

**BERKELEY AND OLDBURY ON SEVERN SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD AT
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND STROUD COLLEGE, BERKELEY, ON
WEDNESDAY 27 JULY 2022**

- Mr John Stanton and Mr Malcolm Lynden welcomed members to this joint meeting of the Site Stakeholder Groups for the Berkeley and Oldbury Sites.
- Mr Mike Heaton, Site Director, reported on recent activities at the Sites. He said that there had been no significant safety issues at either Site since the previous meeting.
- At Berkeley the active commissioning of modified waste retrieval and handling equipment was due to commence. These modifications would allow concrete box containers to be used and included arrangements to allow waste to be retrieved from more than one waste vault at the same time. Plans were in hand for the demolition of the former blower houses which surrounded the reactor buildings.
- For the first time at any Magnox site, staff at Berkeley had completed the encapsulation of radioactive waste in a concrete box in a form suitable for ultimate disposal.
- Preparatory work was in hand at Oldbury for the demolition of the former turbine hall and design work had been started on equipment for the retrieval of stored fuel element debris.
- Some radioactive resin waste retrieved at Oldbury had been found to have levels of radioactivity which classified it as low level, rather than intermediate level waste. This reflected the high standards adopted during generation at the station and resulted in significant savings in processing and packaging costs.
- Reports were provided by representatives of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency.
- Mr Stanton and Mr Lynden reported on their recent activities on behalf of these Groups.

**BERKELEY AND OLDBURY ON SEVERN SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE
AND STROUD COLLEGE, BERKELEY, ON WEDNESDAY 27 JULY 2022**

PRESENT:

Mr J Stanton	-	Co-opted member
Mr M Lynden	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr Mrs E Ashton	-	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr I Bamfield	-	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr S Chandler JP	-	Hamfallow Parish Council
Cllr C Davies	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr N Easby	-	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr D Griffiths	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr C Parkinson	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr D Power	-	Chepstow Town Council
Mr B Roberts	-	Thornbury Chamber of Commerce
Cllr K Sullivan	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr B Tipper	-	Gloucestershire County Council

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr S Napper	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr P Jenneson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Ms S Gallagher	-	Environment Agency
Ms R Cleverley	-	Environment Agency
Mr J Buttivant	-	Environment Agency
Ms G Ellis-King	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr M Heaton	-	Oldbury and Berkeley Sites Director
Ms G Coombs	-	Magnox Communications
Mr T Hellen		
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

WELCOME

- 1 Mr Stanton and Mr Lynden welcomed everyone to this joint meeting of the Berkeley and Oldbury on Severn Sites' Stakeholder Groups.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Rev Godsell, Dr J Cordwell, Cllr Mrs H Molyneux, Mr G Wheeler, Cllr N Kay, Ms S Chang, Ms R Frett, Ms V Hesselton, Mr J French, Dr J McHugh, Mr A Mitchell and Mr G Vaughan-Lewis.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) Accuracy

3 The minutes of the joint meeting of the Berkeley and Oldbury SSGs held on 18 May 2022 were approved as an accurate record.

(b) Matters arising

4 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- (i) There had been no significant safety events at either Site since the previous meeting.
- (ii) There had been an error in a return showing discharges of radioactivity from Oldbury where symbols which should have indicated values less than the stated figure (\leq) had inadvertently shown values more than the stated figure (\geq).
- (iii) An exercise involving the police was to be held at the Oldbury Technical Centre site in the coming days.
- (iv) A sustainability garden had been established at Oldbury and some areas had been left un-mown to encourage biodiversity.
- (v) Challenging targets had been set for retrievals of waste from vaults at Berkeley during the coming year. Active commissioning of the R3 and R4 retrieval equipment was due to start shortly and plans for the demolition of the former blower houses were in hand.
- (vi) Modification of the retrieval equipment at Berkeley would allow retrievals to take place from more than one vault simultaneously.
- (vii) At Berkeley, for the first time within Magnox, a concrete box package had been filled with radioactive waste, its contents grouted, and a cover cast over the top. This system would be used at other Magnox Sites and the use of this type of package would result in savings of £100 million nationally.
- (viii) Preparations were being made at Oldbury for the electrical isolation of an area of the Site which would allow the demolition of the former turbine hall.
- (ix) Design work was in hand for equipment needed at Oldbury for retrieval of fuel element debris.

