

OLDBURY ON SEVERN POWER STATION

SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT

OLDBURY TECHNICAL CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 30 JANUARY 2008

PRESENT:

Cllr M Lynden (Chairman)	-	Oldbury-on-Severn Parish Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Association of Parish & Town Councils
Cllr K Graupner	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Dr L Hales	-	Environmental Consultant
Cllr N Halsall	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Cllr Ms J Lyons	-	Olveston Parish Council
Cllr Ms A Kerrigan	-	Tytherington Parish Council
Cllr Mrs S O'Neill	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Ms P Parsloe	-	Thornbury Town Council
Mr A Pinder	-	Friends of the Earth
Rev D Primrose	-	Oldbury Site Chaplain
Cllr M Riddle	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Ms V Tutin	-	Olveston Parish Council
Cllr Mrs P Wride	-	Chair, Berkeley SSG

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr S Barker	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr R Flynn	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr R Mrowicki	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr J Lamonby	-	Oldbury Power Station
Mr J C Bishton	-	Oldbury Power Station
Ms A Chapman	-	Oldbury Power Station
Ms M Hausrath	-	Oldbury Power Station
Ms S Postans	-	Oldbury Power Station
Ms E Vaughan Lewis	-	Oldbury Power Station
Mr D Billing	-	EHS&Q Site Inspector
Mr D Williams	-	EHS&Q Site Inspector – Wylfa Power Station
Mr J Lindsay	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Mr M Ghannad	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Dr P Mountford-Lister	-	Environment Agency
PC R Hopes	-	Avon & Somerset Constabulary
Sgt P Barclay George	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Sgt A Hockin	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr J Weaver	-	Thornbury Gazette
Mr B Delve	-	Member of the Public
Mr W Gill	-	Member of the Public
Mr S Gill	-	Member of the Public
Mr A Mitchell	-	Member of the Public
Mrs J Mitchell	-	Member of the Public
Mrs Kemspter	-	Member of the Public
Mr F Milne	-	Member of the Public

Ms Angela Paine - Stroud Green Party
Ms Mary Jennings - Thornbury Cycle Path Group
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- 1 Cllr Lynden welcomed members to the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Mr G Laverack, Ms A Hayes, Mr P Booth, Cllr R Birch, Mr A Jardine, Mr D Webbe-Wood, Cllr G Locke, Mr B S Kirk, Mr P Molyneux, Mr J Whitney and Mr A Murdoch.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a) Accuracy

- 3 The minutes of the following meetings were approved as correct records:

SSG Meeting held on 16 October 2007

Socio-Economic Sub-Group Meeting held on 13 November 2007

(b) Matters arising

Socio-Economic Funding

- 4 Mr Bishton drew members' attention to the decisions taken at the Socio-Economic Sub-Group meeting in relation to requests for funding. Members expressed their support for the actions taken. Mr Bishton drew attention also to donations made by Energy Solutions, the parent body organisation for Oldbury, in particular a grant towards community transport in South Gloucestershire provided by the Four Towns and Vale Link. He pointed out that staff at Oldbury had decided to adopt the Severn Area Rescue Association (SARA) as their nominated charity for support this year. Members expressed their appreciation of these actions and particularly their appreciation of the support given to SARA. Mr Bishton pointed out that a request was also being made to the NDA for further funding of SARA work in establishing new facilities at Beachley.

PUBLIC FORUM

- 5 Cllr Lynden invited members of the public in attendance at the meeting to raise any issues which otherwise might not appear on the agenda.
- 6 A member of the public referred to a recent report on an escalation of NDA cost estimates. Mr Barker believed that this was a reference to a report from the National Audit Office which had been released on the day of this meeting. He said that the NDA would be responding formally to Parliament on 25 February. He explained that some cost estimates had increased as the understanding of the various legacy issues had improved. He said that these matters would be dealt with later in discussion on the draft business plan.
- 7 In response to a further question from a member of the public on the potential effects of flooding of the power station site, Mr Bishton said that safety

assessments for the site included a justification that the site was able to withstand the effects of a flood event such as might occur once in 10,000 years. This was a much more onerous assessment than was applied to other flood defences in the surrounding area.

