

OLDBURY ON SEVERN POWER STATION

SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT

OLDBURY ON SEVERN VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 6 AUGUST 2008

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 J Greenwood	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Dr L Hales	-	Environmental Consultant
Cllr N Halsall	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Ms R Kitson	-	Hill Parish Meeting
Cllr Ms P Parsloe	-	Thornbury Town Council
Mr A Pinder	-	Friends of the Earth
Cllr P Wride	-	Berkeley SSG

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr S Barker	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr D Atkinson	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr R Flynn	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Ms H Lynn	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr P Youngman	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr P Harper	-	Oldbury Power Station
Mr J C Bishton	-	Oldbury Power Station
Ms A Chapman	-	Oldbury Power Station
Ms M Hausrath	-	Oldbury Power Station
Ms H Brazier	-	Oldbury Power Station
Ms R Lyon	-	Oldbury Power Station
Ms C Offord	-	Oldbury Power Station
Ms S Postans	-	Oldbury Power Station
Ms A Ryan	-	Oldbury Power Station
Mr R Screen	-	Oldbury Power Station
Ms Z Young	-	Oldbury Power Station
Mr D Billing	-	EHS&Q Site Inspector
Mr P Fenn	-	Magnox North
Mr S Payne	-	Magnox South
Dr M Ghannad	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Dr J Sarangi	-	Health Protection Agency
PC R Hopes	-	Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Insp M Lester	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr G Astley-Jones	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Ms M Dixon	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr J Thomas	-	Lower Severn Drainage Board

Mr W R Cullimore
Mr W Gill
Ms M Jennings
Mr Jennings
Mr M Dalziel
Ms L-J Gillespie - Reporter for Thornbury Gazette
Ms P Hitchin - Reporter for UK Monitor
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 J Lamonby, Mr R Churchill, Mr M Johnston, Mr P Kennedy, Ms E Vaughan-Lewis, Ms J Lyons, Dr P Mountford-Lister, Cllr Mrs O'Neill and Cllr M Riddle.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a) Accuracy

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

SSG Meeting held on 7 May 2008

Socio-Economic Sub-Group Meeting held on 7 May 2008

(b) Matters arising

Socio-Economic Funding

4 Cllr Lynden pointed out that a further meeting of the Socio-Economic Sub Group had been held on the morning prior to this meeting. Decisions had been taken to provide valuable support for a number of local activities. He invited members to encourage applications from any local organisations or activities which might be considered worthy of such support.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

6 Mr Dalziel, a resident from Shepperdine asked whether there were currently any plans for the construction of a new power station on the site. Mr Barker said that the NDA was obliged to optimise the value it received for any of its land which was surplus to requirements. Expressions of interest in all of the NDA sites had been made but the NDA could not comment on the intentions of prospective purchasers of surplus land. Mr Barker said that Mr Atkinson would be able to comment on these issues later in the meeting.

NDA SITE PROGRAMME MANAGER'S REPORT

- 7 Mr Barker presented his report as NDA Programme Manager for the Oldbury site. A written report had previously been circulated to members. He drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) The NDA was pleased with the progress made by the station towards meeting NDA objectives. The station's record in relation to safety and security was exemplary and the continuing focus on these issues was fully supported.
 - (ii) The NDA supported work seeking to justify an extension of operation at Oldbury beyond the end of December 2008. Mr Barker emphasised that no decision had yet been made and that any such operation would be subject to the approval of the necessary safety case.
 - (iii) Dr Roxburgh had vacated his post as NDA Chief Executive at the end of July. Mr R Waite was Acting Chief Executive pending the recruitment of a successor.
 - (iv) The NDA had published its report and accounts and a report on health, safety and environment for the past year. Mr Barker highlighted progress with competition for the management of sites and funding as key issues.
- 8 Dr Hales drew attention to the published figures for nuclear liabilities and in particular the large reductions in the values of those liabilities when discounted. Mr Barker pointed out that some of the liabilities were discounted over long periods; discount rates used were as specified by the Treasury.
- 9 Mr Atkinson, NDA Property Manager, pointed out that the NDA's remit did not include the construction of new power stations; the Government's White Paper had said that any new nuclear station construction was expected to be funded by the private sector. The authority was however charged with achieving the best value from its assets which included a substantial land holding. Only some 20% of this land currently accommodated nuclear plant. There was considerable interest from potential purchasers in the Authority's property assets and meetings were taking place with interested parties. Mr Atkinson said that the Authority had no influence over potential uses which prospective purchasers might have in mind for any surplus land which they might acquire. He said that it was possible that the Secretary of State could issue a direction for the disposal of certain land. He said that any proposals for new station construction would be subject to normal planning consent requirements. In response to a question from a member of the public, Mr Atkinson said that the Authority's responsibility as landowner in disposing of surplus land was to achieve the maximum value for the asset.
- 10 Mr Atkinson said that any private companies wishing to develop new power stations did not have powers of compulsory purchase but a Bill dealing with planning matters which was currently before Parliament would provide for

