

BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE

SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT

BERKELEY NUCLEAR SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB ON 5 JULY 2006

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs P Wride (Chair)	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Mr S Andrews	-	Trade Union Representative
Mr F Baker	-	National Farmers Union
Cllr R Bartlam	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr B G Booth	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr D Burgess	-	Alkington Parish Council
Mr R Dalrymple-Smith		
Cllr E Holmes	-	Berkeley Town Council
Mr A Jardine	-	Berkeley Estate and CLA
Mr M Johnson	-	Gloucester Harbour Trustees
Cllr G Langdon	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Ms A Presdee	-	Gloucestershire First
Cllr V G Shenoï	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr Ms V Watts	-	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr D Wride	-	Stroud District Council

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr J Beckett	-	Stroud District Council
Dr D Warner	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr D Withey	-	Environment Agency
Mr P Ashton	-	British Nuclear Group
Miss H Atkin	-	British Nuclear Group
Mr J Crocker	-	Berkeley Site Manager
Miss T Owen	-	British Nuclear Group
Mr S Payne	-	British Nuclear Group
Mr M J Davis	-	Secretary

I INTRODUCTION

1 Cllr Mrs Wride welcomed all those attending this meeting of the Berkeley Nuclear Licensed Site Stakeholder Group.

2 Apologies for absence were received from:

Mr P Holden	-	South West Regional Development Agency
Dr C Smitton	-	Nuclear Consultant
Mr David Drew MP		

Mr Mark Harper MP		
Cllr N Cooper	-	Stroud District Council
Cllr R Dawson Marsh	-	Lydney Town Council
Cllr M Prakes	-	Alburton Parish Council
Dr C Chudley	-	Local Resident
Mr P Kennedy	-	Food Standards Agency
Mr C Jones	-	Welsh Assembly
Dr T Ejidokun	-	Health Protection Agency
Mr M Pennington	-	Gloucestershire Police
Mr S Conney	-	Food Standards Agency
Mr D Lane	-	Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue
Mr B Archer	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Mr J Gilliland	-	Office Civil Nuclear Security
Mr P Gilbert	-	Stroud District Council
Mr J Stanton	-	Stroud District Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Assoc of Parish & Town Councils

II MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10 MAY 2006

(a) Accuracy

- 3 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 10 May 2006 were approved as an accurate record.

(b) Matters arising

Land drainage (para 5 refers)

- 4 Cllr Mrs Wride referred to discussion at the previous meeting on an issue raised by Mr Baker regarding land drainage through an outfall which passed under the Berkeley site. Mr Baker had been concerned that a blockage of the outfall could result in flooding. Cllr Mrs Wride said that information had been provided by Mr Evans that the Drainage Board maintained the Pill up to the point where it came on to the site. Mr Baker was anxious to clarify responsibilities for maintaining the inlet gratings to the outfall which were located inside the Site boundary. Ms Atkin undertook to obtain further information to clarify ownership and responsibilities for maintenance of the outfall pipework which crossed the Site.

Action Ms Atkin

Investigations into low level waste consignment from Berkeley Site (para 29 refers)

- 5 Mr Withey reported on the investigations undertaken into suspected discrepancies found whilst checking a low level waste consignment from the Berkeley Site. He said that the investigations had confirmed minor discrepancies in relation to the content and recording of the weight of the waste but no major causes for concern. He said that the Agency had issued a warning letter to the Site as a result of its investigations. The

Site had taken action to improve procedures and eliminate the potential causes of such discrepancies occurring in future. Mr Withey said that he was satisfied with the responses of the Site to date. Cllr Ms Watts asked whether any further spot checks had been undertaken more recently. Mr Withey said that no further despatches of waste from the site had taken place to date; he said that he had observed the packing of a waste container during the past week and had seen significant improvements in procedures.

III SITE END STATE CONSULTATION

- 6 Cllr Mrs Wride referred to discussions at the sub group on the preferred end state for the site. She explained the proposed arrangements for further discussion at this meeting: Ms Atkin, the HR Manager for the site was to outline information provided by Stroud District Council on planning restrictions associated with the end state. Mr Crocker, the Site Manager, would then provide an update on the Berkeley lifetime plan and then there would be discussions between members in smaller groups on the preferred end state for the site.

Planning Restrictions

- 7 Ms Atkin explained that the Stroud District Local Plan, approved in November 2005, provided the basis for policy decisions on potential end states; the current use was established. Issues identified by District Council officers as needing to be taken into account included wildlife, landscape, pollution, transport, flood risk, built form and employment. Ms Atkin explained that the process for determining a future end state for the site would involve the submission of planning applications as appropriate, accompanied by statements covering environmental impact, transport impact and waste minimisation. The South West Regional Development Agency would have to be involved in due course.
- 8 Ms Presdee expressed her support for the involvement of the South West Regional Development Agency. She said that the Agency tended to focus its attention on the principal urban areas but she felt it was important that it was involved in this aspect of rural regeneration.

