

## **OLDBURY ON SEVERN POWER STATION**

### **SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

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

**CASTLE SCHOOL, THORNBURY, ON WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 2008**

#### **PRESENT:**

Cllr M Lynden (Chairman)	-	Oldbury-on-Severn Parish Council
Cllr G Chappell	-	Olveston Parish Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Association of Parish & Town Councils
Cllr K Graupner	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Dr L Hales	-	Environmental Consultant
Cllr N Halsall	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Cllr G Locke	-	Rockhampton Parish Council
Cllr Ms J Lyons	-	Olveston Parish Council
Cllr Ms P Parsloe	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr M Riddle	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Ms V Tutin	-	Olveston Parish Council

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr S Barker	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr J Lamonby	-	Oldbury Power Station
Mr J C Bishton	-	Oldbury Power Station
Ms M Hausrath	-	Oldbury Power Station
Ms S Postans	-	Oldbury Power Station
Ms E Vaughan Lewis	-	Oldbury Power Station
Mr D Billing	-	EHS&Q Site Inspector
Mr N Monckton	-	Communications Manager, Magnox North
Mr M Ghannad	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Dr P Mountford-Lister	-	Environment Agency
Sgt A Hockin	-	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr M Evans		
Ms M Jennings		
Mr B S Kirk		
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 Cllr Mrs O'Neill, Mr W R Cullimore, Ms A Chapman, Mr D Webbe-Wood, Cllr P Booth,

Rev D Primrose, Cllr M Kirby, Ms A Kerigan, Cllr Mrs P Wride and Mr A Jardine.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **(a) Accuracy**

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

SSG Meeting held on 30 January 2008

Socio-Economic Sub-Group Meeting held on 30 January 2008

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

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

4 Mr Bishton drew attention to the allocation of £60,000 of NDA funding for local organisations and activities agreed by the Socio-Economic Sub Group during the 2007-8 year. He pointed out that support had been given in previous years to Thornbury FM but with its growing success it was now able to carry out its broadcasts with purely commercial sources of funding; he felt that this was a good example of the way in which grants could help to support organisations while they were establishing themselves.

5 Cllr Lynden acknowledged the valuable benefits of this funding for local activities. He invited members to identify any local groups or activities who they felt might warrant financial support; any applications received were considered against the established criteria.

## **ELECTION OF SSG CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR 2008-2011**

6 Cllr Lynden and Cllr Hawkins withdrew from the meeting and Ms Postans invited members to consider the election of a Chairman and Vice Chairman of this Group for the coming three years. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Lynden should be elected Chairman and Cllr Hawkins should be elected Vice Chairman of the Group for the next three years.

7 Cllr Riddle expressed members' appreciation of the way in which Cllr Lynden and Cllr Hawkins had carried out their duties as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively during previous years. He felt that their leadership had contributed significantly to the success of this Group and he looked forward to them continuing in these roles.

## **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. There were no such issues raised.

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

- 9 Mr Barker presented his report as NDA Programme Manager. A written report had previously been circulated to members.
- 10 Mr Barker drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) The station had made good progress during the past year towards meeting NDA objectives. Some £64 million of work had been completed during the year 2007/08. The agreed plan for the year ahead involved expenditure of £69 million at the site; this was lower than previously intended due to the deferral of some planned work to reflect changes in plans for processing spent fuel.
  - (ii) The NDA Business Plan had now been published. The plan included full support for continued operation at the station. Mr Barker emphasised the high priority which the NDA and the site operator gave to safety, security and environmental protection. Mr Barker drew attention to the station's achievements in receiving a RoSPA Gold Award for the 5th consecutive year and operating for more than a year without a lost time accident.
  - (iii) Mr Stephen Henwood had been newly appointed as Chairman of the NDA.
  - (iv) In line with its responsibility to maximise the commercial value of its assets, the NDA had sought to gauge market interest in the future use of its sites. It had received a considerable number of expressions of interest in all of the sites, including Oldbury. The NDA was now assessing those responses. Mr Barker undertook to keep the Group informed of any progress likely so impact upon the Oldbury site.
- 11 Cllr Riddle asked whether it was still the intention to cease generation at the site at the end of December 2008. Mr Barker confirmed that the planned date for ceasing generation remained as 31 December 2008. He said however that due to changes in plans for processing spent fuel and the availability of unused new fuel at Oldbury, the NDA had asked the operator to examine opportunities for extending operation to utilise this new fuel. He emphasised that any such action would be subject to the normal rigorous safety case processes and any such extension would be for a limited period only.

## **SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- 12 Mr Lamonby reported on recent activities at Oldbury, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The station had maintained its very good safety record. High standards of nuclear safety had been maintained and in relation to industrial safety, there had been no lost time accidents or injuries requiring medical treatment during the past financial year.

