

**BRITISH NUCLEAR GROUP**

**HINKLEY POINT A SITE**

**STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING**

**FRIDAY 16 MARCH 2007**

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

**30 SEPTEMBER 2006 – 5 MARCH 2007**

**1. Decommissioning Hinkley Point A**

Intermediate Level Waste Store - Upon completion of site preparations, including the blinding layer, construction of the base slab started in October and was completed in early January. The base slab is approximately 75m long by 25m wide and more than 1m thick. It was constructed using approximately 300te of reinforcement and more than 1600m<sup>3</sup> of concrete.

Manufacturing, assembly and test of the high-integrity mechanical handling equipment for the ILW is proceeding at our contractor's works off site.

The Major Asbestos Removal project has continued within the Reactor Controlled Area. The R2 pipe-bridge, R2B blow-down tank room, R2B by-pass filter room, R2B boilers 10, 11 and 12 and the R2 inner blower house have all been de-lagged. The removal of lagging from the R2 pipe-bridge on the conventional side is also complete and is currently being cleaned for inspection and issue of a clearance certificate.

In the turbine hall, zones 1 & 2 are now complete and we are about half way through de-planting zone 3. To date we have removed approximately 7,000 tonnes of scrap including 12 condensers containing 60 tonnes of copper tubing in each.

De-planting and demolition of the cooling water pump-house was successfully completed three months ahead of schedule. Working conditions inside the building were hazardous due to the confined space which meant that only six people were able to work in the building at any one time. Approximately 400 tonnes of equipment was removed from the pump-house. Most of the materials will be recycled through demolition contractor Brown and Mason.

The area is now being used to process scrap material from the turbine hall. The spoil mounds opposite the east gate that originally came from the ILW store area have now been used as backfill for the pump house voids.

The electrical overlay system project has been progressing well. Following installation of the cables in the first six months a number of the new switchboards have now been energised and put into service. Work continues on the remaining switch-boards. Load transfer cables have also been installed to many of the buildings.

De-cabling of the main boiler houses 1A, 1B and 2A has been completed and the areas have been left "cold and dark". All four inner blower houses have also been de-cabled, together with both pipe-bridges and a number of minor buildings.

A wireless public address system has been installed and testing is currently being undertaken. Similarly a wireless fire detection system is being installed and is 95% complete.

Further work has been carried out for the ground characterisation and pilot remediation works. This work involves:

- Sampling of groundwater from existing boreholes across the site;
- Commencement of pilot remediation work for the recovery of hydrocarbon free phase product including diesel fuel from existing boreholes (in non-active areas) and disposal of the waste oil.

This work will provide sufficient information on the ground that was contaminated with historic diesel oil to the east of reactor one to enable the design of a full remediation program for this contamination.

Historically the boiler house lube oil pits have been cleaned and the waste re-packaged into drums. The waste consists of low level waste sludge's, oil, water, grit and other debris. Due to its nature, this waste is not suitable for disposal through the existing B station incineration route and to date there has not been a recognised waste route for this material.

As part of the storm drains decontamination project, this waste has been tested, characterised and subjected to a formal BPM (Best Practical Means) study which has confirmed that incineration at Veolia Environmental Services, waste management company in Fawley, is the best option.

Planning permission has been granted for the new temporary management building. Preparation work is currently underway for the erection of the building. The area has been cleared and piling work is in progress. The building will be a modular construction building, approximately 34 metres by 18 metres and three storeys high.

Some members of the SSG took part in some workshops last year to look at options for the management of low activity Low Level Waste (LLW). Since the September feedback meeting the team have been working hard on potential designs and locations for an on site disposal facility for low level waste at Hinkley Point A Site. One of the more complex pieces of work is the preliminary "Best Practical Means" (BPM) Assessment. This work concluded that a near-surface disposal facility is appropriate for the disposal of LLW.

There is really only one practical place on site to locate such a facility and this is the site of the old emergency diesel houses. The radiological aspects of such a facility have been modelled and the first pass analysis is very promising. The next phase of the project is to make a planning application and to this end we intend to issue a scoping document to Somerset County Council later this month and following this a planning application in the summer. The planning application will include an Environmental Impact Assessment.

