



## Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group

### **Hinkley Point A Site Director's Report**

**1 February 2008 – 15 June 2008**

## **Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group Meeting**

**Friday 27 June 2008**

### **Hinkley Point A Site Director's Report for the period**

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#### **1. Decommissioning Hinkley Point A**

Work to remove the pipe bridges linking the reactor buildings to the turbine hall has now been completed. This project was originally planned for 2018 as part of the turbine hall de-plant but a decision was taken to bring the work forward due to the degradation of the plant. Around 350 tonnes of scrap metal was recovered for recycling.

The spoil which was excavated from the radioactive waste storage building site and temporarily stored in an engineered stockpile on C Station land has now been transferred into the turbine hall basement and cooling water fore-bay area. The work involved the transportation of approximately 50,000m<sup>3</sup> of spoil.

The official opening of the new site accommodation building took place on 10 April 2008. The building now houses over 100 people that were previously housed in the old management building and various cabins around the site. The move to the new building took place over one weekend and included the installation and setting up of every computer and phone line. The pilings, foundations, erection and fitting out of the building took a total of 22,000 physical man hours. During this time no accidents or reportable incidents occurred. The new building has been named 'Bay View'.

Work has commenced to prepare the old management building for handing back to British Energy upon the expiry of the lease agreement. This involves terminating services to the building and minor civil work.

The Electrical Overlay System (EOS) project continues to transfer supplies from the old electrical system to the new one. The Standby Essential Diesel Generator Switchboard 1 has recently been connected to the new system.

The 275kV Circuit Breaker Replacement project has carried out a technical optioneering study which recommends the preferred option of replacing the circuit breakers. A contract for the manufacture of the new equipment has now been placed.

SSG members will be aware that the feasibility of On Site Disposal of Low Level Waste has been explored by Magnox for sometime and resulted in the development of a planning application for Hinkley Point A Site. However, following the recent formation of a national low level waste disposal strategy group led by the NDA, it has been decided that the submission of a planning application for a low level waste disposal facility at the site be placed on hold. Deferral of the planning application will provide the opportunity to ensure a 'strategic fit' within the emerging national strategy for low level waste disposal and ensure best value to the UK tax payer.

During the first part of 2008, two shipments of contaminated metals were sent to EnergySolutions Bear Creek Facility. Each shipment comprised of two half height ISO containers containing contaminated pond skips for recycling. The two containers have been placed into licensed storage at the Bear Creek facility and are scheduled to be melted during this year. The recycled metal will only be used within the nuclear industry.

Three half height ISO containers have been sent to the Low Level Waste Repository near Drigg in Cumbria. A further two full height ISO containers containing drummed waste have been sent to Sellafield for drum super-compaction and 17m<sup>3</sup> LLW oil/sludge has been sent to Pyros, Hampshire for incineration.

The Aqueous Decontamination Facility (ADF) has now been used to process 575 skips from the R2 Cooling Pond and 30 from the R1 Cooling Pond, with all skips successfully processed down from Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) to Low Level Waste (LLW) status.

The 30 skips removed from the R1 Pond represent slightly less than 10% of the total and have been retrieved to examine the challenges expected from these skips. R1 Pond skips were known to be of a slightly different radiological nature than those from either the R2 Pond or the Skip Store. Although difficulties in reducing the R1 Pond skips from ILW to LLW presented an early challenge, the team have worked through the difficulties that these challenges presented and the effectiveness of the ADF process has been very encouraging with all 30 of the skips being successfully processed to LLW status.

SILWM (Solid Intermediate Level Waste Management) – A programme of characterisation is currently being planned to better understand some of the smaller solid ILW waste streams. This work will be completed later this year. There are also plans to develop a safety case to support opening of the dry vaults to develop improved data of the fuel element debris stored inside.

Work is continuing on developing the processing options for solid ILW following the initial technology screening. This will support the selection of the best option for processing later this year.

WILWM (Wet Intermediate Level Waste Management). - The Wet ILW retrieval continues on programme with ongoing retrieval of wet ILW wastes (sands, resins, sludges) in preparation for processing and packaging.

Following a strategic review of the optioneering undertaken for the processing of Wet ILW, it has been decided to progress with trials in both the preferred option, thermal vitrification, and the second placed option, drying. This is an opportunity that has been enabled by the introduction of the Mini Store concept which is also currently being investigated.

A project has recently been established to explore the possibility of using ILW Mini Stores as an alternative to the current baseline strategy for managing Intermediate Level Waste at Magnox South sites. Currently, Lifetime Plans identify the construction of a large concrete store at each site, with waste packaged in NIREX boxes. With ILW Mini Stores, waste is safely stored in robust, thick walled, self shielding cast iron containers. It is believed that this will offer more flexibility than the current strategy and could lead to accelerated hazard reduction at our sites. The project is currently working with regulators to establish the viability of the concept and the Site Stakeholder Group will be engaged as part of the process.

