

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at Hinkley Point Training and Induction Centre 16 March 2007

Present

Cllr M Short (Chairman)	-	Fiddington Parish Council
Mr M Lesinski	-	Site Director, Hinkley Point A Site
Mr P Higginson	-	Technical & Safety Support Manager, Hinkley Point B Station
Mr A Smart	-	Hinkley A Site Programme Manager, NDA
Cllr V Brewer	-	West Somerset District Council
Cllr M Brown	-	Otterhampton Parish Council
Cllr L Cartwright	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr M Caswell (Vice Chair)	-	Stockland Bristol Parish Meeting
Cllr B Child	-	West Somerset District Council
Cllr B Crowe	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Ms N Dawson	-	Somerset County Council, Civil Contingency
Mr A Debenham	-	Stop Hinkley
Cllr K Dyer	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr A Foxhuntley	-	West Somerset District Council
Cllr P Gendle	-	North Somerset District Council
Mr T Howes	-	West Somerset District Council
Mr G Hudd	-	Somerset County Council
Mr B James	-	Somerset County Council
Cllr D Joslin	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr S Kingham	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Dr K Kumaran	-	Dorset & Somerset Health Protection Unit
Mr G Roberts	-	Environment Agency
Mr B Slade	-	Stogursey Parish Council
MR P Smith	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Cllr A Trollope-Bellew	-	Somerset County Council
Cllr T Williams	-	Kilve Parish Council
Mr D Withey	-	Environment Agency
Cllr D Yamanaka	-	North Somerset District Council

British Energy

Mr R Adcock	-	Emergency Preparedness Engineer
Mrs J Bennett	-	Public Relations Officer
Mr M Pearce	-	Public Relations Officer
Mr M Poole	-	Site Inspector
Mr D Stokes	-	Human Resources Advisor

British Nuclear Group

Ken Allan	-	Assistant Site Manager
Mr D Gutteridge	-	Site Inspector
Mr T Jones	-	Head of Communications – Magnox South
Mr D McCubbin	-	Environmental Team Leader
Mr P Montague	-	Head of Radiological Protection
Mr D Prescott	-	Head of Environment
Mrs S Stewart (Secretary)	-	Communication Officer
Derrick Williams	-	End State Project Lead

In Attendance

Miss G Coombs	-	British Nuclear Group
Mr A Farkas	-	British Nuclear Group
Mrs J Hellier	-	British Nuclear Group
Mrs M Poole	-	British Nuclear Group
Mr T Clarke	-	British Nuclear Group
Mr T Meek	-	British Nuclear Group
Mrs Meek	-	Guest

1. THERE WERE NO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THIS MEETING.

The Chairman asked if there were any objections to the proceedings being recorded for the purpose of producing minutes of the meeting. No objections were noted.

2. CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was confirmed that the SSG currently has 34 elected voting members. At least 12 voting members need to be present for a quorum. A show of hands confirmed that more than 12 elected members were present at the meeting.

Attending the SSG for the first time: Mr D Gutteridge, British Nuclear Group Site Inspector for Hinkley Point A Site.

Apologies for absence were received from: Miss H Barrow, Cllr D Busby, Mr N Cann, Cllr J Edney, Mr P Ford, Mr C Knox, Cllr J Mochnac, Mr K Rickards, Mr C Thomson, Mr D Theobald, Mr D Webbe-Wood, Mr R Wrayford.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 January 2007

a) Accuracy

The minutes of the meeting of this group held on 16 January 2007 were approved as a correct record with the exception of the following items:

- Page 1, Attendance list states Mrs H Barrow – should read Miss H Barrow
- Page 3, Agenda Item 5 – Q&A from B Station Report – states: Stogursey Parish Council are working with local police to try and get speed cameras installed – should read: Stogursey Parish Council are engaging with the Speed Camera Partnership.
- Page 7, Agenda Item 8 – NDA Socio-economic policy - third line refers to ‘Mike’ when it should read ‘The Chairman’.
- Page 8 , Agenda Item 9 – Update on Hinkley Point A Site End Use Consultation – 4th paragraph should read ‘Cllr Brown’ rather than ‘Mr Brown’ to ensure consistency.

b) Matters Arising from Minutes of the meeting on 16 January 2007

The first six items are an update to the matters arising from the last minutes.

