

**OLDBURY ON SEVERN POWER STATION  
SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP  
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2017**

- Chairman Mr Malcolm Lynden welcomed members to the meeting. Noting that a number of organisations were not represented at the meeting, he pointed out that if nominated members were unable to attend they were able to arrange for another representative of their member organisation to attend in their place. He was anxious that all local communities were represented and that those attending the meeting reported back to their organisations on issues discussed.
- Mr Jonathan Jenkin presented a report on behalf of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. He referred to consultation which was taking place with Magnox staff on changes to their pension scheme arrangements. He outlined progress at Sellafield with removal of sludge from the Pile Fuel Storage Pond and at Winfrith with the removal of ancillary equipment from the Steam Generating Heavy Water Reactor. He referred to a planning decision by Essex County Council, which would allow wastes from Sizewell and Dungeness sites to be stored at Bradwell.
- Site Closure Director Mr Mike Heaton reported on the continued safety of activities at the Oldbury Site. Compliance had been maintained with all Site Licence requirements. There had been no significant conventional safety issues.
- Mr Heaton outlined the proposed sequence of future decommissioning work. He described progress in the cooling pond with the removal of empty fuel skips. All except a small number of these skips had been assessed as low level waste; the skips were being removed from the cooling pond and stored temporarily for later despatch with other low level waste items.
- Mr Heaton said that analysis of samples of fuel element debris removed from storage vaults had confirmed that the bulk of this material could be classified as low level waste. Design work on facilities for processing this waste would take place during the coming year and retrieval would commence in 2018. The low level waste would be packaged with other items for disposal.
- Mr Heaton pointed out that a revised organisational structure to meet the needs of the Site during decommissioning had been implemented. Some 35 Oldbury personnel had taken up posts at the Berkeley site.
- Reports were received from the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency on the results of their regulatory and inspection activities at the Oldbury site.
- Mr Lynden and Vice Chairman Mr Mike Hawkins reported on their discussions with representatives of stakeholder groups at other sites. These discussions included consideration of possible changes in regulatory arrangements as nuclear sites reach the final stages of decommissioning and clean-up.

**OLDBURY ON SEVERN POWER STATION  
SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE OLDBURY CONFERENCE  
CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2017**

**PRESENT:**

Mr M Lynden (in the chair)	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr D Dovey	-	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Assoc of Parish and Town Councils
Cllr D Griffiths	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Dr L Hales	-	Independent Environmental Consultant
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Mr G Jones	-	Staff Representative
Cllr Ms J Lyons	-	Olveston Parish Council
Cllr J O'Neill	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr B Roberts	-	Thornbury Chamber of Commerce
Cllr Ms V Tutin	-	Olveston Parish Council
Cllr Mrs P Wride	-	Berkeley SSG Chair

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr P Dickenson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr J Jenkin	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Ms S Stagg	-	James Reed PR for Horizon Nuclear Power
Mr M Heaton	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms G Coombs	-	Magnox
Ms S Griffiths	-	Magnox
Mr D Ede	-	Magnox
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

- 1 Mr Lynden welcomed everyone to this meeting of the Oldbury on Severn Site Stakeholder Group.
- 2 Mr Lynden referred to a survey which had been undertaken of stakeholders' views on the effectiveness of SSG arrangements. It was noted that the results of this survey were being analysed and it was agreed that this would be an appropriate subject for discussion at the next meeting.
- 3 Mr Lynden referred to a television programme - "Britain's Nuclear Secrets - Inside Sellafield" which had been shown on BBC 4 on the evening prior to this meeting. He felt that the programme had given a very clear factual description of the history of the Sellafield site which helped to put some of the issues currently faced into context. The programme was available on BBC I-Player.
- 4 Mr Lynden pointed out that on Wednesday 8 February there was to be a drop-in session at Turnberry House, Thornbury to provide information on the generic

design assessment process which was being applied to the reactor type proposed by Horizon Nuclear Power for future construction at Oldbury.

