



HARWELL CHILTON CAMPUS LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

Minutes of the 99th meeting held via ZOOM on Thursday 24 April 2022

ATTENDEES:

Chairman	Chris Broad, Chilton Parish Council
Secretary	Emma Burwood, Magnox
Minutes	Alison Pugh, Magnox
Mr Jon Blackmore	Magnox
Mrs Dee Boughton-Waite	Harwell Parish Council
Laura Brearley	Magnox
Cllr Paul Bryant	West Berkshire Council
Mr Matthew Castle	Environment Agency
Janine Claber	Marick
Mr Stuart Clark	Magnox
Mr Neil Doggett	ONR
Bill Hamilton	NDA
Mr Bill Hanks	Member of the public
Cllr Clive Hooker	West Berkshire Council
Dr Joe Kelleher	Science and Technology Facilities Council
Ms Laura Male	Diamond
Mr Paul Mann	OCC
Mr Will Matheson	Magnox
Ms Charlotte Molyneux	Member of the public
Dr Andrew Munro	Magnox
Mr Simon Napper	NDA
Mrs Kate Pritchard	Member of the public
Mr Gary Reid	Magnox
Mr Duncan Rogers	Estates Manager
Dr John Sharp	SSG Deputy Chairman
Ms Laura Street	Magnox
Mr Reg Waite	Member of the public
Mr Richard Webber	Sutton Courtenay and Appleford Ward
Mr Derek Whitmell	Upton Parish Council
Dr Chris Williamson	MRC, Harwell
Dr John Wilkins	Member of the public

1. **Apologies for absence** - Susan Holdroyd (member of the public).

2. **Chairman's Remarks – Chris Broad**

- Chris Broad welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting; he was pleased to see a large attendance and hoped that the next SSG could be held face-to-face.
- Chris Broad/John Sharp continued to receive updates on site activities from Andy and Emma.
- Recent meetings included: Magnox Exec/SSG Chairs and Vice-Chairs on 5 November; an NDA Stakeholders meeting on 26 November; a quarterly SSG Chairs meeting on 17 December and Quarterly meeting of the SSG Chairs/Vice-Chairs on 11 February. The next stakeholders' summit would be held face-to-face on 7/8 September.
- Bill Hamilton confirmed that there would be no dilution in SSG secretariat support.
- The NDA and its SLCs had a long relationship with Nuleaf (Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum), a sub-committee of local government associations dealing with nuclear decommissioning. Bill Hamilton commented that he meets with Nuleaf on a regular basis.
- Magnox sites would increase from 12 to 20 once AGR sites and Dounreay joined.

3. **Minutes of 98th meeting/Matters Arising**

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record and there were no matters arising.

4. **Harwell and Winfrith Closure Director's Site Report – Andy Munro**

Andy reported that all delivery targets had been achieved for the year.

Safety and Environment

- There had been no significant events on site since the last meeting.
- Covid health protection controls remained in place, face coverings continued to be worn in communal areas and meetings were held via teams if possible. There had been a few Covid cases across the sites with two recent examples of workplace transmission.
- Funding levels should allow Harwell and Winfrith to deliver everything planned for 2022/3. The updated Magnox site LTPs had gone to BEIS for approval and for ministerial sign off.
- There had been no on-site injuries since February 2021. A comprehensive Safety Improvement Plan had been put in place in 2021; this was 83% complete.
- The ONR had witnessed an emergency exercise in October 2021, a security exercise in November 2021 and a transport exercise (supported by Sellafield) in September 2021.
- The EA had inspected management and leadership arrangements in late 2021 and there had been a recent joint EA/ONR inspection on waste management. No issues were raised and some best practices identified.
- Laura Brearley, Harwell-Winfrith Environment Manager, had joined Magnox on 21 March 2022.

Programme Update

NMT/RHILW/Legacy Waste

- 5066 (76%) drums had been shipped to date, exceeding the FY target of 4857 (75%). It was hoped to complete 80 - 82% by March 2023 and to complete the project in 2025.
- Gemini had been delayed due to operational priorities at Sellafield; active moves were now planned for later in 2022 and all Capenhurst moves were complete.

- 8.7 te of ILW retrievals had been achieved in 2021/22 against a target of 7.0 te.
- Commissioning of the Waste Encapsulation Plant (WEP) had achieved 81%.
- Waste Requiring Additional Treatment had progressed well at 392% against target of 143%.
- Disposal of the off-site discharge pipeline commenced in June 2021. Pipes would be pressure washed at the contractor site and the material recycled back into the metal market.
- 44% of pipes had been shipped off site.
- The 293m³ annual target for other VLLW/LLW had been achieved with reduced shipments.

LETP Land Remediation - The main remediation works were completed in November 2021.

Decommissioning (Plant & Structures) Programmes

B220 – the radiological characterisation plan/decommissioning strategy optioneering had been completed, and a single option selected. Building studies scope/sanction had been agreed.

B459 – this began in April 2021. Optioneering/concept design for building services and decommissioning should be completed in September 2022; characterisation planning would be completed in August 2022.

B418 –the characterisation plan was complete. The POCO and characterisation contract had been placed in early 2022.

B351.15/.28 – Funding had been secured for the next phase. Radiological, ecological and asbestos surveys were complete and physical works would commence in June 2022.

Other

- Work continued on land release; the Harwell Campus had been kept updated.
- The NDA hub at B150 had opened.
- 100 new posts had been filled at Harwell/Winfrith in 2021; 59 via promotion and 38 by external recruitment so resources were in place to deliver the 2022/23 work programmes.
- Adverts would be going out locally for one Electrical and one Mechanical apprentice.
- SocEc donations totalled £99,265 inc donations to South Oxfordshire Food & Education Alliance, Harwell Community Primary School, Life Education, Wessex, the River Room Project and Chilton Girl Guides. The fund would reopen in April.