Item 2b.5 – Temporary Storage of Spoil from Radioactive Waste Store construction:
More details in the A Site Report

Item 2b.6 – Distribution of Potassium Iodate tablets in Stockland Bristol:

It was agreed that Cllr Caswell would make arrangements for Mr Higginson to attend the next meeting of Stockland Bristol Parish Meeting on 21 March.

Item 2b.9 – Induction Training for SSG members

The secretary has sent out invitations to all SSG members and has seven names for the next training course. A date will be arranged to accommodate as many members as possible

Item 2b.27 – Long term trends of environmental monitoring.

Presentation to be made later in the meeting.

Item 4 – Q2 Oct 06 Minutes - Company tree indicating historical ownership.

This will be sent out as an appendix to the minutes.

Item 6 – (vi) Oct 06 Minutes - Transport arrangement for evacuation of local areas.

Mrs Dawson said this would be covered as part of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee report.

Item 3 – Jan 07 Minutes – Suggestion for attendance register to be fed back to councils.

This has been discussed at a meeting of the reform group and it was felt that the councils could extract any attendance from the first page of the minutes. This was agreed.

Item 7 – Jan 07 Minutes – Question relating to the percentage of local workforce.

To be covered in the A Site report.

4. STATION DIRECTORS REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A SITE

- (i) Mr Lesinski said there had been no lost time accidents since the last meeting. The site had demonstrated a successful exercise to the NII. Employees had completed a driving course introduced as a safety initiative to address driving issues near the site.
- (ii) Mr Lesinski informed the meeting of a recent event when an electrician had caused flash back when removing an electrical panel. The person involved had suffered a minor burn and work had been stood down for an investigation to take place.
- (iii) A number of changes have been made as a result of an environmental event a few month earlier when a bubbler overflowed into a tank. A systems engineer has been assigned to checking results and controlling adjustments. Mr Lesinski assured the meeting that there had been no environmental impact.
- (iv) Mr Lesinski explained that the NDA will be splitting their liabilities into different groups. Within Magnox Electric are 10 sites, these will be separated into a Southern and a Northern group. Hinkley Point A Site, along with Dungeness A, Bradwell, Sizewell A and Berkeley, will be part of a new licensed company covering the reactor sites in the South. The NDA had done some research to see what the new company name should be and decided on Magnox South Ltd.
- (v) Community Relations – Since the last meeting, the site has run their annual Christmas card competition for local schools, hosted a business breakfast and completed the annual fun run. More than £7,000 has recently been donated to local charity BIBIC. There will be a slight shift in the way the sponsorship programme works in the future. The site management company will support the small sponsorship and donations projects and the NDA money will be used for more sustainable projects such as changes in education programmes.

