

BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE

SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT

BERKELEY ARMS HOTEL ON 15 APRIL 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 D Burgess	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr N Cooper	-	Stroud District Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Assoc of Town and Parish Councils
Cllr G Langdon	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Mr M Pirie	-	Falfield Parish Council
Ms A Presdee	-	Gloucestershire First
Cllr D Wride	-	Stroud District Council

IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr D Warner	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr J Beckett	-	Stroud District Council
Ms C Collins	-	Environment Agency
Mr J Crocker	-	Berkeley Nuclear Licensed Site
Mr S McNally	-	Berkeley Nuclear Licensed Site
Mr S Barnett	-	Berkeley Nuclear Licensed Site
Ms D Tyrer	-	Berkeley Nuclear Licensed Site
Mr S Payne	-	Berkeley Nuclear Licensed Site
Mr A Slaney	-	Magnox South, Berkeley Centre
Mr R Dalrymple-Smith		
Mr H Tovell		
Ms L-J Gillespie	-	Dursley Gazette
Rev R Avery		
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 David Drew MP		
Mr Mark Harper MP		
Cllr B Booth	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Ms V Watts	-	Berkeley Town Council

Cllr M Praker	-	Aylburton Parish Council
Ms M Morrey	-	Health Protection Agency
Mr M Pennington	-	Gloucestershire Police
Mr P Kennedy	-	Food Standards Agency
Mr I Jarvis	-	National Waterways
Dr C Chudley		

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2008

(a) Accuracy

- 3 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 22 January 2008 were approved as an accurate record.

(b) Matters arising

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

ELECTION OF SSG CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- 5 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.

SSG CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

- 6 Cllr Mrs Wride said that most of the points she wished to raise would be covered in other discussions at the meeting. She said that she would be attending a meeting of the National Stakeholder Group conference during May and she would also be meeting with Mr Ken Powers, Managing Director of Magnox South.
- 7 Cllr Mrs Wride said that she had received a letter from Mr Churchill, NDA Head of Stakeholder Relations. Mr Churchill had asked for any suggestions on how the NDA's socio-economic relations with the local community might be improved. Cllr Mrs Wride asked members to contact her or Dr Warner if they had any such suggestions.

NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY UPDATE

- 8 Dr Warner referred to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's Business Plan which had been discussed in draft form at the previous meeting of this Group and which had been discussed further at a recent community evening at Berkeley Castle. He said that the plan had been published on 1 April 2008. The Plan complied with Energy Act requirements and was consistent with the NDA's approved strategy. It provided detailed plans for year one and outline plans for years two and three. The plan reflected the government's comprehensive spending review settlement.

- 9 Dr Warner outlined the principal contents of the business plan, including statements on achievements to date and details of key strategic challenges. He said that the funding identified within the Plan, at some £2.8 billion in each year, was higher than in any previous years. The anticipated income from NDA commercial activities during the coming year was £1.3 billion. Dr Warner said that the Plan included key activities for each of the various sites. The key activities for the Berkeley site included completion of the Periodic Safety Review, completion of site separation, the development of options for future use of the Berkeley Centre site and the entry of the reactors into a care and maintenance state. He said that a copy of the Plan was available on the NDA website.

SITE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

- 10 Mr Crocker 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 64 weeks.
 - (ii) Work was continuing on a review of the current Periodic Safety Review (PSR) with the aim of submitting a revised document 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.
 - (iii) Continuing progress was being made with work to complete the separation of the Licensed Site from the Berkeley Centre site.
- 11 Cllr Mrs Wride expressed members' congratulations at the site's safety performance in having no lost time accident for more than 64 weeks. Mr Crocker said that this performance was due to the combined efforts of all individuals on the site. He said that he was not complacent and continued to seek further improvements in safety performance.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY UPDATE

- 12 Ms Collins presented apologies from Mr Withey who had been unable to attend this meeting following an accident at home. She said that she had taken over Mr Withey's responsibilities for the Berkeley site with effect from 1 April 2008.
- 13 Ms Collins outlined current Environment Agency activities relating to the Berkeley site, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Actions taken in response to an Enforcement Notice described at an earlier meeting by Mr Withey had resulted in significant improvements. Future inspections would ensure that these improvements were maintained.
 - (ii) Magnox South and Magnox North continued to operate in a "shadow working" mode. The EA, together with the NII was undertaking a

significant amount of work to ensure that the companies could operate as stand-alone units.

- (iii) A process had been established to identify work on decommissioning projects which had been deferred so that consideration could be given to any potential environmental implications.
- (iv) The Agency published guidance on a range of environmental issues and was developing regulatory environmental principles which would be published in due course; consultation on these principles would commence shortly.

PRESENTATION ON S3 PROJECT

- 14 Ms Tyrer gave a presentation on the Safe, Secure Sites (S3) Programme which had been established to identify and analyse strategic options and contingency plans for the Magnox power station sites on behalf of the NDA. The programme covered the sites operated by Magnox North and Magnox South. The NDA had asked for this work to be undertaken in the context of its intention to allocate funding in accordance with hazard reduction priorities and having regard for the need for further technical work to be undertaken on waste disposal routes. The programme examined potential options for each site with each of the various options based upon a different scope of demolition, decommissioning and hazard reduction work.
- 15 Ms Tyrer said that the S3 programme was expected to run for some 12 months and in the meantime work would continue on the basis of approved long-term plans. She said that briefings on the progress of this work would be given at future meetings of this Group.
- 16 Mr Baker expressed some surprise that this work was now necessary as he thought that decisions had already been taken on future plans for clearing the site. Mr Cooper questioned whether the intention was to identify the best option for each site irrespective of cost or whether options were being tailored to fit the funding available. Ms Tyrer said that this work was aimed at gathering information on the various options available; decisions on funding would be taken in due course by the NDA. In response to a question from Cllr Evers, Mr Crocker said that although this exercise covered only the Magnox power station sites other NDA sites were being considered separately on a similar basis.

PRESENTATION FROM MAGNOX SOUTH PROPERTY TEAM

- 17 Mr Slaney reported on the activities of the Magnox South Property Team. He said that the team had been established to act as a single point of contact for the NDA on property-related matters and to act as the NDA's agents in dealing with enquiries relating to the property portfolio. He said that specific tasks of the team in relation to Berkeley included managing the delicensed area of the site and its physical separation from the Licensed Site and assisting the NDA in the formulation of strategies for the disposal of the Berkeley Centre site.

- 18 During discussion Cllr Burgess emphasised the local interest in future potential uses of the Berkeley Centre site and the concerns over uses which would be inappropriate in relation to the local environment and the transport infrastructure. Mr Slaney said that agents had been engaged by the NDA to advise on potential future uses of the Berkeley Centre site and a report from the agents was awaited. He said that many of the points made in the Task Force report remained perfectly valid.
- 19 In response to a question from Cllr D Wride, Dr Warner clarified the role of the Magnox South team and their relationship with the NDA property services group headed by Mr Atkinson. He said that Magnox was responsible for the day-to-day management of the site on behalf of the NDA but responsibility for decisions on disposal of the site remained with the Authority. Cllr Mrs Wride emphasised the importance of employment at the site for the local community and drew attention to the good local workforce available within the area for future employers on the site.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 20 Cllr Mrs Wride expressed appreciation for the arrangements made for the recent community evening at Berkeley Castle. She said that the evening had provided a valuable opportunity for members of the wider community to share information on current issues.

NEXT MEETING

- 21 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on 16 July 2008