



**WINFRITH SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)  
MEETING – 30 JANUARY 2020  
Meeting Reference SG27  
Venue: Winfrith Newburgh Village Hall**

**Present:**

Sandra Ellis (Chair)	Andy Munro – Magnox
Barry Quinn (Deputy Chair)	Susan Adams - Magnox
Mrs Maggie Snook – Wool Parish Council	Ellanor Joyce - Magnox
Adam Davis – Environment Agency	Stuart Clark – Magnox
Sarah Jamieson	Vanessa Cox – Magnox
Sheila Marshall	Kevin McIntyre - Magnox
Peter Fry	Emma Burwood – Magnox
Mike Stephens	Denise Cardenas, Tradebe-Inutec
Mandy Stephens	Andy Anderson, Tradebe-Inutec
John Draisey	John Sullivan - WRF
Daniel Draisey	David Redhouse
Nic Johnson – Winfrith Parish Council	Colin Weston
Dr John Larkin	Ruth Weston
Elizaveta Yakhontova – Bournemouth University	Alison Pugh – Magnox (minutes)

**Apologies:** Dr Paul Jenneson - ONR  
Andrew Davies – NDA  
Kelly Anderson - NDA

## **MINUTES**

### **1. Welcome and Introduction – Mrs Sandra Ellis, SSG Chairman**

Mrs Ellis welcomed everyone to the meeting. She introduced Andy Munro, the new Site Closure Director for Harwell and Winfrith.

Mrs Ellis explained that this would be her last meeting in the Chair as she would be standing down after 15 years in post

The November SSG meeting had been cancelled due to general election purdah rules.

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record.

### **2. Magnox Winfrith Report – Andy Munro, Harwell-Winfrith Closure Director**

Andy Munro said that he had joined Magnox in June 2019 and had taken up the Harwell-Winfrith Closure Director post from 1 September, following a three-month handover with Rob Gentry. This had been signed off as SQEP and reviewed by the regulators. Andy had previously worked as Executive Vice-President (Nuclear Business) for Rolls Royce and had started his career with Magnox.

Magnox had become a subsidiary of the NDA from 1 September and this would allow the sharing of information and good practice with other SLCs under the NDA. 38 CFP staff had left on 31 August and 38 new staff were recruited into Magnox to replace them. The only change at Winfrith had been Andy taking over from Rob Gentry.

All Magnox sites had been appointed an Executive site sponsor; Gordon Frisby (Finance Director) had been appointed as Winfrith's and he would attend regular staff stand downs.

Andy said that he had been very impressed with the standard and professionalism of staff at Harwell and Winfrith, in particular the number of qualified experts, experienced staff and the culture which encouraged staff to question things. Winfrith had made good progress against limited budgets. SGHWR and Dragon had attracted international interest, and recently the site had hosted a visit from the Japanese AEA who hoped to learn from Winfrith's practice.

## **Industrial Safety**

The Winfrith TRIR currently stood at 0.39 due to an employee being injured when a chair collapsed. The subsequent investigation had identified a suspected manufacturing defect with the chair and all chairs of the same specification were returned to the manufacturers.

In 2019 some events related to VLLW radioactive waste and out of scope non-radioactive waste consignments had occurred. A very small number of shipments sent off site had been mis-labelled and had resulted in the receipt of an ONR enforcement letter and an EA warning letter. A self-imposed waste embargo had been put in place. Both sites had implemented a Waste Improvement Plan; all Magnox parties involved were now confident that processes were robust and addressed all investigation findings and the embargo had been lifted in December 2019.

Just before Christmas a significant near miss occurred at SGHWR when a scaffold tube was dropped from height. No-one was injured but, as a precaution, higher hazard work across the site was stopped, pending outcome of the investigation. The site had now addressed all findings and switched work back on in a controlled and phased manner.

## **Environmental Management**

All environmental monitoring, gaseous and liquid discharges remained within required limits and there had been no environmental concerns since the last SSG.

Winfrith had been chosen as one of two pilot sites for the roll out of electric charging points and vehicles.

There had been a breach of the EA permit due to a small break in the Dragon pipeline. This had been flagged up immediately and there had been no harm to the environment. A remediation plan had been put in place to address that.