NDA SITE PROGRAMME MANAGER'S REPORT

- 8 Mr Barker presented his report as NDA Programme Manager. A written report had previously been circulated to members.
- 9 Mr Barker said he was pleased that the station continued to make good progress towards meeting NDA objectives. He said that good progress was being made with the preparation of the lifetime plan for 2008/09; the plan was due to be finalised by the end of March. In response to a comment by Cllr Lynden, Mr Barker explained the need for there to be a consistent approach in the preparation of plans for each of the various NDA sites.
- 10 Mr Barker emphasised the importance which the NDA attached to safety, security and environmental protection. He said that the NDA continued to support the station's programme of work to maintain electricity generation on the site and he acknowledged the high standards of safety achieved on the site in carrying out this programme of work.
- 11 Mr Barker pointed out that Mr Alun Ellis who had previously been based at Oldbury had recently joined the NDA as Repository Project Director.
- 12 Mr Barker pointed out that the NDA's socio-economic policy had been published following its approval by government. He said he believed that Oldbury had effective arrangements for dealing with requests for funding within the framework of guidance which was set down.
- 13 Mr Pinder asked about the current state of the NDA's declared option to proceed immediately with dismantling reactors at the end of their operating life. Mr Barker said it was not possible to pursue plans for immediate dismantlement in the absence of suitable waste streams, particularly for graphite from the reactor cores. He said that in allocating funding for decommissioning work the NDA had to have regard for priorities in terms of hazard reduction.
- 14 In response to a question from Dr Hales on the NDA's commercial income, Mr Barker pointed out that income from electricity generation and from commercial activities at Sellafield and Springfields provided funding for approximately half of the NDA's budget for next year.
- 15 Cllr Riddle said he hoped that the end of electricity generation at Oldbury would be marked by a suitable celebration or the achievements of the site during the station's operational life. Mr Barker supported these sentiments.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 16 Mr Lamonby reported on recent activities at Oldbury, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) There had been no nuclear or environmental events to report since the previous meeting. It was now more than 400 days since the most recent lost time accident and more than one year since the most recent accident requiring medical treatment.
 - (ii) Reactor 2 was currently in operation supplying steam to Turbine 1 and producing an output of 220MW. The station's electricity production target for the current financial year had already been met. Annual targets for despatches of irradiated fuel from the site to Sellafield had also been met.
 - (iii) The high pressure rotor from Turbine 2 had been balanced in the specialist contractor's workshops and was currently being re-installed in the unit. A test run of the turbine was planned for February.
 - (iv) Work was continuing on issues associated with the graphite safety case for both reactors.
 - (v) Preparations were being made for the major changes in the nature of work on the site which would take place when electricity production ceased. A revised organisational structure to reflect the station's requirements at that time had recently been agreed.
 - (vi) Magnox North and Magnox South were currently operating in "shadow working" mode as separate Site Licence Companies. It was anticipated that formal separation of the two companies would take place in the summer.
 - (viii) The station now had its own internet site - www.oldburysite.co.uk.
- 17 During discussion Rev Primrose suggested that the station's website might provide information on the SSG and a link to the SSG website. Members expressed support for this suggestion. Cllr Lynden asked any members who had specific suggestions on this to contact Saranne Postans at the station.
- 18 Cllr Halsall said that during the consultation on preferred end states for the site he had assumed that there was very little likelihood of another nuclear station being built on the Oldbury site. He asked whether the Government's recent announcement in relation to new nuclear power station construction had increased that likelihood. Mr Bishton pointed out that the end state consultation had been related to the state of the site after decommissioning rather than potential future uses; the consultation had not precluded the possibility of future station development as it would be likely that any decision on such development would have to be taken before the end state was reached. Cllr Mrs Wride said that she had seen a published report discussing the suitability of existing sites for

new station construction; the sites at Oldbury and Berkeley were considered to be less attractive than others due to limitations on available cooling water supplies. Mr Lamonby pointed out that Magnox North had not been given any remit to consider the scope for new build at the Oldbury site.

