

Minutes of the Wylfa Site Stakeholder Group held on Thursday 8th September 2011 at 3pm in Eleth and Eilian Rooms (Learning and Development Centre)

Present:

A M Jones (Chair)	Anglesey County Council - Llaneilian
F Brookes	Magnox Ltd
J Milburn	Magnox Ltd
K White	Magnox Ltd
L Jones	Magnox Ltd
M Thornton	Magnox Ltd
R Cowell	Magnox Ltd
J I Jones	Magnox Ltd
A Smith	Horizon Nuclear Power
Dr L Davies	Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR)
A Godley	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)
Councillor W T Hughes	Anglesey County Council - Llanbadrig
Councillor K P Hughes	Anglesey County Council - Llanfaethlu
Councillor D Jones	Anglesey County Council - Porth Amlwch
Councillor J V Owen	Anglesey County Council - Parc and Mynydd
E Jones	Llanbadrig Community Council
A Hughes	Llanbadrig Community Council
J H Jones	Mechell Community Council
J Jones	Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones
S Andrews	Public Health Wales
T Poole	Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (CPRW)
Lady Anglesey	
S Roberts	Member of Public

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. A minute silence was held on the eve of the tenth anniversary of 9/11.

Apologies were received from N Gore (Wylfa Site Director); I W Jones (Assembly Member - Anglesey); T Conway (Wylfa Retirees Association); P Kennedy (Food Standards Agency); D Williams (Anglesey County Council – Economic Development); R Parry Jones (Anglesey County Council – Interim Chief Executive); J Jenkin (NDA); G Hughes (Head of Risk and Resilience – North Wales Fire and Rescue Service), D Clarke (Senior Site Inspector - Civil Nuclear Security), V Roberts (Amlwch Town Council), C Williams (Trade Union Representative), Councillor G W Roberts OBE (Anglesey County Council – Rural Amlwch), M O’Hara (Retired Wylfa Staff).

2 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 2nd JUNE 2011

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record. They were proposed by Councillor W T Hughes and seconded by Councillor Dylan Jones.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting to discuss.

4 SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Unfortunately Nick Gore wasn't able to attend the meeting to give his report as he was in Oldbury presenting the Inter Reactor Transfer (IRX) paper to the Nuclear Safety Committee. The Site Director's report was therefore given by S Law, Plant Manager and Deputy Site Director.

S Law mentioned the important milestone as the 19 damaged fuel elements have been recovered from Dry Store Cell 4 and placed in a delivery flask. The fuel has now left the site and has been despatched to Sellafield for reprocessing.

Wylfa hosted a 2-week World Association of Nuclear Operatives (WANO) Peer Review to assess current levels of performance. Twelve experienced nuclear operatives assessed the performance against WANO Criteria, Aims and Performance. The final report will be published later this year.

Staff and contractors have received 'Only Human' training. The workshop was presented by actors emphasising how resources can be used to prevent mistakes in the workplace. A Pre-outage safety stand down had also taken place for staff and contractors.

A very informative visit was organised to the Toyota Factory in Deeside where a number of practical lessons were learnt about their safety measures.

Preparatory work has already begun in developing arrangements for responding to a Safety Incident and Nuclear Crisis, and this work will be demonstrated to the Regulatory Officers on 23 November 2011.

Currently, access is restricted around a Super Grid Transformer owned by National Grid because they are monitoring moisture levels in the transformer.

Turbine 3 was shut down for a short period in early July for an investigation of a unit board. Everything was discovered to be working properly when it was switched back on. Turbine 2 was taken off load at the end of July after steam activated the fire suppression system. The turbine was taken off to investigate the problem but was switched back on the next day.

S Law mentioned that Maentwrog hydro-electric station had successfully completed a month outage. It was a busy but successful period.

The latest on the New Build is that Horizon has completed specific research work on the land. The compound near the site entrance and the temporary delivery road will remain until the next stage of work on the land.

S Law had received a phone call from T Conway who was worried about the scaffolding at Valley Rail Head on the railway that carries Wylfa flasks.

S Law responded that this issue is beyond their control and that the DRS are responsible for the flasks. The scaffolding was erected to undertake normal maintenance work.

