



HARWELL-CHILTON CALMPUS LOCAL STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the 58th Meeting held at the HPA Training Centre on Thursday 15th March 2007

Present:

Chairman: Cllr Terry Fraser
Secretary: Angela Vincent

Members

Terry Joslin	Oxfordshire County Council
Malcolm Andrew	AEAT TU Representative
Richard Birch	NUKEM Limited
Graham Broadley	Wantage and District Chamber of Commerce
Mike Brown	Upton Parish Council
Ken Broughton	Oxfordshire County Council
Stephen Druce	Chilton School
Sarah Eccles	Sutton Courtenay Parish Council
Edward Eyston	East Hendred (Hendred Estate)
Colin Lamont	Oxfordshire County Council
Margaret Palling	Oxfordshire WI
David Pearce	Chilton Parish Council
Dick Rees	Reviss Services Ltd
John Sharp	East Hendred Parish Council
Bill Temple	Steventon Parish Council
Margaret Turner	Harwell Parish Council
Liz Kitchener	CCLRC
Tim Williams	Vale of the White Horse District Council

Observers

C/Inspector Richard Murray	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Paul Hughes	Environment Agency
Ben Govan	Environment Agency
Catherine Collins	Environment Agency
Tony Walker	NII
John Wilkins	UKAEA
Jon Blackmore	UKAEA
Steven Moss	UKAEA
Louisa Williams	UKAEA
Denise Varley	UKAEA

Paul Atyeo	UKAEA
Tom Kyffin	UKAEA
Wren Wooster	Local Resident
Wendy Macleod-Gilford	Local Resident
Dilys Messer	Local Resident
Martyn Green	Local Resident
Nick Hance	Local Resident

A total of 37 people attended the meeting



58TH MEETING

Date: Thursday 15th March 2007

Time: 18:30 for refreshments, meeting starts 19:00.

Venue: The Training Centre Lecture Theatre, Health Protection Agency, Fermi Avenue, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Didcot, Oxon

AGENDA

1. Chairman's remarks:
 - Welcome guests
 - Apologies for absence and changes in membership (5)
2. Minutes of the 57th Meeting held on 24th November 2006
3. Matters arising:
4. **UKAEA Licensed Site Matters**
 - (a) Annual Groundwater Report for 2006 - Jon Blackmore (10)
 - (b) Head of UKAEA Harwell Site's Report – John Wilkins (20)
 - Harwell Programme Update
 - general report
 - UKAEA restructuring update
 - involvement in EA source programme
 - (c) End State Final Report – Terry Fraser (10)
 - (d) BPEO for Site Wastes – Denise Varley (10)
5. **Reports**
 - (a) Nuclear Decommissioning Authority - Dick Francis (10)
 - (b) HM Nuclear Installations Inspectorate - Tony Walker (10)
 - (c) Environment Agency – Ben Govan/Andrew Stone (10)
6. **Campus Matters**
 - (a) Campus Development - Steve Moss (5)
 - (b) CCLRC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory - Natalie Bealing (5)
 - (c) Diamond Light Source Limited - Isabelle Boscaro-Clark (5)
 - (d) Presentation on HPA - Dr John Cooper (15)
7. Any other business – vote on REVISS (5)
8. Date of next meeting (Friday 8th June, 10:00 for 10:30)

1. Chairman's Remarks, Apologies and Changes In Membership

a) The Chairman welcomed members, visitors and local residents to the meeting. The Chairman advised that there were no changes to membership but that REVISS had applied to become a full voting member and a vote would be held at the end of the meeting.

The Chairman reported that he had sent letters on the proposed NDA Funding to Stephen Timms, Chief Secretary to the Treasury and to Alistair Darling, DTI Secretary of State. He also attended a business dinner with Dr Ian Roxburgh where the main topic on the agenda was funding. The Chairman reported on the numerous meetings he had attended on the End State Consultation on behalf of the LSG. Notably recently in London with Denise Varley (UKAEA) and Dick Francis (NDA), putting the case forward for Harwell to stay on track for the end state. During this time he also met extensively with the secretary of the LSG for updates and ongoing correspondence. The Chairman reported that he would be visiting Sellafield week beginning 26th March for a familiarisation visit and sharing of information. He would also be attending the SSG meeting in Winfrith on 17th of April 2007.

