

## HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

### Minutes of the meeting held at Hinkley Point Training and Induction Centre 13 October 2006

#### Present

Cllr M Short (Chairman)	-	Fiddington Parish Council
Mr L Francis	-	Station Director, Hinkley Point B
Mr M Lesinski	-	Site Director, Hinkley Point A
Mr A Smart	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Cllr V Brewer	-	West Somerset District Council
Cllr M Brown	-	Otterhampton Parish Council
Cllr M Caswell (Vice Chair)	-	Stockland Bristol Parish Meeting
Mr G Hudd	-	Somerset County Council
Cllr J Edney	-	Somerset County Council
Ms N Dawson	-	Somerset County Council, Civil Contingency
Mr D Withey	-	Environment Agency
Mr G Roberts	-	Environment Agency
Mr S Kingham	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Mr P Smith	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Mr P Ford	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Mr A Dugdale	-	Food Standard Agency
Cllr A Foxhuntley	-	West Somerset District Council
Cllr D McGinty	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Mr K Rickard	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr A Trollope-Bellew	-	Somerset County Council
Cllr T Williams	-	Kilve Parish Council
Mr A Debenham	-	Stop Hinkley
Cllr D Yamanaka	-	North Somerset Council
Mr C Lugton	-	Somerset Health Protection Unit
Mr C Knox	-	National Farmers Union
Mrs H Barrow	-	NDA Contract Manager
Cllr T Ayre	-	West Somerset District Council
Ms S Wilson	-	West Somerset District Council
Cllr K Dyer	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Mr M Haslett		

#### British Energy

Mr D Stokes	-	Human Resources
Mr M Poole	-	Site Inspector
Mr P Higginson	-	Technical & Safety Manager

#### British Nuclear Group

Mr T Jones	-	Senior Communications Manager
Mrs S Stewart (Secretary)	-	Communication Officer
Mr D Williams	-	Project Lead – Site End States

#### In Attendance

Mr A Gandhi	-	British Nuclear Group
Mrs P Wride	-	SSG Chair for Berkeley
Mr S Payne	-	Communication Officer, Berkeley
Mrs J Hellier	-	British Nuclear Group
Mrs M Poole	-	British Nuclear Group

## **1. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

There were no members of the public attending this meeting.

## **2. CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Members attending the SSG for the first time were, Mr A Smart, NDA - Helen Barrow, NDA - Mr P Ford, NII - Mr A Debenham, Stop Hinkley - Mr K Rickards, Sedgemoor District Council - Cllr D McGinty, Sedgemoor District Council - Ms N Dawson, Civil Contingency Unit - Doug Withey, Environment Agency - Mr C Lugton, Somerset Health Protection.

Apologies for absence were received from: Mr R Prowse, Mr B Slade, Mr T Howes, Mr C Webb, Dr Kumaran, Mr D Morgan, Mr D Theobald, Mr D Busby, Mr C Thomson, Mr D Prescott, Cllr P Driver, Cllr D Joslin, Cllr L Cartwright, Cllr B Child.

## **3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2006**

### **a) Accuracy**

The minutes of the meeting of this council held on 10 March 2006 were approved as a correct record with the exception of the following item:

The attendance list showed Mr D Morgan as Nuclear Installations Inspectorate when it should have read British Nuclear Group - Site Inspector.

### **b) Matters Arising from Minutes of the meeting on 10 March 2006:**

#### **Item 5 – Temporary Storage of Spoil from Radioactive Waste Store construction:**

More details in the A Site Report

#### **Item 6 – Distribution of Potassium Iodate tablets in Stockland Bristol:**

This action was placed on Mr D Talbot, who has now moved on. Les Francis asked that this action be transferred to Mr P Higginson. The item will be discussed under the report from the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee.

#### **Item 7 – Monitoring of radiation levels on Kilve Beach:**

The Environment Agency will cover this in their report later.

#### **Item 8 – End Dates and End States for A Site decommissioning:**

Andrew Smart will cover in his presentation from the NDA.

#### **Item 9 – Induction Training for SSG members**

At the last meeting, the chairman had asked if members would find an induction training session useful and received a positive response, however both the course in July and the course in August had disappointing attendance with a total of eleven members taking part. It was a very useful exercise but before holding further sessions the chairman wanted to be sure that attendance would improve. The chairman asked for feedback from people that had attended either of the sessions. Mr Hudd said that he recommended that everyone should attend the course, Ms Dawson said that she found the course very useful as a new member, and Cllr Brown found the course useful but understood the 2<sup>nd</sup> session had improved on the 1<sup>st</sup> session, which he attended. He would like to attend the course again now that it had been fine tuned.