We recently completed a trial project that involved shipping a number of redundant radioactive pond skips to a commercial facility in the US for smelting and recycling. The trial was successful and the metals were smelted into large blocks for re-use in the nuclear industry. The overall waste management strategy in decommissioning is based on the principles of the waste management hierarchy of reduce, reuse and recycle. The processes and license conditions of the US facility are consistent with our recycling goals.

Based on the data provided by the trials, a BPEO/BPM (Best Practical Environmental Option/Best Practical Means) study is currently being carried out to identify the best methods for future processing of contaminated metals. Similar projects were planned for German and Swedish commercial facilities, but did not proceed for technical reasons.

Waste Processing - 8,500 tonnes of non radioactive waste materials and 220 tonnes of contaminated radioactive waste materials have been despatched from the site since April 2006.

Overall ponds operations are progressing to plan. The ponds decommissioning project has completed removal of 90% of the pond redundant furniture with the balance to be removed in the next financial year. We have continued to process pond skips. The aqueous decontamination facility is nearing completion of active commissioning, with 34 skips having been successfully processed down from intermediate level waste to low level waste status. All of the skips located in the dry skip store have been removed, emptied and characterised. The low level waste skips are being size reduced and packaged for disposal. The orphan waste project has been completed with all items having been inspected, sorted and characterised.

The SILWR (Solid Intermediate Level Waste Retrieval) project team has progressed the design of the waste retrieval equipment by continuing a number of trials to demonstrate the effectiveness of the methods proposed. This has involved a contract with a Bridgwater engineering company to support trials of the waste sorting equipment, further work in Swansea on underwater remotely-operated vehicles and the construction of a full-size test rig on which a waste retrieval crane-arm has been fitted. This trial is intended to test the viability of removing the waste from the dry vault using a grab, on a hydraulic crane-arm.

In addition to the retrieval design, work is now being planned to investigate the options for the processing of Solid ILW once it has been retrieved. The process is required to immobilise the waste and ensure that it is in a stable condition for interim storage and ultimately disposal.

## **2. General**

The site has now gone 519 days without a Lost Time Accident (LTA).

The NII (Nuclear Installations Inspectorate) witnessed our annual Level One Emergency Exercise on 7 November 2006. The exercise was held during the morning and a manual muster of all site personnel was successfully demonstrated.

During October, site personnel took part in European Health & Safety Week. Sessions included use of personal protective equipment, health and fitness, safe lifting techniques, ergonomics, construction safety, dealing with chemical/oil spills, road safety and asbestos identification. Members of the Burnham on Sea area rescue boat were on site to talk to staff and display the hovercraft that was purchased from the Lelaina Hall fundraising campaign. Children of site personnel were invited to enter a road safety poster competition. The winner of the competition was rewarded with a computer.

Site personnel recently took part in driver awareness courses. Speed Choice is a driver education programme designed to raise awareness of the dangers of excessive or inappropriate speed. The scheme was set up in April 2003 by Somerset County Council and supports the Avon and Somerset Safety Camera Partnership's casualty reduction strategy.

Funding for the site has been lowered by approximately £15 million from the 06/07 levels. A prioritisation process for allocating NDA funds was used this year that focussed on hazard ratings and Hinkley Point was not high on the ranking. We have secured appropriate funding for all compliance and safety related activities. We will also progress the plans for removing wastes. Overall schedule impacts for going to Care and Maintenance will be assessed over the next six months.

### **3. Company matters**

On 17 October 2006, BNFL completed the sale of the Westinghouse nuclear business to the Toshiba Corporation.

The future of British Nuclear Group was clarified on 24 October when the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry announced that Reactor Sites would be sold separately from the rest of the company and that the Sellafield business would be prepared for an early competition, for which British Nuclear Group would not bid.

Since the October announcement BNFL has continued to work closely with the NDA on implementing the strategy which includes working up revised contractual terms for Reactor Sites and restructuring the business into the North and South regions. The company has also been working hard preparing for the sales of Project Services and Reactor Sites. Both these sales will be conducted by BNFL and follow fair and transparent processes which, since BNFL is a Government-owned organisation, will be in full accordance with European public procurement requirements.

For the Reactor Sites business, which includes Hinkley Point A Site, the formal sale process started on 19 December 2006.

On 31 December 2006 both Sizewell A and Dungeness A Power Stations ceased generation. Between them the two stations have completed 80 years of safe generation. During their lifetimes they produced more than two billion units of electricity worth in excess of £10 billion at today's prices.

