



Site Stakeholder Group

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD AT CANALSIDE, BRIDGWATER ON FRIDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2022

- Cllr Mike Caswell, Chairman of the Group, welcomed all those present to the meeting. Mr Mike Davies was present for the first time since his appointment as Station Director, Hinkley Point B.
- Mr Steve Booth reported that high standards of safety performance had been maintained at Hinkley Point A Site and there had been no significant events. Precautions to limit the spread of coronavirus remained in place at the Site and good progress had been maintained with decommissioning projects. Work undertaken on reactor cladding systems during recent years had helped to limit the damage caused by recent storms.
- Mr Mike Davies reported on the B station's continued high level of safety performance. The clean-up of oil from the site drainage systems following the release which had resulted from the generator transformer fire had been completed. Reactor 4 had been shut down for a maintenance and graphite inspection outage in November; the results of all reactor graphite inspections had been within expectations and the Unit had been returned to service on 19 December. During recent storms a fault on National Grid equipment had caused an automatic shutdown of Reactor 3. The electrical fault had been due to the build-up of salt and debris on high voltage insulators and in order to allow the necessary cleaning to take place, Reactor 4 had been manually shut down. The reactors were being returned to service at the time of this meeting.
- Members received reports from the NDA, the Office for Nuclear Regulation, and the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency also provided information on the proposed project for the installation of a tidal barrier across the River Parrett downstream of Bridgwater.



Site Stakeholder Group

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at the Canalside, Bridgwater on 25 February 2022

PRESENT

Cllr M Caswell (Chairman)	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Mr S Booth	-	Head of EHS&Q, Hinkley Point A
Mr M Davies	-	Station Director, Hinkley Point B

Elected Members

Cllr R Birkenhead	-	Otterhampton Parish Council
Mr A Debenham	-	Stop Hinkley
Cllr B Eyley	-	Kilve Parish Council
Cllr M Facey	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr Ms S Goss	-	Stogursey Parish Council
Cllr W Hawley	-	Fiddington Parish Council
Cllr K Hewson	-	Bawdrip Parish Council
Mr A Jeffery	-	Bridgwater & W Somerset Green Party
Cllr M Phillips	-	Cannington Parish Council
Cllr E Plomgren	-	Holford Parish Council
Cllr Ms A Reed	-	Wembdon Parish Council
Cllr M Reid	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council
Ms M Smith	-	Forum 21

Co-opted Members

Mr M Brown (Vice Chairman)
Mr M Short

Appointed Members

Mr S Napper	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr D Knowles	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Ms T Braithwaite	-	Environment Agency
Ms V Thomas	-	Environment Agency
Mr A Hohl	-	Environment Agency
Mr S Rendle	-	Environment Agency
Mr P Stevens	-	Somerset County Council
Mr J Burton	-	Somerset West and Taunton Council
Mr A Smith	-	Sedgemoor District Council

EDF

Mr D Stokes
Mr D Uminski

Magnox

Ms G Coombs

Mr B Hamilton

IN ATTENDANCE

- | | | |
|--------------|---|----------------------|
| Mr T Ayre | - | Member of the public |
| Mr M J Davis | - | Secretary |

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1 Cllr Caswell welcomed all those present to this meeting of the Site Stakeholder Group for Hinkley Point A Site and Hinkley Point B Power Station. He noted that Mr Russell Davies had retired and was being replaced as representative of Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Unit by Mr Paul Stevens; he welcomed Mr Stevens to the meeting
- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Mr H Rickard, Ms J Manley, Mr D Bamsey, Cllr L Redman, Mr S Morgan, Cllr G Richardson, Mr I Liddell-Grainger MP, Cllr H Davies, Mr M Laver and Mr J Mason.
- 3 Cllr Caswell pointed out that Cllr Ann Bown had stood down as a Coucillor for health reasons. Somerset County Council would nominate a replacement as member of this Group in due course. Cllr Caswell expressed members' appreciation of the contribution to the work of this Group made by Cllr Bown over many years.
- 4 It was noted that there were sufficient members present to constitute a quorum for this meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a) Accuracy

- 5 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 29 October 2021 were approved as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Cllr Plomgren in the list of persons from whom apologies for absence had been received.

