



HARWELL CHILTON CAMPUS LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

Minutes of the 89th meeting held at the Satellite Applications Catapult on Thursday 7 September 2017

PRESENT

Chairman	Chris Broad, Chilton Parish Council
Deputy Chair	John Sharp, East Hendred Parish Council
Secretary	Emma Burwood, Magnox Comms
Minutes	Trudie Tomlinson, Magnox

ATTENDEES

Mrs Julie Pearce	Oxfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes
Paul Bryant	West Berkshire Council
Stephen Druce	Chilton Parish Council
Michael Dunnett	Harwell Closure Director
Mrs A Palmer	OCC
David Rushton	NDA
Dr Peter Walker	Retired UKAEA
Ms Elise Kinderman	OCC
Ms Liz Morris	Chilton Primary School
Mr Gary Coupar	OCC
Paul Atyeo	Magnox
Mrs Rebecca Cleverley	Environment Agency
Ms Hilary Gates	MRC Harwell Institute
Mrs Lesley Prosser	PHE
Mrs Laura Street	Magnox
CLlr Dee Waite	Blewbury and Harwell Ward
Mrs Claire Williams	Magnox
Mr D Rogers	Joint Venture Partnership
Mr Angus Horner	Harwell Campus



1. Chairman's Remarks – Chris Broad

Our previous meeting for 15 June was delayed due to the General Election purdah so the gap between the meetings is short and there is less to report than usual.

On 19 July there was a Magnox chairs meeting to discuss the termination of the PBO contract between NDA and Cavendish Fluor Partnership. There was no point in appealing against the judgement and further details will have to wait until the outcome of the Holliday enquiry.

RWM update – this was set up in 2014 to find a place for nuclear waste. They are still pursuing the idea that people will volunteer a suitable place but progress so far appears to be limited. There will be further consultation this autumn.

It is clear NDA are not in a good position. The current contract will end 31 August 2019 but the contract is awaiting sign off by the government. It is likely the new management model will be signed off at the same time.

Note to SSG Secretariat - Miriam Jacobs from the Blewbury PC would like to be added to the attendance list.

2. Minutes of 88th meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true record

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Magnox Harwell Licensed Site Matters

Harwell and Winfrith Closure Director's Site Report – Michael Dunnett

The main points were as follows:

Magnox Harwell update

Safety and Environment

- No nuclear safety or security events to report

- ONR inspections have taken place covering a number of licence conditions. There were no significant issues raised but action is required on disposal of historic wastes and chemicals, legacy asbestos clean-up and regulatory schedule
- A contractor sustained an injury to his foot at the HIBS project which is still being investigated.
- No other significant events to report.
- No significant environmental issues.
- Progress is being made on removing legacy wastes from around the site.

Programme Update

- **LETP Decommissioning** - HLA tanks decommissioning is continuing and progressing well. Size reduction and decontamination in B336.10A is continuing. Completion is delayed due to higher levels of contamination than expected being found. Demolition is expected early 2018.
- Preparations are underway to start LETP remediation phase. The characterisation of ground and below tanks has been completed. New hardstanding and temporary storage buildings have been erected at the site of the former sewage farm.
- Harwell ILW Box Store (HIBS) is progressing well.
- **Nuclear Material Transfers** – CHILW transfers commenced in August, two loads have now been despatched of 16 drums. Ten transfers of Concrete Lined Drums (CLDs) of 100 drums completed. Other CLDs require TN Gemini flask modifications and regulatory approval and this is likely to be in 2018.
- Nuclear Materials Transfers are increasing and now despatching CLD and CHILW loads simultaneously.
- **Dragon Waste** – carrying out modifications to Dragon Flask and Modular Flask. Expected to commence in 2018.
- **B462 Can Retrievals** – RM2 retrievals have been hampered by water in tubes but there have been no significant delays. RM1 re-start was delayed due to technical resource availability. Head End Cell progress is on target.
- **WEP** – Inactive commissioning is ongoing. Once ONR approval to operate is received, active commissioning should start early 2018.
- **Tubestore Decommissioning** – currently evaluating strategy and options for the B462 tubestores. The current plan is to grout and remove tubes prior to the interim end state in 2017/8. Requires further technical studies, characterisation, optioneering and BAT assessments but evaluating the option to grout in-situ and remove when other 462 stores are decommissioned in 2040s/50s.

Questions

- Q1: On historic wastes issue and identifying more wastes, are they going to be stored in the temporary storage building?
- A1: Yes, it keeps it out of the rain and under cover. None of it is left outside in the long term.
- Q2: Where will it go?
- A2: There will be different routes for different things. Some of it will go to Drigg and hazardous wastes will go to landfill for treatment.
- Q3: What percentage of this waste is recycled rather than put in landfill?
- A3: We have a policy on recycling which we implement. We recycle over 90% of materials so we have a high recycling rate. For items that are VLLW they are not recycled. For example, when we removed TZ from LETP we cut it up and sent it to Winfrith so all of it was recycled.
- Q4: As we think we will be leaving Euratom as a result of Brexit, do you have any idea how this will impact on the business?
- A4: No idea. There are lots of discussions going on currently. Some wastes might attract Euratom interest but not to the same degree as say materials from Sellafield. Nuclear Material Accountancy will not change for us as a result of Brexit nor will it change how materials are accounted for.
- Q5: On Environmental Monitoring reporting are there plans to produce summary information that would help the campus to inform potential hazards?
- A5: At Harwell?
- Q6: Yes, at Harwell.
- A6: This information is already covered in RIFE reports compiled and written by the EA. We receive reports monthly and it is placed in the public domain quarterly so the EA do track it.
- Q7: We are really interested in the high level stuff and in letting people know what is there.
- A7: Yes, this is covered in RIFE and the report is available on the website. Otherwise, if the Harwell campus has any particular queries, just ask me and I will provide the information.
- Q8: Have you found more asbestos than you expected?
- A8: Yes, lots more. This is because we are a legacy site so there is bound to be asbestos everywhere. We are dealing with it gradually and conducting further surveys to find out what is there.