Finally, S Law announced that Wylfa had received 28 applications for sponsorship under the socio-economic fund during the first quarter of the financial year.

The Chair thanked S Law for the report recognising that Wylfa has a very busy period ahead.

J H Jones asked about moisture in the transformer and whether multiple events could lead to catastrophe and the potential to lose connection with the grid?

S Law responded that connection with the grid would not be lost if the National Grid are working on one transformer. There are 4 super transformers as well as safeguards to protect the grid connection.

5 SSG CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A copy of the Chairman's report was tabled before the meeting. A M Jones has attended a number of meetings representing the group. He referred to the NDA Chairmen's Forum that was held in London on 29 June. He said that the NDA recognised the contribution of local communities to their success.

There were no questions on the Chairman's report.

6 UPDATE FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY (NDA)

Tony Godley from the NDA stood in for this presentation because his colleague Peter Harrup wasn't able to attend the meeting. He began by announcing that the NDA September Update had been published.

The NDA have launched a new on-line tracking system to follow the progress of the site towards achieving its decommissioning targets. A traffic lights system will be used to measure progress with green (on schedule), amber (behind schedule with a possibility of recovery), and red (missed deadline). Web users will be able to check site performance or investigate specific themes, such as site recovery, nuclear materials and integrated waste management.

It was agreed that the Dounreay Fast Reactor (DFR) waste could be managed in Sellafield, from 2012. The NDA, along with Sellafield and the NMP (Nuclear Management Partner), have published a new performance plan for the site. The NDA have also published their annual plan and a newsletter outlining their key achievements. This lays a good foundation for the progress to come.

The NDA and the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) welcomed the Government's report on the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely. In the report, the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) notes its objective to see the first waste being received in the GDF by 2029.

The Government is looking for volunteer communities for geological disposal sites and 3 communities in Cumbria have expressed an interest. The project will provide about 500 jobs, and about 1,000 jobs during construction.

Permission has been given to continue generating with one Reactor at Oldbury Power Station until the end of 2012, but the second Reactor has been shut down. Oldbury was planned to close in 2008, but its generation period had been extended.

T Godley finished by referring to the Centre of Excellence for developing the energy sector, led by the Ynys Ynni/Energy Island scheme. The NDA have contributed £1.5 million towards a new skills centre in Coleg Menai, Llangefni which is being officially opened by the First Minister on the 10th of November.

The Chairman thanked T Godley for the report.

7 UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION

The report was presented by Dr L Davies. He apologised that he wasn't able to attend the last meeting.

The site inspector took part in the site Emergency Exercise Review Meeting. The inspector came to the conclusion that the site had made sufficient progress and they also agreed on minor issues to improve the response in some areas.

At the end of the last report period, there was an outage with Reactor 2 due to problems with the Gas Circulator. The gas circulator was monitored before the Reactor was returned to service.

In May 2011, Wylfa reported that they had operated without a back-up battery in one of the Diesel Generators. The incident was reported as a Level 1 Anomaly on the International Nuclear Event Scale (INES). Wylfa undertook an investigation into the incident and the ONR will also hold its own investigation. Some members of staff have been interviewed and the results of the investigation will be published shortly.

Wylfa has put forward a proposal to ONR requesting to return the secondary fuel route to service

8 UPDATE FROM THE WYLFA SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUB GROUP

Nothing further to report to the committee.

9 UPDATE FROM WYLFA WASTE SUB GROUP

In the absence of the SSG chair, J Jones chaired the meeting on the 1st September.

The purpose of the group is to develop an understanding of waste issues on behalf of the main committee.

The incineration of non radioactive waste on site has resumed following sampling - the levels were within the Environment Agency guidelines.

Damaged fuel has been transported to Sellafield for processing from Dry Store Cell 4

There have been changes to the waste strategy scheme plan, but this issue will be raised at the next meeting.

The group received a letter from the NDA asking for comments on the consultation process for the Management of Radioactive Waste. A number of communities have been asked to volunteer their locality for a suitable site. The group decided to refer this issue back to the SSG for a steer on their response to the consultation.

