

## HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

### Minutes of the meeting held at Hinkley Point B Training and Induction Centre on Friday 30 October 2009

#### Present

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

#### Elected Members

|  |   |                                       |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Cllr M Brown</u></b>                   | - | Otterhampton Parish Council           |
| <b><u>Cllr M Caswell (Vice-Chairman)</u></b> | - | Stockland Bristol                     |
| Mr R Corns                                   | - | Natural England                       |
| <b><u>Mr A Debenham</u></b>                  | - | Stop Hinkley                          |
| Cllr J Edwards                               | - | Spaxton Parish Council                |
| Mr C Graham                                  | - | Sedgemoor & West Somerset Green Party |
| Cllr M Hogg                                  | - | Nether Stowey Parish Council          |
| Cllr N Jones                                 | - | Sedgemoor District Council            |
| Cllr Dr M Kellaway-Marriott                  | - | North Somerset District Council       |
| Mr C Knox                                    | - | National Farmers' Union               |
| <b><u>Cllr C Morgan</u></b>                  | - | West Somerset District Council        |
| Mr K ter Braak                               | - | Friends of Quantock                   |
| <b><u>Cllr P Tipney</u></b>                  | - | West Somerset District Council        |
| <b><u>Cllr T Williams</u></b>                | - | Kilve Parish Council                  |
| Mr C Aubrey                                  | - | Forum 21                              |

#### Appointed Members

|                 |   |                                      |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Mr A Roberts    | - | Somerset County Council              |
| Mr R Davies     | - | Somerset County Council              |
| Mr I Hunter     | - | Somerset County Council              |
| Mr T Howes      | - | Civil Nuclear Constabulary           |
| Mr I Bretherton | - | Nuclear Installations Inspectorate   |
| Mr M Warnes     | - | Nuclear Installations Inspectorate   |
| Mr P Smith      | - | Nuclear Installations Inspectorate   |
| Mr G Roberts    | - | Environment Agency - B Stn Inspector |
| Mr G McMeekan   | - | Environment Agency                   |
| Mr S Barker     | - | Nuclear Decommissioning Authority    |
| Mr D Withey     | - | Environment Agency                   |

#### Co-opted member

|                            |   |                 |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------|
| <b><u>Miss B Child</u></b> | - | Co-opted Member |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------|

#### British Energy

|              |   |                                 |
|--------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Dr D Norfolk | - | EdF Head of Environment         |
| Mr G Bell    | - | Public Relations Officer        |
| Mr D Stokes  | - | Human Resources Advisor         |
| Mr B Eyley   | - | Site Inspector                  |
| Mr M Haslett | - | Environmental Safety Group Head |

### **Magnox South**

|                           |   |                        |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Mrs J Hellier             | - | Communications Support |
| Mr P Montague             | - | EHSQ Manager           |
| Mr C Thomson              | - | Staff Representative   |
| Miss G Coombs             | - | Communications Support |
| Mr R Adcock               | - | Head of Environment    |
| Mr S Payne                | - | Berkeley Site          |
| Mrs S Stewart (Secretary) | - | Communication Officer  |

### **In Attendance**

|                |   |            |
|----------------|---|------------|
| Mr M J Davis   | - | Secretary  |
| Mr D Pritchard | - | EDF Energy |

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 Mr B Hughes, Mr D Bamsey, Mr D Haigh, Cllr Ms A Fraser, Mr G Hudd, Cllr A Trollope-Bellew, Cllr J Edney, Cllr C Allen, Cllr R Western, Cllr J Pinkard, Mrs N Dawson, Cllr Ms A Palmer, Cllr R Garner, Ms S Goss, Mr P Higginson, Ms A Watts, Ms J Brown and Cllr B Slade.
- 3 It was confirmed that a quorum of elected members was present at the meeting.
- 4 It was noted that Mr G McMeekan was to take over responsibilities from Mr G Roberts as the Environment Agency's Inspector for B Station.
- 5 Cllr Short pointed out that Sharon Stewart was to be leaving on early retirement at the end of the year and was to be replaced by Steven Payne. Cllr Short expressed members' thanks to Sharon for all the help and support she had given to the work of this group.

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2009**

#### **(a) Accuracy**

- 6 The minutes of the meeting of the group held on 26 June 2009 were approved as a correct record.

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

**Minutes of previous meeting (para 5 refers)**

- 7 Cllr Short said that he had written to Mrs Brown explaining that the minutes of the previous meeting had been approved as a correct record.

