

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at the YMCA, Bridgwater On Friday 28 October 2011

Present

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

Elected Members

Cllr V Banham	-	Sedgmoor District Council
<u>Cllr M Brown</u>	-	Otterhampton Parish Council
<u>Ms J Brown</u>	-	Parents Concerned about Hinkley
<u>Mr A Debenham</u>	-	Stop Hinkley
Mr K Ellett	-	Trades Union Representative
<u>Cllr Ms A Frazer MBE</u>	-	Sedgmoor District Council
Cllr R Garner	-	North Somerset Council
Cllr Ms S Goss	-	West Somerset District Council
Cllr P Grierson	-	West Somerset District Council
Cllr N Harrison	-	Wembdon Parish Council
Cllr M Hogg	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council
Cllr N Jones	-	Sedgmoor District Council
Cllr A Keen	-	Kilve Parish Council
Cllr P Knibb	-	Bawdrip Parish Council
Cllr P Malim OBE	-	Stogursey Parish Council
Cllr C Morgan	-	West Somerset District Council
Ms B Oates	-	West Hinkley Action Group
Cllr J Parham	-	Somerset County Council
Cllr D Peastor	-	Over Stowey Parish Council
Ms N Redfern	-	National Farmers' Union
Cllr J Roberts	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council
<u>Cllr M Short</u>	-	Fiddington Parish Council
Mr K Ter Braak	-	Friends of Quantock
Cllr A Trollope-Bellew	-	Somerset County Council
Cllr T Williams	-	Kilve Parish Council

Co-opted Members

Mr J Walker	-	Co-opted Member
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Appointed Members

Mr J Burrows	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Dr P Mountford-Lister	-	Environment Agency
Mr T Howes	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr D Bamsey	-	Sedgmoor District Council
Ms N Dawson	-	Somerset County Council

EDF Energy

Mr P Higginson	-	Technical Safety and Support Manager
Mr G Bell	-	Public Relations Officer
Mr D Stokes	-	Community Liaison Officer
Mr M Speed	-	Hinkley B LJC Representative
Mr D Hill	-	Environmental Safety Group Head

Magnox

Ms J Hellier	-	Communications Support
Mr D Williams	-	Acting Head of Environment
Mr S Payne	-	Communications Officer

In Attendance

Mr D Batters	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Dr B Burnett	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr M J Davis	-	Secretary

Members of the Sub Group are highlighted above in bold and underlined. Appendix 1 shows the full Sub Group membership.

OPEN PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

- 1 Cllr Caswell welcomed all those present to this meeting of the Site Stakeholder Group for Hinkley Point A Site and Hinkley Point B Power Station. He invited questions from members of the public on any issue which might not be covered in later discussion; no issues were raised.

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Mr B Slade, Mr C Graham, Cllr C Allen, Mr D Rushton, Mr G McMeekan, Mr H Rickard, Cllr J Edney, Mr P Kennedy, Dr S Nicholson and Miss B Child.
- 3 It was confirmed that there was a quorum of elected members present at the meeting.
- 4 It was noted that a number of changes to membership would be considered later in the meeting under Agenda Item 13.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 JUNE 2011

(a) Accuracy

- 5 The minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2011 were approved as a correct record subject to the correction in para 4 of the spelling of the name of Ms B Oates.

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

B Station Review by World Association of Nuclear Operators (para 7(vii) refers)

- 6 Mr Harrison said that an improvement plan had been put in place to address issues identified by the peer review undertaken by the World Association of Nuclear Operators. Such improvements were part of an ongoing programme of continuous improvement.

A Station review of risk assessments (para 23 refers)

- 7 Mr Hughes reported that the required review of risk assessments had been completed and improvements made where appropriate. Dr Mountford-Lister confirmed that this was an ongoing issue which would be reported in due course.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A

- 8 Mr Hughes reported on activities at Hinkley Point A since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) It was now more than 52 months since the most recent lost time accident on the site and more than 42 months without a personal contamination event. Activities in support of European Safety Week would be based upon maintenance and safe driving themes.
 - (ii) Work to justify the continued use of ILW settling tanks until March 2014 was nearing completion. It was planned for the contents to be removed from these tanks by that date.
 - (iii) Ongoing programmes of work were in place to maintain assets as appropriate during the period leading up to entry into care and maintenance. The programme of asbestos removal work would be completed during the coming financial year.
 - (iv) Movements of spoil from the site of the proposed Hinkley Point C Station to the Hinkley Point A Site turbine hall basement were taking place. Movements to date had avoided the need for some 3000 journeys to and from the site on local roads. Apart from the avoidance of these journeys

this arrangement was mutually beneficial to EDF Energy and Magnox due to reduced landfill costs and the avoidance of importing material at a later date to fill the basement void.

