

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD AT THE CANALSIDE, BRIDGWATER ON FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER 2022

- Cllr Mike Caswell, Chairman of the Group, welcomed all those present to the meeting.
- Mr Steve Booth reported on activities at the Hinkley Point A Site. He said that high standards of safety performance had been maintained and there had been no significant events. Progress had been maintained with the removal of traces of asbestos, the retrieval of radioactive wastes, and the installation and commissioning of waste processing facilities.
- Mr Bill Hamilton reported on corporate Magnox issues, drawing attention to the fact that the scale of the company's activities would increase greatly over the next decade as it took responsibility for decommissioning work at Dounreay and at the Advanced Gas-Cooled Reactor stations following their defuelling.
- In an election undertaken during the meeting Cllr Leigh Redman was elected Chairman of the group to replace Cllr Caswell. Mr Mervyn Brown was elected as Vice Chairman.
- Mr Des Uminski reported on activities at the Hinkley Point B station. He said that generation at the station had ceased on 1 August, bringing to an end 46 years of successful operation during which more than 310 TWh of electricity had been produced, making it the most productive nuclear power station in the UK.
- Mr Uminski described the high standards of safety which had been maintained at the station and referred to investments in facilities which would aid the transfer of fuel through the station during defuelling. Reactor 4 was to be defuelled first, followed by Reactor 3; defuelling of each reactor would take approximately 18 months.
- Mr Tom Tremlett reported on the public consultation on the decommissioning of Hinkley Point B which was being undertaken by EDF. He explained the need for consent under the Nuclear Reactors (Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning) Regulations and gave an indication of the programme of decommissioning work. As part of this consultation, organisations represented in the membership of this Group were able to request presentations on decommissioning from EDF.
- Members received reports from the NDA, the Office for Nuclear Regulation, and the Environment Agency.

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at the Canalside, Bridgwater on 28 October 2022

PRESENT

Cllr M Caswell (Chair part time)	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr L Redman (Chair part time)	-	Bridgwater Town Council
Mr S Booth	-	EHSS&Q Manager, Hinkley Point A
Mr D Uminski	-	Technical Safety Manager, Hinkley Point B

Elected Members

Cllr B Bolt	-	Somerset County Council
Cllr H Davies	-	Somerset County Council
Mr A Debenham	-	Stop Hinkley
Cllr B Eyley	-	Kilve Parish Council
Cllr Ms S Goss	-	Stogursey Parish Council
Cllr M Hodson	-	Spaxton Parish Council
Mr A Jeffery	-	Bridgwater & W Somerset Green Party
Cllr M Kravis	-	Somerset West and Taunton Council
Mr M Laver	-	West Hinkley Action Group
Cllr S Moffat	-	Holford Parish Council
Cllr C Morgan	-	Somerset West and Taunton Council
Cllr Ms J Pay	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr Ms R Perrett	-	Otterhampton Parish Council
Mr M Phillips	-	Cannington Parish Council
Cllr J Roberts	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council
Ms M Smith	-	West Somerset Green Forum
Cllr Ms L Whetlor	-	Somerset West and Taunton Council

Co-opted Members

Mr M Brown (Vice Chairman)

Appointed Members

Mr S Napper	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr P Jenneson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Ms T Braithwaite	-	Environment Agency
Ms V Thomas	-	Environment Agency
Ms A Hole	-	Environment Agency
Mr A Wintle	-	Environment Agency
Mr P Stevens	-	Somerset County Council
Ms L Martin	-	Somerset County Council
Mr C Jones	-	Somerset County Council
Ms E Maxwell	-	Somerset County Council
Mr J Burton	-	Somerset West and Taunton Council
Mr A Smith	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Ms P Everett	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council

EDF

Mr D Stokes
Mr T Tremlett
Mr J Ward
Mr M Pardo
Ms H Dyer

Magnox

Mr B Hamilton
Ms G Coombs

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr J Freeman
Cllr Ms L Naylor - Williton Parish Council
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.
- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Short, Ms J Manley, Cllr Ms A Reed and Ms N Dawson, Mike Davies, Kiran Basra Steele.
- 3 It was noted that there were sufficient members present to constitute a quorum for this meeting.
- 4 Cllr Caswell said that Gemma Coombs was to be moving to another post within Magnox and would no longer be providing support to this Group. He expressed members' thanks to Gemma for all the help and support she had given and presented her with a token of members' appreciation.