**B Station financial contribution to SSG meetings (para 6 refers)**

- 8 Cllr Short reported that at a meeting between the NDA, British Energy and the Chairmen of the SSGs at the dual sites (Hinkley Point, Dungeness, Sizewell and Hunterston) agreement had been reached on arrangements for sharing costs associated with those groups. EDF/British Energy were fully committed to the SSGs on the dual sites. Agreement had been reached on sharing costs with specific costs incurred by the NDA or British Energy being dealt with as appropriate. It had been agreed that where new build was applicable update reports would be given at SSG meetings.

**Attendance of Observers at Emergency Exercises (para 9 refers)**

- 9 Cllr Short pointed out that following the previous meeting the NII/OCNS had determined that attendance of observers at demonstration exercises would not be appropriate. Mr Cann said that he would be happy for a representative of this group to attend one of the shift exercises as an observer. Consideration would be given to the nomination of a representative in due course.

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

- 10 Mr Cann reported on recent performance and current issues at Hinkley Point B, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The station's good safety record had been maintained. It was now more than 146 days since the last accident on site involving time lost from work by a British Energy employee. It was more than 600 days since such an accident involving a contract partner.
  - (ii) Electricity production during the financial year to date was over 4.1 TWh (thousand million units) which was consistent with meeting the planned target for the full year.
  - (iii) There were currently 530 full-time British Energy employees at the station with 19 apprentices and 220 full-time contract staff.
  - (iv) Reactor 3 had operated continuously since its return to service following planned outage. The outage had been a major programme of work including more than 17,000 separate work activities. Work included the replacement of a generator stator weighing 235 tonnes.
  - (v) Inspections undertaken during the Reactor 3 outage included the inspection of 31 fuel channels which represented some 10% of the

core. All inspection results had been within expectations and safety case parameters.

- (vi) Other inspections during the outage included the re-inspection of all boiler bifurcations. These inspections had been independently verified and provided further support for the safety case. As a result of work undertaken it had been possible to recover a further 6% of the boiler surface providing increased output since return to service.
  - (vii) During the outage a small quantity of radioactive dust had been released into the gas bypass plant area and eight workers who had been replacing a valve had become contaminated. The reactor was shut down and depressurised and was being held at negative pressure for this replacement work. During the work the pressure in the reactor became positive and the dust was emitted. The maximum exposure to those involved was independently assessed as 59 microSieverts ( $\mu\text{Sv}$ ). The event had been the subject of a thorough investigation by both the company and the NII. Lessons learnt from the investigation will be applied across the fleet to ensure such an event does not occur again..
  - (viii) The newly installed surface water interceptor was now in service. The investment of £1.7 million in this facility would significantly reduce the potential impact of any oil spillage on site.
  - (ix) The station continued its support for local community activities and Talks Service speakers were available on request. Efforts were made to encourage safe and responsible driving by persons travelling to the site. A speed indicator device purchased jointly with the A site had been presented to Somerset County Council and further road safety initiatives were planned.
- 11 In reply to a question from Cllr Williams, Mr Cann said that the level of apprentice recruitment was kept under review to match future requirements. He envisaged that numbers of apprentices would be increased to meet future manpower requirements with some staff transferring to posts on C Station and others reaching retirement age.
- 12 In response to questions from Mr Debenham on the reported contamination event, Mr Cann said it was relatively unusual to carry out work without a fixed isolation but sometimes it was necessary to do so. He explained that the change in pressure was associated with the differential pressure across the fans which were circulating air within the reactor. He said that there had been a robust response to improve procedures covering work of this nature; he was due to visit the NII offices to explain the actions which had been taken.
- 13 In response to further questions from Mr Debenham on the graphite core inspections, Mr Cann explained the scope of the inspection programme. The results of inspections undertaken on similar reactors at Hunterston B supplemented the Hinkley results and various sampling techniques were used to determine future inspection requirements.

- 14 In response to questions on the possible removal of the restrictions on output imposed due to defects found previously in boiler components, Mr Cann said that options were kept under review. He said that there was a balance to be struck between justifying the removal of those restrictions and maintaining conditions which would safeguard and possibly extend the future life of the plant. Recent inspections had confirmed that with current operating parameters there had been no deterioration in the condition of the affected welds.
- 15 Cllr Dr Kellaway Marriott, commented on the successful and safe replacement of the large alternator stator. Mr Cann said that this had been replaced as part of the preventative maintenance programme; some defects identified previously in the old stator had been monitored but their condition had not deteriorated.

