

**BERKELEY AND OLDBURY ON SEVERN SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD AT
OLDBURY CONFERENCE CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2023**

- Mr John Stanton 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.
- Mr Heaton said that at Berkeley the first of the radioactive waste packages to be processed on site in concrete box containers had been stored in the Interim Storage Facility. The retrieval of waste from Vault 3 would start in the current year.
- A major project for the removal of the former blower houses which circled around the reactor structures at Berkeley was about to commence. This would involve the removal of metallic waste arising from the demolition of the boilers which had been stored in these buildings. The wastes would be monitored and despatched off site.
- At Oldbury work was continuing on the demolition of redundant buildings containing conventional plant items. The building which had contained the electrical connections to the grid system had been demolished. Electrical connections to these areas had to be carefully isolated before demolition could take place.
- Mr Bill Hamilton reported on Magnox corporate issues. He pointed out that Magnox was to take responsibility for the decommissioning of the Dounreay Site in April 2023. He said that dates had been identified for the final clearance of former Magnox power station sites – the date for Berkeley was the 2060s and for Oldbury the 2080s.
- Reports were provided by representatives of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, the Office for Nuclear Regulation, and the Environment Agency.
- Mr Stanton 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 25 JANUARY 2023**

PRESENT:

Mr J Stanton (in the chair)	-	Co-opted member
Cllr J Crook	-	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr S Chandler JP	-	Hamfallow Parish Council
Cllr C Davies	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr N Easby	-	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr C Parkinson	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr D Power	-	Chepstow Town Council
Cllr M Riddle	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr B Roberts	-	Thornbury Chamber of Commerce

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr S Napper	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr P Jenneson (part time)	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr P Reynolds	-	Environment Agency
Ms A Presdee	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Ms G Ellis-King	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr M Heaton	-	Oldbury and Berkeley Sites Director
Mr W Hamilton	-	Magnox
Mr M Pitts	-	Magnox Oldbury
Ms C Pritchard	-	Magnox Communications
Ms E Vaughan-Lewis	-	Magnox Communications
Mr A Mitchell		
Mr G Wheeler		
Ms B French		
Mr M J Davis (Secretary)		

WELCOME

- 1 Mr Stanton 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 Mr M Lynden, Ms R Cleverley, Rev S Godsell, Cllr Ms V Williams, Cllr I Bamfield, Cllr Ms H Molyneux, Mr G Vaughan-Lewis, Cllr Mrs E Ashton, 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 26 October 2022 were approved as an accurate record subject to the inclusion of Cllr Parkinson in the list of those present at the meeting and subject to the comment by Ms French that discussion on individual radiation exposures had not been recorded fully. (This is covered in further discussion under matters arising from the minutes recorded below)

(b) Matters arising

Personal Radiation Exposures (discussion on Environmental Monitoring Report refers)

- 4 Mr Heaton confirmed that radiation exposures received by individual contractors' personnel were recorded in personal dose records which were transferred with the individuals to any future site where they might work. Doses received by Magnox personnel were expressed as an average for those staff who worked with radioactive materials, not as an average for all staff.

Flood Risk (para 20 of minutes of meeting held on 27 July 2022 refer)

- 5 Ms French said that in further discussions subsequent to the meeting on 27 July, Mr Buttivant of the Environment Agency had said that flooding could have occurred on an occasion in February last year if conditions had been as predicted in forecasts.
- 6 Mr Heaton acknowledged local concerns in relation to flooding on the banks of the Severn. He said that for the Oldbury Site, potential flooding risks were always taken into account in safety cases but that during decommissioning the potential hazards from flooding were greatly reduced with the draining of the cooling ponds and materials remaining above ground in secure tanks and containments. He said that at Berkeley there was additional flood protection provided around the area of the waste storage vaults.
- 7 Cllr Riddle referred to the group which had been established by parish councils to campaign for improvements in sea defences.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 8 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.
 - (ii) The first two concrete boxes of radioactive waste had been processed and stored in the Interim Storage Facility at Berkeley. The packaging of wastes in concrete boxes was continuing and it was anticipated that retrieval of wastes from the Berkeley vaults would continue for a further eight years. The retrieval of waste from Vault 3 was due to start during the current year.
 - (iii) The cans of radioactive laboratory waste in the Shielded Area at Berkeley had been assayed so that the nature of the waste was known, and these wastes would be retrieved and stored in ductile cast iron containers over the next year or so.
 - (iv) A major project for the removal of the Berkeley blower houses was about to commence. This involved the removal of metallic waste which had been stored in the blower houses. This waste which had arisen from the demolition of the boiler structures, would be monitored and processed for despatch off site. It was anticipated that the construction of a facility for handling these wastes would need planning consent.
 - (v) The focus at Oldbury over the next few years would be on the demolition of buildings containing items of conventional plant. The building which had contained the 132 kV substation equipment had been removed. Specialist contractors were used for the demolition of these buildings.
 - (vi) Work was continuing on the electrical and mechanical isolation of the former Turbine Hall to allow the demolition of the buildings.
 - (vii) The Sites continued to support various socio-economic support schemes and staff were involved in charity fund raising.
- 6 Mr Hamilton pointed out that a new website for the SSGs was due to be launched in the coming month.
- 7 In reply to a question from Cllr Chandler, Mr Heaton said that the levels of radioactivity in the metallic waste stored in the Berkeley blower houses would have been reduced by the process of natural decay whilst in this temporary storage. The materials would be monitored, and appropriate destinations identified for off-site disposal.
- 8 In reply to a question from Mr Mitchell, Mr Heaton said that the former circulating water culverts at Oldbury had been sealed to prevent any possibility of water ingress to the Site.
- 9 In reply to a question from Cllr Davies, Mr Hamilton said that there was no impending industrial action by Magnox staff and there were agreed minimum staffing levels.

