

OLDBURY ON SEVERN POWER STATION

SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT

THE CHEPSTOW HOTEL ON WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2007

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
Cllr N Halsall	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Cllr Ms J Lyon	-	Olveston Parish Council
Mr A Murdoch	-	National Farmers Union
Mr A Pinder	-	Friends of the Earth
Rev D Primrose	-	Oldbury Power Station Chaplain
Mrs V Tutin	-	Olveston Parish Council
Cllr Mrs P Wride	-	Chair, Berkeley SSG
Mr Ron Beddis	-	Forest of Dean District Council

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr S Barker	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Dr B Burnett	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr J C Bishton	-	Oldbury Power Station
Ms A Chapman	-	Oldbury Power Station
Dr L Hales		
Sgt A Hockin	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr J Lamonby	-	Site Manager, Oldbury Power Station
Insp M Lester	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr J Lindsay	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Dr P Mountford-Lister	-	Environment Agency
Mr S Payne	-	Berkeley Nuclear Licensed Site
Ms S Postans	-	Communications Officer, Oldbury Power Station
Ms E Vaughan Lewis	-	Oldbury Power Station
Mr D Withey	-	Environment Agency
Ms Z Young	-	Oldbury Power Station
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- 1 Cllr Lynden welcomed members to the meeting. He expressed a particular welcome to Dr Brian Burnett, Director of NDA Region 2, Dr Paul Mountford-Lister of the Environment Agency and Insp Mark Lester of the Civil Nuclear Constabulary.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 Apologies for absence received from Mr G Locke, Mr A Jardine, Mr M Johnson, Dr Ms J Sarangi, Mr D Webbe-Wood, Mrs J Young, Cllr Ms S O'Neill, Ms A Hayes, Mr R Langdon, Cllr T Kirton, Dr L Hales and Mr S Webb MP.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a) Accuracy

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

Oldbury/Berkeley Joint SSG Meeting held on 1 November 2006
SSG Meeting held on 1 November 2006
Socio-Economic Sub-Group Meeting held on 8 November 2006
End State Sub-Group Meetings held on 15 December 2006 and
17 January 2007

(b) Matters arising

End State Sub Group Meeting held on 17 January 2007

- 4 Mr Barker explained that he had attended the first part of this Sub Group Meeting in order to provide an update on current NDA issues and he had then withdrawn to allow members to deal with the business of the meeting.

Socio-Economic Sub-Group

- 5 Cllr Lynden pointed out that a further meeting of the Socio-Economic Sub Group had been held on the morning prior to this meeting. He said that one of the functions of the Sub Group was to consider the provision of support for community projects within the local area. He invited members to contact the power station if they were aware of any community projects which might benefit from such support.

PUBLIC FORUM

- 6 There were no issues raised by members of the public for discussion at this meeting.

NDA SITE PROGRAMME MANAGER'S REPORT

- 7 Mr Barker presented a report on current issues within the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority of interest to members of this Group. He drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) A nuclear research facility was to be established in Cumbria with funding from the NDA and the University of Manchester.

- (ii) Responses received during the consultation on the NDA's draft socio-economic policy were being taken into consideration in the policy which would be submitted for government approval at the end of March.
- (iii) Organisational changes were being made within the NDA to clarify the relationships with the Site Licence Companies.
- (iv) Negotiations with government were continuing on funding levels for next year's work. Mr Barker emphasised that the current focus on returning plant at Oldbury to service would be maintained and that safety remained the highest priority for both the NDA and its contractors.

