

## **HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

### **SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD AT STOGURSEY VICTORY HALL ON FRIDAY 29 OCTOBER 2021**

- Noting that this would be the last meeting of this Group before the forthcoming retirement of Mr Peter Evans, Hinkley Point B Station Director, Cllr Caswell expressed members thanks and appreciation for the support given to this Group by Mr Evans and the frank and helpful way in which he had provided information.
- Mr Evans reported on the station's continued high level of safety performance. He pointed out however that in August the station's first reportable environmental event for over 12 years had occurred when, following a fire on a generator transformer, an estimated 10 litres of oil had been released from the site. It was understood that the oil would have evaporated within hours and that there would have been no significant impact on the environment, but the event was taken very seriously.
- Mr. Evans said that with Reactor 3 off load the opportunity had been taken to bring forward the planned graphite inspection work. Thirty-one fuel channels had been inspected and the results had been within expectations. The Reactor had returned to service on 25 October for what was expected to be its final period of operation. Reactor 4 was to be shut down on 12 November for planned graphite inspection work.
- Mr Mike Davies reported on further progress with preparations for defuelling the reactors following the cessation of generation.
- Ms Kirandeep Basra-Steele, attending a meeting of this Group for the first time since her appointment as Site Director for Hinkley Point A, reported that there had been no significant events on the Site since the previous meeting. She said that robust measures remained in place as precautions against the spread of coronavirus and there had been no evidence of any spread of virus on the Site.
- Ms Basra-Steele reviewed progress with the various programmes of decommissioning work on the Site. She described an arrangement which had been established for the consolidation of deliveries to the Site by a single local supplier which resulted in fewer delivery vehicles travelling to the Site and simplified unloading arrangements.
- Members received reports from the NDA and the Environment Agency.
- Recommendations for changes in the representation of various bodies in the membership of this Group which had been proposed by a subgroup of members were approved.

## HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at Stogursey Victory Hall on Friday 29 October 2021

### PRESENT

Cllr M Caswell (Chairman) - Sedgemoor District Council  
Ms K Basra-Steele - Site Director, Hinkley Point A  
Mr P Evans - Station Director, Hinkley Point B

### Elected Members

Cllr R Birkenhead - Otterhampton Parish Council  
Cllr Ms A Bown - Somerset County Council  
Cllr M Facey - Sedgemoor District Council  
Cllr Ms S Goss - Stogursey Parish Council  
Cllr W Hawley - Fiddington Parish Council  
Cllr K Hewson - Bawdrip Parish Council  
Mr A Jeffery - Bridgwater & W Somerset Green Party  
Cllr M Phillips - Cannington Parish Council  
Cllr Ms A Reed - Wembdon Parish Council  
Cllr M Reid - Nether Stowey Parish Council  
Ms M Smith - Forum 21

### Co-opted Members

Mr M Brown (Vice Chairman)

### Appointed Members

Mr S Napper - Nuclear Decommissioning Authority  
Ms T Braithwaite - Environment Agency  
Mr R Davies - Somerset County Council  
Mr P Stevens - Somerset County Council  
Mr R Kilroy - Somerset County Council  
Mr D Bamsey - Sedgemoor District Council  
Mr J Burton - Somerset West and Taunton Council

### EDF Energy

Mr M Davies  
Mr J Mason  
Mr M Pardo

### Magnox

Ms G Coombs

### IN ATTENDANCE

Mr M J Davis - Secretary

## **CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 1 Cllr Caswell welcomed all those present to this meeting of the Site Stakeholder Group for Hinkley Point A Site and Hinkley Point B Power Station. He expressed a particular welcome to Ms Kirandeep Basra-Steele, who was attending for the first time since taking up her appointment as A Site Director, and to Mr Simon Napper, who was attending for the first time as representative of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.
- 2 Noting that this would be the last meeting of this group before the forthcoming retirement of Mr Peter Evans, Cllr Caswell expressed members' appreciation and thanks for the excellent working relationship which Mr Evans had had with this Group and the open and frank way in which he had always provided information. He conveyed members' best wishes for Mr Evans' retirement.
- 3 It was noted also that this would be the last meeting of this Group before the retirement of Mr Russell Davies. Cllr Caswell thanked Mr Davies for his contribution to the work of the Group.
- 4 Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Morgan, Ms L Martin, Cllr B Eyley, Mr M Laver, Mr D Stokes, Cllr G Richardson, Cllr L Redman, Mr M Short, Cllr Mrs L Whetlor, Mr A Debenham and Mr M Hodson.
- 5 It was noted that there were sufficient members present to constitute a quorum for this meeting.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **(a) Accuracy**

- 6 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held via Zoom on 25 June 2021 were approved as a correct record subject to the following amendments:
  - (i) In the list of persons present Cllr Ms A Bown should be shown as representing Somerset County Council.
  - (ii) In paragraph 15(ii) the reference to Sedgemoor District Council should be replaced by Somerset West and Taunton Council

