

**BERKELEY AND OLDBURY ON SEVERN SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD AT
OLDBURY CONFERENCE CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 11 MAY 2023**

- Mr Malcolm Lynden welcomed members to this joint meeting of the Site Stakeholder Groups for the Berkeley and Oldbury Sites. It was noted that Mr Mike Heaton, Site Director was recovering following a recent heart attack. Members expressed their best wishes for a speedy recovery.
- Mr Mark Pitts and Mr Chris Burden, acting Site Directors, reported on recent activities at the Sites. There had been no significant safety or environmental issues at either Site since the previous meeting.
- At Berkeley a start had been made on the retrieval of radioactive waste contained in cans in Vault 3. The first contract had been placed for the project to remove the former Boiler Houses which circled around the reactor buildings; the metallic waste currently stored within the Boiler Houses would be cleaned as necessary before being sent off site for recycling.
- At Oldbury good progress was being made with cutting redundant cables to complete the electrical isolation of the former Turbine Hall so that the buildings could be demolished. Some items of redundant furniture and equipment from the Site and the Technical Centre were being donated to local charitable organisations.
- Members were informed of consideration currently being given to the future treatment of the Oldbury Silt Lagoon 3 area. The area had become a wetland during operation of the power station when it had been used for pumping silt dredged from near the cooling water system but since operations had ceased the area had become scrubland. Consideration was now being given to restoring the area to wetland. This would be the subject of consultation with the local public during the coming months.
- Mr Bill Hamilton reported on Magnox corporate issues and reports were provided by representatives of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, the Office for Nuclear Regulation, and the Environment Agency.
- Mr Gould and Mr Howdle of Rolls Royce SMR Ltd gave a presentation on the development of the design of a Small Modular Reactor and the progress of the design through the generic design assessment process.
- 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 11 MAY 2023**

PRESENT:

Mr M Lynden (in the chair)	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Mr A Acton	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
Cllr Mrs L Ashton	-	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr S Chandler JP	-	Hamfallow Parish Council
Cllr C Davies	-	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr C Parkinson	-	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr D Power	-	Chepstow Town Council
Mr B Roberts	-	Thornbury Chamber of Commerce
Mr J Stanton	-	Co-opted member
Mr K Sullivan	-	Oldbury on Severn Parish Council

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr S Napper	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr P Jenneson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr P Reynolds	-	Environment Agency
Ms A Presdee	-	Gloucestershire County Council
Ms G Ellis-King	-	South Gloucestershire Council
Mr D Gould	-	Rolls Royce SMR
Mr P Howdle	-	Rolls Royce SMR
Mr A Bates	-	Western Gateway
Cllr L Redman	-	Hinkley Point SSG (Observer)
Mr M Pitts	-	Acting Oldbury Site Director
Mr C Burden	-	Acting Berkeley Site Director
Mr W Hamilton	-	Magnox
Ms K Baxter	-	Magnox
Mr A Murdoch	-	Magnox
Ms A Lamacraft	-	Magnox
Ms E Vaughan-Lewis	-	Magnox Communications
Mr A Mitchell		
Mr G Wheeler		
Ms B French		
Mr G Vaughan-Lewis		
Mr T Hellen		
Mr P Hazelwood		
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 G Langdon, Ms R Cleverley, Cllr B Tipper, Cllr J Crook, Ms V Heselton, Dr J Cordwell, Cllr M Riddle, Cllr N Easby, Cllr I Bamfield and Cllr D Griffiths.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) Accuracy

- 3 The minutes of the joint meeting of the Berkeley and Oldbury SSGs held on 25 January 2023 were approved as an accurate record.

(b) Matters arising

Rebranding of Magnox (para 10 refers)

- 4 Mr Vaughan-Lewis asked about the cost of the anticipated rebranding of Magnox and questioned whether this funding could be used more effectively on other things. Mr Hamilton said that the costs would be approximately £50k. He emphasised the importance of this rebranding as the name Magnox had no relevance for the sites which would be transferring to the company during the next decade. Mr Lynden said that at a meeting during the past week the Chairs of the various SSGs had given their support to the proposal to rebrand the company.

