

**BRITISH NUCLEAR GROUP**

**HINKLEY POINT A SITE**

**STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING**

**FRIDAY 13 OCTOBER 2006**

**SITE MANAGER'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD**

**25 FEBRUARY 2006 – 29 SEPTEMBER 2006**

**1. Decommissioning Hinkley Point A**

Ground works for the radioactive waste storage building have now been completed. The lease, and consent for using B station land was finalised in early May and approximately 60,000m<sup>3</sup> of soil and stones have been excavated from the site and temporarily stored in an engineered stockpile on C Station land. The exposed rock on the site for the radioactive waste store has been capped with concrete to provide a base for the foundations. Construction of the building will commence in October. Detail design has been completed and the safety case approved. The mechanical handling equipment, including a high-integrity crane, is being manufactured off site ready for installation in Autumn 2007.

The Major Asbestos Removal project has continued within the Reactor Controlled area. We have now completed the removal of insulation in R1A, R1B and R2A and are currently working on R2B and boilers 10, 11 & 12. We have also completed insulation removal from R1 pipe-bridge. The project is currently running ahead of schedule and we hope to finish contracted removal operations by Christmas 2006.

De-planting of the Turbine Hall is now well underway, around 3,000 tonnes of scrap metal have left the site to be sold into the scrap metal market. The proceeds from this sale are being used to fund further decommissioning work on site. Not all of the equipment from the project is being scrapped, one complete generator unit (excluding the condenser) has been removed by Alstom (formally GEC) and transferred to their training facility in Leicestershire to be used to train the fitters and technicians of the future. The programme for the Turbine Hall is to complete the de-planting by March next year and to commence demolition of the Turbine Hall building in October next year. Demolition of the building should be completed by March 2008.

The new liquid effluent discharge line has been fully commissioned and handed over to site operations following 'Consent to Discharge' from the Environment Agency. A pH monitoring and control system has been installed and commissioned and will be handed over to site operations after undergoing a period of operational commissioning.

Pond Skips Metal Smelting Trials – We have a number of skips that have been used within the cooling pond building in the past but are no longer required. These are contaminated with radionuclides such that they are now classified as Low Level and, in some cases, Intermediate Level Wastes (LLW and ILW). The overall waste management strategy in decommissioning is based on the principles of the waste management hierarchy of reduce, reuse and recycle, and in line with this we are investigating the feasibility of smelting.

Trials to test the effectiveness of this technology need to be conducted and evaluated to develop the overall strategy for dealing with contaminated metals. Based on the data provided by the

trials, a BPEO/BPM (Best Practical Environmental Option/Best Practical Means) study will then be conducted to identify the best methods for future processing of contaminated metals. Three similarly sized trials are proposed, all requiring the transport of similar quantities of skips to Duratek in the USA, Studvik in Sweden and RWE Nukem in Germany.

Solid Intermediate Level Waste treatment operations in the ponds area is approximately 50% complete with the rest due to be completed by the end of Feb 2007. The ponds decommissioning project has accelerated removal of pond equipment (redundant furniture) based on early completion of this year's scope of work. Ponds skips processing is also progressing well with 149 skips so far identified as Low Level Waste. Overall ponds operations are progressing to the site plan. Ponds projects interface with the regulators, in particular the Environment Agency (EA) has been increased, with positive feedback resulting from the EA.

One of the major tasks we will need to undertake in the future is to safely retrieve, characterise, containerise, and transport all solid Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) to the on site radioactive waste storage building when it has been completed. The SILWR (Solid Intermediate Level Waste Retrieval) project is currently developing the design for this work.

On 30 and 31 August the team held a two day peer review workshop which included a presentation by the team of the design work undertaken to date. Representatives from other site projects and other decommissioning sites attended the review. The workshop identified a number of issues which are currently being reviewed and suggestions were made which are being incorporated into the design.

A local engineering company has been awarded a substantial contract to produce a rig which will be used in the SILWR project, showing our commitment to use local suppliers where possible.

