

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD AT THE CANALSIDE, BRIDGWATER ON FRIDAY 24 JUNE 2022

- Cllr Mike Caswell, Chairman of the Group, welcomed all those present to the meeting.
- Mr Steve Booth reported on the Hinkley Point A Site. He said that that a high standard of safety performance had been maintained and there had been no significant events. During the past year, targets had been met for the retrieval of radioactive wastes, the removal of residual traces of asbestos and the implementation of projects for managing future decommissioning work.
- Mr Mike Davies reported on performance of the Hinkley Point B station. He said that both reactors were currently on load but during the coming weeks would be shut down for the final time. During an operating lifetime of over 46 years the station had produced more than 310 terawatt hours making it the UK's most productive nuclear power station.
- Mr Davies said that high standards of safety had been maintained on the power station and there had been no significant safety or environmental events. The final shutdown of the reactors would be followed by a pre-defueling outage to carry out work which was essential to secure the safe and reliable defueling of the reactors. This outage would involve an additional 180 contractors' personnel working on the site for a period of 10 weeks.
- Members received reports from the NDA, the Office for Nuclear Regulation, and the Environment Agency.
- Vice Chairman Mr Mervyn Brown would be convening a meeting of a sub group of members to consider changes in the representation on this Group which were necessary to reflect the recent changes in local government in Somerset.

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at the Canalside, Bridgwater on 24 June 2022

PRESENT

Cllr M Caswell (Chairman) - Sedgemoor District Council
Mr S Booth - EHSS&Q Manager, Hinkley Point A
Mr M Davies - Station Director, Hinkley Point B

Elected Members

Mr R Birkenhead - Otterhampton Parish Council
Cllr H Davies - Somerset County Council
Mr A Debenham - Stop Hinkley
Cllr B Eyley - Kilve Parish Council
Cllr Ms S Goss - Stogursey Parish Council
Cllr W Hawley - Fiddington Parish Council
Cllr K Hewson - Bawdrip Parish Council
Cllr M Hodson - Spaxton Parish Council
Mr A Jeffery - Bridgwater & W Somerset Green Party
Mr M Phillips - Cannington Parish Council
Cllr L Redman - Bridgwater Town Council
Cllr J Roberts - Nether Stowey Parish Council
Ms M Smith - West Somerset Green Forum

Co-opted Members

Mr M Brown (Vice Chairman)

Appointed Members

Mr S Napper - Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr D Knowles - Office for Nuclear Regulation
Ms T Braithwaite - Environment Agency
Mr P Stevens - Somerset County Council
Ms L Martin - Somerset County Council
Mr J Burton - Somerset West and Taunton Council
Mr A Smith - Sedgemoor District Council

EDF Energy

Mr D Hanmer

Magnox

Mr B Hamilton

Mr R Dew

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr J Freeman

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.
- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Ms V Thomas, Cllr Ms A Reed, Mr M Short, Ms J Manley, Mr I Liddell-Grainger MP, Cllr Ms R Perrett, Mr D Stokes, Ms G Coombs, Cllr S Moffatt and Mr P Jennesson.
- 3 It was noted that Mr D Hanmer was attending as a representative of union members at Hinkley Point B.
- 4 It was noted that there were sufficient members present to constitute a quorum for this meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a) Accuracy

- 5 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 25 February 2022 were approved as a correct record subject to the incorporation of the following amendments:

Ms L Martin to be included in the list of appointed representatives present at the meeting.

In the first line of para 18 delete the words “from Cllr Birkenhead”

(b) Matters Arising

- 6 There were no matters arising which would not be addressed in later presentations.

SITE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A SITE

- 7 Mr Booth reported on activities at the A Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
 - (i) There had been no significant accidents or incidents on the Site since the previous meeting.
 - (ii) Recycled plastic picnic benches, sourced locally, and manufactured from materials collected from the Hinkley sites were being installed on the Site to provide outside areas for staff to sit,
 - (iii) The Site was currently recruiting six apprentices. Seven existing apprentices were completing their training during the current term.