NII SITE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

- 19 Mr Lindsay presented a report on the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate's activities in relation to Oldbury. Copies of a written report had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. He drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) Issues raised during public consultation on the station's submission under the Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning Regulations were being addressed and it was anticipated that the process would be completed during the coming month.
 - (ii) The Inspectorate was continuing to work with the company on issues relating to graphite safety cases and the justification for returning Reactor 1 to service.
 - (iii) This would be the last meeting of this Group to be attended by Mr Lindsay before he moved to another post within the Inspectorate. Mr Ghannad would be taking the post of Site Inspector for Oldbury with effect from 1 April 2008.
- 20 Cllr Lynden expressed members' thanks to Mr Lindsay for the helpful way in which he had provided reports and information for this Group and he offered members' best wishes to Mr Lindsay for his future career. He drew attention to what he believed was a good practice within the Inspectorate to move its inspectors periodically between sites to ensure that an appropriate degree of challenge was maintained in the inspection process.
- 21 Rev Primrose asked whether any progress was being made with increasing NII staff resources to avoid delays in its assessment of safety cases. Mr Lindsay said that the position had not changed significantly in recent months; in cases of conflict for resources, priority would continue to be given to the larger generating units. He said that the NII was currently undertaking recruitment of new staff although with initial training requirements the benefit would not be felt immediately.
- 22 Cllr Evers sought additional information on the pile cap crane modification referred to in Mr Lindsay's written report. Mr Lamonby explained that minor defects had been found in structural steelwork during routine inspections. This had been reported to the NII and affected plant had been taken out of service pending agreement on repair work. Alternative systems were available and the ability to carry out refuelling was not affected.

- 23 In response to a question from Dr Hales, Mr Lindsay said that the reported Maintenance Schedule breach related to a reserve water tank on the circulating water system where the full inspection requirements had not been met.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT

- 24 Dr Mountford-Lister presented a report on the Environment Agency's nuclear regulation activities in relation to Oldbury power station. A written report had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. He drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) In addition to regular reporting and inspection visits the Agency had carried out an annual review with the station. This review had been based upon the performance indicators set out in the Nuclear Industry Sector Plan.
 - (ii) The station had applied to the Agency for an amendment of the current Quarterly Notification Level (QNL) for liquid discharges of caesium. Dr Mountford-Lister explained the purpose of a QNL - when discharges reached this specified level the station was required to demonstrate that best practicable means had been used to keep discharges to a minimum. When this particular QNL had been set in 2002 it had been based upon the historically very low level of discharges from Oldbury. Due to factors outside of the control of the station discharges had increased and were now closer to the average level of other sites; this proposed amendment reflected that fact.
 - (iii) Discussions were taking place with the station on a possible application for a revised permit under the Water Resources Act in relation to limits on the temperature of the station's cooling water outfall.

RADIOLOGICAL WASTE CONSULTATION SUB-GROUP

- 25 Cllr Lynden reported that following the previous meeting he had met with Cllr Mrs Wride and others and had prepared a submission to the consultation on proposals for the management of radioactive waste.

NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING

- 26 Cllr Hawkins reported on a recent meeting of the National Stakeholder Group. He said that on this occasion representatives of the various SSGs had met together before the meeting with the NDA and some sites had expressed concerns that commitments which they believed they had been given by the NDA were not to be met. Concerns had been raised at the meeting with the NDA, particularly in relation to the expectation of decommissioning within a 25 year period which had been raised by the NDA, and decisions to postpone certain decommissioning projects at sites such as Winfrith, Hinkley Point and Berkeley.

- 27 Cllr Hawkins said it was clearly sensible that with limited resources, funding was allocated to those sites and projects which offered the greatest benefit in terms of reducing hazards. He felt it was inevitable therefore that work at some of the sites where hazards had already been substantially reduced was being deferred. These issues were of no immediate concern to Oldbury but it was important to remain aware of likely future developments. Cllr Hawkins said that a full report on the National Stakeholder Group meeting was available on the NDA website.

NDA BUSINESS PLAN

- 28 Mr Mrowicki described the objectives of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's Draft Business Plan and outlined its contents. He said that the draft plan had been the subject of consultation which ended on the day following this meeting - to date some 70 responses had been received. Mr Mrowicki explained that the business plan was prepared on a three year rolling basis to give firm plans for the first year and an indication of outline plans for the second and third years. The business plan met the requirements of the Energy Act and fitted within the NDA's strategy which had been set out in a document approved in 2006.
- 29 During Mr Mrowicki's presentation and subsequent discussions the following points were noted:
- (i) The business plan set out the NDA's primary and secondary objectives, and outlined the position at each of the various sites.
 - (ii) A contract was shortly to be awarded for the management of the Low Level Waste Repository and it was anticipated that a preferred bidder for management of the Sellafield site would be identified by the summer. The competition for Magnox South was currently on hold and the strategy was under review in the light of experience with competitions for other sites.
 - (iii) The NDA's budget for the forthcoming year was £2.8 billion; almost half of that figure was funded by commercial income.
 - (iv) Strategic challenges included the need to balance the priority of work required at high hazard facilities at Sellafield and Dounreay with work on other sites where significant progress had already been made with hazard reduction. Difficult decisions were faced at some sites where planned work had to be postponed and the implications in terms of jobs, skills requirements and programme timescales had to be addressed. Electricity production at Oldbury represented an important income for the NDA and the NDA would continue to support this revenue stream.
 - (v) Due to difficulties experienced at Sellafield the reprocessing of Magnox fuel, which had been planned for completion by 2012 was unlikely to be achieved before 2016. It was not anticipated that this would impact upon

the UK's international commitments on discharges to the marine environment under the Oslo Paris Convention.