- (vi) Mr Lesinski explained that BNFL would be selling off the Reactor Sites Management Company portion of the business as well as other parts of the business. Four companies are bidding in the competition for Reactor Sites and there should be an announcement fairly soon.
- (vii) Due to funding issues, some of the work will be slimmed down next year. The ILW Store slab has been completed but building work will be put on hold for the time being. The Asbestos project will be finishing next month. The Turbine Hall de-planting is due to finish in May but the structure of the building won't be completed for around 18 months.
- (viii) The skip programme is progressing well but the end point will now probably change. Originally the skips were due to be sent to Drigg but there is limited space there. The site has found an alternative method where the skip material is recycled for shielding blocks in the US. Early trials have gone well and other metal materials may also be disposed of in this way.
- (ix) The solid ILW and wet ILW programmes are also moving ahead well. The site has come up with another good option for reducing the volume of wet ILW by using thermal vitrification. This decreases the total volume that has to be stored in the future.
- (x) The de-cabling project has gone well with over 90,000 cuts made safely. The Cooling Water Pump-House has now been demolished and the pilings for the new temporary management facility are being installed.
- (xi) Mr Lesinski explained that the NDA's prioritisation process for work in the future would be based on hazard categorisation. Hinkley has a lower category than some of the other sites because all the fuel has left site. This has resulted in Hinkley receiving £17 million less than expected for work next year. Safety and compliance work will be Hinkley Points priority and this will be fully funded. The reduction, could mean that the site will get to the Care and Maintenance phase later than expected. Work across the sites will be constantly reviewed.
- (xii) Mr Lesinski referred to a question asked at the last meeting regarding how the funding would affect workers at the site. 86% of the workers at site live in the TA post code area. As a result of the funding cuts, we will lose around 26 agency workers, 15 of our current 27 vacancies will now not be filled and approximately 180 of our contract workers involved in project work will not be needed next year. This will bring our staffing down to around 450 – 500 people.

Questions relating to the A Site Report:

Cllr Joslin asked if work on site was still on schedule.

Mr Lesinski said that the site was on schedule for last years plan, but that funding issues would possibly delay the time taken to get to the care and maintenance phase.

Mr Debenham asked whether the sale of British Nuclear Group would affect the end use of the site.

Mr Lesinski explained that this would make no difference to the site. The NDA will still own the liabilities. It is only the management company that is being sold. The running of the sites

will still go to competitive bid as originally planned. Whoever operates the site in the future will still be using the same staff under the Site Licensed Company.

Cllr Brown asked why the pond skip trials hadn't taken place in Germany or Sweden as originally planned.

Mr Lesinski explained that the plants in Germany and Sweden couldn't technically do the work which only left Hinkley with the US option.

Mr Hudd asked if the funding issues meant that previous plans to speed up the decommissioning process had now been shelved.

Mr Lesinski said that the funding issues were likely to delay the process to care and maintenance. Mr Smart went on to explain that the NDA were still looking at putting a case forward for speeding up the process.

Mr Debenham asked what would happen with the ILW store.

Mr Lesinski explained that the facility would not be needed for a few years so the project to build the store has been put on hold. Work to retrieve the ILW waste would continue.

5. STATION DIRECTORS REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B STATION

- (i) Mr Higginson said that it been 104 days since the last lost time accident for B station staff. At the last meeting, the site had announced that their contract partners had gone for three years without an accident but during the outage a contractor had slipped on the second to bottom rung of a ladder resulting in a cracked bone.
- (ii) Nigel Cann was appointed as the new station director. He looks forward to working with the SSG in the future.
- (iii) Mr Higginson reported an environmental event eight days ago where the water discharges on some of the samples taken were slightly above the discharge consent limit of a pH of 9. Some samples had a pH of 9.2 or 9.5. The investigation identified that due to the extended outage of both reactors some of the normal water discharges haven't taken place so haven't diluted the discharges. The station has now reviewed operating procedures to account for extended outages and additional water flows will be put into the discharge route. Mr Higginson assured the meeting that the discharges were from the turbine hall and not the reactor side and no radioactivity was involved.
- (iv) All the repairs have now been completed and both reactors have been boxed up and gassed up. The station is waiting for the NII to give agreement to start up Reactor 4. They are continuing to supply information to the regulator as requested. When permission has been given to start up Reactor 4 the station hope to be in a position to ask for permission to start up Reactor 3.
- (v) B Station have continued to support projects in the community. The station has raised in excess of £7,000 for St Margaret's Hospice and British Energy has raised over £200,000 for Hospices. The station has also continued to support projects in the community.

- (vi) British Energy have commissioned a report by the MET office looking at the effects of climate change on their stations. Although rises in sea level are predicted, measures can be put into place to protect the stations.
- (vii) British Energy have announced the third quarter results. Hunterston and Hinkley being off line have impacted on the results and the income of the company.
- (viii) British Energy are inviting potential partners in preparation for new nuclear build. The company are also working in partnership with Amec to build new wind turbines on the Isle of Lewis.

