



Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group

Hinkley Point A Site Director's Report

19 June 2009 – 22 October 2009

Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group Meeting

Friday 30 October 2009

Hinkley Point A Site Director's report for the period

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1. Safety and Environmental

The site has now gone 855 days without a Lost Time Accident (LTA) and over 19 months without a personal contamination event.

A number of safety awareness activities and competitions were organised as part of European Safety Week. The activities focused on behavioural safety at work, radiological safety, waste management and recycling, hand protection and asbestos awareness. AKT Productions Ltd, the UK's premier provider of theatre-based learning resources, performed a re-enactment of a real life incident that occurred on an oil rig. This dealt with operative/supervisor tensions and attitudes to safe working. The audience were encouraged to discuss and question the unfolding event and apply their thoughts to their own working. The two sessions were attended by around 100 members of staff.

2. Hinkley Point A Project Progress

The major asbestos removal project has continued to clear areas identified on the site's asbestos management plan. These have included the ceiling voids above washroom facilities, transit corridors, restaurant areas and the operations department's offices. Preparations are well under way for the removal of historical asbestos thermal insulation within the R1 major volume CO₂ filter room. This work should be complete by the end of March 2010.

The S2P2 (Systems and Structures Preservation Project) team has now completed repair work to the cladding support rails in the blower house. Low flow alarms have been installed within the DCB (decontamination building) and one of the leak detection pits has also been repaired. Work continues to upgrade the heating/ventilation supply systems to various plant buildings within the RCA (Reactor Controlled Area). These upgrades will contribute to protecting the buildings from degradation as we move towards care and maintenance. A large amount of ventilation ducting across the RCA has recently been repaired or replaced and work will shortly commence on the replacement of the 275kV tunnel hatches.

The EOS (Electrical Overlay System) project has made the second connection to the National Grid at Hinkley's substation and has disconnected the first of two redundant site transformers. For the remainder of this year, the project will focus on transferring the electrical systems across to the new EOS system and will culminate in the final disconnection of the site's old High Voltage (HV) system.

The two new 275kV circuit breakers which were manufactured in the USA, were delivered to site in May after factory tests had been carried out. Timely delivery of the new circuit breakers and early placement of the design and installation contract allowed the previously mobilised construction work-force to be utilised for the site works to commence ahead of

plan and during good weather conditions. This phase is planned to be completed by the end of October 2009

At the last meeting, we reported that a project team had been established to review the integrity of some of the settling tanks that are used at Hinkley A to process waste streams. Since then the settling tanks have been examined with more sophisticated camera equipment using the additional access ports and samples have been taken from the outside surface of the tank and examined. Subject matter experts from within the company have been involved in the project and the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) have been consulted about corrosion and protection methods. This work has increased the confidence in the ability of these tanks to remain in a sound condition.

The project team will continue to design and develop a method of removing the contents of the tanks and safely storing it in new tanks until final processing. The team will also implement recommendations from NPL to provide additional protection to the existing tanks. We are keeping our regulators informed of any developments.

3. Waste Management

Since the last SSG meeting, one half height ISO container has been sent to the Low Level Waste Repository near Drigg in Cumbria with a further half height ISO container scheduled to be sent during November. Two full height ISO containers containing drummed waste have been sent to Sellafield for drum super-compaction. A shipment of contaminated metals is planned for despatch to the EnergySolutions Bear Creek facility in November for metal melting. This shipment will comprise of four half height ISO containers containing pond skips and steel for recycling. This shipment will complete the disposal of pond skips.

At the last SSG meeting we reported that we had successfully completed retrieval and decontamination of the pond skips. In addition to the pond skips, we also have an inventory of approximately 260 skips that have been retrieved from the skip store. They are dimensionally the same as the pond skips, but as a consequence of a different operational history they have an additional layer of paint on them. Since the last meeting the project team have been engaged in detailed waste characterisation and decontamination trials to confirm what the most appropriate decontamination process is for these skip store skips. This work has progressed well and the team will shortly be in a position to confirm the most appropriate decontamination process. Once the skip store skip decontamination operations are underway it is expected that it will take approximately one year to complete decontamination of the full inventory

The ponds team have continued to remove furniture and plant items from both ponds in order to desludge and clean the ponds floors. The initial desludging of R2 ponds is complete and all of the fuel fragments have been retrieved and are awaiting despatch to Sellafield. The despatch date has been put back slightly due to a delay in flask availability.