- (iv) Last year's targets for the processing of 14 tonnes of fuel element debris, remediating 13,000 square metres of asbestos and installing the waste encapsulation plant had been met. Removal of residual traces of asbestos had completely remediated one boiler house. The major programme of removal of asbestos was due for completion during 2023.
 - (v) Inactive commissioning of the waste encapsulation plant would be completed this year and the first package of radioactive waste was due to be processed in 2023.
 - (vi) Systems were being designed for the retrieval of fuel element debris stored in air in vaults on the Site.
 - (vii) The Site continued to support local causes with its socio-economic support scheme. Members were invited to contact the Site if they were aware of any causes which were potentially worthy of support.
- 8 In reply to a question from Mr Jeffery, Mr Booth said that the bulk of the sorting of fuel element debris was achieved by use of an eddy current separator. In response to a comment from Mr Debenham, Mr Booth said that the Site's efforts to improve sustainability included various socio-economic aspects such as providing local employment opportunities together with actions to reduce the use of resources and energy consumption. Ms Braithwaite confirmed that sustainability aspects were included in best available techniques assessments.
- 9 In response to a comment from Mr Jeffery, Mr Booth described work which was required on sea defences. Mr Burton said that planning consent aspects were expected to be resolved during the coming month.
- 10 In reply to Mr Debenham, Mr Booth said that consideration was being given to potential opportunities for rationalising the storage of wastes from the A and B Sites.

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 11 Mr Davies reported on activities and performance at the power station since the previous meeting of this Group, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Both reactors were currently on load but would be shutting down for the final time during the coming weeks. Reactor 4 would be shut down at 10:00 am on 6 July and Reactor 3 would follow at 10:00am on 1 August.
 - (ii) The station had maintained its very high standards of safety performance. It was now more than 15 years since the last nuclear reportable event, over

- 6 years since the station's last lost time accident involving a member of staff and 2½ years since the last such accident involving a contract partner.
- (iii) There had been no significant environmental events since the previous meeting. The pinhole leak in a reheater reported previously to this meeting had been monitored and its condition was unchanged; it would be blanked off following depressurisation of the reactor. The loss of water from the cooling pond to the active effluent treatment plant reported at the previous meeting had been caused by a sample valve being inadvertently left open; this valve and other similar valves were being replaced by ones which were less likely to be left open.
 - (iv) Scheduled maintenance work on a whole-body radiation monitor had been inadvertently missed.
 - (v) The dates for final shutdown of the reactors had been deferred due to unplanned outages caused by the effect of storms on grid system equipment. Two further unplanned outages had occurred on Reactor 3 caused by a fault in control fluid hoses on the turbine.
 - (vi) Hinkley Point B, with a total output in excess of 310 terawatt hours was the most productive nuclear power station in the UK. In recent weeks there had been speculation in the press that the final date for shutdown might be deferred in order to reduce the impact of increases in fossil fuel prices. This was not realistically possible due to the volume of work which would be necessary to justify such action.
 - (vii) Actions were being taken to meet as far as possible the aspirations of individual members of staff in relation to employment following the reactor shutdown.
 - (viii) The shutdown of Reactor 4 would be followed by a pre-defueling outage. This was expected to last 10 weeks and would involve 180 contract personnel.
 - (ix) Due to the timing of the reactor shutdowns, a decision had been taken to defer until the autumn the demonstration exercise of the emergency arrangements which had been planned for early July.
 - (x) The station continued to provide support for local charities and organisations and had raised over £38,000 for Prostate Cancer UK.
 - (xi) SSG members were invited to visit B Station on 22 July. Details would be circulated shortly.

12 Mr Phillips asked whether a reactor would be restarted if it had an unplanned outage between now and the planned shutdown date. Mr Davies said that it would

- depend on when such an event took place, but the scheduled shutdown dates would not be deferred further.
- 13 Mr Debenham asked whether the French owners of EDF had been involved in decisions about the closure dates. Mr Davies said that the Site Licence for the station was held independently by EDF in the UK and he was the agent of the licensee. Decisions on closure dates had been taken by those with responsibilities under the Site Licence and were based upon safety case and engineering considerations relating to the ability to shut down safely in the event of an extreme external event.
- 14 In response to a further question from Mr Debenham on possible changes in security arrangements following the end of generation at the station, Mr Davies said that potentially some hazards would reduce as fuel was removed from the site but security, together with nuclear safety, would continue to have the highest priority.
- 15 Cllr Hawley asked about changes in arrangements for the management of change following concerns raised by the ONR. Mr Davies said that it was recognised that changes were needed in the arrangements which had been in place for many years of steady state operation. Hunterston B was taking the lead in developing new management of change arrangements for all sites; it was expected that the new arrangements would be approved by the end of the current year.
- 16 Cllr Redman suggested that it would be helpful for members to have a display of key dates for the decommissioning of the B station. Cllr Caswell said it would be helpful if this included key milestones from the operational life of the plant. Mr Davies said that this could be provided. He said that current plans were that Reactor 4 would be fuel free at the end of 2023 and that the site as a whole would be fuel free by the end of 2025.
- 17 Ms Smith drew attention to the need for discussions with councils if business rates would no longer be payable when the station was not producing electricity. No information on this issue was available at the meeting.
- 18 Mr Birkenhead asked whether the final shutdown would be celebrated by some form of shutdown ceremony. Mr Davies said he proposed to have a balanced approach. Staff would quite properly want to celebrate the station's achievements, but the shutdown operations would be managed as normal by the staff in the control room and no one else would be in there at that time.
- 19 In response to a question from Mr Jeffery on the arrangements for the despatch of fuel from the site during defueling, Mr Davies said that the number of flasks leaving the site would increase from one or two per week to three or four per week but the number of train movements from the railhead would probably not change as the trains could take more than one fuel flask.

