

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at Hinkley Point Training and Induction Centre on Friday 31 October 2008

Present

<u>Cllr M Short (Chairman)</u>	-	Fiddington Parish Council
Mr N Cann	-	Station Director, Hinkley Point B
Mr B Kury	-	Site Director, Hinkley Point A Site

Elected Members

<u>Cllr M Caswell (Vice-Chairman)</u>	-	Stockland Bristol
<u>Cllr M Brown</u>	-	Otterhampton Parish Council
Cllr K Dyer	-	Sedgemoor District Council
<u>Cllr J Edney</u>	-	Somerset County Council
Cllr J Edwards	-	Spaxton Parish Council
<u>Cllr A Fraser</u>	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr J Freeman	-	West Somerset District Council
Cllr B Garner	-	North Somerset District Council
Cllr N Hercock	-	West Somerset District Council
Cllr M Hogg	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council
Cllr N Jones	-	Sedgemoor District Council
<u>Cllr Dr M Kellaway-Marriott</u>	-	North Somerset District Council
Cllr S Kingham	-	Sedgemoor District Council
<u>Cllr C Morgan</u>	-	West Somerset Council
Mr B Slade	-	Stogursey Parish Council
Cllr P Tipney	-	West Somerset District Council
Cllr A Trollope-Bellew	-	Somerset County Council
<u>Cllr T Williams</u>	-	Kilve Parish Council
Mr C Knox	-	National Farmers' Union
Mr A Debenham	-	Stop Hinkley
Mr C Aubrey	-	Forum 21
Mr C Graham	-	Sedgemoor & West Somerset Green Party
Cllr D Hill	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr R Western	-	Wembdon Parish Council

Appointed Members

Mr A Beale	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Ms R Davies	-	Food Standards Agency
Mrs N Dawson	-	Somerset Civil Contingencies Unit.
Mr A Dugdale	-	Food Standards Agency
Mr P Ford	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Mr I Hunter	-	Somerset County Council
Mr B James	-	Somerset County Council
Ms M Leung	-	Food Standards Agency
Mr C Littlechild	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr N Matthews	-	Dorset and Somerset Fire and Rescue
Mr G Roberts	-	Environment Agency - B Stn Inspector
Mr D Withey	-	Environment Agency - A Stn Inspector
Insp N Croker	-	Avon and Somerset Constabulary

Mr D Bamsey	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Co-opted member		
<u>Miss B Child</u>	-	Co-opted Member
British Energy		
Mr G Bell	-	Public Relations Officer
Mr B Eyley	-	Site Inspector
Mr P Higginson	-	Technical and Safety Support Manager
Mr D Stokes	-	Community Liaison Officer
Mrs J Bennett	-	Communications Manager
Magnox South		
Miss G Coombs	-	Communication Support
Mr H Cruikshank	-	Project Leader - Ponds
Mr D Gutteridge	-	Site Inspector
Ms J Hellier	-	Communications Support
Mr T Jones	-	Head of Communications
Mr P Montague	-	EHSQ Manager
Mrs M Poole	-	Communication Support
Mrs S Stewart (Secretariat)	-	Communication Officer
In Attendance		
Ms S Goss	-	Member of the Public
Mr A Williams	-	Member of the Public
Ms E Bird	-	Somerset County Council (Observer)
Ms J Isaac	-	Environment Agency (Observer)
Mr G Russ	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary (Observer)
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 and explained that this would be the only opportunity for non SSG members to be involved in any question and answer sessions. There were no questions raised by members of the public.

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Dr D Warner, Cllr D Busby, Mr C Thomson, Cllr T Taylor, Cllr C Allen, Chief Inspector R Murray, Mr P Smith and Mr G Hudd. It was noted that Mr Littlechild was attending on behalf of Dr Warner and that Mr Hunter was attending on behalf of Mr Hudd.
- 3 It was confirmed that a quorum of elected members was present at the meeting.

- 4 It was noted that Mr N Crocker would be attending future meetings of this Group as representative of Avon and Somerset Constabulary and that Mr Aubrey would now be representing Forum 21 instead of Ms Scott.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 JUNE 2008

(a) Accuracy

- 5 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 27 June 2008 were approved as a correct record subject to the deletion of the name of Cllr B Slade from the list of persons present.

(b) Matters Arising (other than matters to be covered in later discussions)

Induction Training for SSG members

- 6 It was noted that there had been three sessions of induction training for SSG members. There was no requirement for any further training at this stage.