The cooling water pump-house has been isolated and disconnected. This is the first truly 'Cold and Dark' area where isolations have been performed at the building boundary instead of performing internal de-cabling. This resulted in significant cost and programme savings.

On the electrical overlay system project, the new cable support system across the site has been installed. This includes road crossing excavations, high level steel/tray work and the use of existing but redundant pipe trenches. Approx eight kilometres of cabling to the five new 11kV switchboards has been installed and is in the process of being glanded and terminated.

The manufacture, delivery and installation of three new 415v switchboards has been completed and the new feeder cable to the document centre has been installed. Electricity is now fed to the building from the new electrical overlay system. The first phase of electrical load transfers to the new system is complete.

We have now achieved de-planting of the four main blower houses. The 12 blower drive trains, the seal air systems and other auxiliary plant have been removed for disposal as scrap, totalling in excess of 430 tonnes. The blower houses have been cleaned and are currently being prepared for final hand over to operations.

Routine monitoring has continued on existing boreholes around site including the area of ground that was contaminated with historic diesel oil to the east of Reactor 1. A number of reports have been submitted to the Environment Agency including a Best Practical Environmental Option (BPEO) study.

The boreholes will continue to be monitored until the best solution for recovery of the diesel oil is decided. Liaison with British Energy through a joint technical working group will aim to ensure integrated characterisation and remediation across the A & B site boundary.

As part of the site separation scheme, the main admin building will eventually go back to B station. A suitable location for a new management building has been identified and planning permission has been applied for. Assuming the planning permission is granted, the building will be erected by the north fence. The area is currently being used as the contractors compound.

At the last SSG meeting in March 2006, we asked for people to volunteer to take part in a series of consultation workshops to look at the options for the management of low activity Low Level Waste (LLW). The first workshop was held in May at Bridgwater College, Cannington.

At the workshop, we carried out a technical Multi Attribute Decision Analysis (MADA) on the various options for what we can do with our Low Level Waste (LLW). MADA is a very rigorous method used to assist the making of strategic decisions. The need to review what we do with our LLW has been brought about by potential capacity problems at the Low Level Waste Disposal Facility near Drigg in Cumbria, where we currently send our LLW.

On 5<sup>th</sup> September we presented the results of the MADA to a number of stakeholders including members of the SSG, and our regulators. The MADA concluded that the most favourable option for LLW disposal was some form of on site disposal. We are now looking at options for on site disposal. Hinkley A is leading the way with this work and we will need to tackle similar issues at Bradwell, Sizewell and Dungeness at some time in the future.

## **2. Abnormal Events**

On 27 March 2006, work to drill test boreholes for monitoring of groundwater levels was undertaken prior to the completion of a Decommissioning Project Approval Form (DPAF). This event constitutes a failure to comply with site arrangements and has been classified as level 0 on the International Nuclear Event Scale, having no safety significance.

On 16 May 2006 a backed-up drain fed by a shower room in the Reactor Controlled Area (RCA) overflowed into the unoccupied Wash Down Bay. The accumulation of water resulted in an overflow to an unlined room and subsequent seepage through a concrete block wall onto a concrete area outside the contamination controlled area but still within the RCA. The volume of liquid which seeped through the wall was less than 10 litres and the liquid did not enter the storm drains.

This event constitutes a failure to comply with site arrangements and has been classified as level 0 on the International Nuclear Event Scale, having no safety significance.

## **3. General**

The Deputy President of RoSPA, (Royal Society for the prevention of Accidents) Lord Jordan of Bournville, presented representatives from Hinkley Point A Site with the President's Award for Occupational Health and Safety at a special awards ceremony in Birmingham, in June. The Award represents 10 consecutive years that the station has been granted a Gold Award by RoSPA.

Hinkley Point A have been working with Bridgwater College on a number of training opportunities for the site. The first three apprentices, appointed from local schools started at the beginning of September. These multi-disciplined apprentices will undergo three years of training and personal development focusing on the skills needed for safe and efficient decommissioning and clean-up.

