

**DUNGENESS A SITE AND B POWER STATION
SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING
THE VISITORS CENTRE – DUNGENESS B POWER STATION
THURSDAY, 30 JANUARY 2020**

ATTENDANCE:

Mr N Barnes	-	Kent County Council
Mr J Benn	-	Station Director, Dungeness B
Ms T Braithwaite	-	Environment Agency
Cllr M Burgess	-	Ashford Borough Council
Mrs G Kennedy-Brown	-	Magnox
Cllr Peter Coe	-	New Romney Town Council
Mr P Fahey	-	EA Inspector, Dungeness A
Mr A Feacey	-	Kent County Council
Ms S Fletcher	-	Communications, EDF
Mrs T Finn	-	SSG Secretariat
Mr D Godfrey	-	Deputy Chair
Mr G Hammond	-	Folkestone & Hythe District Council
Cllr T Hills	-	Kent County Council
Cllr B Hoggart	-	Rother District Council
Mr R Lavender	-	Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce
Ms T Luetchford	-	Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership
Mr J McNamara	-	NDA
Mr M Pardo	-	Communications, EDF
Cllr J Phipps	-	New Romney Town Council
Mr J Rogers	-	ONR Inspector, Dungeness A
Cllr A Rodrigues	-	New Romney Town Council
Mr J Royal-Simpson	-	Affinity Water
Col G Smythe	-	Independent, Chairman
Mr A Stone	-	EA Inspector, Dungeness B
Ms D Ward	-	Communications, Magnox
Mr P Wilkinson	-	Closure Director, Magnox
Mrs S Bowie-Wooler	-	Minute Taker

I INTRODUCTION

- 3706 Col. Smythe welcomed the SSG, explained the agenda for the meeting and that there were a lot of updates to be discussed in today's meeting.

II APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 3707 Col. Smythe explained that there is a list of attendees and apologies in their meeting pack.

III TO APPROVE THE MINUTES

- 3708 Query raised by Cllr P Coe on point 3692 in regard to updates on the safety aspects of B station and if there was a possibility that the station would continue running post 2028 and into 2030's. John Benn has confirmed this is covered in agenda item VII.

Minutes from meeting Thursday 9, May 2019 accepted as a true reflection.

IV CORRESPONDENCE

3709 There is a list of correspondence which has been provided in the meeting packs.

V MATTERS ARISING – GEORGE SMYTHE

3708 No matters arising.

VI COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS REGARDING DUNGENESS A'S CLOSURE DIRECTORS REPORT – PAUL WILKINSON, CLOSURE DIRECTOR

3709 Mr Paul Wilkinson delivered his report and highlighted the following points:

- Safety: The site has now achieved almost 4 years without a lost time accident, which is very impressive considering the type of work that is being carried out within the site at the moment.
- Target Zero: Zero harm to people and environment project. They have been carrying out various safety projects with a new target each month, with the aim of addressing all areas of safety. This has been a huge success at Dungeness A.
- Works: Ponds have now been drained and cleaned; this has been completed on NDA set target. The ponds drainage included removal of all waste and sludge from the pond's bays and the radiological surveys of all bay wall and floor surfaces was completed for both ponds in November 2019. This is a huge achievement for the site, and the staff have worked extremely hard to achieve this. The ponds buildings are due for demolition.
- Asbestos Removal Programme, this has been ongoing now for 2 -3 years, we will complete the bulk removal by June 2020. This has been complicated by the degradation of the plant but will be a brilliant achievement for the site. Spring Hangers, exposed to some of the Dungeness weather had corroded significantly and posed a danger to people working on site, we were working around them due to an incident at Hinkley, we needed a more robust approach to ensure safety of people on site. This is the reason behind the project taking longer than predicted.
- Workforce: Firm commitment with licence condition 35 date with ONR to take boilers down, which means the boilers, will be coming down in the coming years. This will be around 3 – 4 years away, this is a significant commitment to the workforce and continuing work around Dungeness A. The NDA are looking at a revision of strategy of the decommissioning, and the work of the boilers will take this further.
- Waste Projects: Significant amount of work ongoing in regard to waste, we have now filled over 100 yellow boxes of resin waste, some have gone to be stored at Bardwell's Intermediate Storage Facility (ISF). This programme was commended by the Chief Operating Officer of the company.

- Ongoing degradation: Due to the Dungeness Peninsula, there is a huge impact of adverse weather affecting the site. We are replacing mains water pipe work and road repairs; this will cause significant impact to the ongoing works during the weekday period. We will be completing some of this work at weekends in February, this could be noisy, it will be monitored, and we will be writing to residents to inform them when this will be occurring.