SITE MANAGER'S REPORT

8 Mr Lamonby reported on operations and activities at Oldbury on Severn Power Station since the date of the previous meeting. He drew particular attention to the following:

- (i) The station's high standards of safety performance had been maintained. There had been no breaches of Operating Rules or discharge authorisation requirements.
- (ii) Good progress had been made with a human performance training programme which was designed to provide tools for avoiding human error. The programme developed at the station had been adopted by other sites across the company.
- (iii) The safety case for the Reactor 2 graphite core had been cleared by the company's Nuclear Safety Committee and was now with the NII for assessment. Steps were being taken to re-commission plant systems in readiness for return to service. The consent of the NII was required before the reactor could be taken to power.
- (iv) The station had reached its annual target for despatches of spent fuel from the site.
- (v) The station had been successfully re-accredited against the Investors in People criteria. The assessors had been particularly impressed by the process of involvement of staff and their representatives in developing organisational structures for the future.
- (vi) The Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning was nearing completion and would be submitted to the HSE in March 2007. This would in due course be the subject of public consultations by the HSE.

- (vii) There had been a successful demonstration of the station's emergency arrangements during December.
- (viii) Stakeholder engagement initiatives included a business breakfast event, discussions with South Gloucestershire Council on future plans for the site and a number of visits to the site by representatives of local councils.
- (ix) Decisions on accommodation for staff currently at Berkeley had not been finalised. If further staff from Berkeley were to be located at Oldbury additional car parking areas would be required.

NII SITE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

- 9 Mr Lindsay reported on his inspection activities at Oldbury power station. He drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) Good progress was being made with the assessment of the Reactor 2 graphite core safety case. The assessment involved the Inspectorate's own experts and independent specialists. Meetings had been held with the company to discuss additional information requirements.
 - (ii) Referring to the repeat demonstration emergency exercise carried out in December, Mr Lindsay said that the company had clearly addressed those issues which had been of concern at the time of the previous exercise and provided a satisfactory demonstration of the arrangements.
- 10 In response to a question from Cllr Evers, Mr Lindsay said that the areas of concern at the time of the previous emergency exercise demonstration had been related to the control of activities at the point of entry to areas assumed to be hazardous and the chain of communications for ensuring sufficiently prompt responses outside normal working hours. These concerns had not been sufficiently serious to threaten the ability to provide the necessary protection for staff and members of the public but had required improvement. The concerns had now been satisfactorily addressed. Mr Lamonby drew attention to the high standards which were expected in these demonstration exercises and described the improvements made and additional training given to ensure that all teams who might be involved in the implementation of the emergency arrangements were able to provide effective responses.

NEW MEMBERS' ADMINISTRATION, INDUCTION AND TOUR

- 11 Cllr Lynden said that arrangements had been made for members to be taken on a tour of the power station site on 19 April 2007. This would serve as induction training for new members and provide an opportunity for gaining improved knowledge of the site. He invited members to

contact Eirian Vaughan Lewis on 01454 893836 if they wished to take part in these site tours.

- 12 Cllr Lynden invited members' comments on any aspect of the administration or organisation of the work of this Group. Cllr Hawkins emphasised the important role of all members to report back on the work of this Group to members of their various constituencies. Cllr Lynden agreed that this was an important part of the way in which the Group maintained contact with the public; he suggested that members could use parish magazines etc as a means of providing information for the public within their areas. Mr Pinder suggested that members might receive information relating to meetings of the group in electronic format so that they could more easily circulate information to persons they represented. Members were asked to contact Eirian Vaughan Lewis on 01454 893836 if they wished to receive papers etc in electronic format.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE END STATE SUB GROUP

- 13 Cllr Hawkins presented for the approval of this Group the recommendations of the End State Sub Group. He reminded members of the discussion at the February 2006 meeting when it had been decided that a public opinion survey should be carried out. A report on the survey undertaken within a five-mile radius of the site by Hyder Consulting had been circulated to members. The recommendations of the sub group, set out in a "site output pro-forma" specified by the NDA, had also been circulated to members. The following points were noted during discussion:
- (i) The work had been directed towards identifying the end state for decommissioning of the site rather than any possible end use. It had been assumed that site clearance would be achieved within a period of twenty-five years from the end of generation.
 - (ii) Cllr Halsall pointed out that the options of returning to farmland or use as a nature reserve had been favoured by the members of the public who had been consulted. These options were also consistent with local planning policy but they had not been favoured by the sub-group. He suggested that the initial response of members of the public, without detailed understanding of the various issues, would always be to seek a return to a green-field site. He said that a more mature consideration of the options was required taking account of all aspects, including socio-economic implications. He pointed out that the report did acknowledge that attitudes might change as familiarity with the various issues increased. Cllr Halsall said the lesson to be drawn from this for future consultations was the importance of the timing of consultation with the general public - initial early reactions could fail to take account of wider issues including the significant benefits to the local community of some form of continued economic activity on the site.