The chairman asked for a show of hands from people that would like to attend in the future. 10 people indicated that they would be interested but the session would need to be outside the holiday season. It was agreed that another course would be arranged after the B Station outage had finished, possibly in January. The length of the course was discussed and it was agreed that a full day was needed for the session as it took time to do the tours and cover the subjects properly.

Cllr Brewer said that he would have been interested in the induction session but that after 30 years of being a member of the group, he is due to retire in May and will not be attending meetings in the future. The chairman thanked Cllr Brewer for all his efforts and support over the years.

#### **Item 10 – Further representation of groups on the SSG**

The chairman and the secretary had identified an area on the map in a circle out from East Quantoxhead and invited all parishes and the Bridgwater Town Council to join the SSG. There has been no response to date. The membership list is not closed and other groups can still join the SSG in the future.

#### **Item 13 (vii) – Remediation of diesel fuel contaminated land.**

Mr Lesinski explained that bore hole drilling had taken place on A site and a small plume of diesel oil had been found from about 20 years ago. Project staff are currently tracking this through drilled bore holes on A and B sites to see if its moving. At the moment it seems to be staying in one place, any loose oil can be dipped out but most of it will be remediated by breaking down in the soil.

#### **Item 27 – Long term trends of environmental monitoring.**

Cllr Williams had suggested that it would be helpful to have some long term trends to relate recent monitoring to historical monitoring which goes back to the days before the stations were built. Mr Higginson will mention this in his report of the EPCC. Mrs G Brown, Deputy EHS&Q Manger at the A site has also agreed to assist with information. Mr Dugdale will explain more in his report from the Food Standard Agency.

#### **Item 30 – B Station Discharge Authorisations –**

This item will be covered in the Environment Agency Report.

#### **Item 34 – 40 – Low Level Waste Consultation.**

A number of workshops have taken place to date. Mr Lesinski will cover in the A Site presentation.

### **4. SITE DIRECTORS REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A SITE**

Mr Lesinski explained that his title had recently changed to ‘Site Director’. He reported on activities at the site since the previous meeting and drew particular attention to the following:

- i) The site has been awarded their 10<sup>th</sup> Gold Award from RoSPA which gave them the important ‘Presidents Award’.
- ii) Just achieved a million man hours and over one year since the last lost time accident.
- iii) No Environmental Breaches.

iv) Events – The first one was a paperwork issue when a signature wasn't added to the Decommissioning Project Approval Form (DPAF) before work took place. This has been taken seriously and a number of changes have been made to ensure the site does everything possible to ensure this doesn't happen again.

The second event mentioned in the report was a drain back up in the unoccupied Wash Down Bay. The drain was fed by a shower room in the reactor controlled area and the accumulation of water resulted in an overflow which subsequently seeped through a concrete block wall. Because the area was no longer used, the seepage wasn't noticed straight away. Lessons have been learnt from this event and unoccupied areas will now be added to housekeeping rounds. Mr Lesinski confirmed that the 10 litres of water which seeped through the wall was above background levels but contained very low activity.

v) The site now has a high number of contractors employed with around 70% of the £50 - 65 million spend being on supply chain.

vi) The site is trying to minimise waste by ensuring all unnecessary packaging is removed before going into the reactor controlled area. The storage capacity for low level waste at the waste disposal facility near Drigg, in Cumbria, will not take all the radioactive waste in the Country. Hinkley A has begun a consultation process locally and has already held two meetings. The feedback from the last meeting showed that the preferred option for dealing with the Hinkley waste would be to store it in containers at the site.

vii) A business case is being prepared to enable the care & maintenance phase to be reached earlier than current plans expect. Part of the plan involves smelting trials being undertaken in three countries to test the feasibility of using this method to deal with some of the waste in the future to enable the decommissioning process to be speeded up.

viii) Community Relations – lots of work is currently being undertaken in the area of education, with partnership schools. The site supported Dunster Show earlier in August. BIBIC is the chosen charity of the year and the site will be supporting this through the annual Christmas Card competition which has just been launched.

