



WINFRITH SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)

Tuesday 14 May 2024

Winfrith Village Hall

Meeting reference SG33

Attendees:

Barry Quinn	SSG Chair and representative of East Stoke Parish Council
Nic Johnson	Vice Chair and representative of Winfrith Parish Council
Paul Brennan	NRS – Site Director
Will Matheson	NRS - Regional EHSS&Q Manager
Rob Coan	NRS - Winfrith Integration Manager & Regional Infrastructure Manager
Emma Burwood	NRS - Winfrith and Harwell Communications Lead
Debbie Paterson	NRS - Minutes
Elly Joyce	NRS – Site End State Manager Harwell & Winfrith
Steve Smith	Wool Parish Council
Alex Clothier	Dorset Council
Alister Wintle	Environment Agency (EA)
Sara Locke	NRS – Project Manager
Erin Balkir	Dorset Council (DC)
Eleanor Godesar	Dorset Council (DC)
Sarah Jackson	West Lulworth Parish Council
Fiona Bowles	Dorset Local Access Forum/resident

Apologies for absence – Bill Hamilton (NRS), Simon Napper (NRS), Graham Duggan (DC), Adam Davis (Environment Agency), Robin Bowler (Coombe Keynes Parish Council).

1. Welcome and Introduction – Barry Quinn

Barry Quinn welcomed attendees to the meeting.

- In preparation for today's meeting, the event was publicised on local community Facebook pages to encourage representatives to attend.
- The SSG Chair/Deputy Chair continue to receive regular updates both in person and via Teams.
- Rob Fletcher/Lawrie Haynes (NRS CEO/Chair) visited site on the 06 March 2024 and met with SSG Chair/Deputy Chair.
- The SSG Chair attended the NDA virtual summit in December 2023.

The SSG Chair was due to attend the NDA Workshop in Manchester in March 2024 as part of a review of the SSGs, but due to a change in date and diary commitments around the revised date, he was unable to attend. A draft scoping document for the

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SSG review had been received. An initial review of the document had raised some questions.

The purpose of the SSG is to provide a forum for engagement with stakeholders in the decommissioning process in particular with the local communities. It is important to note that each of the 14 sites around the UK are all different and not all the issues covered in the review apply to the Winfrith site. For example we have no generating reactors, we are not in care in maintenance, there are no plans for new reactors, there are no other operators on site (for example EDF). The end use of the Winfrith site is to return to heathland with public access so there is no demand for the urgent release of land for commercial reasons.

As part of the scoping document, a review of the constitution would be held with the SSG Chair/Deputy Chair and Emma Burwood. The review is expected to complete by the end of July 2024.

- The SSG Chair had made contact with Elizabeth Norton, NDA Heritage Officer, to discuss the possibility of obtaining a Blue Plaque to mark the contribution of the Winfrith site to nuclear energy. This will be followed up.

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

No matters arising.

2. Winfrith Site Report – Paul Brennan

Paul Brennan introduced NRS colleagues in attendance. Updates were given on the following:

Rebranding to Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS)

- The new brand strategy represents the joining together of Magnox and Dounreay and prepares us to welcome the seven gas-cooled reactor sites for decommissioning and other future missions.
- The NDA four pillars consist of Sellafield, Nuclear Waste Services (NWS), Nuclear Transport Services (NTS) and Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS).

Health, Safety, Security, Environment & Quality Safety

- No Lost Time Accidents (LTA) for 576 days (as of 30 April 2024).
- No recurrence of road traffic incidents reported.
- No issues regarding on-site safety raised via the Health and Safety Committee (HESAC).
- Atmospheric and liquid effluent discharges from site remain well within permitted limits.
- A Site Emergency demonstration exercise had been carried out in April 2024 supported by the Emergency Services.

Regulatory Topics

- Sustainability discussion with the Environment Agency (EA).
- Environment Agency (EA) Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) focussed inspection, including Modular ILW Encapsulation Plant (MILWEP) in January 2024.
- Supported handover to the new ONR Site Inspector and ONR CNSS Site Inspector.

Site Operations - Current Work Programmes

Budgets and funding for 2024/2025 are consistent with previous years.

SGHWR

- SGHWR main contractor went into administration in August 2023. Work continues to progress the project where possible.
- Modular ILW Encapsulation Plant (Mini-MILWEP) forecast to be delivered by end of 2025. Civil construction work had commenced on-site.

DRAGON

- Substantive progress had been made with the commissioning of remotely operated plant within DRAGON reactor, which is nearing completion. Active decommissioning to commence end July 2024.

ALES (Active Liquid Effluent System)

- Removal and consignment of sludge from Active Liquid Effluent System (ALES) tanks.
- Demolition of the on-site sewage treatment works had completed.

Treated Radwaste Store (TRS) Shipments

- Treated Radwaste Store (TRS) rail shipments of low classification waste had completed. This was a major waste disposal project completed ahead of schedule and represented a considerable achievement in terms of sustainability and environmental awareness.