We have also welcomed our first graduates to the site in 10 years. The Graduate Development Scheme has been accredited by various professional institutions & will enable the graduates to reach chartered status e.g. chartered engineer, or to work towards an internal or external standard e.g. accredited Health Physicist or Radiation Protection Advisor.

At the end of June, a small group of people from the area visited a unique training establishment in Washington State, America. The fact-finding mission, which was led by Ken Powers, also included local MP, Ian Liddell-Grainger, Fiona McMillan, Principal of Bridgwater College and two of her department heads, the Leader and Chief Executive of Sedgemoor District Council, Hinkley Point A Site's Human Resources Manager, Dave Theobald, Senior Communications Manager, Tim Jones and trade union representative, Charlie Thomson.

The visit helped to give a clearer understanding of the nuclear industry and what is required to ensure that top level training in decommissioning and clean up skills can be delivered here in the South West. The group visited colleges and the HAMMER Training and Education Centre as well as talking to educationalists, workers, trade unions and Federal, State and local politicians. There was also a chance to see a research reactor being decommissioned at the University of Washington, and radioactive waste being buried in giant 70 ft deep lined pits at Hanford, the site of the world's biggest nuclear clean-up operation.

On 25 July and 8 August, members of staff worked with Mike Short, SSG Chairman and staff from B Station to deliver induction training for members of the Site Stakeholder Group. The programme covered nuclear generation, dealing with nuclear waste, decommissioning, emergency planning, safety and environmental monitoring. Members were also given the opportunity of touring both sites. NDA (Nuclear Decommissioning Authority) Site Programme Manager for A site, Andrew Smart, talked about the consultation process for defining end states for each of the 20 NDA sites and the importance of taking into account the considerations of the local community.

The site has now gone 343 days without a Lost Time Accident (LTA).

#### **4. Company matters**

BNFL gained Government approval for the sale of British Nuclear Group on 30 March 2006. The decision by the BNFL board to recommend the sale to Her Majesty's Government (HMG), was taken to enhance the competitive strength of the business through private sector ownership and to provide better long-term careers for British Nuclear Group staff.

On the 22 August 2006, BNFL's Board met to further discuss the sale of British Nuclear Group and concluded that the best value for the shareholder (the Government) would be delivered if the Project Services business and the AWE shareholding were sold separately from the nuclear decommissioning businesses which deliver the Sellafield and Reactor Sites contracts awarded by the NDA.

Project Services is the specialist nuclear contracting business which does not hold contracts directly with the NDA, while British Nuclear Group owns one third of the shares in AWE Management Ltd at Aldermaston, contracted to the Ministry of Defence.

BNFL's management team, led by CEO Mike Parker, will now begin consultation with government and other key stakeholders on the sale of Project Services and the AWE shareholding, with the aim of starting the separate sales processes as soon as possible. This development is consistent with the Board's strategy of maximising value to its shareholder whilst delivering the best solution for employees and customers.

The sale of the remainder of British Nuclear Group and the associated competition for the Sellafield and Reactor sites will continue to be discussed with the NDA and a joint approach will be developed and agreed as quickly as possible.

More information about the sale of British Nuclear Group can be found by visiting [www.britishnucleargroup.co.uk](http://www.britishnucleargroup.co.uk)

British Nuclear Group, announced profits of £72 million on gross revenue of £2.01 billion in its first full year as a management and operations contractor. The company also achieved savings and additional revenue generation for its customer of £138 million from its operations against its first year plan.

During the last few months, the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) has granted Sizewell A Power Station and Dungeness A Power Station formal consent to decommission once they cease electrical generation at the end of this year. By the time they close in December, both sites will have generated electricity safely and reliably for over 40 years.