successful applicants for planning consent to have some compulsory purchase powers. In response to a question from Cllr Halsall as to whether the NDA land ownership at Oldbury was sufficient for construction of a new station, Mr Atkinson said that a large part of the land ownership was within the River Severn and the silt lagoons. In response to a further question from a member of the public in relation to the disposal of land which might have been acquired under a Compulsory Purchase Order, Mr Atkinson said that there were established rules to be followed in such circumstances.

- 11 Mr Barker said that the provision of the necessary cooling facilities would be a significant issue in relation to any possible power station development at Oldbury. He reiterated earlier comments that the NDA's obligation was to seek the maximum value for its assets but its primary role continued to be the safe decommissioning of its nuclear sites. He undertook to keep members informed of any future developments in relation to the disposal of any part of the NDA's land holding at Oldbury.
- 12 In reply to a question from Cllr Evers, Mr Barker acknowledged that estimates of nuclear liabilities had increased in recent years. He said that this was to some extent attributable to the improved understanding of the potential hazards on sites. He said that the NDA was focused upon targeting its funds towards those areas which would achieve the greatest hazard reduction; in the discharge of liabilities, savings would be achieved by efficiency gains including competition.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 13 On behalf of Mr Lamonby, who had been unable to attend this meeting, Mr Harper reported on recent activities at Oldbury, drawing particular attention to the following:
 - (i) Safety remained the station's highest priority. It was now more than 630 days since the most recent accident involving time lost from work.
 - (ii) During the previous weekend a controlled shutdown had been carried out on Reactor 2 following difficulties experienced in removing a fuel element. The cause of the problem had now been established and preparations were being made for returning the reactor to service. It was intended that when Reactor 2 was re-started it would be put into service with Turbine Alternator 2. The crossover arrangement whereby Reactor 2 had supplied steam to Turbine 1 had worked successfully.
 - (iii) Discussions with the NII on the reactor core graphite safety case were continuing. Progress continued to be made with internal inspections of the Reactor 1 core. Inspections in 1138 of 1300 channels within the reactor had been completed with no defects of any significance having been found.
 - (iv) With the support of the NDA, progress was being made on work which would justify generation beyond the end of 2008. The NDA had

supported the installation of an additional system for monitoring fuel integrity for both reactors.

- 14 In reply to a question from Cllr Halsall on the extent of any further operation beyond the end of 2008, Mr Harper emphasised that a safety case justification would have to be made for such extended operation. He pointed out that the programme for the transfer of irradiated fuel to Sellafield implied that defuelling of the Oldbury reactors would commence in March 2011. He said that due to the extended shutdowns in recent years there was sufficient new fuel for operation up to that time.
- 15 Dr Hales asked about the nature of the new fuel integrity monitoring system which was being installed. Mr Harper explained that the system would monitor conditions within the bulk gas flow for any evidence of a fuel element failure.