UPDATE FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 20 Mr Napper provided an update on current activities within the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) NDA offices were now open following the pandemic, but staff were likely to continue to adopt a mix of home and office working where appropriate.
 - (ii) NDA had published its sustainability strategy.
 - (iii) Reprocessing of Magnox fuel at Sellafield would come to an end in July, having been started in 1964. The facilities would then enter a new phase of clean out and decommissioning. Some 55,000 tonnes of spent fuel had been re processed - more than half of the total volume of fuel reprocessed in the world.
 - (iv) During the previous week a fourth Community Partnership had been established at Theddlethorpe in Lincolnshire to allow further consideration to be given to the possible siting of a geological disposal facility.
 - (v) Marine geophysical surveys were to be carried out off the coast of Cumbria during the coming months to provide information on local geological conditions.
 - (vi) NDA was working with a company which had been established to develop proposals for a small modular reactor at Trawsfynydd.
 - (vii) A stakeholder event was to be held in Edinburgh on 7/8 September.
- 21 In response to questions on future decommissioning plans, Mr Hamilton said that current plans were based upon a quiescent period of “care and maintenance” before final site clearance. Consideration had been given to the possibility of shortening the overall work programme and a new plan was currently with government for consideration. Mr Hamilton hoped that the necessary approval would allow this new strategy to be discussed at the next meeting.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORT

- 22 Mr Knowles reported on the ONR’s inspection and regulatory activities in relation to Hinkley Point A Site and B Station. Reports on those activities had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. He drew particular attention to the following:

- (i) In due course, as a consequence of the transfer of ownership, Hinkley Point B would have to be relicensed to Magnox.
- (ii) It was recognised that the need for improvement in management of change arrangements was an issue for the company as a whole and not just Hinkley Point B. The focus of work on the necessary improvements was with Hunterston B.
- (iii) The pre-defueling outage for Reactor 4 would include work to allow implementation of safety case requirements for defueling operations.
- (iv) The unplanned outages of Reactor 3, reported earlier by Mr Davies, had been due to the failure of control fluid hoses on the turbine. These hoses were not part of a safety system, but the failures had drawn attention to the potential effects of repeat minor failures.
- (v) Mr Knowles had not yet received a report from the station on the whole-body monitor maintenance referred to by Mr Davies. Mr Knowles said it was questionable whether it was appropriate for this item to be included on the maintenance schedule but said that if it was included, then maintenance schedule requirements had to be observed.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT

23 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 maintained good dialogue with the sites and had series of regular meetings.
- (ii) Inspections of Low Level Waste management systems at Hinkley Point A and on preparations for defueling and long-term asset care at Hinkley Point B had not identified any issues of non-compliance.
- (iii) The Agency had been consulted regarding a planning application for an additional concrete batching plant on A Site. It was recognised that this plant was required to package waste in accordance with Best Available Techniques.
- (iv) Advice had been given to A Site on regulatory requirements associated with works on gabion wall sea defences.

- (v) The report on radioactivity in food and the environment for 2021 which was to be published by the EA and the Food Standards Agency in October would be available online but was not being printed. Support would be given to any members who were not able to access it online.
- 24 In reply to a question from Cllr Hewson, Ms Braithwaite explained the classifications of Low Level Waste, Very Low Level Waste and out of scope waste. She suggested that it might be helpful in future reports to include a glossary of such terms.

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 reviewed the meetings which he and Mr Brown had attended and would be attending on behalf of the Group.
- 26 Cllr Caswell said that Mr Brown would be re-convening the subgroup which had previously reviewed aspects of the membership of this Group. The subgroup would be asked to consider and propose changes in representation which would be appropriate following the local government changes in Somerset. It was intended that recommendations for any changes would be brought to the next meeting of this Group for consideration.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 27 Ms Smith referred to discussions at earlier meetings of this Group on the intention to seek greater involvement of young people in its work. Mr Hamilton described two initiatives which it was hoped would increase the involvement of young people. The first was a new website focussed on SSGs which was intended to be attractive to young persons and the second was a youth forum which was being considered with Berkeley and Oldbury.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 28 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on Friday 28 October 2022.

MJD
28 June 2022