

BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE

SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT

CATTLE COUNTRY, BERKELEY ON 16 OCTOBER 2007

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs P Wride (Chair)	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Cllr D Burgess	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr N Cooper	-	Stroud District Council
Cllr V Shenoi	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr Ms V Watts	-	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr D Wride	-	Stroud District Council

IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr D Warner	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr D Atkinson	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr R Flynn	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr J Beckett	-	Stroud District Council
Mr M Pennington	-	Gloucestershire Police
Mr D Withey	-	Environment Agency
Mr J Crocker	-	Berkeley Licensed Site
Mr S Barnett	-	Berkeley Licensed Site
Ms N Carter	-	Berkeley Licensed Site
Mr D Morgan	-	Berkeley Licensed Site
Mr S Payne	-	Berkeley Licensed Site
Dr C Chudley		
Mr R Dalrymple-Smith		
Mr R Hellen		
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

I INTRODUCTION

- 1 Cllr Mrs Wride welcomed all those present to this meeting of the Berkeley Nuclear Licensed Site Stakeholder Group and thanked them all for their attendance.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from:

Mr J Cripps	-	Gloucester Chamber of Commerce
Dr C Smitton	-	Nuclear Consultant
Mr David Drew MP		
Mr Mark Harper MP		
Mr F I Baker	-	National Farmers' Union
Mr A Jardine	-	Berkeley Estate

Ms C Humble	-	Stroud District Council
Cllr T Archer	-	Stroud District Council
Mr D Close	-	BPE Solicitors
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Assn of Town and Parish Councils
Cllr G Langdon	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Ms M Morrey	-	Health Protection Agency
Mr D Webbe-Wood	-	Food Standards Agency
Mr B Archer	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Mr J Gilliland	-	Office of Civil Nuclear Security

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10 JULY 2007

(a) Accuracy

- 3 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 10 July 2007 were approved as an accurate record.

(b) Matters arising

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

SITE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

- 5 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 37 weeks.
 - (ii) A warning letter and Enforcement Notice had been received from the Environment Agency following the event in the Active Effluent Treatment Plant reported at the previous meeting. An Operations Improvement Plan was in place to bring about improvements across the site and restore Regulator confidence.
 - (iii) A decision had been taken on the day prior to this meeting to defer work on the Active Waste Vault Retrieval Project and the Intermediate Level Waste Store Project. Prompt action had been taken to brief staff and inform key stakeholders of these decisions. Mr Crocker said that he would be working closely with trades union representatives to review the site's organisational structure in line with these decisions; a new structure would be presented to staff during November.
- 6 In response to questions from Cllr Cooper, Mr Crocker said that the total cost of the projects associated with this decision to defer work was approximately £100 million. He confirmed that this matter had been under consideration for some months but the decision had only been taken yesterday.
- 7 Cllr Burgess asked about the safety aspects of leaving wastes in existing storage facilities. Mr Crocker said that the wastes were currently stored safely in underground vaults; the Periodic Safety Review to be carried out during the

coming year would address issues associated with allowing the wastes to remain in the vaults for longer than previously intended. In reply to a further question from Cllr Cooper, Mr Crocker said that it had not yet been decided when work on the deferred projects would re-start.

NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY UPDATE

- 8 Dr Warner referred to his report at the earlier joint meeting with members of the Oldbury SSG and offered to answer any further questions.
- 9 In reply to Cllr Wride, Dr Warner said it was anticipated that the funding to be made available to the NDA following the Comprehensive Spending Review would be announced shortly. He said that it would then be a matter for the NDA to look at priorities for expenditure at each site and publish its business plans. He envisaged that information would be available for stakeholders early in November.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- 10 Mr Withey reported on current issues associated with the Environment Agency's regulation of the site, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The company had responded well to the issues raised in the Enforcement Notice referred to earlier in the meeting and progress with the improvement plan was being monitored.
 - (ii) Mr Withey said that certain plant issues would need to be addressed in the light of the decision to defer work on the waste vault retrieval project. He felt it would be necessary to consider, for example, whether certain plant items were appropriate for longer term use.
 - (iii) The Agency would monitor the situation regarding the active waste vaults closely to ensure that safety and integrity were maintained and that appropriate actions were taken.

NDA ASSET STRATEGY

- 11 Mr Atkinson provided information on the land and properties owned by the NDA and addressed specifically issues associated with the Berkeley site. He said that the land owned by the NDA amounted to some 13,000 acres in total and included a wide range of different types of properties.
- 12 Mr Atkinson said that a meeting had been held earlier in the day with representatives of the Nuclear Sports and Social Club. The meeting had been very positive and he hoped that as a result it would be possible to grant the Club a long term lease on the property during the coming year.
- 13 Mr Atkinson said that he was considering the possibility of the properties on the Berkeley Centre site being managed as a business park. He said that it would not be appropriate for the NDA to become involved in managing such an

enterprise and a private business partner would be needed. He said that some further work was necessary to separate site services from the licensed site.

- 14 Mr Atkinson said that he was discussing biodiversity issues with English Nature. He felt that opportunities for encouraging biodiversity on the Berkeley site were probably limited to the area adjacent to the access road.
- 15 Mr Atkinson said that the NDA would be taking action to dispose of surplus assets. He suggested that consideration might be given to disposing of some grazing land to the east of the Berkeley site.
- 16 During discussion on issues raised by Mr Atkinson the following points were noted:
 - (i) In reply to questions from Cllr Ms Watts and Cllr Burgess, Mr Atkinson said that the national policy of the NDA is not to sell outright if a degree of management control was still required next to a nuclear licensed site. By selling an outright freehold for a business park, this control would be lost. Consequently, the NDA would be seeking interest on the basis of a long lease, subject to a number of points, the main one being a carefully worded user clause to try and ensure the uses of the Business Park were compatible to the power station in
 - (ii) Mr Withey said that any proposals for different types of activity on the Berkeley Centre site would have to take account of the fact that it was adjacent to a licensed nuclear site. He felt that this probably meant that future uses would be similar to those currently undertaken on the site.
 - (iii) Mr Atkinson said that he hoped to be finalising plans for marketing of the Berkeley Centre site during the coming year and he would be glad to see information which had been produced in earlier discussions on future uses for the site. He said that he would be happy to let stakeholders see draft heads of terms, which would include a clause relating to potential uses, before marketing commenced.
 - (iv) In reply to a question from Mr Hellen, Mr Atkinson said that there would be opportunities for considering any proposals which might be made for renewable energy development on the site.
 - (v) Cllr Mrs Wride said that she was pleased at the progress which was being made in relation to the future of the Sports and Social Club. She was sure that these feelings would be shared by many other members and local residents.

REVIEW OF SSG INDEPENDENT MEMBERSHIP

- 17 Cllr Mrs Wride drew members' attention to the possibility of extending the membership of the Group to include other independent members of the community. She suggested that local councils were currently well represented

but that there might be scope for including other members of the community who were interested in activities at the site.

- 18 After discussion it was agreed that it might be appropriate to include in the membership representatives of the local Federation of Small Businesses, the Nuclear Sports and Social Club, and the Berkeley Estate. Mr Payne undertook to pursue these suggestions.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 19 There was no other business.

NEXT MEETING

- 20 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on Tuesday 22 January 2008.

MJD
21 October 2007