- (iii) Rev Primrose supported the need for a continuing dialogue to keep options and ideas for the use of the site under review. He drew attention to the preference expressed by members of the public for all contaminated land and radioactive waste to be removed from the site. He highlighted also the reported possibility that savings resulting from the retention of such wastes on the site could be shared with the local community. He suggested that if the NDA was to identify funding which would be available in such circumstances then public responses might be different. He encouraged the NDA to engage in a process which could identify outcomes of this nature which would be of benefit to all concerned.
- (iv) Cllr Lynden said that preferences regarding site end state should be reviewed every five years as circumstances would change and it was not possible to foresee all the changes which would take place over the next 20 years. He emphasised the range of reviews which would exist amongst the general public and the wide differences in the impact of the site on different areas within the five-mile radius of the site which had been used for the public consultation.
- (v) Cllr Evers expressed his support for the assumption that the site would be cleared within 25 years. He pointed out that different parts of the site could be released for alternative uses at different stages during that period. He felt that care was needed in the interpretation of the results of public consultations as the persons expressing views would not have access to information on all the options or potential uses for different parts of the site. He said that in future public consultations it would be important to provide more information on which the public could base its views.
- (vi) Cllr Graupner said that the public consultation in relation to Berkeley had also identified strong preferences for return to green-field site or nature reserve use.
- (vii) Rev Primrose was concerned that the report, in reflecting the public's preference for green-field or nature use, might not give sufficient emphasis to the other aspects considered by the sub-group. He emphasised the need for continuing dialogue.

14 Proposed by Cllr Lynden, it was unanimously agreed that the recommendations of the End State Sub Group, as set out in the "site output pro-forma" should be accepted by this Group and submitted as the Group's response to the NDA.

15 Mr Barker explained that the results of the consultations undertaken at each of the sites would be taken into consideration by the NDA in

formulating its strategies. He said that there would be further opportunities for consultation and dialogue on end states. He believed that this had been a worthwhile exercise and thanked members of the group for their efforts. Dr Burnett said that he had been impressed by the careful consideration which had been given by members of the Group to this issue. He said that the responses at the various sites reflected specific local concerns, particularly in relation to continuing employment in areas where there were few other major employers. Mr Bishton said he felt that this exercise had demonstrated the effectiveness of members of the Group working as a sub-group.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 16 It was noted that Dr Mountford-Lister would be taking over from Mr Withey as the Environment Agency's lead regulator for the Oldbury site with effect from 1 March.
- 17 Mr Withey pointed out that Oldbury had applied to the Environment Agency for variations to its authorisations relating to despatches of solid low level wastes to Drigg and the replacement of an existing oil burner. He said that this would be the subject of public consultation by the Agency before a decision was taken and information would be provided for the attention of members of this Group in due course.
- 18 In response to a question from Cllr Graupner, Mr Withey said that the need for continued monitoring on the site following decommissioning would depend upon the end state and future uses of the site.
- 19 In reply to a comment from Rev Primrose, Dr Burnett said that the NDA, in addition to its funding of a nuclear research facility in Cumbria, was interested in developing training opportunities for staff at all levels within the industry. Cllr Evers drew attention to the possible use of facilities at Berkeley and Oldbury for training purposes.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 20 It was agreed that the next meeting should be held on 9 May 2007 rather than on 2 May as previously scheduled. The venue for the meeting would be identified in due course. This meeting would be the annual general meeting of the SSG, at which the Chair and Vice-Chair would be reconfirmed.

MJD
11 February 2007