

## HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

### Minutes of the meeting held at The Canalside, Bridgwater on Friday 25 February 2011

#### **Present**

<b><u>Cllr M Caswell (Chairman)</u></b>	-	Stockland Bristol
Mr B Hughes	-	Site Director, Hinkley Point A
Mr N Cann	-	Station Director, Hinkley Point B

#### **Elected Members**

Cllr C Allen	-	Cannington Parish Council
<b><u>Mrs J Brown</u></b>	-	Parents Concerned About Hinkley
<b><u>Cllr M Brown</u></b>	-	Otterhampton Parish Council
Mr R Corns	-	English Nature
<b><u>Mr A Debenham</u></b>	-	Stop Hinkley
Cllr K Dyer	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr J Edwards	-	Spaxton Parish Council
Mr K Ellett	-	Staff Representative
<b><u>Cllr Ms A Frazer MBE</u></b>	-	Sedgemoor District Council
<b><u>Cllr R Garner</u></b>	-	North Somerset Council
Cllr M Hogg	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council
Cllr N Jones	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr Dr M Kellaway-Marriott	-	North Somerset Council
Cllr P Malim OBE	-	Stogursey Parish Council
Cllr J Roberts	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council
<b><u>Cllr M Short</u></b>	-	Fiddington Parish Council
Mr K ter Braak	-	Friends of Quantock
Cllr A Trollope- Bellew	-	Somerset County Council
Cllr R Western	-	Wembdon Parish Council
<b><u>Cllr T Williams</u></b>	-	Kilve Parish Council

#### **Appointed Members**

Mr M Lesinski	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr J Burrows	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Mr D Withey	-	Environment Agency
Mr T Howes	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Ms N Dawson	-	Somerset County Council
Mr I Hunter	-	Somerset County Council

#### **British Energy**

Mr P Higginson	-	Technical and Safety Support Manager Hinkley Point B
Mr G Bell	-	Public Relations Officer
Mr D Stokes	-	Human Resources Advisor
Mr M Speed	-	

#### **Magnox**

Ms J Hellier	-	Communications Support
Ms G Coombs	-	Communications Support

Mr D Williams - Acting Head of Environment

**In Attendance**

Ms C Collingridge

Ms J Day

Mr R Pumphrey

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 Caswell welcomed all those present to this meeting of the Site Stakeholder Group for Hinkley Point A Site and B Station. He emphasised that liaison with the local community in relation to C station construction issues was being undertaken via a separate forum. He invited questions from members of the public.
- 2 Ms Collingridge referred to a recent Hinkley Point B station newsletter. She said that she had been disappointed that it did not contain specific information on generation output, carbon dioxide emissions, or liquid and gaseous discharges of radioactivity. She felt that it had been inappropriate for the newsletter to publicise the visit of the Secretary of State, Mr Chris Huhne MP. She felt that the newsletter would engender more trust if it simply reported on facts. Mr Cann said that much of the information requested by Ms Collingridge was widely available and was reported regularly at these meetings. He thanked Ms Collingridge for her valuable feedback on the newsletter.
- 3 Mr Pumphrey referred to events on 13 January when large volumes of steam had been seen arising from the power stations buildings. Mr Cann said that there had been a short outage and the reactor was being returned to service on that day. He said that when preparing for returning the plant to service it was necessary for steam used for warming the turbines to be released to atmosphere; this procedure was followed at all types of power stations.

**CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 4 Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Kennedy, Mr D McCubbin, Mr D Bamsey, Cllr P Tipney, Mr B Slade, Mr A Dyer, Cllr Ms A Palmer, Cllr Hill, Ms Goss and Miss B Child.
- 5 It was confirmed that a quorum of elected members was present at the meeting.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 OCTOBER 2010**

**(a) Accuracy**

- 6 The minutes of the meeting of the Group held on 29 October 2010 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)**

7 It was noted that arrangements were now in place for sharing of the costs associated with these meetings between Magnox and EDF Energy.

**Hinkley Point A Decommissioning Milestone Dates (para 8 refers)**

8 Mr Hughes said that following discussions with Cllr Short, a revised and expanded schedule of milestone decommissioning dates had been prepared. Copies of this schedule were available for members at the meeting.

**Abnormal Loads via Combwich Wharf (para 16 refers)**

9 Mr Cann said that there were no plans to bring any abnormal loads to the site via Combwich Wharf during 2011. Earlier comments in relation to the notification of local residents would be taken into account when such loads were to be transported in future.