B Station financial contribution to SSG meetings

- 7 Mr Bell reported that British Energy was involved in the current review of arrangements for SSG meetings which was being undertaken by the NDA. This review covered funding arrangements.

Update from Sedgemoor District Council on Socio-economic funding

- 8 Mr Bamsey reported that discussions with government were ongoing and he undertook to report back on the outcome of those discussions in due course.
- 9 It was noted that local authorities were forming a Somerset Nuclear Energy Group to provide a focus for local debate in relation to potential new build at Hinkley Point. Cllr Short said that he and Cllr Caswell would maintain contact with that group and report back on any matters of interest.

Correspondence to Local MP

- 10 It was noted that a letter had been sent to the local MP, Ian Liddell-Granger, expressing concerns about the NDA funding issues. A reply has not been received.

Health effects

- 11 Cllr Short reported that a copy of the Somerset Health Profile had been sent to Mrs Brown of Parents Concerned About Hinkley. He said that he had received information from Mr C Muirhead of the National Register of Radiation Workers which indicated that the incidence of cancers amongst workers within the nuclear industry was generally lower than in the general population. An indication of a slightly increased risk of leukaemia was within the boundary of the confidence limits for the data.

Remuneration for Vice Chairman

- 11 Cllr Short said it was hoped that the situation regarding remuneration for Vice-Chairmen of SSG's would be resolved early in the New Year.

Radioactivity in the environment

- 12 Mr Higginson reported that in response to a request from Cllr Williams he had obtained data from environmental monitoring from 1964 to the present time. The early data therefore related to the period before reactor operation commenced at Hinkley Point. Mr Higginson said that the information demonstrated that levels of radioactivity in the environment in the vicinity of the site had remained comparable with those which existed before the station was commissioned. Copies of this information were available for members.

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 13 Mr Cann reported on recent performance and current issues at Hinkley Point B, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) An offer for British Energy by EDF (Electricité de France) had received the support of the British Energy Board. The offer would now be subject to shareholder approval and certain regulatory checks.
 - (ii) Consultation on potential new build at Hinkley Point had commenced in recent weeks. This was being conducted by EDF and British Energy. Feedback from the meetings to date had been very positive; the majority of issues raised had been related to socio-economic aspects and infrastructure issues. Mr Cann said that if there were any aspects of new build on which local councillors required additional information he would be happy to arrange meetings.
 - (iii) Electricity production at the station during the financial year to date amounted to 2.6 TWh. This was in line with planned production for the full year.
 - (iv) Reactor 3 had been shut down for an interim outage on 30 June. Work undertaken included the inspection of 13 channels within the reactor core. All inspections had provided satisfactory results and the Unit had been returned to service on 8 August.
 - (v) Reactor 4 was currently shut down for its statutory outage. Work to be undertaken during the outage included a major programme of graphite core inspection together with work to inspect and recover boiler tube surface area. The outage was progressing to programme and the safety record had been good; the results of inspections had been satisfactory. Mr Cann undertook to give details of the results of the outage at the next meeting of this Group.
 - (vi) Discussions were continuing with the regulator on the possible enhancement of reactor shutdown systems. Various options were being reviewed and a proposed programme of work would be submitted to the NII in the New Year.

Mr Cann emphasised that existing shutdown systems were robust and effective; these discussions related to possible further enhancements.

- (vii) It was now 687 days since the last accident involving a British Energy employee at Hinkley Point losing time from work. The equivalent period for contract partners on site was 244 days. It was 464 days since the most recent environmental event.
 - (viii) There had been no exercises of the station's emergency arrangements since the previous meeting. Preparations were being made for an exercise of the off-site emergency arrangements during December and an exercise to demonstrate the station's arrangements during February 2009.
 - (ix) There had been no significant reportable nuclear events during the period. Mr Cann gave details of three minor events which had been rated as Level Zero (of no safety significance) on the International Nuclear Event Scale. These were related to problems with air supply during a vessel entry and two separate issues involving radioactive sources used for non-destructive inspections.
 - (x) During the past year the performance of both reactors against the current rated output had been excellent. Twelve flasks of irradiated fuel had been dispatched from the site.
 - (xi) The station continued to host visits to the site and provide sponsorship and support for various local activities.
- 14 In reply to a question from Cllr Williams, Mr Cann said he did not anticipate any major changes in staffing as a result of the acquisition of company by EDF. He pointed out that current British Energy staff had unique experience of the AGR reactors.
- 15 Mr Debenham felt that the public meeting on new build at Bridgwater Rugby Club had been educational and effective. Mr Cann said that similar meetings were being held at Sizewell and were shortly to be held at Dungeness and Bradwell. In reply to a question from Mr Debenham on priorities for the development of sites, Mr Cann said that companies other than British Energy were able to develop plans for new nuclear build at other sites.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - HINKLEY POINT A

- 16 Mr Kury reported on activities at Hinkley Point A Site since the last meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) It was currently 497 days since the last accident on site involving time lost from work. There been no reportable events and a good safety culture existed on the site. Numbers of behavioural safety observations were well in excess of target.

