



WINFRITH SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG) MEETING

Notes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 26 April in the D'Urberville Centre, Wool

1. Introduction and Welcome

Mrs Sandra Ellis, SSG Chairman, welcomed everyone attending the meeting. She said there would be four main presentations during the meeting: from Mr Malcolm Barents of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), Mr Mike Anstey of UKAEA Winfrith, Mr Alan Neal of UKAEA Winfrith and Mr Kevin Bournier from English Partnerships (EP). Mrs Ellis added that questions from the floor were welcome but asked that they should be kept until after the presentations in order that the meeting might flow more smoothly.

2. NDA Report

Mr Malcolm Barents introduced himself as the NDA Programme Manager for the Winfrith Site. He outlined the overall mission of the NDA, which is to ensure the country's civil nuclear legacy is dealt with safely, securely and cost effectively in ways that protect the environment whilst supporting the social and economic life of surrounding communities. Mr Barents said all the NDA sites would be put out to competition in order to promote best practice and secure value for money. It was noted that the start of the competition for the UKAEA Winfrith site was scheduled for 2009.

Mr Barents ran through the main items of work at Winfrith, explaining they were subject to a cost reimbursable contract which means the NDA pays the UKAEA fee on completion of agreed objectives. He said UKAEA's overall performance for 2005/06 had been good with £40.3M value of work completed (original schedule £36.6M value), for a cost of £35.2M and with 85% of achievable fee being earned. Mr Barents said UKAEA's acceleration of decommissioning work had been very positive but pointed out a negative item which was a significant delay in the commissioning of the SGHWR sludge cementation plant.

3. UKAEA Estate Management

Mr Mike Anstey introduced himself as the Head of the Project and Estate Support Department at Winfrith, which provides support services to the decommissioning projects as managing the UKAEA property assets and "estate". Mr Anstey said his presentation would be focused on estate management issues.

(a) External Relations

Mr Anstey said that his team had regular interaction with a number of external organisations including Dorset County Council, Purbeck District Council, English Nature, Dorset Wildlife Trust, English Partnerships, Dorset Fire and Rescue, utility companies and local residents. He described recent dealings with Dorset County Council as the local waste authority, (eg Building A544 change of use for waste storage planning application), and as the local highways authority. He also outlined the relationship with Purbeck District Council as the

District Planning Authority and English Nature who provide valuable land management advice and guidance.

(b) External Land

Mr Anstey explained the UKAEA's current policy of selling surplus land outside the site fence under Crichel Down Rules, under which previous owners are offered first refusal on unimproved land. He said this would leave some external land remaining immediately to the West, North and South, which would be subject to review as the future of the site post decommissioning became clearer.

Mr Anstey also pointed out that 150 out of the 218 acres of the residual UKAEA site was designated SSSI heathland. He said this was managed according to the plan developed with English Nature, as were any areas of SSSI owned by UKAEA outside the fence.

Amongst other work carried out by his Department, Mr Anstey referred to a traffic survey on Gatemoor Road which now led to the UKAEA site entrance following the sale of Winfrith Technology Centre to English Partnerships. He said there had been an overall 10% reduction in traffic volume, although there had been an increase in commercial vehicle use and an increase in the numbers of vehicles turning right into Gatemoor Road from the A352. Mr Anstey said UKAEA took any issues of local road safety very seriously and were working with Dorset County Council to help make sure the junction of the A352 with Gatemoor was completely fit for purpose.

(c) Site Matters

Mr Anstey finally ran through a few items to illustrate some of the on-site work undertaken by his team. For 2005/06 this included a review of ancillary buildings and future accommodation needs as well as estate planning in relation to the on-going decommissioning process.

4. UKAEA Update

Mr Alan Neal, UKAEA Winfrith Head of Site, gave a review of major decommissioning, environmental and safety issues for 2005/06. He agreed with Mr Barents that the overall performance had been good and he said he was confident that the UKAEA's recovery plan for the SGWR sludge cementation plant would be successful.

Mr Neal said that the Winfrith site would be "joined" with Harwell for the purposes of the 2009 NDA competition schedule. He said this would make a good overall size for a contract package and he envisaged more cross-working between the sites in the interests of increased efficiency. Mr Neal said another major announcement was that UKAEA had recently joined forces in a strategic alliance with two major companies, AMEC (GB) and CH2M Hill (USA) in order to compete more effectively in the overall decommissioning market. He added that this should lead to an even quicker pace of work at Winfrith and some 30 more UKAEA staff were being recruited to work on the site closure programme.

5. Winfrith Technology Centre

Mr Kevin Bourner introduced himself as the English Partnerships (EP) manager with specific responsibility for Winfrith Technology Centre (WTC). He said the first stage since EP purchased WTC in March 2004 had been one of business as usual and talking to key local stakeholders about possible future options. He did point out, however, that EP was currently investing £200K on a refurbishment of WTC's canteen/conference facility.

Mr Bourner said that the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister now had given EP approval to the next stage of selecting a private partner with the finance and expertise to secure WTC's long-term future. Mr Bourner emphasised that EP would work with this partner and they would ensure environmental standards would remain paramount. Mr Bourner said a shortlist of possible partners would be drawn up by mid June and their concerns would then be given 3 months to mid September to work up full proposals, leading to final partner selection and signing of agreements by the end of the 2006/07 financial year.

6. Questions and Answers

Q1. Will EP be interested in acquiring more land beyond current holdings and areas currently under contract to buy from UKAEA?

A1. Kevin Bourner (EP) - I think this is very unlikely.

Q2. What kind of usage mix will EP be looking for on WTC?

A2. Kevin Bourner (EP) - We will be looking to follow the local development plan, ie the emphasis will be on hi-tech business and hi-value employment.

Q3. Will EP be regular contributors to the SSG?

A2. Duncan Innes (EP) - We will be happy to take a regular update item on the SSG agenda although, of course, we may also wish to consult local stakeholders by other means should items of particular interest arise.

Q4. We have heard about marketing to hi-tech businesses before, but what if the anticipated development doesn't work?

A4. Kevin Bourner (EP) - All regional plans point to the potential for further hi-tech growth in the area. We will work with people like the local councils and cannot conflict with their policies of looking for high quality business for WTC.

Q5. What about proactively considering using the site for an educational institute in, for example, environmental sciences?

A5. Duncan Innes (EP) - We will keep that idea on the agenda although we feel such proposals should be market led and may not mean a full residential campus. Purbeck District Council - The local plan talks about knowledge based development and we would support such marketing.

Q6. *In my opinion the junction of Gatemoor Road with the A352 is an accident waiting to happen. Bearing in mind UKAEA's excellent on-site safety record what is being done to address this hazard?*

A6. Mike Anstey - We are looking with Dorset County Council at improvements to the junction but there are issues with the stream next to the Red Lion. We have allocated some funds to go towards any scheme. The Dorset Wildlife Trust are also soon to install cattle grids on Gatemoor Road which should have a traffic calming effect on the approach to the junction.

Q7. *If the proposed Mechanical Biological Treatment Plant (MBTP) gets approval won't this give us an even bigger headache for our local roads?*

A7. Andy Price (Dorset County Council) - We need to wait for the Inspector's decision. If the plan is approved then improved access will be required from the A352 to the MBTP.

Chairman Sandra Ellis

Secretary John Price

Telephone 01305 203316

Email john.price@ukaea.org.uk

Facsimile 01305 202104

Date of issue 5 June 2006