(b) Matters Arising (other than those to be covered in later discussions)

SSG Engagement with Young People (Para 8 refers)

- 6 Cllr Caswell said that he had not been able to progress this matter with Cllr Redman as he had intended but he undertook to continue to pursue opportunities for this Group to engage with young people.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A SITE

- 7 Mr Booth reported on activities at the A Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Precautions on the Site against the spread of coronavirus remained in place. There had been a small number of positive cases amongst Site personnel but no evidence of on-site transmission.
 - (ii) The Site's high standards of safety performance had been maintained and there had been no significant incidents or events since the last meeting of this Group. Issues relating to cycling safety had been highlighted amongst all personnel.
 - (iii) To date 33 m³ of fuel element debris had been retrieved from the 750 m³ of such waste in the Site vaults. Progress during the current year for the retrieval and processing of wastes was in line with targets. Following detailed characterisation of certain wastes, it had been possible to classify as low level waste some fine filters previously treated as intermediate level waste.
 - (iv) Good progress was being made with the removal of residual traces of asbestos from the boiler houses.
 - (v) Equipment for a waste preconditioning facility was being tested off site at the manufacturer's works and would shortly be delivered to site for installation and commissioning.
 - (vi) Good progress was being maintained with other decommissioning projects including the waste encapsulation plant.
 - (vii) In addition to the reactor safestore buildings and the interim storage facility, the Site during the care and maintenance phase would include ancillary buildings needed for periodic inspections.
- 8 In reply to a question from Cllr Hawley, Mr Booth said that work carried out on reactor building cladding over recent years had helped to avoid significant damage during recent storms. Some minor damage had occurred on the Site, but this had been easily repaired.
- 9 Mr Burton asked whether there were plans to consolidate into a single store all of the waste arising from operation of the three Hinkley Point stations. Cllr Caswell reminded members that this Group was concerned with operation of the A and B stations only and he would not permit discussion of any issues relating to C Station. Mr Booth said that some consideration had been given to the consolidation of waste from A and B station sites, but no conclusions had yet been reached.

- 10 Cllr Ms Goss was pleased that the Site had drawn attention to safety of cyclists. She hoped that cyclists would be reminded of the need to avoid pedestrian routes in local villages.
- 11 Mr Jeffrey asked about the timescale of future decommissioning. Mr Booth said that the current baseline plan assumed entry into a care and maintenance state in 2037, but possible changes in strategy could change this. Mr Hamilton explained that consideration was being given to a change to a rolling programme of decommissioning rather than each site having a fixed care and maintenance period; this change could bring forward decommissioning dates. He explained that the change in policy had not yet been agreed but a business case would be submitted to government in the coming months; the change would require changes in funding. Ms Smith asked how work could be brought forward as she understood that planned timescales had been determined by the rates of decay of the radioactivity in the structures. Mr Hamilton said that developments in decommissioning procedures and techniques had demonstrated that this change in strategy was feasible.
- 12 In reply to a question from Mr Debenham, Mr Booth said that bulk volumes of insulation containing asbestos material had been removed some years ago in accordance with regulations current at that time, but regulatory changes required all traces of insulation now to be removed. Mr Short felt that the fact that there were these residual traces of insulation was a poor reflection on the quality control of the earlier asbestos removal. Ms Braithwaite confirmed that regulatory changes had introduced new requirements for this work
- 13 In reply to a further question from Mr Debenham, Mr Booth said that fuel element debris which had been retrieved from vaults was stored in drums; these drums in due course would be packaged within concrete containers and stored in the storage facility.

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 14 Mr Davies introduced himself as the Station Director, Hinkley Point B, appointed to succeed Mr Evans. He reported on activities and performance at the power station since the previous meeting of this Group, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) High standards of safety performance had been maintained at the station. It was now more than 15 years since the last nuclear reportable event, 6 years since the station's last lost time accident to a member of staff and 2 years since the last lost time accident to a contract partner. There had been four minor first aid injuries on the station since the previous meeting.
 - (ii) The work to clean drainage systems of escaped oil following the fire on a generator transformer was now complete. Lessons learned from the event had been shared with other sites. The station had been served by the EA with a warning letter following the event.

