

**BERKELEY AND OLDBURY ON SEVERN SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS  
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 30 OCTOBER 2019**

- Chairman Mr Steve Chandler welcomed members to the meeting.
- Mr Mike Heaton reported on recent activities at the Oldbury and Berkeley Sites. He referred to the continued high standards of safety, environmental and security performance at both Sites.
- Mr Heaton said that Magnox Ltd had become a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority on 1 September 2019. Licensing and regulatory arrangements remained unchanged.
- Mr Heaton reported on progress at Berkeley with the retrieval, packaging and storage of radioactive waste materials and on the construction of a plant for encapsulating wastes in concrete packages.
- Mr Heaton reported on the continuing progress of work in removing equipment from the former cooling ponds at Oldbury. He said that analysis of solid intermediate level waste had shown that the volume of such waste to be sent to Berkeley for storage was less than had been anticipated.
- A report on current issues was given by Mr Jonathan Jenkin of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. Reports were received from the local site inspectors of the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency. Ms S Gallaher, the Environment Agency's inspector, reported that discharges of radioactivity were well within permitted limits. She referred to the report published by the Environment Agency and the Food Standards Agency on radioactivity in food and the environment for 2018 which demonstrated that the maximum potential radiation exposure to a member of the public in the vicinity of the Berkeley and Oldbury sites amounted to 0.5% of the statutory limit.
- Mr Phil Clarke reported on the monitoring of discharges and radioactivity in the environment undertaken by staff at Oldbury for the Oldbury and Berkeley Sites. He pointed out that the results of this work were consistent with the results of the independent monitoring undertaken by the Environment Agency and Food Standards Agency. He said that there had been no unexpected changes in discharges of radioactivity and no significant change in levels of radioactivity in the local environment.
- Mr Leon Flexman of Horizon Nuclear Power reported on the current state of his company's work in relation to the development of new nuclear power stations at Wylfa and Oldbury. He said that work on both projects was currently paused due to funding considerations but it remained the company's intention to develop the Oldbury site provided that work could be restarted at Wylfa.

**BERKELEY AND OLDBURY ON SEVERN SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE OLDBURY CONFERENCE  
CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 30 OCTOBER 2019**

**PRESENT:**

Mr S Chandler (in the chair)	-	Hamfallow Parish Council
Mr J Beckett	-	Stroud District Council
Cllr Ms C Collinson	-	Aust Parish Council
Cllr Dr J Cordwell	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr C Davies	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr D Dovey	-	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr Ms L Green	-	Alkington Parish Council
Mr M Lynden	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr Ms J Lyons	-	Olveston Parish Council
Cllr J O'Neill	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr M Riddle	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr B Roberts	-	Thornbury Chamber of Commerce
Cllr K Sullivan	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr B Tipper	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Mr K Warren	-	Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board
Mr J McHugh	-	Independent Environment Analyst

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr J Jenkin	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Ms S Gallagher	-	Environment Agency
Ms G Ellis-King	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr L Flexman	-	Horizon Nuclear Power
Mr I Gwyn	-	Horizon Nuclear Power
Mr M Heaton	-	Oldbury and Berkeley Sites Closure Director
Mrs E Vaughan Lewis	-	Magnox Communications
Mr P Clarke	-	Magnox, Oldbury
Mr I Goldsmith	-	Magnox, Berkeley
Ms S Stagg	-	James Reed PR for Horizon Nuclear Power
Mr T Acton	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Mr G Vaughan Lewis		
Mr T Hellen		
Ms J Hellen		
Mr J Mills		
Ms S May		
Mr A Mitchell		
Ms B French		
Mr G Wheeler		
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

- 1 Mr Chandler welcomed everyone to this joint meeting of the Berkeley and Oldbury on Severn Site Stakeholder Groups. He pointed out that as Mr Warner

had been unable to be present at this meeting, the agenda item on end state update would be considered as part of the Site Director's reports for Oldbury and Berkeley.

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Stanton, Mr David Drew MP, Mr P Barrett, Cllr G Langdon, Ms A Paine, Mr A Slaney, Mr P Barrett, Mr T Harding, Mr W Gill, Cllr J Carpenter, Rev J McHale, Mr N Shaw, Cllr Mrs H Molyneux, Mr D Third, Ms E Ashton, Mr V Polley, Cllr C Evers and Mr G P Simms.
- 3 Mr Lynden pointed out that Cllr Evers, who had been a member of this Site Stakeholder Group, representing the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils, since its formation, had decided to resign. He expressed members' appreciation of the contribution to the work of this Group which Cllr Evers had made.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **(a) Accuracy**

- 4 The minutes of the Berkeley and Oldbury SSGs' joint meeting held on 22 May 2019 and of the meetings held separately on 7 August 2019 were approved as accurate records.

