

**BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE AND OLDBURY ON SEVERN  
POWER STATION SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS  
MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING HELD AT BEST WESTERN GABLES  
HOTEL ON WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2009**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr Mrs P Wride (in the chair)	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Cllr M Lynden	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Rev R Avery		
Mr F I Baker	-	National Farmers Union
Cllr M Brady	-	Chepstow Town Council
Mr J Beckett	-	Stroud District Council
Cllr D Burgess	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Assn of Parish and Town Councils
Cllr K Graupner	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr J Greenwood	-	Lydney Town Council
Mr L Hales		
Cllr N Halsall	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Ms S Hill	-	Vale Vision
Mr A Jardine	-	Berkeley Estate
Cllr M Kirby	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr G Lewis	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr Mrs J Lyons	-	Olveston Parish Council
Cllr Mrs S O'Neill	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Mrs P Parsloe	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr M Pirie	-	Falfield Parish Council
Mr J Stanton	-	Stroud District Council
Cllr Mrs V Tutin	-	Olveston Parish Council
Mr G Wheeler	-	Vale Vision
Cllr M Whiteside	-	Stroud District Council
Cllr D Wride	-	Stroud District Council
Mr M Caswell	-	Hinkley Point SSG Vice Chairman

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms A French	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Dr D Warner	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr M Lester	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr R Hopes	-	Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Dr P Mountford-Lister	-	Environment Agency
Mr J Lamonby	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mrs A Chapman	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr M Castle	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr P Clarke	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr M Pratt	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr C Fayers	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms A Ryan	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms Z Young	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr N Monckton	-	Magnox North
Mr S Sargent	-	Berkeley Site Director

Mr S Payne - Berkeley Licensed Site  
Ms A Sinton - Berkeley Licensed Site  
Mr P Matthews - Mini Stores Project  
Mr B Delve  
Ms J Kempster  
Mr B S Kirk  
Mr W Gill  
Ms L-J Gillespie  
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)

## **I WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

1 Cllr Mrs Wride welcomed members of the Oldbury and Berkeley Site Stakeholder Groups to the meeting which was being held jointly for the consideration of monitoring reports and other items of interest to both SSGs.

## **II APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2 Apologies for absence were received from Mr D Drew MP, Mr M Harper MP, Cllr V Sheno, Ms J Simmonds, Mr P Booth, Mr G Dunlop, Ms M Jennings, Mr P Kennedy, Mrs R Lyon, Rev D Primrose, Cllr M Riddle and Mr B Wilcox.

## **III MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2008**

### **(a) Accuracy**

3 The minutes of the meeting of the joint meeting held on 12 November 2008 were approved as a correct record.

### **(b) Matters arising**

4 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

## **IV NDA UPDATE**

5 Dr Warner and Ms French reported on issues of current interest, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) Mr Tony Fountain had been appointed as the Chief Executive of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.
- (ii) The NDA's annual report and accounts had been published. The accounts reflected the increased revenue from generation at Oldbury and other income.
- (iii) Defuelling had started at Sizewell A and the shipment of fuel from the site had commenced.

- (iv) The construction of a store for intermediate level wastes at Trawsfynydd had been completed. This was in line with the baseline strategy but alternative arrangements for the storage of these wastes were being considered.
- (v) The period of consultation on low level waste strategy had been extended but it was to close at the end of the current month.
- (vi) A business case covering a further extension of generation at Oldbury had been approved by the NDA and had been submitted to government for review. Subject to regulatory approval this would allow generation to continue until mid-2011.

## **V PUBLIC FORUM**

6 Cllr Mrs Wride invited questions from members of the public on issues which might not otherwise arise during discussion on later agenda items. No issues were raised by members of the public.

## **VI ITEMS OF JOINT INTEREST**

### **(a) Oldbury Site Update**

7 Mr Lamonby reported on current activities and issues at Oldbury Power Station, drawing particular attention to the following:

- (i) A statutory outage was currently underway on Reactor 1. This was the second statutory outage at the station during the current calendar year; this represented a very large workload. Mr Lamonby paid tribute to the commitment of staff in carrying out this work with an excellent safety record.
- (ii) An innovative approach had been developed on the site for the processing of radioactive sludges for disposal at the Low Level Waste Repository. The processing of the wastes had now been completed, providing capacity within the system for ongoing operations. The innovations developed at the station reduced both processing cost and the volume of the packages sent for disposal.
- (iii) In support of the proposal to operate both reactors until mid-2011 some safety case issues relating to Reactor 2 were to be considered by the station's Nuclear Safety Committee during the coming week.
- (iv) A lost time accident had occurred during August when a member of the Civil Nuclear Constabulary staff had slipped and broken an ankle; he was now recovering well.