Berkeley Lifetime Plan Update

- 9 Mr Crocker outlined progress against the current lifetime plan for the Berkeley site. He said that preparations for putting the site into long-term care and maintenance would be completed by the end of March 2013 and he envisaged that the site would be put into care and maintenance at that time. He said it was planned that all buildings, with the exception of the reactor buildings and buildings A11 and A12 would be demolished by the time of entry into care and maintenance. Buildings would be demolished in a phased manner over that time. The laboratory buildings would be demolished during the current year to support the safety case for delicensing part of the site. Work associated with

preparations for delicensing was on schedule and due for completion by 31 December 2006.

- 10 Mr Crocker said that the Sports and Social Club was to prepare a business plan for operation as a stand-alone organisation; this plan would be discussed directly with the NDA.
- 11 Mr Crocker said that as part of organisational change within the industry, the staff currently working on the Berkeley site would be allocated to one or other of two new companies. He envisaged that both companies would relocate away from the site at some stage; he said that some 250 staff would remain on the site at 31 March 2007.
- 12 Mr Crocker said that staff numbers would decline gradually as decommissioning projects came to an end; delicensing part of the site would also lead to some reductions in staffing as the volume of support work required to manage the licensed site was reduced. The company was working with the trades unions on possibilities for retraining and redeployment of staff.
- 13 In response to a question from Cllr Ms Watts, Mr Crocker said that a realistic date for alternative use of the part of the site to be delicensed was early 2008; staff in the new companies would have to remain on site until new working arrangements had been established and the separation of computer facilities and systems had been completed. Cllr Ms Watts questioned why all of the buildings on the site were to be demolished when some had been built only as recently as eight years ago. Mr Crocker said it was possible that one of the successor companies might make a business case to continue to use some of the existing buildings but he said that existing site services, including the sewage plant, would cease operation.
- 14 Mr Crocker said that if a successful business case was made for accelerating the programme of reactor decommissioning some jobs would be retained but only for a limited period.
- 15 In response to a question from Cllr Burgess on the proposed extent of demolition work, Mr Crocker said it was currently proposed that buildings would be demolished down to ground level, leaving a concrete slab. He said that holes would be filled but he did not believe it was good environmental practice to dig out concrete foundations merely to produce holes which then had to be filled. He said that depending on the site end state there might be requirements to carry out more work but the current plan was to get down to concrete slab level. Material from demolished buildings would be used to fill in holes on the site.
- 16 Mr Johnson was anxious about the future of current features on the site which served as aids to navigation. He undertook to write to Mr Crocker on these issues. Ms Atkin said that this had already been identified as a matter which needed to be addressed. Mr Crocker said that the

Engineering Hall, which currently served as a landmark, would probably be retained until 2010/11 as it was to house a mock-up of the plant used for retrieving wastes from the station's waste vaults. He said that the mock-up would be useful for practising operational manoeuvres in a non-radioactive environment; this facility would be a valuable aid until the work of emptying the vaults was complete. Cllr Mrs Wride and the SSG would support any relevant training facilities retained for use for further decommissioning training

Discussions on Site End State

- 17 Members divided into three groups for further discussions on preferred end states for the site. The groups provided a written note of their views on various options and each group provided a brief summary of its conclusions. During discussion the following points were noted:
- (i) It was suggested that advice could be sought from estate agents regarding the potential market for various facilities which could be located on the site.
 - (ii) The importance of developing firm proposals before embarking upon public consultation was emphasised.
 - (iii) One group identified as a possible future use the construction of a plant for generating electricity by burning wastes collected by local authorities. This would take advantage of existing infrastructure and would help to meet an identified National need to reduce volumes of waste going into landfill. Other members drew attention to the transport implications of such a development and the likely reaction against it by the local public.
 - (iv) It was suggested that some government funding might be required in order to make an economic success of any identified future development on the site.
 - (v) The advantages of a mixed development were recognised but it was generally felt that building new domestic housing was unlikely to be feasible.
 - (vi) Attention was drawn to the impact on local businesses of the significant reduction in the number of staff employed on the site.
 - (vii) It was felt that the public consultation on future end states might involve the local press and other media, the internet, public meetings and roadshows, and that it might make use of arrangements already established by the local councils. It was suggested that the scope and nature of the consultation would be dependent upon the identified future use.

- 18 Cllr Mrs Wride said that the various issues raised by members at this meeting would be considered further by the sub-group at its next meeting.

IV NEXT MEETING

- 19 Cllr Mrs Wride said that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be a joint meeting with members of the Oldbury Power Station Site Stakeholder Group on Wednesday 1 November 2006.

MJD
9 July 2006