ix) Mr Lesinski showed a number of photo's covering the ongoing projects on site and discussed the fact that a lot of the scrap material was being re-cycled including one of the generator units which will be used for training purposes. He also talked in more detail about the smelting project to deal with waste.

x) Regarding the sale of British Nuclear Group, some parts of the company will be sold off earlier than the Reactor Sites Group which includes Hinkley. Even when the Reactor Sites Group is sold off, this will only affect a small group of management staff. A majority of the staff are assets of the Site License Company (SLC) and would not be sold with the parent company. The SLC will still be in place and the Magnox staff on site will continue to work for the SLC. The NDA will still own the liabilities of the sites.

xi) The Reactor Sites group is currently developing a northern and a southern bundle so that when it comes to competing the management of the sites, two separate competitions and contracts will be let. The southern bundle will include Hinkley, Berkeley, Bradwell, Sizewell and Dungeness. Re-licensing of the sites and authorisations are things that are being carefully progressed.

xii) The site has brought in a number of new staff from other countries with experience in decommissioning. Three new apprentices and a number of graduates have been taken on

recently to ensure that the site has a skilled work-force in the future and a number of initiatives are being introduced through Bridgwater College to develop a skills council.

Questions relating to the A Site report:

Following a question from Cllr McGinty, about capacity limitation at Drigg, Mr Lesinski confirmed that other sites would be doing similar studies to find the best way to deal with waste at each site. On site disposal may not be the best option for all sites

Mr Edney asked if it would be possible to produce a 'Family Tree' of the different companies that have owned or operated the sites since the stations were commissioned.

Mr Debenham asked about the details of the planning permission for the ILW store and questioned why the NII hadn't produced a report relating to the store. Mr Ford explained that the NII didn't need to formerly issue a report but that letters had been exchanged. The NII will inspect the building before it becomes operational. It was confirmed that planning permission was issued by Somerset County Council rather than West Somerset and that assurances were given at the time that the store would only be used for Hinkley's waste. The store size was based on that information.

## **5. STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT - HINKLEY POINT B POWER STATION**

Mr Francis apologised for the lateness in sending out the B Station written report and drew attention to the following:

- i) The B Station had an extremely good industrial, environmental and nuclear safety record. In terms of industrial safety, the station had gone over three years without a contractors lost time accident (LTA).
- ii) The station received the Gold Medal Award from RoSPA this year.
- iii) The station had produced over 4 TWhrs of electricity.
- iv) Over 150 days since any environmental events had occurred.
- v) The station is now on day 12 of a 64 day statutory outage which has resulted in approximately 500 more people on the site.
- vi) Mr Francis gave a more detailed report on some events that had occurred since the last meeting. Full details of all these events are in the B station written report.
- vii) Community Relations – School visits are now high on the agenda for the station. The level of knowledge of the students is remarkable. Sponsorship support has continued over the last six months. Groups that have benefited from donations are listed in the written report.
- viii) Staffing levels have increased and the station has taken on around 50 new staff in the last year. Around 80% of these have been recruited locally.
- ix) British Energy welcomed the findings of the Governments Energy Review in July and the findings of the Committee for Radioactive Waste Management (CoWRM) which support the development of a repository in the UK.

## Questions Relating to the B Station Report:

Mr Williams questioned the length of the outages compared to the early days of operation. Mr Francis confirmed that the outages are longer now and more inspections are undertaken. Last years shutdown was 75 days, this years is planned to be 64 days

Mr M Brown questioned what sort of the waste the CoWRM report referred to, Mr Smart confirmed that this repository, when built would store Intermediate Level Waste (ILW).

Mr Edney mentioned the amount of traffic going through the village of Cannington and asked that each Site Director remind their staff that it is a 30 mph speed limit in the village. Mr Francis and Mr Lesinski confirmed that they were also concerned about speeding traffic going to and from work and were trying to get the local police involved and possibly speed cameras installed along the road. A company called 'Speed Choice' would also be talking to staff on site.

