

# **OLDBURY ON SEVERN POWER STATION**

## **SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT**

#### **OLDBURY INFORMATION CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 9 MAY 2007**

##### **PRESENT:**

Cllr M Lynden (Chairman)	-	Oldbury-on-Severn Parish Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Association of Parish & Town Councils
Cllr N Halsall	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Ms A Kerigan	-	Clerk to Tytherington Parish Council
Cllr M Kirby	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Ms R Kitson	-	Hill Parish Meeting
Cllr G Locke	-	Rockhampton Parish Council
Cllr Ms J Lyon	-	Olveston Parish Council
Mr A Pinder	-	Friends of the Earth
Rev D Primrose	-	Oldbury Power Station Chaplain
Cllr M Riddle	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr V Shenoi	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr Mrs P Wride	-	Chair, Berkeley SSG

##### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr S Barker	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr J C Bishton	-	Oldbury Power Station
Mr P Harper	-	Oldbury Power Station
Sgt A Hockin	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
PC R Hopes	-	Avon & Somerset Constabulary
Mr N Monkton	-	Magnox (North)
Mr R Phillips	-	Oldbury Power Station
Ms S Postans	-	Communications Officer, Oldbury Power Station
Ms E Vaughan Lewis	-	Oldbury Power Station
Ms Z Young	-	Oldbury Power Station
Mr J Weaver	-	Thornbury Gazette
Mr W R Cullimore		
Mr W Gill		
Mr B S Kirk		
Mr N Taylor		
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

##### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

- 1 Cllr Lynden welcomed members to the meeting.

##### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Mr Lamonby, Dr J Sarangi, Mr A Murdoch, Cllr Ms S O'Neill, Mr G Buchanan, Ms A Hayes, Mr J Lindsay, Mr L Hales, Cllr K Graupner, Mr A Jardine and Ms A Chapman.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **(a) Accuracy**

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

SSG Meeting held on 7 February 2007

Socio-Economic Sub-Group Meeting held on 7 February 2007

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

#### **Socio-Economic Sub-Group**

4 Mr Bishton pointed out that subsequent to the sub-group meeting the station's socio-economic plan for 2007/2008 had been published. Copies of the plan were available for members. Mr Bishton pointed out that the plan had taken account of work on decommissioning proposals undertaken in preparation of the application to decommission the station. He said that this work had included the identification of areas in which staff based at the station lived and which would thus be affected by reductions in staffing levels.

5 Mr Bishton pointed out that the funding available for grants within the current plan had been increased to £60000 from the £15000 identified in last year's plan. At it's meeting on the morning prior to this meeting the sub-group had started working on the allocation of grants from this year's plan. Cllr Lynden said that grants allocated at that meeting amounted to a total larger than all of the grants made last year.

## **MINUTES OF EMERGENCY PLANNING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

6 Cllr Lynden drew attention to the minutes of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee (EPCC) meeting held on 7 March 2007. This was the first time that minutes of the EPCC had been submitted to this Group for the information of members.

7 Cllr Mrs Wride, who had attended a recent meeting of the EPCC for the Berkeley Site, said that discussion at that meeting had drawn attention to the closure of the radiological decontamination unit at Frenchay Hospital. She said that access to Frenchay from both Berkeley and Oldbury was much easier than either the Bristol Royal Infirmary or the Gloucester Royal Hospital where other decontamination facilities existed. She questioned whether this had been taken fully into account in proposals to close the Frenchay Hospital. At the suggestion of Cllr Hawkins it was agreed that Mr Bishton should raise this issue with the appropriate person within the health service.

**Action Mr Bishton**

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

8 Cllr Lynden invited members of the public in attendance at the meeting to raise any issues which otherwise might not appear on the agenda.

- 9 Mr Kirk asked about access to areas of the site as decommissioning progressed. Mr Bishton suggested that this would be covered in his presentation later in the meeting but undertook to provide Mr Kirk with a copy of the environmental statement produced in support of the application to decommission the station.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT**

- 10 Cllr Lynden reported briefly on the work of the SSG during the past year. He drew attention to the major programme of work involved in the consultation on the preferred end state for the site and expressed thanks to Cllr Hawkins and the members of the sub-group for their help in achieving a satisfactory outcome. He said he felt that the group had established good working relationships with the NDA and British Nuclear Group representatives.
- 11 Ms Postans pointed out that Cllr Lynden and Cllr Hawkins, as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively, had served two years of the three year term permitted under the Group's constitution. She invited members to consider whether these appointments should be confirmed for a further year. In proposing that these appointments should be confirmed for a further year, Cllr Riddle expressed members' thanks for the work done by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman over the past year. It was unanimously agreed that the appointments of Cllr Lynden and Cllr Hawkins as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively should be confirmed for a further year.