b) The Secretary reported that the following had sent their apologies:-

Natalie Bealing	CCLRC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory
Isabelle Boscaro-Clarke	Diamond Light Source Ltd
Joe Hoskins	CCLRC TU representative
Marion Judd	West Hagbourne Parish Council
Julie Mayhew-Archer	VWHDC
Roger Sweet	West Hagbourne Parish Council
Jayne Thomas	MRC
Darren Detheridge	SODC
Dick Francis	NDA
Alan Neal	UKAEA
Debbie Fisher	UKAEA/TU
Stephen White	UKAEA
Graeme Stonell	UKAEA

2. Minutes of the 57th Meeting held on Friday 24th November 2006.

There was an error on page 15 of the minutes referring to Campus Matters.

- In response to questions from members and members of the public, Dr Wilkins said that the developers had commercial expectations that the Hotel buildings would be placed in a prominent position in Curie Avenue. It was planned to accommodate 142 beds but its facilities **would include squash playing** facilities. UKAEA had given a long term commitment to preserve the Cricket Field and other sports fields.

This should have read "**would not include squash playing facilities**".

The minutes were then accepted.

3. Matters Arising

Please note that all papers/presentations will be available on:-
http://www.ukaea.org/sites/harwell_site_stakeholder_group.htm (Harwell Local Stakeholder Group Meeting, 15th March 2007)

For a paper copy please contact Angela Vincent or Louisa Williams on 01235 435234.

4. UKAEA Licensed Site Matters

a) Annual Groundwater Report for 2006 – Jon Blackmore

Jon Blackmore presented a report on the Management of Chemical Contamination in the Groundwater, Harwell. This covered the background to the contamination, the groundwater monitoring data for 2006, the groundwater plant progress update, the replacement groundwater plant and additional remediation work at the Western Storage Area. He summarised that dry conditions had persisted for most of 2006 but the water table rose from December 06 onwards. Generally contaminant concentrations will fall as the water table rises and the high availability had helped the groundwater plant achieve containment of contamination. The replacement groundwater plant is on schedule and the unsaturated zone remediation at the Western Storage Area has been very successful and will continue.

In response to questions from the members about the quantity of chemicals recovered from the unsaturated zone Jon Blackmore explained that the inventory of these wastes had been explained at a previous LSG meeting and that several tonnes of chemical wastes are likely to be in this zone. The aim was to remove via soil vapour extraction for about 2 years. The waste pits will then be capped. There is an agreed strategy for clean up with the Environment Agency but due to slow groundwater movement the plume of pollution will be evident for many years.

b) Head of UKAEA Harwell Site's Report – John Wilkins

John Wilkins, Head of Harwell site gave his report on the following:

NDA Programme

The UKAEA were continuing to develop the accelerated programme although the NDA had advised of issues regarding the availability of funds in December 2006 due to reduced 'commercial' income from plant at Sellafield electricity generation. The 2007/08 funding was currently indicated as £51M (£57M in 2006/07). Priorities would be to maintain safety, security and environmental compliance. There would be limited building decommissioning and demolition with a priority on the recovery and treatment of Intermediate Level Waste, groundwater treatment and the completion of release of the eastern area of site. UKAEA are developing a detailed programme for 2007/08 and subsequent years and will continue to engage the NDA and regulators in this process. Because of funding it is likely that the end date would change but the end state of a delicensed site would not.

UKAEA Restructuring

Preparation was ongoing for site competition in 2009. The re-licensing of the site is scheduled for 1st April 2008 with the formation of the integrated Harwell/Winfrith

organisation. A draft management prospectus has been submitted to the NII and “shadow” working would begin August 2007. There is on-going dialogue with the NDA/NII/EA to resolve any outstanding issues. The designated (licensed Site) is to be leased to the NDA from 1st April 2007.

EA Services Programme

Harwell had been asked to help the EA programme to recover any surplus radioactive sources which had been in schools, museums etc. Most of these materials from the EA programme are being sent to Windscale/Sellafield but due to safety issues there are difficulties in receiving all the sources. Many of the sources received at Harwell will be packaged for disposal at the National Low Level Waste Repository near Drigg.

c) End State Final Report – Terry Fraser

Terry Fraser presented a verbal report on the NDA End State Final Report. He reported that there had been a very positive response to follow up letters to stakeholders asking for their views on the end state.

