



**WINFRITH SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)  
MEETING – 9 MAY 2022  
Meeting Reference SG29  
Venue: Virtual**

- Present:**
- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Cllr Barry Quinn, SSG Chair and East Stoke Parish Council                | Simon Napper, NDA                 |
| Nic Johnson, Deputy SSG Chair and Winfrith Parish Council representative | Bill Hamilton, NDA (p/t)          |
| Cllr Cherry Brooks, South East Purbeck Ward Member, Dorset Council       | Andy Munro, Site Director, Magnox |
| Helen Smith, Marrick   | Susan Adams, Magnox               |
| Adam Davis, Environment Agency   | Emma Burwood, Magnox              |
| Neil Doggett, ONR  | Ellanor Joyce, Magnox             |
| Mr Mohammed Jawad, SSE   | Caroline Leatherdale, Magnox      |
| Rebecca Davies, Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership                      | Will Matheson, Magnox             |
|  | Darius Rishchhri, Magnox          |
|  | Stuart Clark, Magnox              |
|  | Alison Pugh, Magnox (minutes)     |
- Apologies:** Graham Duggan, Head of Community & Public Protection, Dorset Council      Peter Fry, member of the public

## MINUTES

### 1. Welcome and Introduction – Cllr Barry Quinn, SSG Chairman

- Barry Quinn welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Marick for hosting.
- Barry and Nic continued to have regular update meetings with Andy Munro and Emma Burwood.
- Any SSG items of relevance and this meeting has been published on the Winfrith Newburgh and East Knighton, Wool and East Stoke Parish Council Facebook pages.
- The next quarterly Chairs and Vice-Chairs meeting would be held on 20 May via Zoom. A face-to-face meeting would be held in Manchester on 4/5 July and the NDA summit would be held in Edinburgh on 7/8 September.
- Barry Quinn and Peter Fry would be engaging with the Royal Society of Chemists about marking Winfrith's role in the development of nuclear energy. It was hoped that a blue plaque could be displayed at the DIP gatehouse and Alex Clothier would be consulted on this.

With the exception of the following amendments, the minutes of the meeting held on 30 September were agreed to be a true record:

- Nic Johnson should read: Vice Chair and representative of Winfrith Parish Council.
- Peter Wharf and Laura Miller should read as: West Purbeck Ward of Dorset Council.
- Cherry Brooks should read as: South East Purbeck Ward Member, Dorset Council.

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

**Blue Plaque** Andy commented that he was a member of the RSC so would like to be involved with the Blue Plaque bid process.

## **Covid 19**

- The site had continued to follow UK government advice. There had recently been a relaxation of Covid controls and face coverings were no longer mandatory.
- The use of hand sanitiser and antibacterial wipes continued to be recommended.
- There had been two Covid workplace transmissions in the past two years; one in March 2021 and the other in February 2022. A small number of individuals had been involved.
- The relaxation of Covid rules had seen an increase in site visitors to the site and it had been good to show off the good work on site.

## **Site Operations**

- The site remained at Level 1 (fully operational) level.
- The last year had been a successful one for delivery, with all but one operational target being achieved. Programmes would continue as planned for 2022/23 as the necessary funding had been approved.
- Following the LTP review, some emerging challenges meant that the interim end state date would be delayed for a period of years.

## **Health and Safety, Environment, Security**

- Winfrith's TRIR stood at 1.02. There had been three minor injuries at Winfrith where people had been hurt in the last 12-months and, as a result, Andy had put in a place a Site Safety Improvement Plan (SIP) for Harwell and Winfrith. He would continue with that into the next financial year.
- Will Matheson had taken over from Gill Brown as Regional EHSSQ Manager.

## **Regulatory Issues**

- Winfrith would be moving to Magnox corporate contingency emergency arrangements now that site hazards were very low. An emergency exercise held in April had been awarded a green (adequate rating). A security exercise would be held later in 2022.
- The MSIP had concluded at the end of the last financial year. This had been 18 months of work to align Harwell and Winfrith procedures with those from the wider Magnox.
- Stage one of the Purge Gas Pre-Cooler recovery programme had been completed; stage two would be completed later in 2022.
- The EA had carried out an inspection at the end of last year; no non-compliances were noted. Inspections had been carried out at both Harwell and Winfrith sites with no issues raised since the last SSG.
- Laura Brearley, new Head of Environment had joined Magnox in March.

## **SGHWR Reactor Decommissioning**

- A licenced asbestos contractor had cleared asbestos from the Primary Containment.
- Temporary works at the Secondary Containment were complete, the clearance programme would be finished, and the steel installation would be progressed.
- There had been a minor injury to an operative who had cut the underneath of his forearm. Lessons learned had been shared within the site and the rest of Magnox.

## **Dragon Reactor**

- Work continued constructing and commissioning plant and equipment to be used to remotely dismantle the reactor core and pack for disposal.
- Equipment had been inactively commissioned and it was hoped to take into active commissioning later in the year.

## **Treated Radwaste Store**

- Work continued with LLWR to prepare for despatch of the SGHWR sludge drums from TRS. These would be lifted by crane to be assayed and surveyed, and then placed into the cabriolet. Presentation to follow. More consignments would go off-site in May and later in the year.

## **Plant and Structures**

- P&S would progress the concept design for decommissioning of the sea pipeline and stakeholder engagement would be key to the process.
- The drains infrastructure for ALES (Active Liquid Effluent System) would be removed.
- Various delay tanks and the sewage plant had been decommissioned and a lot of waste had been disposed of.
- Preferred option for the Blacknoll reservoir: the project team would engage with stakeholders on the planning application.
- A BAT assessment had been done to identify a preferred alternative discharge route.