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

- 16 Mr Watkins reported on activities at Hinkley Point A Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) It was now 863 days since the last accident on site involving time lost from work and over 19 months without a personal contamination event. Magnox South as a whole was approaching a full year without a lost time accident at any of its sites.
  - (ii) Further investigation of the observed external corrosion on waste settling tanks reported at the previous meeting had given increased confidence in the continued integrity of the tanks. As a conservative measure the timescale for retrieval of the wastes was being advanced.
  - (iii) Techniques had been developed for decontamination of the fuel skips held in the skip store. A different process was required due to additional layers of paint compared with the skips from the ponds.
  - (iv) Fragments of fuel retrieved from the ponds were awaiting the availability of a transport flask for despatch from site.
  - (v) Trials were being undertaken in relation to solid intermediate level waste to determine the most appropriate acid for use within a dissolution process and to investigate retrieval and sorting techniques which would segregate the wastes prior to processing. Trials of a process of vitrification for wet intermediate level wastes had been completed.
  - (vi) Good progress had been maintained with the ILW mini stores initiative. A decision on the acceptability and use of these stores was likely to be taken during the coming year.
  - (vii) The site maintained its support for local community activities and charities. Further initiatives to improve road safety were to be pursued.

- 17 Mr Debenham drew attention to publicity given recently in the local press to the high number of deaths from asbestos-related diseases associated with the power station site. Mr Watkins said that a large number of industries were affected by asbestos hazards. Current procedures were very effective in ensuring that asbestos removal was undertaken safely. Cllr Short pointed out that the diseases had developed over a large number of years and awareness of the hazards and precautions relating to the use of asbestos had changed dramatically over that time. Cllr Dr Kellaway Marriott said he believed that the industry had an excellent safety record; it clearly went to great lengths to maintain high standards of safety at work and even addressed issues of safety for personnel travelling to the site.
- 18 Mr Debenham asked about the effects of financial restraints on work programmes. Mr Watkins said that work programmes had been subjected to financial constraints and some work had been delayed but opportunities for efficiency improvements continued to be sought. In particular, consideration was being given to the development of resources at Bradwell which could be used in due course to implement projects efficiently at other sites. The proposed care and maintenance period remained unchanged.
- 19 Cllr Brown said that having taken part in the earlier discussions on options for the treatment of solid intermediate level wastes, he would welcome further information on the consideration being given to the use of different acids as part of a dissolution process. Mr Adcock confirmed that it was proposed that further discussions would be held with that group in due course.
- 20 In response to further questions from Cllr Brown on the treatment of intermediate level wastes, Mr Adcock said that vitrification trials had taken place in a number of countries; the selection of waste treatment techniques was to some extent dependent upon the specific wastes at individual sites.
- 21 Cllr Williams referred to the high cost of some of the identified projects, notably the recovery of wastes and replacement of high voltage circuit breakers, all of which costs had to be borne by the taxpayer. Mr Watkins emphasised the efforts made to ensure that cost effective options were selected.

## **EMERGENCY PLANNING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

- 22 Mr Haslett reported on discussions at the meeting of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee held on 2 September 2009. He said that both A site and B station had successfully demonstrated their nuclear emergency and site security arrangements. Plans for future exercises were reviewed at the meeting. He said that public information calendars and new stocks of potassium iodate tablets would be distributed to residents living within the detailed emergency planning zone during the coming months; this would also provide an opportunity for the updating of contact details for the automatic warning and notification system.

- 23 Mr Haslett said that plans were in place within the industry to counter the effects of a Swine Flu epidemic. Arrangements were in place to monitor the incidence of the disease and prevent its spread as far as possible.

#### **FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY REPORT**

- 24 Consideration of this item was deferred to the next meeting when the FSA's report on the monitoring results would be available.

#### **REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

- 25 Copies of a report to the group from the Environment Agency had been circulated to members. Cllr Short invited questions from members to the Agency representatives.
- 26 Mr Debenham questioned the report that there had been no environmental discharge from the contamination event on B Station discussed earlier in the meeting. Mr Roberts said that a ventilation system extracted air from the area affected by the incident and discharged it via filters. Monitoring results showed no change in the discharges before, during and after the event and examination of the filters had confirmed that it was not possible to detect any additional activity arising from the event.
- 27 Cllr Dr Kellaway Marriott asked whether proposals for the development of a new power station would take account of proposed tidal generation schemes in the Severn estuary. Dr Norfolk confirmed that schemes which were sufficiently well developed would be taken into account.

