

OLDBURY ON SEVERN POWER STATION

SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT

OLDBURY INFORMATION CENTRE ON 6 JULY 2005

PRESENT:

Cllr M Lynden (Chairman)	-	Oldbury-on-Severn Parish Council
Cllr R Butler	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr R Dalrymple-Smith	-	Ham & Stone Parish Council
Cllr C Evers	-	Glos Association of Parish & Town Councils
Mr M Farley	-	LJC Member, Oldbury Power Station
Cllr M Hawkins	-	Aust Parish Council
Cllr P Mair	-	Falfield Parish Council
Mr A Pinder	-	Friends of the Earth
Cllr M Riddle	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Ms P Wride	-	Ham & Stone Parish Council

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms H Atkin	-	HR Manager, Oldbury Power Station
Mr R Beddis	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Ms S Beere	-	Information Officer, Oldbury Power Station
Dr C Blackburn	-	Radiological Safety, Food Standards Agency
Mr G Buchanan	-	Bristol City Council
Mr D Burgess	-	Alkington Parish Council
Ms A Chapman	-	Head of Health Physics & Chemistry, Oldbury
Mr E Courtenay	-	
Dr T Ejidokun	-	Health Protection Agency
Sgt S Ellis	-	Avon & Somerset Constabulary
Mr W Gill	-	
Mr L Hales	-	Pollution Control Consultant
Mr M Hobbs	-	Tidenham Parish Council
PC R Hopes	-	Avon & Somerset Constabulary
Mr G Jones	-	Programme Control Manager, NDA
Mr T Jones	-	Press Officer, Berkeley Centre
Mr S Kendrick	-	Avon Fire & Rescue Service
Mr J Lamonby	-	Site Manager, Oldbury Power Station
Mr J Lindsay	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Ms R Lyon	-	Oldbury Power Station
Mr S Payne	-	Berkeley Centre
Rev D Primrose	-	St Mary's Church, Thornbury
Mr V Sheno	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Mr D Withey	-	Environment Agency
Mr J Weaver	-	Thornbury Gazette
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)	-	

I INTRODUCTION

- 1 Cllr Lynden welcomed members to this inaugural meeting of the Oldbury Power Station Site Stakeholder Group. He said that following his nomination at the previous meeting he would be Chairman of the group on an interim basis pending elections for a Chairman to serve for a three-year term.
- 2 Cllr Lynden said that the formation of the Group represented a new era in consultations with the local community on matters associated with the power station. He acknowledged the good work which had been done in this respect in the past by the station's staff. He hoped that within the new independent arrangements all members would act with courtesy and co-operation with all parties. He said that the power station had been a reliable source of electricity production for many years and he felt this group had an important role particularly in view of the changes at the station in the coming years. He said that the main interest of the group would be in the safety of the plant but the group would also be interested in options for decommissioning and the various impacts on the local community.

II APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 3 Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr N Halsall	-	Thornbury Town Council
Prof S Webb MP		
Dr J Sarangi	-	Avon Health Authority
Mr M Johnson	-	Gloucester Harbour Trustees
Mr R Griffin	-	Dept of Trade and Industry
Mr M Heaton	-	Oldbury Power Station
Mr R Griffiths	-	National Assembly for Wales
Ms J Astill	-	Site Inspector, Oldbury Power Station
Mr L Davies	-	Health Protection Agency
Mr D Gatehouse	-	Site Programme Manager, NDA
Cllr Ms S O'Neill	-	South Gloucestershire Council

III MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 APRIL 2005

(a) Accuracy

- 4 The minutes of the meeting of the Local Community Liaison Council 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.

IV NEW CONSTITUTION AND CODE OF PRACTICE

6 The Group agreed to adopt the revised constitution and method of operation which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Cllr Lynden pointed out that the constitution and code of practice would be subject to review after one year and would be amended if necessary at that time.

V INTERIM REPORT ON SSG MEMBERSHIP

7 Cllr Hawkins reported on the review which he and Cllr Riddle had undertaken of the membership and membership criteria of the new Group. He said that they believed that priority should be given to local groups, specifically to their elected representatives, in representing local communities; he said that parish councils were particularly important as they had the shortest communication links with their constituents. He said that the power station's staff who largely lived in the area had a major impact on local socio-economic activity and hence he believed it was appropriate to include the Thornbury Chamber of Commerce in the membership. He believed that environmental groups, the constituency MP and the NFU should all be represented. He suggested that with the ability to co-opt individuals to membership, the total number of members should be approximately 15-20. He believed that this was appropriate as the previous LCLC had been too large and meetings had not been well attended.

