

**BERKELEY AND OLDBURY ON SEVERN SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD AT
THE OLDBURY CONFERENCE CENTRE, OLDBURY POWER STATION, ON
WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2022**

- Mr Malcolm Lynden welcomed members to this joint meeting of the Site Stakeholder Groups for the Berkeley and Oldbury Sites.
- Mr Mike Heaton, Site Director, reported on recent activities at the Sites. He said that there had been no significant safety issues at either Site since the previous meeting and in exercises both sites had demonstrated the operation of their emergency plans.
- At Berkeley, commissioning of the R3 waste retrieval and handling equipment had been completed and the plant was being used for the retrieval of waste from Vault 1. Commissioning of the R4 equipment was ongoing; when this work was completed it would be possible to retrieve waste from all of the Berkeley waste vaults.
- Progress had been made at Oldbury with the demolition of redundant buildings previously used for the housing of conventional plant items. Clearance of these buildings would provide space required for work associated with the demolition of the former turbine hall which was planned for next year.
- Mr Alasdair Murdoch presented a report on the monitoring of discharges and radioactivity in the environment undertaken by Magnox at Oldbury for the Oldbury and Berkeley sites. A full programme of this monitoring work had been undertaken in 2021 after the restricted programme which had been undertaken in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Mr Murdoch pointed out that discharges of radioactivity remained at very low levels, well within permitted limits, and monitoring confirmed that there had been no significant change in levels of radioactivity in the local environment.
- Mr Bill Hamilton provided a report on Magnox corporate issues. He drew attention to the overall increase in the size of Magnox over the coming decade as it took responsibility for decommissioning work at Dounreay and at the advanced gas cooled reactor stations.
- Reports were provided by representatives of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, the Office for Nuclear Regulation, and the Environment Agency.
- Mr Lynden reported on recent activities on behalf of the Groups.

**BERKELEY AND OLDBURY ON SEVERN SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE OLDBURY CONFERENCE
CENTRE, ON WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2022**

PRESENT:

Mr M Lynden (in the chair)	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr S Chandler JP	-	Hamfallow Parish Council
Cllr C Davies	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr D Griffiths	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr Ms J Lyons	-	Olveston Parish Council
Cllr D Power	-	Chepstow Town Council
Cllr M Riddle	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr B Roberts	-	Thornbury Chamber of Commerce
Mr J Stanton	-	Co-opted member
Cllr K Sullivan	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr B Tipper	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Ms V Williams	-	Alveston Parish Council

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr S Napper	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr P Jenneson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Ms S Gallagher	-	Environment Agency
Ms R Cleverley	-	Environment Agency
Mr R Drake	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Ms A Presdee	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Ms G Ellis-King	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr P Barrett	-	South Gloucestershire & Stroud College
Mr M Heaton	-	Oldbury and Berkeley Sites Director
Mr W Hamilton	-	Magnox
Mr A Murdoch	-	Magnox
Ms G Coombs	-	Magnox Communications
Mr A Mitchell		
Mr G Wheeler		
Ms B French		
Ms J McAllister		
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

WELCOME

- 1 Mr Lynden welcomed everyone to this joint meeting of the Berkeley and Oldbury on Severn Sites' Stakeholder Groups.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Cook, Mr T Hellen, Mrs J Hellen, Mr G Vaughan-Lewis, Mr S Henderson, Cllr Mrs E Ashton, Cllr G Langdon, Dr J McHugh, Cllr I Salt and Dr J Cordwell.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) Accuracy

- 3 The minutes of the joint meeting of the Berkeley and Oldbury SSGs held on 27 July 2022 were approved as an accurate record.

