

Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group Meeting

Friday 22 February 2008

Hinkley Point A Site Director's Report for the period

6 October 2007 – 31 January 2008

1. Decommissioning Hinkley Point A

Since the removal of the station transformers, asbestos insulation board fire protection has been exposed to the elements. It is still in good condition but a proactive decision has been taken to remove the material before it becomes damaged and presents a hazard to the site. This is active hazard reduction and should be complete by the end of March.

Because of age related degradation of the pipe bridges and their supporting structures it has been decided that the de-plant and demolition of these bridges will be brought forward. This decision has been made on safety grounds and as learning from what has happened at other sites. Doosan Babcock have been contracted to carry out the work and both pipe bridges are scheduled to be removed by the end of April 2008.

As previously reported, spoil excavated from the radioactive waste storage building site has been temporarily stored in an engineered stockpile on C Station land. Due to the imminent expiry of a lease agreement with British Energy relating to the storage of this spoil, we are making arrangements to transfer and deposit the spoil into the turbine hall basement and cooling water fore-bay area. This is the best environmental option for dealing with the spoil and has been agreed with the Environment Agency. The work involves the transportation of approximately 50,000m³. Work is due to commence towards the end of March and will take approximately 12 weeks.

The Electrical Overlay System (EOS) project continues to transfer supplies from the old electrical system to the new one. The following switchboards have recently been connected to the new system:

R1 Lighting Switchboard

R1 & R2 Pile Cap Auxiliary Switchboards

Command Centre Switchboard.

Delivery and erection of the new site accommodation building is now complete which despite inclement weather went very well and to programme. The internal electrical and mechanical installation work is now 70% complete and the suspended ceilings are 25% complete. External ground works for installation of foul drain, electrical and C&I systems are also progressing to plan.

Submission of the planning application for a Low Level Waste On Site Disposal facility at Hinkley Point A Site is still on hold while issues associated with the project are considered and other public consultations are completed or deemed not likely to cause confusion. As part of the decommissioning plan development (LTP 08) process, a review of the feasibility of on site disposal facilities at other sites will be conducted and progressed during 2008. It is still intended that a local exhibition be held prior to submission of the planning application for Hinkley to help keep the local community fully informed.

As a follow up to the successful skip trial that was performed in 2006, a route to ship contaminated pond skips for recycling was established in 2007. Prior to additional shipments being made, a BPEO (Best Practical Environmental Option) justification report was prepared. The BPEO report concluded that the metal melt strategy adopted by the site was consistent with the site's integrated waste strategy.

Towards the end of 2007, two shipments of contaminated metals were sent to EnergySolutions Bear Creek Tennessee, USA Facility. Each shipment comprised of two half height ISO containers containing contaminated pond skips for recycling. A total of 352 skips were included in these shipments. Two of the containers were melted in EnergySolutions November melt campaign. The remaining two containers were placed into licensed storage at the Bear Creek facility and are scheduled to be melted during 2008. The recycled metal will only be used within the nuclear industry.

During the third week of November 2007, the Skip Decontamination Project achieved a key milestone when the 500th skip was processed for disposal. The team is particularly proud of the fact that since the project began in July 2005, they have had no radiological or contamination events.

As previously reported, the Aqueous Decontamination Facility (ADF) was fully commissioned in early September. The facility has now been used to process 300 skips from the R2 Cooling Pond with all skips successfully processed down from intermediate level waste to low level waste status.

A small number of skips have recently been removed from the R1 Pond in order to examine the challenges that these skips may present. These skips are of a slightly different radiological nature than those from either the R2 Pond or the Skip Store. The results of the R1 Pond skip trials are currently under review.

SILWM (Solid Intermediate Level Waste Management). – Trials to test the viability of removing waste from the dry vault with the hydraulic crane arm grab are progressing and valuable information is being gained.