SITE DIRECTORS' REPORTS

- 5 It was noted that Mr Mike Heaton was recovering following a recent heart attack. Members expressed their best wishes for a speedy recovery.
- 6 In the absence of Mr Heaton, Mr Pitts was acting Site Director for Oldbury and Mr Burden was acting Site Director for Berkeley. They 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. Both Sites were supporting the “no mow May” initiative to promote biodiversity.
 - (ii) The retrieval of canned radioactive sludge from Vault 3 at Berkeley had commenced using the R4 processing facilities. Over 1400 cans of sludge and some 500 containers of waste remained to be retrieved from Vault 3. Following a planned outage in June it was anticipated that wastes would be retrieved from Vaults 1 and 3 concurrently.
 - (iii) The first contract had been placed for the project to remove the former Boiler Houses which circled around the Berkeley reactor buildings. It was anticipated that this whole project would take some eight years. A further contract would be placed in due course to cover the processing of

the metallic waste currently held within the boiler houses to put it in a suitable condition for despatch off site for recycling.

- (iv) Good progress was being made at Oldbury with the cutting of cables to isolate the former Turbine Hall area so that demolition could take place. In the cooling ponds area, the pond skip crane had been moved to a final parked position and isolated. A start had been made on the construction of a vacuum filling facility for transferring liquid radioactive waste into containers.
 - (v) Items of equipment which had become redundant at the Oldbury Site and the Technical Centre were being donated to local organisations and charities.
 - (vi) An Oldbury apprentice, Lewis Collins, had received a highly commended award in a national competition amongst other apprentices.
- 7 In reply to a question from Mr Stanton, Mr Pitts explained the careful process which was followed to ensure that all hazards had been removed before cutting into redundant cables.

UPDATE ON OLDBURY SILT LAGOON 3

- 8 Ms Baxter, Mr Murdoch and Mr Napper gave an outline of current intentions in relation to the future treatment of the former Silt Lagoon 3 at Oldbury. They pointed out that during operation silt from dredging had been pumped into this area and had created an area of wetland in which birds were able to roost. Since the end of operations Silt Lagoon 3 had become an area of scrubland. It was noted that there was a planning condition for the Silt Lagoon 3 area to be restored after its intended use. Consideration was now being given to the possibility of restoring the area to wetland. It was proposed that there should be a community event during the coming summer to describe proposals which were being considered and seek views of the community on the future treatment of this area of land.
- 9 During discussion the following points were noted:
- (i) This consideration was related only to the area of Silt Lagoon 3. Silt Lagoons 1 and 2 formed part of the designated area identified for new power station construction.
 - (ii) The area had been farmland before its use as a silt lagoon and the requirement to restore the land to its former use could be interpreted as a requirement to return it to agriculture.
 - (iii) Consideration would have to be given to the practical arrangements for increasing the water level on this land to create a wetland.
 - (iv) Mr Hazelwood who had an interest in birds expressed support for the return of the lagoon area to wetland.

- (v) It was considered unlikely that any future electricity generation system installed on the site would use a cooling system which involved pumping silt onto an area of land.

MAGNOX CORPORATE UPDATE

- 10 Mr Hamilton reported on Magnox corporate issues. He drew particular attention to the following:
 - (i) A new website, magnoxstakeholdergroups.com, had been established to provide information on each of the SSGs.
 - (ii) Gwen Parry Jones had been appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer of Great British Nuclear. She was replaced as CEO of Magnox Ltd by Rob Fletcher.
 - (iii) Consideration was being given to the rebranding of Magnox Ltd to reflect its future role. The future company name was likely to have an associated “strap line” which gave an indication of the company's role and objectives.

NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 11 Mr Napper reported on current NDA issues, drawing particular attention to the following:
 - (i) Following the stakeholder summit held in Edinburgh in September 2022 it was proposed that such meetings should be held every two years in the future with the next meeting to be held in Cumbria. An online event would be organised later in the current year and regional events would also be organised.
 - (ii) The Government was currently inviting views on managing radioactive substances and nuclear decommissioning. The consultation period would be open until 24 May and all views would be welcome.
 - (iii) Socio economic support was being given by NDA to the Sutherland Spaceport having regard for the value of this project in the area of Dounreay.
- 12 Referring to the consultation on radioactive waste, Ms French drew attention to the different approaches between England and Scotland in relation to waste disposal. Mr Napper said that the approach favoured by the Scottish Government would not avoid the need for geological disposal of high-level waste. Mr Hamilton said that the government's consultation document drew together many issues, some of which, such as the treatment of very low level waste, were already covered by existing regulations.

- 13 Mr Stanton said that he would be responding to the government's consultation on behalf of the SSG and invited members to contact him with any issues they would like to see raised.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION

- 14 Mr Jenneson reported on ONR's regulatory and inspection activities in relation to the Berkeley and Oldbury Sites. Reports on regulatory activities at each Site had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.
- 15 Mr Jenneson said that he had attended an annual review meeting of safety, security and environmental performance at the Berkeley, Oldbury and Hinkley Point Sites. The overall site performance across the Sites was considered to be adequate and no new issues had been identified.
- 16 Mr Jenneson said that he had been pleased to see the progress at each Site, the important milestones reached, and the important new projects being started. He said he had no concerns of safety significance to bring to the attention of members.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- 17 Mr Reynolds reported on the Environment Agency's regulatory activities in relation to the Berkeley and Oldbury Sites. Ms Cleverley had been unable to attend this meeting.
- 18 Mr Reynolds outlined the Agency's inspection activities at the Sites which had given satisfactory results and he gave an indication of future inspection plans.
- 19 Cllr Chandler said that he looked forward to seeing the Agency's next report on its inspections at Berkeley which was to be on Best Available Techniques and decision making.

UPDATE FROM ROLLS ROYCE

- 20 Mr Gould and Mr Howdle, representing Rolls Royce SMR Ltd gave details of their work on the development of Small Modular Reactor plant. The following points were noted during discussion:
- (i) Compared with large nuclear power plants, a small modular reactor could produce relatively more output for the space it occupied.
 - (ii) Rolls Royce was producing designs for Small Modular Reactor plants but would not fulfil the role of a developer for the construction of power stations using this design.
 - (iii) SMR plant would be manufactured in a factory, transported to site in modules which were of a size which could be transported by road, and then assembled on site.

- (iv) The Rolls Royce SMR design was based on well established PWR technology and used fuel which was readily available.
 - (v) The use of forced draught cooling towers increased the number of sites which were available for potential development.
 - (vi) In addition to supplying electricity for the grid, small modular reactors could supply power or heat to other processes. The ability to manage the demand required by these other processes gave flexibility in relation to the output of electricity available for supply to the grid.
 - (vii) Information on the Rolls Royce SMR design and its progress through the generic design assessment process was available on the Rolls Royce SMR website.
- 21 Mr Lynden felt that a proposal to establish a small modular reactor plant at Oldbury would be welcomed by the local public and questioned whether the SSG should establish a sub-group to provide a focus for any local issues relating to the development of such a plant. Members felt that it would be premature to take such action of this stage.

CHAIR'S UPDATE

- 22 Mr Lynden reported on meetings he had attended recently on behalf of the Group. He pointed out that it would be appropriate at the next meeting to elect chairs and vice chairs for these groups.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Bill Gill

- 23 Mr Mitchell drew attention to the fact that Mr Bill Gill had passed away recently. Members expressed their appreciation of the contribution which Mr Gill had made as a member of this Group.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 24 It was noted that a date for the next meeting would be held in September 2023 on a date to be confirmed in due course.

MJD
16 May 2023