

BERKELEY NUCLEAR LICENSED SITE AND OLDBURY ON SEVERN

POWER STATION SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING HELD AT BERKELEY

ON WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2005

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs P Wride (in the chair)	-	Ham and Stone Parish Council
Mr F Baker	-	National Farmers Union
Cllr R Bartlam	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr R Birch	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr B Booth	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr D Burgess	-	Alkington Parish Council
Cllr N Cooper	-	Stroud District Council
Cllr D Dovey	-	Chepstow Town Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Assocn of Parish & Town Councils
Mr M Farley	-	Trade Union Representative
Cllr Dr K Graupner	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Ms N Kumari	-	Trade Union Representative
Cllr M Lynden	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr P Mair	-	Falfield Parish Council
Cllr Ms S O'Neill	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr M Praker	-	Aylburton Parish Council
Cllr M Riddle	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr V Shenoi	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr Ms V Watts	-	Berkeley Town Council
Mr J Young	-	British Waterways

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr M J Steele	-	Berkeley Nuclear Licensed Site
Mr J C Bishton	-	Oldbury on Severn Power Station
Dr D Warner	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Ms S Hutchinson	-	NII
Mr J Lindsay	-	NII
Mr D Withey	-	Environment Agency
Mr D Cutts	-	Food Standards Agency
Mr L Davies	-	Health Protection Agency
Dr T Ejidokun	-	Health Protection Agency
Mr M Barber		
Mr A Chanduan		
Mr A Coles		
Mr B Evans		
Mr R Dalrymple-Smith		

Mr E Hopper
 Mr R Hellen
 Mr E Holmes
 Mrs B Jordan
 Mr J Lyons
 Mr A Presdee
 Mr K Raypaier
 Cllr M Short
 Mr J Stanton
 Mr D Taylor
 Mr H Tovell
 Mr J Williams
 Ms H Atkin - Oldbury on Severn Power Station
 Ms A Chapman - Oldbury on Severn Power Station
 Ms A Kentish - Oldbury on Severn Power Station
 Ms D Dalessio - Berkeley Centre
 Mr T Jones - Berkeley Centre
 Mr S Payne - Berkeley Centre
 Mr M J Davis (Secretary)

I APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1 Cllr Mrs Wride welcomed members to this joint meeting of the Stakeholder Groups for the Berkeley and Oldbury sites.

2 Apologies for absence were received from:

Mr C Jones - National Assembly of Wales
 Mr D Hagg - Stroud District Council
 Ms M Mooney - Health Protection Agency
 Dr P Wilson - Maybrook Medical Centre
 Mr J Cripps - Gloucester Chamber of Commerce
 Mr J Gilliland - Office of Civil Nuclear Security
 Mr M Pennington - Gloucestershire Police
 Dr C Smitton - Berkeley Task Force
 Ms H Bennett - Gloucestershire Police
 Cllr D Wride - Stroud District Council
 Cllr G Langdon - Ham and Stone Parish Council
 Mr R Griffin - Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
 Mr M Heaton - Oldbury Power Station
 Ms J Astill - Oldbury EHSQU Site Inspector
 Cllr N Halsall - Thornbury Town Council
 Ms A Hayes - Bristol Port Company
 Mr J Lamonby - Site Manager, Oldbury Power Station
 Cllr G Locke - Rockhampton Parish Council
 Mr Steve Webb MP
 Rev D Primrose - Oldbury Site Chaplain
 Mr R Beddis - Forest of Dean District Council

3 It was noted that members of the public had been invited to attend this meeting and a number were present. Notice of the meeting had been publicised in local newspapers, on local radio and on parish noticeboards. It was suggested that more efforts were needed to inform the public of these meetings.

II MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING HELD ON 20 APRIL 2005

(a) Accuracy

4 The minutes of the meeting of the joint meeting held on 20 April 2005 were approved as a correct record.

(b) Matters arising

5 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

III LOCATION MANAGERS' REPORTS

(a) Berkeley Nuclear Licensed Site

6 Mr Steele reported on activities at the Berkeley site. He said that the work which had been undertaken in the shielded facilities to support the safety cases for the operational stations had now all been completed and all of the radiological facilities were now in the process of clean-up and decommissioning. He said that decommissioning work was proceeding well with a number of facilities being cleaned-up and dismantled. He said that arrangements could be made for members to visit the site if they wished to see the progress of this work.

7 Mr Steele said that in advance of the construction of the facilities for the retrieval of intermediate level wastes from the power stations waste vaults work was being done to ensure that the proposed arrangements were technically feasible and could be implemented effectively. He said that construction of the retrieval facilities would commence during the coming year.

8 Mr Steele said that the NDA had announced its intention to introduce competition into the contracts for the management of its sites. Contracts for the management of the nuclear power station sites were to be opened to competition in three separate groups and British Nuclear Group had changed its organisation to mirror those groupings. He said that the Berkeley site would cease to have a significant role as a headquarters and centre for technical support and there would be a significant reduction in personnel on site to around the level of 250 as indicated at the previous meeting.

9 In relation to the possible future use of redundant office accommodation on the site, Mr Steele emphasised the importance of de-licensing that part of the site so that the office accommodation could be used without the need for the controls applicable to a licensed site. He said that in advance of an application to have part of the site de-licensed, the company had applied to the Environment Agency to rationalise the discharge authorisation for the site.

10 Mr Steele said that during the past six months there had been no accident on the Berkeley site involving time lost from work. This was a significant improvement over the previous period. There had now been no lost time accident on the site for 49 weeks. The site had been accredited against the ISO 14001 international environmental management standard and had achieved an assessment of Level 7 against the International Safety Rating System.

11 Mr Steele referred to the BNFL proposal to sell its interest in British Nuclear Group. He said that this was a matter for the government to decide and it was anticipated that a decision would be taken by the end of this calendar year. He said that British Nuclear Group was the site management company and as such employed only a relatively small number of personnel. The majority of staff on the sites would be unaffected by the potential sale.

(b) Oldbury on Severn power station

12 Mr Bishton reported on operations at Oldbury on Severn Power Station since the date of the previous meeting. He said that the station had maintained its good safety record and it was now more than a year since the last accident on site which had resulted in time lost from work.

13 Mr Bishton said that electricity production at Oldbury had been ahead of target for the year to date. Reactor 2 was currently shut down - the routine maintenance and inspection work had been completed but results of analysis of graphite samples, which were needed to justify return to service, were awaited. It was hoped that the Reactor would be returned to service early in the new year. Members were shown video film of remote television inspection of a channel in the reactor core graphite. Mr Bishton said that that over 300 channels had been reviewed in this way and no significant cracks had been found.

14 Mr Bishton said that a small steam leak had been detected on Reactor 1 during August. Investigations had identified a defective weld on a thermocouple pocket. All similar features had been inspected, tested and repaired where necessary. This work, which had been undertaken during the overhaul outage of Reactor 2, had been completed 16 days ahead of schedule which was a considerable credit to the staff involved.

15 Mr Bishton referred to an event on site in which an irradiated fuel transport flask had been moved without transit bolts having been fitted to the lid. This had been contrary to the station's procedures but was of low significance.

16 Mr Bishton referred to a number of visits to the site including those by MPs from the local area and the chairman and chief executive of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. Cllr Dovey asked that Mr David Davis MP, the member for Chepstow, should be invited to visit the power station.

17 Mr Bishton said that the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority had announced its intention to arrange for competition for the contract for the

management of Oldbury and Wylfa power stations in 2011. These would be the last two of the Magnox power stations to cease generation.

18 Mr Bishton referred to local television programmes broadcast during September on reactor graphite weight loss and an article published in the Gazette which had helped to put issues into perspective. In response to a question from Cllr Riddle, Mr Bishton confirmed that there were 3000 channels in each reactor. In response to a further question from Cllr Graupner, he said that graphite weight loss was a well-understood phenomenon. Samples had been inserted in the reactors when built so that they could be removed for monitoring and analysis. Mr Bishton said that the extent of weight loss was dependent upon a number of factors including gas chemistry, pressure, and the extent of irradiation.