5. Nuclear Decommissioning Authority – Dave Rushton

- The contract will terminate in September 2019 and CFP will remain as PBO until then. This was not a reflection on CFP's performance but largely about the scope of work. NDA will continue to look at options and the intention is to get some indicators this year. The Holliday inquiry is currently gathering information and going into a lot of detail.
- As part of the termination NDA worked with Magnox and developed the scope. This is now in the Secretary of State's inbox awaiting signature. We are not foreseeing any challenges to this.
- The NDA's annual report has been published. The report can be found on the NDA website.
- An updated inventory of the UK's radioactive waste has been published. The inventory provides information on levels of radioactive waste across the country. The inventory is updated every 3 years.
- After the radioactive hazards, asbestos is the next greatest hazard. This is because all the sites across the NDA estate are legacy sites.
- Magnox are incentivized to reduce the waste produced, to recycle and not to send everything to LLWR.

Questions

Q1: What does LLWR stand for?

A1: Low Level Waste Repository at Drigg.

6. Reports

Office for Nuclear Regulation

- There was no representative but a report was submitted.

Environment Agency – Rebecca Cleverley (lead Nuclear Regulator for the Harwell site)

- Magnox holds two permits under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) at Harwell
 - i) The part within the nuclear site licence
 - ii) What is outside the nuclear site boundary
- EA regulate radioactive waste disposals to the environment through permits that contain limits and conditions aimed at minimizing wastes and protecting the environment. We check compliance by making regular inspections at Harwell. EA have visited the site on two occasions, once with Peter Hayes, of the ONR. No breaches of permits were identified during these inspections/visits.
- EA receive and assess a range of monthly reports from the site.
- The EA and Food Standards Agency carry out independent environmental monitoring around nuclear sites. The results of this work are published annually in 'Radioactivity in Food and the Environment 2015' or RIFE 2015 which are published on the Food Standards Agency website. The

RIFE report presents an annual assessment of the radiological dose to individuals in the local population who are most exposed to radiation from each site.

- A new External Agencies' Liaison Group has been formed to establish communications across the Harwell campus concerning emergency arrangements.
- Further information on our role in regulating the use of radioactive substances and related activities on nuclear licensed site can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-regulation-in-the-environment-agency>.

Questions

Q1: Do the results of discharge go out to the waste data interrogator?

A1: They go to the pollution inventory. I get discharge returns monthly and an inventory return is done annually.

7. Wider Campus Matters – Duncan Rogers

Current Developments

- We have planning consent for further buildings. A range of buildings are planned for south of the new road.
- Quad building office and lab space is due to be completed next month. There is a high demand for office and lab space.
- Lots of development will be going on south of Becquerel Avenue, for example the Zephyr Building, which is due to be completed next year.
- Cobalt Light Systems is currently being constructed and is due to be completed mid 2018.
- The old RAF buildings on the campus have been refurbished and parts are already let to tenants.
- Further projects are in the pipeline.

Q1: Is Brexit having any adverse impact on demand for this space?

A1: No, demand is actually high. We are a lot busier than this time last year and, to be fair, are transacting a lot more since the Brexit vote. If anything, we are benefitting here.

Q2: What about the infrastructure here? Can it cope with all the developments?

A2: We are talking to OCC about infrastructure needs. The government is currently preoccupied with Grenfell and Brexit at the moment. Oxfordshire is experiencing more development than any other county in the UK at the moment and there are discussions going on about developing the infrastructure going forward.

Q3: Do you have a local development order?

A3: No. There is a possibility for an LDO. While there are no plans for expansion into the green belt areas potentially there could be if there are further development plans in the future.

Q4: Can you bring us up to date on the local development plan?

A4: There is not a lot more to say than has already been said.

8. Science and Technology Facilities Council – Joe Kelleher

- ISIS has been shut down over the summer for repairs.
- A new organisation has been created called UKRI - UK Research and Innovation – which will bring together the seven Research Councils, Innovate UK and a new organisation, Research England. UK Research and Innovation intends to be an outstanding organisation that ensures the UK maintains our world-leading research and innovation position by creating an environment for research and innovation to flourish. UKRI will be led by Sir Mark Walport (medical scientist and government chief scientific advisor).
- The general feeling is that with Brexit the UK can now start to do more of its own thing.
- Work is underway with the Harwell Facilities Building. Excellent progress has been made due to the good weather. This building is required for radioactive waste handling, and monitoring degradation before shipping off site.
- The UK needs ISIS. Europe needs ISIS. It will be running at double capacity by 2020 with increasing capability. It has a reputation built on excellence and leadership.

Q1: What steps are you taking to ensure safe decommissioning of ISIS?

A1: Lessons have been learned from decommissioning. Waste can be shipped out on railway tracks to make targets more moveable. The volume of waste is small so the potential for contamination is small.

9. Diamond Light Source

- No attendees.

10. **Date of Next meeting:** 7 December 2017

Chairman: Chris Broad
Secretary: Emma Burwood
Minutes: Trudie Tomlinson
Director: Michael Dunnett, Harwell Winfrith

6 October 2017