

**BERKELEY AND OLDBURY ON SEVERN SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD AT
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND STROUD COLLEGE, BERKELEY ON
WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2023**

- Mr Bill Hamilton welcomed members to this joint meeting of the Site Stakeholder Groups for the Berkeley and Oldbury Sites. The following were elected as Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Groups for the coming year:

Oldbury Site Stakeholder Group

Chair Cllr M Riddle

Vice Chair Cllr C Jennings

Berkeley Site Stakeholder Group

Chair Mr J Stanton

Vice Chair Cllr S Chandler JP

- Mr Mark Pitts and Mr Chris Burden, acting Site Directors, reported on recent activities at the Sites. An asbestos analyst had sustained cuts to a thumb whilst separating microscope slides which had become stuck together.
- Following a planned outage, good progress was being made at Berkeley with the retrieval of wastes from the storage vaults. A Mosaik ductile cast iron container had been filled with waste from the former Shielded Area
- Contracts had been placed for work to achieve the removal of the former blower houses which were located around the Berkeley reactor buildings. A planning application had been made for a temporary building to accommodate this work.
- A volunteering scheme was being piloted at Berkeley and other sites. This would give opportunities for Site staff to provide support to local organisations. This scheme would in due course be operated at all Sites and members were invited to identify any local groups which might benefit from this scheme.
- Good progress was being made at Oldbury Site with the cutting of cables to achieve electrical isolation of the former Turbine Hall in order to enable demolition of the buildings in due course. The former Technical Centre had been isolated and was now ready for demolition. Three Caesium Removal Units which had been stored in the Oldbury cooling ponds had been dismantled.
- Mr Bill Hamilton reported on Magnox corporate issues. He said that Magnox would shortly be announcing a rebranding to reflect its changed role. Reports were provided by representatives of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, and the Environment Agency.

**BERKELEY AND OLDBURY ON SEVERN SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND
STROUD COLLEGE, BERKELEY ON WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2023**

PRESENT:

Mr J Stanton (in the chair)	-	Co-opted member
Cllr Mrs L Ashton	-	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr A Birch	-	Forest of Dean District Council
Cllr C Bloor	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr S Chandler JP	-	Hamfallow Parish Council
Cllr C Davies	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr K Evans	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr Ms S Gordon	-	Tytherington Parish Council
Cllr H Johnson	-	Tytherington Parish Council
Cllr C Jennings	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Mr M Lynden	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr M Riddle	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr B Roberts	-	Thornbury Chamber of Commerce
Cllr B Tipper	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr A Williams	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Ms V Williams	-	Alveston Parish Council

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr S Napper	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr P Reynolds	-	Environment Agency
Ms G Ellis-King	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Ms R Cleverley	-	Environment Agency
Mr A Wintle	-	Environment Agency
Mr M Pitts	-	Acting Oldbury Site Director
Mr C Burden	-	Acting Berkeley Site Director
Mr W Hamilton	-	Magnox
Ms E Vaughan-Lewis	-	Magnox Communications
Mr L Delaney	-	Magnox
Mr G Wheeler		
Mr T Hellen		
Ms B French		
Mr G Vaughan-Lewis		
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

WELCOME

- 1 Mr Hamilton welcomed everyone to this joint meeting of the Berkeley and Oldbury on Severn Sites' Stakeholder Groups. He took the chair for the election of chairs and vice chairs for the SSGs of the two Sites.

ELECTION OF CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS

- 2 Mr Hamilton pointed out that Malcolm Lynden was retiring from his position as Chair of the Oldbury SSG; Malcolm had held this position with the SSG since its inception. Mr Hamilton paid tribute to Malcolm's work in this position and the contribution he had made on behalf of the SSG and the local community. He gave Malcolm a token of thanks from the Group. Malcolm said that he had enjoyed this role and expressed his best wishes for the future work of the SSG.

- 3 Mr Hamilton said that nominations received for the various posts of Chair and Vice Chair had been as follows:

Oldbury Site Stakeholder Group

Chair	Cllr M Riddle
Vice Chair	Cllr C Jennings

Berkeley Site Stakeholder Group

Chair	Mr J Stanton
Vice Chair	Cllr S Chandler JP

- 4 As there were no other nominations for any of these posts, all nominees were duly elected, and Mr Stanton took the chair for the remainder of this meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 5 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Davies (Stinchcombe), Mr P Jenneson, Cllr G Langdon, Rev S Godsell, Cllr J Crook, Ms V Heselton, Mr S Henderson, Mr G Craig, Mr N Kaye, Cllr I Bamfield, Cllr D Griffiths and Ms A Presdee.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) Accuracy

- 6 The minutes of the joint meeting of the Berkeley and Oldbury SSGs held on 11 May 2023 were approved as an accurate record.

(b) Matters arising

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

SITE DIRECTORS' REPORTS

- 8 It was noted that Mr Mike Heaton was recovering following his recent illness. He had returned to work and would be resuming his normal duties during October.

