Review of **Berkeley Site** end state

Magnox is seeking views on updating the potential options for the 'end state' of Berkeley Site.

By this we mean the condition and appearance of the site when decommissioning works are complete - which is currently scheduled to be around 2079.

The present strategy for the end state of Magnox sites is for the eventual removal of all residual radioactivity, meeting the requirements of the relevant regulatory regime for the next planned use of the site.

We last asked stakeholders for their views on a potential end state for Berkeley Site in 2006, when they told us they would like to see the site left to nature, with the removal of buildings and structures.

We believe now is the right time to revisit stakeholder views, in the light of technological and legislative developments that affect our work.

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What has changed?

New regulatory requirements and guidance from the UK Environment Agencies (Guidance on the Requirements for Release from Radioactive Substances Regulation, or GRR) require Magnox to review the end states for its sites.

We have been asked to do this to see if we could deliver an improved state in which to leave the site for any potential re-use, in ways that are safe for people, good for the environment and represent the most sustainable approach.

The GRR requires us to demonstrate if our current strategy is the best solution for the site, and to consider if an alternate end state that includes an element of on-site disposal of radioactive waste may be more sustainable.

What does 'on-site disposal' mean?

The current strategy sees the higher activity wastes at Berkeley Site being retrieved, processed and put into interim storage on the site pending the availability of the Geological Disposal Facility in line with Government policy, and this will not change.

Wastes deemed suitable for consideration for on-site disposal could be lightly contaminated below ground structures, which have been in situ for decades already, and high volume low activity demolition wastes. This could be, for example, concrete or masonry; voids and basements or pipes and drains.

Such structures may have housed equipment or have been used for the storage of wastes before processing.

Once wastes have been removed, the remaining building 'shell' could be demolished or, in the case of below ground structures, could be left intact and backfilled.

It is these kinds of wastes that are currently destined to be sent off-site which is the focus of our review.

Importantly, any end state would always need to meet regulatory compliance requirements and Magnox would need to obtain a variation to its environmental permit for Berkeley Site before any physical work occurred.

How does this affect me?

The development work we are undertaking now will either reaffirm the existing strategy for Berkeley Site or recommend an alternative approach.

Currently this is at a very early stage and no decisions have yet been taken, but as part of our response to the GRR we are seeking to better understand the views of stakeholders to help inform these decisions.

The first part of our work is to understand what factors we should consider, and what factors are most important to stakeholders in reaching any potential end state.

We would very much welcome your input into these early discussions, but there will be many opportunities to have your say before a final approach is agreed.

We will be hosting a virtual meeting to gather views on what factors are most important to stakeholders in reaching any potential end state for Berkeley Site.

Date and time to be confirmed - please let us know your preferences.

Please contact
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for further information.

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