

BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE

SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT

THE BERKELEY ARMS HOTEL ON 15 MAY 2007

PRESENT:

Cllr P Wride (Chair)	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Mr S Andrews	-	Trade Union Representative
Mr F Baker	-	National Farmers Union
Cllr B G Booth	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr D Burgess	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr Ms V Watts	-	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr D Wride	-	Stroud District Council

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr J Beckett	-	Stroud District Council
Ms E Jackson	-	Stroud District Council
Mr G Jones	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Mr M Langdon	-	Lower Severn Drainage Board
Dr P Mountford-Lister	-	Environment Agency
Dr D Warner	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Ms H Atkin	-	Magnox South
Mr J Crocker	-	Berkeley Site Director
Mr S Houston	-	Magnox South
Mr S Payne	-	Magnox South
Dr K Franklin	-	Nexia Solutions
Cllr Ms L Bird	-	Stroud District Council
Mr A Jardine	-	Berkeley Estate and CLA
Cllr G Langdon	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Ms A Presdee	-	Gloucestershire First
Mr N Carmichael	-	Prospective Parliamentary Candidate
Mr C Chudley	-	Local Resident
Mr R Hellen	-	Local Resident
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. Reviewing the two years since she became Chair of this Group she drew attention to the substantial changes to the Berkeley site over that period and complimented British Nuclear Group on the successful delicensing of part of the site.
- 2 Cllr Mrs Wride reminded members of the major task of this Group during the past year to submit to the NDA its preferred option for the end state for the site.

She thanked the sub-group and Hyder Consulting for the work they had put in to make sure that all local views were considered; she had been pleased with the detailed consultation which had taken place.

- 3 Cllr Mrs Wride referred to the company's application for planning consent for the construction of an intermediate level waste store. She felt that there were compelling reasons for this store as there was insufficient capacity currently on site and the government had yet to decide on the location of a national repository. She felt it was unfortunate that a proposed ministerial visit to the site had been cancelled at short notice; she felt it was important that the significant scientific and commercial achievements on the site were drawn to the attention of the public.
- 4 Cllr Mrs Wride said that as SSG Chairman she had attended National stakeholder conferences and various meetings with other Chairmen of more local SSGs. She said that she had not been able to attend a recent visit to Sellafield but understood from other Chairmen that it had been very interesting. She said that she had been pleased to attend a celebration of the successful delicensing of part of the site.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 5 Apologies for absence were received from:

Mr B Archer	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Mr D Morgan	-	Berkeley Site Inspector
Cllr T Archer	-	Stroud District Council
Mrs J Ball	-	Dursley Town Council
Mr J Barber	-	The Citizen
Cllr R Bartlam	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Mr N Cooper	-	Co-opted, Vice Chairman
Mr R Davies	-	Highways Agency
Mr David Drew	-	MP Stroud
Mr J Gilliland	-	Office of Civil Nuclear Security
Mr Mark Harper	-	MP Forest of Dean
Mr P Holden	-	South West Regional Development Agency
Mr N Hutchings	-	Business West
Mr I Jarvis	-	National Waterways
Mr T Jones	-	Magnox South, Communications
Mr D Lane	-	Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue
Mrs V Morriss	-	Slimbridge Wildfowl Trust
Mr M Pennington	-	Gloucestershire Police
Mr T Scott	-	Scott Law
Cllr V Sheno	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Dr C Smitton	-	Nuclear Consultant
Cllr J Stanton	-	Stroud District Council
Mr D Webbe-Wood	-	Food Standards Agency
Mr D Withey	-	Environment Agency
Mr R Dalrymple-Smith	-	Local Resident

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 MARCH 2007

(a) Accuracy

- 6 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 1 March 2007 were approved as an accurate record.

(b) Matters arising

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

RECONFIRMATION OF SSG CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- 8 Mr Payne invited members to consider whether the current appointments of Chair and Vice-Chair of this Group should be confirmed for a further year. It was unanimously agreed that the appointments of Cllr Mrs P Wride and Mr N Cooper should be confirmed as Chairman and Vice Chairman of this Group respectively for the coming year. Mr Cooper is no longer a district councillor and has been co-opted on to the SSG as a local representative, in accordance with the SSG constitution.

NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY UPDATE

- 9 Dr Warner reported on current issues relevant to the work of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. He referred to the extension of the role of the NDA in relation to the management of radioactive waste which had followed from the publication of the report of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM). In response to recommendations made by CoRWM government had decided that the NDA should be given responsibility for planning and implementing the deep geological disposal of radioactive waste. In order to give effect to this decision shares in Nirex had been transferred to the NDA and Nirex staff were being transferred to the NDA structure. Government would in due course be undertaking public consultation on the selection of a site for a deep geological repository.
- 10 Dr Warner reported on the progress made by the NDA in setting up new Site Licence Companies in order to group the sites in appropriate packages for the introduction of competition for the management and operation of the sites. There were currently seven Site Licence Companies, of which Magnox South Ltd (which had responsibility for the Berkeley site) was one. The process of securing this competition for Magnox South had commenced. The necessary notices had been published in the Official Journal of the European Union and companies or consortia were being invited to act as the Parent Body Organisation for the Magnox South Site Licence Company for the period of its contract with the NDA. The Parent Body Organisation would own the shares in the Site Licence Company and provide key managers; it would earn a management fee related to its performance. Dr Warner said that as part of a detailed programme of market engagement an industry seminar was to be held on 14 June to provide information on the proposed arrangements and the process to be followed. Stroud District Council would be invited to this seminar which

