

**OLDBURY ON SEVERN POWER STATION
SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT OLDBURY POWER STATION
INFORMATION CENTRE
ON WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2009**

PRESENT:

Cllr M Lynden (in the chair)	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Cllr M Brady	-	Chepstow Town Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Tidenham Parish Council
Cllr Mrs R Kitson	-	Hill Parish Meeting
Cllr Mrs S O'Neill	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Mrs P Parslow	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr M Pirie	-	Falfield Parish Council
Rev D Primrose	-	Oldbury Power Station Chaplain
Cllr M Riddle	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr B Roberts	-	Thornbury Chamber of Commerce

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs A French	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr J Lamonby	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mrs K Castle	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr M Castle	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mrs A Chapman	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mrs R Lyon	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Miss F Stokes	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Miss Z Young	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr M Pratt	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Dr M Ghannad	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Mr B MacDonald	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Dr P Mountford-Lister	-	Environment Agency
Mr A McGoff	-	Environment Agency
Mr M Lester	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr J Baker	-	E-ON
Mrs S Postans	-	Magnox North
Ms S Stagg	-	James Reed PR
Mr J Thomas	-	Lower Severn Drainage Board
Mr J Whitney	-	Falfield Parish Council
Cllr Mrs P Wride	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Mrs V Tutin	-	Olveston Parish Council
Mr M Warnes	-	HSE
Ms L-J Gillespie		
Mr W Gill		
Mrs J Kempster		
Mr P Page		
Mrs P Page		
Mr D Webb		
Mr A Grey		

Mrs S Grey

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Cllr Lynden welcomed everyone to this meeting of the Oldbury Site Stakeholder Group.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ms J Lyons, Cllr Mr N Halsall, Cllr Mr V Sheno, Cllr Mr P Booth, Mr B Churchill, Mr J Bishton, Mr L Hales, Mrs H Thomas, Mr A Murdoch, Mr A Jardine, Mr P Kennedy, Mr J O'Neill, Mr M Davies, Mr Cullimore and Mr B Wilcox.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 22nd APRIL 2009

- a) Accuracy
The minutes were approved as a correct record.
- b) Matters Arising
No comments.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Cllr Lynden invited members of the public to raise any matter which might not arise in discussion on subsequent agenda items. No issues were raised by members of the public.

4. PRESENTATION ON THE NII's GENERIC DESIGN ASSESSMENT FOR NEW NUCLEAR REACTORS

Mr McGoff – Environment Agency

Mr McGoff gave a presentation on the joint design assessment for possible new nuclear reactors and the Radioactive Substances Regulation policy. Mr McGoff's presentation briefly covered the details of the designs for proposed new nuclear reactors, as well as how the assessment process currently works.

Mr McGoff added that all the current design information is available on the internet with the opportunity for members and the public to comment with the design companies respond to design-specific comments. The regulators will also be publishing the reports, giving their views on some issues raised.

In response to Cllr Evers' question regarding whether the Environment Agency are confident that they will have an appropriate number of regulators at key times to deal with matters arising from the design assessment process, Mr McGoff confirmed that the agency is confident that they will be able to complete the tasks to the timescales, adding that new offices have been opened in Cheltenham and a structure to sustain skills has now been established.

Mr McGoff added, in response to a question from Cllr Riddle, that the current assessment does not look at the issue of cooling towers associated with any reactor design which will be raised at any site specific assessment stage.

Mr MacDonald– NII

Mr MacDonald gave a presentation on behalf of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate. Mr MacDonald started by outlining key stakeholder groups and the purpose of the public consultation which is part of the assessment process. He explained how the main aim is to engage people early, and that the challenge is making people interested in the information. Mr MacDonald added that one of the aims of the consultation is to protect and enhance public confidence in the NII and EA as independent, expert regulators.

Mr Gill asked a question with regards to the apparent duplication of effort as several countries are currently assessing the same reactor designs. Mr MacDonald clarified that although there are regular worldwide discussions on potential new reactor designs that due to the different legal systems in place it was necessary to conduct a UK specific assessment, as safety remained the top priority for any new design approved here.

4. QUARTER 2 REPORTS

NDA Site Programme Manager

- a) Mrs French presented a report on matters of current interest to the NDA, drawing particular attention to the following:
 - The return to service of Reactor 2 was a significant achievement for Oldbury and the NDA, marking of the first time in five years that the site has generated at full power. This marked a significant ongoing contribution to the UK's power supply and income to the NDA.
 - Tony Fountain has been named as the NDA's new Chief Executive Officer taking over the post in October from Richard Waite.
 - The NDA land sale has now been completed. Bow Bidco Oldbury Limited won the bid for 119 acres of land at Oldbury. The NDA are now looking to delicense silt lagoon two in conjunction with other parts of the Oldbury site.