Detailed Environmental Statements had to be produced for both sites to inform stakeholders of the decommissioning plans and how they will impact on the local environment. The next stage for the sites, once generation has ended, will be to de-fuel the reactors and deliver the fuel elements to Sellafield. De-fuelling for both sites is expected to be complete by 2009 and will be undertaken alongside initial decommissioning work.

Bradwell Site was awarded the 2006 NUMEX Trophy for excellent performance achieved during its de-fuelling phase, beating competition from Switzerland, Czech Republic, Hungary and Sweden.

The Nuclear Maintenance Experience Exchange (NUMEX) awards a trophy for excellence in nuclear maintenance every two years. Four members of the Bradwell team faced a panel of ten judges representing nuclear sites from around Europe. Their presentation was scored on safety, team work and innovation. This is the second time that Bradwell has won the NUMEX trophy. In 2000, NUMEX recognised the significant improvements made in the maintenance department.

## 5. NDA News

At the beginning of April, we said goodbye to last years NDA site programme manager, Malcolm Barents, and welcomed three new people from the NDA. Andrew Smart has taken up the role of Site Programme Manager this year and is joined by Helen Barrow, Contracts Manager and Bob Wiles, Project Controls Manager.

On 30 March 2006, the secretary of State for Trade and Industry and the Scottish Ministers approved the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA's) Strategy, which sets out for the first time, how the UK will tackle the clean-up of its historic nuclear facilities. In developing its strategy, the NDA carried out a three-month public consultation last year.

On 1 August 2006, the NDA published its **Draft Annual Plan for 2007/8**. The plan is available for public consultation until 10 November. A revised draft annual plan will then be submitted to ministers by 31 December 2006.

On 9 August 2006, the NDA (Nuclear Decommissioning Authority) published an Operational Review for 2005/6 – it's first full year of operation. The NDA's full audited accounts for the same period will be published once they have been laid before Parliament

The NDA have issued their Draft Socio-Economic Policy for consultation. Their approach to the socio-economic obligations was set out in the NDA Strategy which was published on 30 March 2006. Specifically, their aim is to have a socio-economic policy in place by April 2007 that addresses socio-economic priorities around the NDA sites, as identified through consultation and research. The document sets out their draft policy proposals for consultation. The NDA will be consulting on the draft socio-economic policy between 5 October 2006 and 19 January 2007 and welcome your views on the document. Specifically they would like to know:

- Do you agree with their proposed priorities and objectives?
- Do you agree with their proposed approach to direct NDA socio-economic support?
- What are your views on their proposed policy on support through NDA operations?
- Do you agree with the proposed approach to support via contractors?

All responses will be published on their website unless otherwise requested.

To request a copy of the document, telephone Kelly Jackson on 01925 802185, email [seconsultation@nda.gov.uk](mailto:seconsultation@nda.gov.uk) or visit the NDA web site at [www.nda.gov.uk](http://www.nda.gov.uk).

The NDA are working to develop a business case to support accelerating the decommissioning of the Magnox reactor sites within around 25 years. This work follows the commitment made in the NDA's Strategy. The conclusions will be included in the review of the Strategy, which the NDA expects to begin next year. If the business case can be made, the Magnox reactor sites could be cleared and made available for alternative uses by around 2031 - 2036.

It is expected that the outcome of this project will be delivered in time to feed into the review of the NDA Strategy which will probably begin in Spring 2007, and on which there will be full public consultation later in the year.

The project will involve Magnox Electric Ltd carrying out studies on behalf of the NDA to look at all of the options. Magnox Electric Ltd will develop accelerated decommissioning strategies based on these options. They will, with the help of the supply chain and key stakeholders, look at issues associated with waste management, waste disposal and the techniques and logistics of reactor dismantling. Examining novel solutions for dealing with waste streams will include the possible utilisation of overseas facilities.

Independent Peer Reviews on the options and strategies with the reviewers will be drawn from UK and international organisations. The project covers all of the work to be done from the time the reactor site finishes generating power, to final site clearance. It will look at the logistical issues, develop options for delivering the work and provide estimates for the overall cost, for the cash flow profile and the length of time needed to deliver the various options.