Questions relating to the B Station Report:

Cllr Williams asked if building up protection for the site against coastal erosion would result in the water being directed elsewhere.

Mr Higginson said that current coastal defences would be maintained. Mr Pearce said that British Energy were working closely with the Environment Agency and any other organisations concerned with coastal management.

Cllr Caswell referred to a previous report about Stolford Common which stated that the Environment Agency were prepared to let the common flood. He wondered if this was still the case.

Mr Roberts confirmed that studies had been done a few years ago to realign the area but wasn't sure what the situation was now.

Cllr Trollope-Bellew said there had been a scheme in the past but DEFRA hadn't come up with the funding.

Cllr Yamanaka asked if there was a time estimate for Reactors 3 and 4 coming back into service. The station has previously stated that the reactors should be running by the end of March.

Mr Higginson said that the regulator had to go through the correct process, and time would be needed to review the safety case. The reactors were boxed up and waiting for permission from the NII. He confirmed that the station would like to get reactor 4 running by the end of March.

Mr Debenham said that previous reports had stated that the reactors would initially run at 70% power, when would they go back to run at 100% power.

Mr Higginson said that they need to be satisfied that the station can operate safely. He confirmed that the reactors would operated at 70% to start with but that a boiler project team led by Les Francis had been tasked with putting the work into place that will allow a safety case to be put forward to operate at a higher power level. British Energy and the regulator would need to be satisfied that this can be done safely.

Mr Debenham said that as British Energy were involved in building wind turbines would they be supporting the wind farm at Hinkley now that the wind company has reduced the amount of turbines in their application. He also commented on the high court ruling regarding new build and asked how consultation would be carried out in the future.

Mr Higginson said that British Energy believes that a balanced portfolio of energy is needed in the UK and that they would support wind energy in the right place. British Energy had concerns with the adjacent wind farm at Hinkley Point as it would be close to the reactor buildings nearby. He said that the point about consultation on new build was a government decision and British Energy couldn't comment on this issue although they look forward to a review being carried out.

The chairman commented that he felt the B Station report could have given more detailed information considering the fact that both reactors had been shut down and so much work had been carried out. Mr Pearce agreed that he would issue a more detailed report about the work undertaken and ensure all SSG members receive a copy. Mr Higginson said that the intention was to issue a report when everything was completed so that all the information could be included.

Cllr Williams asked how the two reactors compared with reference to the work done on the boiler tubes.

Mr Higginson said the cracking on each reactor was comparable.

6. REPORT FROM THE EMERGENCY PLANNING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

There was nothing to report from the EPCC. Mr Higginson reported that a meeting had been held where only routine matters had been discussed which were of no particular interest to the SSG.

7. REPORT ON RADIOACTIVE DISCHARGES & ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING.

The chairman referred to the report that members had received prior to the meeting. Mr Higginson said that the report covered the radioactive discharges and environmental monitoring for both sites during 2006.

The environmental monitoring programme is carried out by British Energy on behalf of both sites. Levels of radioactivity remain well below the authorised limits set by the Environment Agency. There is no evidence of any long term accumulation of radioactivity resulting from the operations of the power stations. Radiation doses to the public are less than the UK legal limit and within the 1,000 micro Sievert nationally recommended levels.

The station has continued to monitor fish, shrimps, seaweed, sediment and gamma radiation on the beach, land and tacki shades. Milk, herbage and soil core samples have also been monitored. The overall trend shows no impact on the environment.

Questions relating to the above report:

Cllr Brown commented that the presentation of the report was excellent and liked the inclusion of the half lives of radio-nuclides. He asked whether the authorisation levels in table 6 were an annual figure or a monthly figure.

