

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD AT THE CANALSIDE, BRIDGWATER ON FRIDAY 26 JANUARY 2024

- Cllr Leigh Redman, Chairman of the Group, welcomed all those present to the meeting.
- Ms Basra-Steele reported on activities at the Hinkley Point A Site. She pointed out that since the previous meeting Magnox had been rebranded as Nuclear Restoration Services; it remains a wholly owned subsidiary of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.
- Ms Basra-Steele said that high standards of safety performance had been maintained but there had been an accident recently in which a kitchen assistant had sustained hot water burns.
- Ms Basra-Steele said that good progress had been maintained with the installation and commissioning of waste processing facilities and the retrieval and processing of wastes.
- Mr Mike Davies said that this would be the last meeting of this Group he would attend as Station Director, Hinkley Point B as he was to take up an appointment as Station Director, Heysham 1 Power Station. He introduced Ms Nicola Fauvel who would become Acting Station Director when he moved.
- Mr Davies reported on activities at the Hinkley Point B station. He said that high safety standards had been maintained and good progress was being made with the reduction of hazards on the station site. He said that the defueling of Reactor 4 was now some 62% complete; It was anticipated that decommissioning of this reactor would be completed by April / May and that the defueling of Reactor 3 would then follow.
- Mr Bill Hamilton reported on Nuclear Restoration Services corporate issues and members received reports from the NDA, the Office for Nuclear Regulation, and the Environment Agency.
- Mr Ashraf and Mr Davies described preparations which were being made for the transition of B station from an operational power station to a decommissioning site and the transfer of the site to Nuclear Restoration Services.
- Cllr Redman reported on his recent activities on behalf of the Group.

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
Minutes of the meeting held at the Canalside, Bridgwater on 26 January 2024

PRESENT

Cllr L Redman (Chair)	-	Bridgwater Town Council
Ms K Basra-Steele	-	Site Director, Hinkley Point A
Mr M Davies	-	Station Director, Hinkley Point B

Elected Members

Cllr C Allen	-	Cannington Parish Council
Cllr H Davies	-	Somerset Council
Cllr Ms S Goss	-	Stogursey Parish Council
Cllr B Eyley	-	Kilve Parish Council
Cllr K Hewson	-	Bawdrip Parish Council
Mr A Jeffery	-	Bridgwater & W Somerset Green Party
Mr M Laver	-	West Hinkley Action Group
Cllr Ms R Perrett	-	Otterhampton Parish Council
Cllr M Phillips	-	Wembdon Parish Council
Ms M Smith	-	West Somerset Green Forum

Co-opted Members

Mr M Brown (Vice Chairman)

Appointed Members

Mr S Saunders	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr A Wintle	-	Environment Agency
Mr P Stevens	-	Somerset Council
Mr C Jones	-	Somerset Council
Mr J Burton	-	Somerset Council
Ms L Martin	-	Somerset Council

EDF

Ms N Fauvel
Mr D Stokes
Mr H Dyer
Mr M Pardo
Ms C Richardson

NRS

Mr B Hamilton
Mr S Ashraf
Mrs S Fry

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr T Ayre

Mr J Freeman
Mr M J Davis - Secretary

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1 Cllr Redman 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 Ian Liddell-Grainger MP, Ms V Thomas, Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Cllr R Wyke, Fiddington Parish Council, Mr P Jenneson, Cllr M Caswell, Cllr A Govier, Dr B Nozad, Nether Stowey Parish Council, Cllr M Hodson, Cllr C Morgan and Mr A Debenham

OPEN PUBLIC Q&A SESSION

- 3 Cllr Redman invited questions from members of the public. No questions were raised.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a) Accuracy

- 4 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 30 June 2023 were approved as a correct record.

(b) Matters Arising

- 5 Ms Smith said she had felt that a video about the A Site shown at the previous meeting should have included comments about the quantity of waste on the Site. Ms Basra-Steele said that it was an apprentice recruitment video. Cllr Redman invited Ms Smith to write to him if she wanted to propose an amendment to the minutes.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A SITE

- 6 Ms Basra-Steele drew attention to the rebranding of Magnox as Nuclear Restoration Services which had taken place since the previous meeting. She reported on activities at the A Site, drawing particular attention to the following:
 - (i) She regretted that Trade Union Site Safety Representatives had resigned. An independent group had been asked to review cultural aspects which might have a bearing on these resignations.