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 5 Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Heath, Mr M Johnson, Mrs G Ellis King, Mrs E Vaughan-Lewis, Cllr G Vaughan-Lewis, Mr W Gill, Mr A Mitchell, Cllr K Sullivan, Cllr G Rawlinson, Cllr Mrs H Molyneux, Mr D Wride and Cllr M Riddle.
- 6 Noting the numbers of organisations which were not represented at the meeting, Mr Lynden emphasised that if nominated members were unable to attend they could arrange for another representative of their member organisation to attend on their behalf. Mr Lynden was anxious to ensure that there was adequate representation of all local communities with those present at meetings reporting back to their organisations on issues discussed.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **(a) Accuracy**

- 7 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 27 July 2016 were approved as an accurate record.

### **(b) Matters arising**

- 8 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

- 9 Mr Lynden invited members of the public to raise any issues which might not arise in discussion later in the meeting. No such issues were raised.

## **QUARTERLY REPORTS**

### **Nuclear Decommissioning Authority**

- 10 Mr Jenkin provided an update on issues of current interest, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Consultation was taking place with members of Magnox staff on proposed changes to their current final salary pension scheme. The changes were part of government led reforms of public sector pensions. The two arrangements under consideration, on which the views of affected staff members were being sought, were a career averaged revalued earnings arrangement or a pensionable pay cap.
  - (ii) Mr Tom Smith had been appointed as Chairman of the NDA to succeed Mr Stephen Henwood who would be stepping down from the post on 1 March 2017.

- (iii) Dr Adrian Simper, NDA's Strategy & Technology Director, had been awarded an OBE for services to the UK nuclear industry in Japan. NDA Chief Executive John Clarke had been given a lifetime achievement award by the Nuclear Industry Association.
  - (iv) A start had been made on the removal of sludge from the Pile Fuel Storage Pond at Sellafield. This was the world's oldest nuclear fuel storage Pond.
  - (v) Consultation on the NDA's draft business plan for the next three years was open until 3 February.
  - (vi) The NDA's annual supply chain event in November had been attended by more than 1500 representatives of all levels of the supply chain.
  - (vii) Items contained in the spent fuel ponds at Dungeness A were being cut up and retrieved by divers working underwater. The water provided additional shielding from the sources of radioactivity and this method of working reduced the potential for airborne contamination.
  - (viii) Good progress was being made with the removal of ancillary pipework associated with the Steam Generating Heavy Water Reactor at Winfrith. This work was necessary to allow the decommissioning of the reactor vessel itself.
  - (ix) Essex County Council had given a planning decision which allowed packaged intermediate level wastes from Sizewell and Dungeness to be stored on site at Bradwell.
- 11 In reply to a question from Cllr Mrs Wride, Mr Jenkin said that the pension scheme arrangements for NDA employees had already been changed to a career average basis.
- 12 In reply to a question from Dr Hales, Mr Jenkin referred to efforts aimed at ensuring that appropriate priority was given to small and medium enterprises when awarding contracts.

### **Site Closure Director's Report**

- 13 Mr Heaton reported on recent activities at the Oldbury site, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The Site had maintained high standards of nuclear and conventional safety performance and had complied with all Site Licence requirements. There had been no accidents on the site involving time lost from work during the past 12 months.
  - (ii) The current focus of the company's Target Zero safety campaign was waste awareness.