#### **NDA SITE PROGRAMME MANAGER'S REPORT**

- 12 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) Sir Anthony Cleaver, the chairman of the NDA, had announced that he was to retire in July 2007. The DTI was taking steps to appoint a successor.
  - (ii) A revised socio-economic policy, which took account of views expressed in consultation, had been submitted by the NDA to government for approval. A response was expected shortly.
  - (iii) Progress was being made with the integration of Nirex activities into the NDA.
  - (iv) Progress was being made with the establishment of a national nuclear laboratory.
  - (v) The consultation which had taken place with SSGs on preferred end states for the Magnox station sites formed part of the first stage of the process for developing the NDA's strategy for each site. The overall process covered nine stages which would include further consultation with SSGs.

- (vi) The NDA had published its Annual Plan for 2007/08. Copies of the plan were available for members. The annual report and accounts for the past year were expected to be published after the summer parliamentary recess.
  - (vii) The NDA was pleased with the progress made at Oldbury during the past year towards meeting NDA objectives. Mr Barker referred specifically to the station's very high standards of safety performance and continued engagement with the local community.
  - (viii) Organisational changes had been made within the NDA to reflect the focus on the organisation of the site licence companies. The local NDA team now reported to the NDA's Warrington office.
- 13 Referring to the proposed establishment of a National Nuclear Laboratory, Rev Primrose asked whether arrangements were to be made to maintain appropriate skills at local level. Mr Barker said that consideration would be given to appropriate means of addressing any gaps in relation to the availability of skills at individual sites as and when these were identified in lifetime plans.
- 14 Cllr Evers sought reassurance that the process of reconciling the inputs from the various sites on preferred end states would not result in a single solution which lost the identified local aspects. Mr Barker said it was not possible to anticipate the decisions which would eventually be taken but he said that the NDA was determined to be open in its decision-making and responsive to the needs of local communities.

#### **SITE MANAGER'S REPORT**

- 15 On behalf of Mr Lamonby who had been unable to attend this meeting, Mr Harper 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 maintenance of high standards of safety remained the highest priority on the site. There had been no breaches of Operating Rules or discharge authorisation requirements and there had been no lost time accidents.
  - (ii) A team of experts from the World Association of Nuclear Operators had visited the station during March to provide assistance with the station's efforts to improve human performance. Recommendations from the team had been incorporated in the station's programmes.
  - (iii) The NII's assessment of the safety case for returning Reactor 2 to service was ongoing. Considerable efforts had been made to ensure that the reactor was ready to restart when consent was received. Plans for routine overhaul of the reactor would be reviewed when the position in relation to consent for start-up was known. A safety case for return to service of

Reactor 1 had received the necessary clearance within the company's processes and had been submitted to the NII for approval.

- (iv) During the past year the station had achieved all of its contract deliverables within budget and exceeded target savings. New targets had been set for the coming year.
- (v) A new company agreement on terms and conditions of employment had been agreed with trades unions and was now to be implemented.
- (vi) Proposals had been developed for a revised organisational structure suitable for the station's requirements during defuelling and decommissioning. In preparation for the implementation of this structure each member of staff was to receive counselling to identify their personal aspirations.
- (vii) The station had actively pursued a programme of stakeholder engagement.
- (viii) With effect from 1 April 2007 a new company - the Reactor Sites Management Company - had been established to manage the Magnox reactor sites. Arrangements were being made for the sale of this company.

## **NII SITE INSPECTOR'S REPORT**

- 16 Cllr Lynden explained that Mr Lindsay had been unable to attend this meeting as he had been engaged on issues associated with the assessment of the safety case for return to service of Reactor 2. Consideration was given to the quarterly report from HSE on inspection and regulatory activities at Oldbury, copies of which had been circulated to members.
- 17 In response to a question from Mr Pinder on the nature of the reported compliance inspections, Mr Harper explained that the NII followed a programme of inspections to review compliance with the requirements of the various conditions which were attached to the Site Licence. The programme ensured that each of the Licence Conditions was addressed in an appropriate timescale.
- 18 Cllr Evers sought clarification of the reported proposal that the NII would seek enhancements in arrangements for managing organisational change. It was understood that the letter referred to in the report would be based upon the outcome of inspections at all of the sites.
- 19 Cllr Shenoï referred to the extent of the change on the site and the potential effect on staff morale which was very relevant to safety performance. Mr Harper said that the management team was well aware of the need to maintain a high level of staff morale and made considerable efforts to secure this. Emphasis was placed upon dialogue with staff and effective communications to avoid uncertainty. Ms Kerigan said that as a new member she had been on a tour of

the station and had been very impressed by all she had seen; the appearance of the plant and her discussions with staff she had met gave confidence in the safety of the station. Rev Primrose said that as Station Chaplain he had been aware of fluctuations in morale over time; he said that morale was currently buoyant with an expectation of return to service of a reactor.

- 20 Rev Primrose drew attention to the comments in the report that the NII's assessment of the safety case for continued operation of Reactor 2 had taken longer than anticipated due to resource constraints. He suggested that it should have been possible to overcome those constraints having regard for the very considerable costs of the continued shutdown of the plant. Cllr Lynden suggested that priority might have been given within the NII to dealing with problems associated with British Energy reactors which might have greater economic consequences.