- (ii) Work on site was being completed in line with, or ahead of programme. Work was focused upon hazard reduction.
 - (iii) Two further shipments of contaminated metal had been sent to the US for recycling. Two containers of waste had been sent to the Low Level Waste Repository at Drigg and one container of drummed waste had been sent to Sellafield for compaction. The contaminated metal consisted of materials from skips used to contain fuel with the cooling ponds. There were 1700 of these skips in the Hinkley Point A ponds and to date 1000 of them had been removed. These skips were subjected to a first stage decontamination process before shipping off site. Mr Kury undertook to show a short video on the processing of these skips at the next meeting of this Group.
 - (iv) Magnox South and Magnox North had achieved legal separation on 1 October. Each company had separate site licences and discharge authorisations.
 - (v) A programme had been established to manage the various items of redundant conventional plant and systems around the site. Potential hazards would be assessed and plans made for the removal or any necessary maintenance of the various plant items.
 - (vi) Various options were being developed for processing fuel element debris (FED). The best practical environmental option was being assessed at a workshop session to be held between 11-13 November. This stakeholder engagement process would involve five members from this Group.
 - (vii) Work to secure the acceptance of the ILW Mini Store as a package suitable for use within a future repository was ongoing. When approved then consideration would have to be given as to how these Mini Stores would be used.
 - (viii) Mr Kury presented a chart showing the effects of planned decommissioning work being deferred in the most recent lifetime plan as a result of funding restrictions. In this plan the completion of preparations for entry into a care and maintenance phase had been deferred to 2032 from 2018 as indicated in the previous plan. Mr Kury emphasised that within funding constraints there were still opportunities for bringing forward work where a suitable case could be made. As an example he referred to the current work on pond skips which would be completed earlier than planned.
- 17 In reply to a question from Mr Edwards on the sharing of information between the re-structured companies, Mr Kury confirmed that there were effective arrangements for sharing technical information.
- 18 Mr Debenham asked whether further funding restrictions were likely in the current financial circumstances. Mr Kury said that current funding had been allocated for a three year period following the government's comprehensive spending review and there was confidence that the current allocation for Hinkley Point A would not be reduced. Mr Littlechild said that the reduction in funding for Hinkley Point was due to the allocation of funding to other sites rather than a restriction in the government's overall spending on

decommissioning; in the allocation of funding priority had been given to projects with the greatest benefit in terms of hazard reduction.

- 19 In response to a question from Cllr Brown on the vitrification process for dealing with waste, Mr Cruikshank said that this was a well established process for dealing with wet wastes. He said that there would be opportunities at the forthcoming BPEO workshop to discuss the processes which were appropriate to specific waste streams.
- 20 In reply to a question from Mr Aubrey, Mr Kury said that decommissioning plans generally provided for final site clearance after a care and maintenance period of 75/80 years.

REPORT FROM EMERGENCY PLANNING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

- 21 Mr Higginson reported on the work of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee. He said that issues discussed at its most recent meeting included:
- (i) Actions in hand to provide notices along the coastal areas near the site giving information on emergency arrangements.
 - (ii) The preparation of public information calendars.
 - (iii) Exercises of emergency arrangements and plans for the exercise of off-site arrangements due to take place in December.
 - (iv) The results of a survey of the attitudes of residents living within the Emergency Planning Zone. Contact had been made with these residents primarily to confirm contact details and arrange for inclusion within the telephone warning system but residents had also been asked about their attitudes towards the site. The responses of the site's neighbours had been very positive.
- 22 Cllr Williams asked whether it might be possible for representatives of this Group to attend a future exercise. Mr Higginson said that this was under consideration but there were already a number of observers during exercises and arrangements for further observers would need to be considered carefully.

REPORT FROM THE FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY

- 23 Mr Dugdale reported on the programme of monitoring of radioactivity in food and the environment undertaken by the Food Standards Agency in collaboration with the Environment Agency. He described the monitoring programme and the arrangements made to collect and analyse samples of food from within the vicinity of Hinkley Point. He explained how the measurements of radioactivity in the food samples were used to carry out an assessment of the potential radiation doses which might be received by persons consuming locally-produced foodstuffs.

