

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at Hinkley Point B Training and Induction Centre on Friday 26 June 2009

Present

<u>Cllr M Short (Chairman)</u>	-	Fiddington Parish Council
Mr B Hughes	-	Site Director, Hinkley Point A Site
Mr P Higginson	-	Technical and Safety Support Manager, Hinkley Point B

Elected Members

<u>Cllr M Caswell (Vice-Chairman)</u>	-	Stockland Bristol
<u>Mr A Debenham</u>	-	Stop Hinkley
Cllr K Dyer	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr J Edwards	-	Spaxton Parish Council
Mr P Farmery	-	West Hinkley Action Group
<u>Cllr Mrs A Fraser</u>	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr R Garner	-	North Somerset Council
Mr C Graham	-	Sedgemoor & West Somerset Green Party
Cllr M Hogg	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council
Mr A Hughes	-	Friends of Quantock
Cllr S Kingham	-	Sedgemoor District Council
<u>Cllr Dr M Kellaway-Marriott</u>	-	North Somerset District Council
Mr C Knox	-	National Farmers' Union
Cllr B Slade	-	Stogursey Parish Council
Cllr R G Western	-	Wembdon Parish Council
<u>Cllr T Williams</u>	-	Kilve Parish Council

Appointed Members

Mr S Crago	-	Avon & Somerset Constabulary
Mrs N Dawson	-	Somerset Civil Contingencies Unit.
Mr A Roberts	-	Somerset County Council
Mr D Haigh	-	Government Office for the South West
Mr T Howes	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr N Matthews	-	Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service
Mr G Roberts	-	Environment Agency - B Stn Inspector
Mr A Smith	-	Avon & Somerset Constabulary
Dr D Warner	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr D Withey	-	Environment Agency – A Site Inspector

Co-opted member

<u>Miss B Child</u>	-	Co-opted Member
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British Energy

Mr G Bell	-	Public Relations Officer
Mrs J Bennett	-	Communications Manager
Mr B Eyley	-	Site Inspector
Mr M Speed	-	Staff Representative
Mr D Stokes	-	Human Resources Advisor

Magnox South

Mrs J Hellier	-	Communications Support
Mr P Hetherington	-	Magnox South Communications
Mr T Jones	-	Head of Communications
Mr P Montague	-	EHSQ Manager
Mr D McCubbin	-	Gaseous/Liquids Team Leader
Mr S Payne	-	Berkeley SSG Secretariat
Mrs M Poole	-	Communication Support
Mrs S Stewart (Secretariat)	-	Communication Officer

In Attendance

Mr W McDonald	-	Health and Safety Executive
Mr A McGoff	-	Environment Agency
Ms A Watts	-	Member of the Public
Mr B West	-	Kilve Parish Council
Cllr Mrs P Wride	-	Chair, Berkeley SSG
Mr M J Davis	-	Secretary

Members of the sub group are highlighted above in bold and underlined. Appendix 1 shows the full sub group list.

OPEN PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION.

- 1 Cllr Short invited questions from members of the public on any matter which might not otherwise be covered during later discussions on agenda items. There were no questions raised by members of the public.

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Morgan, Mr I Hunter, Mr G Hudd (represented by Mr A Roberts), Cllr A Trollope-Bellew, Cllr J Edney, Cllr M Brown, Mr I Bretherton, Cllr C Allen, Cllr N Hercock, Cllr D Bamsey, Mr A Beale Mr N Cann and Cllr P Tipney.
- 3 It was confirmed that a quorum of elected members was present at the meeting.
- 4 Cllr Short expressed a particular welcome to Mr A Hughes, Mr A Roberts and Mr P Farmery who were attending a meeting of the Group for the first time.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2009

(a) Accuracy

- 5 A note from Mrs J Brown containing comments on the accuracy of the minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated to members. Members considered each of the points raised in Mrs Brown's note and agreed that the minutes as issued should not be amended. The minutes of the meeting of the Group held on 27 February 2009 were approved as a correct record.

(b) **Matters Arising (other than matters to be covered in later discussions)**
B Station financial contribution to SSG meetings (para 6 refers)

- 6 Mrs Bennett said that this issue had been discussed with the Chairs of SSGs during the past week and there were to be further discussions involving British Energy, the NDA, and the Chairs of SSGs at joint sites to discuss funding and arrangements for dealing with new station construction. She hoped that these further discussions would take place shortly and that the matter would be resolved by the date of the next meeting.

