

**BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE  
SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT STONE VILLAGE HALL**

**ON WEDNESDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2006**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr P Wride (in the chair)	-	Berkeley SSG Chairman
Cllr N Cooper	-	Berkeley SSG ViceChairman
Cllr D Wride	-	Stroud District Council
Mr F Baker	-	National Farmers Union
Cllr R Bartlam	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr D Burgess	-	Alkington Parish Council
Mr S Andrews	-	Trade Union Representative
Cllr V Shenoi	-	Forest of Dean District Council

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr J Crocker	-	Berkeley Nuclear Licensed Site
Dr D Warner	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Ms S Dancy	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr M Eagle	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr D Withey	-	Environment Agency Site Inspector
Cllr M Lynden	-	Oldbury SSG Chairman
Mr I Jarvis	-	National Waterways
Mr J Beckett	-	Environment Officer, Stroud District Council
Cllr E Holmes	-	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr G Langdon	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Miss H Atkin	-	HR Manager, Berkeley Site
Mr M Drulia	-	British Nuclear Group, Reactor Site Services
Mr S Payne (Secretary)	-	Communications Officer, Berkeley Site
Mr A Jardine	-	Berkeley Estate
Dr C Smitton	-	Berkeley Task Force Member
Mr M Hammond	-	Emergency Planning, Stroud District Council
Mrs B Harrison	-	Stroud District Council
Cllr C Rowlands	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Miss L Gillespie	-	Dursley Gazette
Mrs S Hutchinson	-	Gloucestershire Citizen
Mr J Mapstone	-	Stone Village School
Mr R Darlymple-Smith	-	Local Resident
Mr M Box	-	Local Resident
Mrs M Box	-	Local Resident

**I APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1 Cllr Mrs Wride welcomed members to this meeting of the Berkeley Site Stakeholder Group (SSG).

2 Apologies for absence were received from:

Mr J Cripps	-	Gloucestershire Chamber of Commerce
Cllr B Booth	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Mr N Woodward	-	Slimbridge WWT
Mrs M Morrey	-	Health Protection Agency
Mr D Weebe-Wood	-	Food Standards Agency
Mr J Gilliland	-	Office of Civil Nuclear Security
Dr T Ejidokun	-	Health Protection Agency
Miss A Kentish	-	Communication Officer, Oldbury Power Station
Miss S Hutchison	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Mr M Pennington	-	Gloucestershire Police
Mr M Harper	-	MP Forest of Dean
Mr C Jones	-	Welsh Assembly
Mr J Young	-	British Waterways
Mr M Johnson	-	Gloucestershire Harbour Trustees
Miss V Watts	-	Berkeley Town Council
Mrs J Nichols	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Mr T Scott	-	Scott Law

3 It was noted that members of the public had been invited to attend this meeting and a number were present. Notice of the meeting had been publicised in local newspapers, on local radio and on town and parish notice boards. .

## **II MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 2005**

### **(a) Accuracy**

4 The minutes of the meeting of the joint meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2005 were approved as a correct record.

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

5 Cllr Evers, raised the item on Emergency Plans for sites, this matter was dealt with at the Oldbury SSG on the 1st February 2006. A presentation was given by Simon Halwood of South Gloucestershire Council, who is responsible for the emergency plans. Presentations by the Gloucestershire County Council/Stroud District Council Emergency Planning Officer can be arranged for this SSG should the SSG require one.

## **III SITE MANAGER'S UPDATE**

6 Mr Crocker introduced himself formally to the SSG as this was his first time in attendance at the group.

- 7 Mr Crocker started his site update with safety, which he said is the sites top priority. He announced that it has been 63 weeks since the last lost time accident on site (LTA), which is a significant achievement for a site as large as Berkeley.
- 8 Mr Crocker said that work was on going with the staff restructuring, with staff numbers working on the decommissioning projects being increased. He noted that where possible the site hoped to recruit suitable staff from the Reactor Sites Head Office currently based on the Berkeley Site to mitigate the socio-economic impact of jobs being lost from the Head Office function.
- 9 Mr Crocker then updated the group on the four major projects currently being undertaken at site.
- 10 **Caesium Removal Plant (CRP)** - Mr Crocker said that when he arrived at site in November, he had been asked to review the project. Work was temporarily halted whilst the project strategy was thoroughly reviewed and assessed. Following this assessment work has now re-started on the plant.
- 11 **Active Waste Vault Retrieval (AWVR)** - Mr Crocker said a new Project Manager has been appointed to manage and deliver this project and that the site was currently looking at plans to see what is needed to be done to gain approval to commence construction work.
- 12 **Shielded Area Project** – Mr Crocker said this project was progressing very well and the site was pleased with the decommissioning work carried out so far
- 13 **Partial Site De-licensing Project** – Mr Crocker emphasised that this is one of the most important projects on the site this year and is a major priority for the site and the local area. He said partial site de-licensing will free around 16 hectares from the current nuclear site license and this would free up the Berkeley Centre side of the site to be used for other uses. He said the timescales were very tight (December 2006) and that this would be one of the first UK nuclear sites to be partially de-licensed and have buildings left standing. Mr Crocker then invited the group to ask questions.
- 14 Mr Baker (NFU) asked when the site would be consulting with local planners to get advice on planning permission for what the newly de-licensed part of the site might be used for. Miss Atkin answered the question on Mr Crocker's behalf and said that if the existing buildings were going to be re-used then planning permission would not be needed from Stroud District Council.
- 15 Mr Lynden (Oldbury SSG) asked what the timescales for de-licensing were. Mr Crocker said the target date was the 29<sup>th</sup> December 2006 and

