

## **BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE**

### **SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

#### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT**

#### **CATTLE COUNTRY, BERKELEY ON 16 JULY 2008**

##### **PRESENT:**

Cllr Mrs P Wride (Chair)	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Mr S Andrews	-	Trades Union Representative
Mr F I Baker	-	National Farmers' Union
Cllr B Booth	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr D Burgess	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr N Cooper	-	Stroud District Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Assoc of Town and Parish Councils
Cllr M Lynden	-	Oldbury SSG Chairman
Cllr D Wride	-	Stroud District Council

##### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Dr D Warner	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr S McNally	-	Berkeley Licensed Site
Mr S Barnett	-	Berkeley Licensed Site
Ms T Owen	-	Berkeley Licensed Site
Mr S Payne	-	Berkeley Licensed Site
Mr J Tott	-	Sizewell A Power Station
Rev R Avery		
Dr C Chudley		
Ms S Hill		
Mr G Wheeler		
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

##### **INTRODUCTION**

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

##### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from:

Mr E Camper		
Ms C Collins	-	Environment Agency
Mr J Crocker	-	Berkeley Site Director
Mr R Dalrymple-Smith		
Mr David Drew MP		
Mr J Gilliland	-	Office of Civil Nuclear Security
Mr Mark Harper MP		
Mr R Hellen		

Mr A Jardine	-	Berkeley Estate
Mr I Jarvis	-	National Waterways
Mr P Kennedy	-	Food Standards Agency
Mr D Morgan	-	Berkeley Site Inspector
Ms M Morrey	-	Health Protection Agency
Mr M Pennington	-	Gloucestershire Police
Ms A Presdee	-	Gloucestershire First
Mr A Slaney	-	Magnox South
Mr J Stanton	-	Stroud District Council
Cllr Ms V Watts	-	Berkeley Town Council
Miss L Yeomans	-	Hinton/Sharpness Parish Council

## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15 APRIL 2008**

### **(a) Accuracy**

- 3 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 15 April 2008 were approved as an accurate record.

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

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

## **SSG CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE**

- 5 Cllr Mrs Wride reported on her attendance at the National Stakeholder Conference which had been held in Edinburgh on 20/23 May 2008. She drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) Representatives from the SSGs for the Magnox South sites had benefited from a briefing given by Mr K Powers in advance of the meeting. This had provided useful background information on current issues which had helped subsequent discussions at the Conference.
  - (ii) Dr Roxburgh was stepping down from his role as NDA's Chief Executive Officer and had not attended the Conference. The new Chairman, Mr Henwood, had been present.
  - (iii) Cllr Mrs Wride said it appeared to her that the NDA was showing a priority in its support for Scotland and Cumbria which was not evident in its support for activities in the South of England. She gave as examples the National Nuclear Archive which was to be established in Caithness and the Training Skills Academy at Sellafield. She hoped, particularly in view of the possibility of new power station construction, that the skill base at Berkeley would not be lost.
  - (iv) SSGs had been asked to review their constitutions. It might be necessary to establish a sub-group to carry this out.

- (v) Cllr Mrs Wride said that she had taken every opportunity to promote Berkeley as the lead site to be fully decommissioned.
- (vi) There had been a large number of NDA staff present at the national conference. It was hoped that a Government Minister would be able to address a future conference meeting.
- (vii) The next National Stakeholder Conference was to be held on 5 November 2008.
- (viii) Cllr Mrs Wride had attended a meeting of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee for the Berkeley site. Discussions at the meeting had included emergency planning aspects of the floods experienced last year. Cllr Mrs Wride said that although the potential hazards on the site had been reduced substantially it was evident that emergency planning arrangements were still taken very seriously.