- (v) Progress was being made in the areas of work which had been identified to take advantage of the additional funding made available to the site. Work on the removal of plant from the reactor buildings was planned to start in the New Year. A small section of one of the cooling ponds was to be drained partially to obtain data for further draining. Design work was continuing on a modified interim ILW store which would utilise the existing foundation slab. A decision in relation to the possible dissolution of fuel element debris was likely to be taken at the end of the year.
 - (vi) Proposals were being developed for changed car parking arrangements on the Hinkley Point A site.
 - (vii) Counselling of all staff against the requirements of a revised organisational structure had been completed.
 - (viii) Magnox had decided to shut down Reactor 1 at Oldbury permanently in February 2012 on the grounds that further operation would not be economically viable.
- 9 Cllr Williams asked about the radiation dose levels in the vicinity of the ILW settling tanks. Mr Hughes said that the potential dose level adjacent to the tank would be approximately 150mSv per hour. This was within a shielded area which had no man access. Potential exposure rates outside this shielding would be at much lower levels.
- 10 Cllr Ms Goss asked whether progress had been made in determining possible future uses for the former Hinkley Point A Station turbine hall. Mr Hughes said that current focus was upon the backfilling of the basement void with spoil but he confirmed that dialogue was taking place with NDA and EDF Energy on potential future uses of the turbine hall building.
- 11 In response to a question from Ms Brown on discharges to atmosphere associated with ILW storage, Mr Hughes said that such discharges would be controlled in accordance with the ICRP risk model and would be within statutory limits. In response to the comment by Ms Brown that those limits were too high, Cllr Caswell said this was not a matter for the Site Director but one which she should address to the regulatory authorities. Cllr Garner said it was not the case that all exposures to radiation were harmful; he said that below a certain threshold level, exposures could have a neutral or even beneficial effect.
- 12 In reply to questions from Mr Debenham on the development of proposals for dissolution of magnox fuel element debris, Mr Hughes said that a Best Available

Technique process was being followed to determine the proposals which would be adopted. In response to a question from Cllr Knibb, Mr Hughes confirmed that disposals of waste containing asbestos were sent to appropriate registered sites. In reply to questions from Cllr Malim on the revised plans for an ILW store, Mr Hughes said that the “mini store” containers were self shielding and the building would only be required to provide weather protection for the containers; it was planned that the construction of this building should commence in 2013. In reply to a question from Cllr Jones, Mr Hughes said that current plans were based upon a date for entry into a care and maintenance state in 2025 and a date for final site clearance in 2106.

STATION DIRECTOR’S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 13 Mr Harrison reported on activities and performance at Hinkley Point B since the previous meeting of this group, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) It was now more than 890 days since the most recent lost time incident involving EDF Energy staff on site and more than 1340 days for contract partners. It was more than 1300 days since the station “reset the clock” for nuclear reportable events and more than 880 days since the most recent environmental reportable event.
 - (ii) Numbers of staff employed on the site remained at similar levels but the number of apprentices had been increased to 37. The latest group to complete their apprenticeships had taken up posts on the site.
 - (iii) Some 220 contractors’ staff were regularly employed on site. During outage periods additional contractors’ resources of around 1000 staff were engaged on site.
 - (iv) Since the previous meeting the station had produced over 2.2TWh of electricity. Reactor 3 had been in continuous operation since August 2010 until the day before this meeting when it had been shut down due to a control system anomaly; current investigations would be completed before the plant was returned to service. A programme of statutory overhaul and inspection work on Reactor 4 had started on 14 October and this work was ongoing.
 - (v) The reactor outage represented an investment of over £35M in the improvement of the plant. Work would include graphite core inspections, the replacement of four gas circulators and the replacement of a station transformer; high pressure and intermediate pressure turbine rotors were being removed and returned to manufacturer’s works for inspections. Vigorous efforts were being made to ensure that high safety standards were met during this major programme of work.