### **(b) Matters Arising**

#### **Integrated Waste Management Programme (para 16 refers)**

- 7 Mrs Smith said that during discussion at the previous meeting on the integrated waste management programme, she had asked Ms Gallery-Strong whether recent

predictions of rising sea levels were taken into account in relation to risks associated with the storage of wastes on sites and the issue had not been addressed. [Later in the meeting Ms Braithwaite said that the strategic assessments undertaken by the NDA in preparation of its integrated waste management plan did not specifically include the potential effects relating to flooding caused by climate change. She said that potential concerns such as flooding were taken into account when the strategic plan / plant was implemented at local level. She confirmed that the effects of flooding, including from of climate change, were taken into account in the implementation of strategic plans at Hinkley Point A. Regulatory aspects of sea defences on the Site were the responsibility of ONR and the risk of flooding in adjacent areas were regulated by the Environment Agency as a statutory consultee to the planning process.]

### **SSG Engagement with Young People (Para 22 refers)**

- 8 Cllr Caswell referred to the point raised at the previous meeting by Cllr Ms Goss that the Group might seek further opportunities for engagement with young people. He said that he had discussed this matter briefly with Cllr Redman, who had made helpful suggestions, and he had undertaken to talk again with him on this subject. Cllr Caswell apologised for not having done so but would pursue this in due course.

### **STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B**

- 9 Mr Evans reported on activities and performance at the power station since the previous meeting of this Group, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) High standards of safety performance had been maintained at the station. It was now 15 years since the last nuclear reportable event, 5 years since the station's last lost time accident to a member of staff and one year since the last lost time accident to a contract partner.
  - (ii) On 19 August, following a fire on a generator transformer, there had been the first reportable environmental event in over 12 years when an estimated 10 litres of transformer oil had been released from the site.
  - (iii) There had been seven minor first aid injuries at the site since the previous meeting.
  - (iv) Lloyds Register Quality Assurance auditors had completed their surveillance of the station's systems and had confirmed continued certification against ISO management standards.
  - (v) Leakage of carbon dioxide from a boiler reheater pinhole leak into boiler water was being monitored. The leakage was within the permitted

discharge level, but the issue would be discussed with the Environment Agency if the level of the leakage increased.

- (vi) A contractor had been dismissed from further work on the station site following a report of poor driving standards and an inappropriate response when the matter had been raised with them.
  - (vii) The Unit had been operating at full load on 19 August when Generator Transformer 7 had suffered an internal electrical fault. Reactor 3 had shut down automatically and safely. The installed fire protection system had operated within 10 seconds of the fault and extinguished the fire. Most of the large volume of insulating oil and water from firefighting had been contained on site but an estimated 10 litres of oil had been released off site. It was thought that the oil would have evaporated within hours and not caused damage to the environment. The transformer had been repaired and all similar units inspected to prevent any recurrence of the fault.
  - (viii) With Reactor 3 offload the opportunity had been taken to bring forward the planned graphite inspection outage. Thirty-one channels had been inspected and results had been within expectations. Reactor 3 had been returned to service on 25 October to start its final period of six months operation. Reactor 4 was to be shut down on 12 November for graphite inspection work.
  - (ix) There were 485 employees on the B station site, 10 apprentices, 200 contractors and 18 agency staff.
- 10 Cllr Ms Goss expressed Stogursey Parish Council's appreciation of the efforts made by the station to keep them informed of issues affecting the station, including this recent fire.
- 11 In reply to a question from Cllr Birkenhead, Mr Evans said that the reactor could operate with a section of reheater isolated, but with a consequential loss in power output.

## **HINKLEY POINT B DEFUELLING PLANS**

- 12 Mr Davies provided an update on preparations which were being made for defuelling of the station's reactors after final shutdown. He said that there were four plant modifications required to enable defuelling to proceed at an appropriate rate; two of the modifications which could be completed in advance had already been carried out; others would take place after the reactors were shut down. Mr Davies said that technical work on the revision of safety cases was proceeding

satisfactorily, and the necessary proposals would be submitted to the ONR shortly.

- 13 Mr Davies said that consultations with individual members of staff on their aspirations for the future was commencing. During January all members of staff would have interviews with their line manager.
- 14 Mr Davies reminded members that defuelling would produce some 400 flasks of fuel to be despatched from site and it was planned to increase the despatch rate from approximately 1 per week to 3 per week to complete the work in about three years. Mr Bamsey drew attention to the need to inform local residents of this increased traffic at the Bridgwater railhead. In response to a question from Cllr Birkenhead, Mr Davies said it was anticipated that Sellafield would be able to accept flasks at this enhanced despatch rate and that appropriate priority would be given to dealing with despatches from Hinkley Point B and Hunterston B.