3710 Paul invited questions from the SSG.
No questions asked.

VII COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS REGARDING DUNGENESS B's STATION DIRECTORS REPORTS – JOHN BENN, STATION DIRECTOR

3711 Mr John Benn began his report by confirming he is now Dungeness B Station Director and is delighted to inform the SSG of his appointment.

3712 John delivered his report and highlighted the following points

- There have been a number of ONR inspections since the last meeting, latest being yesterday for LC11 (Emergency Arrangements Inspection) which went very well.
- Industrial Safety: Currently in a period of significant work, during the preparation for return to service. Last two years has seen £190m investment into the station, and although there have been no lost time injuries; there have been some minor events. ONR have asked us to improve our Industrial Safety performance, before it became a more serious event, we responded to this and there was an enforcement letter issued on the Industrial Safety Aspect. Since then we have taken 850 people through industrial safety refreshers, 900 people through human performance training and there have been a number of leadership training activities aimed at improvement leadership in the field to prevent further incidents, there has been an improvement in this area.
- Plant: Still currently shut down, dates for return to service are currently 20 April and 2 May for Reactor 22 and Reactor 21 respectfully. Reactor 22 is now the lead unit. Work continues on corrosion and main steam lines, these are the steam lines that take the steam to the turbines. All the mechanical work on the main steam lines is complete. Two safety cases have gone to ONR for approval; we should receive approval very soon. Corrosion work; the teams have delivered some great work and are putting the plant in good stead to potentially go beyond 2028. The reactor core is a different design to the stage 2 AGR's, it is more robust, and there aren't the same issues around graphite cracking that some AGR's have. To ensure the graphite core stays in good condition we have to manage the gas chemistry in the reactor, the consideration at the moment is that the graphite core will not be the life limiting factor for the station; it will be the condition of the boilers. ONR is yet to approve this case, next week there will be an ONR representative onsite to discuss this further.
- Boiler Lifetime Management: All work to be pulled together as one programme, and a strategy is being worked on to see what options, cost and what considerations need to be made to secure the station to be operating into the 2030's.

6713 John invited questions from the SSG

Tony Hills: Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), are we being considered a site for them? Whether we have the facility for them? What are your views on them?

John Benn: We are not interested in these at the moment, we are watching what the government position is with interest in regard to Rolls Royce, our focus as a company is delivering Hinkley Point C in Somerset and backing and financing for Sizewell C. There is no current plan for Dungeness, but we are watching with interest.

Tony Hills: Well done, it will be great to get on stream again and that you are looking to get back to service and I am sure that this committee will join me in wishing you every success in this.

Tess Luetchford: 2028 is not too far ahead for EDF to be making decisions for boiler lifetime management do you have any idea on what the timescales are for a decision to be made for the site to operate past 2028?

John Benn: For Dungeness, one of the considerations is how much water flows through the boilers. Which is the main differentiate for Dungeness as an AGR and other modern AGRs. This is one of the safety cases that we need to work through to get to 2028, we need to look at reducing the risk of a tube leak impacting on the gas circulators and reactor bulk. This is a technical programme, and will dictate what happens next such as do we add additional drains at the bottom of the reactor to deal with a tube leak, as at the moment we have no way to drain so we could not withstand a tube leak. It will tie into the station's medium term plan (MTP). Planning and what investment is made in the station. Decisions will need to be made in 18 to 24 months.

David Godfrey: Aspiration is to go beyond 2028, are you considering what may have to happen such as decommissioning if you are unable to go beyond 2028?

John Benn: Absolutely, we will need to start engaging with the NDA to look at how we defuel and decommission. We will plan towards the assumption that 2028 is the end date.

George Smythe: Would this be a similar set up to Magnox, where the NDA become a senior partner with EDF to deliver decommissioning?

John Benn: This will be in discussion, as ideally EDF would like to be the defuelling operator. We aim to have a similar set up to what will be adopted for Hinkley B.

David Godfrey: In regard to SMR's, as I am sure you are aware the Government have invested £19m into Rolls Royce and a consortium to start looking at this, as far as I understand, they are currently looking at Cumbria and Trawsfynydd. Together with our local MP, we have been discussing with the consortium the local authority's interest to see if this could happen in Dungeness.

