

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 28 JUNE 2019

- 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.
- Mr Montague said the demolition of the former Turbine Hall had now been completed. Inactive commissioning of the Interim Storage Facility had also been completed with the operation of all of the handling facilities being fully tested. The waste encapsulation plant building was nearing completion and mechanical and electrical equipment was being installed inside. A modular active effluent treatment plant had been installed; this would allow the much larger existing water treatment plant to be removed in the future.
- Mr Montague reported that 8 drop-in sessions had been held to provide information for the public in relation to the planning consent application to allow empty and size reduced skips components to be brought to the Site from Dungeness, Oldbury and Sizewell sites.
- 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 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 both B Station reactors were currently on load, Reactor 3 having been returned to service following its statutory inspection and overhaul on 5 June. The large volume of work undertaken during the Reactor 3 outage had included the exchange of low-pressure turbine and generator rotors and gas circulators. Inspections had included the inspection of 31 fuel channels and 5 control rod channels within the reactor's graphite core; hair line cracking observed during these inspections had been within expectations and safety case requirements.
- Members received reports from Mr Jonathan Jenkin representing 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.

- Arrangements are being made for members of the Group to visit the A Site and B Station on 23 June 2019.

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at National College for Nuclear, Cannington on Friday 28 June 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 R Birkenhead	-	Otterhampton Parish Council
Cllr Ms A Bown	-	Somerset County Council
Cllr H Davies	-	Somerset County Council
Mr A Debenham	-	Stop Hinkley
Cllr Ms P Earnshaw	-	Bawdrip Parish Council
Cllr Ms S Goss	-	Stogursey Parish Council
Cllr W Hawley	-	Fiddington Parish Council
Mr A Jeffery	-	Bridgwater and West Somerset Green Party
Mr M Laver	-	West Hinkley Action Group
Cllr M Phillips	-	Cannington Parish Council
Cllr E Plomgren	-	Holford Parish Council
Cllr J Roberts	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council
Ms M Smith	-	Forum 21
Cllr S Stretton	-	Spaxton Parish Council
Cllr M Walton	-	Kilve 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
Mr S Redpath	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Ms T Braithwaite	-	Environment Agency
Ms V Thomas	-	Environment Agency
Mr R Davies	-	Somerset County Council
Ms L Martin	-	Somerset County Council
Mr J Burton	-	Somerset West & Taunton Council
Mr G Alford	-	Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service

EDF Energy

Mr D Stokes	-	Communications
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Magnox
Mr S Payne
Dr S Wilmott

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 Mr N Kimmins, Cllr M Reid, Cllr Ms A Reed, Cllr Ms R Perrett, Ian Liddell-Grainger MP, Dr B Nozad, Mr D Uminski and Cllr S McQuillan.
- 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. No issues were raised.

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 8 MARCH AND 17 MAY 2019

(a) Accuracy

- 5 The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March and of the special meeting held on 17 May 2019 were approved as correct records subject to amendments in the minutes of the special meeting to reflect the fact that Mr Burton is an officer and not an elected member of Somerset West and Taunton Council.

(b) Matters Arising

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

CLOSURE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A SITE

- 7 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. Recent efforts to focus attention upon radiological protection standards had resulted in increased awareness and performance improvements.
 - (ii) There had been a breach of an environmental permit condition when the use of a fire hose rather than a fogging spray to control dust from a quantity of concrete waste had resulted in water (less than 1m³) with increased alkalinity entering the site drainage system. The issue had been identified by routine monitoring and the Environment Agency had been informed.
 - (iii) In response to a suggestion from Mr Shaw, whose regulatory responsibilities included the Devonport Dockyard, a number of personnel from the dockyard had spent time at the station and there had been useful cross-fertilisation of ideas.
 - (iv) The current focus of the company's Target Zero safety campaign was on behaviours and unsafe acts. One particular aspect of interest on the Site was the importance of ensuring appropriate attitudes towards safety by the large number of delivery drivers bringing goods to the site.
 - (v) Increased attention was being placed upon leadership visibility with all managers being required to spend time observing work on the plant.
 - (vi) Demolition of the former turbine hall was now complete.
 - (vii) Inactive commissioning of the Interim Storage Facility had been completed using pre-production concrete boxes. This commissioning had tested all of the handling facilities and represented a total number of crane movements equivalent to the number expected in a three-year period of normal operation. The encapsulation plant building was nearing completion and mechanical and electrical equipment was being installed.
 - (viii) A modular active effluent treatment plant had been installed to allow the existing plant to be removed. De-planting of the Aqueous Decontamination Facility had been completed leaving the building ready for re-use if needed.
 - (ix) 8 Drop in sessions had been held to provide information for the public in relation to the planning consent application seeking permission to allow

empty skip pieces to be brought to the Site from other sites. Despite these efforts the proposals had been misrepresented in the local press.

