

OLDBURY ON SEVERN POWER STATION

SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT

OLDBURY INFORMATION CENTRE ON 1 FEBRUARY 2006

PRESENT:

Cllr M Lynden (Chairman)	-	Oldbury-on-Severn Parish Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Association of Parish & Town Councils
Mr M Farley	-	Staff Representative, Oldbury Power Station
Cllr N Halsall	-	Thornbury Town Council
Dr L Hales		
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Cllr Ms J Lyons	-	Olveston Parish Council
Mr A Pinder	-	Friends of the Earth
Rev D Primrose		

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms J Astill	-	Site Inspector, Oldbury Power Station
Mr J C Bishton	-	Decommissioning Strategy Manager, Oldbury
Mr P Brazier	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Ms S Browne	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Mr G Buchanan	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr M Eagle	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr D Gatehouse	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Ms A Ginn	-	Berkeley Centre
Mr S Hailwood	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Ms S Hall	-	Berkeley Centre
Ms V Hall	-	Berkeley Centre
Ms C Harrison	-	HR Manager, Oldbury Power Station
PC R Hopes	-	Avon & Somerset Constabulary
Mr T Jones	-	Press Officer, Berkeley Centre
Mr S Kendrick	-	Avon Fire & Rescue Service
Ms A Kentish	-	Communications Officer, Oldbury Power Station
Mr J Lindsay	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Ms R Lyon	-	Oldbury Power Station
Ms E Nattress	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Ms T Scott	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Ms P Shields	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Cllr Mrs P Wride	-	Ham & Stone Parish Council
Mr J Weaver	-	Thornbury Gazette
Mr Chappel		
Mr R Cornock		
Mrs Cornock		
Mr B Delve		
Mr W Gill		
Mr J Green		

Mr Johnson
Mr S Kirk
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)

I INTRODUCTION

- 1 Cllr Lynden welcomed members to this meeting of the Oldbury Power Station Site Stakeholder Group.

II APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from:

Ms A Chapman	-	Oldbury Power Station
Dr T Ejidokun	-	Health Protection Agency
Mr D Webbe-Wood	-	Food Standards Agency
Ms A Hayes	-	Bristol Port Company
Mr J Lamonby	-	Site Manager, Oldbury Power Station
Cllr Ms S O'Neill	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr M Riddle	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr D Withey	-	Environment Agency
Mr G Locke	-	Rockhampton Parish Council
Mr A Harding	-	Friends of the Earth
Mr S Webb MP		

III MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a) Accuracy

- 2 The minutes of the following meetings were approved as a correct record:

SSG Meeting held on 6 July 2005

SSG Meeting held on 2 November 2005 (additional minutes relating to Oldbury only)

End-state Sub-Group Meetings held on 16 November 2005, 5 December 2005 and 16 January 2006

(b) Matters arising

- 3 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meetings.

IV SITE MANAGER'S REPORT

- 4 In the absence of Mr Lamonby, Mr Bishton, the station's Decommissioning Strategy Manager, 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 had continued to operate safely and reliably. It had been more than 500 days since the last accident involving time lost from work.
- (ii) Electricity production for the year to date was approximately 1.2 TWh (thousand million units); this was slightly behind target.
- (iii) Unit 1 had been shut down on 20 January as a precaution following the partial deployment of a component (a standpipe assembly) used during refuelling operations. Following investigations the standpipe assembly was recovered and the Unit returned to service.
- (iv) Unit 2 remained shut down pending the results of tests on samples of reactor core graphite. Further channel viewing inspections had been undertaken during the outage; some 560 channels had been viewed to date and no cracks had been found.
- (v) Organisational changes were being introduced to align the groupings of the Magnox sites with the "bundles" of sites identified by the NDA in its proposed strategy as the basis of exposing the management of the sites to competition.
- (vi) In response to comments made at an earlier meeting, arrangements were being made for a visit to the site by David Davis MP.
- (vii) The station was required to produce a socio-economic plan to identify the social and economic impact of decommissioning and measures to be taken to enhance the local socio-economy. At Mr Bishton's suggestion it was agreed that a sub-group should be established to help produce and monitor this plan. He invited members to contact him or Ms Kentish if they wished to join this sub-group.
- (viii) The station continued with its support for local organisations by means of sponsorship and donations, supplemented by fund raising efforts by staff.

V NII SITE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

5 Mr Lindsay reported on his inspection activities at Oldbury power station. The following points were noted during discussion:

- (i) The NII was awaiting a safety case from the station to justify the return to service of Reactor 2; in the meantime the NII was keeping in touch with the progress of work in hand.