OPEN PUBLIC Q&A SESSION

- 5 Cllr Caswell invited questions from members of the public. No questions were raised

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**(a) Accuracy**

- 6 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 26 June 2022 were approved as a correct record.

(b) Matters Arising

- 7 There were no matters arising which would not be addressed in later presentations.

CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR ELECTIONS

- 8 It was noted that Cllr Caswell and Cllr Redman had been nominated to serve as chairman of the Group. Cllr Caswell and Cllr Redman left the meeting while the election was undertaken. Mr Brown took the chair.
- 9 Mr Brown invited members to vote and on a show of hands the votes cast for each candidate were equal. Mr Brown used his casting vote and declared that Cllr Caswell had been elected. Cllr Caswell and Cllr Redman returned to the meeting and Cllr Caswell took the chair.
- 10 It was noted that Mr Brown and Cllr Redman had been nominated to serve as vice chairman of the Group. Mr Brown and Cllr Redman left the meeting while the election was undertaken.
- 11 Cllr Caswell invited members to vote and on a show of hands the votes cast for each candidate were equal. Cllr Caswell used his casting vote and declared that Mr Brown had been elected. Mr Brown and Cllr Redman returned to the meeting.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A SITE

- 12 Mr Booth reported on activities at the A Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) There had been no significant accidents or incidents on the Site since the previous meeting. Steps had been taken to learn from a number of incidents involving hand injuries which had occurred at other sites.
 - (ii) The Site's emergency arrangements will be demonstrated in November to the ONR in an exercise which will include police participation.
 - (iii) Seven nuclear waste technician apprentices had completed their course and had been appointed in waste projects and operations departments. Seven new apprentices had started in September and six trainee engineers had been offered positions.
 - (iv) Progress continued to be made with the removal of asbestos, the retrieval of fuel element debris and the installation and commissioning of waste processing facilities. Staff from Berkeley, who were able with their plant to complete the encapsulation of waste in concrete boxes, were helping with the similar plant at Hinkley.

- (v) Retrievals of fuel element debris from the wet vault had been slower than planned as the grab which collected the debris had reached the floor of the vault and options for moving the position of the grab were being considered.
 - (vi) The cross-site transporter which would be used for moving packages of waste had been delivered to site.
 - (vii) Staff had maintained their involvement with charitable fund-raising activities and over £10,000 had been raised for the Blood Bikes charity. The site had a sustainability/energy efficiency action plan and opportunities for energy savings were being pursued.
- 13 In reply to questions from Mr Jeffrey, Mr Booth confirmed that it was planned for the encapsulation of waste in concrete boxes to commence next year. He said also that in the light of a number of changes in strategy, the assessment of spare space available in the interim storage facility was being reviewed and members would be kept informed of the results of this work. In reply to a question from Cllr Redman, Mr Booth said that a different storage box was to be used for some of the waste; this was necessary because of the nature of the waste.

MAGNOX CORPORATE REPORT

- 14 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. Mr Hamilton said that ownership of the advanced gas cooled reactor sites 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 more than £9M over the past ten years and £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.

- 17 In reply to a question from Cllr Ms Whetlor, Mr Booth outlined the medical checks and monitoring associated with potential exposure to asbestos and the care taken to ensure that asbestos did not escape from plant areas. In response to a question from Cllr Ms Goss, Mr Hamilton said that the current management system avoided the profits which were payable to the contractors under the parent body organisation model. In reply to a question from Mr Jeffrey, Mr Booth explained the action proposed to replace gabion sea defences at the western end of the Site.