The initial technology screening process for solid waste management has been completed and the final solution optioneering process is in progress. The waste characterisation programme which is required to underpin the optioneering is also progressing well. Sampling has commenced and a related key performance based incentive (PBI) has been achieved.

WILWM (Wet Intermediate Level Waste Management). - As part of the ongoing decommissioning activities, Wet ILW retrieval continues on programme. The Wet ILW project team is responsible for retrieving these mobile radioactive wastes (sands, resins, sludges) in preparation for processing and packaging, to make them passively safe for interim storage within the ILW store.

As previously reported, an opportunity to significantly reduce the volume of stored waste and improve its long term stability has been identified. The process of identification and basis for the opportunity has been independently reviewed. Stakeholder advice on the range of solutions capable of delivering the opportunity will be sought in preparation for company decision making on the way forward.

2. General

The site has been successfully audited for its compliance in internationally recognised standards ISO 9001, 14001 and OHSAS 18001. ISO 9001 covers an organisations quality management systems, ISO 14001 specifies the requirements for an organisations environmental management systems and OHSAS 18001 clarifies the requirements for Occupational Health and Safety systems.

As part of European Safety Week, the safety department held an exhibition at Cannington College's Priory Barn. Site personnel and stakeholders attended the exhibition which featured asbestos identification, ergonomics, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), working at heights and musculoskeletal disorders.

The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) witnessed our annual Level One Emergency Exercise on 7 November. The successfully demonstrated exercise was held during the morning and included a full muster of A Site and B Station personnel.

A new training facility was officially opened by Ken Powers, Managing Director of Magnox South, in November 2007. The Deplanting Mock-up Simulator (DMS) is a scenario based facility for training technicians throughout Magnox South. It contains full scale replicas of common engineering spaces that will have to be de-activated and de-planted as part of the decommissioning process. The simulator, located at the east end of the de-planted turbine hall, will provide the typical work area challenges of noise, lighting, heat, cold, live tools and the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

One of our second year apprentices, Chloe Bridges, was named runner up in the annual South West EEF (Engineering Employers Federation) Apprentice of the Year Award. Chloe combines working at the site with studying the National Certificate in engineering manufacturing. She was named joint runner up in the First Year Apprentices category during a ceremony at the Winter Gardens in Weston.

The site has now gone 221 days without a Lost Time Accident (LTA).

3. Company matters

A licensed instrument to start shadow working was issued by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) in November 2007.

Shadow Working is the period where we need to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Regulators that the arrangements which will be in place following legal separation will meet their requirements. As far as possible, Magnox North and Magnox South will be operating as independent companies but Magnox Electric Ltd remains legal licensee and will retain overall governance prior to legal separation. Magnox North and Magnox South will not be in competition with each other. We have a memorandum of understanding which makes it clear that we will continue to co-operate and share information.

On 23 January 2008, Bob Copp took over the role of Site Director for Hinkley Point A Site. Bob joins the site after serving as Deputy Site Director and Site Director at Dungeness A Site between April 2006 and October 2007. Bob, who comes to the UK from the State of Idaho in the United States, has over 40 years of commercial and government nuclear experience and has participated in several international assignments including the Ukraine, Japan, and Korea. Mark Lesinski has now taken up the role of Magnox South Chief Nuclear Operating Officer.

4. NDA News

The NDA has published its Socio-Economic Policy following approval by BERR (Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Forum) and Scottish Ministers. The policy sets out how the NDA intends to support the development of healthy, diversified local economies as activities on its sites come to an end. Copies of the report can be downloaded from the NDA website www.nda.gov.uk. Copies of the report will also be available at the SSG meeting.

The fifth meeting of the National Stakeholder Group took place in Gateshead on 22-23 November 2007 and was attended by over 100 stakeholders. The meeting report can be downloaded from the NDA website along with a video of the meeting.

The NDA has welcomed the launch of the National Skills Academy for Nuclear (NSAN). It says the NSAN will play a crucial role in developing the skills and workforce required for the NDA to fulfil its mission to decommission and clean-up the existing UK nuclear legacy.