- (ii) A kitchen assistant had received hot water burns whilst working in the kitchen on site; actions taken subsequently included improvements in the equipment used.
 - (iii) Radioactivity had been found in sludge at the bottom of a demineralised water tank on the site. It was thought that this had originated from an event in the past.
 - (iv) Improvements in the arrangements for maintenance of equipment used for monitoring gaseous discharges had been pursued with the Environment Agency.
 - (v) The new cohort of apprentices included maintenance technicians working across both A and B sites and graduate recruits.
 - (vi) Good progress was being made with the asbestos remediation project which was due for completion in the coming Summer.
 - (vii) Good progress was also being made with the retrieval of fuel element debris from the wet vaults. It was anticipated that the rate of waste retrievals on the site would increase to a peak in about five years' time, with all wastes retrieved and packaged in about ten years' time.
- 7 In reply to a question from Ms Martin, Ms Basra-Steele said that numbers of NRS staff on site were typically 250 with total numbers of personnel on site including contractors rising to 380-400 at any time.
- 8 Cllr Allen asked whether it was proposed to combine the waste arising from A and B station decommissioning into single storage facilities. Ms Basra-Steele said that consideration was currently being given to opportunities which might arise for the rationalisation of waste storage between the two sites. Mr Saunders said that the two sites were separate entities with separate legal obligations and there were processes which would have to be followed to facilitate any such changes.

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 9 Mr Davies said that this would be his last attendance at a meeting of this Group as Station Director, Hinkley Point B as he was to take up an appointment as Station Director, Heysham 1 Power Station. He introduced Ms Nicola Fauvel who would become Acting Station Director when he moved to Heysham. He reported on activities and performance at Hinkley Point B since the previous meeting of this Group, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) High standards of safety performance had been maintained on the site. Since the previous meeting there had been three first aid injuries, the worst

of these, which had needed off-site treatment, being a hand injury caused by a chisel.

- (ii) Good progress was being made with defueling Reactor 4 and with the work to reduce the level of hazards on the site. Defueling of Reactor 4 was now 62% complete. This work was currently paused while the station undertook planned maintenance work. It was anticipated that the defueling of Reactor 4 would be completed in April / May; the defueling of Reactor 3 would then follow.
 - (iii) Public consultation on decommissioning proposals for the station was to take place during the Spring.
 - (iv) The station had continued its support of charities and local organisations. The four-year charity partnership with Prostate Cancer UK, which had provided demonstrable progress in the charity's work, had come to an end. The Station had established a support arrangement with the Alzheimer's Society for the future.
- 10 Cllr Redman expressed members thanks to Mr Davies for the support he had given to the work of this Group. Mr Davies said that he had enjoyed working at Hinkley Point and would be keeping his family home in Wembdon.

NUCLEAR RESTORATION SERVICES CORPORATE REPORT

- 11 Mr Hamilton reported on Nuclear Restoration Services corporate issues. He drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) Nuclear Restoration Services was a wholly owned subsidiary of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.
 - (ii) NRS was shortly to publish a 10-year strategy document, identifying its vision and the challenges it faced.
 - (iii) In order to achieve an understanding of local views on the future of its sites after the completion of decommissioning, NRS had been undertaking polling, using a professional polling company. He outlined the scope of the polling and said that the results of this work would be made public. He undertook to provide a more detailed report on this work at the next meeting of this Group.

PLENARY PANEL SESSION - AGR TRANSITION FROM GENERATION TO DECOMMISSIONING

- 12 Mr Ashraf, who had recently been appointed as the NRS AGR Transfer Director, gave an overview of the future NRS fleet, including AGR (Advanced Gas-cooled