IV REPORTS FROM CHAIRMEN OF EMERGENCY PLANNING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

(a) Berkeley Nuclear Licensed Site

19 Mr Steele reported on the meeting of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee for the Berkeley site which had taken place on the morning prior to this meeting. Issues discussed at the meeting had included,

- (i) The demonstration of the emergency arrangements held on 6 July had been completed successfully.
- (ii) The revised, simplified emergency arrangements which had been introduced in March 2005 had been shown to work effectively when tested on the occasion of two false alarms.
- (iii) Analysis of the worst case accident scenario, involving a fire in the ILW storage vaults, had demonstrated that the potential for fire initiation was lower than had been assumed previously but emergency arrangements remained unchanged.
- (iv) A new system was to be introduced to inform residents living within the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone of any declaration of an emergency on site.

(b) Oldbury-on-Severn power station

20 Ms Chapman reported on the meeting of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee for Oldbury which had been held on 6 September 2005. Issues discussed at the meeting had included:

- (i) Arrangements to introduce sheltering as an automatic countermeasure in the event of an emergency being declared and the use of a new system which would automatically send a telephone message to all residents within the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone. This system was likely to

be introduced in January 2006 and all those affected would be informed of the arrangements.

- (ii) Emergency arrangements had worked effectively when the fire brigade had been summoned to deal with a fire in the station laundry and when an ambulance had been called to site following an accident to a scaffolder.
- (iii) Emergency scheme training exercises were currently being held and the demonstration exercise was to take place at the end of the month.

21 Cllr Lynden expressed some concern that members had not been invited to a meeting held on 5 October to demonstrate the proposed telephone warning system. It was pointed out that this had been a meeting primarily with officers of South Gloucestershire Council to consider the needs of residents in the DEPZ; some other local authority officers had been invited to attend. A further demonstration could be arranged if required.

22 In response to a question from Cllr Evers on the area covered by the automatic telephone warning system, Ms Chapman said that the arrangements covered properties within a radius of one kilometre but the facility would be offered to residents living within a radius of three kilometres from the site. Cllr Evers asked whether this applied to residents on the western side of the Severn. Ms Chapman said she believed that there were no dwellings on that side of the river within a three kilometre radius of the site but she undertook to check this. In reply to a question from Cllr Ms Watts on the telephone notification system Ms Chapman said that the system would identify the fact if a telephone call had not been answered; mobile telephone numbers could be used if required.

23 Cllr Dovey suggested that the effects of any discharges from the site could be influenced greatly by prevailing weather conditions and asked whether the emergency plans had sufficient flexibility to cover actions beyond the radius identified. Ms Chapman said that considerable efforts were made to analyse the potential effects of the worst conceivable accident on the site. This work had concluded that it would not be necessary to implement countermeasures beyond a radius of one kilometre from the site but consideration was given to such actions within a three kilometre radius. In the event of an accident, surveys would be undertaken in the local area to measure any possible effects. The emergency arrangements included a Local Emergency Centre under the control of a police Gold Commander who, with advice from all relevant agencies, would take decisions on any actions required. These arrangements were extendible and were exercised regularly. Mr Baker said that as a local resident he had not received information on emergency arrangements. Mr Bishton said that for each site residents in the emerging planning zones were sent calendars each year providing information on emergency arrangements. Cllr Shenoï drew attention to the responsibilities of the County Council for having off-site emergency plans; Cllr Booth confirmed that these were in place.

24 Cllr Evers suggested that there was a need for Site Stakeholder Groups to have more information on emergency plans and the accident scenarios on which

they were based. Cllr Lynden agreed that this was something he would wish to pursue for the Oldbury Group. Cllr Ms Watts suggested that a presentation from a member of staff involved in emergency planning would help to demonstrate how seriously this matter was taken; Cllr Mrs Wride agreed that this might be helpful.