Cobalt-60 Detected on Tacki-Shade Collector (para 7(v) refers)

- 7 Mr Higginson said that further investigations had shown that the traces of cobalt-60 detected on a tacki-shade collector located on the site were unlikely to have resulted from cross-contamination with other samples in the laboratory. He said that similar measurements of such activity just above the minimum detectable level had been found on occasions in the past. Mr G Roberts said that continued monitoring had confirmed that there had been no further occurrence of such measurements in recent months.

Further Examination of Reactor 4 Boiler Pipework (para 7(viii) refers)

- 8 Mr Higginson said that some sections of boiler pipework removed during the Reactor 4 outage had been examined to confirm the results of non-destructive inspections carried out within the boiler. No issues had been found.

Attendance of Observers at Emergency Exercises (para 22 refers)

- 9 Mr Higginson said that further consideration had been given to the possible attendance of additional observers at future exercises of the emergency arrangements. He said that it would be possible to accommodate one representative of this group as an additional observer. Cllr Short said that there would be an opportunity at the next meeting to consider the nomination of a representative to attend the demonstration exercise in February 2010 as an observer.

Secretary's note: Subsequently the NII/OCNS have identified that attendance at a demonstration exercise would not be appropriate.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - HINKLEY POINT A

- 10 Mr Hughes reported on activities at Hinkley Point A Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) It was now more than two years since the last accident on site involving time lost from work. Despite this good performance there was no sense of complacency and efforts were maintained to bring about further improvements in safety.

- (ii) A beach clean had been organised as part of World Environment Day. A large volume of accumulated litter had been collected from an area of beach adjacent to the site. It was hoped that this might become an annual event.
- (iii) Inspections had identified some localised corrosion on the external surface of a settling tank used as part of a waste processing stream. The tank was located in a bunded area and there was no evidence of any leakage but the significance of the corrosion was being assessed. An update on these investigations would be provided at the next meeting.
- (iv) New access turnstiles had been installed at the west end of the site as part of a scheme to separate the A and B station sites.
- (v) Arrangements were in place to monitor the situation and take any necessary action in relation to the possible spread of a swine flu epidemic.
- (vi) Last year the site had completed all of its planned work and a significant amount of extra work. Some £51 million worth of work was completed for just under £46 million.
- (vii) The last of the fuel pond skips had been removed from the reactor cooling ponds some eight months ahead of schedule and with a cost saving of nearly £2 million on this work. Some skips had yet to be processed, including a number of skips which had previously been held in the skip store.
- (viii) Staff on site had chosen Ups and Downs Southwest, a Down Syndrome support group, as their charity of the year. Charity fund-raising last year had raised over £8,200 for Children's Hospice South West.
- (ix) The site continued to provide support for cooling pond project work at Bradwell without any adverse effect on the progress of work on site. Organisational structures within the company were subject to review; all organisational changes were assessed to ensure that there was no detriment to safety.
- (x) Work continued on the assessment of ILW mini stores. Trials had been undertaken at Dungeness and safety aspects were being carefully considered.
- (xi) An Optioneering Assessment Panel feedback session on options for the treatment of solid intermediate level wastes had been held in early April. This had reviewed the outcome of the original workshop against the various questions and comments raised. The best practicable environmental option had been confirmed as being dissolution when assessed against reference assumptions.

11 Mr Debenham asked about the nature of the waste contained within the settling tank which was corroding and about the current policy regarding storage of waste on the site. Mr Hughes said that the tank which had shown signs of corrosion was used to contain Intermediate Level Waste. He said that the baseline plan for

Intermediate Level Waste remained as encapsulation of the wastes for storage in a facility to be built on site. The possible use of mini stores was an alternative proposal which was under consideration.