Site End States – As you know the NDA have asked the SSG to become involved in the consultation process to determine possible end uses for the site once decommissioning and final site clearance has been achieved. A separate information sheet about the work being done around the Hinkley Point community on the end state uses, is attached to this report.

For further details about any of the above reports, visit [www.nda.gov.uk](http://www.nda.gov.uk) or contact Kelly Jackson on 01925 802185.

## **6. Community Relations**

On 3 April, Jeremy Brown, MP for Taunton, visited the site to learn about the decommissioning progress made to date and the programme of work for the future. Mark Steele, Deputy Site

Manager, and Steve Hodson, Engineering & Project Manager also gave Jeremy a tour of the site so he could witness first hand the work being carried out.

In June, we welcomed 17 planners to the site from across the country. The planners represented many different counties including Northumberland, West Sussex, Staffordshire and Kent. Their itinerary included a presentation from Alan Ball, Waste Manager, on the decommissioning work in progress including waste streaming and the radioactive waste storage building.

Hinkley Point A Site supported the 160<sup>th</sup>, Dunster Annual Show by sponsoring three of the agricultural classes and also manning a trade stand at the event. The show was used as an opportunity to raise awareness in the community about our decommissioning activities.

The communications team were accompanied throughout the day by Andrew Smart, Hinkley Point A Site Programme Manager for the NDA. Andrew talked to visitors and stressed the importance of taking into account the considerations of local stakeholders in the consultation process for 'End Uses' of the site. Visitors to the stand were asked to complete a short questionnaire about what they thought the site should be used for after decommissioning and final site clearance has been achieved.

The survey was completed by 120 people on the day and the responses will be added to other surveys being distributed to stakeholders through events such as business breakfasts and community website's. This consultation, is being done on behalf of the SSG. Mike Short, SSG Chair, has been involved in the process and will be attending some of the functions to talk to people about the consultation. The results from the questionnaires will be fed back to the NDA through the Site Stakeholder Group.

During the last six months, representatives from the site have given decommissioning presentations to a number of community groups including Minehead U3A, The Vivary Group, Ilminster and District Probus Club and Taunton Vale Rotary Club. Guests were updated on progress made so far with decommissioning and the programme of work for the future.

The Communications Team have continued to work with our partnership schools by delivering curriculum based workshops. Earlier in the year we teamed up with Otterhampton Primary School to deliver a 'problem solving' science event to celebrate national science week. We also visited Richard Huish College in Taunton, to help environmental science students with their studies.

In March, members of the communications team delivered an Educational Workshop at a 'Key Skills at Work' event organised by Business Dynamics and held at West Somerset College, Minehead.

Staff and contractors from Hinkley Point A site took part in the annual fun run with colleagues from B Station in June. The 6.8 mile course started at Hinkley Point and finished at the Friendly Spirit, Cannington. Some people chose to walk rather than run but all were sponsored to raise money for BIBIC (British Institute for Brain Injured Children) our charity of the year. Most of the money has now been collected and we have raised over £3,500. The money will be presented to BIBIC in the next few weeks.

The annual Christmas Card competition has recently been launched. This years theme is 'Recycling at Christmas'. As usual children of primary school age have been asked to design this years Hinkley Point A Site, Christmas Card. Proceeds from the sale of the cards will be donated to BIBIC.

## Sponsorship

Since the last SSG meeting we have supported the following groups through our sponsorship and donations policy:

Over Stowey Village Hall  
Stockland Bristol Parish Council  
Middlezoy Cricket Club  
Combwich Sailing Club  
Dunster Show  
Bishop Henderson Primary School  
Westover Green Community Group

Somerset Crime Prevention Panel  
Nether Stowey Junior Football Club  
Middlezoy Pre School  
Minehead First School  
Spaxton School  
Stogursey - It's a knock out  
Somerset ornithological Society