

# **BRIEFING NOTE FOR THE JOINT SSG MEETING ON 27TH JANUARY 2021**

## **JOHN STANTON**

I hope that you are all well and able to join us for this virtual meeting. You will see from the agenda that we will be receiving the usual reports on progress in decommissioning from the Site Director and from the monitoring agencies.

However there is one completely new item and that is Nuclear Fusion Reactors. You may not be aware that the Government is inviting bids from regions willing to host a Fusion Technical Centre, to develop the technology for an experimental reactor. There is a proposal for Nuclear South West to prepare a joint bid to host this facility in the area and I attach a couple of documents giving much more detail. The huge benefit of fusion reactors is that they are inherently safe and produce very little radioactive waste, so are far preferable to fission power stations. There is considerable nuclear expertise in the South West and the local aerospace industry has experience in using high temperature materials, which will be core components of the reactor. Berkeley was the site for one of the World's first civil nuclear power stations and it would be fitting for the area to be associated with this exciting new development. Professor Tom Scott, from Bristol University, will give us a briefing on this proposal and Richard Arnott the NDA's role.

In my report I shall give a brief overview of the virtual Chairs meeting I attended and the update meeting I have had with the Site Director on progress at Berkeley.

I look forward to seeing you virtually on the 27<sup>th</sup>. If you need any help with getting to grips with Zoom please contact Jill, who will arrange assistance for you.