- (ii) The electricity production target for the year 2007/08 had been exceeded despite a series of technical issues. Reactor 2 was currently on load in association with Turbo Alternator 1 producing an electrical output of some 220 megawatts. Reactor 1 remained shutdown while work continued on the reactor core graphite safety case. This safety case work was supported by extensive inspections of graphite bricks within the reactors. More than 1000 channels within Reactor 1 had been closely inspected and no defects resulting from graphite oxidation had been found.
  - (iii) Following identified problems with high vibration levels, Turbine 2 had been repaired and rebuilt. The success of this work had been demonstrated in a test run and the turbo generator was now available for service when required.
  - (iv) The station had exceeded its spent fuel despatch targets for the year.
  - (v) Preparations continued to be made for defuelling and decommissioning and the necessary consents had been received. The timescale for defuelling had been deferred due to difficulties at Sellafield and consideration was being given to the required organisational structures in the period following the end of generation.
  - (vi) At the request of the NDA consideration was being given to the feasibility of operating generating plant beyond the end of 2008. This work would cover all relevant issues including safety cases, the availability of fuel and the business case.
- 13 In response to a question from Mr Kirk on the station's cooling water requirements, Mr Lamonby said that the cooling water system would be required to be kept in operational condition for a period after the station stopped producing electricity.
- 14 Cllr Evers asked whether the various consents which had been obtained for decommissioning placed any constraints on decisions to extend generation beyond the end of the year. Mr Bishton said he believed that the existence of these consents would not have an impact on any such decision.

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

- 15 Mr Ghannad introduced himself as the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate's Site Inspector for Oldbury power station. He said that he had been appointed as successor to Mr Lindsay who, in accordance with the NII policy of rotating its inspectors periodically, had moved to another site. A written report on the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate's regulation of safety at Oldbury had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Mr Ghannad drew particular attention to the following:

- (i) Various inspections had been undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with Site Licence conditions and other requirements.
- (ii) Work continued on the assessment of the company's safety arguments in relation to the graphite core safety case and its justification for the return to service of Reactor 1.
- (iii) Having regard for the extent of maintenance activities carried out during the extended shutdown of Reactor 2 and the reduced period of operation, NII specialist inspectors had supported the company's proposal to postpone a maintenance shutdown to the end of 2008.
- (iv) The station had produced a Periodic Safety Review which had been accepted by the NII.

16 In response to a comment from Cllr Evers on the scope of inspections undertaken, Mr Ghannad explained that one of the inspections had involved specialist fire safety inspectors and the inspection had included a review of actions taken to enhance fire protection measures. This served as an example of the way in which facilities and systems were continually updated to meet modern standards.

## **ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT**

- 17 Dr Mountford-Lister presented a report on the Environment Agency's nuclear regulation activities in relation to Oldbury power station. A written report had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. He drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) He outlined the scope and nature of the various inspections undertaken and the issues discussed with the company. A team inspection was to be undertaken in October.
  - (ii) He believed that the system which was being developed to assess potential safety and environmental detriment (SED) of proposed decommissioning projects would provide a useful tool for ensuring that attention was focused appropriately.
  - (iii) The Agency had approved a variation to the site's Quarterly Notification Level for liquid discharges of caesium to the River Severn.
  - (iv) A review of the adequacy of the Radioactive Substances Act authorisation for the site had identified that significant changes could be made to limits for discharges when electricity generation is completed but for the time being the authorisation remained fit for purpose.
- 18 In response to a request from Dr Hales for further information on IonSv filters (which had been mentioned in the written report), Mr Bishton explained that these filters had been used in submersible equipment designed to remove

caesium from pond water; the spent filters represented solid waste which required disposal. An assessment had been carried out to examine the options for removing caesium from pond water having regard for all aspects including waste arisings. As a result of this assessment action was being taken to refurbish the installed caesium removal plant.

- 19 In reply to a comment from Cllr Evers, Dr Mountford-Lister said that unusual levels of Iodine 131 in samples taken from a location on the bank of the River Severn appeared to be attributable to discharges from an organisation associated with medical/therapeutic use of the radionuclide.

## **NEW REACTOR DESIGN ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

- 20 It was agreed that consideration of this item should be deferred to a later meeting.

## **S CUBED**

- 21 Mr Bishton gave a presentation on the Safe, Secure Sites (S3) Programme which had been established to identify and analyse strategic options and contingency plans for the Magnox power station sites. The NDA had asked for this work to be undertaken in the context of funding being allocated in accordance with hazard reduction priorities and having regard for the need for further technical work to be undertaken on waste disposal routes. The programme examined potential options for each site with each of the various options based upon a different scope of demolition, decommissioning and hazard reduction work. The programme covered the sites operated by Magnox North and Magnox South.
- 15 Mr Bishton said that the S3 programme would examine the various options and provide an input to the NDA's determination of its strategy. He said that regulators were engaged in this process and that pending any change in strategy work would continue in accordance with the site's approved long-term plan. Briefings on the progress of this work would be given at future meetings of this Group.
- 16 Cllr Halsall asked whether plans for the completion of decommissioning within 25 years which had been promoted by the NDA remained a valid option. Mr Barker said that completion of decommissioning within 25 years had been an aspiration but there were insufficient waste routes available to implement it and no business case to support it. He said it remained an aspiration but priorities were currently given to projects which resulted in the greatest hazard reduction, notably at Sellafield and Dounreay.

## **TOUR FOR NEW MEMBERS**

- 17 Cllr Lynden invited any new members who wished to go on a tour of the power station site to contact Saranne Postans at the station who would be happy to make suitable arrangements.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 18 Mr Bishton indicated that he wished to contact those members who had been involved in earlier discussions on best practical environmental options for dealing with wastes and hoped that they would be prepared to expand on those earlier discussions.

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

- 19 It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled to be held at Oldbury Technical Centre on 6 August 2008 commencing at 1.00pm.

MJD

14 May 2008