

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE BERKELEY ARMS HOTEL,
BERKELEY**

ON WEDNESDAY 10 MAY 2006

PRESENT:

Cllr P Wride (in the chair)	-	Berkeley SSG Chairman
Cllr N Cooper	-	Berkeley SSG Vice-Chairman
Cllr D Wride	-	Stroud District Council
Mr F Baker	-	National Farmers Union
Cllr R Bartlam	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr D Burgess	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr V Watts	-	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr B Booth	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Mr S Andrews	-	Trade Union Representative

IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr D Warner	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr D Withey	-	Environment Agency Site Inspector
Cllr M Lynden	-	Oldbury SSG Chairman
Mr J Beckett	-	Environment Officer, Stroud District Council
Cllr E Holmes	-	Berkeley Town Council
Mr S Payne (Secretary)	-	Public Relations, Berkeley Site
Miss T Owen	-	Public Relations, Berkeley Site
Mr Alan Bladon	-	Project Controls Manager, Berkeley Site
Ms S Phillips	-	The Green Party
Ms A Presdee	-	Gloucestershire First
Mr P Gilbert	-	Stroud District Council Planning
PS R Smith	-	Dursley Police
Mr R Darlymple-Smith	-	Local Resident

I APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1 Cllr Mrs Wride welcomed members to this meeting of the Berkeley Site Stakeholder Group (SSG) and introduced the top table as Dr David Warner (NDA) and Mr Alan Bladon (Berkeley Site)

2 Apologies for absence were received from:

Mrs M Morrey	-	Health Protection Agency
Mr J Gilliland	-	Office of Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS)
Mr I Jarvis	-	British Waterways

Dr T Ejidokun	-	Health Protection Agency
Mr M Pennington	-	Gloucestershire Police
Dr C Chudley	-	Local Resident
Mr S Conney	-	Food Standards Agency
Dr C Smitton	-	Nuclear Consultant
Miss A Kentish	-	Communications, Oldbury Power Station
Mr D Hagg	-	Chief Executive, Stroud District Council
Mr B Archer	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII)
Mr J Balfe	-	Stroud District Council Planning

- 3 It was noted that members of the public had been invited to attend this meeting. 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 FEBRUARY 2006

(a) Accuracy

- 4 The minutes of the meeting of the joint meeting held on 8th February 2006 were reviewed and the following comments made-

Mr Baker raised a point on paragraph 14 concerning planning at the site. He said that the minutes stated that planning would not be needed at the site for the re-use of buildings and that he did not believe this to be true. Mr Gilbert said he believed that some planning permission may be required at the site, but this depended on what the buildings on the site might be used for.

(b) Matters arising

- 5 Mr Baker referred to paragraph 17 of the minutes concerning the outfall from the Berkeley site, stressing that he did not feel that the group realised the seriousness of his point. He asked who has responsibility for maintaining the outfall under the site. He warned that should the outfall under the site become blocked, this could result in a flooding of the valley and this has happened in the past. Mr Bladon replied that he could not answer Mr Baker's question at this meeting, but would endeavour to ascertain an answer for him, reassuring him that the site takes this issue seriously.

III RE-CONFIRMATION OF SSG CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- 6 Mr Payne as SSG Secretary informed the group that it was now time to re-confirm the SSG Chair and Vice Chair. He explained that he had written to all SSG voting members asking if they would like to stand in one of the positions as set out in the constitution. He also gave them the option for voting for the current incumbents to remain in their positions

for another year. He confirmed that no voting member had expressed an interest in standing and all those who had replied had voted to keep the status quo. Mr Payne then asked the group to confirm their agreement and the motion was carried.

IV UPDATE FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 7 Dr Warner introduced himself to the group as the Site Programme Manager for the NDA based at the Berkeley site.
- 8 Dr Warner said to the group he would like to give an update on the work of the NDA over the last 13 months since it was created in April 2005. He said that their annual spending was in the region of £2b year. Dr Warner reminded the group that the NDA top priority was that decommissioning/clean up was done safety, securely and with due care for the environment.
- 9 Dr Warner said another key NDA aim is to bring competition to the decommissioning of the UK civil nuclear sites, which they believe would bring innovation, skills and value for money and for the tax payer. Finally he said that the NDA recognised that the decommissioning will take away long standing facilities in mainly remote areas and that the NDA want to work with communities to develop socio-economic plans to help mitigate the impact of decommissioning.
- 10 Dr Warner explained that the NDA has targets (Public Sector Agreements) set by the treasury to reduce costs and improve efficiency in the spending on decommissioning. He stressed that liabilities cost reductions from the 2008 baseline will be one of the measures.
- 11 Dr Warner explained to the group the successes for the NDA so far. These included setting up contracts at the sites, producing baselines for all the public sector nuclear sites, which is a first in the world; the introduction of portfolio management to improve the spend of budgets and to ensure that money is moved between sites to maximise efficiency from the budget. He said that the target set for sites to make a 7% efficiency saving had been met and this allowed additional work to be performed. The 7% saving is due to be confirmed through a series of stringent audits.
- 12 Dr Warner said that the NDA strategy was now approved by Government and so too was the NDA Annual Plan and these could be accessed via the NDA website. Other successes included a continuous drive for openness and transparency, improved stakeholder relations and engagement.