- The NDA has published its Business Plan for 2009-12. The plan is available on the NDA website and copies can be made available to members on request.
 - On Monday 20th July two versions of the NDA Annual Report and Accounts were published, a full-version and a highlights version, both available on the NDA website with copies of the highlights option available to members on request.
 - Oldbury's focus for 09/10 continues to be the safe, secure operation of the plant.
 - The NDA Chairman, Stephen Henwood, visited Oldbury on 21st July, as part of his visits around the NDA estate and was very impressed with his time on site.
- b) In response to a question from Cllr Hawkins, Mr Lamonby confirmed that there is a state of the art nuclear skills centre opening in Cumbria shortly.
- c) In response to a question from Rev Primrose, Mr Lamonby stated that the site had received full support from the NDA in returning Reactor Two to service. He added that the NII will always have competing pressures, but the key assessor on the site's Graphite Safety Case was available. Although the document required extensive work no significant delays resulted. Dr Ghannad added that the NII's main concern was always safety.

Oldbury Power Station

- a) Mr Lamonby presented a report on recent activities at Oldbury Power Station, drawing particular attention to the following:
- Oldbury now has both reactors on full power producing over 400MW of electricity, which represents a terrific achievement by staff. The start up of Reactor 2 after it's outage went well which was a testament to all the work the site put into it, allowing Oldbury to make a considerable income for our customer, the NDA
 - There has been an innovation on site in relation to the new process of sludge retrieval which has had the support of regulators. This involves mixing the sludge with concrete before it is sent off site for disposal.
 - Oldbury are looking to build on the successes of the Generation Optimisation Project (GO) by introducing GO2. The site is currently reviewing the graphite safety case for Reactor Two to bring it into line with Reactor One, which could allow generation until June 2011.

- There will be an outage for Reactor One in September with a big programme of work, including one of the turbine rotors being sent up to Rugby to be balanced.
- Mr Lamonby was pleased to report there had been no Lost Time Accidents on site since the last meeting and the site had received a positive report from the Environment Agency when they visited as part of the site's annual review.
- Oldbury held an 'I love Local' bazaar to celebrate World Environment Day in June with local food suppliers invited to site to reinforce the message that buying local can be good for the economy as well as for the environment.
- The biggest concern at Oldbury currently is any flu pandemic, but robust plans have been established by the site team in the event that a significant number of staff are hit to ensure the continued safe operation of the plant.
- Magnox North are continually looking to improve their approach on the disposal of Intermediate Level Waste (ILW), including the looking at the option of the use of thick-walled ductile cast iron containers as a cheaper and more effective solution. This investigation is ongoing and further information will be provided to the SSG as appropriate.
- Representatives from Oldbury are traveling to the finals of the IdeasUK competition after winning both innovation awards at the recent Magnox North i4 competition. Here they will compete against teams from organisations such as BT and the MOD.
- A Best Practical Environmental Option (BPEO) session will be run later in the year looking at the dissolution of fuel element cladding debris in weak acid. This process is already carried out at Dungeness A power station, again members of the SSG will receive more information on this process when appropriate.
- Mr Lamonby commented he was pleased with the site's involvement in the local community recently, including the Oldbury Fun Run and Thornbury Carnival. Site staff also raised a total of £2,500 for SARA last year for which a cheque has recently been handed over.
- Finally Mr Lamonby talked about the experience staff on site, which resulted in a number of staff changes recently, including a farewell to Mr Bishton as he starts his training to become an Officer in the Salvation Army. Cllr Lynden expressed members' sadness at the loss of Mr Bishton but applauded his decision, and members agreed it would be a loss to the site.

- d) In response to Cllr Brady, Mr Lamonby confirmed that the extended operations at Oldbury would not be pushing the site's safety limits, with the limits always being solidly underpinned with the chances of any incident being less than a million to one. He added the safety cases required to operate the reactors involved large sampling and testing programmes that are being continually reviewed. To date, 30,000 fuel channels have been inspected with no significant defects found.
- e) In response to a question from Cllr Mrs Parslow, Mr Lamonby explained that the option of using the new ILW containers removes the need for a shielded storage building to house the waste and is an affordable solution that allows the site to process waste ahead of a national repository being identified. This system is already licensed and being used in Germany.
- f) In response to a question from Rev Primrose, Mr Lamonby explained that the site was not at risk of losing significant skills as a result of staff moves as adequate cover is always available. He added that the biggest vulnerability at the present time was the effect of a flu pandemic on operations staff. As part of the site's extensive plans to deal with any pandemic the shift system has been looked at, to split shifts into three rather than five to continue to run the plant safely.
- g) In response to a question from Cllr Evers, Mr Lamonby explained how the process of mixing the sludge with concrete will be fairly simple, and as it meets the national levels for Low Level Waste (LLW) it can be transported by road to Cumbria for disposal, as already happens with other LLW from site. This process is also being developed at Winfrith.
- h) Cllr Lynden expressed his congratulations to Mr Lamonby for leading such a strong team at Oldbury. He added that the site always gains good comments from visitors which reflects how standards are passed from the top down.