ADJOURNMENT

- 18 At the request of Cllr Redman the meeting was adjourned for consideration of the procedural requirements for election of chairman and vice chairman defined in the Group's constitution.

CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR ELECTIONS (CONT)

- 19 It was noted that the Group's constitution provided for the election of Chair and Vice Chair to be determined by an anonymous ballot vote and that in the event of more than one candidate receiving the same number of votes, the successful candidate should be decided by lot.
- 20 An anonymous ballot vote was taken. Cllr Redman had more votes and was elected as Chair; he took the chair for the rest of the meeting. Cllr Caswell left the meeting.

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 21 Mr Uminski reported on activities and performance at the power station since the previous meeting of this Group, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) The station had now ceased generation. Reactor 4 had been shut down on 6 July and Reactor 3 on 1 August. Both reactor shutdowns had operated as planned and there had been no issues. These shutdowns brought to an end 46 years of successful operation of the plant and the station's total output of over 310TWh of electricity made it the most productive nuclear power station in the UK
 - (ii) The station had maintained its very high standards of safety performance. It was now more than 16 years since the last nuclear reportable event, over 6 years since the station's last lost time accident involving a member of staff and 3 years since the last such accident involving a contract partner.
 - (iii) The station's emergency arrangements had been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the ONR during October.

- (iv) During July there had been a minor leak from a joint at the base of a dirty oil/water storage tank. The contents had been contained within a bund and were removed but it had been found that an electrical cable penetration had not been sealed completely. This was rectified and other bunds checked.
 - (v) The Environment Agency had been notified during July that the quarterly notification level for discharges of Carbon 14 would be exceeded during the final blow down of reactor gas. The report had demonstrated that appropriate steps had been taken to minimise the discharges. Total discharges of Carbon 14 remained at less than half of the annual permitted limit.
 - (vi) The station had invested in improvements in the fuel route facilities which would help to achieve the necessary throughput of fuel flasks during defuelling. Reactor 4 would be defuelled first, followed by Reactor 3; the defuelling of each reactor would take approximately 18 months. It was anticipated that during defuelling an average of three flasks per week would be despatched from the site. This compared with two flasks per week when the station had been in full operation. To date 10 channels within Reactor 4 had been defuelled and three irradiated fuel flasks had been dispatched from the site.
 - (vii) A public consultation on arrangements for the decommissioning of the station was currently taking place.
 - (viii) All staff had been consulted on their aspirations for future employment and jobs were available for all those who wanted to remain during defuelling.
 - (ix) The station continued to support local causes and charities and fund raising for the prostate cancer charity had exceeded £41,000.
- 22 In reply to a question from Cllr Eyley, Mr Uminski said that in advance of decommissioning, action could be taken to reduce hazards by, for example, draining oils from redundant plant and equipment.
- 23 Responding to a question from Mr Jeffery, Mr Uminski said that there had been no traffic problems affecting transport of fuel flasks caused by increased traffic to C station site. Cllr Redman accepted that there were security restrictions on the amount of information which could be given on fuel flask transport but suggested that members would be interested to see details which could be disclosed.
- 24 Cllr Moffat said that as he had provided CO₂ information on total energy output, he would be interested to see information on total CO₂ savings over the lifetime of the plant.

- 25 In response to a question from Cllr Redman, Mr Uminski explained that during defuelling, after a fuel stringer was removed from the reactor, the fuel elements were removed and the plug unit, which represented the top half of the stringer assembly, was returned to the reactor thereby plugging the channel and providing shielding.