8 Cllr Hawkins identified the agencies which he believed should be represented on this group by non-voting members.

9 Mr Burgess and other members of the public present at the meeting felt that there were strong reasons why Alkington, and other areas which were close to Oldbury on the other side of the Severn, should be included in the membership. Cllr Lynden reiterated the point that the membership should be kept to a minimum in order to make the meetings more effective. He pointed out that there would be opportunities for members of the public to attend and participate in meetings. Cllr Hawkins accepted the need for some representation from the north side of the river but felt that it was important that numbers of representatives should not become disproportionate since the major socio-economic impact of the plant was on the south side of the river. Cllr Butler accepted the need to avoid the membership becoming too large and suggested that a District or County Council representative from the Forest of Dean could represent the interests of local parish councils. Cllr Evers expressed sympathy with views expressed on the need for representation of areas close to the power station on the north side of the river.

10 Cllr Ms Wride felt it was important that the SSGs for Berkeley and Oldbury should retain the flexibility in their arrangements to allow observers from each of the Groups to attend meetings of the other.

11 Cllr Lynden thanked members for their views. He said that these views would be taken into account in a continuing review of the membership of the Group and an update would be provided at the next meeting. He said that any group wishing to be included in the membership of the SSG should write to him setting out their reasons for wishing to do so. He said that

groups not included in the membership would always be welcome to attend meetings as observers.

VI SITE MANAGER'S REPORT

- 12 Mr Lamonby 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) At the time of the previous meeting repairs had been in progress on the Turbine 1 rotor. Those repairs had been completed, the necessary consent obtained, and the Unit returned to service on 20 June. The work on the turbine, which had been necessary to remove minor indications from non-destructive examination, involved a novel approach. The work had been carried out on site, avoiding the need for the transport of this major component to a manufacturer's works. Mr Lamonby said that the success of this work, which had been completed well ahead of programme, reflected credit on all staff involved. With the level of electricity prices current at the time of return to service the output of the Unit had earned some £2 million per week. The Unit had remained in service since that time.
 - (ii) Reactor 2 was currently shut down for its periodic statutory inspection and maintenance. The major programme of work included inspection, maintenance and repair of the turbine, boilers, steam and feed valves, the circulating water system, gas circulators and reactor internals. Mr Lamonby said that this work, which involved a large number of additional contractors working on site, was all going well. He said that the work within the reactor included a programme of inspections of reactor graphite; this involved the removal of fuel elements to allow inspection of fuel channels. These inspections to date had not revealed any defects. Mr Lamonby explained that radiolytic oxidation of graphite within a reactor was a well understood phenomenon. He said that the principal issue was the structural integrity of the graphite. Tests were undertaken on samples of graphite installed within the reactor and on other samples subjected to accelerated irradiation elsewhere, to give confidence in the properties of the material for future operation.
 - (iii) The station had maintained its good safety record. There had been no nuclear events and it had been 305 days since the last accident on site involving time lost from work. Efforts were being made to maintain this safety record during the current major programme of overhaul work.
 - (iv) On 1 April 2005, with the formation of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, British Nuclear Group had become a contractor to the NDA for the management and operation of the power station. The company was required to account to the NDA for its performance and costs and the required monitoring systems were in place. Under the terms of the contract with the NDA the company

received a fee and to date the monthly fees received had been above target.

- (v) Preparations were being made for future decommissioning. Good practices were being identified from decommissioning work at other sites. The station's life cycle baseline plan covered all future site activities leading up to final site clearance.
- (vi) There had been no meetings of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee since the date of the previous meeting of the LCLC. A new warning and informing system was being developed to provide information for local residents living within the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone on any proposed counter measures in the event of an off-site incident.

13 In reply to questions from Cllr Evers and Mr Courtenay, Mr Lamonby said that the key issue in relation to radiolytic oxidation of graphite was the structural integrity of the reactor core. The justification for returning Reactor 1 to service had demonstrated satisfactory margins for the forthcoming period of operation. Graphite weight loss made the core less reactive - it was not true to suggest that this could lead to instability.

