

**BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE
SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY 2020**

- Mr John Stanton, Chairman of the Group, welcomed members to the meeting.
- Mr Mike Heaton, Site Closure Director, reported on recent activities at the Site. He said that high standards of safety and environmental performance had been maintained and there were no significant events to report.
- Mr Heaton reported on continued progress with the retrieval of radioactive waste from the vaults on the Site. He said that the installation of retrieval equipment on Vault 3 would be completed later in the year and at that time facilities would be available for the retrieval of waste from each of the vaults and for the waste to be processed in either ductile cast iron containers or concrete boxes.
- Mr Heaton said that the construction of the plant for the encapsulation of wastes within concrete boxes would be completed during the coming summer. It was anticipated that this plant would be put into service in early 2021 when the necessary consent processes had been completed.
- Reports were received from the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency on the results of their regulatory and inspection activities at the Berkeley Site. No compliance issues had been raised by those inspections.
- Mr Jonathan Jenkin presented a report on behalf of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, providing an update on issues of current interest.

BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE

SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE BARN AT BERKELEY, BERKELEY HEATH ON WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY 2020

PRESENT:

| | | |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Mr J Stanton (Chair) | - | Co-opted member |
| Cllr S Chandler | - | Hamfallow Parish Council |
| Cllr C Davies | - | Stinchcombe Parish Council |
| Cllr Ms L Green | - | Stroud District Council |
| Cllr B Tipper | - | Gloucestershire County Council |

IN ATTENDANCE:

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Mr J Jenkin | - | Nuclear Decommissioning Authority |
| Ms S Gallagher | - | Environment Agency |
| Mr M Lynden | - | Oldbury on Severn SSG Chairman |
| Mr M Heaton | - | Site Closure Director |
| Ms J Young | - | Magnox |
| Mrs E Vaughan Lewis | - | Magnox |
| Ms G Coombs | - | Magnox |
| Mr P Barrett | - | South Gloucestershire & Stroud College |
| Mrs E Ashton | | |
| Mr G Wheeler | | |
| Ms B French | | |
| Mr M J Davis (Secretary) | | |

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Mr Stanton welcomed all those present to this meeting of the Berkeley Nuclear Licensed Site Stakeholder Group.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr G Craig, Mr J Beckett, Cllr C McFarling, Rev J McHale, Mr S Andrews, Mr G Vaughan-Lewis and Cllr G Langton.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) Accuracy

- 3 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 7 August 2019 were approved as an accurate record.

(b) Matters arising

- 4 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 7 August or from those of the meeting held jointly with the Oldbury SSG on 30 October 2019.

PUBLIC FORUM

- 5 Mr Stanton invited members of the public to raise any issues which might not arise in discussion later in the meeting.
- 6 Ms French asked whether the link to the Environment Agency's consultation on the company's application to vary the Berkeley site discharge permit, referenced in the EA report, was now available. Ms Gallaher undertook to arrange for it to be circulated to members via the SSG secretariat.

BERKELEY SITE CLOSURE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

- 7 Mr Heaton presented a report on current activities at the Berkeley Site, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) There had been no significant events on the Site since the date of the previous meeting and high standards of safety and environmental performance had been maintained.
 - (ii) The focus of work on the site continued to be the retrieval of intermediate level waste from the Vaults and the Shielded Area. Retrievals from Vault 1 were ongoing with approximately 20% of the contents removed to date; approximately 50% of the waste had been removed from Vault 2; and retrieval equipment was currently being installed on Vault 3. A fourth package of waste out of an anticipated total of nine or ten packages from the Shielded Area was currently being processed.
 - (iii) The installation of retrieval equipment on Vault 3 would be completed later this year. At that time facilities would be available for retrieving waste from each of the vaults and for the wastes to be processed in either ductile cast iron containers or concrete boxes. The Vault 3 equipment would include facilities to enable sludge cans to be processed in an inert Argon atmosphere.
 - (iv) The plant for encapsulating wastes in concrete boxes would be completed during the coming summer. It was expected to be put into service early in 2021 after completion of the necessary permissioning processes. Ductile cast iron containers were available for use in the meantime.
 - (v) The Site continued to provide support for various causes and organisations in the local community. Members were invited to share information on the Magnox Socio Economic Scheme -

<https://magnox socioeconomic.com/> with any good causes, and contact the Site if they needed any further help. The closing date for applications during the current financial year was 14 February 2020.

- 8 Mrs Ashton referred to recent press reports of the possibility of material from the reactor cores being used to produce batteries. Mr Heaton said that he had not been aware of any such proposal before he had seen the press reports. Mr Jenkin said that the Bristol University academic who had raised this prospect had previously been in touch with NDA research and development colleagues but he had been surprised at the extent of the publicity given to this.
- 9 In reply to a question from Cllr Chandler, Mr Heaton said he did not anticipate significant issues arising in relation to the consent for use of the waste encapsulation plant. He said that Radioactive Waste Management Ltd was being kept informed of the progress of the justification work.
- 10 In reply to a further question from Cllr Chandler, Mr Heaton said that the modifications to handling facilities to allow the use of concrete boxes included modifications to enable loads contained within the liners used with concrete boxes to be handled remotely. Such arrangements were not required after the liners were inserted in the concrete boxes due to the shielding provided by the concrete.
- 11 Mr Heaton referred to discussion at the meeting of this group held on 7 August 2019 in relation to site end state during which it had been anticipated that there would be public consultation on the waste management plans for Berkeley at the end of 2019. He said that this had been deferred pending consideration of a change in NDA's decommissioning strategy which would lead to a site being identified as a lead site for continuous decommissioning rather than following the current practice of adopting a period of care and maintenance.

UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION

- 12 Mr Shaw reported on ONR's regulatory activities in relation to the Berkeley Site. A written report had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.
- 13 Mr Shaw referred to his attendance at the Regional Annual Review of Safety, Security and the Environment covering Berkeley, Oldbury and Hinkley Point A Sites. He said that the meeting had been very positive, had provided a good review and had illustrated very satisfactory safety performance at each site.
- 14 Mr Shaw said that the ONR Chief Inspector and Chairman had visited Berkeley recently. He said that they had appreciated the opportunity for discussions with the site management team and safety representatives and had been impressed by the large volume of work on the site and the way it was being managed.
- 15 Mr Shaw said that that this would be the last of these meetings he would attend as he would be taking up another post within the Office for Nuclear Regulation and would be replaced as Site Inspector. He acknowledged the importance

attached by members of the SSG to the attendance of regulators at these meetings.

- 16 Mr Shaw drew members' attention to the consultation on the ONR strategy document which was accessible on the website. He invited members to submit comments either individually or, preferably, collectively.

UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- 17 Ms Gallaher reported on the Environment Agency's regulatory activities in relation to the Berkeley Site. A written report had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Ms Gallaher referred to the site inspection which she had carried out since the previous meeting of this Group. The inspection had covered arrangements for the management of liquid radioactive discharges; no issues of non-compliance had been found.
- 18 Ms Gallaher said that she too had attended the regional review of safety, security and environmental performance meeting and had been pleased to see the extent of collaboration between the Sites.
- 19 Ms Gallaher referred to the company's application for a variation to the radioactive discharge permit for Berkeley. The application covered the addition of two new gaseous discharge outlets and an increase in the permitted gaseous discharge limit for tritium; these changes were associated with the operation of the concrete waste encapsulation plant. Ms Gallaher said that the Agency was undertaking public consultation on this application which closed on 19 February. As mentioned earlier in the meeting, Ms Gallaher would be arranging for a link to the website page to be circulated to members via the secretariat (para 6 above refers).
- 20 Cllr Chandler welcomed the assurances given by regulators that the annual review of safety, security and environment had produced satisfactory results. He questioned whether a summary of that review might be made available to members. Mr Shaw felt that this would not be appropriate; particularly in view of the low level of hazards on the sites.

UPDATE FROM NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 21 Mr Jenkin provided an update on issues of current interest, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The NDA was currently undertaking consultation on its draft Business Plan for the next three years; the consultation would close on 14 February.
 - (ii) The transfer of civil separated plutonium from Dounreay to Sellafield had now been completed. All significant stocks of the material were now at Sellafield and the transfer of this material from Dounreay represented a significant step forward in decommissioning that site.

- (iii) The current strategy for decommissioning the former Magnox power station sites incorporated a delay in final site clearance until the end of a period of care and maintenance. As part of a review of this strategy it was anticipated that an announcement would be made in the Spring of a lead site identified to develop plans for a process of continuous decommissioning which would lead to final site clearance without a period of care and maintenance. Decisions on the strategy to be adopted at each of the other Magnox sites would be taken in due course.
 - (iv) It was hoped that the publication of the Holliday report relating to the NDA's competition for the Magnox contract would take place shortly following the resolution of issues raised in a judicial review.
 - (v) The NDA would be undertaking consultation later in the year on its strategy document for the coming five years.
- 22 Cllr Davies asked whether potential changes in conditions due to climate change were taken into account in reviews of decommissioning strategy. Mr Heaton confirmed that any potential impacts on safety cases were taken into account for each site in periodic safety reviews which were undertaken every 10 years.
- 23 In reply to a question from Ms French, Mr Jenkin said that all significant stocks of civil plutonium were now held in secure conditions at Sellafield. Some material had been returned to overseas countries in accordance with contracts for the reprocessing of fuel at Sellafield.
- 24 In reply to a question from Mr Barrett, Mr Jenkin said that community aspirations were taken into account together with technical issues when determining decommissioning strategies. Stakeholders would be consulted before decisions were taken on changes in strategy.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

- 24 Mr Stanton reported on his recent activities on behalf of this Group. He said that he had attended a meeting of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee and had been impressed by the level of cooperation with the various emergency services. He had also attended a meeting with chairs of other SSGs where senior Magnox personnel had given presentations on a range of policy issues.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 25 Mr Barrett gave an update on developments at the Gloucestershire Science and Technology Park on the Berkeley site. He said that various new groups were moving in to the site, including the Bloodhound land speed record team and the Gloucestershire Police training centre. He also mentioned that it would be helpful if the College were included in the end state discussions to ensure that their requirements are met.
- 26 On behalf of the Berkeley Estate, which was not represented at this meeting, Mr Barrett drew attention to an area of land to the north of the power station site.

He said that the Estate was interested in this area of land but had become frustrated by the lack of response to its approaches from the NDA. Mr Jenkin was not aware of the position regarding this land but undertook to report back on this at the next meeting of this Group.

- 27 Mr Stanton drew attention to the Magnox Stakeholder Charter, copies of which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Members agreed that the statement was generally acceptable. Mr Stanton drew attention to a minor change in the wording which he would be proposing and invited members to submit any comments they wished to make or to send them to him for incorporation in his response.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 28 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group, a joint meeting with members of the Oldbury SSG, was to be held on Wednesday, 13 May 2020 at the Oldbury Conference Centre.

MJD
31 January 2020