

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT  
TORTWORTH COURT HOTEL ON  
WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY 2009**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr M Lynden(in the chair)	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Assn of Parish and Town Councils
Mr M Johnston	-	Gloucester Harbour Trustees
Ms R Kitson	-	Hill Parish Meeting
Cllr Mrs S O'Neill	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr A Pinder	-	Friends of the Earth
Rev D Primrose	-	Oldbury Power Station Chaplain
Cllr M Whiteside	-	Stroud District Council
Mr B Willcox	-	Alveston Parish Council
Cllr Mrs P Wride	-	Berkeley SSG

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr S Barker	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Ms A French	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr M Lester	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr R Hopes	-	Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Dr M Ghannad	-	NII
Mr G Astley-Jones	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr J Lamonby	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr P Harper	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr J C Bishton	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms A Chapman	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms M Hausrath	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms S Postans	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms E Vaughan Lewis	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr N Griffiths	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Mr A Mitchell	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms Z Young	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Ms S Baker		
Mr M Dalziel		
Mr B Delve		
P Dykes		
Mr T Docherty		
Mr W Gill		
Mr J Grey		
Ms A Paine		
Mr M Plenty		
A Gowan		
S Lynden		
V Lynden		
C Gowan		
Mr P Page		

Mrs P Page  
J Sorvane  
S Shales  
Mr A Taylor  
Ms J Iwaskiw  
Mr T Ward  
Mr J Wilson  
Ms L Hutchinson  
Ms L-J Gillespie  
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

- 1 Cllr Lynden welcomed everyone to the meeting. He expressed a particular welcome to those members of the local community who had attended the Station's Community Event and were attending a meeting of this Group for the first time.

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Dr C Blackburn, Mr P Booth, Dr L Hales, Cllr N Halsall, Dr P Mountford-Lister, Mr A Murdoch, Cllr Mrs J Lyons, Cllr Mrs V Tutin, and Cllr K Graupner.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **(a) Accuracy**

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

SSG Meeting held on 12 November 2008

Socio-Economic Sub-Group Meeting held on 12 November 2008

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

#### **Socio-Economic Funding**

- 4 Cllr Lynden said that a further meeting of the Socio-Economic Sub Group was to be held during the coming week. He invited members to identify any local organisations or activities for which an application for socio-economic funding might be made.

## **QUARTER 4 REPORTS**

### **Oldbury Power Station**

- 5 Mr Lamonby referred to the decision to allow the station to continue operation beyond 31 December 2008 which had previously been announced as the date for the end of generation at the site. This action to optimise the generation from the site followed a period of review with regulators and had been the subject of a

community event held immediately prior to this meeting. Mr Lamonby reported on the following additional matters:

- (i) The station's high standards of safety performance had been maintained. It was now more than 800 days since the last accident on site involving time lost from work.
- (ii) External audits against the requirements of ISO 9001 (Quality Assurance), ISO 14001 (Environment) and OHSAS 18001 (Safety) had been completed successfully.
- (iii) The reactor core graphite safety case to allow the return to service of Reactor 1 had been approved by the Nuclear Safety Committee and was currently with the NII for final assessment. Good progress was being made with the installation of a new fuel integrity monitoring system which was required before Reactor 1 was returned to service. Preparatory work was in hand to allow a timely return to service of the reactor when the necessary assessments were completed.
- (iv) Preparations were being made for an inspection and maintenance outage of Reactor 2 which was to commence in February.
- (v) The Oldbury communications team had been presented with gold and silver awards by the Chartered Institute of Public Relations. The station had received a health at work award from South Gloucestershire Council.

### **Nuclear Decommissioning Authority**

- 6 Mr Barker introduced Amanda French who had been appointed to succeed him as the NDA's Site Project Manager for Oldbury. He reported on matters of current interest to the NDA, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Mr Barker expressed his appreciation of the work carried out by Magnox North which had resulted in approval for continued generation at Oldbury. He also acknowledged the vigilant review undertaken by regulators. He said that the continued generation represented further benefit from one of the NDA's valuable assets - benefit for the NDA and the country as a whole.
  - (ii) The process of disposal of surplus land by the NDA as described at the previous meeting was ongoing. Expressions of interest had been invited and received and it was anticipated that land at Wylfa, Bradwell and Oldbury would be offered for sale during March.
  - (iii) Consultation on the NDA Draft Business Plan was to close on 26 January. Comments could be registered via the website.
  - (iv) The NDA had consulted environmental regulators and others on its Strategic Environmental Assessment which was the basis for managing the environmental effects of implementing plans or programmes.