VIII COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS ON ONR REPORT FOR DUNGENESS A – JOHN ROGERS, ONR INSPECTOR

3714 John Rogers explained that he has now taken over as Dungeness A site's ONR Inspector, having taken over the role from Rowland Cook. John delivered his report and highlighted the following points:

- Two wide ranging inspections have been carried out covering the degradation of the buildings e.g. boiler annexes, and the management systems in order to get back up to speed with the site.
- Very pleased to see the progress of the ILW retrieval, this is being done safely and hoping to carry out an inspection on this in the future.
- Corrosion led degradation; this is not a good situation and there is safety issues associated with this, and the concern to the ONR is the risk of harm to people from any related structural failures. There have been some minor structural failings, and there is a programme of work and funding lined up to rectify this and remove the failing structures.
- Roland had been pushing for a camera inspection of the reactor pressure vessel support; the site shared the video, some stills and a draft report. This found that there was very little degradation in this area and it is in a good condition.
- General standard of housekeeping needs significant improvement, the best way to describe it would be there are piles of stuff around the site. Some of it is waste, some of labelled, some unlabelled and Paul has been actioned to rectify this. This will be monitored over the coming months.

3715 John invited questions from the SSG:

George Smythe: Will the degradation impact on the timings of care and maintenance and will the structural faults need to be rectified before this can happen?

John Rogers: Yes, this will affect the care and maintenance date, all structural issues will be monitored over the next 6 to 12 months in order to get a clearer picture.

IX COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS ON ONR REPORT FOR DUNGENESS B – STEPHEN KIRSOPP, ONR INSPECTOR

3716 Apologies received; updated report has been included in correspondence

X COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATES – PHIL FAHEY, EA INSPECTOR, DUNGENESS A AND ANDREW STONE, EA INSPECTOR, DUNGENESS B

3717 Phil Fahey delivered his report and highlighted that the report is longer than usual and there was an update to all SSG's in regard to the GRR Permit, Geraldine from Magnox will be delivering a presentation on this to provide further information.

Phil delivered his report and highlighted the following points:

- Ventilation Plant: There was some learning from Sellafield that ventilation plant, especially hard to reach plant, had not been checked appropriately in a number of sites including Dungeness. Magnox requested that this was inspected across all sites and during this inspection it was found that a panel had fallen off one of the discharge ducts. This is a maintenance issue. We found some non-compliances to the permit because of this issue, but we are satisfied that there would have been a minimal discharge and minimal risk to

the environment. This will be a minor breach, and the next report will contain more detail.

- Turbine Hall Void: The turbine hall was demolished several years ago, and partial infilled with material. The void is being pumped out on a daily basis to prevent groundwater collecting and reacting with the infill. This has been going on for several years and there needs to be a long term solution found. There was a failure of the pumps before Christmas, but we believe that there was no environmental impact as a result of this. We also need to bear in mind, that when the boiler annexes are removed there will need to be a crane on site and the only place suitable is where the void is. The void needs to be filled in order to put the crane there safely on site, Paul Wilkinson has agreed to look into solutions to issues surrounding the turbine hall void.
- Ponds Drainage: Next steps are to discuss the end state for the ponds.
- Modular active effluent treatment plant: This is first in the country to treat aqueous discharge, and it will support the treatment of radioactive aqueous discharge now the ponds have been drained.

3718 Phil invited questions from the SSG

George Smythe: The report format has been changed?

Phil Fahey: Yes, this is to make it easier to read and to ensure that this accessible to everyone.

3719 Andrew Stone delivered his report and highlighted the following points:

- There has been various inspections including joint inspections with the ONR and EDF, the view is that the environmental performance has seen improvements in this area. Significant improvement is detailed in the ONR report item eight; the ONR has closed the regulatory issue associated with accumulation of radioactive waste in the decontamination centre.
- The new RIFE report 2018 has been published, there are hard copies at the back of the room, audio disks are available, and it can be downloaded from the internet. This is a summary of the independent monitoring carried out by the Environmental Agency, the Northern Ireland regulator and SEPA in Scotland. The orange section contains information about Dungeness, and the power generators in the UK.
- Habit Survey: Last summer, CFAS came to Dungeness to speak to local residents, visitors and fisherman to find out the general activities of those who may be affected by discharges in the area. The report is currently being drafted and should published by March 2020.

3720 Andrew invited questions from the SSG

George Smythe: Does this include the impact on food?

AS: Yes, this is a key bit of work to monitor the impact on those who are habitual to the area.

