

**OLDBURY ON SEVERN POWER STATION  
SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP  
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 1 AUGUST 2018**

- Chairman Mr Malcolm Lynden welcomed members to the meeting
- Site Closure Director Mr Mike Heaton reported on the continued high standards of safety performance at the Oldbury Site. There had been no significant safety events and compliance had been maintained with all regulatory requirements. Some extra precautions had been taken during the recent hot weather to prevent individuals wearing certain types of personal protective equipment becoming overheated.
- Mr Heaton described the progress of decommissioning work on site, including work on the assessment and packaging of wastes which would ultimately be transferred to Berkeley for interim storage, and the cutting up of skips previously used for the storage of spent fuel to reduce their volume. Mr Heaton said that a new system had been installed to provide electricity supplies to the site, enabling existing systems to be isolated before further demolition.
- Mr Heaton said that discussions were taking place on terminating shift working for operational staff. Arrangements would be made for security staff to deal with any issues which might arise outside of normal working hours and staff currently working on shifts would have opportunities for transfer to day working.
- 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 inspections.
- Mr Bill Hamilton presented a report on behalf of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. He drew attention to the government's approval of revised management arrangements for the Magnox Sites, with Magnox Ltd becoming a subsidiary of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.
- Cllr Matthew Riddle reported to members on a recent meeting between Oldbury Parish Council and Horizon Nuclear Power on local issues relating to the possible development of a new power station.

**OLDBURY ON SEVERN POWER STATION  
SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE OLDBURY CONFERENCE  
CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 1 AUGUST 2018**

**PRESENT:**

Mr M Lynden (in the chair)	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr Ms C Collinson	-	Aust Parish Council
Cllr D Dovey	-	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Assoc of Parish and Town Councils
Dr L Hales	-	Independent Environmental Consultant
Cllr June Lyons	-	Olveston Parish Council
Cllr P 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
Mr K Warren	-	Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board
Cllr Mrs P Wride	-	Berkeley SSG
Cllr Mrs H Molyneux	-	Tidenham Parish Council

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr W Hamilton	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr N Shaw	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr A Lord	-	Environment Agency
Ms G Ellis-King	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr M Heaton	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr W Gill		
Mr J McHugh		
Mr T Hellen		
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

- 1 Mr Lynden welcomed everyone to this meeting of the Oldbury on Severn Site Stakeholder Group.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 3 Apologies for absence were received from Falfield Parish Council, Mr A Mitchell and Mr J Jenkin.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

- (a) **Accuracy**

4 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 25 April 2018 were approved as an accurate record.

**(b) Matters arising**

**Revised Constitution (para 8 refers)**

5 Mr Lynden said that he had not yet had an opportunity to consider a summary of acronyms for inclusion in the revised constitution but he would ensure that this was prepared.

**Joint meetings with Berkeley SSG (para 22 refers)**

6 It was noted that at the meeting of the Berkeley SSG which had followed the previous meeting of this Group the proposals for two of the four meetings each year to be held jointly with this Group had been agreed. Arrangements for future meetings would therefore proceed on the basis proposed.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

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

**QUARTERLY REPORTS**

**Site Closure Director's Report**

8 Mr Heaton reported on recent activities at the Oldbury site, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) The Site had maintained high standards of safety performance. There had been no significant events or instances of non-compliance with regulatory requirements.
- (ii) During recent hot weather special steps had been taken to ensure that personnel wearing some types of personal protective equipment did not become overheated.
- (iii) Installation and testing of equipment for the removal and packaging of Ionsiv filters and cartridges was proceeding well. It was anticipated that these wastes, when processed, would fill 10 packages to be transported to Berkeley for interim storage.
- (iv) Six fuel skips classified as intermediate level waste had been removed from the cooling pond and cut up to reduce their size for future storage. Nineteen such skips remained in the pond. Mr Heaton explained that at some sites this work was done underwater using divers; the circumstances at Oldbury did not justify the use of that approach and the work was being done in air with special arrangements to provide radiation shielding for the personnel involved.

- (v) Miscellaneous contaminated items were being retrieved from storage for monitoring and waste characterisation. Some of the items were able to be classified as low level waste. The characterisation of these waste items would be completed by the end of the year and at that time it would be possible to assess the volume of such waste to be transferred to Berkeley.
- (vi) The installation of an electrical overlay system had been completed, enabling existing systems to be isolated as necessary to allow demolition of some buildings.
- (vii) Little change was currently planned in existing staffing levels. Discussions were proceeding on arrangements to eliminate shift working for operational staff. In line with the practice at other sites, arrangements would be made for security staff to deal with any issues which might arise outside of normal working hours. Staff currently working on shifts would have opportunities for a wider variety of work on day working. It was hoped that revised arrangements would be in place by March next year.
- (viii) Mr Heaton reminded members that applications could be made for socio economic funding for sponsorship and donations to worthy causes.

9 In reply to a question from Dr Hales, Mr Heaton said that no application had yet been made for planning consent in relation to the proposed vacuum drying system for waste packages.