- 12 In response to a question from Mr Graham, Mr Hughes said that the fuel skips which had been held in the skip store presented slightly different problems from those which had been held within the cooling ponds. A different type of paint had been used on those skips and this paint behaved differently when removed.
- 13 Mr Debenham asked whether the recently reported event at Sizewell where water had leaked from the cooling pond had any implications for Hinkley Point. Mr Hughes said that the only fuel which remained on site was the fragments of fuel elements in sludge in the cooling ponds; these would shortly be removed from site. He said that the water level in the pond at Sizewell had fallen by only 300 mm before the leak was stopped. There were differences in the design of the pipework systems which would limit the extent of any such leakage from the Hinkley pond. There was no possibility that the fuel fragments could become exposed. In reply to a further question from Cllr Williams, Mr Hughes said that the fuel fragments would be despatched from the site in a fuel transport flask; there would be a separate despatch for each pond, one taking place during this coming summer and one early next year.

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 14 Mr Higginson reported on recent performance and current issues at Hinkley Point B, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Good progress was being made with the integration of British Energy within EDF Energy. The focus at the station remained on safe and reliable operation - "business as normal".
 - (ii) A lost time accident had occurred recently when a technician had injured his shoulder and neck in falling against a metal hand wheel. This was after two and a half years without a BE staff member having a lost time accident. The member of staff had since returned to normal duties. It was now more than 490 days since the most recent lost time accident involving a contractor's employee at Hinkley Point B.
 - (iii) The station had been awarded a RoSPA Gold Medal for occupational health and safety.
 - (iv) Reactor 3 was currently shut down for its statutory outage. The programme of inspection and maintenance included the replacement of an alternator stator; this major component weighed some 235 tonnes and had been brought to the site via Combwich Wharf.
 - (iv) Inspections undertaken during the Reactor 3 outage included the inspection of 31 fuel channels - approximately 10% of the reactor core - and boiler inspections. A report on the results of these inspections would be given at a future meeting.

- (v) Discussions were continuing with the NII on the possible enhancement of reactor shutdown systems. A research programme was being undertaken to determine the potential effect of a seismic event and consideration was being given to the practicability of enhancing shutdown systems. A report was to be submitted to the station's Nuclear Safety Committee in the autumn.
 - (vi) Monitoring had detected levels of tritium above that which would normally be expected in two boreholes on site. Further sampling had demonstrated that the event was localised to the reactor building in the middle of the site and there was no movement of the tritium off site. Tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen, is produced during operation of nuclear reactors and also occurs naturally. The levels measured at the boreholes were marginally higher than the World Health Organisation's limit for tritium in drinking water. Investigations to establish the source of the tritium had identified a small hole in the concrete surface of a sump in Reactor 4 Circulator Hall. A repair was in hand.
 - (vii) Environmental improvements on site included the installation of an oil interceptor for surface water drainage. This involved a major civil engineering programme of work and would cost around £2 million.
 - (viii) The company's emergency arrangements had been demonstrated successfully during an exercise in February. Arrangements were in place for dealing with potential consequences of a swine flu epidemic.
- 15 Mr Debenham asked how the sample of reactor channels for inspection was determined. Mr Higginson said that the aim was to inspect a sample which was representative of channels across the reactor core. He said that proposals for channel inspections were developed by a team of graphite core specialists and these proposals were discussed and agreed with NII specialists.
- 16 Mr Debenham referred to a comment in the Environment Agency report to this Group which said that the possibility of leakage into the ground from a leak in a fuel pond wet sump was "unlikely"; he asked if this likelihood could be quantified. Mr Higginson said that because of the design of the sump he could be very confident that there had been no leakage into the ground.
- 17 Mr Graham expressed his congratulations to both stations on their remarkable safety record. He asked for more information about the nature of the leak which had resulted in the increased levels of tritium in ground water. Mr Higginson said that it was a small defect in the concrete wall of a sump; a combination of factors had together resulted in an increase in the level of radioactivity in water in the sump and the leakage of that water through this defect.
- 18 In reply to a question from Cllr Garner, Mr Higginson said that the output of the station was generally around 900 MW. Cllr Garner asked whether the alternator stator which had been replaced had been defective. Mr Higginson replied that it had been due for replacement as part of the station's routine maintenance regime.

Cllr Kellaway-Marriott suggested that any defects found after removal of the stator might be reported at a future meeting.

A film of the AGR graphite core test rig arrangements was then shown to members. This provided a summary of the experimental programme in support of the graphite core safety case.