- Reactor) sites. These sites would be transferred progressively to NRS from EDF as defueling was completed. It was anticipated that the first AGR site to be transferred would be Hunterston B, followed by Hinkley Point B and Dungeness B and it was intended that the transfer into NRS would be “seamless”.
- 13 Mr Ashraf described the financial arrangements for funding the decommissioning of the AGR sites. For the current NRS sites, funding was obtained from central government funds via the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority; decommissioning of the AGR sites would be funded from the Nuclear Liabilities Fund. Mr Ashraf drew attention to the opportunities for sharing experience between the companies and learning from each other as the AGR sites progressed through transition and transfer.
- 14 Mr Davies said it was anticipated that defueling of Reactor 4 would be completed by the coming May and that defueling of Reactor 3 would be completed during the summer of 2025. The cooling ponds would then be emptied, and it was anticipated that it would be possible for the site to be declared fuel free during 2026. Mr Davies referred to the legal process associated with the transfer of the Nuclear Site Licence between the two companies. Until the Licence was transferred, EDF remained responsible for compliance with its Site Licence obligations and from that time Site Licence responsibilities would pass to NRS.
- 15 Mr Davies described the change in emphasis as the station moved from being an operational nuclear power station to a decommissioning site. Whilst fuel remained on site there was clearly a primary focus on nuclear safety; once the fuel was removed the focus of the site would move onto decommissioning projects and waste issues.
- 16 Cllr Eyley asked how the public could be assured that EDF was spending enough of its profits to ensure safety at the station. Mr Davies said that from the time that the plant shut down there was no profit being made by Hinkley Point B for EDF. He said that the station’s operational cost of some £100 million per year was charged to the Nuclear Liabilities Fund and the contractual arrangement allowed only a small surplus or deficit to be transferred to the company on the basis of its performance. Mr. Saunders said that the same standards of safety remained applicable whatever the operational state or the ownership of the plant.
- 17 Cllr Redman asked when there was likely to be any noticeable difference in the external appearance of the B station. Mr Davies said that there would be no significant demolition of buildings until after all the fuel was removed; it remained an operational site until that time.
- 18 Mr Jeffery asked about the adequacy of the Nuclear Liabilities Fund to meet the cost of decommissioning. Mr Davies said that the fund had been set up to cover the costs of defueling and decommissioning the AGR reactors and Sizewell B. He

said that the fund was managed by independent trustees and the current understanding was that it would be sufficient to meet the needs of the sites.

UPDATE FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 19 As the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority was not represented at the meeting, Cllr Redman invited members to advise him if there were any questions they would like him to refer to the NDA.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORT

- 20 Mr Saunders reported on the ONR's inspection and regulatory activities. Reports from ONR inspectors had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Mr Saunders drew particular attention to the following:

- (i) ONR's responsibilities covered nuclear safety, security, safeguards, transport and conventional health and safety on licensed sites.
- (ii) In its regulation ONR was required to be consistent and proportionate, to target areas of greatest potential risk, to be transparent and to be accountable for its actions. Its regulation was carried out by sampling rather than auditing.
- (iii) Mr Saunders outlined the nature and scope of the ONR's inspections at the sites since the previous meeting. The results of these inspections had been satisfactory with specific items for learning identified.
- (iv) ONR had observed a demonstration of EDF's emergency response to an incident local to the Hinkley Point site involving the transport of radioactive material.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT

- 21 Mr Wintle 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. Mr Wintle provided information on the nature and scope of inspections carried out by the Agency at the sites and outlined issues which were being addressed.

CHAIR'S REPORT

- 22 Cllr Redman reported on his and Mr Brown's activities on behalf of the Group. He pointed out that he and Mr Brown had visited both sites and had had useful discussions with Site Directors and staff. He suggested that members would benefit from visits to the sites and invited them to contact him if they wanted such visits to be arranged.

- 23 Cllr Redman anticipated that there would be a review of the SSGs as they were approaching the 20th anniversary of their introduction. He undertook to keep members informed of any such discussions.
- 24 Cllr Redman drew attention to the various items which had been circulated to members since the previous meeting. It was his intention to continue to circulate information on any developing issues in this way between meetings. He invited members to contact him between meetings if there were any matters on which they wanted information.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 25 Mr Jeffery suggested that any review of the SSG might include consideration of the representation of C Station at these meetings. Cllr Redman said that there were currently separate arrangements for the construction site but it might be appropriate to consider this matter again when C site became an operational power station.

ACTIONS/ADDITIONS

- 26 Susan Goss Vice Chair / Acting Chair Stogusey Parish Council asked the following questions which have since been replied to by the Site Director:

Q1. What type of ventilation will be utilised in the ISF - will it be passive or mechanical?

The ventilation is mostly passive. There is some mechanical recirculation type ventilation that dehumidifies the air; we need to do this to maintain the condition of the packages that are stored in the ISF.

Q2. What type of monitoring is proposed and the frequency of this?

NRS assumes this question relates to radiological discharges from the facility; the ISF is a permitted route and will be subject to an assessment of discharge which will be reported as part of the monthly statutory returns process. Routine monitoring for levels of surface contamination will also be undertaken annually. There are other types of monitoring that confirm that the atmosphere of the store remains suitable for ongoing storage of packages; temperature and humidity are monitored continuously.

Q3 . Will this facility be shared with ‘B ‘ site - and if so ,will the same type of storage containers be utilised?

The current plan is for the store to be used for HPA waste only, although this might change in the future if optioneering for HPB waste identifies the HPA store to be the most appropriate intermediate storage location for the waste. This will of course be subject to permission being granted and no objections from our Regulators.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

27 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on
28 June 2024

MJD
31 January 2024