#### **NII REPORTS**

- 28 Reports from the NII Site Inspectors for Hinkley Point A and B had been circulated to members. Cllr Short invited members to address any questions to the NII representatives present at the meeting.
- 29 In response to a question from Mr Debenham, Mr Smith said that the proposed changes in the structure of the Nuclear Directorate were designed to improve transparency, accountability and consistency of regulatory activities but would not affect the nature or standards of the regulation at the various sites.
- 30 Mr Smith referred to a recent letter from Mrs Brown of Parents Concerned About Hinkley which had raised issues arising from the NII's report to this Group. Copies of Mrs Brown's letter had been made available to members on the morning of this meeting. The issues raised were:
- (i) Event at Hinkley Point B on 16 July 2009 and question of release of radioactivity to the environment. Mr Smith said that this matter had been addressed by the Environment Agency earlier in the meeting.

- (ii) Hinkley Point B integrity of graphite core. Mr Smith said that a satisfactory safety case existed for the graphite cores and this continued to be the subject of close monitoring.
- (iii) Local communities' human rights to life. Mr Smith said that the NII would reply to Mrs Brown on this matter.

31 Referring to the comment in the correspondence from Mrs Brown that the venue of this meeting had been changed, Cllr Short said that this was not the case as the meeting had always been scheduled to be held at the Training and Induction Centre.

## **NDA REPORT**

- 32 A briefing note on current NDA issues had been circulated to members. Mr Barker drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) Mr Tony Fountain had been appointed as Chief Executive of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.
  - (ii) Safety, security and environmental protection continued to be given the highest priority. The NDA was pleased with the progress made by Magnox in the safe management of its sites.
  - (iii) Some £387million had been raised by the sale of redundant land at three sites during the past year.
  - (iv) Consultation on the strategy for the management of solid low level waste would be closed at the end of November.
- 33 In reply to a question from Mr Debenham, Mr Barker confirmed that the earlier consultation on the preferred end state for the site remained part of the NDA's thinking. Cllr Dr Kellaway Marriott drew attention to the apparent success of the industry's Nuclear Graduates Programme.

## **EDF ENERGY NEW BUILD UPDATE**

- 34 Dr Norfolk provided an update on preparations being made by EdF Energy for future power station development at Hinkley Point. He said that the proposal was to establish two EPR units, each of 1800 MW gross electrical output (1670 MW net electrical output). He said that the plant would be intended for an operating life of 60 years and would therefore be built to the highest standards of safety, quality and operational efficiency. It was intended that the first unit would be operational before the end of 2017 and the second in 2019.
- 35 Dr Norfolk said that approximately half of the construction workforce would be from outside the local area. It was anticipated that up to 1000 would be accommodated in purpose-built accommodation.

- 36 Dr Norfolk described the investigatory work which was planned to be carried out during the next quarter. This included the digging of trenches for archaeological surveys, deeper trenches for geological and environmental surveys, and boreholes. Offshore surveys would be undertaken to determine the optimum location for cooling water intake and outfall structures and boreholes would be drilled in the sea bed for geological analysis.
- 37 Dr Norfolk explained the intention to carry out some preparatory work on site in advance of deep excavations. Permission for these works would be sought from West Somerset District Council but their consent would not prejudice the IPC consent decision. These works would be carried out entirely at EdF Energy's own risk and would be restored if IPC consent was not forthcoming. The works included work on the sea wall, the preparation of a jetty, some terracing and drainage.
- 38 Dr Norfolk said that it was anticipated that the government would publish its National Policy Statement shortly. It was intended that the company would then publish a Statement of Community Consultation and consultation on the initial options would then take place during November - January. Issues arising from those consultations would then be taken into account in a second stage of consultations on final proposals which would be considered during March - May with the intention of submitting a formal planning application in summer 2010.
- 39 In reply to questions from Cllr Walker and Cllr Tipney, Dr Norfolk explained the need for preparatory work to establish a good understanding of the site and local issues in order to be in a position to submit a formal planning application. The plant would be of a proven design built elsewhere. The consultation would provide information on potential impacts of the plant.
- 40 Cllr Dr Kellaway Marriott asked about the carbon emissions per unit of generation compared with other types of generating plant. Dr Norfolk referred to a study which had assessed full life cycle carbon dioxide emissions from Torness and Sizewell B power stations. The study, which had been undertaken by independent consultants, had shown that the carbon emissions associated with those stations were very small compared with those from gas and coal fired plants.
- 41 In reply to questions from Mr Thomson, Dr Norfolk said he anticipated that there would be approximately 600 staff employed at the site when both units were in operation (*see footnote*). He said that it was not yet possible to identify the source of fuel but that it should not be assumed that irradiated fuel would be reprocessed. He said that some major plant components would inevitably be sourced from overseas manufacturers but the project would provide major opportunities for the UK supply chain.
- 42 Cllr Brown asked whether the jetty to which Dr Norfolk had referred would be temporary or a permanent feature for the life of the plant. Dr Norfolk said that this would be intended for receipt of aggregates during the construction of the station in order to reduce requirements for road transport. He said that the later