NEW BUILD UPDATE

- 19 Mrs Bennett outlined the process of consultation on proposals for new power station construction. She described the preparation of the Statement on Community Consultation and gave details of the various consultations which were to be undertaken by Government, the Environment Agency, Somerset County Council and EDF Energy.
- 20 Mrs Bennett emphasised that the consultation to be undertaken by EDF Energy would be solely on site specific plans. The consultation would be undertaken via residents' meetings, meetings with parish and town councils, exhibitions, a drop-in centre and stakeholder meetings. Mrs Bennett said that all issues raised in consultation would be considered and a response given; a consultation report would be published at the end of the process. She said that the Statement on Community Consultation was currently being finalised; the pre-application consultation process would commence in the autumn and stakeholder workshops would take place early next year.
- 21 Mr Farmery emphasised that his group, the West Hinkley Action Group, was not opposed to the development of a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point; it was opposed to the construction of wind turbines.
- 22 Mr Graham drew attention to the fact that EDF Energy appeared to want to start work in advance of planning approval. Cllr Short said that it was inevitable that in order to meet construction timescales commitments were entered into for long delivery items and some infrastructure works in advance of the necessary consent. Such commitments would clearly be made at the company's own risk.
- 23 In response to a question from Cllr Garner, Mrs Bennett said that the capacity of the station could be two reactors rated at 1600 MW each.
- 24 Mr Debenham said that the Hinkley Point C inquiry undertaken some years ago gave opportunities for the public to appear and raise questions on any aspect of the need for the station and its impact. Mrs Bennett said that these issues would be addressed by the Infrastructure Planning Commission. The government would be undertaking consultation on the Nuclear National Policy Statement.

UPDATE FROM SOMERSET NUCLEAR ENERGY GROUP

- 25 Cllr Mrs Fraser reported on the work of the Somerset Nuclear Energy Group. The group sought to co-ordinate the responses of the various local authorities in relation to possible new build at Hinkley Point. Cllr Mrs Fraser pointed out that the group was concerned that sufficient resources were available to the local authorities and

was considering the approach to be followed on planning applications received in advance of the Infrastructure Planning Commission's decision. She pointed out that the group was also considering the possibility of a planning performance agreement with EDF Energy which would provide some resources but safeguard the independence of the local authorities. She said that this approach was supported by government.

REGULATORY ROLE IN RELATION TO NEW BUILD

- 26 Mr McGoff and Mr McDonald provided information on the role of the regulators in relation to new power station construction. They described the process of Generic Design Assessment in which the NII, Environment Agency and Office of Civil Nuclear Security were working together to assess the acceptability of reactor designs. The regulators were able to take account of international standardised designs and draw on work of overseas regulators. The aim was that the assessment process would be open and transparent, efficient and effective. There were arrangements for recovery of costs from the "requesting parties" who were interested in building new plants.
- 27 Mr McGoff said that the Generic Design Assessment was considering designs proposed by the 'requesting parties'. Four designs had been proposed initially but two of the designs had subsequently been withdrawn from the process. The assessment was now considering two designs – the Areva/EDF UK EPR and the Westinghouse AP1000.
- 28 Mr McDonald emphasised that the role of the regulators was not to decide whether a new power station should be built – that was a matter for Government and the companies involved. The regulators' role was to ensure that any new plant which was to be built was safe. He said it was important that there was public confidence in the regulators and to this end openness and transparency was encouraged. The process ensured that decisions taken by the regulators were informed by stakeholder input. Quarterly process review reports were published together with reports on each of the steps within the process.
- 29 During discussion Cllr Williams asked whether openness made the process more or less efficient. Mr McDonald said he felt that it enhanced the process overall. He said that in some cases it provided an effective input of information; in some cases it did require additional resources but steps had been taken to ensure that distraction of assessment resources was minimised.
- 30 Mr Graham emphasised the importance of participation in the consultation process as there would not be the same opportunities for participation in an inquiry as in the past. He referred to the actions taken by EDF Energy to proceed with some aspects before the result of the Generic Design Assessment was known. Mr McGoff said that decisions to enter into commitments for long lead time items such as reactor pressure vessels in advance of the necessary approvals were taken by the companies concerned at their own risk.