XI NDA UPDATE – JOHN MCNAMARA, NDA

3721 John McNamara delivered his report and highlighted the following updates:

- On behalf of the NDA, we would like to congratulate Paul Wilkinson and his team for the fantastic work they are doing at Dungeness A especially in the harsh conditions. They have achieved some great milestones.
- Continuous Reactor Decommissioning: The NDA's mission is to oversee the decommission to ensure value for money and ensuring the environmental compliance at all times, to minimise the environmental impact of decommissioning. We are constantly reviewing strategies, and the decommissioning industry is one of the most innovative in the nuclear industry, and sometimes this can be criticised. There has been a major reassessment around cost, environmental impact and retaining the workforce due to succession planning and decisions are to be made on which sites will be chosen. This will need government approval and an announcement will be hopefully made soon, as to which site will be the lead site.
- Socio Economic: The strategy will be reviewed, and the public consultation begins tomorrow, the NDA publishes the draft strategy on the website on 31 January 2020. This follows a challenge by Government and the Public Accounts Committee to say are you doing Socio Economics the right way? is the money being spent in the right areas? is the application process efficient, could it be standardised and be more open and transparent?
- NDA Stakeholder Survey: There is a ten minute survey available on the NDA website, which will run till the end of February. This feedback will go back to the NDA board, and will form part of the NDA Strategy.
- Stakeholder Summit: This will be taking place in Edinburgh, provisional dates late October/early November. Date and venue to be confirmed, all stakeholders are welcome.
- Radioactive Waste Management: Carol Wheeler, has now joined the RWM team as the new managing director and the site evaluation document will be published online in the next few weeks.
- Events: Strategy 4, part of the five year update which may impact on stakeholders and there will be both formal and informal consultations with both the SSGs, stakeholders and the wider public and the strategy will be published by April 2021.

3722 John McNamara invited questions from the SSG.

Tony Hills: Interesting points made about care and maintenance, and I am pleased to see the role of the workforce and the community is rising up as an importance within the planning of the future of the sites.

XII PRESENTATION ON MAGNOX SITE END STATES – GERALDINE KENNEDY-BROWN, DECOMMISSIONING DIRECTORATE

3723 Geraldine Kennedy-Brown delivered a presentation to the SSG, slides will be made available as part of the correspondence.

3724 Geraldine invited questions from the SSG.

Tony Hills: What could be left behind?

Geraldine Kennedy-Brown: An assessment would have to be made, and that would become the starting point for the end state.

George Smythe: When it comes to Dungeness A, and end state use we do not appear to be in the running for this. My understanding is because of the location and it being a SSSI, are we saying that this is a preconceived idea that there are plans for Dungeness for development?

Geraldine Kennedy-Brown: We do not know at the moment; the socio-economic survey will be key to all future uses. Magnox do not know at the moment.

XIII PRESENTATION ON CHANGES IN REGULATION TO OFF-SITE EMERGENCY PLAN – ADAM FEACEY, REILIANCE AND EMERGENCIES PLANNING SERVICE

3725 Adam Feacey delivered a presentation to the SSG, slides will be made available as part of the correspondence.

3726 Adam invited questions from the SSG.

George Smythe: Will a document be produced and distributed?

Adam Feacey: Kent County Council do currently have an off-site emergency plan, which is available on the website. This will change with the work that we are doing, and this will be published and made available at the end of May. We will share with the group the maps, the consequence report that has been produced by EDF, which details the potential consequences that could occur. We will seek independent advice from Public Health England, who will review and then this will become a public document. If anyone does have any further questions, please feel free to email.

XIV SOCIO-ECONOMIC UPDATE – GEORGE SMYTHE, SSG CHAIRMAN

3727 If you go to the A Station's report, there is an updated list of socio-economic projects that have been supported. Magnox granted £50,000 to help get the local CineMarsh project to begin.

There have been some worries around the review into the process for applying for grants through this fund, the Romney Marsh Partnership have agreed to oversee all the bigger projects, smaller projects will be able to still bid independently. The higher the amount of money will require a need for a larger accountability and reporting back to ensure that each project is value for money. There a number of ways that you can be supported such as by speaking to Haf or the RMP.

We still have money available through the Good Neighbourship Scheme, which is a smaller application process and is granted usually quite quickly through a small committee. Local projects have included the Lantern Parade in New Romney, and the feedback that we ask for is what was the money spent on and what benefit did it carry.

XV GDF WORKSHOP IN LONDON, GEORGE SMYTHE, SSG CHAIRMAN

3728 George Smythe attended the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) workshop last year, the GDF now have a new CEO and they are about to publish their latest strategy. The

RMP have now put the GDF into a task, this is noted and is of importance to the local communities.

George, Tracey and David attended a Magnox SSG chairs meeting, and there have been a number of changes within Magnox and there is a guide at the back of the room in regard to the new Magnox Board.

XIV ANY OTHER BUSINESS

3729 None raised

XV DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

3730 Next meeting to be advised at a later date.