NII SITE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

- 16 Dr Ghannad reported on the NII's inspection activities at Oldbury Power Station, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The various inspections which had been carried out included a number of visits by specialists.
 - (ii) There had been no significant nuclear safety events or accidents.
 - (iii) The reactor core graphite safety case was currently being assessed; meetings had been held and additional information supplied. No decision had yet been reached.
 - (iv) The consent of the NII was required before Reactor 1 could be re-started. The NII was content with the continued operation of Reactor 2.
 - (v) The assessment of the safety case relating to vibrations experienced on Turbine 1 had been completed satisfactorily.
 - (vi) A team from the NII had completed an annual safety review. Standards of housekeeping and use of personal protective equipment had been found to be very good; a number of minor issues were being pursued.
- 17 Cllr Hawkins suggested that the inclusion of a section in the written report on accidents and incidents might be taken to imply that there was cause for concern. Dr Ghannad confirmed that the incidents reported were very minor; there had been no significant events.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT

- 18 Dr Mountford-Lister had been unable to be present at this meeting. His written report was noted. There were no questions which members wished to be conveyed to Dr Mountford-Lister.

PRESENTATION FROM HEALTH PROTECTION AGENCY

- 19 Dr Sarangi gave a presentation on the role of the Health Protection Agency with particular reference to its role in the event of a radiation incident. She described the formation of the Health Protection Agency following the disbandment of the Health Authorities and outlined its organisation. She described the health protection responses in relation to various potential hazards such as communicable diseases, chemical plants, ports and airports and other potential hazards.
- 20 Dr Sarangi explained to the role of the Health Protection Agency in relation to the investigation of incidents and its participation in emergency planning in association with the industries and agencies involved. She pointed out that the Agency's main role in relation to an incident was the provision of independent support and advice to the various agencies with responsibilities for dealing with the incident.

EMERGENCY PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS

- 21 Mr Fenn described the emergency arrangements which were common to all UK nuclear power station sites. He described the legal framework established by the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 which required site licensees to make and implement adequate arrangements for dealing with any accident or incident and he explained the requirements of the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness Public Information) Regulations 2001.
- 22 Mr Fenn explained that each nuclear site had an Emergency Plan which required the approval of the NII; this Plan was supported by a Handbook which specified detailed arrangements for the management of emergency responses. He pointed out that best practice was shared between all parties involved in nuclear emergency planning via a liaison group which was chaired by BERR.
- 23 Mr Fenn gave an indication of the various agencies involved in providing emergency arrangements. He said that emergency plans provided for the declaration of two emergency states - a Site Incident, the effects of which were confined to within the site boundary, and an Off Site Nuclear Emergency. He said that it had not been necessary at any site to declare an Off Site Nuclear Emergency but Site Incidents were occasionally declared in order to mobilise resources for dealing with incidents on sites.
- 24 Mr Fenn described the various emergency control centres which were provided within emergency plans. For Oldbury these included an Emergency Control Centre on site, a Central Emergency Support Centre at Barnwood in Gloucestershire and a Strategic Co-Ordination Centre at the Avon and Somerset Police headquarters in Portishead. He explained that sites were required to exercise their emergency arrangements on a regular basis. These exercises included a Level 1 annual demonstration of the site's own arrangements, a Level 2 demonstration of the off-site arrangements, and a Level 3 demonstration of the national level responses. Other exercises included the Radsafe scheme which covered the transport of radioactive materials. Lessons from these

various exercises were reviewed and actions taken to implement any identified improvements.

- 25 Mr G Astley-Jones outlined the nature of the off site emergency plans for dealing with an incident at Oldbury which were compiled by South Gloucestershire Council in accordance with the requirements of the REPPiR regulations.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR REVIEW OF SSG CONSTITUTION

- 26 Cllr Lynden proposed the formation of a sub-group to carry out a review of the constitution of the Site Stakeholder Group. It was agreed that a sub-group comprised of Cllr Lynden, Dr Hales, Cllr Hawkins and Cllr Halsall should be formed for this purpose.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No Business

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 27 It was noted that the next meeting, a joint meeting with the Berkeley SSG, was scheduled to be held at Eastwood Park Conference Centre on 12 November 2008 commencing at 1.00pm.

MJD
12 August 2008