

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE PARK HOTEL, FALFIELD
ON WEDNESDAY 20 JANUARY 2010**

PRESENT:

Cllr M Lynden(in the chair)	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Assn of Parish and Town Councils
Cllr K Graupner	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr N Griffiths	-	Power Station Staff Representative
Dr L Hales	-	Co-opted member
Cllr N Halsall	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr Ms J Lyons	-	Olveston Parish Council
Cllr M Pirie	-	Falfield Parish Council
Rev D Primrose	-	Oldbury Power Station Chaplain
Mr B Roberts	-	Thornbury Chamber of Commerce
Cllr J Whitney	-	Falfield Parish Council
Cllr B Wilcox	-	Alveston Parish Council
Cllr D Wride	-	Stroud District Council
Cllr Mrs P Wride	-	Berkeley SSG

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms A French	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Ms D Ward	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Dr M Ghannad	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Dr P Mountford-Lister	-	Environment Agency
Mr M Lester	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr J Lamonby	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr V Hole	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms R Lyon	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms H Coffin	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr M Pratt	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms Z Young	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr N Monckton	-	Magnox North
Ms R Hardy	-	Horizon - E.ON
Ms V Thorpe	-	Reed Energy
Ms L Cross	-	Reed Energy
Cllr G Chappell	-	Olveston Parish Council
Mrs V M Tutin	-	Olveston Parish Council
Mr B Delve		
Mr W Gill		
Mr P Page		
Mr D Smith		
Ms L-J Gillespie		
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- 1 Cllr Lynden welcomed everyone to this meeting of the Oldbury on Severn Site Stakeholder Group.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Brady, Cllr Ms G Brooks, Mr R Churchill, Mr G Dunlop, Mr P Kennedy, Ms R Kitson, Cllr Mrs P Parsloe, Mr J Mortimer, Cllr V Sheno, Mr Webb and Mr J Stevens.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a) Accuracy

- 3 The minutes of the SSG Meeting held on 4 November 2009 and of the joint meeting with members of the Berkeley Licensed Site SSG held on the same date were approved as an accurate record subject to the correction of references to the name of Dr L Hales.

(b) Matters arising

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

PUBLIC FORUM

- 5 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.

QUARTERLY REPORTS

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

- 6 Ms French presented a report on matters of current interest to the NDA, drawing particular attention to the following:
 - (i) The NDA was pleased with the delivery of work by the Oldbury power station site team. Reactor 1 had been returned to service ahead of schedule and a proposal to extend the operation of Reactor 2 had been approved by the NDA and the Department of Energy and Climate Change; this proposal now required regulatory approval by the NII.
 - (ii) The NDA had published an overview document on Integrated Waste Strategy; copies were available on the website. A draft Business Plan had been published for consultation. The NDA was publishing a quarterly newsletter; copies of the first issue were available for members.
 - (iii) The NDA was identifying potential efficiencies as part of the government's Public Value Programme. Various scenarios were being

developed and would be submitted to government for decision in the coming months. At Oldbury the focus remained on maintaining safe and secure electricity production.

- 7 Commenting on the Public Value Programme process, Cllr Lynden urged support for the NDA in its efforts to secure adequate funding for decommissioning work. He recognised that it could be possible to make savings in ancillary activities but felt it was important that funding was adequate to maintain substantial progress with decommissioning work. He felt that the NDA could do more to publicise the positive progress being made with decommissioning.

Oldbury Power Station

- 8 Mr Lamonby reported on recent activities at Oldbury Power Station, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Reactor 1 had been returned to service just before Christmas following its overhaul and inspection outage. The work programme had included a major overhaul of Turbine 1. Inspections during the outage had identified the need for further inspections of mild steel oxidation and the observation of some sagging in boiler tubes had required assessments to demonstrate their continued integrity. All work had been completed and all issues resolved to the satisfaction of the NII and the work done in the outage provided a good foundation for the final operating period of this reactor.
 - (ii) Since Christmas both reactors had been on load producing a steady output of over 400MW. The station had produced over 2TWh (thousand million units) of electricity during 2009. This was a very significant achievement taking account of the fact that major outages had been completed on both reactors during the year.
 - (iii) Special efforts were being made to accelerate refuelling in order to optimise the utilisation of the remaining new fuel and maximise electricity production during the remaining period of operation.
 - (iv) A business case had been approved to allow the potential operation of both reactors until mid-2011. A new graphite safety case for Reactor 2 had been submitted to the NII for approval; this case would allow an extension of the operation of Reactor 2 to enable both reactors to operate until mid-2011.
 - (v) Responsibility for the organisation and administration of the Magnox Operating Plan had been moved into the Oldbury site organisation.
 - (vi) A lost time accident had occurred in early January when a member of staff had sprained an ankle.