## **Programme Update**

The Site Lead Team had worked very hard over the last 5 months to secure increased funding for 2020/21. Funding at Winfrith would increase from £40M to £50M; Winfrith and Harwell had secured the highest funding across Magnox. Extra funding would allow decommissioning to progress and Plant and Structures could expand to allow the site to reach the end state more quickly.

Sites were currently in the middle of a detailed review of their Life Time Plans from a delivery and timing aspect. The main challenges would be recruitment and managing the impact of increased work, ensuring safety of staff and efficient use of taxpayers' funds.

All Magnox sites had recently undergone an IT migration due to a change of IT provider. This had been particularly painful for Winfrith because of bandwidth problems. A recent increase in bandwidth had resolved a lot of problems, and transition was almost complete. BT Open Reach would be working on a further increase of bandwidth over the coming weeks.

Andy reminded the SSG that Magnox had a SocEc fund for community projects; funds were available for this financial year and he encouraged people to apply for these via the Magnox website before the closing date of 14 February. Further details were also available from Emma Burwood: [emma.burwood@magnoxsites.com](mailto:emma.burwood@magnoxsites.com)

Kevin McIntyre (Programme Manager) then updated the SSG;

**SGHWR** - Deplanting work in the Primary Containment had finished and the project would be demobilised to carry out final stages of the asbestos clean. Once fully completed the project would invite high profile visitors and TV crews to visit. The safety case had been completed and would allow the project to continue to the next phase in summer 2020.

**Dragon** - Shielding doors and new floor structures would be installed in readiness for dismantling the core. The contract for the new Dragon inner containment had been awarded and it was expected that that the first laser cuts to the core would be made in March 2020.

**Sea Pipeline** – It had been agreed with the NDA that the marine section of the pipeline should be removed and the proposed options would be looked at in April to ratify a final strategy. A presentation would be given at a future SSG meeting.

A number of high profile visits would take place in February/March:

- The Magnox Board would visit Winfrith on 13 February.
- A team from Wylfa would visit on 4 March to learn from Winfrith's decommissioning experience.
- Senior Directors from the EA and Natural England would visit the site on 11 March.
- The Magnox Chairman, Lawrie Haynes, would visit Winfrith on 18 March.

**Question 1 (Sandra Ellis): Would there be an increase in the amount of HGVs along Gatemore Road when work ramped up because of increased funding?**

Answer: (Susan Adams): Agreement had been reached with Dorset Innovation Park for HGVs to access the Magnox site through the DIP site. Magnox awaited finalisation of legal documents.

**Question 2 (Sandra Ellis): Would the BT Open Reach work to increase the site's bandwidth affect local residents' wi-fi/broadband?**

Answer: No, this work would not affect local residents.

**Question 3 (John Larkin): I am pleased to hear that you are getting more funding for decommissioning. Are you able to communicate when you expect to be able to tell us more details about the end state, particularly dates?**

Answer (Andy Munro): Sites were currently going through LTP re-baselining with a first internal draft for Winfrith expected in April 2020. That would be worked through formally with Magnox and NDA governance, and it was expected to finalise for Winfrith around mid to end summer 2020 at the earliest. After which Magnox would be working on a plan to engage with stakeholders going forward.

### **3. Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Report – Kelly Anderson**

Kelly Anderson had sent apologies and submitted the following update:

- Andrew Davies would be leaving the NDA on 31 January. Sandra Ellis wished to thank Andrew for his support at SSG meetings and wished him good luck for the future.

- Tom Smith would be stepping down as NDA Chairman from the end of February and his successor would be announced shortly. (***Post meeting note: On 29 May it was announced that Dr Ros Rivaz would take up the post on 31 August 2020.***)
- The NDA's new CFO, Mel Zuydam, had now joined the NDA; he would replace David Batters who left the NDA at the end of 2019.
- The NDA's Draft Business Plan 2020-2023 had gone out for consultation and the NDA would be grateful to receive responses by 14 February.
- The UK Radioactive Waste Inventory 2019 had been published at the end of January. It gave information on all radioactive waste currently in existence and predicted to arise in the future.
- On 31 January the NDA would be publishing its draft social impact strategy for consultation and would be interested to hear SSG members' views on the document. The NDA's stakeholder survey had gone live. Some SSG members would have been contacted for interview and anyone interested were welcome to complete it online.