- 13 Dr Warner explained the NDA budget of £2.2b with Sellafield taking just over half of that. He explained that some of the money comes from the Treasury whilst £1.3b of the NDA's budget comes from its commercial operations, through electricity generation, fuel reprocessing and fuel manufacture.
- 14 Dr Warner said that key to the NDA's strategy is waste management and that the NDA will be pushing Government to bring about a solution to this problem. He noted that the NDA will be working very closely with CoRWM to help take their proposals forward. Dr Warner said that the NDA are still wishing to accelerate the decommissioning of the Magnox reactors and Berkeley being the furthest down the line into decommissioning would be a possible first.
- 15 Dr Warner described to the group the importance of introducing competition and the sale of British Nuclear Group in 2007. He explained that who ever bought British Nuclear Group will get a 5 year contract to clean up the Sellafield complex. He went on to explain to the group the competition schedule for all the sites.
- 16 Dr Warner reassured the group that any company who wished to bid for the contracts to decommissioning the sites would have to meet strict pre-qualification criteria, demonstrating their high level credentials even before being invited to tender.
- 17 Dr Warner said that this years priorities for the NDA would be the site end state consultation due for completion in December 2006, interim storage of intermediate level waste, working with Government and CoRWM on their recommendations, building a business case for accelerated decommissioning of the Magnox reactors, skill initiatives such as the nuclear training academy and consulting on the NDA's proposed socio-economic development strategy. Cllr Bartlam asked what measures were being taken on waste; Dr Warner said that this would be dependent on the CoRWM report due very soon.
- 18 Mr Dalrymple-Smith asked what type of businesses had shown interest in bidding for the decommissioning work. Dr Warner explained there had been a mixture of firms, particularly American firms who have had a great deal of experience in nuclear clean up.
- 19 Mr Darlyrimple-Smith asked what would be in the business case for accelerating the decommissioning of the Magnox reactors and would one of these factors be a cost saving. Dr Warner said money would be one factor, but lots of factors will be taken into consideration such as safety, dose rates to workers and environmental impact.

V SITE MANAGEMENT UPDATE – ALAN BLADON, SITE PROJECT CONTROLS MANAGER

- 20 Mr Bladon introduced himself to the group as the Site Project Controls Manager and that he was representing Jim Crocker, Site Manager.
- 21 Mr Bladon explained to the group that British Nuclear Groups top priority as a contractor on the Berkeley site is safety. He stressed that for any company bidding for the contracts with the NDA that the top pre-qualification would be a world class safety record.
- 22 Mr Bladon told the group that the Berkeley site had now gone 76 weeks without having a lost time accident, which is a best for the Berkeley site. He explained that the Berkeley site had recently excelled in the recent RoSPA awards, gaining a prestigious Presidents Award in safety, which is given for winning 10 consecutive gold RoSPA awards. Mr Bladon said that British Nuclear Group as a whole had achieved a high level of success at the RoSPA awards across all sites and narrowly missed out on the top RoSPA award, coming second in the Sir George Earl trophy. He explained that some 1300 companies entered the competition, so coming second was a major achievement for British Nuclear Group. Cllr Wride congratulated Berkeley site for their achievements at RoSPA and their safety record.
- 23 Mr Bladon reinforced to the group that British Nuclear Group no longer own the site and that they are now a Management and Operations contractor to the NDA working on the site, to decommission the facilities and remove the liabilities. He stressed that the future of the site and what will happened to it following the decommissioning work taken place was a matter for the NDA, who are current consulting with the SSG and the eventually the local community.
- 24 Mr Bladon described the 5 four main projects on the site which are the
Active Waste Vaults Retrieval Project
Caesium Removal Plant Project
Shielded Area Decommissioning Project
Partial Site De-licensing Project
Miscellaneous Projects
- He explained that all 5 projects were progressing well and ahead of schedule. He said that the site hoped to meet the partial de-licensing of the site by December 2006. To conclude he the site has had an excellent start to the year and the site looked forward to working in partnership with the NDA, delivering the work in the Lifetime Plan.

VI DISCUSSIONS HELD WITH DOUG WITHEY ON THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO THE BERKELEY AUTHORISATIONS

- 25 Mr Withey introduced himself to the site as the EA Inspector at the Berkeley site. .