- (ii) Mr Lindsay said that he had reviewed the circumstances of the difficulties encountered during refuelling in January to which Mr Bishton had referred earlier. He said that he had been satisfied that the Station's responses had been appropriate and that the arrangements for return to service had been handled properly.
- (iii) In response to a question from Mr Kirk, Mr Lindsay said that after the NII had given its consent to decommission a site, the work involved in the decommissioning remained subject to the NII's regulatory controls.

VI OPTIONS PROPOSED BY END-STATE SUB-GROUP

6 Cllr Hawkins reported on the discussions of the sub-group which had been established to consider preferred end states for decommissioning of the Oldbury Power Station site. He said that members of the sub-group had discussed various planning aspects with officers of South Gloucestershire Council, the local planning authority. He said it had been recognised that some of the areas of the site and facilities on the site could be released for alternative use on a shorter timescale than others and account of this had been taken in discussions.

7 Cllr Hawkins said that there had been a clear preference for adopting a shorter 25 year timescale compared with the timescale of 125 years identified previously and all discussions had been pursued on the basis of the shorter decommissioning period. He said that the group had identified the following potential uses for the site:

- Farmland/horticulture/fish farming
- Power generation (non-fossil fuel)
- Industrial/Commercial
- Leisure
- Education/institutional
- Residential
- Waste storage/disposal/composting
- Nature reserve
- Industrial incineration
- Mixed economy

8 Cllr Hawkins said that each of these potential uses had been ranked by members of the group in relation to their perceived acceptability to the local community and their practicability and consistency with current planning policies. From this assessment the sub group had identified two options for the future use of the site:

Option 1: Mixed economy use based on re-use of existing facilities and assets

Option 2: Power generation using non-fossil fuel technology

Of these two options, a majority of the sub-group supported Option 2 and this Option was proposed for adoption by the SSG.

- 9 Cllr Hawkins said that the sub-group also recommended that there should be some form of commemoration of the station, possibly an obelisk on the SW Coast path and possibly in conjunction with some commemoration of the Berkeley site. The sub-group also felt that there was benefit in retaining the reservoir wall.
- 10 During discussion the following points were noted:
 - (i) Mr Cornock said that at the time of construction of the station assurances had been given that the river would ultimately be returned to its normal condition. He questioned how the reservoir could be left without its becoming filled with silt. Cllr Lynden said that expert advice was needed as he had believed that the presence of the reservoir wall had a beneficial effect in keeping channels clear of silt. Mr Bishton said that such issues would be addressed in the station's environmental statement.
 - (ii) Mr Green said he believed that the reservoir had a significant potential benefit as a source of energy for tidal power generation. He felt that it might be necessary to increase the height of the reservoir wall and to construct lock gates to control the flow of water but it would provide a significant source of generation on each tide.
 - (iii) There was general support at the meeting for the use of the site for some form of electricity generation in the future, taking advantage of the existing site infrastructure. Support was expressed particularly for tidal power generation options. Cllr Halsall drew attention to the need for careful technical assessment of the possible effects of global warming leading to increases in sea water levels. Cllr Hawkins believed that the currently postulated increases in sea water levels would not be sufficient to be a cause of concern.
 - (iv) Cllr Lynden pointed out that the sub-group had recommended that future electricity generation on the site should be from non-fossil fuel technologies, either nuclear or renewable energy; choices would be dependent upon future government policy. Cllr Hawkins drew attention to the large numbers of wind power generators which would be needed to provide a secure source of electricity due to their relatively small size and to the fact that reserve capacity was required to cover periods when there was insufficient wind.
 - (v) Mr Green said he did not support the proposal to reduce the timescale for decommissioning. He felt that it was not an

effective use of public money to package and shield waste materials which could be left where they were. Mr Brazier said that the proposal to shorten the decommissioning period had been generally welcomed and had been recommended to government in the NDA's proposed strategy. Cllr Evers said that the shorter period was perceived to have socio-economic benefit as it would enable employment opportunities and associated community benefits to be maintained; provided that techniques could be developed and waste management issues resolved he felt that on balance a shorter period was preferable.

- (vi) Mr Pinder believed that it would now be appropriate, in accordance with the guidance issued to SSGs, to carry out consultation with the wider community on the options for site end states. He suggested that members should discuss the various options with their respective constituents and that the matter should then be reviewed again at the next meeting. Cllr Halsall suggested that this wider consultation might be undertaken on a more professional basis and that advice could be sought from South Gloucestershire Council officers. Rev Primrose suggested that the consultation might be combined with the consultation on the environmental impact of decommissioning; Mr Lindsay suggested that this might cause administrative problems and that timescales might not be compatible. Cllr Lynden felt it was important to determine the scope of the consultation and suggested that it should not range beyond the scope of the SSG boundary. Mr Bishton suggested that it was not necessary to give detailed consideration to alternative future uses for the site - advice was needed at this stage on the preferred end state for the site and this could be similar for various forms of future use.