#### **SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A SITE**

- 15 Ms Basra-Steele reported on activities at the A Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
  - (i) Robust arrangements remained in place on the Site as precautions against the spread of coronavirus. There had been no evidence of transmission of the virus on the site.
  - (ii) High standards of safety performance had been maintained and there had been no significant incidents on the Site since the previous meeting.
  - (iii) An arrangement had been introduced for deliveries to the Site to be consolidated by a local supplier and brought to the Site, thereby reducing the number of journeys to the site by delivery lorries and simplifying unloading arrangements.
  - (iv) Some 30 m<sup>3</sup> of the total 749 m<sup>3</sup> of fuel element debris had been retrieved from the waste vaults to date. The target for retrievals of this waste during the current year was 14 tonnes. The retrieval rate would increase when it was possible to remove waste from all vaults concurrently.
  - (v) There was a continuing major programme of work to remove residual asbestos from plant and equipment. The target for the current year was 13,000 m<sup>2</sup>.
  - (vi) Facilities for conditioning waste by encapsulation within drums were being manufactured off site and would be brought to Site for commissioning later this year.

- (vii) Commissioning and staff training in the operation of the Interim Storage Facility was continuing.
- 16 In response to a question from Cllr Phillips, Ms Basra-Steele said that the eddy current separating device for the removal of springs from the fuel element debris waste was working well and the operators were becoming more practised in the sorting process.
- 17 In response to a question from Cllr Hawley, Ms Basra-Steele said that fuel element debris retrievals to date had been from the R1 and R2 wet faults. Plant enhancements to allow retrievals from all wet and dry vaults at the same time would enable the required retrieval rate to be achieved.
- 18 Cllr Birkenhead said he would like to see the A station control room preserved as part of the Station's industrial heritage. Ms Coombs said that this had been considered previously.

#### **UPDATE FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY**

- 19 Mr Napper pointed out that he had been appointed to replace Mr Jonathan Jenkin who was being seconded to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. He provided an update on current activities within the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, drawing particular attention to the following:
  - (i) NDA staff were continuing to work largely from home. A managed return to office working was taking place but some working from home was likely to continue in the future where it proved to be an efficient arrangement.
  - (ii) The NDA had published its Annual Report and Accounts and a sustainability report.
  - (iii) Government and NDA had published their responses to the recommendations of the Magnox inquiry and departmental review. Many of the recommendations had already been addressed within the NDA's new organisational arrangements.
  - (iv) Following consultation, the NDA had published its strategy document.
  - (v) Implementation of the new Group Leadership structure within NDA was continuing. Dounreay had been transferred to NDA ownership. A new Nuclear Waste Services division was being formed to combine the various waste organisations within a single executive team.
  - (vi) The working groups established in Cumbria to discuss the possibility of establishing a geological disposal facility for radioactive waste had

identified search areas. Copeland had decided to move into a community partnership arrangement. A new working group had been established in Theddlethorpe, Lincolnshire.

#### **ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT**

20 Ms Braithwaite reported on the Environment Agency's monitoring and regulatory activities in relation to Hinkley Point A Site and B Station. A report on those activities had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Particular attention was drawn to the following:

- (i) Agency inspectors had held a series of regular meetings with site personnel for discussions on environmental impacts.
- (ii) The Agency was reviewing a Best Available Techniques assessment provided by Hinkley Point A relating to arrangements for the management of fuel element debris retrieval.
- (iii) An inspection had found good levels of environmental awareness amongst Hinkley Point A staff. A recommendation had been made for further improvements.
- (iv) The Agency would be commenting on proposals to establish a preconditioning facility for the packaging of intermediate level wastes on A Site.
- (v) Discharges of radioactivity from A Site and B Station were well within permitted limits.
- (vi) Discharges from the minor reheater leak on Hinkley Point B Reactor 4 were being monitored. Agreement had been reached with the Station on actions to be taken if the level of this leakage increased.
- (vii) Consideration was being given to the appropriate enforcement action in relation to the fire on the Hinkley Point B generator transformer.

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

21 ONR inspectors had been unable to attend this meeting. Reports on their inspection activities had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Members undertook to contact the Sites if they had any questions arising from these reports.

#### **MEMBERSHIP REVIEW**

22 Mr Brown confirmed the recommendations of the subgroup following its review of the membership of the Group as outlined at the previous meeting:

- (i) Membership should be withdrawn from:  
  
Pawlett, Chilton Trinity and Over Stowey Parish Councils;  
  
English Nature and the Country Landowners Association; and  
  
Mendip District Council
- (ii) Following the merger of West Somerset and Taunton Deane District Councils, each of which had been represented by two members, Somerset West and Taunton Council should be invited to nominate only two representatives.

- 23 Cllr Caswell thanked the subgroup for its work in carrying out this review. He pointed out that it might be necessary for the subgroup to meet again when the anticipated organisational changes in local government became known. In reply to a question from Cllr Ms Reed, Mr. Brown confirmed that the organisations affected had been informed of the intended changes in representation.
- 24 Members agreed unanimously to approve the recommendations of the subgroup for changes in representation on this Group as set out in paragraph 22 above.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- 25 A report from Cllr Caswell as chairman of the Group had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. He thanked members for their participation in discussion at this meeting.

#### **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

- 26 No business.

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

- 27 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on Friday 25 February 2022.

MJD  
2 November 2021