the site was working very closely with all the site regulators and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to achieve this target.

#### **IV PRESENTATION BY DOUG WITHEY – ENVIRONMENT AGENCY SITE INSPECTOR**

- 16 Mr Withey introduced himself to the group as a nuclear regulator for the site acting for the Environment Agency. Mr Withey then gave a presentation to the group on the current site authorisation and the site's proposed new authorisation request following partial site de-licensing. Mr Withey then asked the group to ask any questions they may have.
- 17 Mr Baker (NFU) asked if the Environment Agency have responsibility for flooding. Mr Withey explained that the Environment Agency does hold this responsibility for this although this is not part of his role.
- 18 Cllr Sheno (Forest of Dean) asked if there was a simple process diagram available to explain the processes outlined in Mr Withey's presentation. Mr Withey replied there is a suite of process maps available and these can be found on the public register.

#### **V PRESENTATION BY DAVID WARNER, NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY**

- 19 Dr Warner introduced himself to the group and thanked the SSG for taking part in the two previous consultations on the NDA Draft Strategy and Draft Annual Plan. He explained that part of the Draft Strategy was to look at end states for the site and that there is a separate consultation process on end states which was launched late 2005. The timescale for the consultation would be over this calendar year completing by December 2006.
- 20 Dr Warner explained that the NDA want a clear idea of what should be achieved at site and the timescales for achieving this and defining the end state helps with this. He added that this would give greater certainty, allow milestones to be set and closure contracts to be given to the NDA's contractors.
- 21 Dr Warner said defining an end state for the site also helps focus the socio-economic planning in the area. He said they are trying to get a good outcome and improve value for money for the tax payer.

- 22 Dr Warner explained to the group the concepts of “end state” and “end point”. He said at present the site is “designated to the NDA” and at some point in the future the site will be “de-designated” and pass to another party.
- 23 Dr Warner explained the consultation on end states deals with the whole of the Berkeley Site both Power Station and Berkeley Centre. Dr Warner talked about the various grades of end state that should be considered such returning the site to green field at one end of the scale or a site that will remain under institutional control for a long time at the other end of the scale.
- 24 Dr Warner said that in reality most sites will fall somewhere in between to the two extremes. Dr Warner explained there are some restrictions on what end state could be reached, such as planning restrictions, cost and changes in government policy.
- 25 Dr Warner said that to achieve an end state, radioactive waste will have to be properly managed either at the site or be removed to another site. Dr Warner noted that full information on the consultation can be found on the NDA website.
- 26 Dr Warner suggested a process for consultation that could be done in four stages. Firstly an information gathering exercise should be undertaken; secondly the SSG should take this information and come up with a set of options, possibly setting up a subgroup to discuss in detail. Thirdly these options will need to be shared with the wider community. He said two possible ways of doing this could be by use of a questionnaire or to hold a public meeting to discuss the proposals with the aim that local people understand the options. He said finally the SSG Chairman would need to report back formally the findings to the NDA by December 2006.

## **VI PRESENTATION BY HAYELY ATKIN (BERKELEY HR MANAGER) ON PROPOSED SOCIO-ECONOMIC PLANS FOR THE SITE**

- 27 Miss Atkin introduced herself to the group and outlined her responsibilities at Berkeley, which are Personnel, Training, Occupational Health and Public Relations.
- 28 Miss Atkin explained that a clear definition for an end state for the site would aid in the socio-economic planning for the site and help decide the funding for our socio-economic activities and goes hand in glove with the NDA’s consultation on end state. She described the socio-economic activities as part of the journey to a final end state for the site.
- 29 Miss Aktin presented the draft socio-economic plan to the group. She explained that guidance had been sought from the NDA for the plan.