- (iii) The leakage of carbon dioxide from a boiler reheater pinhole leak as reported at the previous meeting continued to be monitored.
 - (iv) Following routine pond water monitoring work, a valve had not been fully closed and a quantity of water had passed from the ponds to the radioactive effluent treatment plant. The volume of water was relatively low and radioactivity levels were well within limits, but the circumstances of the event were being investigated.
 - (v) Reactor 4 had been shut down in November for planned maintenance and graphite inspection work. The results of the inspections had all been within expectations and the Reactor had been returned to service on 19 December.
 - (vi) Recent storms had caused a fault in the National Grid substation on 18 February which had resulted in the automatic shutdown of Reactor 3; the reactor's shutdown systems had operated correctly. The fault had been caused by the build-up of salt and debris on electrical insulators and in order to allow urgent cleaning of these insulators Reactor 4 had been shut down manually on 19 February. All shutdown systems had operated correctly, and the Reactors were currently being returned to service.
 - (vii) An ONR inspection of the Station's arrangements for the management of change under Site Licence Condition 36 had been given an amber rating.
- 15 Cllr Plomgren asked whether it might be possible to delay the date for shutdown of the reactors. Mr Davies explained that the date had been determined by safety case issues and was related to the condition of the graphite reactor cores. He said that the calculation of the shutdown date had been conservatively based to give confidence that safe shutdown of the reactors could be assured in the most extreme circumstances.
- 16 In response to comments by Mr Debenham, Mr Davies said that the number of contract personnel working on the station was relatively stable at around 200; these personnel provided specialist skills and services and all personnel on site adopted the same safety culture.
- 17 In reply to Mr Jeffery, Mr Davies said that there were no essential differences between the situation at Hinkley Point B and Hunterston B. He said that following shutdown, revised safety cases would allow operating rules to be revised. Shutdown would be followed by a pre-defuelling outage of 70 days. Certain plant modifications would be made to facilitate improved defuelling rates; the target for completion of defuelling was 3½ years. Mr Davies said that the station had been producing electricity for more than 46 years and was the most productive nuclear power station in the UK. The pride which Hinkley Point staff had taken in the generation of electricity would be carried forward into defuelling operations.
- 18 In reply to a question from Mr Debenham, Mr Davies said that due to the logistics of organising support from emergency services, it was not possible to have emergency exercises on a completely unplanned basis. Some responses, such as

pager systems, could be tested without advance notice. Emergency exercise scenarios were not known in advance by those having to respond.

- 19 Mr Burton asked about actions to find alternative employment opportunities for staff following shutdown. Mr Davies said that efforts were made to meet the aspirations of individual members of staff. To date some 40 members of staff had been identified as suitable for taking posts at Hinkley Point C, while some would be able to take retirement.

UPDATE FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 20 Mr Napper provided an update on current activities within the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) NDA was likely to continue to have a mix of home and office working where appropriate.
 - (ii) A group sustainability strategy was being prepared for publication.
 - (iii) The proposed supply chain event had been rescheduled for 21 July in Telford.
 - (iv) The National Audit Office had published a report on the agreement relating to the decommissioning of the AGR power stations and the Public Accounts Committee had also considered this matter.
 - (v) The new Nuclear Waste Services division had been established at the end of January.
 - (vi) Allerdale had formed the third community partnership within West Cumbria.
- 21 In reply to a question from Ms Smith, Mr Napper confirmed that issues such as potential rises in sea level were considered in relation to the location of a geological disposal facility. The facility itself would be planned to be well below sea level. In reply to Cllr Ms Goss, Mr Napper said that it was still open for any community to come forward if it wished to be considered as a potential site for the location of a deep disposal facility.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORT

- 22 Mr Knowles reported on the ONR's inspection and regulatory activities in relation to Hinkley Point A Site and B Station. Reports on those activities had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. He drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) Inspections at Hinkley Point B relating to the fuel route, emergency exercise arrangements, shutdown systems and periodic safety review had all provided satisfactory results and had been given green ratings.

- (ii) An inspection of arrangements at Hinkley Point B under Licence Condition 36 for the management of change had identified shortcomings and had been given an amber rating. This was a local and a corporate issue for the company in circumstances when more organisational changes were likely to be made and steps would be taken to ensure that improvements were made.
- 23 In response to a question from Mr Debenham, Mr Knowles said that after long periods of steady state operations, arrangements for the management of change were to become increasingly important with significant organisational changes likely to be required as the station proceeded towards decommissioning.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT

- 24 Ms Braithwaite and Ms Thomas reported on the Environment Agency's monitoring and regulatory activities in relation to Hinkley Point A Site and B Station. A report on those activities had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Particular attention was drawn to the following:

- (i) Inspections at B Station on radioactive discharges and asset management had not identified any issues of non-compliance. The consideration of circumstances associated with the loss of water to the active effluent treatment plant had not yet been completed. A joint inspection of arrangements for the control of major accident hazards was to take place with ONR.
- (ii) No non-compliances had been identified during an inspection of asset management arrangements at Hinkley Point A. A warning letter had been issued following a review of the Magnox investigation into leaking waste drums at Hinkley Point A.
- (iii) Discharges of radioactivity from A Site and B Station were well within permitted limits.

BRIDGWATER TIDAL BARRIER

- 25 Mr Rendle and Mr Hohl provided information on the tidal barrier scheme being planned by the Environment Agency on the River Parrett some 1.5km downstream of Bridgwater. There would be additional sea defences downstream of the barrier. A decision by the Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs on the application for the necessary authorisation and consent was expected shortly.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 26 A report from Cllr Caswell as chairman of the Group had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. He said he hoped that it would be possible to arrange for members of the Group to meet on the Hinkley Point B site before the reactors were shut down in July.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

27 No business.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

28 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on Friday 24 June 2022.

MJD

2 March 2022