Mr Roberts explained that the annual limits were actually a rolling 12 months and that quarterly notification levels were also set. Limits had been set as low as possible. The authorisations for Hinkley B had been reviewed recently to bring them in line with other AGR authorisations.

Cllr Brown also asked why there was such a high level of tritium in December.

Mr Adcock explained that a tank was drained in December in the Gas By-pass Plant. This plant dries out the reactor gas which leads to a vapour form of tritium.

Cllr Brown also asked a question relating to table 17 which refers to the transfer of waste to Drigg. Under the heading of Radionuclides, there is a figure of 66825.92 (MBq) listed as 'others' – what does 'others' refer to.

Mr Prescott explained that the 'others' refers to a mix of radionuclides including caesium-137, strontium-90 and iron-55. The figures are well within the authorisation limits. The agency stipulate that this is the way the site should display these figures. "

Mr Debenham said that the Stop Hinkley group felt that the authorisation limits are set too high and also wondered if the limits had changed.

Mr Roberts explained that the limits are set at a level below the dose limit for the public. He said that discharge limits for B Station would be lowered from April which would make the levels very low.

The Chairman explained that other agencies also do external monitoring around the sites and that the results had been comparable with the operators results. He wanted to know if any audits were done on the internal company figures and the sampling accuracy and analysis carried out.

Mr Roberts confirmed that the Environment Agency and the Food Standard Agency did independent sampling and analysis and they also check the operators laboratories. Discharge samples are witnessed by a contract monitor, sealed samples are taken and analysed then results are compared. Liquid effluent bulk samples are sent to the Environment Agency for analysis. This is not done randomly but by prior arrangement.

At the last meeting Cllr Williams had asked if it would be possible for the operators to provide some historical data relating to marine monitoring. Mr McCubbin, who has recently joined the British Nuclear Group, had previously been employed at the Cefas Lowestoft Laboratory and his work included involvement in preparing the RIFE reports for the independent monitoring programme. He provided a presentation showing the annual discharges of Caesium-137 since the station began operating, together with results for levels in local shrimps and sediment. Present day discharges were shown to be low in comparison to releases in the 1970s and consequently the cumulative discharge has remained broadly stable in recent years. Similar trends were apparent in the shrimps and sediment.

8. REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

A Report from the Environment Agency had been issued to SSG members prior to the meeting. There were no questions relating to the report.

9. NII REPORTS – QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Although Mr Ford did not attend the meeting, Mr Smith said he would try to answer questions relating to both sites.

The chairman asked if the NII could give an update on when they felt B Station may return to power.

Mr Smith said the assessment of the safety case was ongoing. The NII would consider the case for the reactors at Hinkley before Hunterston.

Mr Debenham asked how the NII were checking the work done on B Station.

Mr Smith said that as the site inspector for B Station, he spends around 60 – 70 days a year at the site. He checks how the inspections have been done and any findings are reviewed by specialists at Head Office. Detailed analysis has to be done which is why the NII can't confirm a date for operation to start.

10. LOW LEVEL WASTE WORKSHOP UPDATE

Mr Allan gave a presentation on the progress with the Low Level Waste Disposal Project. Members of the SSG contributed to the workshops held last year which helped inform the company on the decision making process. He recapped on the justification for the project i.e. the fact that the facility at Drigg does not have the capacity needed to deal with all the UK's nuclear low level waste. Low level waste at Hinkley is primarily made up of rubble, concrete etc from taking down buildings during the decommissioning process.

Other drivers for on site disposal of low level waste are issues such as transport and road safety with taking the waste off site, increase in costs and extra segregation of waste resulting in an increase in exposure to the workforce.

Mr Allan talked about the different methods that could be used for on site disposal and areas of site that would be suitable. Although the basement of the Turbine Hall had been considered, the preferred place would be the old Diesel House site.

Mr Allan said that progressing the Town & Country Planning Application could not happen until DEFRA had issued government policy on the disposal of low level waste. If the report proves favourable for on site disposal, the site would need to complete an Environmental Impact Assessment before moving forward with the Town & Country planning process.

