish Council
Cllr Ms A Bown	-	Somerset County Council
Cllr H Davies	-	Somerset County Council
Cllr M Facey	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr Ms S Goss	-	Stogursey Parish Council
Cllr W Hawley	-	Fiddington Parish Council
Cllr M Hodson	-	Spaxton Parish Council
Mr M Laver	-	West Hinkley Action Group
Cllr M Phillips	-	Cannington Parish Council
Cllr E Plomgren	-	Holford Parish Council
Cllr M Reid	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council
Ms M Smith	-	Forum 21
Cllr K Talintyre	-	Stockland Bristol Parish Meeting
Cllr M Walton	-	Kilve Parish Council

Co-opted Members

Mr M Brown (Vice Chairman)
Mr M Short

Appointed Members

Mr N Shaw	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr D Knowles	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Ms S Collier	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr A Bull	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Ms T Braithwaite	-	Environment Agency
Ms A Clark-Massey	-	Environment Agency
Mr R Davies	-	Somerset County Council
Ms L Martin	-	Somerset County Council
Mr J Burton	-	Somerset West & Taunton Council
Mr D Mears	-	Bridgwater Town Council
Mr J Forgham	-	Somerset County Council Civil
Contingencies		
Ms C Rushmere	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Ms R Perrett	-	Otterhampton Parish Council

EDF Energy

Mr D Stokes

Mr D Uminski

Mr A Cockerell

Mr M Dando

Mr G Abbott-Garner

Magnox

Mr B Hamilton

Ms Z Young

Ms G Coombes

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr R Pumfrey

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 and to Mr Bill Hamilton who was attending for the first time since his recent appointment to Magnox Ltd.
- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ms A Reed, Ms V Thomas, Cllr S McQuillan, Cllr S Stretton, Mr J Jenkin, Mr A Debenham, Cllr C Morgan, and Cllr L Redman.
- 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 Pumfrey sought information in relation to the application of the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2019 (REPPiR), in particular relating to the size of the detailed emergency planning zone around Hinkley Point. He was aware that a consequences report prepared by EDF was proposing that the current radius of 3.5 km from the site for detailed emergency planning should be reduced to 1 km; he felt this was surprising in view of the fact that the plant was ageing and would presumably have greater risk of failure. Mr Evans said that the radius of 3.5 km had been based upon assessments of potential consequences of an event at Hinkley Point A power station; Hinkley Point A had subsequently been defuelled and the assessment based upon Hinkley

Point B indicated a radius of 1 km. The plant continued to operate within its safety case parameters and the age of the plant therefore did not affect the assessment. Mr Pumfrey said there were no dwelling houses within a 1 km radius of the site and asked whether emergency plans included arrangements for staff working on the C site construction. Mr Evans said that there was close working between all three sites in relation to emergency planning issues and arrangements were exercised regularly. It was noted that Mr R Davies would report later in the meeting on the consultation being undertaken by the County Council in relation to the size of the detailed emergency planning zone.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 JUNE 2019

(a) Accuracy

- 6 The minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2019 were approved as a correct record.

(b) Matters Arising

Construction of Encapsulation Plant (para 7(vii) refers)

- 7 Mr Montague reported that the encapsulation plant building was now complete and work was continuing within the building on the installation of mechanical and electrical plant and equipment. He anticipated that this work would be completed by the middle of next year.

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 8 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 13 years since there had been a nuclear reportable event at the Station, more than ten years since there had been an environmental event and more than three years since the last lost time accident involving an EDF Energy employee. Unfortunately there had been two accidents recently which emphasised the importance of avoiding complacency.
 - (ii) In the first of these accidents a contract partner had been injured after she was struck by the open door of an electric vehicle which had moved suddenly. Following treatment she had made a full recovery and had returned to work. The use of this type of vehicle had been embargoed; no faults had been found on the vehicles but they had not been returned to service pending consideration of modifications to improve their safety. All drivers of vehicles on site had been reminded of their responsibilities for safety.

- (iii) The second of these accidents had occurred earlier in the week of this meeting and involved a contract partner walking between a barrier and a digger after which the digger had rotated and trapped him, breaking his leg. This event was still under investigation.
 - (iv) There had been two instances of non-compliance with environmental requirements. In the first of these a number of samples of gas dryer desiccant had been consigned mistakenly to a waste treatment facility, and in the second event a quantity of pond water had been transferred to the effluent treatment plant. Neither of these events had any impact on the environment.
 - (v) All discharges of radioactivity had been well within authorised limits.
 - (vi) The station's programme of emergency exercises had been completed and the exercise witnessed by the regulator had been considered an adequate demonstration of the arrangements.
 - (vii) Both reactors had remained in normal operational service throughout the period.
 - (viii) Nine apprentices had been transferred to Hinkley Point B from Horizon Nuclear Power at Wylfa in North Wales and they would complete their apprenticeships at the station.
- 9 Mr Evans undertook to provide Cllr Ms Goss with information on the cause of noise which she had witnessed coming from the station on the previous evening.

EMERGENCY PLANNING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

- 10 Mr Uminski reported on the recent meeting of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee at which representatives of each of the Hinkley Point sites met with the emergency services and other organisations having an involvement in emergency planning activities for the sites.
- 11 Mr R Davies explained the requirements of the REPPIR 19 regulations in relation to the off-site plan for dealing with an emergency at Hinkley Point B. He said that nothing had changed at the site but the regulations placed responsibilities on the County Council in relation to defining a detailed emergency planning zone for the site. He said that EDF had produced a report on the consequences of any potential event and the County Council was undertaking public consultation on this to obtain information on the views of residents. This process was continuing but a decision on the size and shape of the detailed emergency planning zone would be taken during the coming month. Cllr Caswell said that information on the County Council's decision would be circulated to members when it was received.

