

BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE

SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT

THE BERKELEY ARMS HOTEL ON 22 APRIL 2009

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs P Wride (Chair)	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Mr S Andrews	-	Berkeley Site Trade Union Representative
Mr F I Baker	-	National Farmers' Union
Cllr B Booth	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr N Cooper	-	Stroud District Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Assn of Town and Parish Councils
Cllr M Lynden	-	Oldbury SSG Chairman
Cllr V G Shenoi	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr J Stanton	-	Stroud District Council
Cllr H Tovell	-	Hamfallow Parish Council
Cllr Ms V Watts	-	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr D Wride	-	Stroud District Council

IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr D Warner	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr J Crocker	-	Berkeley Site Director
Mr S Payne	-	Berkeley Site
Ms A Sinton	-	Berkeley Site
Mr G Wheeler	-	Vale Vision
Ms S Hill	-	Vale Vision
Mr R A Hellen		
Mr E Camper		
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 D Burgess	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr G Langdon	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Mr P Kennedy	-	Food Standards Agency
Ms M Morrey	-	Health Protection Agency

ELECTION OF SSG CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

- 3 Mr Payne said that it was appropriate at this meeting to appoint a Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Group for the coming year. It was unanimously agreed that the appointments of Cllr Mrs P Wride and Cllr N Cooper should be confirmed as Chairman and Vice Chairman of this Group respectively for the coming year.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2009

(a) Accuracy

- 4 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 14 January 2009 were approved as an accurate record.

(b) Matters arising

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

BERKELEY SITE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

- 6 Mr Crocker reported on current issues at the Berkeley site, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) It was now more than 22 weeks since the last accident on site involving time lost from work by a member of the site staff.
 - (ii) Good progress was being maintained on the preparation of the Periodic Safety Review for the site.
 - (iii) The revised organisational structure designed to meet the changed circumstances on the site was subject to assessment by the NII. Efforts were being made to identify opportunities at other sites for staff who were surplus to future requirements. A process had been initiated to identify future organisational requirements for other Magnox South sites to reflect the workloads associated with the reduced funding available.
- 7 Mr Andrews said that trades union representatives had been kept well informed and regularly consulted in relation to the proposed changes in organisational structure. He said that the trades unions had been fully involved in the decision-making process and staff were being treated very fairly. He felt that if this approach was adopted throughout the company there should be no objection from trades unions in relation to proposed organisational changes.
- 8 In reply to a question from Cllr Ms Watts, Mr Crocker confirmed that some Magnox South staff were located on the former Berkeley Centre site. He said that reductions in the numbers of these staff could be expected to reflect the overall reduced level of funding.

- 9 In reply to a question from Cllr D Wride on the potential effect of further cuts in levels of funding Mr Crocker said he did not anticipate any changes in activities on site as a result of recent overall reductions in government expenditure. He said that staffing levels were currently being maintained to ensure that emergency scheme requirements could be met; significant savings in manpower could be achieved if emergency scheme requirements were relaxed.
- 10 Mr Crocker said that he would be pleased to welcome any members to the site for a tour which would enable them to see the progress which had been made.

NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY UPDATE

- 11 Dr Warner presented a report on issues of current interest to the NDA. He drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) The NDA had nominated land near Oldbury , Wylfa and Bradwell power stations and near the Sellafield site under the Government's strategic siting assessment process for identifying sites suitable for new nuclear build. The NDA was not intending to build new plants itself but these nominations would enhance the value of the land and help to generate further funds for decommissioning work.
 - (ii) The disposal of surplus land adjacent to the Oldbury , Wylfa and Bradwell sites by an innovative online auction process, had commenced on 16 March and was still in progress. The auction would end when a period of 24 hours elapsed without a bid being made on any of the three sites.
 - (iii) The NDA had published its business plan for the years 2009 - 2012. The plan was available on the website and copies could be made available for members on request.
 - (iv) The NDA had also published its review of arrangements for the storage of higher active wastes pending the availability of a geological disposal facility.
 - (v) Reactor 1 at Oldbury had been returned to service in March following a period of extended shutdown. Income from generation at Oldbury helped to support the funding of decommissioning work.
 - (vi) The Magnox Operating Plan, which covered the whole of the Magnox fuel cycle including manufacture, electricity generation, transport and reprocessing of spent fuel, had been revised. The revised plan indicated a minor delay in the forecast date for completion of reprocessing.
- 12 In relation to the review of storage arrangements for higher active wastes, Cllr Ms Watts drew attention to the likely local reaction against any proposal to store wastes arising from other sites. Dr Warner said that there were no plans to do this although the review did suggest that it might be appropriate to consider

such arrangements in some circumstances. In response to a question from Cllr Tovell, Mr Crocker said that there were plans and available techniques for the removal and encapsulation of wastes stored in the vaults on site but these plans were not currently being implemented due to funding restrictions.

- 13 Cllr D Wride asked what progress was being made in relation to future uses of the former Berkeley Centre site. Dr Warner said that a review had been undertaken recently by consultants and a report was expected shortly. He felt it would be appropriate for an update on these issues to be given at the next meeting of this Group.
- 14 In response to a question raised by Cllr Stanton in relation to the operation of Oldbury Reactor 2, Cllr Lynden said that the statutory outage of this unit was nearing completion. Reactor 1 would be taken out of service for statutory overhaul later in the year.

SSG CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

- 15 Cllr Mrs Wride reported on her SSG activities since the previous meeting. She pointed out that she maintained regular contact with Mr Crocker and Dr Warner and received ongoing updates on the various issues reported earlier at this meeting. She pointed out also that she would be attending a meeting of the National Stakeholder Conference in June 2009.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 16 Cllr Mrs Wride invited Mr Camper to provide members with an update on the arrangements for the management of the former Berkeley Nuclear Sports and Social Club. Mr Camper described the actions taken to change the legal status of the club to a limited company. He said that a 30 year lease on the premises had been agreed with the NDA and the separation of the services to the site from those to the power station site was almost complete. He said that the club was now trading as Hamfields Leisure and active steps were being taken to develop the facilities and ensure that they were well used. Membership of the club was open to all members of the local community.
- 17 Cllr Mrs Wride said that she would arrange for a proposed revised draft constitution for the group to be circulated to members. She hoped that it would be possible to reach agreement on this revised constitution at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

- 18 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group would be held on 8 July 2009. The venue for the meeting would be confirmed in due course.