Nuclear Installations Inspectorate

- b) Dr Ghannad presented a report on recent activities of the NII at Oldbury:
- The Graphite Safety Case has been completed and the NII are content with the results from camera inspections and samples taken from inside the reactor core. Mr Ghannad added the revised Graphite Safety case for GO2 will be need to be approved by the NII.
 - The NII are supportive of the new FIMS system for testing reactor gas that has been installed on both reactors as an additional safety measure. This is currently undergoing testing, after which it will be able to be put into full operation.

- The NII are also positive about the new plans for sludge retrieval on site are keen for this to project to go forward.
- The recent NII emergency arrangements demonstration exercise was successful and Oldbury were seen to be performing adequately, with good performance in several areas acknowledged.
- The new proposals for changing the makeup of the NII to add flexibility are now available to view on the NII website and the organisation would welcome comments from the public.

Environment Agency

a) Dr Mountford-Lister presented a report on recent activities of the Environment Agency:

- Dr Mountford-Lister brought the flu pandemic to the attention of the meeting with the potential to loose up to 30% of staff at any one time. The EA are receiving national advice with regards to both how the site will handle the situation as well as how the agency themselves will handle inspections on a national basis.
- The EA have been working with the NII on the preparations for de-licensing some areas of the Oldbury site, including lagoon two. The EA will have to be satisfied that there is no radiation present in the specified land before this project can progress.
- Dr Mountford-Lister commented on the due process for sludge disposal that is taking place at Oldbury, which he is happy to see proceed.
- Oldbury's annual review took place recently which allowed other EA colleagues the opportunity to see Oldbury and to understand what goes on at the site. The site's report was well received, the focus of which was on the development of the Nuclear Safety Plan.

Update from the National Stakeholder Group

a) Cllr Lynden presented a report on a recent National Stakeholder Group meeting:

- Cllr Lynden started by stating that the at the recent meeting of the National Stakeholder Group there was renewed talk about the possibility of decommissioning nuclear sites being completed in 25 years rather than 100 years, which has now been removed from the NDA strategy. However members would not like this aim to be dismissed and have requested the NDA look again at this issue.

- There was a positive feel from the meeting in relation to ministores being used to contain ILW on site prior to a national repository being identified. The NDA's strategic review is due next year and there was a feeling amongst members that their views were being taken into account.

5. PRESENTATION ON DELICENSING OF SECTION OF OLDBURY SITE

Mrs Castle gave a presentation on the de-licensing of sections of the station's land, including lagoon two and Oldbury Technical Centre, reporting on how and why these areas are being considered to be de-licensed. She pointed out that all the areas being considered have never seen any nuclear activities, but will still be required to go through a formal process to demonstrate that there is no possibility of land contamination. Work will be done to demonstrate this through the use of existing site records and routine monitoring work as well as looking through historical records. Mrs Castle wanted to inform members that any additional samples that need to be taken from the land will be as small a number as possible and will be taken in ways that are of minimal intrusion to the public and nature.

Mrs Castle finished by re-iterating that minimal disruption will be made during the work and if the de-licensing process is successful then there would be minimal difference to the public who use the areas currently.

5. MEMBERS VOTE ON:

- i) Draft of new SSG Constitution
All SSG members received the final draft. A vote took place and all members were happy to accept the Constitution formally with no comments.
- j) Re-appointment of Chair and Deputy Chair
Cllr Riddle proposed Cllr Lynden and Cllr Hawkins be re-elected in their posts as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. Members voted in support of this motion. Cllr Riddle thanked them both on behalf of the members for their effort and the leadership of such a well established stakeholder group.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no comments on AOB.

7. DATES AND TIMES OF NEXT MEETINGS

It was noted that the next meeting of this Group will be the annual joint with Berkeley SSG, scheduled to be held on 4th November 2009. The venue for the meeting will be The Gables Hotel.