VII NII SITE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

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

- (i) Mr Lindsay confirmed that he would continue to make quarterly reports on his inspection activities to members of this Group. No report had been issued since the previous meeting of the LCLC.
- (ii) The Inspectorate had been satisfied with the information provided in relation to the inspection and repair of the Turbine 1 rotor and had given its consent for return to service.
- (iii) Various inspections were being undertaken during the Reactor 2 statutory outage. The consent of the Inspectorate was required before the Reactor could be returned to service.
- (iv) Throughout the period of organisational change and with changing working relationships, the Inspectorate ensured that the licensee retained the ability to act as a competent and suitably qualified operator.

15 In reply to a question from Cllr Hawkins, Mr Lindsay explained that the integrity of the turbine rotor was of nuclear safety significance since a catastrophic failure of the rotor could have a potential for significant damage to reactor components.

16 In response to questions from Cllr Evers and Mr Courtenay, Mr Lindsay said that in assessing the justification for return to service it was necessary to assess evidence of reactor core graphite weight loss and predictions for

the forthcoming period of operation. There was an adequate safety case to demonstrate large margins before any loss of structural integrity. Deterioration would be evidenced by cracking of graphite bricks; there was no question of structural collapse.

VIII ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

- 17 Cllr Lynden emphasised the importance of environmental monitoring as a matter of specific interest to this Group. He acknowledged the need to rely on professionals to carry out their work competently and to provide an interpretation of monitoring results for lay members of this Group.
- 18 Ms Chapman explained the scope and nature of the environmental monitoring programme undertaken by the power station staff and described the analysis which was carried out on the samples taken.
- 19 In reply to a question from Mr Courtenay, Ms Chapman said that there were variations in monitoring results from time to time but there had never been any result which raised concerns in relation to human health. She said that discharge authorisations and all associated monitoring arrangements were set at levels well below those which would pose any threat to human health.
- 20 In response to further questions from Mr Courtenay, Mr Withey said that supporting information on the station's discharge authorisation was provided in the Environment Agency's decision document issued in 2002 when the authorisation had been reviewed. Copies of that document were available if required. He confirmed that discharge authorisation limits were set at levels well below any levels which could cause concern for members of the public.
- 21 Dr Blackburn described the scope of the programme of monitoring radioactivity in foodstuffs undertaken by the Food Standards Agency and the arrangements for publishing the results. Dr Ejidokun said it was important that the Health Protection Agency was aware of environmental monitoring results as members of the public contacted them for information. Ms Chapman said that there were arrangements to advise all interested parties of monitoring results in the event of an off site incident.
- 22 In response to comments by Mr Pinder, Dr Blackburn explained the arrangements within the Food Standards Agency's monitoring programme to take account of the likely quantities of foodstuffs consumed and the potential effects of the various radionuclides present in foods.
- 23 Mr Madden referred to the radiation monitoring undertaken by local authorities and asked whether this Group might be interested to see the results of that work.
- 24 Cllr Lynden asked Mr Hales to provide for consideration at the next meeting of this Group a brief note on the monitoring programmes undertaken by the various agencies which might be of interest to members of this Group.
- Action Mr Hales**

IX SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- 25 Ms Atkins explained that the station was preparing a socio-economic development plan and invited members to give their views on preferred options for future use of the power station site as a contribution to that plan. She described the current socio-economic impact of the station and its employees on the local community and gave an indication of future levels of manpower on the site.
- 26 Ms Atkins outlined the key elements of the station's current plans for future decommissioning, with electricity production ceasing in 2008, defuelling being completed by 2010, preparations for care and maintenance being completed by 2021, and the reactors themselves being left for a period of some 80/90 years to allow radioactivity to decay before final site clearance. She said that efforts were being made to find means of reducing the time taken to make preparations to leave the site in a care and maintenance state. The socio-economic development plan should identify options for future use of the site, means of retaining skills etc and it was for consideration whether a separate taskforce should be established to considered these matters in detail.
- 27 Following brief discussion, Cllr Riddle undertook to give further consideration to these issues, to have discussions with Cllr Ms O'Neill, Rev Primrose and other members as appropriate, and to submit initial thoughts for consideration at the next meeting of this Group.

Action Cllr Riddle

X PUBLIC FORUM

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

XI ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 29 Mr Jones indicated that the NDA was making financial provision for the reimbursement of expense incurred by members attending meetings of this Group who were not doing so as part of their normal work. Provision was also being made for the payment of an emolument to the Chairman of the Group within a budget of £300 per meeting. Cllr Lynden suggested that this matter should be considered further at the next meeting of this Group.

XII DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 30 It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled to be a joint meeting with the Berkeley Site Stakeholder Group to be held at Berkeley Centre on 2 November 2005.