



HARWELL CHILTON CAMPUS LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

Minutes of the 100th meeting held at The Satellite Applications Catapult Centre, Harwell on Thursday 6th October 2022

ATTENDEES:

Chair	Chris Broad, Chilton Parish Council
Secretary	Emma Burwood, Magnox
Minutes	Zoë Maré, Magnox

Mr Jon Blackmore	Magnox
Mr Stuart Clark	Magnox
Bill Hamilton	NDA
Mr Bill Hanks	Member of the public
Dr Andrew Munro	Magnox
Mr Simon Napper	NDA
Mr Gary Reid	Magnox
Dr John Sharp	SSG Deputy Chairman
Mr Derek Whitmell	Upton Parish Council
Dr Chris Williamson	MRC, Harwell
Dr John Wilkins	Member of the public
Mr Peter Turner	Public Health England
Mr Billy Treadwell	Public Health England
Susan Holdroyd	Member of the public
Rebecca Cleverly	Environment Agency

1. **Apologies for absence** – Joe Keller (ISIS Pulsed Neutron & Muon Source), Alick Natton (Environmental Health Officer), Julie Pearce (Oxfordshire Fed of WI), Matthew Castle (Environment Agency), Neil Doggett (ONR), Paul Barty (Public Health England), Paul Mann

(Emergency Planning Officer - Oxfordshire County Council), Cllr Richard Webber (VWHDC),
Laura Male (Diamond)

Chair's Remarks – Chris Broad

- Chris Broad welcomed everyone to the meeting; he was pleased to everyone face to face for the 100th meeting.
- Chris gave a brief overview of why the meeting was established and how it had progressed throughout the years. Dr John Wilkins commented that the introduction of independent chair had helped with informal dialogue with the site and group.
- Since the last meeting Chris has attended (in July) the NDA Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting in Manchester and the NDA summit in Edinburgh.

2. Minutes of 99th meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

4. Magnox Harwell Licenced Site Matters Director's Site Report – Andy Munro

- A site stand down for staff was held at Harwell with 275 people, for the first time in two and a half years.
- Andy announced that the Harwell land remediation project at the Liquid Effluent Treatment Project (LETP) was awarded the NDA project of the year award 2022 – a major achievement for the site.
- Magnox hosted the NDA Board last week at Harwell.
- Safety - The Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) had gone up from 0.0 to 0.3 since the last SSG meeting. The site had experienced one minor injury in 18-months.
- A Site Improvement Plan for 22/23 was underway, including welfare facilities, human performance training, and enhancing even further control and supervision.
- Annual Regional Review of Leadership and Management aimed at Safety, Security and Environment ARRoSSE held with ONR/EA on 14th Sep (Harwell & Winfrith). No new significant regulatory issues had been raised since the last SSG.
- On-track for another very successful year of delivery.
- The site is fully operational and all planned work for the year is proceeding.
- Business planning for 2023/24 is underway.

Programme Update

NMT/RHILW/Legacy Waste

- 5123 (77.1%) drums had been shipped to date. It was hoped to complete 80 % by March 2023.
- Gemini active moves are now underway, rate is dependent on receiving plant availability.
- 4.58 te of ILW retrievals had been achieved in 2021/22 against the year-end target of 7.38 te.

- Waste Encapsulation Plant (WEP) phase 1 is complete and now entering extended active commissioning.
- Retrieval machine 1 has been re-commissioned ready for radon abatement testing.
- Disposal of the off-site discharge pipeline (ODP) commenced in June 2021. Pipes are undergoing off-site decontamination and the material is recycled back to the metal market.

Decommissioning (Plant & Structures) Programmes

B220 – the radiological characterisation plan is underway. The strategic business case is complete and ready for internal approval.

B459 – Optioneering/concept design for building services and decommissioning and characterisation planning should be completed in 2022.

B418 – the characterisation plan was complete. The post operational clean out (POCO) and characterisation contract had been placed in early 2022. Contractor was mobilised in August 2022.

B351.15/.28 – The contractor was mobilised in September 2022. Asbestos and soft strip commenced and to be completed before demolition. Demolition due to commence in November 2022 with completion this financial year.

Other

- Various land clearance surveys and delicensing activities underway on-site.
- 50-60 staff are now based in the NDA Hub on the campus (B150).
- Recruitment: 33 roles have been filled since January 2022 (12 Internal and 21 External).

Socio-economic Funding

- The Magnox socio-economic scheme is celebrating 10 years, to date £9,165,583, across all 12 Magnox sites in UK has been awarded.
- At Harwell during this time, there have been 50 applications supported, awarding a total of 163,871.
- Good neighbour funding applications have been raised to a maximum of £2,000; however, £6,000 allocation per site remains unchanged.
- Current successful funding request for Harwell is: Hendred Environment Group Community Larder - £638 for 2 Fridges, aprons, signage and folding tables.
- Contact Emma.Burwood:magnoxsites.com for good neighbour applications and for applications over £2000 contact Haf.morris@magnoxsites.com.

Questions

Q1: With regards to B220 decommissioning, has it got asbestos and if so, how much of an issue is it?

A1: Andy stated that asbestos in buildings was a common occurrence given their age and it was dealt with in a standard way as part of decommissioning.

Q2: Would the company contemplate a membership for Harwell employees to the Campus sports association?

A2: Andy appreciated how important staff health & well-being and welfare is, and suggested a further conversation on this.