- 26 Mr Withey gave the group a brief introduction to the current authorisations and the modifications the site are proposing. He explained that under the new authorisations overall the authorisations would be reduced significantly.
- 27 Mr Withey explained that the EA has limited the consultation process to the SSG and statutory stakeholders. He said all the documents were on the EA website if people want to read them further and the consultation would be concluded on the 24th May. Following this all the responses will be collated and a final authorisation will be produced. It hoped that the final authorisation will issued June 06.
- 28 Mr Baker noted that the authorisation would have to be put to the Minister at DEFRA and would the Minister understand it and if so how long would it take for them to give you an answer and approve it. He said that his experience as a farmer dealing with DEFRA that this could prove a lengthy task. Mr Withey said the EA have an agreed approach with DEFRA, where they will send the authorisation and give a months notice to DEFRA to respond with any issues and if nothing is received the EA will go ahead and issue the authorisation.
- 29 Cllr Booth asked what methods are used to remove waste from the Berkeley site and who monitors this. Mr Withey explained that the EA has the responsibility for this, although the company did the monitoring and reporting of the results. However these are open to random checks by the EA. He explained that there are liquid wastes, gaseous wastes and solid wastes, which are all subject to check monitoring. Mr Withey also mentioned that he will be investigating a suspected discrepancy found whilst checking of a low level waste consignment being transported from Berkeley. Cllr Burgess asked what the possible environmental impact of this discrepancy was. Mr Withey replied negligible, and at the next meeting he hoped to report more fully on his recent findings.
- 30 Cllr Booth asked if waste was transported by road and whether this was this an approved method. Mr Withey said that primarily the solid low level waste goes by road with some by rail. Mr Bladon stressed that the waste leaving site was only low level waste going to the National Low Level Waste Repository near Drigg, which has a minimal level of radioactivity. No intermediate or high level waste leaves the site. Cllr Wride, reassured the group she had read the authorisation and supporting documents and said that she believed that it had covered everything.
- 31 Cllr Bartlam asked where the dividing line was between low level waste and intermediate level waste. Mr Withey replied that the low level waste is defined by what is accepted by Drigg and this is dependent on radio nuclides, partially half lives and partially activity.
- 32 In response to a verbal report from Mr Withey regarding the findings from an independent checking of a low level waste consignment from

Berkeley, Mr Bladon said that any deviation from management procedures and authorisations set by the EA is taken very seriously by British Nuclear Group and the site. He explained there is zero tolerance to this and the on site waste management team has been restructured to ensure we meet the EA requirements and are fully compliant of the site license.

- 33 Cllr Bartlam asked if there is any intermediate level waste on the site. Mr Withey said yes and the majority of this in the station vaults, which will be retrieved and stored safely on the site whilst the issue of a national repository is found. Mr Bladon said once CoRWM had formally reported their findings at the end of July and we will know what the UK strategy for waste is, we can develop our on site plans further.
- 34 Cllr Lynden asked how the drums that contain the intermediate level waste are shielded when being stored. Mr Bladon explained the waste will go through a process where the waste is cut up and securely grouted in concrete before being put into boxes of which there will be approximately 400. The boxes and the store they are stored in provide sufficient shielding to prevent exposure to dose from radiation.

VII FEEDBACK FROM NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER GROUP FROM CLLR PENNY WRIDE

- 35 Cllr Wride gave the group feedback from the National Stakeholder Group meeting held recently in Edinburgh. She said there were representatives from a cross section of stakeholders including the Green Party, Green Peace, Isle of Man Government, Scottish Parliament and other SSG's. She said the NDA Strategy was presented by NDA Strategy Director, Terry Selby. She was pleased to hear that the NDA's priorities are now, safety, security, hazard reduction, stakeholder engagement, acceleration and health and safety. Cllr Wride concluded by saying that every presentation given at the meeting highlighted the importance of safety and openness to scrutiny on every action taken on the nuclear sites.
- 36 Cllr Cooper added that the two days were very interesting and urged the group to visit the NDA website and read the reports. He said he was particularly pleased to see the NDA had changed their plans to take into account the views and opinions expressed during the consultation period.

IX FEEDBACK FROM RECENT SSG SUBGROUP ON SITE END STATE

- 37 Cllr Wride said the first SSG subgroup on end state had met on the 12th April and was made up of 16 people, some from the SSG. She welcomed Angela Presdee (Glos First), Sue Phillips (Green Party) and members of the Stroud Planning Team to the group. She advised the

group that at the next meeting the regulators would be presenting. She also mentioned that following the drawing up of a list of options we will be going out to public consultation

- 38 Mr Payne told the group that the a meeting was to be held on the 30th May with the NDA Socio-economic Planning Manager to discuss the way forward on the site socio-economic development plan. This meeting would also be attended by staff from Hinkley and Oldbury and we will be in a better position to report to the SSG at the next meeting.

X ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 37 Cllr Cooper asked who will be preparing the business case for the accelerated decommissioning of the Magnox reactors and what the timescale was for this. Dr Warner said that the NDA will prepare the case with considerable assistance from the contractor, British Nuclear Group. Mr Bladon said a team of people were currently working on this for the NDA and will be working closely with the NDA over the next few months. Dr Warner believed the submission of a business case to government should be this financial year.

- 38 Mr Baker asked what the savings of 7% meant, and where the starting position for this saving was. Dr Warner explained that the saving was not the NDA keeping hold of the money but were gains made through the improved efficiency of the delivery of the work. The improved efficiency can then be used to further accelerate work. Dr Warner stressed that these saving are to be audited to ensure that they have been accurately reported by the contractor.

XI DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

3rd July 2006 – Stinchcombe Village Hall, 19.00 – 21.00.

SJP
16 May 2006