- (vii) Liaison was being maintained with E.ON in relation to their activities in the area. The area of Silt Lagoon 2 was being surveyed to demonstrate the absence of any contamination prior to de-licensing that part of the site.
 - (viii) The identification of options for economies as part of the Public Value Programme did not affect plans for generation or defuelling. Potential savings in decommissioning expenditure could involve accelerating work programmes in some cases.
- 9 Cllr Lynden was pleased to hear of the liaison with Horizon in relation to the development of new build proposals; he felt there were likely to be savings from cooperation between the companies and local people would wish to see evidence of "joined-up thinking".
- 10 Cllr Halsall asked whether there were likely to be further proposals for extending generation beyond mid-2011. Mr Lamonby said that there were no such plans. He said that possible future options were kept under review but considerable safety case work would be required to justify operation beyond the currently proposed date and there were no plans to do so. In response to further questions from Cllr Evers, Mr Lamonby said that there were no longer any facilities for making new fuel; the aim was to make the most efficient use of the available fuel. He said that even if a case could be made to justify operation beyond mid-2011, the available fuel would only support operation for a limited further time.
- 11 Cllr Hawkins expressed members' congratulations for the success of efforts in maintaining reliable production during the recent periods of bad weather.

Nuclear Installations Inspectorate

- 12 Dr Ghannad presented a report on his activities as NII Site Inspector for Oldbury Power Station. He drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) There had been no significant nuclear safety issues during the past quarter.
 - (ii) The NII was content with the operation of Reactors 1 and 2 in accordance with the limits justified in the graphite safety cases.
 - (iii) A large number of inspections had been carried out by inspectors and specialist assessors from the NII during the recent outage of Reactor 1. All issues arising from inspections, sampling and monitoring had been resolved to the satisfaction of the NII before consent had been given for the start up of the reactor.
 - (iv) Reactor 2 was expected to reach the core irradiation limits justified in its graphite safety case by March 2010. A revised safety case justifying an increased core irradiation limit had been submitted by the licensee and was currently being assessed. The revised limit would allow both

reactors to shut down at approximately the same time. The licensee had proposed as a prudent measure to shut down Reactor 2 for graphite inspections during 2010; further graphite inspections would be required in the event of any unplanned shutdown from full power.

- 13 In response to a question from Cllr Lynden on the current position in relation to irradiated fuel transport flasks, Mr Lamonby said that problems had been experienced with flask lid seals and this had reduced the availability of flasks for use. Plans were in hand to recover the situation.

Environment Agency

- 14 Dr Mountford-Lister presented a report from the Environment Agency, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The Agency was providing support at local consultation events to answer questions about its role in relation to the Generic Design Assessment and new nuclear build.
 - (ii) As part of the process to de-license part of the site, Magnox North had made an application to the Agency to surrender its Waste Management Licence relating to Silt Lagoon 2. The ecological value of the area was taken into account in removing the requirement for the land to be reinstated as grassland. The licence was surrendered in November 2009.
 - (iii) During December the Agency had reviewed the authorisation for disposal of radioactive wastes from Oldbury and had concluded that no variations were required.
 - (iv) Site inspections during the past quarter had focussed on low level waste management, operation of the site incinerator, and plans for future ILW processing.
 - (v) Liquid and gaseous discharges from Oldbury continued to be well within the requirements of the authorisation.
 - (vi) Monitoring of radioactivity in food and the environment undertaken in conjunction with the Food Standards Agency had been reported in the RIFE report for 2009 which had been published recently. The monitoring had shown that the total potential exposure to members of the public in the vicinity of the Berkeley and Oldbury sites was equivalent to 4% of the relevant dose limit.
- 15 In response to comments from Cllr Lynden on the potential impact of a new larger power station, Dr Mountford-Lister suggested that Mr D Withey might be asked to attend a future meeting to comment on proposals for new station construction from the Agency's perspective.