Mr Debenham asked a number of questions relating to the B Station regarding the steam pipes and the cracks on the graphite blocks. The chairman pointed out that the NII's report included a lot of detail regarding this but also asked Mr Francis what impact it would have on the current outage. Mr Francis confirmed that 95% of the cast iron pipe-work used for cooling water had already been replaced and the rest would be replaced in the outage. The graphite blocks were discussed in detail at the last meeting and the situation has not changed but more inspections are being done on this outage than would have been done traditionally. The boiler tubes issue that had recently been reported in the press were relating to the Hunterston Station in Scotland which is the same design as Hinkley B. Their outage started three months ago and they found that they needed to repair more boiler tubes than predicted. As a result, Hinkley B had made the decision to bring their outage forward to inspect the same tubes. Nothing has been found at Hinkley that wasn't predicted at this time.

## **6. REPORT FROM THE EMERGENCY PLANNING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

- i) Mr Higginson, reported on the latest EPCC meeting. He informed the membership that the A Site would have an NII witnessed exercise in November 2006 and the B Station would have one in January 2007.
- ii) The group had reviewed the activation of the emergency services arriving at site. Occasionally smoke alarms may go off or a member may have an injury which requires a blue light.
- iii) The offsite emergency plan is being led by Somerset County Council and a working party will be established to assist the emergency planning officer to progress any revisions necessary.
- iv) The arrangements for the distribution of potassium iodate tablets within the detailed planning zone (DPZ) was discussed. Mr Higginson confirmed that Stockland Bristol falls outside the DPZ but that he would be happy to attend a meeting of Stockland Bristol parish to do a presentation and discuss the issues there. Mr Caswell gave Mr Higginson a map showing which houses in Stockland receive tablets at the moment. It seems to be quite random. Mr Caswell felt that people would be upset if the tablets were taken away but that the problem needs to be resolved in some way.

v) The chairman asked how the EPCC was made up. Mr Higginson explained that the committee was set up to report back to the former LCLC and consisted of staff from British Energy & British Nuclear Group, Emergency Services, Primary Care Trust, Somerset County Council, Sedgemoor District Council, the Environment Agency and the NII.

vi) Mr Williams asked how the potassium iodate tablets would be distributed in an emergency. Mr Higginson confirmed it would be a joint effort between the B Station, the Police and the Primary Care Trust. Mr Higginson explained that now that the A site is no longer generating, the DPZ (detailed planning zone) could actually be reduced to closer to the station. A number of questions arose regarding this subject. It was explained that in an emergency, tablets could be issued outside of the DPZ and people could be evacuated to a reception centre. For instance householders in Kilve would probably go to Kilve Court. It was identified that there were still some issues regarding how evacuation might be organised i.e. transport issues. It was agreed that Ms Dawson, Civil Contingency Unit, would get a sub group together to look at some of these issues.

## **7. REPORT FROM THE FOOD STANDARD AGENCY**

i) Mr Dugdale gave a presentation on the Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) report, which is a report compiled between the Food Standards Agency, the Environment Agency, the Scottish Environmental Protections Agency and the Environment & Heritage service of Northern Ireland. Mr Dugdale told members that the RIFE Report 11 would be available later in the month.

ii) Mr Dugdale explained that milk samples were taken from local farms on a weekly basis and bulked into quarterly samples which provided a total of 96 analyses. Dose assessments of people living in the area were calculated based on the results. The agency's assessment of the radiation doses which might be received by members of the public in the vicinity of Hinkley Point equated to 0.01  $\mu\text{Sv}$  for the year. The limit for the public is 1,000  $\mu\text{Sv}$  per year. This meant that people would need to drink 862,000 litres of milk to reach the annual limits. Mr Dugdale also gave comparisons of the average dose from an X-ray or a return flight to Sydney. Mr Dugdale explained that the figures above were only for the milk samples. By also taking food samples into the equations the figure would rise to 5  $\mu\text{Sv}$  per year. This was compared to the local fishing community where the figure could rise to 18  $\mu\text{Sv}$  per year.

iii) Questions were asked about the samples taken by independent groups compared to Hinkley Points own monitoring staff. It was confirmed that Hinkley's own monitoring results were well correlated with the FSA's results. Somerset County Council no longer do monitoring around the site but their results were also comparable with the sites when they had done them in the past.

iv) Mr Hudd asked a question about the tritium levels in the aquatic samples. It was unclear from the handout whether the non-organic measurement was actually 10 or 330. Mr Dugdale said he would take an action away with him to clarify this.