- 9 Mr Pitts and Mr Burden reported on recent activities at the Oldbury and Berkeley Sites, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) An asbestos analyst at Oldbury Site had sustained cuts to a thumb whilst trying to separate microscope slides which had become stuck together. Working practices had been changed to prevent any recurrence.
 - (ii) At Berkeley, following a planned outage of waste retrieval equipment during July, retrievals had resumed. During the current year to date some 13 tonnes of waste had been retrieved from the vaults; The target for the Site for the full year was 46 tonnes, a major part of the company's total target of 100 tonnes.
 - (iii) The first Mosaik DCIC container had been filled with waste from the Berkeley shielded area. The filling of a second container would commence shortly.
 - (iv) Contracts had been placed as part of the project to remove the blower house structures at Berkeley. Ductwork stored in these houses would have asbestos removed on site before it was packaged and sent to a plant in Teesside for decontamination and metal melt. A planning application had been submitted for a temporary building needed to carry out this work.
 - (v) Maintenance work was being undertaken on various civil structures at Berkeley.
 - (vi) Berkeley was acting as one of a number of lead sites in developing a volunteering system to support local organisations. Members were asked to contact Mrs Vaughan Lewis if they knew of any charities which might benefit from such assistance.
 - (vii) Mr Delaney described circumstances which has contributed to a reported increase in levels of some discharges at Berkeley as noted at an earlier meeting of this Group. It was noted that the reported increase could be explained by changes in the assessment methodology and allowances made for a damaged item of monitoring equipment. Mr Delaney pointed out that discharges were very low in relation to authorised limits and potential exposures to members of the public were very low compared with exposures which might be received during commercial airline flights and from natural background radiation.
 - (viii) Good progress was being made at Oldbury with the cutting of cables in order to achieve electrical isolation of the turbine hall before demolition could take place. The former Technical Centre had been isolated and was now ready for demolition.
 - (ix) Three Caesium Removal Units located in the Pond Filtration Plant Building have been dismantled and made ready for despatch from site. This work had been completed ahead of schedule.

- (x) In due course Oldbury would join the volunteering scheme being piloted at Berkeley. Some funds remained available for grants under the company's socio-economic support scheme – members were invited to identify any organisations which might benefit from this support.
 - (xi) An Oldbury Site community engagement event held at the Oldbury Memorial Hall had included the provision of information on plans for the future of Silt Lagoon 3.
 - (xii) Blood donation sessions were to be held in the Oldbury Conference Centre.
- 10 In reply to a question, Mr Pitts said that much work remained to be done in the former Turbine Hall to remove plant and equipment before demolition could take place.

MAGNOX CORPORATE UPDATE

- 11 Mr Hamilton reported on Magnox corporate issues. He drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) The company would shortly be announcing changes in its branding. SSG members would be informed of the changes.
 - (ii) The company was engaging, via a polling company, with members of the public in the vicinity of its sites in order to reach an understanding of local views in relation to the future uses of sites.
- 12 In response to a question from Mr Vaughan-Lewis, Mr Hamilton explained the arrangements made for funding of AGR decommissioning. In response to a further question from Mrs French, he explained the arrangements for the processing of the high-level waste which resulted from the reprocessing of irradiated fuels.

NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 13 Mr Napper reported on current NDA issues, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) A meeting of senior NDA personnel with the Chairs of the various SSGs was to take place in October.
 - (ii) NDA had published its annual report and accounts which could be accessed on the website.
 - (iii) A draft business plan was to be published by the NDA for consultation.
 - (iv) Good progress was being made at Sellafield in providing access to wastes which had been stored on site for many years, allowing them to be repackaged for disposal.

BERKELEY RAILHEAD

- 12 Mr Stanton referred to the NDA's apparent refusal to allow a group of local rail enthusiasts to develop their activities in the vicinity of the Berkeley railhead.
- 13 Mr Napper said that it had been concluded that it was not possible for NDA to grant a sublease of part of the railhead site in view of its future potential use of the facility.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION

- 14 Apologies for absence had been received from Mr Jenneson.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- 17 Mr Reynolds and Ms Cleverley reported on the Environment Agency's regulatory activities in relation to the Berkeley and Oldbury Sites. They drew attention to the following:
- (i) Planned inspections at the Sites had been carried out with satisfactory results and further inspections were scheduled to take place.
 - (ii) Discharges of radioactivity continued to be well within permitted limits.
- 18 Cllr Chandler referred to increases in Carbon 14 and Beta particulate discharges from Berkeley reported to this Group at an earlier meeting. Mr Delaney said that no cause of such increase had been identified. Mr Burden said that with increased levels of retrievals of waste, increases in discharges were to be expected, but discharges remained well below permitted limits. It was possible that an apparent increase in the level of discharges could be reported due to increases in the number of discharge points as, even if no discharges were measurable, the reported discharges would be at the limit of detection of the equipment for each discharge point.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 19 Mr Stanton expressed thanks to the South Gloucestershire and Stroud College for the use of the facilities for this meeting.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 20 Proposed dates for meetings of these Groups during 2024 were noted as follows:
- 31 January
 - 29 May
 - 25 September.

MJD
5 October 2023