Plant & Structures (P&S)

- Sea Pipeline. No change to the strategy.
- A pre-planning application for Blacknoll Reservoir had been submitted to Dorset Council. Demolition work scheduled for Winter 2025.
- Building A42/44 (Redundant fire station and telephone exchange) internal strip out work to commence in Summer 2024, demolition of buildings to commence in Autumn 2024.
- Building A55 Delay Tanks – Sludge had been removed and tanks demolished.
- Redundant Site Sewage Plant had been demolished.

Site End State (Plans for 2024)

- Completion of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Final ecology surveys would be carried out in the Summer.
- Further community and stakeholder engagement would take place prior to the submission of planning and permit applications (September 2024).
- Submission of planning applications for the remainder of site decommissioning activities including waste disposals for sub-surface structures at SGHWR and Dragon (End 2024).
- Environment Agency and Dorset Council would undertake independent consultation/engagement with local communities.

Other

- 2 Apprentices to commence in August 2024.

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- 2 Receptionists had been recruited locally by MITIE via Facebook.
- Environment Agency (EA) CEO scheduled to visit site in July 2024.
- Main gate Reception and Security office/facilities had been refurbished.
- Plans to re-design the front entrance to site in order to speed up the provision of Security searches and to provide temporary storage areas for deliveries.

Sustainability

- Gas boiler system to be replaced.
- Litter picks to include Gatmore Road and surrounding areas scheduled in July and September 2024.
- Two thirds of site street lights are turned off between midnight and 0600 hrs.
- Nature walks hosted by staff member scheduled throughout 2024.

Magnox Socio-economic Funding Support 2022-2023

There had been 3 Winfrith applications totalling (£3,252) 2023-24 as follows:

- Wool Carnival - £746 – Equipment and First Aid cover.
- Wessex FC (Girls Team) - £506 – Football Kits for 11 players.
- Wool Village Hall - £2000 - Sound and Vision Project.

For further information please go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/magnox-working-with-our-communities>

Questions

Q1: Could the pipeline to Arish Mell be repurposed?

A1: This had been considered as part of optioneering discussions held in 2021. While there had been some initial interest from a telecoms provider, given the ongoing maintenance costs of a system installed in the 1950's this was discounted. Paul Brennan commented that similar discussions had taken place at Harwell due to concerns around ground water table levels.

The question had been raised by Steve Smith (Wool Parish Council) on behalf of Malcolm Munro who was not in attendance at today's meeting. His contact details would be provided to Emma Burwood.

Q2: How would a toxicity release level of 0.01% impact residents in East Lulworth when the pipeline is cut and what follow up maintenance is in place for future years?

A2: The pipe would be removed. Trials were currently underway at Winfrith which involves filling a section of pipe with foam, cutting at 6 metre intervals, and undertaking sample analysis to provide an indication of measurements.

Q3: When is the current site End State date.

A3: End State including the demolition of all buildings is forecast for 2038.

Q4: How many of the LLW drums are held on site. (*referring to the recent TRS shipment*)

A4: All drums had been sent for disposal to the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR).

3. NDA Report – (not in attendance)

The NDA Report had been issued prior the meeting and can be found by clicking on the link.

[Site Stakeholder Groups \(magnoxstakeholdergroups.com\)](https://magnoxstakeholdergroups.com)

4. NRS Corporate Update – Bill Hamilton (not in attendance)

5 a) Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) – (not in attendance)

The ONR Report had been issued prior the meeting and can be found by clicking on the link.
[Site Stakeholder Groups \(magnoxstakeholdergroups.com\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radioactivity-in-food-and-the-environment-rife-reports)

No significant issues reported.

5 b) Environment Agency (EA) – Alister Wintle

- An administrative variation to the Permit would be made to reflect the change of operating name from Magnox Ltd to Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd (NRS Ltd).
- An Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) inspection had been completed which covered the storage and packaging of waste. No permit non-compliances.
- Quarterly permitted Liquid and Gaseous Discharge Reports are submitted. Some fluctuations noted. Liquid effluent discharges were below permit limits. Gaseous discharges were compliant. No permit non-compliances.
- 'Radioactivity in Food and the Environment 2022' is published on the GOV.UK website. All sites are below the legal limit. Further information can be found <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radioactivity-in-food-and-the-environment-rife-reports>

The EA Report had been issued prior to the meeting and can be found by clicking on the link
[Site Stakeholder Groups \(magnoxstakeholdergroups.com\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radioactivity-in-food-and-the-environment-rife-reports)

6. Project Update – Removal of Active Sludge – Sarah Locke

A presentation was provided which outlined the activities and timeline associated with the removal and disposal of active sludge and the decommissioning of the tank in building A55.

Work continues to size reduce the floors of each tank which is expected to complete in June 2024. Work will then commence on the sump tanks and concrete structure.

7. Any Other Business – Barry Quinn

Questions

Q5: The Site Stakeholder Group documentation provided can be difficult to comprehend. An organogram of the relationships between Contractors, Regulators, and areas of responsibility/ownership would be helpful.

A5: Noted.

Barry Quinn requested that Cllr Mike Baker (West Purbeck) be invited to future SSG meetings.

Barry Quinn thanked attendees for their participation. He commented that from the presentations and reports provided we could be reassured that the site was being operated safely and securely and in an environmentally conscious manner.

Date of Next Meeting – 12 November 2024