### **SSG VISIT TO SELLAFIELD**

- 21 Cllr Lynden and Cllr Hawkins reported on a recent visit to Sellafield together with representatives of other SSGs. They said that they had been made aware of the large legacy of clean-up work required and had been impressed by the professionalism with which the necessary work was being handled. Opportunities for discussions with representatives of other groups had been helpful. Commenting on the scale of the work involved at the site Cllr Hawkins said that he had been impressed by the competence of the staff he had met, by the safety standards adopted and by the high quality of the engineering.

### **EPCC UPDATE**

- 22 Mr Bishton reported on the work of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee. He explained that the membership included representation from all of the organisations having responsibilities for providing support in the event of an emergency at the site. Discussion at the most recent meeting had included a review of any changes in the arrangements of the various organisations and a review of emergency exercises.
- 23 Cllr Mrs Wride said that she had attended a recent meeting of the EPCC for the Berkeley site and had been impressed by the way in which the various agencies all worked together and kept each other informed of relevant developments. In reply to a question from Cllr Shenoi, Mr Bishton explained the way in which emergency exercises were organised to test arrangements at local and national level. He said that in preparing exercise scenarios it was necessary to exaggerate the consequences of potential plant failures in order to postulate discharges of radioactivity on a scale necessary to require implementation of the emergency arrangements. Mr Harper said that exercise scenarios often contained incredible coincidences of different types of failures and accidents in order to test the responses of staff. Mr Bishton said that there were opportunities for a limited number of observers to attend emergency exercises if any member wished to do so.

## **UPDATE REPORT ON NDA END STATE**

- 24 It was agreed that this item had been covered in earlier discussion on the Site Programme Manager's report.

## **PRESENTATION ON DECOMMISSIONING**

- 25 Mr Bishton gave a presentation on plans for decommissioning Oldbury power station. He outlined the various stages of work within current plans and the state of the site at each of the stages. The following points were noted during discussion:

- (i) The station was due to cease generation at the end of 2008. During the following two year period of defuelling 99% of the radioactivity on the site would be removed.
- (ii) Initial decommissioning work would dismantle and remove buildings and machinery leaving only the reactor building and a radioactive waste storage building. In that state it was envisaged that the site would be left for an extended period of time to allow natural decay of the radioactivity within the structures. This decay would facilitate access to the radioactive components during final site clearance.
- (iii) In support of the application to decommission the station an environmental statement had been produced and submitted to the Health and Safety Executive in accordance with the requirements of the Nuclear Reactors (Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning) Regulations. Public consultation on that statement had now begun and would run until the end of June 2007. The NII would take account of issues raised in this consultation in deciding whether to issue the necessary consent for decommissioning to take place. Mr Bishton said that in order to ensure that proposals were properly understood a presentation similar to the one he was now giving could be provided for any interested local groups.
- (iv) In response to questions from Rev Primrose and Cllr Evers, Mr Barker said that current proposals were for each site to have an interim store for intermediate level waste pending the identification of a location for a deep geological disposal facility. No mechanisms existed at this stage for compensating local communities who might volunteer their site as a location for a national repository.
- (v) Mr Bishton explained that the Environmental Statement analysed the various potential impacts on the environment and identified measures which could be taken to mitigate those effects. He outlined each of the identified impacts and the mitigating factors. Mr Cullimore pointed out that a number of the identified mitigating factors could be controlled through conditions written into contracts. Cllr Evers said that the proposals for longer term decommissioning activities could only be a snapshot as seen at the present time; new processes, systems and means

of transport would be developed in due course and would inevitably bring about changes in proposed methods.

- 26 Mr Bishton said that copies of the non-technical summary of the environmental statement were available for members; further details were available on the British Nuclear Group website and full copies of the statement could be purchased. He said that “drop-in days” were to be held in the local area during the coming weeks to provide information and answer any questions from members of the public.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Access to the site**

- 27 Mr Kirk questioned existing arrangements for access to areas around the site. He said that some members of the public had been issued with “birdwatchers’ passes” but others visited the site without such passes. Mr Barker suggested that at the next meeting information should be provided on current arrangements for access to certain areas around the site and what permissions were required for such access. In relation to points raised by Mr Kirk about release of other parts of the site for public access he said that it was not possible to give specific assurances at this stage; plans would be kept under review and the proposals in the current baseline plans could change in due course.

### **Food Standards Agency Habit Survey**

- 28 Mr Bishton pointed out that the Food Standards Agency were to conduct habit surveys in the vicinity of the site during August to provide information on factors which were relevant to their assessment of the potential radiation doses which might be received by local people.

### **Work to be commissioned by the SSG**

- 29 Mr Bishton said that it would be necessary at the next meeting to identify any expenditure required on work which might be commissioned by the group during 2008/09 in order that appropriate budgetary provision could be made.

### **Representation of Internal Drainage Board**

- 30 At the suggestion of Cllr Lynden it was agreed that the Internal Drainage Board should be invited to send a representative to future meetings of this Group.

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

- 31 It was agreed that the next meeting should be held on 15 August 2007 in the afternoon and that an opportunity should be taken at that meeting for members to visit some of the outdoor areas around the perimeter of the site.

MJD  
14 May 2007