Questions

Q1: Would NMT go off via road or rail?

A1: Gary Reid confirmed that it would go off via a combination of road and rail.

Q2: Was the railhead currently being used by Harwell alone; if so was this a problem?

A2: Gary Reid said that currently the railhead was being used by Harwell alone and that DRS maintained this to a safe and usable standard.

REPORTS

Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) – Neil Doggett

The ONR Report had been issued before the meeting. Highlights included:

- There had been four inspections during the year and emergency exercises had been observed to confirm that arrangements were adequate.
- There had been a joint ONR/EA inspection on accumulation of waste on site. All inspections had been rated green with no formal regulatory actions. There had been some improvement opportunities and level 4 regulatory issues.

- Meetings were held on site delicensing plans and certification of transport packages.
- The ONR continued to monitor the MS improvement programme and NMT movements.

NDA Report – Simon Napper

- Simon would be attending SSGs during Jonathan Jenkins' secondment to BEIS.
- All NDA offices were open. The NDA realised the benefits to a combination of home/office working and would continue to do that where appropriate.
- A group sustainability strategy would be developed following publication of the NDA's sustainability report.
- The annual supply chain event had been postponed to 21 July and would be held in Telford. This would be preceded by the NIA event on 20 July, the biggest event of this type in Europe.
- The NDA Mission Report had been published in November and would be regularly updated.
- The three-year business plan would be published on the website following consultation.
- The NDA had been asked by government 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.
- Nuclear Waste Decommissioning Services had been launched on 31 January. This would be headed by Corhyn Parr and it would take time to bring everything into one organisation.
- 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.

Environment Agency – Matthew Castle

The EA report had been issued before the meeting. Highlights included:

- Inspections planned for 2022/3 would be on management of local discharges, asset management, management of higher activity waste and radioactive waste management.
- There had been a Q3 joint Harwell-Winfrith inspection in January on environmental leadership and culture. Both inspectors were satisfied with the outcome and some good practices were identified. There were no non-compliances with the permit and no significant findings.
- There had been concerns about the lack of a permanent appointment environmental manager but the EA were pleased to hear that Laura Brearley had recently been appointed to the post.
- The Q4 inspection in March looked at radioactive waste and management of non-radioactive controlled and hazardous wastes. No non-compliances were identified and recycling of the off-site disposal pipeline had been identified as a good practice.
- There had been no incidents or enforcement actions to report since the last SSG.
- The EA would be engaging with the Magnox Support Office over an event where the site had been unable to make an aqueous discharge record on time. This had been due to a supply chain issue at Magnox. This was unresolved; an update would be included at the next SSG.
- RIFE 26 had been issued and would be available from the EA website. Doses remained broadly consistent with doses over the last ten years.

6 Magnox Update

6.1 Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant (LETP) Land Remediation Project – Jon Blackmore

Jon said that this was the largest land remediation project in Magnox.

- 245,000 contractor man hours were worked with no lost time events.

- From 1948-2013 the LETP operated to treat effluent from the nuclear site. The Sewage Farm was used for foul sewage treatment until 2003 when the site connected to Thames Water's sewer. Discharges to the Thames ceased in 2013, and effluent treatment ceased in 2014.
- Remediation of contaminated structures and soils allowed removal of environmental permits for the LETP and Sewage Farm and the Nuclear Site Licence for LETP.
- Waste was placed into bags and every bag was monitored to determine if material was radioactive or non-radioactive. Radioactive waste would go off to Auger in Northants.
- 96,900 tonnes of waste had been disposed of in 79,453 waste packages. 30% was very low level waste and 70% out of scope waste, 90% of which was reused or recycled.
- There had been challenges throughout the project but these were resolved with good collaboration with a range of contracts across the site and with the NDA and LLWR.

6.2 Harwell NDA Hub (B150) – Stuart Clark

- The NDA had taken on and refurbished B150 as they were looking to establish regional offices where staff from their subsidiary companies could meet/work.
- The area would provide an opportunity to move those staff who were not directly employed on decommissioning or land release activities, such as those in the business support functions.
- Facilities included meeting rooms, office space with touchdown desks and plenty of car parking. There were community areas where people could take breaks and eat lunch.

7. CAMPUS MATTERS

Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) – Joe Kelleher

- Joe gave an update on recent progress and future plans. He said that most staff had returned to site on a hybrid working pattern.
- There had recently been an injection of money for science and technology facilities.
- Solar panels had been installed on site; any spare electricity would be sold back to the grid.

Diamond Light Source - Laura Male

- Diamond Light Source is the UK's national synchrotron science facility with over 700 staff and a visiting user community of over 14,000 researchers from academia and industry. Funding allowed the facility to be offered free to academic users after a peer review process.
- Recently Natural History Museum researchers had used the facilities to understand why some insect species were suffering decline/extinction. (Further details available on the website.)
- Diamond would celebrate their 20th anniversary in 2022 and there would be a number of activities ongoing throughout the year including art week (14–22 May), virtual tours/webinars.
- The next public open day would be on 11 June and it was hoped to welcome visitors in person.
- On 22 June there would be an open day for schools and from 4 -8 July work experience students would be welcomed.

Date of Next Meeting – to be confirmed

Chairman Chris Broad
Secretary Emma Burwood
Minutes Alison Pugh

11 April 2022