In response to a question from a member expressing concern about the definition ‘end state’ and how it would be perceived as there could still be a low level waste store after 2020 which did not require licensing. The Environment Agency agreed that there could be a situation where this was possible. It was also agreed that the disclaimer “*where the word “delicensed” has the meaning that the site should have no areas with a Nuclear Site Licence issued under the Nuclear Installations Act” be inserted after each statement “The Harwell LSG recommends that the End State for Harwell should be a 100% delicensed* site by 2020” as an integral part of the statement.

There was a vote of the members on the final Draft End State Report prior to publication. The vote was 11 in favour and 2 abstaining.

d) BPEO for Site Wastes – Denise Varley

Denise Varley presented a report on the Harwell Site Waste Best Practicable Environmental Options (BPEO) Study – Progress Study. The report covered the aims of the site waste BPEO Study and included information on the particular waste stream groups, estimated waste volumes, methodology for study. Denise reported that the first stakeholder consultation document was issued in January 2007 with a joint BNG/UKAEA note on plutonium contaminated material (PCM). This was followed by a 6 week consultation period and a meeting of the LSG Working Party to discuss the document. To date 19 responses have been received which were useful and constructive. These were reviewed by the BPEO Working Panel prior to and at the Options Assessment Workshop. The Options Assessment Panels are now underway and stakeholder views will be reviewed during the Options Assessment Workshops. The next stage would include completing the options assessment phase, applying weightings and undertaking sensitivity analyses. The compilation and issue of the Second Stakeholder Consultation Document would follow with stakeholder workshops to discuss the results. The final report is scheduled for issue Autumn 2007.

In response to a question from the member of the public on why the volumes of each set of wastes were not included in the initial document, Denise Varley explained that this was for security purposes. The figures now given are unclassified.

5. Reports

a) Nuclear Decommissioning Authority – Dick Francis

Due to a prior engagement Dick Francis was unable to attend this meeting. **This report is Appendix A.**

b) HM Nuclear Installations Inspectorate – Tony Walker

Tony Walker presented the NII's quarterly report for 1st October to 31st December 2006. This covered inspections, routine matters, the emergency exercise, non-routine matters and regulatory activity. He commented that the emergency exercise proved to be an adequate demonstration of emergency arrangements with some strong individual performances by the participating staff.

In response to concerns from members about UKAEA Harwell losing knowledge based staff with the restructuring of the organisation and this impacting on safety Tony Walker said that the NII would continue to judge formal documentation and through discussion with the UKAEA ensure that safety issues were adequately considered. John Wilkins said that the onus was on UKAEA to put forward cases and justifications. Tony Walker further clarified a statement that the NII were concerned about staff morale and the impact this could have on safety.

He went onto to confirm that any emergency operations outside the site would be covered by the County's emergency plan. The County would have emergency planners and officers and that the NII would check that activities outside didn't impinge on the nuclear licensed site. John Wilkins commented that an exercise was carried out recently involving many of the agencies that would become involved if it were necessary to extend the emergency exercise outside the nuclear licensed site. He confirmed that for security purposes the off-site emergency plan was no longer lodged in the Didcot Library but could be accessed by parties with relevant interest via the emergency planning officer at Oxfordshire County Council.

c) Environment Agency – Paul Hughes

Paul Hughes presented the Environment Agency's report. He reported that the Agency is responsible for the regulation of waste disposal from the site in order to ensure the protection of the public and environment. This involves regular visits to the site and scrutiny of site reports on discharge and environmental monitoring. Each year, along with their co-regulators the NII they review the Safety and Environmental Performance of the UKAEA and reported that the UKAEA had a good environmental performance in the year. The Agency also reported that they have worked closely with UKAEA, the NDA and the NII on restructuring and require environmental protection to be maintained through the competition and thereafter by the successful applicant. In conclusion the Environment Agency reported that the UKAEA were compliant with their environmental regulatory requirements. It was also reported that through extensive consultations involving regulators, Government Departments, NDA and stakeholders that there is a transparent and open means of establishing a satisfactory end point for the nuclear site as well as protecting the environment.