## **8. REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

i) Mr Roberts explained that the Environment Agency group had now split into two separate teams. Mr Roberts is in the Defence and Commercial team. He is the lead regulator for the B Station and is based at the Bridgwater Office. Mr Withey has recently taken over

from Mr Koshti as lead regulator for the A Site. He is a member of the Decommissioning Team and is based at the Cardiff office.

ii) At Hinkley Point A Site, the EA has issued variations to allow two new routes for disposal of waste. The first one increases the amount of waste that can be transferred to the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) near Drigg in Cumbria and also allows waste to be transferred to Winfrith in Dorset for processing before transfer to the LLWR. The second allows the transfer of some wastes to an incinerator at Hythe in Hampshire.

iii) The EA had issued a warning letter to Hinkley A for the failure of gas sampling equipment and are closely monitoring the progress of improvements.

iv) The EA confirmed that they had extended their monitoring programme around the sites including Kilve beach. No increase in radioactivity had been detected. Mr Williams asked if the EA intended to issue a press release to this effect to counteract previous reports. Mr Roberts confirmed that the monitoring results would be included in the RIFE report. Mr Williams said that he would consider issuing a press release when the report was published.

v) Mr Roberts informed the group, of the review of British Energy authorisations. The EA had conducted a public consultation on the proposed authorisations of all the BE sites. The general level of interest was low, although the highest level of interest for any location was in the area around Hinkley Point B.

vi) The EA continue to monitor a number of initiatives at B Station that should improve their environmental performance.

vii) The EA had issued a warning letter to B Station relating to some minor pollution of the beach following a spill of some diesel from a fuel line into a concrete trench.

Mr Debenham asked about the comparison of samples taken by the Environment Agency compared to the Food Standards Agency. Mr Roberts explained that the Food Standards Agency monitored the food around the area whereas the Environment Agency took environmental samples i.e.: dose rates, silt samples etc. The two programmes complement each other and are also checked against the stations own monitoring results.

Mr Brown asked about the change in authorisations to allow waste to be transferred to Winfrith for processing. He asked if Winfrith had traditionally received waste. Mr Roberts explained that waste had been taken for compacting in the past. This variation would allow other treatments such as drying waste. Mr Roberts believes we need to use the safest options for disposal.

## **9. NII REPORTS – MATTERS ARISING**

i) The chairman wanted to know about the two incidents the NII had referred to in their Apr –Jun report. It was confirmed that the incidents had been covered in the A site written report. There was also an incident relating to a battery explosion on a fork lift truck back in March. A full investigation had taken place relating to the incident and a number of actions had been initiated

ii) The chairman asked the NII to try not to use so many acronyms in the reports, as members of the group sometimes had difficulty understanding some of the terms.

iii) The chairman asked if the NII had asked for any additional work to be done as part of the B Station outage? It was explained that British Energy had put a 'Safety Case' together which was then scrutinised by the NII. The NII had looked at the process for the inspection of the boiler tubes on the 12<sup>th</sup> October. Mr Francis explained that the NII hadn't specified how many extra channels should be inspected. British Energy had decided to do extra inspections and the NII were in agreement. There is constant dialogue between both parties throughout the process.

iv) Mr Debenham referred to the cracking in the graphite and asked how the station assesses whether it's safe to continue operating. The NII explained that the phenomena of cracking of the graphite was predicted from the outset. The main issue is that it continues to be monitored. It is important that in an emergency the reactor can be shut down and that the cracking doesn't affect the coolant flow.

v) The NII informed the members that it had recently had concerns about the emergency services being able to access the sites due to the number of heavy goods vehicles queuing outside the gate. Mr Francis acknowledged the fact that this was an issue for the B Station to deal with as the monitoring of vehicles to site was a B Station security issue.

#### **10-11. NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY (NDA) PRESENTATION & END USE CONSULTATION PROCESS.**

i) Mr Smart, Hinkley Point A Site Programme Manager, introduced Mrs Barrow, Hinkley Point A Site Contracts Officer, and explained about the changes at the NDA since the last meeting. He explained that the NDA was a public body and would be monitoring the work done at the site for some time to come. He gave a presentation to the group covering the following topics:

ii) Socio-economic - The NDA have just issued their Draft socio-economic policy for consultation. The socio-economic policy would look at the impact of decommissioning on the local community and offer support to activities that benefit the social or economic life of the local community. He explained that the NDA would support and partner established socio-economic bodies. As the Operator of the site, British Nuclear Group has to produce a socio-economic plan each year. Mr Smart said that the SSG should contribute to the sites annual plan and be a key consultee on submissions for NDA direct funding.

