

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the special meeting held at The Canalside, Bridgwater on Friday 17 May 2019

PRESENT

Cllr M Caswell (Chairman) - Sedgemoor District Council

Elected Members

Cllr J Burton - Taunton Deane Borough Council
Cllr H Davies - Somerset County Council
Cllr M Lerry - Bridgwater Town Council
Cllr S Stretton - Spaxton Parish Council
Mr A Jeffery - Bridgwater and West Somerset Green Party
Mr M Laver - West Hinkley Action Group
Cllr C Morgan - Somerset West and Taunton Council
Cllr Ms R Perrett - Otterhampton Parish Council
Cllr M Phillips - Cannington Parish Council
Cllr J Roberts - Nether Stowey Parish Council
Cllr A Warner - Pawlett Parish Council

Co-opted Members

Mr M Brown (Vice Chairman)
Mr M Short

Appointed Members

Mr G Alford - Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service
Mr N Kimmins - Avon & Somerset Police
Mr B Hamilton - Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Ms T Braithwaite - Environment Agency
Mr R Davies - Somerset County Council

EDF Energy

Magnox

Mr P Montegue
Ms G Coombs
Mr S Payne
Ms E Alcaterra

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr M J Davis - Secretary

Apologies for absence

- 1 Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Evans, Cllr M Reid, Cllr Ms P Earnshaw, Mr D Knowles, Mr J Jenkin, Cllr M Walton, Mr J Syvier, Mr K Talintyre and Mr D Stokes.

Introduction

- 2 Cllr Caswell welcomed members to this special meeting of the Group which had been convened to receive information on a proposed application by Magnox for consent to vary a condition of the planning consent relating to the construction of the Interim Storage Facility at Hinkley Point A. He said that the original consent had been granted on the basis that the store would be used only for waste already held on the Hinkley Point A Site; the company now wished to import certain waste items from other sites for storage in the Hinkley Point A facility.
- 3 Cllr Caswell said that the planning application was a matter to be determined by the Somerset County Council and that in this process Sedgemoor District Council and Somerset West and Taunton Councils were statutory consultees. Other councils would also have opportunities to make their views known. Cllr Caswell emphasised that this Group had no formal role in this matter but he felt it was important that members received information on the proposal which they could feed back to their respective Councils.

The Proposal

- 4 Mr Montague said that information on the proposed import of waste had been presented at earlier meetings of this Group. The current proposals were consistent with information previously presented except that as a result of detailed monitoring it had been possible to reduce the volume of the waste which required to be transferred for storage.
- 5 Mr Montague explained the proposal to import waste material from 110 skips formerly used for the storage of irradiated fuel at Oldbury, Sizewell A and Dungeness A Power Stations. The material comprising the four sides and bottoms of the skips had been cut into five pieces to reduce the volume for transport and storage. Monitoring following removal from underwater storage in ponds had allowed a reduction in the number of these skips which needed to be treated as intermediate level waste; others had been shown to be within the limits appropriate for low level waste. The current proposal was for there to be some 14 deliveries to the site compared with the originally forecast 20 deliveries and the waste items would be processed into about 22 concrete waste storage boxes.
- 6 Mr Montague said that the concrete boxes of imported waste would represent approximately 5% of the total capacity of the Interim Storage Facility and it would be less than 1% of the total radioactivity in the facility. He said that the concrete boxes to be used for the storage of this material were the most

appropriate means of packaging these wastes; the facilities for filling these concrete boxes and encapsulating the waste would be available at Hinkley Point but were not to be provided at Oldbury, Sizewell A or Dungeness A

- 7 Mr Montague said that efforts would be made to minimise the impact of the vehicles delivering this waste on local roads and communities.