- (vi) The NDA continued to attach the highest priority to high standards of health, safety, security and environmental protection.
- (vii) Issues raised to date in the consultation on the draft plan included general support for the allocation of priority to the removal of the greatest hazards although the consequences for the other sites had been regretted. Concerns had also been raised in relation to the skills requirements and programme timescales implications of decisions to defer planned projects.
- (viii) Cllr Evers questioned whether limitations on the capacity of Sellafield to process spent fuel might impose restrictions upon refuelling of the Oldbury reactors. Mr Mrowicki confirmed that Oldbury's refuelling requirements would not be constrained although defuelling at some of the decommissioning sites would be postponed to reduce the volume of spent fuel in pond storage.
- (ix) In reply to a question from Dr Hales, Mr Lamonby confirmed that the current plan was for electricity production at the station to cease at the end of 2008.
- (x) In reply to a further question from Dr Hales, Mr Mrowicki outlined the NDA's responsibilities in relation to the management of radioactive waste.
- (xi) In reply to a question from a member of the public Mr Mrowicki described actions in hand to ensure that the industry's skills requirements were met in the future.

ALTERNATIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

- 30 Mr Bishton described the development of an integrated waste strategy at Oldbury, emphasising the importance of minimising the creation of waste, reducing its volume and recycling where possible. The station's lifetime plan was based on arrangements for dealing with wastes using current proven technology. Other options for dealing with wastes were available but were not yet included in plans. Alternative approaches could be tested using Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) analysis which would identify, for given objectives, the least environmental damage at acceptable cost levels. Mr Bishton said that a number of alternatives assessed in this way could lead to reductions in the volume of wastes.
- 31 Mr Bishton explained that there was a very wide range in the levels of radioactivity contained in wastes despatched to the disposal facility at Drigg in Cumbria. The facility was designed to cater for wastes at the top end of this range and was therefore "over-engineered" in relation to a large bulk of the waste which had radioactivity levels close to the bottom end of the range.

Consent had been given for another vault at Drigg but this would not be sufficient to take all of the wastes arising from decommissioning. Mr Bishton suggested that it might be preferable to reserve use of the Drigg facility for low level wastes at the higher end of the range of radioactivity and to find alternative means of dealing with wastes at the lower end of the scale. Hinkley Point had prepared an application for consent for an on site low level waste facility.

- 32 Mr Bishton said that BPEO analysis applied to intermediate level wastes on power station sites suggested that options for the dissolution and vitrification of wastes, possibly with storage on a regional basis, might have advantages over current approaches which were based upon encapsulation and storage on each site. Mr Bishton said that with limited funding available it would be necessary to prioritise potential projects in relation to the environmental detriment and potential hazard posed by the wastes.
- 33 In reply to a question from a member of the public Mr Mrowicki said that there was a process for the vitrification of high active liquid wastes resulting from reprocessing. He said that significant quantities of this waste had been processed in this way and were currently stored at Sellafield; ultimately the wastes would be disposed of at a repository. In response to a further question Mr Mrowicki confirmed there were active exchanges with European organisations on a wide range of these issues.
- 34 In reply to a question from Rev Primrose, Mr Bishton said that the application for a low level waste facility at Hinkley Point had not yet been considered by the local council. He said that benefits for the local community had been agreed in relation to the new facility at Drigg but he was not aware of any such benefits potentially attached to the Hinkley Point project.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEW MEMBERS

- 35 Cllr Lynden invited new members to make arrangements with the station for a tour of the site to provide background information for discussions at future meetings. He invited them also to raise with him any questions they might have on the role of this Group.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 36 Cllr Lynden drew members' attention to an update sheet on NDA stakeholder engagement dated January 2008, copies of which were available for members.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 37 It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled to be held in Thornbury, venue to be confirmed, on 7 May 2008 commencing at 5.30pm.

MJD
4 February 2008