There was also a paper report from Andrew Stone which covered regulatory issues which included the on going discussions with the NDA, NII and UKAEA on the restructuring of UKAEA. The Agency's continuing work with the NDA and NII to facilitate the decommissioning and clean up of the Harwell nuclear licensed site and

applications from campus organisations for authorisations. **This report is Appendix B.**

In response to a question from a member of the public asking if companies would require new licenses to discharge waste previously discharged via the Sutton Courtenay pipeline now proposing to discharge via the Didcot Sewage Works into the Thames, Paul Hughes responded that it would depend on the amount of waste being discharged. The originator of the waste has to go through an environmental study but random checks are in place to ensure that the limits are not exceeded.

6. Campus Matters

a) Campus Development – Steve Moss

Steve Moss presented a verbal report which covered the campus programme and Joint Venture process. In particular, he reported that:

- The process to select a private sector partner for the joint venture was progressing well under the new integrated UKAEA/CCLRC project arrangements: Pre-qualified candidates had submitted initial proposals on the 9th February 2007 and these were now being assessed with the aim of selecting a shortlist by the beginning of April 2007. Following this, UKAEA and STFC (CCLRC's successor) would negotiate with the short listed candidates with a view to selecting a preferred partner in the late summer.
- The planning application for the Chilton Field housing had yet to be determined. As reported previously, more time had been given to enable further discussion of what community facilities are to be provided as part of the scheme and these discussions had not yet reached a conclusion.
- The construction of a new building for UKERNA had been completed at the end of February with occupation expected in late March.
- START International had held a 'topping out' ceremony on 25 January 2007 for their new building, to be known as the ELECTRON Business and Innovation Centre. The Centre was expected to open in July 2007.
- The Campus organisations were represented at the Examination in Public (EiP) of the South East Plan when the core policies for south Oxfordshire were considered. The economic development potential of the sub-region was widely recognised but, so too, was the urgent need to address infrastructure and, particularly, transport infrastructure investment.

In response to a question from a member about the planning application for the hotel, Steve Moss explained that, for technical reasons, the application had been withdrawn and would be resubmitted.

In response to a question from a member about the nature of the infrastructure issues discussed at the South East Plan EiP, Steve Moss responded that the discussions focussed on the proposed TW reservoir and, as highlighted above, transport infrastructure (notably the A34). The discussions were necessarily, however, very high level.

b) CCLRC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

No contribution.

c) Diamond Light Source Ltd

No formal presentation but members were informed that the Open Day would be on Saturday 14th July 2007. They expect around 1750 people to attend.

c) Presentation on HPA – Dr John Cooper

Dr John Cooper gave a presentation on The 210 Po Poisoning Incident in London, November 2006 and the HPA's response. This included the public health focus for the incident and the measures taken to prevent further exposure of the public, to assess the risks to those potentially exposed and identify and inform those requiring medical follow-up. The identification of the sites was assessed and prioritised which also meant working closely with the police and AWE. The crime scene was closed off with only evidential access; there was also the monitoring of public and public health areas because of possible transfer of activity. During this process the HPA worked closed with many local authorities, including Westminster City Council, the police, EA, HSE amongst others. John Cooper went onto to explain the procedures used for individual monitoring and site specific risk assessments.

In response to questions from members and members of the public Dr Cooper explained that this was an unprecedented event and in an area which very few people know about. The HPA had to find the areas of contamination to stop further contamination and identify people who might be contaminated; this was all to do with public protection. The HPA did not deal with the issue regarding how the material was brought into the country. Dr Cooper went onto say that during a civil nuclear emergency that the HPA would have a co-ordinating role with respect to environmental monitoring. Dr Cooper was unable to give figures on how many people were potentially contaminated due to direct exposure with Mr Litvinenko. Dr Cooper said that there was a report on the HPA website but that there is still an on-going police investigation. In response to a question about whether the cost to the tax payer had been calculated Dr Cooper responded that he felt that would be part of the process. He further explained that the CRCE Training Centre is activated as an emergency centre should the situation warrant it.

www.hpa.org.uk/hpa/news/articles/press_releases/2007/070306_polonium-210.htm

7. Any Other Business

Following a small presentation by REVISS on their activities there was a vote on their application to join the LSG as a voting member. The vote was 9 in favour and 3 abstaining. One previous voting member left the meeting prior to the REVISS vote.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is 8th June at 10:00am for 10:30 start at the HPA Training Centre's Lecture Theatre.

Angela Vincent – LSG Secretary
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