

BERKELEY SITE

SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT

THE BERKELEY ARMS HOTEL ON 8 JULY 2009

PRESENT:

Cllr 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 D Burgess	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr J Sant	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Mr J Larroucau	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Ms R Sleigh	-	Berkeley Site Trade Union Representative
Cllr J Stanton	-	Stroud District Council
Cllr H Tovell	-	Hamfallow Parish 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 Licensed Site
Ms A Sinton	-	Berkeley Licensed Site
Mr R Williams	-	Berkeley Licensed Site
Mr J Pallister	-	Berkeley Licensed Site
Ms S Hill	-	Vale Vision
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		
Mr A Jardine	-	Berkeley Estate Office
Cllr M Praker	-	Aylburton Parish Council
Mr J Gilliland	-	OCNS
Ms J Simmonds	-	Health Protection Agency
Mr M Pennington	-	Gloucestershire Police

Mr G Wheeler - Vale Vision
Mr D Withey - Environment Agency

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 22 APRIL 2009

(a) Accuracy

3 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 22 April 2009 were approved as an accurate record.

(b) Matters arising

4 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 33 weeks since the most recent accident on site involving time lost from work.
- (ii) The Site had been presented with a RoSPA Order of Distinction, having achieved 15 consecutive Gold Awards in previous years.
- (iii) Good progress was being made with Periodic Safety Review work.
- (iv) Discussions were continuing on a revised organisational structure to be implemented later in the year.
- (v) The site continued to make donations to local organisations and activities.

7 In response to a question from Mr Larroucau, Mr Crocker said that levels of radioactivity in the local environment which might be attributable to operations on site were barely detectable; levels of radiation from natural background sources in some other parts of the country were considerably higher. These matters would be addressed more fully at the next meeting.

NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY UPDATE

8 Dr Warner presented a report on issues of current interest to the NDA. He drew particular attention to the following:

- (i) Mr Tony Fountain had recently been appointed as Chief Executive of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and would take up his post in October.
- (ii) Oldbury had secured approval for operation beyond the previously anticipated closure date of December 2008. Following the return to

service of Reactor 1 in May, both reactors were operating together for the first time in some five years. Income produced from generation at Oldbury and Wylfa was available to fund decommissioning activities.

- (iii) The auction sale of surplus NDA land at the Oldbury, Wylfa and Bradwell sites had been completed successfully, raising some £387 million which was potentially available for funding decommissioning work.
 - (iv) Consultation had started on low level waste strategy proposals. Copies of the document were available for members on request. The consultation would run until 11 September.
 - (v) Competition for the management of the Dounreay site was currently in progress. The next and final competition would be for the Magnox and research sites; this was planned for 2011/12.
- 9 Mr Baker commented that the prices paid for surplus NDA land were significantly higher than the prices paid to farmers for the sale of land adjacent to those sites.
- 10 In reply to a question from Cllr Burgess, Dr Warner said that the former Berkeley Centre site was to be transferred to NDA Properties which was the group within the NDA responsible for the management of non operational land and facilities. The aim was to complete this transfer by March 2010. The site contained the head offices of Magnox South and Magnox North. Dr Warner anticipated that the site would be marketed in due course but this was not likely to take place during current property market conditions.
- 11 Mr Baker and Mr Tovell drew attention to the volume of traffic on local lanes, especially during peak times at the start and end of the working day. Mr Crocker said that there was only limited scope for influencing the choice of routes taken by personnel travelling to the site but he undertook to give consideration to the points made. He pointed out that the Site had funded the purchase of a speed monitoring gun.

SSG CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

- 12 Cllr Mrs Wride reported on her attendance at the National Stakeholder Conference in Manchester on 16 June. She said that the conference provided a good opportunity for the chairmen of the various SSGs to meet, for some of the time without NDA representatives, for discussions on common issues and approaches. Specific issues emerging from the conference included:
- (i) There would be an opportunity later in the year for discussions on the strategic plan review.
 - (ii) Funding of decommissioning work remained subject to the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review.

- (iii) The NDA had helped sponsor a new development in laser cutting technology which had significant potential benefits for the industry.
 - (iv) Decommissioning within 25 years remained an aspiration for other sites but was subject to availability of waste disposal routes and value for money assessment.
 - (v) Receipts from the sale of surplus land would be available for use on capital expenditure only, not on day-to-day running expenses.
 - (vi) A presentation had been given on low level waste issues.
- 13 Cllr Mrs Wride said that briefing papers issued for the conference were available for members to see if they wished.

PRESENTATION ON SITE EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

- 14 Mr Williams and Mr Pallister gave a presentation on the Berkeley Site's emergency arrangements. The following points were noted during discussion:
- (i) The Site Licence contained a requirement to have emergency arrangements. The arrangements were set out in an Emergency Plan and detailed procedures were set out in an Emergency Handbook. The arrangements were practised regularly.
 - (ii) The roles within the emergency arrangements were filled by staff on shift, by others on call on a standby basis, and by other support staff. Support was provided by the emergency services.
 - (iii) The arrangements included the use of a Central Emergency Support Centre at Barnwood, Gloucester and a Strategic Co-ordination Centre in the Gloucestershire Police facilities at Quedgeley. The Strategic Co-ordination Centre housed the Gold command structure.
 - (iv) Staff having roles within the emergency arrangements received continuing training and the arrangements were exercised regularly. Emergency services personnel participated in exercises.
 - (v) The arrangements were demonstrated for the NII in an annual exercise. The scenario for the exercise and aspects to be demonstrated were specified by the NII. Off-site emergency responses were demonstrated at three-yearly intervals.
 - (vi) Emergency facilities on site included an Emergency Control Centre, an Access Control Point, a medical decontamination facility and an emergency response vehicle.
- 15 During discussion Mr Baker questioned why all these plans were necessary when, as he had been told, the hazards remaining on the site were now very

small. It was pointed out that the requirements for emergency plans and exercises were specified by the NII.

- 16 Mr Baker drew attention to a situation on 1 June when two military helicopters had flown low over his property on their way to the power station site. This had frightened horses and could easily have caused injuries. Mr Pallister said that the helicopters had touched down briefly on the social club site. This was an operation which they were required to practise - it was not part of the power station's emergency plans - and there were limited numbers of sites where this could be practised.
- 17 Cllr Mrs Wride said she felt the public could be reassured by the emergency arrangements which were in place and the co-ordination of all emergency responses which took place at the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee. She thanked Mr Williams and Mr Pallister for their presentation.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 18 Cllr Mrs Wride said that she had attended a briefing by Magnox South in advance of the National Stakeholder Meeting. Mention was made of an event at Sizewell A in January 2007 which had resulted in a loss of water from the cooling pond. Significant publicity had been given recently to the fact that regulators had decided not to prosecute the company in relation to this event.
- 19 There would be an opportunity for members to visit the site on the afternoon of 4 August 2009. Members were required to register in advance with the site to ensure that appropriate arrangements were made.
- 20 A community evening event was to be held on 16 October at Slimbridge Wildfowl Wetlands Trust.

NEXT MEETING

- 21 It was noted that the next meeting of this group, a joint meeting with the Oldbury SSG, would be held on 4 November 2009 at The Gables, Falfield.