**Dissolution of Magnox Fuel Element Debris (para 21 refers)**

10 Mr Hughes confirmed that there would be further discussions involving those who had been involved in the BPEO study if, as a result of experience at Bradwell, it was proposed to change the type of acid used for a Magnox dissolution process at Hinkley Point. Mrs Brown said that she understood that encapsulation of these wastes was the only process which did not involve discharges of radioactivity to atmosphere. She felt that encapsulation was therefore the safest option and should be adopted. Mr Hughes said that safety was taken into account within the best practicable environmental option process and any chosen option would be subject to the rigorous assessments of the company's internal and external regulatory processes. Mr Withey said that the BPEO process was well tried and proven and allowed for environmental and other factors to be taken into account within a safe working envelope. In response to a comment from Mr Debenham that economic factors might be given priority, Mr Hughes said that safety was the most important, but not the only factor which was taken into account; any proposal had to comply with the requirements of safety cases and discharge authorisations. Mr Western questioned the assertions made by Mrs Brown.

**Co-location of wastes (para 31 refers)**

11 Mr Hughes said that there were currently no proposals for the co-location of wastes on Magnox sites.

**Hinkley Point A decommissioning programme (para 34 refers)**

12 Mr Hughes said that current plans were for Hinkley Point A to enter into care and maintenance in 2030. Discussions were taking place with the NDA on the

possibility of an accelerated programme which would result in entry into care and maintenance in 2025. He undertook to keep members informed of progress in those discussions with the NDA.

- 13 Mrs Brown drew attention to what she believed was an increase in death rates from various causes in Burnham-on-Sea since vents had been fitted to the reactors after their shutdown. Cllr Short said that he had examined the Somerset PCT data and there was no indication of any area with an increased incidence of disease as suggested by Mrs Brown. Cllr Garner pointed out that it was always possible to identify what appeared to be "clusters" within any random distribution. Mr Hughes pointed out that the vents to which Mrs Brown referred were merely to allow for variations in atmospheric pressure and any discharges via that route were insignificant.

#### **Arrangements for meetings of this Group (para 41 refers)**

- 14 Cllr Caswell said that a meeting of the sub-group had been held to review arrangements for meetings of this Group. Discussion had focused on some possible economies and some anomalies in attendance at meetings. Consideration was being given to means of reviewing the membership. Cllr Caswell undertook to report further on these issues at the next meeting.

#### **UPDATE FROM SOMERSET NUCLEAR ENERGY GROUP**

- 15 Cllr Ms Fraser reported briefly on recent activities of the Somerset Nuclear Energy Group. She referred to the changes in the membership of the Group to include other Councils within Somerset and other bodies. She outlined the various aspects of the EDF Energy proposals discussed within the Group.

#### **STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B**

- 16 Mr Cann reported on recent performance and current issues at Hinkley Point B, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) There had been no lost time accidents, nuclear or reportable events during the past year. Every effort was being made to maintain this very good performance. Events in other industries such as the BP Deep Water Horizon event in the Gulf of Mexico were examined to see if any potential lessons could be learned. That particular event had demonstrated the benefits of the nuclear industry's system of internal regulation which did not exist within BP.
  - (ii) Consideration was being given as to how best to recruit additional apprentices to meet anticipated future manpower requirements.
  - (iii) Electrical output of 6.386 TWh during last year represented a load factor of some 90%. Load factor during the current year to date was more than 80%.

- (iv) Reactor 4 had shut down automatically on 28 December when an electrical fault occurred during refuelling operations. On the same day an electrical switchboard had been damaged by water ingress through a flat roof which had been damaged by the winter weather; similar roofs were being refurbished. The reactor had been returned to service on 6 January.
  
- 17 Mrs Brown asked about the extent of inspection of graphite bricks for signs of cracking. Mr Cann said that the 31 channels inspected during 2010 were equivalent to 10% of a reactor core; a similar number of inspections had been undertaken at Hunterston B. The inspection programme was designed against the requirements of the safety case and gave a representative inspection sample. These inspections confirmed the predictions resulting from the programme of materials testing which examined samples irradiated beyond the levels experienced within the reactor cores. Mr Burrows emphasised the involvement of the technical specialist staff within NII in determining the nature and scope of these programmes.
  
- 18 Mr Debenham congratulated the station on its safety and operational performance which had been recognised as world class. He suggested that despite the ongoing consultation and planning processes a decision had already been taken to proceed with Hinkley Point C. He referred to a recent report by Green Audit which said that quantities of enriched uranium existed on the C station site; he said that this report had been based upon EDF Energy data. Mr Cann said he was confident that this allegation was incredible. The only source of enriched uranium on the site was in the new fuel delivered to the site. The procedures for handling and accounting for fuel were such that there was no credible mechanism for enriched uranium to be present on the development site as claimed by Green Audit. The claims had however been taken seriously and independent investigations had been undertaken by the Environment Agency; the results would be published in due course. Mr Western confirmed from his knowledge of the fuel route system that there was no possibility of fuel becoming misplaced on the C site.

#### **SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - HINKLEY POINT A**

- 19 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 1350 days since the most recent lost time accident on the Site and more than 30 months without a personal contamination event.
  