occasional requirement for large loads to be brought to the site by sea might be met by the use of Combwich Wharf. He said that facilities would be provided on site for the storage of all spent fuel arising during the operational life of the station.

- 43 In reply to questions on the need for road transport improvements, Dr Norfolk referred to the proposed park and ride arrangements. He did not believe that a need had been identified for a new crossing of the River Parrett. The consultation would take account of views on the need for road transport improvements. Cllr Short suggested that transport improvements and accommodation for workers were likely to be the biggest issues raised in the consultation process
- 44 Mr Debenham questioned whether the proposed plant design had in fact been proven in use elsewhere. Dr Norfolk said that the design would closely follow that of plants built elsewhere. The design had been subject to scrutiny by the NII, EA and OCNS as part of their Generic Design Assessment and a report was expected shortly.
- 45 Cllr Williams asked whether electricity prices might be influenced by the French ownership of the parent company. Dr Norfolk said that there were global influences on fuel prices but prices for consumers were determined by the market for electricity in the UK.

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

- 46 It was noted that current issues had been dealt with in discussion under the previous agenda item.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

- 47 Cllr Short had circulated to members in advance of the meeting a note on current activities and issues. He drew particular attention to:
- (i) Discussions with National Grid Company on proposals for upgrading the transmission system to accommodate the output from the new plant.
  - (ii) His suggestion in his note that with new build and decommissioning there was a possibility of public consultation "burn-out".
- 48 In his note when raising the possibility of public consultation "burn-out" Cllr Short had identified the various controls in place within the industry and asked whether it was necessary for SSG members to be involved in technical level discussions or whether it was sufficient to be kept informed of such issues. Members expressed some support for the view that they should not become too deeply involved in technical discussions but felt that the level of discussion at meetings of this group was generally satisfactory.

## **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

- 49 Cllr Caswell took the chair and established that Cllr Short had been nominated to be chairman of the SSG for the coming year. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Short should be elected as Chairman of the group for the coming year.
- 50 Cllr Short established that Cllr Caswell had been nominated to serve as Deputy Chairman of this group for the coming year. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Caswell should be elected as Deputy Chairman of the group for the coming year.

## **NEW CONSTITUTION AND CODE OF PRACTICE**

- 51 A revised constitution and code of practice for the SSG had been circulated to members. It was unanimously agreed that this revised document should be adopted.

## **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

No business

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

- 52 It was agreed that the next meeting of this group would be held on Friday 26 February 2010 commencing at 10.00am. The venue for the meeting would be confirmed in due course.

MJD

4 November 2009

*Footnote: Item 41 above relating to a question about how many staff would be employed at EdF Energy's proposed new station when both units are operational. It is anticipated that the figure would actually be closer to 700.*

*Chairman's Footnote: I am disappointed by the attendance of elected councillors at recent meetings. At the above meeting there was just sufficient numbers to muster a quorum. I feel that out of approximately 40 elected members this is a poor record.*

*The companies and regulators are devoting significant resources to the meetings and in my opinion this deserves better commitment. The nuclear industry in the area has a lot going on in the next few years, which will have significant impact on the economics of the area, whether it is a drop in A site numbers or new opportunities on the proposed C site. When we predetermined the dates for our meetings as the last Friday in February, June and October, it was to allow people to pencil these dates into their diaries and avoid clashes. I recognise that there are a lot of consultations going on at present, however I thought it worth bringing the issue to everyone's attention.*

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