- (x) The removal of radioactive sludges contained in ductile cast iron containers and the processing of those sludges in concrete box waste packages would enable the containers to be reused at Berkeley.

- (xi) The Magnox website had been moved to <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/magnox-ltd>

8 Cllr Caswell supported the view expressed by Cllr Plomgren that the use of abbreviations and acronyms in presentations were confusing for new members and should be avoided.

9 In reply to a question from Mr Jeffery, Mr Montague said that the skips which it was planned to import from Oldbury, Sizewell A Dungeness A had been cut into sections in air, not underwater. In response to a question from Ms Smith, Mr Montague said that he would confirm the quantities of waste materials arising from demolition of the former Turbine Hall and the proportion of those wastes which had been recycled. The confirmed quantities of waste arisings from the Turbine Hall came to 12206 tonnes, 4127 tonnes of which was recycled (~33%).

10 In reply to further questions, Mr Montague said that the current planned date for entry into care and maintenance was 2027 although this could be influenced by progress in the processing of fuel element debris and possible changes in the funding of site projects. In response to a question from Mr Jeffery on the trial of milling decontamination techniques on skips brought to the site, Mr Montague said that this had been shown to be not cost-effective or viable as the process could only be used on flat surfaces.

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

11 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 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. More than 14,000 tasks had been undertaken during the recent outage of Reactor 3; during that outage there had been two events causing individuals to seek medical treatment off-site.

- (ii) All events, however minor, were reviewed to look for any trends in causes. Virtual reality facilities could be used to carry out risk assessments before entering work areas.
 - (iii) A Site Incident within the terms of the station's emergency arrangements had been declared following this discovery of a leak of CO₂ from small bore pipework (1/8 of an inch diameter) in the Gas Circulator Hall. This had allowed all personnel on site to be accounted for promptly and the defect to be rectified. The individual who had declared the Site Incident had been commended for this decisive action to take control of the situation.
 - (iv) Both reactors were currently on load. Reactor 3 had been returned to service following its statutory overhaul on 5 June. The unit had been shut down again on 7 June for a short outage in order to rectify an oil leak on the turbine.
 - (v) Work undertaken during the Reactor 3 outage included low pressure turbine rotor and generator rotor exchanges and the exchange of two gas circulators, one of which had been added to the original planned scope of the work. Inspection of the graphite core had included 31 fuel channels and 5 control rod channels. Ten single hairline keyway route cracks had been observed. It had been anticipated that cracks of this type would be found as the operating life became longer and these inspections confirmed that the behaviour of the graphite was as predicted and the requirements of the safety case were met.
- 12 In reply to a question from Mr Jeffery, Mr Evans confirmed that graphite core inspection results were compared with the results of inspections at Hunterston B within a coordinated programme.

UPDATE FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 13 Mr Jenkin presented a report on current issues of interest to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. He emphasised the following:
- (i) Senior appointments to Magnox had been made in preparation for the transition to becoming a wholly-owned subsidiary of the NDA. The change would formally take place on 1 September.
 - (ii) The NDA had published its Business Plan for this and the coming two years and was about to publish its Annual Report.
 - (iii) A number of regional meetings with stakeholders had provided information on current NDA issues, including an outline of the current

position in consultations with local communities about hosting a geological waste disposal facility.

(iv) A stakeholder summit was to be held in Anglesey in the coming weeks.