iii) Site End States – The NDA's objectives are to determine an 'End State' for each of NDA's 20 sites, that satisfies the desires of the community (stakeholders), is technically and commercially feasible and is aligned with the national perspective. Mr Smart introduced Mr D Williams to the group, he will be the project leader for determining the Site End State at Hinkley Point A. A consultation process is underway at the moment and the SSG Chair will be reporting back to the NDA by March 2007 on the local community's preferred uses for the site.

iv) Mr Smart talked about a number of innovations that are being worked on by Magnox on behalf of the NDA, many of which support the business case to accelerate the decommissioning of the Magnox stations. The main challenges for accelerating the work are the availability of ILW (Intermediate Level Waste) and LLW (Low Level Waste) waste routes and cash flow versus socio economic and intergenerational equity issues.

Questions & Answers relating to NDA presentation & End Use consultation process.

Mr Debenham asked how the work would be funded? Mr Smart explained that the NDA owns the decommissioning assets and the money would come from the DTI – taxpayers money. This is the reason we need to look at ways of saving money wherever possible.

Mr Debenham asked what the savings would be? Mr Smart said that the estimate for decommissioning all the nuclear site is around £75 billion at the moment but we could see these figures rise by 2008. the NDA will then try to cut the amount by 10% within 2-3 years.

Mr Debenham suggested that if the end use of the site was used for residential it could bring in a significant revenue. Mr Smart agreed that this would be true but it could take a lot more money to return the site to green field.

Mr Edney asked if there would be a geographical line drawn to identify where community projects would be supported? Mr Smart said that it had not been decided but the area would probably stretch as far as Taunton.

Mr Rickards commented that he had found the information from the NDA presentation very informative and felt that Sedgemoor, West Somerset and the SSG needed to be in a position to do as much as possible for the local communities.

Mr T Williams wanted to clarify that the NDA presentation and the decommissioning activities identified as being paid for by the tax payer were only relating to the A Site. British Energy are putting funds aside during their operation to pay for the decommissioning of their sites.

The chairman pointed out to the other SSG members that as democratically elected councillors, the information about the end uses of the site needs to be fed back to the NDA. He has already spoken to his parish and hopes that other SSG members have done the same. He emphasised the fact that we need to feedback to the NDA before the next SSG meeting in March 2007.

Mr D Williams said that we needed to get the consultation completed by the end of the year and suggested that the SSG set up a sub-group to look at all the options. It was agreed that anyone wishing to join the group should make themselves known to the secretary at the end of the meeting.

Mr Smart said that although on site disposal of waste would have an effect on the end state, this should not be considered when completing the survey. Stakeholder views would be considered above waste issues.

## **12. COMMUNICATIONS WITH A & B SITES**

The above point has arisen because of a letter that appeared in the local press suggesting that an emergency shutdown at B Station had occurred because of the deterioration of the graphite blocks. On investigation, the chairman found that the information had been printed based on the knowledge of one of the SSG members. When asked why they hadn't checked with the station, they said they couldn't get any information from the site so had put out a letter based on their groups knowledge. The chairman wanted to ensure that members of the SSG had a route to follow for information relating to the two sites. Mr Lesinski stated that the primary contact for information relating to the A Site would be Sharon Stewart, Communication Officer Tel. 01278 654283. Mr Francis said that the contact for B Station would be their Press Officer, Martin Pearce, Tel. 01452 652233.

### **13. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN & VICE-CHAIRMAN**

The chairman handed over to the vice chairman so that the election could take place. At this point, Mr Rickards asked who in the group had voting rights. The vice chairman said it was thought that elected members had voting rights but appointed members did not. I.e.: Someone from British Energy, British Nuclear Group or the NDA would not have voting rights.

Mr Rickards said that he had been advised by a solicitor that based on the Standards Board of England it was not advised that an ex-employee of the company should hold the position of Chairman. Therefore Mr Short should not stand for election. The vice chair said that the NDA had advised that if a person had left the company for more than five years they did not see a problem with an ex-employee holding the position of chairman and in fact felt it was a positive advantage.

Mr Francis pointed out that the SSG was not a council group but that representatives from Stop Hinkley, Parents Concerned About Hinkley, and other community groups were also represented and had voting rights. The group did not come under the Standards Board of England rules.