### **(b) Matters arising**

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

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

- 6 Mr Chandler invited members of the public to raise any issues which might not arise in discussion later in the meeting.
- 7 Mr Mills drew attention to the value of areas surrounding the Oldbury site as a nature reserve. He said that areas which had not been cultivated or farmed over an extended period were of particular interest. He said that his comments were also applicable to land owned by Horizon and identified for future nuclear development. Mr Heaton said that questions relating to future use of land on the site should be addressed to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. Cllr Riddle said that use of areas as nature reserves could be compatible with initiatives being taken by South Gloucestershire Council. Mr Chandler suggested that this matter might be addressed at a future Oldbury SSG meeting.

## **SITE CLOSURE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- 8 Mr Heaton reported on recent activities at the Oldbury and Berkeley Sites, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) High standards of safety, environmental and security performance had been maintained on both sites. There had been no significant events at either site. Mr Heaton drew attention to the encouragement given to all personnel to discuss with colleagues any safety aspects of their work as a means of reinforcing the use of appropriate standards.
- (ii) Changes in regulations relating to emergency planning had placed duties on local authorities to define outline planning zones around nuclear sites. Site operators had submitted reports on the consequences of any potential site emergency and these were being considered by local authorities.
- (iii) Magnox had become a wholly owned subsidiary of The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority on 1 September.
- (v) Work at Berkeley continued to be focused on the retrieval of radioactive waste from the vaults, the packaging of the waste and its storage in the Interim Storage Facility. The retrieval of waste from the shielded area in the former laboratories was continuing. Equipment was being installed for the retrieval and processing of waste materials stored in the vaults in containers.
- (vi) An encapsulation plant which would enable wastes to be packaged for storage in concrete boxes was under construction at Berkeley. This would be similar to the plants being installed at Hinkley Point A and Chapelcross. A submission for the approval of the use of this equipment was to be made during the coming month and it was anticipated that the facility would be in operation by the end of next year.
- (vii) Referring to discussions at previous meetings on end states for the Magnox Sites, Mr Heaton outlined a possible change in strategy under consideration by the NDA Board. Consideration was being given to the possibility that current decommissioning might continue to include dismantlement of all structures at some Sites rather than those Sites being prepared for a delay in a care and maintenance state before final site clearance. Mr Heaton said it was still proposed to undertake consultation with stakeholders on waste management plans for the Berkeley site.
- (viii) Work continued at Oldbury on the removal of items of equipment from the former fuel cooling ponds. Samples were to be taken from wall and floor surfaces to establish whether any further cleaning or sealing was required.
- (ix) Somerset County Council had not given the required consent for waste materials from pond skips currently held on the Oldbury site to be transferred to Hinkley Point for storage. The materials did not represent any hazard or storage problem at Oldbury and the company was considering options for dealing with these items.

- (x) The volume of solid intermediate level waste to be transferred from Oldbury to Berkeley for storage had been found on analysis to be lower than previously anticipated. The waste would be contained in two ductile cast iron containers and transferred to Berkeley during the coming year.
  - (xi) Both Sites had continued to support local activities and organisations within the socio-economic support scheme. Members were invited to submit applications if they were aware of suitable good causes.
- 9 Mr Chandler suggested that consideration of the arrangements for consultation with stakeholders on the end state for the Berkeley site could take place at the Berkeley SSG meeting to be held in January.
- 10 In reply to a question from Mr Chandler, Mr Heaton said it was anticipated that the necessary approvals would be received before the waste encapsulation plant at Berkeley was ready for operational use.

#### **NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY**

- 11 Mr Jenkin reported on current issues, drawing attention to the following:
- (i) Public communications from NDA officers would be subject to the government's "purdah" requirements in the period leading up to the forthcoming general election.
  - (ii) Magnox Ltd had become a wholly owned subsidiary of the NDA with effect from 1 September when ownership had been transferred from the former Parent Body Organisation, Cavendish Fluor Partnership. Licensing and regulatory arrangements remained unchanged.
  - (iii) NDA was focusing attention on a review of lifetime plans and a number of strategy areas including strategy in relation to the timing of reactor dismantlement.
  - (iv) NDA was due to publish its draft business plan in December and would be undertaking consultation in due course on its revised draft strategy document.

#### **OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION**

- 12 It was noted that Mr Shaw had been unable to attend the meeting and had sent his apologies for absence. Reports on ONR's regulatory activities in relation to the Oldbury and Berkeley Sites had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.
- 13 Mr Lynden expressed disappointment that ONR was not represented at the meeting. He felt that representation at these meetings from ONR was particularly important in order to provide the Group with an independent view on information presented relating to activities at the Sites.