5. REPORTS

OFFICIAL

NDA Report – Simon Napper

- Following the appointment of a new Prime Minister, there have been several changes in Government.
- Our sponsoring department, BEIS, has a new Secretary of State, the Rt Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg, he replaces Kwasi Kwarteng who has become Chancellor of the Exchequer.
- A number of new junior ministers have been appointed to the department, including one with responsibility for nuclear decommissioning.
- NDA continues to operate a hybrid working model with a mix of home and office working.
- Annual Report and Accounts 2021/22 - notes some of the highlights of the past year's activity, completion of the process of moving all operating companies from the Parent Body Organisation (PBO) model to direct subsidiaries and the adoption of a new Group Operating Framework of four pillars.
- Major skyline change at Sellafield with removal of diffuser on top of the 125m Windscale pile chimney.
- Dounreay has retrieved 1800 tonnes of radioactive sodium from its Prototype Fast Reactor.
- Confirms that Dounreay will join Magnox in 2023.
- AGR Transfer – Hunterston B stopped generating on 7 January and de-fuelling has now commenced. Hinkley Point B stopped generating on 1 August and will shortly begin defueling.
- GDF Siting process – There are now 4 community partnerships. Discussions are continuing with other communities and geological surveys have been completed off the Cumbrian coast.
- “Keeping the conversation going” conference was held in Edinburgh 7-8 September, 170 people participated from across Britain. First face to face event where NDA provided an opportunity to update on the new group structure and plans.

Questions

Q1: You talked about moving from the PBO model to the direct subsidiary – did all that happen at the end of the PBO contract?

A1: Yes, it came at the end of their agreement.

Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) – Neil Doggett

The ONR Report had been issued before the meeting.

Environment Agency – Rebecca Cleverly

Rebecca introduced herself and stated that she is once again the lead EA regulator for the Harwell site.

- No changes have been made to any of the permits since the last meeting but are providing some advice and guidance to Magnox on their requirements as changes will be coming.
- Talking about partial surrender of the permitting and de-licencing of LETP and areas.
- Continuing to hold weekly meetings with the new environment manager at Magnox Harwell who keeps them informed of ongoing activities.
- Met with the site leadership team earlier this month for the annual review.
- An inspection at Harwell took place, looking at the sites arrangements for managing radioactive discharges. No non compliances found.
- A joint Harwell and Winfrith inspection looking at asset management systems. No non compliances noted. Some great examples of good practice.

- Back in June 2021, an event was raised as the site had been unable to make a record of discharge in the time scales that were specified. This was considered a minor non-compliance with the permit and has been recorded into two category four non compliances. Category four means no direct impact on the environment.
- The site also reported one further minor non-compliance with a permit in April where they identified a duplicate sample had not been taken. There was no environmental impact.

6 Magnox Update (Bill Hamilton)

- It is expected that Magnox will double in size over the next decade with an operable workforce of 6000 around 20 sites and an annual budget of over £1 billion.
- When Dounreay joins the Magnox fleet, no changes to workforce, the Dounreay Managing Director will report to Gwen Parry-Jones.
- The seven advanced gas reactors (AGR) currently owned by EDF will not come over to NDA ownership when de-fuelling is completed.
- Bill discussed the various levels of social media used, Linked In, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and a you tube channel. Looking into other sources such as TikTok.
- An employee survey was done to ensure communication is two way and to ensure we pick up on the issues the employees are telling us about.
- Socio economic scheme performing well, last year the £1 million target was allocated, and we received an additional £1 million from the NDA budget to spend on Magnox sites.

Questions

- Q1: In terms of the workforce growing, is this new staff or staff which will move from existing organisations?
- A1: Primarily staff coming from existing organisations such as Dounreay and EDF.
- Q2: NDA taking responsibility for EDF – who I assume have made their money from selling electricity, do they now walk away, and the taxpayer picks up the bill or do EDF pay for the decommissioning?
- A2: Bill explained about the Nuclear Liabilities Fund which EDF pays into was set up to cover decommissioning of the sites.
- Q3: In terms of growing the workforce, are you committed to working with the TUs to make sure you keeping a motivated workforce?
- A3: Of course. The HR team is expanding dramatically for this reason.
- Q4: You include a Hydroelectric plant in your portfolio?
- A4: Yes, Maentwrog in Wales, is part of the NDA estate and Magnox manage it.
- Q5: Is Magnox looking to expand overseas?
- A5: No legal remit to do this at the moment.
- Q6: You mention the workforce doubling, and with Dounreay coming into the mix, have lessons been learnt from Harwell and Winfrith joining?
- A7: Yes, various groups have been set up and talks are being held with the unions.

6 Nuclear Materials Transfer (Gary Reid)

- The project was developed under an NDA business case to move nuclear material waste and assets to other licensed sites for processing and disposal or long-term storage. National consolidation of nuclear material at a smaller number of sites, produces more efficient storage arrangements and a decrease in the number of future processing facilities required, there are also significant net cost benefits.

- Gary explained how important, project interactions are, and it is a multi-organisational approach.
- To date the NMT project has successfully brought into active service a fleet of four different types of transport package.
- Gary explained how these packages will be used to transport the waste streams at Harwell.

Q1: Why do you use the railhead at Berkeley and not ship from Didcot?

A1: Direct Rail Services manage transport. Berkeley railhead is set up with crainage and it also has the space required.

7. CAMPUS MATTERS

There was no update from the campus.

AOB

No other business.

Date of Next Meeting – to be confirmed

Chairman	Chris Broad
Secretary	Emma Burwood
Minutes	Zoe Mare