### **4. NDA News**

The government announced that the NDA (Nuclear Decommissioning Authority) is to become the only organisation responsible for the geological disposal of higher-level radioactive waste. This decision widens the NDA's remit to oversee the full cycle of nuclear waste management and disposal. As a result of the announcement, ownership shares in Nirex have now been transferred to the NDA.

The shares transfer follows a period of formal consultation between Government and the Nirex Board. The NDA is now discussing with Nirex colleagues plans for their integration, and a detailed consultation with Nirex staff about their future roles will take place over the next three months.

The NDA published its first full Annual Report and Accounts on 26 October 2006. The report covers the first year of operation. They have also published their Health, Safety, Security and Environment Report for the same period.

As part of the restructuring of the UK civil nuclear industry, the NDA (Nuclear Decommissioning Authority) is setting up Site Licence Companies (SLCs) to carry out decommissioning and commercial operations across its twenty sites which include Hinkley Point A Site. It is currently planned to have seven SLCs, each of which will be owned by a Parent Body Organisation (PBO) for the duration of a contract awarded by the NDA. The SLCs, will employ the workforce on the sites they manage.

The NDA has confirmed the new names for the SLCs as follows:

<i>Site Licence Company (SLC)</i>	<i>Comprises</i>	<i>Site Licence Company (SLC)</i>	<i>Comprises</i>
<b>Sellafield Ltd</b>	Sellafield, including Calder Hall, Windscale and Capenhurst	<b>Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd</b>	Dounreay site only
<b>Magnox North Ltd</b>	Chapelcross, Hunterston A, Trawsfynydd, Wylfa and Oldbury	<b>Research Sites Restoration Ltd</b>	Harwell and Winfrith
<b>Magnox South Ltd</b>	Berkeley, Bradwell, Dungeness A, Hinkley Point A and Sizewell A	<b>Low Level Waste Repository Site Licence Company Ltd</b> (can be shortened to LLWR (SLC) Ltd)	The low level waste repository near Drigg in Cumbria
<b>Springfields Fuels Ltd</b>	Springfields		

## 5. Community Relations

In October 2006, more than 70 people attended a business breakfast at the Exchange conference centre, Express Park, Bridgwater. Local member of Parliament, Ian Liddell-Grainger also addressed the audience. The event was held as part of the site's ongoing commitment to keep the local community informed about the decommissioning process at Hinkley Point A Site.

Guests were asked to give their views on how they would like the Hinkley Point A Site to look in the future once decommissioning and final site clearance has been achieved.

Nearly 1000 entries were received again this year for the annual Hinkley Point A Site Christmas Card competition. Six independent judges, including some members of the SSG, were given the difficult task of choosing the winning designs in each category but eventually made their choices.

All entrants received a small gift, and winners in each of the three categories were awarded book tokens and a goodie bag. Their respective schools won a cash prize to spend on books, computer software or electrical equipment. All three winning designs were used to produce the official Site's Christmas cards for 2006.

Organisers of the Hinkley Point Fun Run visited Knowle House, headquarters of BIBIC (British Institute of Brain Injured Children), to present a cheque for £3,802.71. The money was raised through sponsorship of the run and a charity raffle held in the evening.

A number of decommissioning presentations have been given to local community groups in the past few months. Groups visited include Moorland Women's Institute and Friends of Ruishton.

We also welcomed a group from the Institute of Engineering and Technology to site in October.

We have continued to work with our 13 partnership schools by delivering educational workshops. Members of the communications team also accompanied Otterhampton primary school students on a science visit to @Bristol.

Members of the communications team recently attended a careers evening at Bridgwater College. Information about the decommissioning process and the current projects being undertaken was available and we were able to highlight future career opportunities at the site.

### Sponsorship

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

Cannington Pre-School  
Bridgwater Amateur Operatic Society  
East Bridgwater School  
St Peter's First School  
Rowbarton Charity Football Cup  
Kilve News  
Stogursey Parish Council  
Bridgwater Netball Club

Robert Blake Science College  
Staplegrove Primary School  
Combwich Church Restoration Fund  
Saxon Green Playgroup  
Somerset Youth & Community Sailing Association  
Wembdon Football Club  
Stockland Gatepost Newsletter.