REPORT ON RADIOACTIVE DISCHARGES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

- 31 A report issued jointly by British Energy and Magnox South on radioactive discharges and environmental monitoring at Hinkley Point A and B during 2008 had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Mr Higginson said that levels of radioactivity in liquid and gaseous discharges from both sites had remained below the authorised limits set by the Environment Agency and best practicable means had been used to keep them as low as reasonably practicable. He said that the environmental monitoring undertaken by British Energy had demonstrated that radiological discharges from the sites had a minimal impact on the environment; there was no evidence of any long term accumulation of radioactivity in the environment resulting from operational or decommissioning activities. Mr Higginson said that the assessed potential radiation doses to members of the public from discharges and from direct radiation from the sites were below the legal limit and below the dose levels recommended by the International Commission on Radiological Protection and the Health Protection Agency.
- 32 In answer to a question from Cllr Short regarding auditing of the sampling and analysis, Mr G Roberts said that the Environment Agency carried out inspections and undertook its own sampling and monitoring. A separate report on the monitoring undertaken by the Agency and the Food Standards Agency would be presented to members later in the year.

NII REPORTS

- 33 Reports from the NII Site Inspectors for Hinkley Point A and B had been circulated to members. Cllr Short drew attention to a comment in the Hinkley Point B report on the involvement of the NII in agreeing the scope of work to be undertaken during the Reactor 3 statutory outage. He felt that this was a source of additional assurance for the public.

REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- 34 A report on the Environment Agency's nuclear regulation at Hinkley Point power stations had been circulated to members. Mr Debenham asked for clarification of the comment regarding 'significant reductions' in the limits specified in the discharge authorisation for Hinkley Point A. Mr Withey said that the station had applied for a variation to its authorisation which included significant reductions in limits specified for some discharges. These reductions were in line with the reduced discharges associated with current operational activities on the site.

NDA REPORT

- 35 A briefing note on current NDA issues had been circulated to members. Dr Warner drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) The NDA had successfully completed the disposal of surplus land adjacent to its sites at Wylfa, Bradwell and Oldbury. Proceeds from the sale of this

surplus land would be used to fund decommissioning work. There was no surplus land for disposal at Hinkley Point A.

- (ii) Consultation was taking place on a draft strategy for the management of solid low level radioactive waste. The consultation was open until September 2009.
- (iii) A report on a review of interim storage of higher activity waste had been published and was available on the NDA website.

BRIDGWATER CHALLENGE

- 36 Cllr Mrs Fraser reported on progress of the Bridgwater Challenge which involved the local authorities and other partners in bringing about significant improvements in the town. She emphasised the importance of careful assessment of the impact on the town of possible new power station construction in order to mitigate any adverse effects and benefit in any way possible. She suggested that it might be appropriate at a future meeting for a representative of EDF Energy to give a presentation on the socio-economic impact of new build.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

- 37 Cllr Short had circulated to members in advance of the meeting a note on current activities and issues. He drew attention to the way in which the role of the sub group had evolved to deal with specific tasks which had been placed upon the SSG. He pointed out that it was now necessary to review the NDA Guidelines for SSGs and consider any changes which might be necessary in the group's constitution. He invited members to join the sub-group and assist with this work.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

No business

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

- 38 It was agreed that the next meeting of this group would be held on Friday 30 October 2009 at the Hinkley Point Training and Induction Centre, commencing at 10am. This meeting will include the election of Chairman and Vice Chairman.

MJD - 30 June 2009

Chairman's footnote: "I wish it to be recorded that Maggie Poole will be retiring before the next SSG meeting in October, I apologise for not registering this fact during the June meeting. I am sure you will join with me in thanking Maggie for her conscientious involvement with the SSG since it's inception and wish her a long and happy retirement. We would be very pleased to see her at any time in the public gallery".

Appendix 1

SSG Sub Group

Mike Short	Chairman – Fiddington
Mike Caswell	Vice Chair – Stockland Bristol
Terry Williams	Kilve Parish
Barbara Child	Co-opted
John Edney	Somerset County Council
Gerald Hudd	Somerset County Council
Jo Brown	PCAH
Mervyn Brown	Otterhampton Parish
Alan Debenham	Stop Hinkley
Dawn Hill	Sedgemoor District Council
Paul Tipney	West Somerset District Council
Anne Fraser	Sedgemoor District Council
Bob Garner (previously Dr Kellaway-Marriott)	North Somerset
Chris Morgan	West Somerset District Council