## **NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY UPDATE**

- 6 Dr Warner reported on issues of current interest to the NDA. He said that the first competitive contract, for the management of the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR), had been let in April. The new contractor was already engaged in discussions with other site operators to explore ways in which the management of the Waste Repository might be improved.
- 7 Dr Warner said that during the past week an announcement had been made on the preferred bidder for the competition for the management of the Sellafield site. Detailed discussions would now take place before a decision was taken on placing a contract. Dr Warner said that the strategy for the management of the remaining NDA sites was under review, taking account of lessons learned from the LLWR and Sellafield competitions; he hoped that an announcement would be made on this matter later in the year.
- 8 Dr Warner said that although the NDA was responsible for implementing government policy on radioactive waste management by planning and implementing a deep disposal facility, it was not responsible for site selection. However he could report that the Government had recently invited communities to express potential interest in hosting a national waste repository facility.
- 9 Dr Warner said that consultants had been engaged to assist in property management aspects of the Berkeley Centre site. No decisions had yet been taken on future use of the site but opportunities were being sought for involving the private sector in the management of the site.
- 10 Dr Warner said that Dr Roxburgh was stepping down from his role as Chief Executive Officer of the NDA at the end of July although he would remain available in an advisory capacity until the end of the year. Mr Richard Waite would be Acting Chief Executive pending the recruitment of Dr Roxburgh's successor.

## **SITE MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

- 11 Mr McNally reported on current issues at the Berkeley site, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) There had been no lost time accident on the site for more than 77 weeks.
  - (ii) Work was continuing on the review of the current Periodic Safety Review (PSR) for the site. A revised document was to be submitted to the NII in August 2008. The new PSR would demonstrate the safety of existing facilities and operations on the site for a ten year period; any improvement works which were shown to be necessary would have to be completed by August 2009. The outcome of the review of the PSR would be reported at a future meeting of this Group.
  - (iii) Movements of heavy lorries travelling to and from the site in connection with the construction of a waste store would continue for the next couple of weeks.
- 12 Cllr Mrs Wride asked whether consideration had been given to different forms of waste storage, in particular the so-called "yellow boxes" as had been demonstrated at SSG meetings at other sites. Mr McNally said that various potential options were kept under review. These particular cast iron boxes had not yet been shown to be acceptable for future storage in a UK repository. He felt it had not been appropriate to present details of these storage boxes at a meeting of this Group until it was known that they represented a viable option; he hoped that there would be some indication of the potential viability of the option later in the year. In response to comments by Cllr Evers, Mr McNally explained that these boxes were manufactured in Germany and had been used in the US and elsewhere. If they were shown to be acceptable for use in this country then consideration would be given as to how they might be used and which particular wastes might be suitable for storage in them.
- 13 Cllr Booth drew attention to the poor state of the road leading to the site and encouraged the company to bring any pressure which it might be able to bear upon Gloucestershire Highways to improve the road.

## **BERKELEY SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB**

- 14 Cllr Mrs Wride said that as Mr Camper had not been able to attend this meeting the proposed presentation on the Berkeley Sports and Social Club would be deferred to the next meeting.

## **MAGNOX SOUTH SOCIO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

- 15 Mr Tott explained the background to the Magnox South Socio-Economic Plan and outlined the application process for support during the forthcoming year. He explained the statutory obligation upon the NDA to consider the impact of activities on its sites upon local communities, particularly in relation to declining

demands for employment, and said that the Magnox South Socio-Economic Plan had had been devised to help the NDA meet that obligation.

- 16 Mr Tott said that the Socio-Economic Plan was a single scheme common to all sites, with a single common process and all applications being considered by a single panel. The scheme had allocated financial support totalling £175,000 during the current year. That sum had been spread amongst four applicants, all of whom had been in the South East of England. Mr Tott made available for members a paper describing the process, giving details of the projects which had received funding during the past year and outlining the assessment process for the coming year. He encouraged members to consider any local activities or projects which might meet the assessment criteria and for which an application might be made. In response to a question from Cllr Evers, Mr Tott said that initial assessments were to be made during September but the scheme would be open for new applications until early December at which time a second assessment would be made; final reviews and decisions on funding would be completed in January.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 17 Mr Baker drew attention to continuing problems with traffic on local lanes in the vicinity of the site. He raised particular concerns over a recent incident in which two large military helicopters had approached the site at low level, landed and taken off again. He said that this type of exercise would clearly disturb animals on local farms and could cause a serious accident. Mr Barnett said that if such an exercise was to be carried out in future every effort would be made to inform neighbours in advance.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

- 18 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group, a joint meeting with the Oldbury SSG, was scheduled to be held on 12 November 2008 at Eastwood Park, commencing at 12.00pm.