V NII SITE INSPECTORS' REPORTS

25 Ms Hutchison and Mr Lindsay reported on their inspection activities at Berkeley and Oldbury respectively. The following points were noted during discussion:

- (i) The exercise of the Berkeley emergency arrangements on 6 July had been considered by the NII to be a satisfactory demonstration.
- (ii) The NII had decided that it no longer wished to give its specific approval to operating rules for the Berkeley site. This was commensurate with the reduced hazard on the site and recognised the changing status of plant operations.
- (iii) In response to a question from Cllr Ms Watts, Ms Hutchinson acknowledged that the proposed timescale for de-licensing part of the Berkeley site was challenging but it was hoped that the programme dates could be achieved.
- (iv) In relation to the event referred to earlier by Mr Bishton involving an irradiated fuel transport flask, Mr Lindsay said that he had not considered it necessary to carry out his own investigations as he was satisfied with the actions taken by the station. He had not yet had an opportunity to consider the findings from the station's own internal investigation.
- (v) Mr Lindsay acknowledged the thorough response at Oldbury to the identified problem of defective welds on thermocouple pockets. He said that the problem was of little nuclear safety significance but of significance for conventional safety. The station had acted properly in taking a conservative decision to shut down the plant when the leak was discovered.
- (vi) A reportable event had occurred at Oldbury in July when a radioactive source being used for radiography of welds did not withdraw as it should have done. Mr Lindsay had been satisfied that the responses of the contractor and the station's own staff had been appropriate.
- (vii) The NII had been satisfied that the routine overhaul and inspection work of Oldbury Reactor 2 had been completed satisfactorily and that the condition of the graphite was the only issue to be resolved in relation to the justification for return to service. The NII kept in contact with the company in relation to the progress of the work done on the graphite so that it would be in a position to respond promptly when the safety case

information was available. The NII was satisfied with the safety case for operation of Reactor 1 until mid 2006.

- (viii) The NII was considering the implications of the NDA's declared strategy for competing the contracts for the management of the Magnox stations. The NII would need to be satisfied that the companies to be awarded these contracts were suitable for operation as nuclear site licensees.
- (ix) In response to a question from Cllr Riddle, Mr Lindsay said that in assessing the effects of graphite weight loss consideration was given to the average weight loss in the worst-affected brick. Studies had indicated that cracking of bricks would occur a long time before any compressive failure of the graphite and the absence of cracking gave confidence that compressive failure would not occur. Results of testing and analysis of samples were important to validate theoretical models and confirm that the reactor was safe to operate.

VI ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

(a) Food Standards Agency

26 Mr Cutts presented a report on the Food Standards Agency's programme of monitoring of radioactivity in food and the environment. He explained the role of the Food Standards Agency in protecting public health from potential risks arising from the consumption of food. He described the scope of the Agency's sampling and monitoring programmes and outlined the results relevant to the vicinity of the Berkeley and Oldbury sites. He explained the various pathways by which individuals could be exposed to radioactivity from the environment and said that food represented a small part of the total exposure.

27 Mr Cutts explained how measurements of radioactivity in samples of food were used to derive an assessment of the radiation doses which might be received by members of the public in the vicinity of the power stations consuming locally produced foodstuffs. He pointed out that the report on Radioactivity in Food and the Environment for 2004, was produced in conjunction with the Environment Agency, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Environment and Heritage Service for Northern Ireland.

28 Mr Cutts said that the Agency's assessments indicated that the maximum potential dose to a member of the public in the vicinity of Berkeley and Oldbury from the consumption of terrestrial foodstuffs during the year 2004 was 5 microSieverts (μSv) and the potential dose to the local fishing community was 6 μSv . He said that these assessed doses were clearly well within the limit of 1000 $\mu\text{Sv}/\text{year}$ for exposure from all artificial sources of radioactivity (excluding medical). By way of comparison he said that the average dose from a dental X-ray was 5 μSv and the average dose from cosmic radiation during a return flight from London to Sydney was 160 μSv . The average annual exposure from natural radioactivity in food and water was 250 μSv and the average national exposure from all natural sources of radioactivity was 2200 μSv .