- (v) The station had received a prestigious health and safety award for innovative solutions and excellent safety practices identified for working at height.
- (vi) The community evening event held recently at Slimbridge Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust had been well attended.

- 8 Cllr Lynden commended the high standards of cleanliness and tidiness which were apparent at the power station and which illustrated the quality of all aspects of the management of activities at the site.
- 9 Cllr Stanton asked why mid-2011 had been chosen as the date for ending generation at the station. Mr Lamonby said that there were no facilities for providing further new fuel but the optimum use of existing fuel would allow operation to continue to that date. Operations would be within the currently approved safety case parameters.

**(b) Berkeley Site Update**

- 10 Mr Sargent introduced himself as the recently-appointed Site Director for the Berkeley Site. He said that Mr Crocker had returned to the US to take up a post on new plant construction. Mr Sargent reported on activities at the Berkeley site, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The site had been awarded an Order of Distinction by RoSPA having received a President's Award for the past 15 successive years. It was almost a year since the last accident on site involving time lost from work.
  - (ii) The site had received external accreditations for its environmental management and personnel management systems.
  - (iii) Good progress was being made with preparations for care and maintenance and the partial clean-up of the former laboratories area.
  - (iv) Manpower levels were kept under review to match required workload. Sufficient numbers of staff were maintained to implement the emergency arrangements; those arrangements were shortly to be demonstrated to the NII in an exercise.
  - (v) Current plans for the storage of intermediate level wastes were based upon the construction of a store to be completed by 2017. This programme required construction work on site to start early next year. Alternative approaches were under consideration.
- 11 In reply to a question from Mr Kirk, Mr Sargent said that staff numbers were currently approximately 230; this total was expected to reduce over the coming year.

12 In reply to further questions from Cllr Burgess and Cllr Booth, Mr Sargent described the nature of the intermediate level wastes on the site and confirmed that there was no intention to import such wastes from other sites.

**(c) Civil Nuclear Constabulary Annual Review**

13 Insp Lester presented a report from the Civil Nuclear Constabulary. He said that the CNC officers were integrated well with the personnel on the Oldbury site and with the local community. Regular exercises were held to maintain levels of training and competence.

14 Insp Lester said that the CNC officers worked closely with the Avon and Somerset police and with security staff at the power station. They maintained an awareness of activities in the vicinity of the site and, for example, were in touch with E.ON in relation to work which they were undertaking in the area.

15 In reply to a question from Cllr Mrs Wride, Insp Lester said that the CNC officers did not carry out regular patrols in the vicinity of the Berkeley site. Cllr Lynden said he felt that residents were reassured by the presence of CNC officers in the local area.

**(d) National Stakeholder Group**

16 Cllr Mrs Wride reported on recent meetings of the National Stakeholder Group. She said that the meetings provided valuable opportunities for discussing common issues with representatives of other SSGs and for challenging NDA policies and policies. The meetings also provided a source of authoritative information on issues which were the subject of public debate. She said that the priority given to safety by the NDA was always clear. A further meeting was to be held in January and she invited members to let her know if there were any issues which they would like her to raise at the meeting. Cllr Lynden supported the comments made by Cllr Mrs Wride on the value of these national level meetings.

**(e) Update on Yellow Boxes**

17 Mr Matthews provided a report on progress with the consideration of mini stores ("yellow boxes") as an alternative strategy to the construction of intermediate level waste stores on sites.

18 Mr Matthews explained the current strategy for the storage of intermediate level wastes on the Berkeley site pending the availability of a geological disposal facility. This involved the construction of a large ILW store. This would be a significant civil engineering project, work on which was due to commence in the coming year and take some four years to complete. Following completion of the store, the wastes would be retrieved and encapsulated. The waste packages would then be stored

on site before ultimate removal to the disposal facility when it became available (currently thought to be after 2040).