Questions relating to the above presentation:

Cllr Williams asked if the ponds building has been considered as a storage area.

Mr Allan explained that the area wouldn't be ready in time and that the waste would then be stored above ground which is not the preferred solution.

The chairman asked if the area would be in danger of flooding as the datum level is similar to that of the turbine hall.

Mr Allan said that although the datum level is similar, the area is further away from the coast and other buildings such as the turbine hall foundations would act as a natural sea defence and stop further coastal erosion..

Cllr Caswell said that he had talked to members of his parish, and Stockland Bristol would prefer to see Hinkley waste disposed of on site rather than transporting away.

Cllr Slade asked if we would take waste from other sites.

Mr Allan said the current plans are only to consider the waste produced at Hinkley. The NDA, after detailed consultation, would be the ones that may decide to change their plans in the future.

Cllr Brown said that he had attended the LLW workshops and that Mr Allan's presentation was an accurate representation of the groups' discussions.

The chairman referred to a letter from Mrs Brown of PCAH referring to the geological data of the site. He felt that the site should respond to her letter. Mr Allan agreed to respond to Mrs Brown.

11. END USE/END STATE

Mr Williams presented the findings of the SSG End Use survey. He discussed the Hierarchy that came from the results of the survey and a meeting of the SSG End Use Sub Group in February. Mr Williams said that he had prepared a report on behalf of the SSG which would be signed off by the SSG chairman and submitted to the NDA.

The survey had shown that the preferred end use of the site would be for a Nature Reserve which would result in an End State of a Site Left for Nature. This would be the recommendation to the NDA.

Mr Williams wanted to ensure that the SSG members were happy with the findings of the survey. The SSG members present at the meeting said they were happy with the results of the survey to be included in the report as the SSG's recommendations.

The chairman said that this was only the first stage of the consultation process and there would be more work to do in the future. He added that although the consultation had been fairly limited around the Hinkley site, the results were similar to other sites.

Cllr Foxhuntley wanted to bring up a point that Mrs Brown, (PCAH) had mentioned that West Somerset District Council had stated its intention to resist the development of further nuclear power generation capability at Hinkley Point. Cllr Foxhuntley said that Mrs Brown's quote was inaccurate and she would write to her.

Mr Debenham said that PCAH were issuing a press release about misinterpreting West Somerset District Councils Plans.

12. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr Brown asked for more details about the work being done on behalf of the NDA regarding the reforming of the SSG's and whether the group would get any feedback.

Mr Smart said he would try to find out more about the consultation and report back to the SSG.

The Chairman said that due to local council elections in May, we could have new members representing their councils at the next meeting. It is important that the councils keep us updated of new members. The secretary will ensure that councils are contacted after May for a list of representatives. He went on to say that both Cllr Cartwright – Sedgemoor District Council and Cllr Brewer – West Somerset District Council would not be attending SSG meetings in the future as they were standing down as councillors. He thanked them both for their support over the years.

Cllr Cartwright said she felt the SSG was a good focal point for people in the wards and wanted to give everyone at Hinkley Point her best wishes. Cllr Brewer supported Cllr Cartwright's comments and said he would miss the meetings.

13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The chairman said that there was an option of a new venue to hold future SSG meetings at Cannington College and he suggested we hold the next meeting at this venue. There would be no interruptions from the public address system and lunch and refreshments would still be provided.

Cllr Williams said he felt we shouldn't be discussing the issue again at this meeting. Cllr Brewer said that many years ago the meetings were held at a sports centre in Bridgwater. This was a controversial decision as many people said that the LCLC were afraid to meet at the power station.

Cllr Brown proposed that we hold the next meeting at the usual place of the Training and Induction Centre. 10 people voted to stay at the usual venue, three voted to go to Cannington.

Therefore it was decided again that the meeting remain at the site. The date and time were set for Friday 19 October 2007 at 10am.