- 24 Mr Dugdale said that the results of this analysis indicated that the assessed dose which might be received from the consumption of above-average amounts of locally grown foodstuffs and milk was less than 5 microSieverts (μSv) during 2007. The assessed dose which might be received by members of the local fishing community, consuming locally caught fish and shellfish during the year was $29\mu\text{Sv}$. He said that these potential exposures could be compared with a dose of $5\mu\text{Sv}$ associated with a dental X-ray, a dose of $250\mu\text{Sv}$ from naturally-occurring radioactivity in foodstuffs, the annual dose limits of $1000\mu\text{Sv}$ for members of the public from man-made radioactivity and an average dose of $2230\mu\text{Sv}$ from natural background radiation in the UK.

UPDATE FROM THE CIVIL CONTINGENCIES UNIT

- 25 Ms Dawson provided information on the off-site plan for dealing with an incident at Hinkley Point which was co-ordinated by the Civil Contingencies Unit. She explained that the plan covered the responses of each of the various agencies involved. It dealt with the protection of the community and the environment, made arrangements for communications with residents and covered responsibilities for clean-up after the event.
- 26 Ms Dawson said that the responsibility for producing an off-site plan was specified in the REPPIR regulations; the plan was updated every three years. Copies of the plan were distributed to all parties involved and copies were held in public libraries in Somerset.
- 27 Ms Dawson said that exercises of the off-site plan were carried out every three years. The forthcoming exercise would include a simulation of the recovery phase. She said that this would inevitably involve, within the short timescales of the exercise, the simulation of events which would in reality take place over an extended period but the exercise would test planned responsibilities and arrangements. She hoped that members of local authorities would be willing to participate in this exercise on 4 December and undertook to discuss arrangements with potential participants after the meeting.

REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- 28 A report on the Environment Agency's nuclear regulation at Hinkley Point power stations had been circulated to members. Mr Withey and Mr Roberts drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) Issues with the maintenance of HEPA filters at A Station which had been identified at the previous meeting had been investigated fully and a warning letter had been issued to the operator.
 - (ii) Routine inspections of compliance with the Radioactive Substances Act authorisations and Pollution Prevention & Control permits had produced satisfactory results.
 - (iii) Nuclear regulators had met with the committee of Parents Concerned About Hinkley to discuss their role in the regulation of nuclear sites.

NII REPORTS

- 29 The Report from the NII Site Inspectors for Hinkley Point A had been circulated to members. Mr Ford pointed out that the emergency exercise undertaken at A Station on the day prior to this meeting had been considered to be an adequate demonstration of the arrangements. There were no further issues raised by members. The report from Hinkley Point B would be circulated shortly.

NDA REPORT

- 30 A briefing note on current NDA issues had been circulated to members. No further points were raised by members.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

- 31 Members had received copies of a note on points which Cllr Short wished to draw to their attention. He emphasised the following:
- (i) He hoped that arrangements would soon be made for the remuneration of SSG vice-chairmen for their involvement in local and national meetings.
 - (ii) Various meetings attended included a briefing on the treatment of fuel element debris, discussions on an attitude survey entitled "Living with Nuclear Power in Britain", a briefing on the ILW Mini Store yellow box project, discussions on guidelines for SSGs, and briefing on a project which was reviewing options for decommissioning at sites.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

- 32 Cllr Caswell took the chair and established that Cllr Short had been nominated to be chairman of the SSG for the coming year. Proposed by Mr Graham and seconded by Cllr Dyer, it was unanimously agreed that Cllr Short should be elected as Chairman of the Group for the coming year. Cllr Edney expressed members' thanks to Cllr Short for the conscientious manner in which he fulfilled his role as Chairman of the Group.
- 33 Cllr Short established that Cllr Caswell had been nominated to serve as Vice Chairman of this Group for the coming year. Proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Williams it was unanimously agreed that Cllr Caswell should be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Group for the coming year.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 34 In reply to a question from Mr Debenham, Cllr Short said he understood that land in British Energy ownership and land purchased by EDF to the West of the site would provide space sufficient to build two new reactors.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

35 It was agreed that the next meeting should be held on Friday 27 February 2009 at Cannington College, commencing at 10am.

MJD
4 November 2008

Appendix 1

SSG Sub Group/Agendas, Consultations etc.

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
Dr Kellaway-Marriott	North Somerset
Chris Morgan	West Somerset District Council