- 19 Mr Matthews said that consideration of the use of mini stores came from a desire to assess technical innovations and consider whether better approaches could be adopted. He said that these mini stores were used mainly in Germany. The storage boxes were made of cast iron and provided a high level of structural integrity; the storage building required to house these containers could therefore be relatively simple. Additional shielding could be provided within the containers if necessary. If this approach was adopted at Berkeley a simple warehouse building could be constructed relatively quickly and it would be possible to start retrieval and processing of the wastes much sooner.
- 20 Mr Matthews said that consideration given to the use of mini stores to date had included some stakeholder involvement and a report would be available shortly. Discussions were also taking place with regulators. If those discussions proved that the option was viable then a recommendation would be put to the NDA for a change in strategy with consequential changes in site lifetime plans. Mr Matthews said that a response was expected from regulators by mid-December. He suggested that it would be appropriate to have further discussions with this Group on the implications of adopting this alternative approach.
- 21 Cllr Lynden confirmed that he together with others had taken part in the stakeholder meeting on this subject. He said this had been very informative and open; he believed that the mini store approach had many advantages. In reply to a question from Cllr Hawkins, Mr Matthews said that the use of mini stores would allow the waste to be loaded into the disposal containers earlier; the containers could be filled progressively and costs would be lower. Cllr Caswell said that he also had attended the stakeholder meeting and felt that there had been very wide support for the process from all those attending.
- 22 Cllr Evers asked whether life-time carbon emissions associated with this approach had been assessed. Mr Matthews confirmed that this had been one of the factors taken into consideration. A total of 152 attributes had been assessed and the mini store approach had been considered the best option in relation to 146 of those factors.
- 23 Cllr Halsall asked whether there were other approaches in different areas of activity in which we might benefit from using techniques developed in Germany or elsewhere. Mr Matthews said it was important to maintain an awareness of innovations elsewhere. He said that the use of mini stores would provide increased flexibility in determining when wastes were processed and would involve lower initial capital costs compared with the proposed store.
- 24 In reply to a question from Cllr Stanton, Mr Matthews said that if the mini store approach was to be adopted it would be necessary to review

the planning consent as the building required would be of a different type, shape and size. In reply to a further question from Cllr Stanton, Mr Matthews said that traffic flows associated with the alternative approaches had been assessed. With the currently proposed ILW store construction the dominant transport factor was the construction traffic to and from the site during the relatively long period of construction and eventual demolition of the store. The building required to house mini stores would be a steel-framed warehouse type building with a much shorter construction period involving fewer journeys to and from the site. Cllr Burgess and Mr Baker emphasised the impact of heavy volumes of traffic on local residents and said that this would be a major factor influencing their support for possible alternative approaches.

- 25 It was agreed that the possible use of mini stores should be considered again at a meeting of this Group. A brief on relevant issues would be prepared in advance of the meeting and feedback from members would be of particular value.

## **VII ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING**

### **(a) Food Standards Agency**

- 26 Dr Mountford-Lister reported on the results of the programme of monitoring of radioactivity in food and the environment undertaken by the Food Standards Agency in collaboration with the Environment Agency. He explained the way in which monitoring results were used to assess the potential exposures which might be received by members of the public from the consumption of locally produced foodstuffs. The annual report on this monitoring would be published shortly. The report would show that the assessments of the potential radiation dose during the past year for members of the public in the vicinity of Oldbury and Berkeley consuming above average amounts of locally grown food and milk was less than 5 microSieverts ( $\mu\text{Sv}$ ). These results were comparable to those of previous years. They were well within the annual dose limit of  $1000\mu\text{Sv}$  for members of the public from man-made radioactivity and could be compared with the average natural background dose in the UK which was  $2230\mu\text{Sv}$  per year.

### **(b) Environment Agency**

- 27 Written reports on the Environment Agency's regulatory activities in relation to Oldbury and Berkeley had been circulated to members. During discussion Dr Mountford-Lister pointed out that the Agency was establishing a team to deal with the anticipated applications for necessary consents for new power station construction. The regulatory framework was expected to be broadly similar to that applicable to the existing nuclear sites.

**(c) Nuclear Installations Inspectorate**

28 Written reports on the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate's regulatory activities in relation to Oldbury and Berkeley had been circulated to members

**(d) Magnox Electric Ltd**

29 Mr Castle presented a report on the environmental monitoring undertaken by Magnox Electric in relation to the Oldbury and Berkeley sites during the past year. He outlined the nature and scope of the environmental monitoring programme and briefly summarised the results. He pointed out that all planned monitoring activities had been completed as required during the year. Some gaseous emissions from Oldbury reflected the increased operation of the reactors during the past year and some liquid radioactive discharges reflected the reductions in the movements of irradiated fuel.

30 In reply to a question from Cllr Brady on the environmental monitoring undertaken at a radius of 10 kilometres from the site, Mr Castle said that some of the more remote monitoring was undertaken to establish background levels against which the potential impact of the sites could be assessed.

**VIII ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

31 Cllr Lynden said that arrangements would be made to circulate to all members copies of a revised constitution of the Site Stakeholder Group.

**IX DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT JOINT MEETING**

32 It was noted that the next joint meeting would be held in November 2010. The date and venue would be confirmed in due course.

MJD

9 November 2009