The NSAN was launched by Skills Minister David Lammy and Energy Minister Malcolm Wicks on the 31st January 2008. The NDA is a Board member of the NSAN.

The Government's announcement on a new programme of nuclear power stations raises some important questions for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. The NDA owns 11 nuclear power station sites of which two, Wylfa in Anglesey and Oldbury in Gloucestershire, are still operating.

The NDA's primary function is to safely and cost-effectively oversee the decommissioning and clean-up of all the sites under its ownership, as well as to deal effectively with large stocks of nuclear materials and wastes.

The NDA also has a responsibility to maximise the commercial value of its assets on behalf of the UK taxpayer in order to offset the costs of the decommissioning programme. This could be through making land available to utilities and other organisations, or exploring the potential value of the stocks of nuclear materials in its possession.

They know from the extensive consultation they have conducted with local communities on their preferred end state for each of their sites that, for example, the communities around Sellafield and Wylfa have a considerable interest in maintaining economic prosperity through new nuclear build. They also know from contact with the energy industry that there is considerable interest in how the NDA's assets could play a role in a new build programme.

The Government has set out in the White Paper that it will be carrying out a Strategy Siting Assessment (SSA) to assess the suitability of sites for new nuclear build. This is expected to commence soon and will take around 18 months to complete. Without prejudging the outcome of the SSA, the NDA, in order to decide upon the strategy for future use of its sites and land around its sites, will in due course invite proposals which meet its strategic objectives and maximise value for money for the UK taxpayer. The NDA will be detailing its process and timescales on their website in the near future.

5. Community Relations

Nearly 70 people from a wide variety of organisations and businesses were given an update on Hinkley Point A Site's decommissioning progress when they attended a Business Breakfast at St Audries Park, West Quantoxhead on 30 November 2007. The event was part of the Site's

ongoing commitment to keep the local community informed about progress at the site, while also providing a platform for people to ask questions and seek more information.

Local Member of Parliament, Ian Liddell-Grainger, was the guest speaker at the event. He praised the decommissioning work being carried out at Hinkley Point A Site, especially the links that have been forged with Bridgwater College to develop nuclear decommissioning skills.

Mark Lesinski gave an overview of the decommissioning and clean up work at the site as well as a detailed account of recent organisational changes and some new innovative ways of dealing with waste.

Christmas around the World was the theme for this years Christmas card competition which attracted nearly 1,500 entries from schools across Somerset. Independent judges, including members of the SSG, were given the difficult task of choosing the winning designs in each category.

The three winning designs were used to produce Hinkley Point A Site's Christmas cards for 2007. All proceeds from the sale of the cards will be donated to Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, the site's chosen charity of the year.

A new safety initiative which combines the paperwork for Point of Work Safety Assessments, Behavioural Safety Observations and reportable accidents, incidents or near misses in an easy to use booklet, was introduced at the site towards the end of 2007. The new initiative will also benefit Penrose Special School in Bridgwater, as the site has pledged to give 50p for every form submitted to help the school to purchase new interactive touch screens.

The communications team has visited a number of our partnership primary schools since the last meeting Trull, Otterhampton, Eastover and St Josephs have all participated in our curriculum based workshops.

This years Christmas dinner raffle along with Christmas dinner ticket sales has raised more than £1,500 for Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. This will be presented to the charity in the near future along with the money raised from the sale of the Christmas cards.

The communications team are working with pupils from Blake Science College to produce their 2008 Year Book. In previous years the school has been sponsored by the site to pay for the printing of the book, however this year, staff are working with the pupils and helping them develop desktop publishing skills which could assist them when they leave school.

Sponsorship

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

Bridgwater Netball Club
Ups and Downs South West
Westover Little Stars Pre-School
Nether Stowey School Meal Service
Watchet Town Football Club

Stogursey Parish Council
Roadwater Cricket Club
Minehead First School
Home Start
Hocus Pocus Theatre Company.