SILWM (Solid Intermediate Level Waste Management) – Following on from the Solid ILW options assessment panel which concluded with an outcome of dissolution, a programme of trials has been instigated to enable appropriate selection of acid for use within the process. Waste retrieval and sorting techniques are being investigated to maximise segregation potential prior to processing.

WILWM (Wet Intermediate Level Waste Management) – The programme of vitrification trials has been concluded. These trials are key to underpinning the technical success criteria

for vitrification in both capability for organic resins and technical readiness level of the technology. The trials have been successful and demonstrate the capability of the technology. The individual trial reports are being compiled to capture the current position and provide recommendations which will be used in the decision process.

The ILW Mini Stores initiative has progressed well since the last meeting. The three pathfinder Mini Stores that were successfully filled at Dungeness were an important part of the initial application in the UK. Further pathfinders have also been identified.

A number of stakeholders, including members of the Hinkley SSG, attended a workshop in Birmingham during September to discuss the potential use of ILW Mini Stores as an alternative to the current stainless steel container and concrete ILW store solution for storing intermediate level waste at the Magnox sites. Syndicate groups debated and recorded the priority they would give to 20 different attributes that feed into the decision making process. Safety, environmental and business factors were all considered and given an appropriate weighting. The findings will now be analysed and fed into a report which will be used as part of the submission to regulators in support of any ILW strategy change proposals.

Safety cases and support documentation is being prepared and regulatory engagement has continued. A submission to RWMD (Radioactive Waste Management Directorate), who will operate the national repository, should be finalised in November. If successful this will confirm that the Mini Stores can be used in the repository, although waste stream specific reviews will still be required before disposal.

4. General

Hinkley A has gained its licence to deliver IOSH (Institute of Occupational Safety and Health) accredited courses in 'working safely' and 'managing safely'. Four groups have successfully completed courses and more people will be taking part in the future.

The IOSH 'working safely' is a one-day course designed to deliver the basic principles of health and safety in an easy to understand and interactive style. It is designed to reduce the chances of injuries or ill health at work. IOSH 'managing safely' is a basic qualification in safety and health for managers and supervisors and is delivered over four days. The aim of this course is to ensure that safety requirements are appreciated by line managers. The course teaches them to review their own department for safety, introducing new controls or implementing changes to make the workplace safer. The ability for personnel on site to deliver this training will present significant long term savings for the site.

The HSE fire inspector completed an inspection in September. The inspector was pleased with the safety culture at the site and the systems in place. A number of best practices were taken away for disseminating.

Hinkley A continues to support the Bradwell ponds project team with the secondment of a number of trained and experienced workers .

5. Company Matters

The Magnox South worker/trainer scheme has won an award in the National Training Awards. The National Training Awards identify and celebrate organisations and individuals

that have achieved outstanding business and personal success through investment in training. The award was entered under the large employers category for the South West region.

The worker/trainer scheme is a flexible training programme which focuses on retraining the existing workforce at Magnox South sites in the skills needed for decommissioning. The unique thing about the scheme is that the trainers have been appointed from the existing workforce through a rigorous selection process which identified those with the aptitude and attitude to train, coach and mentor their colleagues. The group of worker/trainers initially attended an 18-day training skills course over a period of six weeks which consisted of theory and practical exercises carried out in a purpose built simulator.

Since the scheme began in 2007, the 16 members of staff operating as worker/trainers have delivered training to over 100 people across the company. The scheme has been endorsed as industry best practice by the National Skills Academy Nuclear.

Magnox South's Stand Up for Safety initiative has been short-listed for an internal communications award by the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR). The PRide awards recognise excellence in PR and communications across the UK. There are 24 award categories across 12 regions, with almost 1,500 entries received this year.

Stand Up for Safety is an initiative that began back in October 2008, with the first of two company-wide stand downs. Following the first video stand down there was a total of 70 safety workshops carried out across the company, with more than 1,000 workers attending. It was this level of support from everyone within the company that led to the process being a success.

The company will find out if they've won an award at a presentation dinner in Bristol on Wednesday 4 November.

Magnox South has published its third annual achievement brochure outlining many of the accomplishments which have been reached over the past year. The brochure can be downloaded from the Magnox South website www.magnoxsouthsites.com. Hard copies will be available at the SSG meeting on 30 October.