29 Mr Cutts said that the results of the monitoring indicated that the levels of radioactivity in the environment arising from discharges were low and that potential radiation doses to members of the public from the consumption of food were well within annual dose limits.

(b) British Nuclear Group

30 Ms Chapman reported on the environmental monitoring undertaken by British Nuclear Group in the vicinity of Berkeley and Oldbury power station sites. During discussion the following points were noted:

- (i) Radiation doses to personnel were well within statutory limits. Maximum doses received by contractors were similar to the maximum doses received by the company's own staff.
- (ii) Potential radiation doses to members of the public were well within legal limits and were small compared with the average annual background dose to the UK population.
- (iii) Disposals of solid low level radioactive wastes were minimised by actions taken to minimise waste arisings and by shredding, incineration and compaction of wastes. The waste was stored on site in drums until there were sufficient drums to fill an ISO container which was then despatched to Drigg in Cumbria for disposal. The number of these ISO containers despatched was generally approximately one per year from Oldbury.

(c) Environment Agency

31 Mr Withey reported on the role of the Environment Agency in relation to the nuclear licensed sites including the authorisation of waste discharges. He pointed out that the authorisations were held on public register and could be inspected if members wished.

32 Mr Withey said that the Environment Agency carried out its own independent monitoring of radioactivity in the environment and also undertook check monitoring of samples taken by the site staff. He said that he made frequent visits to the sites and monitored their performance on a regular basis. He said that generally the sites' performance had been satisfactory and there had been no breaches of any limits or conditions specified in the authorisations.

33 Mr Withey referred to increases in discharges from Oldbury due to caesium introduced into the station's cooling ponds on containers returned from Sellafield. He said that this had resulted in the quarterly notification level, which was set at a level of one tenth of the annual limit, being breached on a number of occasions. The station was taking steps to minimise and the discharges.

34 In relation to the possibility that parts of decommissioned sites would be de-licensed, Mr Withey said that the Environment Agency would work with the

NII to ensure that no wastes remained on those sites. He said that Berkeley had applied for the discharge authorisation for the site to be rationalised in preparation for partial de-licensing.

35 In reply to a question from Mr Hellen on work undertaken by the Environment Agency on flood defences, Mr Withey said that he could provide the name of a contact within the EA who could provide more information it required.

VII OLDBURY ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING INVESTIGATION

36 Cllr Lynden referred to the request from the Oldbury SSG for Dr Hales to consider the environmental monitoring arrangements relating to Oldbury. Dr Hales, who had been unable to attend this meeting, had provided a note for members on the various aspects of environmental monitoring which he had considered. His note concluded that the environmental impact of the station was properly reflected in the data reported by the Environment Agency, backed up by the independent monitoring by the Food Standards Agency and that this monitoring demonstrated the station to be a good neighbour.

VIII OLDBURY STAFF ACTIVITIES SURVEY

37 Ms Atkin explained the ways in which Oldbury power station supported local community activities, either by sponsorship, by offering the use of its facilities, by providing work experience opportunities, and by charity fund raising amongst its staff. She referred also to the contributions to local communities which were made by the various members of the station's staff in their personal capacities. She described the results of a survey of the involvement of power station staff in their local communities which demonstrated a high level of participation in local activities.

38 Ms Atkins invited members to consider what organisations or initiatives they would wish the station to become involved with in developing its socio-economic plan. She asked that members should let her or Cllr Lynden know of any activities or local groups they felt would benefit from the station's support.

39 Cllr Riddle said that following the meeting of the Oldbury SSG in July he had given some consideration to possible end states for the Oldbury site and the effect of eventual closure of the power station on the local economy. He suggested that it would be appropriate to establish a small working group to consider these issues. He already had some nominees for membership of such a group and invited members to advise him if they wished to become involved.

IX RESPONSES TO THE DRAFT NDA STRATEGY

40 Members of the Berkeley and Oldbury SSGs divided into separate groups to discuss their responses to the draft strategy published by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

X DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed.

MJD

7 November 2005