would provide an opportunity to see the various organisations interested in bidding for the management of the company. Dr Warner said that the process of selecting a parent body organisation would ensure that the company selected gave appropriate priority to health and safety matters, was experienced in change management and understood the obligations which were being inherited. It was anticipated that the successful bidder to become the parent body organisation would be selected in November 2008.

- 11 In response to a question from Cllr Ms Watts, Dr Warner said he anticipated that DEFRA would be the government department to sponsor the selection of a site for a national waste repository.
- 12 During discussions on arrangements for the process of bidding to become the parent body organisation it was pointed out that, existing regulatory arrangements would remain unchanged. Dr Mountford-Lister pointed out that as part of the formation of the Magnox South and Magnox North companies it was necessary to transfer some of the Radioactive Substances Act discharge authorisations and to demonstrate that each of the companies had appropriate resources to meet their obligations. In response to comments from Cllr Evers on the potential complexity of the proposed arrangements, Dr Warner said that the proposals had had been discussed fully with the various regulators. The contract model which would introduce competition had been demonstrated to work successfully in the US and elsewhere in the UK.

SITE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

- 13 Mr Crocker reported on current issues at the Berkeley site. He emphasised that safety remained the top priority. He said that following the delicensing of part of the site arrangements were being finalised for separating the utilities and services for the two parts of the site; his focus was on the Licensed Site. He said that numbers of staff on the site had been reduced by some 135 in recent months and further reductions of 60 were anticipated during the coming year.
- 14 Mr Crocker said that with effect from the start of April 2007 a new company, the Reactor Sites Management Company, had been formed and had taken over the management of the Berkeley site from British Nuclear Group. The Reactor Sites Management Company was to be sold and would be bidding to become the parent body organisation for the site. Mr Crocker referred to the progress being made with the waste retrieval project and the caesium removal plant project.
- 15 Mr Crocker referred to the application for planning consent for an intermediate level waste store on the Berkeley site. He emphasised that this proposed store was only for wastes which had accumulated during the operation of the Power Station and the laboratories on the Berkeley site. It was not intended to be a store for wastes from any other site; if at any time it was proposed to store such other wastes on the Berkeley site this would be the subject of a separate planning application.
- 16 Mr Crocker explained that the previous proposal had been to use the former Reactor 2 blower hall for the storage of intermediate level wastes on the site. He

said that facilities which had been proposed for such storage did not provide sufficient capacity for all of the wastes and there were technical issues associated with the use of those facilities. It was therefore proposed to construct a new purpose-built facility. Meetings to explain the proposals had been held with town and parish councils and information would be made available to members of the public in Lydney and Berkeley during the coming week.

- 17 In response to questions from Cllr Booth on the future of the Sports and Social Club Dr Warner said that the Social Club facilities were outside the licensed site but formed part of the NDA assets. He said that if a lease was to be granted for the continued use of these facilities it would be necessary for those wishing to enter into the lease to demonstrate that they were an appropriate body capable of entering into such a lease. He said that there were issues associated with the physical separation of services from the Berkeley site but the principal issue was the formal legal status of the body wishing to enter the lease. He undertook to keep members informed of progress in the discussions on the future use of the social club facilities which were ongoing.
- 18 In response to comments from Cllr Evers on the appropriateness of existing Site Licence conditions for decommissioning activities, Mr Crocker said that the Site Licence conditions were designed essentially for an operating site. He felt that there were opportunities for a transition to different arrangements for decommissioning, arrangements which could have less focus upon nuclear safety and more focus on environmental issues.
- 19 Cllr Ms Watts asked about responsibilities for safety in relation to staff on the delicensed part of the site. Mr Crocker emphasised that each of the tenant organisations had their own arrangements in place to discharge their individual responsibilities. In reply to a question from Cllr Burgess, Mr Crocker said that the use of accommodation on the delicensed part of the site was being concentrated upon three main buildings; actions were in hand to separate the various services to the delicensed part of the site.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 20 In response to a question from Cllr Burgess on the future use of the remaining parts of the delicensed site, Dr Warner said that meetings were taking place with Stroud District Council in the near future. He said that advice had been sought from consultants and future development of the site would probably involve a partnership with another party. Following concerns expressed by Mr Baker on potential future uses Ms Jackson said that the site would be subject to the same planning regulations as any other site in relation to proposed changes of use.
- 21 Cllr Mrs Wride said that the Food Standards Agency was to be undertaking a survey of local residents to obtain information which would help them in their assessments of potential radiation exposures received by members of the public.

NEXT MEETING

- 22 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on Tuesday 10 July 2007.
MJD 17 May 2007