  - (ii) Work continued to maintain the integrity of assets which were required on the site and to remove redundant assets where practicable. The electrical overlay system was now fully in service providing supplies to the site and enabling redundant electrical distribution systems to be removed safely.

- (iii) A BPEO study of alternatives for the storage of intermediate level wastes had been undertaken.
  - (iv) Agreement had been reached with EDF Energy for spoil arising from preparatory works on the C station site to be used to backfill the void in the A Site Turbine Hall. Preparations were being made to enable the spoil to be placed and compacted safely and efficiently. This use of the Turbine Hall void would greatly reduce the number of lorry journeys on local roads both for transporting the spoil away from the C station site and, at a later date importing material to backfill the A Site void. Consideration was being given to the possible future use of the Turbine Hall for C station construction activities.
  - (v) During the past year two full-height and two half-height ISO containers had been despatched to the low level waste repository at Drigg. Some 600 tonnes of non-radiological controlled wastes had been sent from the site; more than 75% of this waste had been recycled.
  - (vi) Magnox North and Magnox South had been integrated as a single site licence company.
- 20 In reply to a question from Cllr Allen, Mr Hughes estimated that approximately 5000 lorry journeys on local roads would be avoided by placing C station spoil in the A Site Turbine Hall void. Cllr Malim commented that the use of the Turbine Hall as a fabrication facility for C station would greatly reduce the volume of traffic on local roads and appeared to offer a good economic proposition.
- 21 In reply to questions from Mrs Brown, Mr Hughes confirmed that the currently planned date for final site clearance was 2106. Following shut down and pending dismantlement the reactor pressure vessels had to be vented to allow for changes in atmospheric pressure. Mr Withey said that normal discharges of radioactivity whilst the reactors were in operation would have been significantly higher than those from this current ventilation system. Cllr Dr Kellaway-Marriott suggested that these matters were not relevant to the current discussion on the Site's report. He commented that he represented a coastal ward but believed that variations in life expectancy rates were more likely to be influenced by lifestyle choices than by environmental factors.
- 22 In reply to a question from Mr Debenham, Mr Hughes said that a report on the ILW BPEO study was being prepared and details would be made available to members in due course.

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

- 23 A report on issues discussed recently by the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee had been circulated to members. There were no matters arising from that report.

## **NII REPORTS**

- 24 A reports from the NII Site Inspector for Hinkley Point B had been circulated to members. A report for A Site for the corresponding period would be circulated in due course. Mr Burrows drew attention to the recent government announcement of the intention to establish an Office for Nuclear Regulation with responsibilities for the regulation of nuclear safety, security, safeguards and the safe transport of radioactive materials.

## **REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

- 25 Copies of a report from the Environment Agency had been circulated to members.
- 26 In reply to a question from Mr Debenham on the current position in relation to the intermediate level waste settling tanks, Mr Hughes said that there had been no evidence of leakage from the tanks but some evidence of external leakage into the secondary containment. Improvements undertaken included the installation of level detection facilities within the tanks, the rectification of the leakage into the secondary containment and the installation of leak detection facilities within that secondary containment. Discussions were taking place with the NII and Environment Agency on future arrangements for these wastes and it was likely that the contents would be removed from these tanks by March 2014.

## **NDA REPORT**

- 27 Mr Lesinski reported on current NDA issues. He described his responsibilities in his new post within the NDA. He outlined the arrangements for introducing competition for the management of the Dounreay site. He explained the structure of the NDA's plans and the priority given within those plans to reduction of the most significant hazards. He explained why, on the basis of priority given to hazard reduction, certain work at other sites was given priority over work at Hinkley Point A.
- 28 In reply to a question from Cllr Williams, Mr Lesinski confirmed that safety and compliance were always given the highest priority. In reply to questions from Mr Debenham, Mr Lesinski explained the source of the NDA's funding from government and from operational activities. He said that it would always be possible to accelerate some work if additional funding was available but the law of diminishing returns applied and it was often better to proceed sequentially, taking advantage of experience gained at other sites.

## **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

- 29 A report from Cllr Caswell had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. He referred to his comments expressing regret that the NDA had decided to discontinue regular meetings of the National Stakeholder Group. No further issues were raised by members on that report.

## **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

No business

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

- 30 It was noted that the next meeting of the Group would be held at Hinkley Point on Friday 24 June 2011, commencing at 10:00am.

MJD

3 March 2011

Appendix 1

SSG Sub Group

Mike Caswell	Chairman - Stockland Bristol
Mervyn Brown	Deputy Chairman - Otterhampton Parish
Mike Short	Fiddington
Terry Williams	Kilve Parish
Barbara Child	Co-opted
John Edney	Somerset County Council
Jo Brown	PCAH
Alan Debenham	Stop Hinkley
Dawn Hill	Sedgemoor District Council
Paul Tipney	West Somerset District Council
Anne Fraser	Sedgemoor District Council
R Garner	North Somerset
Chris Morgan	West Somerset District Council