- (v) The NDA would be consulting further on arrangements for the storage of radioactive wastes.
  - (vi) The competitive process to select a single parent body organisation for three Site Licence Companies including Magnox North Ltd would commence in 2011.
- 7 Cllr Lynden commented that the income resulting from the continued generation at Oldbury did not appear to be reflected in the NDA's business plan. Mr Barker pointed out that the purpose of the plan was to schedule activities - all of the NDA's income was shown in its annual report and accounts. He pointed out that approximately half of the NDA's current annual expenditure of £2.8 billion was funded by income from its various assets. The income streams included electricity generation, irradiated fuel reprocessing and the transport of fuel. The income from generation at Oldbury therefore helped to fund the NDA's decommissioning activities.

### **Nuclear Installations Inspectorate**

- 8 Dr Ghannad reported on the NII's inspection activities at Oldbury Power Station, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Routine inspections against the conditions attached to the nuclear site licence and statutory requirements had continued throughout the period.
  - (ii) The station's good safety performance had been maintained and there had been no significant nuclear safety events or accidents.
  - (iii) The Inspectorate had almost completed its assessment of the reactor core graphite safety case. Continued generation at Oldbury would be in accordance with the core irradiation limits identified in the graphite safety case
  - (iv) Reactor 2 was to be shut down for a statutory outage early in 2009 and, provided consent was given for returning Reactor 1 to service, that reactor would be shut down for an outage late in 2009.
  - (v) The NII's Deputy Chief Inspector and Head of Civil Nuclear Power Stations Regulation, Dr Hall, had visited Oldbury during November. He had toured the site and held discussions with station management and staff. He had gained a favourable impression of the station's staff, the control of operations and the condition of the plant.
  - (vi) The planned closure date of 31 December 2008 had originally been proposed by Magnox Electric; it had not been imposed due to any regulatory conditions or requirements put in place by the NII. In support of its proposal to continue generation beyond the end of 2008, the station had validated its periodic safety review and submitted a further report to the NII for consideration. Following its own assessment the NII had

issued a letter of no objection to continued operation of Oldbury beyond 2008.

- 9 Mr Grey referred to comments made by Mr Pinder at the community event prior to this meeting. Mr Pinder had suggested that there was an increased incidence of cancers in areas around nuclear power station sites. The comments made by Mr Pinder had been refuted by Mr Lamonby who said there was no evidence to support such claims. Mr Grey said he knew of people living downwind of the Oldbury and Berkeley sites who had contracted the disease and he would like to know the facts of the situation.
- 10 Mr Lamonby said that there was no evidence of statistically significant clusters of cancers around nuclear sites. This had been demonstrated by studies conducted around other sites but no studies had been carried out in the area around Oldbury. He said that none of the claims of increased incidence of cancers had been subjected to peer review. Cllr Mrs Wride suggested that Dr Verne of the Bristol Health Observatory might be asked to attend a future meeting and provide helpful information on this matter. Mr Lamonby referred to the comprehensive environmental monitoring programme carried out by the Station and independently by the Environment Agency and Food Standards Agency. The results of this monitoring, which were regularly reported at meetings of this Group, demonstrated that the potential additional exposures to radioactivity arising from the station's operations were very small compared with the exposures from natural background radiation.
- 11 Mr Grey said he believed there was a problem which required further investigation. Cllr Lynden said that he had asked local doctors if there was any evidence of an increased incidence of the disease and had been assured that there was absolutely no evidence of such. Mr Barker said he believed that the evidence presented at previous meetings of this Group by independent agencies should give assurance that the effect of the station's operations on the local environment did not lead to any such health problems. Mr Grey asked about the evidence to support the comments made by Mr Pinder at the earlier meeting. Mr Pinder said that he did not have any evidence of an increased incidence of cancer in the area around Oldbury although there were concerns that there might be; he said that he had not seen evidence that there was no such increase. Mr Gill said that over many years he had heard claims of this nature from anti-nuclear groups; such claims caused alarm but there was never any evidence to support them. Mr Gill said that there was a large volume of evidence to support the view that there was no adverse effect on health from the operation of the station.
- 12 Cllr Lynden said he believed it was appropriate for these matters to be pursued by this Group and would arrange for more detailed discussions at the next meeting. He would invite Dr Verne to attend as suggested by Cllr Mrs Wride and hoped that the other independent agencies would also be able to be present. Mr Wilcox said that if these claims of adverse health effects were to be debated it would be important to have evidence of the basis of the claims available for members.

## **Environment Agency**

- 13 In the absence of Dr Mountford-Lister consideration was given to a report from the Environment Agency which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. There were no issues which members wished to be referred back to Dr Mountford-Lister.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 14 Cllr Lynden referred to a request from the NDA for a review of the function and performance of the SSG. He proposed to convene a meeting of a sub-group comprised of himself, Cllr Hawkins and Cllr Halsall to give preliminary consideration to these matters in advance of discussion at the next meeting. He invited other members to take part in these preliminary discussions if they wished.

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

- 15 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on 22 April 2009, commencing at 1.00pm. The venue for the meeting would be confirmed in due course.

MJD

26 January 2009