Last year Magnox became the first company in the country to achieve accreditation across a multi-sited organisation with IEMA - the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. Magnox South led the development of the professional development scheme for environmental professionals which is unique in being open to all environmental staff, not just graduates. To gain accreditation a personal commitment was made by 17 environmental staff to work towards chartered environmentalist status. Mentors were appointed to support these individuals.

In July 2009, two assessors from the institute revisited Magnox South to assess progress made against the initial accreditation. They confirmed that accreditation has been maintained for another two years.

Work continues to establish an organisational restructuring programme for Magnox South that will deliver best value for our customer by focusing as much available funding as possible towards decommissioning projects. A number of employees who expressed a wish to take severance have been released and further work is being undertaken with a view to releasing additional individuals from a list of potential volunteers. All severances are subject to appropriate and satisfactory application of the management of change arrangements.

6. Community Relations

At the last meeting, we reported that our fundraising for the site charity of the year, Ups and Downs Southwest, had been given an early boost when the site donated £1 for every skip that had been removed from the ponds, this equated to £1,175, an Easter raffle raised a further £325. Since then, staff have arranged further fundraising events in support of Ups and Downs. A loud shirt day was combined with a member of staff taking part in a sponsored head shave which raised a £1,615 and a cake bake and coffee morning raised a further £142.

The annual Hinkley Point fun run which was postponed in June because of the B Station outage, did eventually take place on 7 September. There were more than 60 entrants this year including a llama, a tin man and two bed push teams. More than £700 was raised through a raffle on the evening which will be split between the Hinkley A and Hinkley B charities. Entrants from the A site raised sponsor money for Ups and Downs Southwest which so far totals over £2,000. Staff are still in the process of collecting their money and a full update will be given in the next report.

Road safety - Tim Watkins, Deputy Site Director for Hinkley A and Nigel Cann, Station Director for Hinkley B, have formally handed over the speed indicator device we jointly purchased, to Somerset County Council. Cllr John Edney, Cllr Chris Morgan and Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew were also in attendance. The road safety team will be meeting again soon to discuss and plan more activities aimed at improving road safety around Hinkley Point.

As part of our ongoing commitment to keep the local community informed about our decommissioning activities, members of staff have continued to visit local community groups. Groups that have received presentations in the past few months include Bridgwater Probus Club, Milverton and Fitzhead Civic Society and a local group of Soroptimists.

We have hosted a number of visits to the site where decommissioning updates and tours were given. In June, 16 members of the IEMA (Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment) came to site for an update, some retired employees visited us in August and a lady on an exchange visit with a Canadian Rotary club spent a day with the communications team earlier this month.

Socio-economic Scheme

The Magnox South socio-economic scheme continues to offer support to the local communities surrounding its five sites. Last year, the scheme supported two projects in the Bridgwater area. The Bridgwater Chamber of Commerce was awarded £15,000 of revenue funding to cover costs associated with a full-time administration and marketing post for office duties, event management, media handling and attracting new members.

The Bridgwater Challenge was awarded £35,000 to implement an extensive community engagement plan. Tim Jones, Head of Communications for Magnox South and Gemma Coombs, Communications Support Officer at Hinkley A attended the Bridgwater Challenge press conference on 29 July. A report setting out the vision and strategic framework for Bridgwater was issued at the press conference. Some of the socio-economic funding has been used to sponsor the Bridgwater Challenge website – www.bridgwaterchallenge.org.uk.

The socio-economic assessment panel will be meeting in early November to consider applications for this years scheme. Application forms and guidelines for funding can be

found on the Magnox South website www.magnoxsouthsites.com. All applications should be sent by email to soc-ec.scheme@magnoxsouthsites.com by 31 October 2009.

Sponsorship

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

- Victoria Park football club and Spaxton football club have each received a new set of football kit.
- A new computer has been purchased for St Johns church to use for slide shows and presentations.
- A fountain has been presented to the sensory garden at the Old Vicarage in Cannington.
- Bridgwater Choral Society have been given a donation towards publicity and printing of programmes.
- British Flag carnival club have been awarded a donation to use on safety equipment for their carnival cart.
- Bridgwater Sports and Social Club ladies rounders team have received new team fleeces.
- Raffle prizes have been donated to the Bridgwater area association for the elderly to raise funds for the Ivy House luncheon club.