- (iii) The ONR had not yet completed its assessment of the report on hazards on the site which had concluded that it was no longer necessary to maintain plans for dealing with an off-site release of radioactivity. If this conclusion was accepted by ONR there would be a significant training programme to introduce revised emergency planning arrangements.
  - (iv) The initial focus of decommissioning work in the cooling ponds involved the removal of empty fuel skips. This would be followed by the removal from the ponds of handling equipment and later the Ionsiv filters and cartridges, including those received from Dungeness and Sizewell. Subsequent decommissioning work to remove conventional plant and the Turbine Hall and the removal of ancillary plant and buildings within the Reactor Controlled Area was scheduled to allow entry into a care and maintenance state by 2027.
  - (v) Good progress was being made with the removal of empty fuel skips from the cooling pond. Of the 122 skips in the pond, 102 had been assessed as being low level waste. After removal from the pond these were being wrapped and stored temporarily on the pile cap for later despatch from site packed with other low level waste items. Some of the remaining 20 skips had not yet been assessed; it was likely that there would be a relatively small number of skips requiring treatment as intermediate level waste.
  - (vi) Samples of fuel element debris had been removed from storage vaults for characterisation and analysis. This had confirmed that the bulk of the material could be treated as low level waste after segregation of higher activity items. It was intended that the fuel element debris would be packaged with the empty skips for disposal. Design work on equipment for processing fuel element debris would be undertaken during the coming year and the retrieval of this waste would commence in 2018.
  - (vii) Asbestos insulation materials had been removed from the deaerator and an area in the Turbine Hall. Substantial quantities of asbestos were still to be removed.
  - (viii) Transition to the decommissioning organisational structure was now complete. 35 members of staff had been redeployed at Berkeley. The Berkeley and Oldbury sites were now working more closely together and were both using similar working patterns.
- 14 In reply to a question from Mr Lynden, Mr Heaton said that there would be some rationalisation of the use of buildings on the site, concentrating working accommodation in one area, away from areas where demolition was to take place. There were no plans to demolish the office block.
- 15 In response to a further question from Mr Lynden, Mr Heaton confirmed that some of the equipment for use in potential emergency situations, acquired

following the Fukushima accident and stored in containers in the visitors' car park, was no longer required and had been removed.

- 16 Cllr Evers asked why some pond skips were more radioactive than others. Mr Heaton said that this was dependent upon the age of the skip and the use made of the skip in service.

### **Office for Nuclear Regulation**

- 17 Mr Dickenson presented his report on inspection activities at the Oldbury site. He pointed out that with the reducing the level of hazard he was required to make fewer visits to the Site although he maintained close contact at other times.

- 18 Mr Dickenson said that his most recent inspections in December had included incident reporting arrangements and procedures, emergency arrangements, management systems, examination, inspection, maintenance and testing, and decommissioning. He drew particular attention to the following aspects:

- (i) The ratings given to events by operators against the International Nuclear Event Scale were checked and confirmed by ONR personnel.
- (ii) The ONR's assessment of the Site's report seeking to justify that it was not necessary to maintain plans for dealing with off-site releases of radioactivity was nearing completion and the outcome would be made known in the near future.
- (iii) In relation to the organisation of work as a series of programmes, Mr Dickenson felt it was important that the Site Closure Director should remain in control of all those working on the site.
- (iv) Mr Dickenson supported the proposal to pack fuel element debris with other low level waste items, minimising the number of containers required to despatch the waste from site.

### **Environment Agency**

- 19 In the absence of Mr Green who had been unable to attend this meeting, consideration was given to the Environment Agency's report, which had been circulated to members. No issues were raised on the report.

### **VICE CHAIR'S UPDATE**

- 20 Cllr Hawkins reported on a meeting he had attended in November with Radioactive Waste Management Ltd on the regulation of nuclear sites in the final stages of decommissioning and clean-up. Discussions had included thoughts on the different regulatory arrangements which might be required as decommissioning work was nearing completion. Consideration had also been given to the balances which might need to be struck between expenditure which would be required to remove all traces of radioactivity and the potential future uses which might allow some radioactivity to remain. He said that at the meeting

there had been a promise of further engagement on these issues but this had not so far materialised.

#### **CHAIR'S UPDATE**

- 21 Mr Lynden reported on recent discussions at a meeting in London with Chairs of SSGs from other sites. He said that discussions had included reports on progress at Harwell, the use of concrete box containers for intermediate level waste, and lifetime plans. He suggested that further consideration needed to be given to the public perception of sites in a care and maintenance state.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 22 Referring to comments made by Mr Lynden at the start of the meeting, Cllr Dovey emphasised the importance of members reporting back to their respective organisations on matters discussed at these meetings. He personally reported back to all Monmouthshire County Councillors.

#### **DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 23 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on 26 April 2017 at the Oldbury Conference Centre.

MJD

26 January 2017