10 Cllr Riddle asked whether discussions were taking place between the NDA and Horizon in relation to the potential use of existing facilities as part of new power station development. Mr Hamilton said that general discussions could take place but it was important to remember that the potential timescales for new station development and for decommissioning and site clearance might not be compatible. He said it was not reasonable to expect NDA to retain assets against the possibility of uncertain future need. Ms Ellis-King advised that there is already an adopted and published South Gloucestershire planning policy that in order to minimise impact, opportunities should be taken where possible and practical to integrate decommissioning and new build sites, including for example through the reuse of land, facilities and materials. In addition, Horizon has recently confirmed their intention to make representations to Government that they intend to be generating electricity at Oldbury by 2035. Given the long lead in and construction timeframes for building a new nuclear power station, it could therefore be expected that a programme should become clearer in the relatively near future. Cllr Sullivan said that there were a number of issues, particularly site access, which were of concern to the Parish Council and on which he felt lessons could be learned from experience at Hinkley Point. Mr Heaton explained that as decommissioning progressed parts of the site became surplus to requirements and it was for the NDA to determine future use.

## Office for Nuclear Regulation

- 11 It was noted that a report on ONR's regulatory activities in relation to the Oldbury site had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Mr Shaw said that no ONR inspections had been carried out during the period covered by the report but close contact had been maintained with the Site. He referred specifically to regular tripartite meetings between ONR, the Environment Agency and the Site (together with representatives of its own internal regulator).
- 12 Mr Shaw said that during the past week he had undertaken inspections on the Site accompanied by the Site's own trades union Safety Representatives. He said that the inspections had been very positive and the involvement of the Safety Representatives had been very successful with joint feedback being given to the Site.

## Environment Agency

- 13 It was noted that a report on the Environment Agency's regulatory activities in relation to the Oldbury Site had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Mr Lord said that during the period covered by the report a successful inspection had been undertaken by the EA of the Site's liquid waste management arrangements.
- 14 Mr Lord said that the Site had requested a variation to its permit to remove discharge routes which were no longer used; this had no impact on the Site's discharges or its radiological impact. He referred also to discussions and consultations which were taking place on arrangements at the end of decommissioning for releasing sites from regulations covering radioactive substances.

*[Note. The following information has been provided subsequently by Mr Lord: Guidance on Requirements for Release of nuclear sites from Radioactive Substances Regulation (GRR) was published on 24th July 2018. In the GRR the Environment Agency is expressing its expectations for surrender of RSR permits on nuclear sites for the first time.*

*<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/decommissioning-of-nuclear-sites-and-release-from-regulation> contains a summary of the GRR, which contains a link to the SEPA website where the full guidance can be downloaded as a PDF.*

*In addition, the document collection here <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/radioactive-substances-regulation-for-nuclear-sites> has a new section headed "Decommissioning and the end of radioactive substances regulation" where the GRR is described and linked to.]*

## Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

- 15 Mr Hamilton provided an update on issues of current interest, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The Secretary of State had accepted NDA's proposals for a new management model for Magnox and as a result Magnox Ltd was to become a wholly owned subsidiary of the NDA with effect from 1 September 2019. This was consistent with the approach adopted earlier at Sellafield.
  - (ii) The report of the Holliday Inquiry into the award of the Magnox decommissioning contract and its subsequent termination was still awaited.
  - (iii) Very positive feedback had been received from those attending the recent stakeholder summit at the Berkeley campus of the South Gloucestershire and Stroud College.
  - (iv) The NDA Board was to consider the possibility of advancing decommissioning work at a small number of Sites in a process of continuous reactor dismantlement. If this approach was supported it would need government approval and then consideration would have to be given to which sites might be treated in this way. These issues would be the subject of consultation if approval was given.

#### **MEETING WITH HORIZON**

- 16 Cllr Riddle reported on a meeting of the Oldbury Parish Council with Horizon Nuclear Power. He pointed out that the Parish Council had established a committee on nuclear new build which met regularly. He said that discussions at the meeting had reviewed the various procedural stages to be followed with reference to progress with the development of a new station at Wylfa. He said that government was proposing to identify next year nuclear new build sites for deployment by 2035. If Oldbury was to be included in that list then it seemed that planning would now be taking place in the foreseeable future.
- 17 Cllr Riddle said that issues discussed with Horizon included early indications of requirements for flood protection, opportunities for employment etc and the improvement of inland drainage. He said that work was shortly to commence on renovation of three homes in Shepperdine which were currently empty. He referred also to helpful arrangements which had been established for litter picking at the former Windbound public house site.

#### **CHAIR'S UPDATE**

- 18 Mr Lynden reported on recent activities as chairman of this group. He referred particularly to a meeting with the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy on potential arrangements for the regulation of sites in the final stages of decommissioning and clean-up (see note from Mr Lord at para 14 above).

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No Business

## **DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

19 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group, a joint meeting with members of the Berkeley SSG, was to be held on 31 October 2018 at the Oldbury Conference Centre.

MJD 8 August 2018