#### **4. Regulators**

##### **ONR – Paul Jenneson**

Paul Jenneson had sent apologies; the ONR report had been issued before the meeting.

##### **Environment Agency – Adam Davis**

The latest EA report had been circulated before the meeting.

Adam Davis explained that two events had breached the environmental permit. Lessons had been learned and there would be positive outcomes associated with the events. The design of the pipe at Dragon meant that it was a contained pipe, avoiding significant environmental risk. Problems with the waste consignments had been due to incorrect paperwork. The EA had been pleased with Magnox's approach to both events and learning would be shared across the NDA estate.

Emissions from the site were very low and within permitted limits. Levels would likely increase when the site moved towards final decommissioning but this would go through a formal comprehensive review.

The report on radioactivity in food and environment for 2019 had been issued in Oct 2019.

EA would consider how to respond to climate emergency and would discuss with Magnox. Their target would be to have zero carbon by 2050, but they hoped to achieve by 2030. They were pleased to see Winfrith being included in the pilot for charging electric vehicles.

Adam Davis noted that there would be worldwide interest in Winfrith's decommissioning projects; Winfrith would be leading the way and would be looked at very closely.

##### ***Question 4: Are we able to predict the trend for when the radioactivity in the atmosphere might rise and what it is likely to be?***

Answer: Kevin McIntyre said that safety cases would be generated for discussion/approval at Winfrith's Safety Working Party. The main discharge would come from dismantling the aluminium calandria from the reactor core but this would be minimal.

##### **Question 5: Would this figure be published in future reports?**

Answer: Kevin McIntyre said that the figure should be included in the Magnox annual reports, which would be available in the public domain.

## **5. What has happened on site since 2005? – Kevin McIntyre**

Sandra Ellis had chaired the Winfrith SSG for the last 15 years; Kevin McIntyre said that Winfrith had very much appreciated the support that Sandra had given to the site during this time. She had been outstanding in the role, supporting the site consistently through the 'highs' and 'lows' of that time. Kevin then gave a presentation on some of the key events and milestones which had happened during Sandra's time in the Chair.

## **6. Nominations for post of Chair and Deputy Chair**

Two nominations had been received – one for the post of Chair and the other for the post of Deputy Chair and it was agreed that Barry Quinn would be appointed as Chair and Nic Johnson as Deputy Chair. They both looked forward to working with the Winfrith site.

Barry Quinn said that Sandra would be a difficult act to follow and thanked her for her continued advice and guidance. He would carry on her legacy and continue to encourage members of the public to attend meetings, whilst engaging with the local community to get Winfrith's messages across. He looked forward to the next meeting in April.

Barry thanked everyone for attending the meeting and gave special thanks to Sandra.

## **7. Reflection on time as Chairman**

Sandra Ellis said that approximately 15 years ago she received a letter asking for nominations for the post of Winfrith SSG Chair. Initially she offered to do it for a short while but 15 years passed very quickly and she remained in the role! She said that the experience had been a huge learning curve, but had also been enjoyable. There had been many successes, but also some hurdles to overcome along the way, such as the significant funding cuts and staff redundancies in the mid-2000s. However, her proudest achievement had been obtaining increased funding following many years constant lobbying of senior NDA staff. The increased funding created extra jobs and Winfrith had since made very good progress toward decommissioning the site and driving forwards the end state. She said that exciting times lay ahead and the final end state was in sight.

Emma Burwood expressed her thanks to Sandra for representing Winfrith tirelessly over the last 15 years.

## **8. Any Other Business**

Sandra Ellis asked whether the Dragon and SGHWR models should be displayed at the Dorchester Museum in order to keep Winfrith's story alive. There might also be archive film available and she urged Barry Quinn and Peter Fry to take this forward.

Sandra Ellis wished to thank John Larkin for his help and support over the last 15 years, and also wished to thank Winfrith staff for their help and kindness.

Emma Burwood    SSG Secretariat  
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2 June 2020