- (vi) Action by protesters against the Hinkley Point C Station development at the entrance to the site on 3 October had passed peacefully. Action had been taken by the station to minimise the impact on the community and on the operation of the station.
 - (vii) The station had hosted visits by a wide range of visitors and opportunities for increasing visitor access to the site were being considered.
 - (viii) The socio-economic impact of a power station upon its local community had been demonstrated in a study undertaken at Torness Power Station. Copies of the report on this study could be made available to members if they wished.
- 14 In relation to the large numbers of additional staff on site during the outage, Ms Oates asked whether car sharing arrangements were encouraged. Mr Harrison confirmed that this was the case with priority parking spaces being allocated to those who were sharing transport. In reply to Cllr Malin, Mr Harrison said that the large loads travelling to and from the site during the outage would be carried by road and efforts would be made to minimise the impact on the community; the replacement station transformer had been delivered to the site some months previously.
- 15 Cllr Short reiterated his concerns expressed at the previous meeting that information on load factors presented to this group did not give a clear indication for comparison with other forms of electricity generation as allowances were made for certain restrictions on output. Mr Harrison said that he was committed to the use of the internationally recognised Unit Capability Factor which was designed to focus upon operational performance compared with plan. He acknowledged Cllr Short's request and undertook to consider ways in which future reporting to this group might be supplemented.
- 16 Cllr Ms Goss drew attention to the number of lorries travelling to the site using local roads and not following the routes recommended for these vehicles. Mr Harrison and Mr Hughes confirmed that efforts were made with suppliers and contractors to ensure that their vehicles used prescribed routes. Cllr Ms Goss suggested that additional signage might be helpful.
- 17 In response to comments made by Ms Brown on what she regarded as the inadequate scope of reactor graphite inspections, Mr Harrison said that the inspection programme was designed to support the multi-faceted safety case. The programme included inspections in all areas of the reactor core together with the testing and analysis of samples of graphite removed from the reactor.
- 18 Mr Higginson reported on the circumstances of the accident at the Fukushima power plant in Japan on 11 March caused by a major earthquake followed by a tsunami which inundated the site. He said that the shut down systems had

- operated correctly in response to the earthquake but the tsunami had caused the loss of electricity supplies to the reactor cooling systems. He described the process by which hydrogen had been produced, and vented from, within the reactor containments leading to explosions which severely damaged outer reactor buildings. He described the releases of radioactivity to the environment and the actions taken to evacuate and protect members of the local population.
- 19 Mr Higginson explained the fundamental differences in design between the boiling water reactors (BWR) at Fukushima and the reactors operated in the UK; those differences would result in significantly different behaviour in the event of loss of reactor cooling capability. He outlined the review of lessons which might be learned from the accident which had been instigated by government and undertaken by a team led by Dr M Weightman, the Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations. The conclusions of the interim report had included an assurance that there was no reason to curtail the operation of any nuclear plants in the UK and a comment that the industry had acted responsibly in response to the accident. Dr Weightman had recently published his final report. Mr Higginson gave details of other reviews of the implications of the accident undertaken within the nuclear industry, both within the UK and via the World Association of Nuclear Operators, and “stress tests” requested by the European Union.
- 20 During discussion Cllr Malim asked whether the proposed additional nitrogen storage tanks were being provided in response to the event at Fukushima. Mr Higginson said that this storage was being provided as an additional safety measure to improve the reactor hold down capability but this enhancement had been planned before the Fukushima accident. In response to a question from Cllr Williams, Mr Higginson said that reviews of the potential consequences of accidents included consideration of “beyond design basis” accidents which could not be envisaged from the design of the plant.
- 21 Mr Debenham commented that little information appeared to be available on the implications of the accident for the local population. Mr Higginson said that the initial focus had been on nuclear safety aspects. He stated that the independent view was that the Japanese authorities had put in place public protection measures in a timely manner; he envisaged that further information on response to the event would be available in due course. Cllr Caswell felt that much of the media reporting on the Japanese earthquake and tsunami had focussed unduly upon the situation at the Fukushima plant and given less information on the devastation and loss of life across the north eastern part of Japan. In reply to a question from Cllr Brown, Mr Higginson confirmed that there were a number of diverse fuel supply arrangements for the gas turbines which provided essential back up electricity supplies at Hinkley Point B.
- 22 Members expressed their appreciation of the detailed analysis of the Fukushima accident which Mr Higginson had provided.

REPORT FROM THE EMERGENCY PLANNING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

- 23 A report on the meeting of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee held on 7 September 2011 had been made available to members. Mr Higginson drew attention to arrangements for stocks of potassium iodate tablets to be redistributed to residents within the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone in February 2012 and for calendars to be distributed within that zone in November 2011. No further issues were raised by members.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- 24 Dr Mountford-Lister presented a report from the Environment Agency on matters relating to Hinkley Point. He referred to the monitoring of radioactivity in the environment undertaken by CEFAS; a report on the results of their monitoring in 2010 was available on their website. He referred also to the report on assessments of radioactivity in food undertaken by the Food Standards Agency in conjunction with the Environment Agency; the latest report showed that the maximum potential radiation dose to a member of the public in the vicinity of the site was less than 2% of the statutory limit.
- 25 Dr Mountford-Lister referred to an allegation of unlawful disposal of low level radioactive waste on the proposed Hinkley Point C Station site. The allegation had been made anonymously via Stop Hinkley but was taken seriously and was being investigated. A report would be made to the operators and this Group in due course.
- 26 Dr Mountford-Lister outlined the scope of the inspections undertaken by the Environment Agency at Hinkley Point and referred specifically to his interest in potential discharges associated with proposals for dealing with magnox fuel element debris. He referred also to improvements associated with kerosene pipelines on the Hinkley Point B Station site.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORTS

- 27 Reports from the Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR) on matters relating to Hinkley Point A and B had been made available to members. Mr Burrows pointed out that in order to improve transparency, the ONR's inspection and project assessment reports would in future be available on the ONR website. He acknowledged the safety improvements for Hinkley Point B associated with the installation of articulated control rods and the provision of a nitrogen hold down system.
- 28 Ms Brown raised questions on the venting of the shut down Hinkley Point A station reactors and the period of 80 years allowed for decay of radioactivity. Mr Hughes explained that these issues were not connected - the vents were

installed following shut down in accordance with standard practice to allow for the effect of changes in atmospheric pressure and the period of 80 years was allowed for radioactivity to decay so that final dismantlement of reactor structures could be achieved with lower radiation exposures. Cllr Caswell said that these were not issues to be raised with the ONR. He was disappointed that these issues were being raised again despite the efforts made to provide information previously. Cllr Garner quoted from a report by the South West Public Health Observatory which pointed out that the incidence of infant mortality and cancers was no higher in Sedgmoor and West Somerset than in the South West or in England as a whole. Mr Walker suggested that rather than engage in further public debate it was time for actions to be taken to proceed with building new nuclear power stations in line with government policy.

REPORT FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 29 Mr Batters and Dr Burnett reported on matters of current interest to the NDA, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Mr Fountain was leaving his post as NDA Chief Executive to take up an overseas post in the oil and gas industry. As Chief Executive Mr Fountain had overseen significant changes within NDA with a major reduction in overheads.
 - (ii) The NDA had published its Engagement Plan and its revised Strategy document. Copies were available on the website. The “Insight” magazine was published regularly.
 - (iii) In circumstances where it was appropriate to do so consideration was given to moving materials between sites for processing.
 - (iv) Site plans had been revised to reflect technical innovations. Activities focussed upon lead sites provided experience and led to innovations which could be adopted at other sites.
- 30 In response to a question from Cllr Short, Dr Burnett said that opportunities for the transfer of materials to other sites for processing would be considered where it appeared that it would be economically attractive to do so, having regard for transport costs and the alternative costs of providing duplicate facilities. All aspects would be the subject of consultation.

SOMERSET NUCLEAR ENERGY GROUP

- 31 Mr Bamsey reported briefly on matters considered by the Somerset Nuclear Energy Group. It was noted that plans for Hinkley Point C development were shortly to be submitted to the Infrastructure Planning Commission and would in due course be made available to the public.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

- 32 A report by Cllr Caswell on his activities as Chairman of this group had been made available to members. Cllr Caswell invited comments on his report. Cllr Brown referred to his visit to Dungeness A where he had seen the installed plant for dissolution of Magnox fuel element debris in weak acid; he said that he had been very impressed by this plant and its operation. No further issues were raised by members.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

- 33 Cllr Caswell left the meeting whilst the election of Chairman was discussed. Cllr Brown reported that nominations had been received for Cllr Caswell to be Chairman of the Group for the coming year; no other nominations had been received. It was agreed unanimously that Cllr Caswell should be elected Chairman of this Group for the coming year.
- 34 Cllr Caswell rejoined the meeting and Cllr Brown left the meeting whilst the election of Deputy Chairman was discussed. Cllr Caswell reported that nominations had been received for Cllr Brown to be Deputy Chairman of the Group for the coming year; no other nominations had been received. It was agreed unanimously that Cllr Brown should be elected Deputy Chairman of this Group for the coming year.

REVIEW OF SSG MEMBERSHIP

- 35 Cllr Brown reported on the outcome of a review of the membership of this Group. He explained that this review had been considered necessary as attendances of the established membership were such that on some recent occasions meetings had been only marginally quorate. Proposals for changes in the membership of this Group had been developed in consultation with organisations represented in the membership. The proposals represented a reduction in the numbers of voting and non-voting members; Cllr Brown drew attention to the proposed changes. The proposals had the support of the Sub Group.
- 36 During discussion some representatives of District Councils expressed the view that they would wish to take these proposals back for discussion with their Councils before agreeing to the changes. Other members indicated that they would wish to discuss some of the proposed changes with organisations represented in the membership. It was agreed that further consideration of the proposals should be deferred to the next meeting; for this purpose that part of that meeting would be considered to be an extension of this AGM.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

No business

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

37 It was noted that the next meeting of this group would be held at the Hinkley Point site on Friday 17 February 2012, commencing at 10.00am.

MJD
2 November 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
Anne Fraser	Sedgemoor District Council
R Garner	North Somerset
Chris Morgan	West Somerset District Council