Mr Smart said he would take the points made at this meeting back to the NDA Stakeholder Manager, Richard Griffin, and seek clarification.

Mr Hudd said that as an officer from Somerset County Council he would not expect to have voting rights.

Mr Rickards requested a named vote.

The vice-chair asked how many nominations we had received for the position of Chair. There had been three nominations for Mr Short which were submitted in writing before the closing date of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October and a late nomination at the start of the meeting for Cllr McGinty.

Mr Edney asked that Cllr McGinty withdraw from the room while the voting took place if he wished to stand for the position of Chairman.

Mr Brewer stated that he was surprised to hear of these issues from Sedgemoor Council at this lateness and felt he would like to defer the item of electing the chairman until the group could seek legal clarification.

Mr Francis pointed out that the group works to the SSG constitution and should go ahead with the election. Clarification could still be sought in the future.

It then transpired that Cllr Joslin had not attended today's meeting as it had been pointed out to him that he had a conflict of interest because he was involved in planning issues in Sedgemoor. Mr Brewer then stated that as he was involved in planning issues in West Somerset he felt he should also withdraw from the meeting, under protest.

Mr Edney stated that in light of the things being discussed he felt it could also effect his involvement in the group.

Mr Francis stated that Mr Short had declared his position with the company when he was elected last year and that everyone voted him in as Chairman knowing he had worked for the company in the past.

Mrs Wride, SSG Chair for Berkeley Site, said that she felt this was a discussion for the National SSG Conference in Birmingham in November. She felt this would have an impact on other SSG's around the country and that the SSG's could implode. She could also be seen to have a conflict of interest in her position if we went by the rules of the Standards Board of England.

The Vice Chair left the room at this stage to speak to both candidates. On his return he confirmed that they had both agreed that the best course of action would be to defer the election until clarification at next months national meeting. A Special General Meeting would then be called to formally elect a chairman.

Mr Edney stated that this idea should be formally proposed and seconded and the group should vote on this proposal. Mr Edney proposed the suggestion, Mr Williams seconded it and the majority of the group voted for the election to be deferred. Only one member voted against the idea.

Mr Debenham asked that each candidate prepare a brief summary stating why the group should vote for them.

Mr Short took the chair again for the rest of the meeting. When it came to voting for the position of vice-chairman, the secretary had received three nominations for Mr Caswell before the closing date of 9<sup>th</sup> October, a late nomination had been received prior to the start of the meeting for Cllr Lawrence. It transpired that Cllr Lawrence is not a member of the SSG and the group again decided to defer the election until more clarity could be sought.

Mr Edney pointed out that nominations should have been submitted by 9<sup>th</sup> October and that late entries should not have been accepted. He also thanked the secretary and the communications team for the work they do to support the SSG.

#### **14. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

The chair was asked by Mrs J Brown, PCAH (Parents Concerned About Hinkley), to read out a letter that she had sent in. Mrs Brown states in the letter that PCAH have held a special meeting to discuss their attendance at the SSG. Due to work commitments etc, none of the other members of PCAH can attend the meetings in the daytime. They have therefore asked that the next meeting be held in an evening at Burnham on Sea to enable the public to ask questions about developments at both sites.

The chair asked the group what they felt about the suggestion. Mr Smart said that his personal views were that a mixture of locations and times should be used for the meeting, this was also stated in the constitution. Mr Edney pointed out that if today's meeting had started later in the day, for example 4.30 pm, it would now be past 11 pm. Mrs Wride made the point that Berkeley SSG meetings were sometimes held in the evening. They had to keep to a strict time table and limit the debate. The chair said we could possibly have one meeting a year where the reporting was covered, Food Standards Agency etc. This could be held at the site in the daytime and the other meeting could be held in the evening, away from the site and include more of a public debate. Mr Caswell pointed out that we had already discussed this subject at past meetings and a democratic decision had been made to keep the meetings at the site and in the day time. The group were asked for a show of hands again to

end the debate. A majority of the group voted to keep the meeting at the site during the day time.

Mr Debenham said that he would have difficulty getting to the meeting for 10 am and asked if the meeting could begin at 10.30. The majority of the group said we should begin the meeting at 10 am as usual.

#### **15. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of this group would be held at the Hinkley Point Training & Induction Centre on Friday 16 March 2007 at 10 am.