14 Mr Jeffery asked about plans for the storage of intermediate level wastes arising from decommissioning of the Hinkley Point B station. Mr Jenkin said it was anticipated that the wastes arising from decommissioning of the AGR reactors would be much smaller in volume than those associated with the Magnox stations. Mr Evans said that issues in relation to decommissioning waste would be addressed in lifetime strategy plans in due course.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT

15 Ms Braithwaite and Ms Thomas reported on their monitoring and regulatory activities in relation to Hinkley Point A Site and B Station respectively. Reports on those activities had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. In their presentations they drew particular attention to the following:

- (i) Inspections at A Site had included arrangements for monitoring events on site, the provisions regarding suitably qualified and experienced persons and training records.
- (ii) Variations were to be made to the permits for all nuclear sites to reflect the Agency's guidance on requirements for release from radioactive substances regulation (GRR). The revised permit for Hinkley Point A Site would also incorporate changes in gaseous discharge points but would not increase permitted discharge limits.
- (iii) Inspections at Hinkley Point B had included environmental management and leadership and the environmental monitoring programme. Activities during the Reactor 3 outage had included consideration of solid radioactive waste arising from the outage work.
- (iv) Discharges had remained well below authorised limits.

16 Mr Montague drew members attention to a report on radioactive discharges, solid radioactive waste disposals and environmental monitoring at the A Site during 2018. Copies of the report were available for members. Mr Montague undertook to address at the next meeting any questions which members might have on the report.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORT

17 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) During the past week Mr Shaw had undertaken inspections covering safety documentation and warning notices; he would comment on the results of these inspections in his next report. He said that he had been accompanied on these inspections by trades union Safety Representatives. He felt this had been very helpful and valuable – it had demonstrated the close working relationship between Safety Representatives and Site Management and had provided a good demonstration of a positive safety culture.
- (ii) Mr Shaw had proposed the visit of personnel from Devonport Dockyard to the A Site referred to earlier by Mr Montague. Mr Shaw had felt that there were good practices on the Site from which the dockyard personnel would be able to learn. He said that following the visit there had been very positive feedback from the Dockyard personnel who had been impressed by the standards of housekeeping and the safety culture.
- (iii) Mr Knowles said that in addition to the routine inspections against compliance with Licence Conditions during recent months, the main focus of ONR's attention had been the overhaul and inspection outage of Reactor 3. During the outage ONR inspectors had confirmed that the work had been completed satisfactorily in accordance with the defined scope, had reviewed the results of inspections and had concluded that the plant was safe to be returned to service. The next report to members would include further details of ONR's inspections undertaken during the outage.
- (iv) Mr Knowles said that consideration was being given to the way in which ONR carried out its inspections of operating reactors. He said that the company's record of compliance with requirements was good and that ONR would in future be able to focus its inspections less on compliance and more on the way in which the operator's organisation learned from experience and interpreted that experience at the various sites.

18 In reply to a question from Cllr Phillips, Mr Knowles confirmed that ONR were informed of the declaration of a site incident at B Station in accordance with the site's emergency arrangements. ONR concluded that due to the nature of the incident that a full stand up of the ONR emergency response was not required. Following the declaration the site inspector was briefed on the event and concluded that the use of the declaration was an effective measure in ensuring that all staff were accounted for.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 19 Mr Brown reported on his attendance at a number of meetings as vice chairman of the SSG.
- 20 Mr Brown said that he had previously thought that geological conditions would preclude many areas from consideration as potential locations for geological disposal facilities. He said that at the recent ONR seminar he had been surprised that many more areas could be considered as potentially suitable for the location of such a facility, albeit with different engineering arrangements. He drew attention to the continued reliance on volunteerism and difficulties associated with the definition of “communities” able to enter into commitments for a local area.
- 21 Mr Brown said that in meetings with representatives of other SSGs he had been impressed by the differences in the economic circumstances in different areas of the country surrounding decommissioning sites and the wide differences in the various needs for socio-economic support.
- 22 A report from Cllr Caswell as chairman of the Group had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. He emphasised the importance of members reporting back accurately to their various organisations on matters discussed at meetings of this Group. He said that reports in the local press following the special meeting on the proposals for importation of waste skips to A Site had been very misleading; if members needed any further information on matters discussed at SSG meetings they should contact him or either of the sites.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 23 Cllr Caswell emphasised the importance of members visiting the sites so that they were able to put into context information provided at these meetings. He said that arrangements were being made for a visit to the A Site and the B Station and he encouraged any members who had not visited the sites recently to attend. The visit would take place on Tuesday 23 July (10.00am to 4.00pm). Any member wishing to join the visit should contact Dave Stokes on 01278 654699 or via email at dave.stokes@edf-energy.com.

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 25 October 2019 at Hill House, Otterhampton.

MJD
2 July 2019