HINKLEY POINT B DECOMMISSIONING CONSULTATION

- 26 Mr Tremlett provided an update on the public consultation on proposals for the decommissioning of Hinkley Point B power station. The consultation remained open until 21 November. Mr Tremlett explained the need for consent under the Nuclear Reactors (Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning) Regulations. That assessment would cover the dismantling and deconstruction of the site which would permanently prevent further operation of the plant. Further consents and permissions would also be required.
- 27 Mr Tremlett said that decommissioning of the station would be carried out by Magnox after the transfer from EDF post defuelling. EDF would carry out post operational clean out work in order to improve the safety of the site and were seeking the environmental impact assessment consent in order to allow decommissioning to commence when the site was transferred to Magnox.
- 28 Mr Tremlett explained the proposed programme for decommissioning the station, with preparations for a period of quiescence lasting until 12 years after shutdown, followed by a period of quiescence, which would last 70 years, before final site clearance. He described facilities which would be required on site to process wastes which would arise during decommissioning and said it was intended that intermediate level waste would be stored in the existing interim storage facility on A Site.
- 29 Mr Jeffery asked about the nature of the intermediate level waste as, with the AGR fuel there would be no fuel element debris left on the site. Mr Tremlett said that materials such as desiccants, which were used in conditioning of the reactor gas during operation, could be intermediate level waste.
- 30 Cllr Redman said that the various groups represented in the membership of this meeting were able to request separate presentations from EDF as part of this consultation.

UPDATE FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 31 Mr Napper provided an update on current activities within the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) NDA was using a mix of working from home and office working. Stakeholders would be able to choose their preferred method of interaction with the NDA.
 - (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 Magnox sites on their local communities had been updated and the results were available on the NDA website. Between 2012 and 2021 Magnox and the NDA had committed over £14M to socio-economic projects in areas local to the Sites.
 - (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.
 - (vii) An empty irradiated fuel transport flask being sent to Hinkley Point B from Sellafield had been found on arrival at the railhead to have radioactive contamination present. The contamination had been removed at B station and the flask returned to Sellafield. The circumstances of this event were being investigated at Sellafield.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORT

- 32 Mr Jenesson reported on the ONR's inspection and regulatory activities in relation to Hinkley Point A Site. Mr Knowles had been unable to be present at this meeting. Reports from ONR inspectors had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Mr Jenesson drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) All of his inspection activities at A Site had given satisfactory results with no matters of concern in relation to nuclear safety.

- (ii) He had attended a meeting with Magnox and other regulators which had reviewed safety, security and environmental performance over the past year at Hinkley Point A, Oldbury and Berkeley Sites.
- (iii) Responsibility for inspection and regulation of B station would remain with the current inspectors during defuelling work.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT

33 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) No non-compliance issues had been found during an inspection of management system arrangements and best available techniques assessment for the environmental monitoring programme at Hinkley Point A.
- (ii) Agency inspectors had attended the annual review meeting, referred to earlier by Mr Jenneson, covering safety, security and environmental performance and Hinkley Point A, Oldbury and Berkeley Sites.
- (iii) A defuelling inspection at Hinkley Point B carried out in conjunction with ONR had found good arrangements for dealing with environmental issues and no non-compliances with requirements.
- (iv) In relation to the quarterly notification levels for discharges of Carbon 14 which had been reached during the discharge of reactor gas at Hinkley Point B, the Agency had been satisfied that best available techniques had been applied to minimise the discharge and the discharges remained well within annual permitted limits.

34 In reply to a question from Mr Jeffery, Ms Thomas and Mr Uminski confirmed that a satisfactory modification had been applied following the circumstances reported at an earlier meeting in which valves had been inadvertently left open allowing pond water to pass.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

35 It was noted that a report from Cllr Caswell giving details of his activities on behalf of the Group had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP REVIEW FEEDBACK

- 36 Mr. Brown reported that the sub group had reviewed attendances at meetings of this Group in the light of the forthcoming changes in local government. In relation to the membership of this Group, it was to be proposed that the number of members representing Somerset Council in future should be reduced to six compared with the seven members who currently represented County/District councils. The sub group had also expressed the wish that such representatives should be selected as being reasonably local to the Hinkley Point site. It was noted that proposals for these changes in the membership of this Group would be submitted for approval at the next meeting.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 37 No business.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 38 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on Friday 24 February 2023

MJD

3 November 2022