## **2. General**

On 14 April 2008, Bob Kury took over the role of Site Director for Hinkley Point A Site. Bob previously worked at the site as Assistant Site Manager in charge of the Ponds Decommissioning Team before moving to Sizewell A Site, where he took up the post of Deputy Site Manager tasked with overall preparation and implementation of the De-fuelling and Decommissioning phases after final shutdown. Bob was later appointed Site Director at Sizewell in January 2007.

Bob has spent several years working in the nuclear power industry as a health physicist involved in operations, outage and major modification projects of Boiling Water Reactors (BWR's). Between 2000 and 2005, he was a key member of the executive management team for the environmental clean-up of the DOE Rocky Flats Plutonium Processing Decommissioning Projects, responsible for the EHS&Q support functions.

Hinkley Point A Site has been awarded the RoSPA Presidents Award for Occupational Health and Safety for the third year running. The Presidents Award represents 10 consecutive years that the station has been granted a Gold Award by RoSPA.

The site has successfully completed our obligations as defined in the Nuclear Industry Security Regulations (NISR) 2003 technical requirements document, by demonstrating our counter terrorist arrangements in an OCNS witnessed exercise.

In an attempt to allow the sharing of knowledge across the Magnox South sites, a new initiative has been introduced which encourages staff to be seconded to other sites for short periods to join project teams and take their learning experiences back with them. As part of this initiative, Hinkley Point A Site welcomed 11 Sizewell employees and one Dungeness employee for a short secondment to join the Ponds Decommissioning Team here and become involved in the processing of pond skips. This skills development will allow them to go back and do similar work at Sizewell and Dungeness.

Earlier in the year, a team from the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) and the Environment Agency (EA) carried out an inspection at the site as part of their overall programme of assessing Magnox South's readiness for re-licensing. A number of specific inspection objectives were set including ascertaining site compliance in a number of key areas, examining the site's evidence of successful shadow working to date, reviewing organisational changes during shadow working and providing a reality check relating to some of the NII's corporate issues.

The inspection team acknowledged the site's thorough preparation and believed that it had made good progress so far. Despite the satisfactory inspection outcome, the site accepts that some work still needs to be done and it is committed to maintaining momentum based on the recognised good progress to date. Any learning opportunities for the site have been shared with the other Magnox South sites.

The site has now gone 358 days without a Lost Time Accident (LTA).

## **3. Company matters**

Magnox South published its second Achievements Brochure in early May. The brochure provides a taste of what has been achieved across Magnox South in the last three years since the NDA took over the ownership of the sites.

Magnox South held its first Safety Representatives Conference in March. The conference was designed by the Health and Safety Advisory Committee to provide a forum for safety representatives to share ideas and help contribute to making a positive difference across Magnox South.

The company recently announced that Ken Powers, Managing Director of Magnox South, has been appointed as EnergySolutions Chief Operating Officer, Commercial Services, based in Salt Lake City. This role places Ken at the forefront of EnergySolutions commercial services projects in North America including on-site services, used fuel management and nuclear decommissioning and clean-up work in the USA.

Mark Lesinski, will take on the role of Managing Director for Magnox South. Mark has more than 30 years experience in the nuclear industry and until very recently was Site Director at Hinkley Point A Site. He left Hinkley to become Chief Nuclear Operating Officer for Magnox South, based at the Bridgwater Officer.

Ray Jepps, currently EHS&Q Director, Magnox South, will step into the role of Chief Nuclear Operating Officer for Magnox South, bringing with him a wealth of operational and leadership experience.

Cannington Decommissioning Skills Centre was the venue for a special event for Magnox South on 14 May 2008. Steve Creamer, EnergySolutions Chairman and Chief Executive, flew over from the US to congratulate Magnox South's first 16 candidates on achieving their City & Guilds Nuclear Decommissioning NVQ Level II and presented them with their certificates. Fiona McMillan, Bridgwater College and Steve Creamer both signed a Skills Pledge confirming their commitment to skills training for their workforces.

In 2007 Magnox South moved to a regional approach to providing Socio-economic support to the communities around its five sites – Hinkley Point, Bradwell, Dungeness, Sizewell and Berkeley. During last year, 20 formal applications were received by the company, four of which performed sufficiently well, when subjected to an agreed scoring process, to receive funding as follows:

- St Peters High School near Bradwell - £51,748 granted to purchase computer aided manufacturing equipment.
- Maldon District Council near Bradwell - £15,000 to part fund the salary of a rural business advisor to provide a link between local business and the planning system.
- University Centre, Folkstone, near Dungeness - £36,000 to provide higher education courses to enable people to redirect their careers.
- Norfolk and Waveney Enterprise Services near Sizewell - £24,500 to carry out a feasibility study to explore the possibility of redeveloping a local business centre to provide a firm base of business support facilities for local people.