### **Q1: Barry Quinn asked when the pipeline decommissioning work would be starting?**

A1: Will said that it would be difficult to give an exact date. There would be a comprehensive stakeholder management process.

## **End State**

- Work continued with the permit submission, planning applications and detailed designs for SGHWR and Dragon. This included a detailed investigation on how site groundwater would affect habitats and Winfrith would be a trailblazer for this work.
- The EA had given feedback on how the application should develop.
- Habitat surveys would commence, including bird and bat surveys, and results would be fed into the environmental assessment. There had been some stakeholder engagement to see what people would like as heathland with public access.
- The end state design for Dragon would be defined.
- Engagement would continue.
- Magnox would be submitting a planning application for the mini-MILWEP encapsulation plant for waste coming from SGHWR and Dragon. Waste packages would be taken off-site to the interim storage facility at Harwell.

## **Recruitment**

More than 100 posts had been filled at Harwell and Winfrith over the last 15 months. Approximately 2/3 were promotions within the business; the rest were new staff.

## **Socio-Economic Funding**

- Successful awards as of 30 March 2022 included purchase of benches for Winfrith Newburgh & East Knighton PC; Redland Bandits Girls FC and Life Education Wessex.
- Dorset Wildlife Trust had been awarded funding towards a Heritage Skills Trainee (total of £22,500 over three years.)
- There had already been two successful applications this year for good neighbourhood funding and new applications and projects were welcomed.



### **3. Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Report – Simon Napper**

- The NDA's three-year business plan had been published on 20 March and the NDA Mission report had been published in November 2021.
- A group sustainability strategy would be developed following publication of the NDA's sustainability report.
- This NDA gender pay gap report had been issued and showed some improvements.
- All reports were available on the NDA website: [Nuclear Decommissioning Authority - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- The annual supply chain event in Telford had been postponed to 21 July; the NIA would hold a decommissioning event the day before.
- The government had asked the NDA to decommission seven AGR stations currently operated by EDF. Once defueled and certified by the regulators they would transfer to the NDA, then onto Magnox, who would be responsible for their decommissioning.
- The NDA has restructured itself into four pillars: Sellafield for waste processing; Magnox for decommissioning; Nuclear Transport Solutions for rail/shipping and Nuclear Waste Decommissioning Services.
- There was now a third community partnership for GDF. A working group would start the process and GDF would be open to all communities; not just those near nuclear sites.
- A virtual stakeholder event had been held on 26 November and it was hoped to hold a face-to-face meeting in Edinburgh on 7/8 September.
- Following the easing of Covid restrictions, there had been a gradual return to the office and the NDA would be adopting a mixture of home and office-based working.

### **4. Regulators**

#### **ONR – Neil Doggett**

- There had been a number of on-site inspections over the last year including a CDM themed inspection in July 2021; an inspection on control of mods, operating rules and operating instructions in February 2022 and one on nuclear accounting for TRS.
- In April there had been an LC11 demonstration exercise to support the site to move to contingency arrangements; this had been awarded a green (Adequate) rating with some areas of improvement identified.
- Neil had attended end-state meetings on the offshore discharge pipeline, which was in the early stages of optioneering and design. He had looked at progress on Dragon/SGHWR core segmentation and would be looking at mechanical, electrical and instrumentation side of the work.
- The ONR continue to operate under Covid arrangements and staff were able to work a mixture of working from home and the office.

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

- There had been a lot of focus this year on the end state and site restoration plan; particularly on permitting requirements.
- The EA would be looking at the Active Liquid Effluent System (ALES), planning and preparation for the sea pipeline and management of radioactive and conventional wastes. More waste would need to be managed as site decommissioning progressed.
- There would need to be some extension to key environmental assets and the EA would be looking to ensure that extensions continued to function and operate as expected.
- The EA had started to look at cultural awareness of the lead team and workforce. Work would be done on the supply chain and supporting network to ensure that their environmental leadership and culture reflected that.
- Monitoring of gaseous and liquid discharges continued and remained at very low levels.

- The latest Environmental report and video had been issued. Doses for people living near the site had halved from an already very low level. Adam would let the SSG know when the next issue of RIFE became available.
- EA staff continued to work a mixture of working from the office and home working.

#### **4. Treated Radwaste Store – Darius Rishehri**

- The Treated Radwaste Store (TRS) was a purpose-built facility for receiving drums of active sludge waste from SGHWR.
- Between 2005 and 2007 1068 x 500 litre drums had been transported to TRS whilst awaiting transfer to the Harwell ILW facility at some time in the future.
- Radioactive decay over the years had resulted in the waste being classified from ILW to LLW, allowing early disposal at LLWR with significant cost savings.
- Drum retrievals started in January 2022 via an automated process which took between 55 - 75 minutes to retrieve each drum. These were loaded into 10 cabriolets, each holding 10 drums.
- This had been a collaborative effort over five years. Transporting by rail had provided significant time savings and environmental and sustainability benefits compared to using road. Several more shipments were planned before the year end. It was hoped to use the rail link for other projects going forward.

#### **SSE Update on Future Works – Mo Jawad**

- The 11kV switchboard at the Winfrith Heath 132/11kV substation needed to be replaced due to temperature fluctuations in the switch room and difficulty in manoeuvring inside the container. Work would start in the summer.
- A metal building would replace the brick one and would be located inside the substation.
- The selected contractor KUS, would interface with Magnox.
- Any noise or disruption from the work would be kept to a minimum.
- SSE's legal team would be contacting local residents to make them aware of the nature of work and duration. Working during evening hours would be avoided.
- There would be a one-day outage at the Winfrith Magnox site with some interruption during transfer from the old board to the new board.

#### **6. Any Other Business**

- Barry thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Emma Burwood    SSG Secretariat  
 Alison Pugh      Minutes Secretary

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18 May 2022