- (x) The demolition of the building which had housed equipment connecting the Oldbury Site to the grid system was to take place in the Autumn
 - (xi) The radioactivity levels in some resin waste retrieved from storage at Oldbury had been such that it had been classified as low level rather than intermediate level waste. This reflected well on the standards achieved during generation at the station and, by reducing the need for ILW packaging, would result in savings of some £500,000.
 - (xii) The Sites continued to support local causes under the socio-economic support scheme.
- 6 Ms Coombs invited members to contact her if they were aware of any local organisations which might be able to apply for help under the socio-economic support scheme. She undertook to provide Ms Ellis-King with information on the Envision scheme which was supported by Oldbury, and which provided a mentoring system for schools.
- 7 In reply to a question from Cllr Tipper, Mr Heaton said that the electrical generation sets at Oldbury were not suitable for re-use, but the metals would be recycled.
- 8 In response to Cllr Davies Mr Heaton said that plans for the Oldbury turbine hall were to remove all equipment, demolish the buildings and infill the voids; the buildings were not considered to be suitable for any alternative use.
- 9 Mr Heaton said, in reply to a question from Mr Stanton, that the ductile cast iron containers to be used for packaging waste from Oldbury for storage at Berkeley had already been acquired. Further ductile cast iron containers would be required in due course for packaging fuel element debris. It was not feasible to re-package waste already contained in DCICs into concrete box containers.

NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 10 Mr Napper reported on current NDA issues, drawing attention to the following:
- (i) The NDA had published its Annual Report and Accounts.
 - (ii) Magnox would be doubling in size in the coming years when it assumed responsibility for decommissioning the AGR stations and Dounreay.
 - (iii) With the end of reprocessing of Magnox fuel, all reprocessing at Sellafield had now been completed and the site could now focus on hazard reduction and preparing wastes for disposal.
 - (iv) There were now three Community Partnerships in West Cumbria and one in Lincolnshire, discussing issues relating to the potential location of a geological waste disposal facility; discussions were also taking place with other communities. Investigatory work would be undertaken during

the Summer to provide information on geological conditions off the coast of West Cumbria.

- (v) NDA was to work with Cwmni Eginio, a company created by the Welsh Government which was pursuing the possibility of establishing a Small Modular Reactor plant at the Trawsfynydd Site.
- 12 In reply to a question on progress with proposals for the development of a fusion reactor facility, Mrs Ellis King said that while a decision is still expected this year, it could be earlier depending on government priorities. The Government has announced that the regulation of fusion will continue to be regulated by the Environment Agency and the Health & Safety Executive as now, and not as a nuclear (fission) power station. [Regulation decision to help 'accelerate' fusion energy progress - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/regulation-decision-to-help-accelerate-fusion-energy-progress)
- 13 In response to a question from Cllr Mrs Ashton, Mr Napper said that benefits provided for communities engaged in discussions about the possible location of a geological disposal facility might include items of infrastructure which would be needed to service a future disposal facility or the provision of facilities which would help the community to develop in ways which might serve future requirements.
- 14 In reply to a question from Cllr Power, Mr Napper described the three types of geological conditions which were likely to be found and said that there was experience elsewhere in the world of disposal facilities being built in each of these rock types.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION

- 15 Mr Jenneson reported on ONR's regulatory and inspection activities in relation to the Berkeley and Oldbury Sites. Reports had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.
- 16 Mr Jenneson said that since his appointment as Site Inspector just prior to the previous meeting he had been familiarising himself with the Sites and carrying out some inspections. He said that his inspections had not identified any issues of concern and any points he had raised had been addressed.
- 17 Mr Jenneson said that he had recently attended a meeting of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee which had received good reports on the exercise of emergency arrangements while complying with precautions designed to restrict the transmission of coronavirus infections. He said that local authority members of the committee had been unable to attend the meeting, but he hoped to see them at future committee meetings.
- 18 In reply to a question from Mr Stanton, Mr Jenneson said that approval had not been given to any design of Small Modular Reactor, but ONR was working with others to ensure that required safety standards were adequately defined.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- 19 Ms Gallagher and Ms Cleverley 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. During discussion the following points were noted:
- (i) Agency inspectors maintained close contact with the Sites by means of regular meetings and contacts. They would establish early contact with newly appointed senior staff.
 - (ii) The next EA inspection would be focussed on decommissioning strategy and would in part be a joint inspection. This would be followed by environmental leadership inspections.
 - (iii) The error in a discharge return, reported earlier in the meeting by Mr Heaton, had been reported to the Agency by the Site. It was a breach of requirements but had no environmental impact.
 - (iv) The Agency inspectors could be contacted by members if they had any questions they wished to raise. Contact details were in the reports given to members.

FLOODING UPDATE

- 20 Mr Buttivant, an Environment Agency coastal engineer, provided information on issues relating to flood prevention in the area of the Sites. He explained the various factors which could combine to increase the risk of flooding. He explained the way in which flood risks were assessed and how actions were planned and taken to address those risks.

CHAIR'S UPDATE

- 21 Mr Stanton and Mr Lynden reported on recent activities on behalf of the Group.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 22 No business

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 23 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on 26 October 2022.

MJD
29 July 2022