MAGNOX CORPORATE UPDATE

- 10 Mr Hamilton reported on Magnox corporate issues. He said that the Dounreay site would be joining Magnox with effect from 1st of April with all the necessary regulatory arrangements having been completed. The advanced gas cooled reactor sites would transfer to Magnox from EDF as defuelling was completed; it was likely that the first AGR site to be transferred would be Hunterston B at some time during 2025. With these additional responsibilities Magnox would be undertaking some rebranding to reflect the increased scope of its work.
- 11 Mr Hamilton said that Magnox had identified planned site clearance dates for each of its sites. The identification of these dates was based upon assessments of physical condition, wider environmental issues, socio economic factors, lifetime costs and potential future uses of sites. The dates were identified as 10 year bandwidths. The date for Berkeley was identified as the 2060s and the date for Oldbury was the 2080s. These dates were for final site clearance and regulatory controls would allow some very low level waste arising from demolition to be left in voids on Sites.
- 12 In reply to comments from Cllr Riddle, Mr Hamilton said that new relationships would be established with local stakeholders for the AGR sites which were not adjacent to existing Magnox sites.
- 13 Mr Hamilton said that funds were being provided by NDA to help in communities which were vulnerable in current circumstances. These funds were being allocated via local authorities.

NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 14 Mr Napper reported on current NDA issues, drawing particular attention to the following:
 - (i) The current consultation on the NDA business plan for the next three years would continue until 6 February. Mr Napper said that any comments which members might have on the plan would be welcome.
 - (ii) A stakeholder survey carried out for the NDA had indicated positive progress with encouraging results relating to trust, transparency, and openness.
 - (iii) After the stakeholder summit which had been held in Edinburgh last year, an event would be held online this Autumn with a face to face meeting in Cumbria next year.
 - (iv) It was anticipated that a government document on decommissioning and waste management would be issued for consultation shortly.
 - (v) A graduate recruitment scheme had been introduced within NDA.

- (vi) Consideration was still being given to proposals for the future use of the Oldbury Silt Lagoon 3 land. Proposals would be brought forward for discussion with members in due course.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION

- 15 Mr Jenneson reported on ONR's regulatory and inspection activities in relation to the Berkeley and Oldbury Sites. He said that reports on regulatory activities at each Site had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. These reports were prepared on a quarterly basis and the reports recently circulated covered the period from October to December 2022. He said that he had no concerns in relation to nuclear safety matters at either Site, and that he had been pleased to see the recognition given in the press to the progress with waste encapsulation at Berkeley.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- 16 Mr Reynolds reported on the Environment Agency's regulatory activities in relation to the Berkeley and Oldbury Sites. He said that Ms Gallagher had been appointed to another post within the Agency and Ms Cleverley had been unable to attend this meeting. He reminded members that he had been the Agency's inspector for these Sites some years ago and he had been pleased to see the progress on issues which had been under consideration at that time.
- 17 Mr Reynolds said that Ms Gallagher and Ms Cleverley had conducted inspections at Oldbury and Berkeley since the last meeting and both of these inspections had had satisfactory results. Reports on the Agency's regulatory activities at the two Magnox Sites had not been circulated in advance but would be sent to members after the meeting.

CHAIR'S UPDATE

- 28 Mr Stanton reported on recent activities on behalf of the Group. He referred to meetings he had attended including a Magnox executive meeting, a meeting with the chairs of other SSG's and a meeting of the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee for the Sites.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

New Generation Development

- 29 Ms Ellis-King reported on discussions with Rolls Royce on the possibility of siting a small modular reactor on either of the Magnox Sites. She said that Rolls Royce would be prepared to come and provide information on their position on this at the next meeting of this Group.
- 30 Cllr Chandler referred to proposals for a major housing development between Sharpness and Berkeley which would have a major impact on any proposals for

new generating plant on the Berkeley Site. The proposals would be considered during forthcoming discussions on the Stroud Local Plan.

Dr J McHugh

- 31 Cllr Chandler drew attention to the fact that Dr McHugh had passed away during November 2022. Members expressed their appreciation of the contribution which Dr McHugh had made as a member of this Group.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 32 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on 26 April 2023.

MJD
30 January 2023