She said the key focus for the plan was sustainable communities. She explained that the key aim of the plan was to mitigate the social and economic effect of changes at Berkeley and to make sure funding is used in the most effective way and in a way that our local community want.

- 30 Miss Atkin explained that the site would like to not only provide socio-economic funding but also use our own staff to provide support in the local community. Miss Atkin said that the site is also looking at ways to increase the use of the local supply chain and will meet with local businesses through “meet the buyer” events.
- 31 Miss Atkin said that short term direct funding would be through sponsorship and donations. Miss Aktin said that there is also the opportunity for longer term funding for larger projects through part funding.
- 32 Miss Aktin said that the site would like to share the plan with the SSG and the local community and consult for their views and opinions. She welcomed the SSG to make any further recommendations.
- 33 Miss Aktin discussed the concept of the Index of Multiple Deprivation. She explained that we would use this to help identify where funding should be targeted within our local communities. She also noted that Berkeley sitting in the South West is not in a particularly disadvantaged area compared to some of the power stations in more remote places such as Trawsfynydd in North Wales.
- 34 Miss Atkin said the site would like to build on the work of the Task Force and its recommendations for the site being used as a business park and discuss with the SSG whether this is now the right choice of use for the site. Miss Aktin explained that the site was looking at the feasibility of setting up a training centre for nuclear skills in the South West, which could be based at Berkeley and she invited the SSG views on this proposal.
- 35 Miss Atkin said that in the South West there is a potential for substantial demand for nuclear skills training, with there being Hinkley A and B, Oldbury and HMS Devonport from where staff require similar training. Miss Aktin said that some of the facilities currently at Berkeley would be very suitable for carrying out such training.
- 36 Miss Atkin said that she and Mr Payne would be meeting with the NDA Socio-economic Manager later in the week to gain her views on the site socio-economic proposals and that following this meeting the site would send the SSG a draft copy of the plan at the end of February. Miss Atkin asked that SSG members look at the plan and make any suggestions/comments they feel necessary. These would then be incorporated in the plan where possible.

- 37 Miss Atkin asked the SSG if a separate SSG subgroup could be set up to help implement the socio-economic plan and its proposals once it has been agreed by the NDA. She said that this group should be made up of a wide range of stakeholder and socio-economic bodies and would help decide what type of activities should be supported both through funding and site support. Miss Aktin invited questions from the SSG.
- 38 Mr Baker (NFU) asked how many who work at Berkeley live within 10 miles of the site. Miss Aktin responded that she did not have this information on hand at the meeting but this can be provided on request to the Site Communications Team and was contained in the Task Force report.
- 39 Mr Baker (NFU) raised his concern that the level of sponsorship and support being given could be seen as a bribe on the local community. Miss Atkin replied that the site has been sponsoring the local community for over 40 years and that this was certainly not the intention, although she encouraged people with such views to come forward so the site can address these.
- 40 Mr Cooper (Vice SSG Chair) asked what the current level of funding was for local community support. Miss Aktin replied that this year the level of funding for direct projects has been set at £5K but the site has made proposals to the NDA that next year £15K should be made available for direct funding. Further money has also been requested for funding of other larger community projects.
- 41 Cllr Burgess (Alkington) said we do not want bribery but we are happy for you to be good neighbours, he said in general we welcome your generous donations towards the community. Miss Atkin said that our support is not just through money, it can also be provided through support from our staff, such as working in partnerships with schools that can utilise our skill base to educate their children.
- 42 Mr Box (resident) said he found it very difficult to understand why anyone would want to create a business park at the Berkeley Site, given the poor access and how remote it is. Miss Atkin replied that this is one of the reasons why the site would like to ask the SSG to look at proposals for the site again and revisit the business park idea. She explained that the Task Force work was done when British Nuclear Group was an Owner/Operator and it is now a Management and Operations contractor to the NDA, who own the site. She stressed as part of the NDA consultation on end states we now need to re-examine Task Force recommendations and look towards further proposals.
- 43 Cllr D Wride (Stroud District Council) said he has spoken to local businesses near the Berkeley Site and they believe up to 50% of their trade comes from the workers at the site. He also raised the point that should the training centre option be taken, then the site would need to look closely at how those visiting the site would be accommodated if

needing to stay over night as there is limited hotel accommodation near the site.

- 44 Cllr ShenoI said that he believed a tendering process at the Berkeley Site would certainly show the feasibility of the site as a business park. Miss Atkin agreed that this would be a likely process the site would use to determine feasibility.
- 45 Miss Atkin said that the site was now looking at its skills base and was hoping to start taking on more industrial placements students and is now looking to increase its intake of new graduates. She also said the site hoped to work more closely with local schools, colleges and universities.

## **VII DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be confirmed.

SJP  
13 February 2006