## **ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

- 14 Ms Gallagher reported on the Environment Agency's regulatory activities in relation to the Berkeley and Oldbury Sites. Reports had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. She reported on the results of her inspections and on discharges of radioactivity from the sites, which had all remained well below permitted levels.
- 15 Ms Gallagher referred to the report on radioactivity in food and the environment for 2018 which have been published recently by the Environment Agency and the Food Standards Agency. She said that the analysis contained in the report had concluded that the maximum potential exposure of a member of the public in the vicinity of the Oldbury and Berkeley sites was 5 $\mu$ Sv (microSieverts) during the year. This represented 0.5% of the statutory limit.
- 16 Mr Chandler said he hoped that the Environment Agency's declared policy of seeking to achieve net zero carbon emissions would not affect the attendance of officers to deal with issues at the Sites. Ms Gallagher also pointed out that the government's "purdah" requirements in the period leading up to the general election did not apply to Environment Agency personnel.
- 17 In reply to a question from Cllr Tipper, Mr Heaton said that the Sites no longer had licenses for abstraction of large quantities of water from the River Severn. Those abstractions had been required for cooling purposes during operation of the power stations.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT**

- 18 Mr Clarke reported on the monitoring of discharges and radioactivity in the environment undertaken by Magnox at Oldbury for the Oldbury and Berkeley sites. A report on the past year's results had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Mr Clarke pointed out that the results of the company's monitoring of radioactivity in the environment were very similar to the results published in the EA/FSA report on radioactivity in food and the environment.
- 19 Mr Clarke described the nature and scope of the environmental monitoring programme which included radiation measurements and analysis of Tackyshade collectors and TLD devices together with the analysis of food and environmental samples. Mr Clarke said that currently there were no plans to change the monitoring programme.
- 20 Mr Clarke said that discharges of radioactivity remained at very low levels, well within permitted limits. He pointed out that it had been anticipated that the liquid discharges of Tritium at Oldbury during the draining of the cooling ponds would exceed the Quarterly Notification Level and an appropriate notification had been given to the Environment Agency. The Agency had required a report from the Site to demonstrate that the best available techniques had been used to minimise the impact of the discharge.

- 21 Mr Clarke said that during the past year there had been no unexpected changes in discharges of radioactivity and the environmental monitoring programme had demonstrated that there had been no significant change in levels of radioactivity in the local environment.
- 22 In reply to a question from Cllr Sullivan, Mr Clarke explained techniques used to measure radiation levels and said that the environmental monitoring programme had been operating since 1959 before the Berkeley reactors came into operation.
- 23 Mr Clarke undertook to provide Mr Mitchell with information on the level of radioactivity measured in samples of silt at Berkeley in 1969.

#### **UPDATE FROM HORIZON NUCLEAR POWER**

- 24 Mr Flexman said that good progress had been made with Horizon's Wylfa Newydd project and the preliminary work in relation to the proposed Oldbury site but it had not been possible to establish appropriate funding arrangements and the projects had been paused. Discussions with government in relation to funding were continuing but staffing on the project had been reduced to a skeleton; ongoing work included activities to ensure that site assets were managed appropriately. He said that work had continued on the Development Consent Order for Wylfa and a decision from government was awaited; completion of this work would ensure that work could be started more readily if funding issues could be resolved.
- 25 In response to questions, Mr Flexman said that it had always been understood that a decision to proceed with construction at Oldbury would follow after work was underway at Wylfa. It remained the company's intention to develop the Oldbury site provided that work could be restarted at Wylfa.
- 26 Cllr Riddle expressed thanks to Horizon for refurbishment work undertaken on properties at Shephardine; he emphasised the importance of ensuring that vacant properties became occupied.
- 27 In reply to a question from Cllr Dr Cordwell, Mr Flexman said that a planning consent was limited to a life of five years, after which a new application would be required. Mr Flexman undertook to provide Mr Acton with information on possible compulsory purchase arrangements; he said that such powers were required but good progress could often be made with voluntary arrangements. In reply to a question from Cllr Sullivan, Mr Flexman said that some of the questions arising during consultation on the Development Consent Order had already been addressed in the submission.

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

- 28 Mr Chandler and Mr Lynden reported on the Chairs' recent activities on behalf of these Groups.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No Business

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

29 It was noted that the next separate meetings of these Groups were to be held on 29 January 2020. The date of the next joint meeting would be confirmed in due course.

MJD

3 November 2019