- 11 Following this discussion it was agreed that the sub-group should meet again to agree the basis on which the various options should be referred by members for consultation within their local communities. It was agreed that following such wider consultation the matter would be reviewed again at the next meeting.

VII ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

- 12 Dr Hales presented a report on the consideration which he had given to the environmental monitoring undertaken to assess the impact of the station on the local environment. He said that he had consulted with the station and the various agencies involved in independent environmental monitoring programmes.
- 13 Dr Hales said that his work had identified a number of minor anomalies but he had been able to conclude that the environmental impact was properly reflected in the monitoring which was undertaken and the published data.

- 14 Cllr Lynden thanked Dr Hales for the comprehensive study which he had undertaken.

VIII ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR DECOMMISSIONING

- 15 Ms Nattress, Ms Browne and Ms Scott presented information on the application of the Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning Regulations 1999. They explained the nature of the Regulations, and the processes involved in their application. The following points were noted during discussion:
- (i) The regulations implemented a European Directive and were enforced under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.
 - (ii) Nuclear site licensees were required to apply for consent to decommissioning and the environmental impact had to be assessed before consent could be granted.
 - (iii) The licensee had the option to receive an opinion from HSE on the scope of the environmental impact assessment. The scoping report submitted to the HSE was subjected to consultation by the HSE before giving its opinion. In applying for consent to decommission, the licensee was required to produce an environmental statement; this was again subjected to public consultation by the HSE.
 - (iv) Following its assessments the HSE published its decision. As a condition of its consent it was able to require compliance with an Environmental Management Plan which could include mitigation measures.
 - (v) Mr Bishton emphasised that Oldbury was the seventh of the various sites to enter this process; the process was now well understood and work in relation to Oldbury had already commenced.
 - (vi) Ms Nattress said that a scoping report was expected from Oldbury about the middle of March 2006. This would be the subject of consultation and the HSE was expected to give its opinion by the end of May 2006.
 - (vii) The consultation periods would be one month and three months for the scoping report and the environmental statement respectively. Letters inviting involvement in the consultation would be sent to potential interested parties during February 2006.
 - (viii) Ms Nattress explained that the Regulations were to be changed in April 2006. The changes were related to the extension of

decommissioning projects which had a significant environmental impact and the inclusion of Defence reactors within the scope of the Regulations; the changes would not affect Oldbury's submission.

IX EMERGENCY PLANNING

- 16 Mr Hailwood, Senior Emergency Planning Officer for South Gloucestershire Council, presented information on the emergency planning arrangements for the Oldbury Power Station site. He said that he was a member of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee for Oldbury which included in its membership the various organisations involved in responding to an incident on the station site.
- 17 Mr Hailwood described relevant requirements of the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness) Public Information Regulations 2001. Under these regulations local authorities had to establish arrangements for providing information to members of the public and to develop an emergency plan for foreseeable emergencies; the operator had to provide prior information on emergency arrangements to members of the public living within the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (which was the area within a 1km radius of the site). Mr Hailwood said that South Gloucestershire Council's off site plan for an emergency at Oldbury covered actions which might be necessary within the immediate area of site and considered the implications of extending actions to a wider area. The plan covered actions required of the various agencies involved and the arrangements were regularly tested in exercises. Mr Hailwood described the incident management arrangements incorporated within the emergency plans and described the role of the various officers within the local authority.
- 18 In response to a question from Cllr Evers, Mr Hailwood said that the function of the off site plan was to co-ordinate the various responses; each agency involved was responsible for performing its identified actions. He said that the plan did not involve Council staff in carrying out unusual tasks beyond the scope of their normal work.
- 19 Mr Hailwood said that copies of the off-site plan, edited to remove sensitive operational details, were available in public libraries. He invited members to contact him at South Gloucestershire Council if they had any questions or concerns on emergency planning arrangements.

X PUBLIC FORUM

- 20 There were no further issues which members of the public wished to raise.

XI ANY OTHER BUSINESS

21 Mr Bishton drew attention to the permanent deployment on the power station site of police officers from the Civil Nuclear Constabulary.

22 Mr Bishton undertook to develop proposals on a possible SSG website for consideration at a future meeting.

XII DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

23 It was provisionally agreed that the next meeting of the Group should be held at Oldbury on 3 May, commencing at 1.30pm.

MJD

6 February 2006