A question was asked where the waste would be disposed and whether Wylfa would volunteer as a community. J H Jones answered that only two sites in Cumbria had volunteered thus far. A M Jones reiterated that the Council was not encouraging Wylfa to volunteer so that everyone could focus on the New Nuclear Build project.

Lady Anglesey proposed to refer the matter back to the sub-group and her proposal was seconded by J I Jones. It was also suggested that the committee draw up a draft response.

10 CHAIRS OF THE WASTE AND SOCIO ECONOMIC SUB-COMMITTEES

A M Jones proposed that the elections for the sub-committees should be held every two years, so that they are brought in-line with the main SSG committee. This will be reviewed in the next full meeting of the SSG. Lady Anglesey proposed and Cllr Dylan Jones seconded this proposal.

11 EVENTS IN JAPAN – WYLFA’S RESPONSE

S Law gave this presentation on behalf of N Gore.

When the 9.0 earthquake hit Japan, the country’s national grid was damaged and the power supply on-site had to be provided by diesel generators. When the Tsunami struck 60 minutes later, the water flooded the generators which meant that the power supply to Unit 1-4 was cut off. Unit 5 and 6 continued to operate due to the core cooling system.

Wylfa gave assurances that they are not susceptible to similar damage if such a tragedy occurred here. S Law assured the meeting that a large earthquake and Tsunami were very unlikely in Britain because the nearest tectonic plates are about a 1000 miles away. Storms and very high sea levels are more likely in this area and

Wylfa has defences in place to withstand a combination of extreme storms and high tides measuring 10^{-4} pa.

Wylfa would be able to withstand losing connection with the grid and all electricity supply. The flow of gas within the reactor would be maintained by natural circulation along with back-up diesel pumps. If the cooling system was knocked out, a combination of natural convection and the tertiary support boiler would maintain the cooling process. Even before the tragedy in Japan, Wylfa undertook regular assessments of its defences. For example in 2009, a concrete panel on-site was found to have moved slightly, and as a result all the other concrete panels were re-inspected.

The reactors in Wylfa are much larger in size therefore there would be more time to deal with the problem and there is a lot more back-up systems and equipment on-site.

In a crisis, the operators would refer to guidance issued by SBERG (Symptom Based Emergency Response Guidelines) and SAG (Severe Accident Guidelines), as well as support from the CESC. There are a number of emergency stores located around the country, but Wylfa is extremely fortunate to have such a facility 200 yards from the station.

WANO (World Association of Nuclear Operators) have formed a group to visit Tokyo in order to learn lessons from the incident. A number of workshops have also been held, including joint-workshops with Oldbury looking at the potential dangers in Reactor and Dry Storage Cells.

A question was asked about sea defences if sea levels continue to rise.

S Law answered that Wylfa was 9.6 meters above sea level and that this was investigated in the risk assessment. J Milburn added that every 10 years, a periodic safety review is held which considers issues around climate change and events that could impact on site safety.

S Andrews asked whether the reactors could cope if the cooling systems went out of commission.

S Law answered that the reactors could cope as the cooling systems in the reactors in Japan were different.

J H Jones asked, theoretically, if the earthquake and tsunami would have hit Wylfa, would the power station have been able to cope.

L Davies was confident that the systems in Wylfa are resilient enough to deal with natural disasters.

A M Jones had received correspondence from the ONR wishing to gauge interest from stakeholders on the possibility of holding a regional event where Dr Mike Weightman HM Chief Inspector would give a presentation following the publication of the final Fukushima Report . A M Jones proposed that Wylfa could host such an event. All members present expressed an interest in attending this meeting. A M

Jones said that the next step is to write a letter offering to host the event at Wylfa. M Thornton proposed that a joint letter be sent from Wylfa SSG and Horizon Nuclear Power Public Liaison Group (PLG) - this was seconded by Cllr Dennis Evans the Chair of the Horizon PLG Committee

12 OPEN FORUM QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

There were no questions.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Lady Anglesey asked whether there was a timescale for the New Build project. A M Jones explained that these issues would be discussed in the Wylfa New Build Project Liaison Group meeting to be held later this evening.

14 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was suggested that the meeting arranged for the 3rd of November be re-arranged for early December. Members of the committee will be contacted in due course with the date of the next meeting.

A M Jones thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was closed at 4.20pm.