- 12 In reply to a question from Cllr Plomgren, Mr Davies said that technical advice was available to the County Council from Public Health England. Mr Uminski said that the EDF consequences report was also independently assessed by the Office for Nuclear Regulation. In reply to a further question from Ms Smith, Mr Davies said that the County Council would seek to recoup from the site operator any additional costs it faced as a result of these changes in regulations.

CLOSURE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A SITE

- 13 Mr Montague reported on activities at the A Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) High standards of safety awareness and compliance had been maintained. Attention had been focussed on radiological protection standards with more than 1000 training courses having been attended on the Site during the past 12 months.
 - (ii) The company's Target Zero safety campaign had recently been focusing awareness on mental health issues.
 - (iii) The Interim Storage Facility was now substantially complete. The encapsulation plant building had been completed and internal services and equipment were being installed. Work had started on a pre-conditioning facility; this work would continue over the coming year.
 - (iv) More than 120 drums of fuel element debris had been retrieved and sorted. This work was currently paused whilst consideration was given to safe means of moving these drums out of the pond building.
 - (v) Restraints had been fitted to all pipe hanger springs in the boiler houses to eliminate the risk of accidental release of these springs during decommissioning work.
 - (vi) A Modular Active Effluent Treatment Plant had been installed; the Aqueous Decontamination Facility had been de-planted and decontaminated and the town's water ring main and fire hydrants had been refurbished.
 - (vii) There had been a potential exposure to asbestos during work in the former Turbine Hall when asbestos fibres had been found in concrete dust. This situation had arisen from a change in the original work plan.
 - (viii) An electrical short circuit had occurred during routine testing of 400 V equipment. This had been caused by access being made to the wrong electrical panel.

- (ix) A newly purchased lifting attachment had been found to be of poor design and had failed, although it had apparently been given appropriate certification of conformance with relevant standards.
 - (x) Work undertaken to avoid problems caused by degradation of existing structures included the replacement of windows on the pile cap with perspex rather than glass, the replacement of trench covers, and the refurbishment of the town's water reservoir tanks.
 - (xi) Discharges of radioactivity and radiation exposure of personnel were at low levels and had been reducing over recent years although challenging work had been undertaken during this period.
 - (xii) Magnox Ltd had become a wholly-owned subsidiary of the NDA on 1 September 2019.
- 14 In reply to a question from Cllr Hawley on the difficulties of ensuring that equipment purchased did meet required standards, Mr Montague emphasised the need for continued vigilance as in some cases it was not possible to detect shortcomings without detailed examination.
- 15 In reply to a question from Mr Burton, Mr Montague said that the company was assessing its options following the County Council's decision not to grant planning consent which would have allowed waste to be transferred to the Site from Oldbury.

UPDATE FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 16 It was noted that Mr Jenkin was unwell and unable to attend the meeting. A report from the NDA on current issues had been circulated to members. Mr Hamilton commented on current issues, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Following the organisational change, appointments to the Magnox Ltd board were made directly by the NDA.
 - (ii) The NDA was to publish its draft Business Plan in December setting out its funding plans for all sites. The plan would also reflect a change in strategy approved by the NDA Board to the effect that sites would no longer automatically be prepared for entry into a care and maintenance state.
- 17 In reply to a question from Cllr Ms Goss, Mr Hamilton confirmed that continuous decommissioning would be an option for consideration but it would not be possible for that option to be adopted for all sites.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT

- 18 Ms Braithwaite reported on monitoring and regulatory activities in relation to Hinkley Point A Site and B Station. Reports on those activities had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Ms Braithwaite outlined briefly the results of her inspections at Hinkley Point A Site and confirmed that discharges of radioactivity had remained well below permitted levels.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORT

- 19 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. They drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) Mr Shaw said that on some of his inspection visits he was accompanied by ONR inspectors from other sites. This helped to ensure benchmarking of appropriate standards and gave some peer review check.
 - (ii) Mr Knowles outlined briefly the results of his inspections. He said that the B Station's demonstration of its emergency arrangements had been very effective; he was always keen to ensure that these exercises provided a balance between safety and security requirements.
 - (iii) Mr Knowles would be visiting the power station site during the coming week to consider the recent accident involving a digger.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 20 A report from Cllr Caswell as chairman of the Group had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.
- 21 Cllr Caswell said that he had been very disappointed at the number of members who had attended the visit to the A and B station sites on 23 July. He felt it was very important that members should attend such visits to see for themselves the conditions on the sites and gain an understanding of issues which were faced in order to be able to put into context information provided at these meetings. He said that even if members had previous knowledge of the sites it was important that they maintained an awareness of current activities. He said that arrangements would be made for a further visit next year and he hoped for a better attendance from members.
- 22 Mr Brown reported on the NDA Stakeholder Summit held on 9/10 July on Anglesey. It had been generally agreed that this meeting, which included presentations, workshops and exhibitions, had been one of the best such meetings

to date. Mr Brown said that he had been particularly interested in information provided on training facilities and courses. He referred also to a session on arrangements for establishing a deep geological waste disposal facility; this had included information from Sweden where there had been competition between communities wanting to host such a facility.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 23 Cllr Caswell said that he intended to establish a subgroup to review members' attendance at recent meetings. The subgroup would be comprised of himself, the vice-chairman, the immediate past chairman and two other members. Cllr Caswell invited members to contact him if they wish to be included in the membership of this subgroup.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 24 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on Friday 28 February 2020.

MJD
28 October 2019