#### **4. NDA News**

Stephen Henwood took up his new position as Chair of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) on 1 March 2008. Stephen was Group Managing Director of International Partnerships, BAE Systems until 2006 and has a long and distinguished career in the international defence industry with BAE/British Aerospace from 1992. He previously worked for Tate and Lyle and has a reputation for strong commercial leadership and programme delivery, in large, technically-complex organisations.

On 20 March the NDA, in conjunction with Magnox South, Magnox North and Sellafield Ltd, published the eighth update of The Magnox Operating Programme (MOP), the third to be published under NDA ownership of the civil nuclear assets. The MOP defines the key deliverables of the whole Magnox fuel cycle covering fuel manufacture, electricity generation, fuelling and de-fuelling of reactors, and reprocessing of spent fuel.

An historic milestone in the UK's civil nuclear industry was achieved on 31 March 2008 when the NDA awarded the contract for the management and operation of the Low Level Waste Repository near Drigg in West Cumbria to UK Nuclear Waste Management Ltd (UKNWM) – the consortium led by URS Corporation - Washington Division and including Studsvik, Areva and Serco Assurance.

The event marks the end of a two year process and also the completion of the first in a series of competitions for NDA sites as required under the Energy Act 2004. The contract was formally signed at a ceremony attended by representatives of both organisations and local stakeholders at NDA Headquarters in Cumbria. The initial contract is for a period of five years with the potential of further extension periods, subject to performance and NDA management approval.

The NDA published their approved 3 year Business Plan on 1 April 2008. The Business Plan reflects the NDA's approved Strategy which was published in April 2006 and the additional responsibilities they have taken on since then for implementing Government policy on the long-term management of low level and higher activity wastes. It also sets out their key objectives and plans for delivering their priorities over the next three years.

The NDA published the latest United Kingdom Radioactive Waste Inventory on 12 June. The inventory describes the stocks of radioactive waste held in the UK at 1 April 2007. It also predicts wastes that could arise from the operation and decommissioning of current facilities and gives information on materials that could be classified as waste in the future. The 2007 Inventory contains details of over one thousand individual wastes that have been reported by organisations responsible for their management.

The UK Radioactive Waste Inventory is provided by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the NDA and consists of five documents:

- an executive summary;
- a 140-page main report on the waste;
- an international data report;
- a review of processes contributing to radioactive waste; and
- a report detailing various materials including those materials not currently classified as waste.

The information is being made publicly available. Organisations involved with UK nuclear activities, and leading environmental groups will receive a free copy. Hard copies will be lodged with the British Library, for general access, and with the libraries of Defra and the NDA. Other organisations and individuals can obtain hard copies of the summary report or a CD-ROM, carrying both that report and others providing more information from NDA.

The NDA has started its search for a successor to Dr Ian Roxburgh who will be stepping down as CEO at the end of July following the announcement of the preferred bidder for the Sellafield Parent Body Organisation (PBO) competition and the laying before Parliament of the NDA's Annual Report and Accounts for 2007/8.

## 5. Community Relations

Around 60 members of staff and contractors took part in the annual Fun Run on 9 June to raise funds for this years chosen charity, Children's Hospice South West. Despite the soaring temperatures, everyone finished the 6.8 mile course which started at the gates of Hinkley Point and finished at The Friendly Spirit, Cannington. One entrant took along two pet llamas in an effort to boost his fundraising attempts. Although the sponsorship money hasn't all been handed in yet, the site hopes to raise in excess of £4,000 from the event.

Last years charity of the year, Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance received donations of over £6,000 from the site. This money was all raised through site personnel taking part in fundraising events throughout the year.

Hinkley Point A Site has recently become one of the founder members of the Bridgwater Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber has been established to work with the local business community to promote Bridgwater and help build more prosperous businesses in the local area. The chamber also aims to be the collective voice for businesses in the Bridgwater area and help influence local and central government policy.

John Vieth, Commercial Manager at the site has had a continued link to the chamber since the initial steering group meetings and continues to do so on behalf of Hinkley Point A Site and Magnox South. The official launch of the Bridgwater Chamber which took place on 30 April attracted around 200 businesses resulting in over 100 companies joining the group. The site is currently exploring opportunities to continue to support the Bridgwater Chamber in the future.

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

In the past few months the site has delivered decommissioning presentations to the Exmoor Society, Taunton Chamber of Commerce, The County Club and West Pennard Women's Institute.

### Sponsorship

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

Age Concern	Stogumber Toddlers and Tiddlers play group
Minehead First School	Bridgwater Amateur Operatic Society
Fiddington Flower Show	Stogursey Flower Show
Otterhampton Primary School	