(b) Matters arising

- 4 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 5 Mr Heaton reported on recent activities at the Oldbury and Berkeley Sites, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) There had been no significant safety or environmental events at either Site since the previous meeting and there had been successful demonstrations of emergency arrangements. Those arrangements had also been tested when ambulance services had been summoned to the Sites to deal with medical emergencies.
 - (ii) A bat walk had been organised around the Site with contract partners Mitie.
 - (iii) The company's socio-economic support for local causes could take the form of practical help in circumstances where staff at the sites had skills which could be used.
 - (iv) At Berkeley Site, commissioning of the R3 retrieval system had been completed and to date the system had retrieved 6.66 tonnes of waste from Vault 1; the target was for 20 tonnes of waste to be retrieved by the end of the current financial year. Commissioning of the R4 system, which would allow the retrieval of containerised wastes from Vault 3, was nearing completion. When both systems were in operation it would be possible to retrieve from both vaults simultaneously.
 - (v) At the Oldbury site progress was being made with the demolition of buildings which had housed conventional plant items. The removal of these buildings would provide space required for work associated with the demolition of the turbine hall which was planned to be carried out in the next financial year. The removal of the turbine hall would have a major impact on the appearance of the site. Surplus materials and equipment were being offered to local charities where appropriate.

- 6 In response to questions, Mr Heaton confirmed that metals which resulted from the demolition process were recycled and it was planned that hardcore materials would be used to infill voids in basement areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT

- 7 Mr Murdoch reported on the monitoring of discharges and radioactivity in the environment undertaken by Magnox at Oldbury for the Oldbury and Berkeley sites. A report on the results of this monitoring during the past year had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.
- 8 Mr Murdoch outlined the nature and scope of the environmental monitoring programme. He said that a full programme of monitoring had been undertaken during 2021 following the restricted programme of activities due to the pandemic in 2020. He said that changes in the monitoring programme had been agreed with the Environment Agency following the draining of the Oldbury cooling ponds; these changes had been implemented in April 2021.
- 9 Mr Murdoch said that discharges of radioactivity remained at very low levels, well within permitted limits. There had been no unexpected changes in discharges of radioactivity during the past year and monitoring demonstrated that there had been no significant change in levels of radioactivity in the local environment.
- 10 In reply to a question from Mr Lynden, Mr Heaton said that systems would have to be developed for the retrieval of wastes from the Oldbury vaults but levels of radioactivity in the wastes were generally lower than at Berkeley and he therefore anticipated that retrieval systems at Oldbury would be simpler.
- 11 Cllr Chandler expressed some surprise that no explanation had been given for apparent increases in the levels of some discharges at Berkeley. He felt it was not sufficient to state that discharges were well below permitted levels; he expected to see an assurance that all necessary steps had been taken to ensure that discharges were as low as reasonably practicable. Mr Murdoch explained that levels of discharges at Berkeley were influenced by the nature of the work which was being done and there had been therefore some increases when the retrieval of wastes from the vaults had been restarted. Mr Heaton agreed that the points made by Cllr Chandler should be reflected in future reports. He felt it was important to keep these matters in context - discharges were very low compared with permitted levels and monitoring demonstrated that radioactivity in the local environment had a negligible impact upon the public. Cllr Tipper felt it was important for these matters to be kept in an appropriate perspective for members; he expected to receive, and generally did receive, an assurance of a satisfactory situation.
- 12 In reply to a question, Mr Murdoch said that the monitoring of radioactivity in fish had been affected in recent years by changes in the availability of different species as a result of reduced levels of commercial fishing activity.

MAGNOX CORPORATE UPDATE

- 13 Mr Hamilton reported on Magnox corporate issues. He pointed out that with the addition of decommissioning work at Dounreay and the advanced gas cooled reactor stations, the overall size of Magnox would be doubling in the next decade. The number of Sites held by Magnox would increase from the current 12 to at least 20; the number of employees would increase from 3000 to 6000 and the company's budget would increase from £500M to £1Billion. The company recognised the importance of achieving these transitions without distracting from its main mission and had established a future missions team to prepare for the necessary changes.
- 14 Mr Hamilton said that Dounreay would transfer to Magnox in April 2023 and ownership of the advanced gas cooled reactors would transfer to Magnox as defuelling was completed by EDF. There would be transfers of staff from EDF to Magnox as the stations transferred.
- 15 Mr Hamilton outlined the actions taken by Magnox to increase the use of social media for corporate communications. He also emphasised that many of the tasks associated with hazard removal during decommissioning were not related to radioactivity but often more common industrial hazards such as asbestos.
- 16 Mr Hamilton drew attention to the scale of support provided by Magnox under its socio-economic support scheme. This amounted to £2M during the past year. Grants of up to £2000 could be organised locally and larger, more transformational projects could also be accommodated within the scheme.

NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 17 Mr Napper reported on current NDA issues, drawing attention to the following:
 - (i) NDA was using a mix of working from home and office working. Stakeholders would be able to choose their method of interaction with the NDA. Members of this Group confirmed their clear preference for face to face rather than virtual meetings.
 - (ii) In December the NDA would be publishing its draft business plan which would then be the subject of a period of public consultation.
 - (iii) Economic impact assessments of the various Magnox sites on their local communities had been updated and the results were available on the NDA website.
 - (iv) Arrangements had been formalised for the examination of the possibility of establishing a small modular reactor plant at the Trawsfynydd Site.
 - (v) There were now four community partnerships, three in West Cumbria and one in Lincolnshire, discussing issues relating to the potential location of a geological disposal facility for high active waste. Some geological surveys had been undertaken off the coast of Cumbria; the

final results of this work were not yet known, and further surveys would be required in due course.

- (vi) A stakeholder summit had been held in September in Edinburgh.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION

- 18 Mr Jenneson reported on ONR's regulatory and inspection activities in relation to the Berkeley and Oldbury Sites. Reports had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.
- 19 Mr Jenneson said that all of his inspection activities at the Sites had given satisfactory results and no significant issues had been raised. Advice had been given to Berkeley following a non-nuclear-safety-related near miss event.
- 20 Mr Jenneson said that he had attended a meeting with Magnox to review safety, security and environmental performance at the Oldbury, Berkeley and Hinkley Point Sites over the past year.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- 21 Ms Gallagher and Ms Cleverley reported on the Environment Agency's regulatory activities in relation to the Berkeley and Oldbury Sites. Reports had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. During discussion the following points were noted:
- (i) The Agency's inspections at the sites had produced satisfactory results and inspectors maintained close contact with personnel at the Sites. A joint inspection covering waste management arrangements at both Sites would be undertaken in the near future.
 - (ii) The Agency kept under review the Sites' discharges of radioactivity. Discharges remained fairly stable and were very low compared with permitted limits.
 - (iii) The Agency's inspectors had participated in the annual review of safety, security and environment meeting referred to earlier by Mr Jenneson.
- 22 In reply to a comment by Cllr Chandler, Ms Gallagher said that she had not specifically raised with the Site the increases in discharges at Berkeley shown in the earlier environmental monitoring report.
- 23 In reply to a question on the possible effects of severe flooding, Mr Heaton referred to the actions which had been taken following the Fukushima accident to make provision for beyond-design-basis events. He referred also to the periodic safety reviews which were undertaken for all Sites.

CHAIR'S UPDATE

- 24 Mr Lynden reported on recent activities on behalf of the Group.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 25 Ms Ellis- King reported on the outcome of the Severn Edge nomination as host site for the STEP fusion reactor project. The former West Burton power station site had been selected to host the facility. This was disappointing after all the good work which had been done on Severn Edge, but the UKAEA had emphasised the strength of the competition and it had been satisfying to see the strength of the case which had been made. It was noted that the Oldbury Site appeared to have potential for future modular reactor development and Ms Presdee said that the Berkeley alternative energy park could receive a nomination for investment zone status.
- 26 Cllr Chandler referred to discussions at previous meetings on the use of the Berkeley railhead for the transport of wastes from other sites and the monitoring and regulatory arrangements which applied at the railhead. He said that during discussions with Nuclear Transport Solutions he had received satisfactory assurances in relation to all of the concerns which he had raised on behalf of local residents.
- 27 As Gemma Coombs would shortly be leaving to take up another post within Magnox, Mr Lynden expressed members' thanks to her for all the help and support she had given to this Group and he presented her with a token of members' appreciation.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 28 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on 25 January 2023.

MJD

31 October 2022