Discussion

- 8 During discussion the following points were noted:
- (i) Cllr Morgan thanked Mr Montague for the presentation which he personally felt had been reassuring but he referred to concerns expressed by others that the scale of the store and possibly the duration of its use were being extended. Mr Montague said that the store was to provide interim storage pending the construction of a geological disposal facility (GDF). Consultations were currently in hand nationally in relation to the establishment of a GDF and it was anticipated that it would become available within approximately 40 – 60 years time. The design life of the Interim Storage Facility at Hinkley Point A was more than 100 years.
 - (ii) Cllr Morgan said that within the timeframe of 60 years considerable volumes of waste would be produced by Hinkley Point B and C Stations; views had been expressed that the area would become the location of a large volume of waste and that the local community should receive some benefit to reflect this. Mr Montague said that the environmental impacts of this proposal had been assessed and it was considered that there was no case for any additional funding beyond that already provided within socio-economic scheme arrangements.
 - (iii) Cllr Lerry asked for more details of the waste items. Mr Montague explained that the skips had been used for the storage of irradiated fuel during operation of the stations. The irradiated fuel had been despatched to Sellafield but the skips themselves had become contaminated during use and had therefore become radioactive waste. The skips were in effect simple metal boxes and the sides and bottom had been cut into five separate pieces to reduce the volume for transport and storage. The waste intended for import to Hinkley Point was comprised only of these metal components.
 - (iv) Cllr Lerry asked whether the road transport movements delivering this waste would be coordinated with deliveries to the C Site. Mr Montague said that the C Site jetty was to be completed during the coming months and when available its use would reduce the number of deliveries by road. The delivery of these wastes to A Site would by chance coincide with that reduction. In response to further comments by Cllr Lerry on the possibility

of community support for hosting a storage facility, Mr Montague said that the small increase in the total volume of waste within the facility was not sufficient to justify any additional support.

- (v) Cllr Lerry asked whether plans might change over a longer period of time and further volumes of waste might be identified for storage at Hinkley Point. Mr Montague said that there would be very little space for additional storage in the current facility and any proposal to extend the facility would require further planning consent. There were no plans to increase the storage capacity on the Site but future changes in national strategy could not be discounted. Mr Montague gave as an example the consideration being given by NDA to the possibility of advancing reactor dismantling work at a small number of sites; such an approach would produce a large volume of additional waste at any chosen site.
- (vi) Cllr Warner and Cllr Burton asked for clarification as to whether the application for variation of the planning consent would be limited to a specific volume of waste items. Mr Montague said that the store would be close to capacity with the 22 additional concrete boxes containing the identified waste skips. He explained that the original intention had been for each Site to process its intermediate level wastes in ductile cast iron containers. The pieces of metal produced by cutting up these skips could be packaged much more efficiently in concrete box containers; the construction of concrete encapsulation plants at the other sites could not be justified for the small volumes of waste to be processed.
- (vii) Mr Jeffery asked whether there was any coordination with the future waste storage requirements of Hinkley Point B. Mr Montague said that no consideration had been given to the storage of any waste from Hinkley Point B in the A Site facilities; the facility was close to capacity with currently planned packages. In reply to a further question from Mr Jeffery, Mr Montague said that the area previously occupied by the turbine hall would be available for other uses but would not be suitable for the construction of a waste store.
- (viii) In reply to a question from Cllr Ms Perrett, Mr Montague said that the contaminated skips would be brought to the Site in a container licensed for the transport of this type of radioactive material.
- (ix) Cllr Burton understood the NDA's position in relation to community benefit but suggested that some level of support might ease the passage of the proposal through the approval process.
- (x) Mr Hamilton said that the concept of storing radioactive wastes at Magnox sites on a regional basis had been part of NDA strategy since 2011; government approval of NDA's strategy documents adopted the approach

as government policy. He emphasised that volunteerism was an essential part of the approach to selection of a site for a geological disposal facility and that such a facility would not be forced upon any community.

- (xi) Drop-in sessions to provide information to the public on the proposal would be held as follows:

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| 22 May | 17:00 – 19:00 hours | Bridgwater Town Hall |
| 5 June | 11:00 – 13:00 hours | Cannington Village hall |
| 5 June | 17:00 – 19:00 hours | Stogursey Church Rooms |
| 11 June | 10:00 – 12:00 hours | Bridgwater Town Hall |
| 11 June | 1400 – 1600 hours | Wembdon Village Hall |

MJD
21 May 2019