National Stakeholder Group

- 16 Cllr Lynden reported on the meeting of the National Stakeholder Group held in Manchester during November. He felt that this had been a successful meeting with valuable discussion on many issues including the draft business plan which was currently the subject of consultation. Issues raised at the meeting had included the question of whether it was appropriate to review the submissions on preferred end states for the sites in view of changed circumstances including the possibility of new build and the changed financial situation. Cllr Lynden said that the general view at the meeting had been that these matters should be discussed at SSGs at this stage rather than incur the expense of further public consultation.
- 17 Cllr Hawkins felt it was important that there should be further discussion on the preferred end state for the site. He felt that earlier considerations had been constrained by uncertainties in relation to the possibility of new station construction and the prospect of decommissioning being completed within 25 years. He felt it was appropriate now to review the preferred end state as these issues had become clearer. Cllr Lynden proposed that this matter should be placed on the agenda for the meeting of this Group to be held in July 2010. Cllr Evers suggested that it might be appropriate to reconvene the small working party in order to give some preliminary consideration to these issues in advance of discussion at the SSG meeting.
- 18 Mr Griffiths referred to the earlier discussion on the Public Value Programme and drew attention to the campaign which was being mounted by the Prospect trade union urging government to provide adequate funding of nuclear decommissioning work. He said that deferring decommissioning work was likely to increase costs and result in the loss of essential skills required for this work. Ms French said that considerable efforts were being made to identify the consequences of different levels of funding so that informed decisions could be taken.

DECOMMISSIONING TIMETABLE

- 19 Mr Hole provided an update on proposed timetables for decommissioning work. He said that the station's current focus was on optimising the electricity production from the plant during its remaining operational life but work was also in hand to plan future decommission activities. This included assessments of what work had to be done, how it would be carried out and the associated costs. The company was looking at ways in which costs might be reduced by organising work activities across a number of sites.
- 20 Mr Hole described the current position in relation to the proposed treatment of fuel element debris. This material was comprised of pieces of magnesium oxide and springs removed from fuel elements during the operational life of the plant. It was classified as intermediate level waste and was currently stored in vaults. The original intention had been to recover these wastes and encapsulate them in concrete within containers suitable for ultimate disposal at a geological disposal facility. Techniques had been developed at other sites for the dissolution of the

magnesium oxide and segregation of the springs. This allowed the magnesium to be discharged as a liquid effluent with the springs retained as a much reduced volume of intermediate level waste. A stakeholder workshop in October had concluded that dissolution represented the best option for the treatment of Oldbury's fuel element debris. A further workshop was to be held in February to consider possible techniques.

- 21 Mr Hole referred to the possible future use of "mini stores" for intermediate level waste storage on site. Current approved plans were for the construction of a large store on site for intermediate level wastes arising from decommissioning but alternative approaches were being considered. It was not yet necessary to process these wastes at Oldbury so advantage could be taken of experience gained at other decommissioning sites.
- 22 Mr Hole referred to progress towards the de-licensing of areas of the silt lagoon. He said that as part of this process it was necessary to demonstrate that there were no hazards on that part of the site. Contractors were currently carrying out measurements to demonstrate that there was no contamination and during the coming months boreholes would be drilled for soil sampling. It was anticipated that the outcome of this work would be reported to the NII at the end of the year.

VISIT TO BERKELEY SITE

- 23 Following discussion at the previous meeting some members had expressed an interest in a visit to the Berkeley Site to see the progress of decommissioning work there. It was agreed that the proposed visits should take place on 22 February; visits would be arranged for either the morning or the afternoon and detailed arrangements would be confirmed in due course.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No business

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 24 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on 21 April 2010. The venue and arrangements for the meeting would be confirmed in due course.

MJD

24 January 2010