



Site Stakeholder Group

BERKELEY/OLDBURY SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

4th February 2026

GL13 Community Hub & Library, School Lane, Berkeley, Gloucestershire GL13 9DQ

Attendees:

John Stanton	Chair, Berkeley (Coopted member)
Cllr Steve Chandler JP	Vice Chair, Berkeley
Cllr Matthew Riddle	Chair, Oldbury
Cllr Chris Jennings	Vice Chair, Vice Chair SSG and Parish Council
Cllr Liz Ashton	Berkeley Town Council
Cllr Demelza Turner-Wilkes	Stroud District Council
Cllr Maggie Dutton	Stroud District Council
Cllr Chris Bloor	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr John Crook	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr Sally Gordon	Tytherington Parish Council
Cllr Chris Davies	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr Chris Davies	South Glos Council
Cllr Adrian Birch	Forest of Dean Council
Thomas Haynes	Simon Opher MPs Office
Nicola Berry	Hill Parish
John French	STAND
Bill Otto	STAND
Brian Roberts	Thornbury Chamber of Commerce
Trevor Hellen	Berkeley Research Group
Geoff Wheeler	Berkeley Research Group
Nic Penkonen	Artist and EDF Contractor
Peter Hazelwood	Oldbury Bird Watcher
Jon Evans	ONR
Paul Jenneson	ONR
Bill Hamilton	NRS - Director of External Affairs
Mike Heaton	NRS - Berkeley Site Director
John Alderton	NRS - Oldbury Site Director
Sharon Fry	NRS - Communications & Socio-Economic Lead
Dina D'Alessio	NRS - Minute Taker

Apologies for absence:

Elizabeth Norton – NDA
 Cllr Hugh Johnson – Tytherington Parish Council
 Angela Paine – Friends of the Earth/Green Party
 Tony Mitchell – Thornbury Resident's Association
 Barbara French – STAND
 Cllr Dominic Power – Chepstow Town Council
 Janet Hellen – TRAPP'D
 Cllr John Graham – Alveston Parish Council

1. Welcome and Introduction – John Stanton, Chair, Berkeley

John Stanton welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2. Apologies received from:

- Elizabeth Norton – NDA; Cllr Hugh Johnson – Tytherington Parish Council; Angela Paine – Friends of the Earth/Green Party; Tony Mitchell – Thornbury Resident's Association; Barbara French – STAND; Cllr Dominic Power – Chepstow Town Council; Janet Hellen – Member of the public; Cllr John Graham – Alveston Parish Council

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Comments on minutes from last meeting – EA Flooding response and report on building between Sharpness and Berkeley. EA final review on final site discharges for Berkeley and issues raised about Gaseous dischargers – Paul Jenneson to follow up.

EA promised a report on the condition of the sea wall but the officers that were writing the report are dealing with the flooding in Somerset. It is a report on the condition of the riverbank as it is receding. The EA were looking at the what the problems are and how to provide a resolution.

Maggie Dutton SDC action in the last meeting to the climate adaptation report from the ONR. Report link: [themed-inspection-on-climate-change-summary-report-2025](#)

4. NRS Berkeley Site Report – Mike Heaton

- 1 lost time accident – sprained ankle when getting changed from C3 work
- Received 2 waste transfers from Oldbury and 4 more due in coming months
- Upgrading Fire System
- Upgrading Security System
- Application requests are open for community funding through NRS
- Neighbourly System is open for community volunteering applications
- Visit to site for ex-employees and stakeholder group

Questions:

Q1: Robotic arm in vault 1, how would this be repaired if developed an issue?

A1: Retracted from the vault and is done in protective clothing. Respirators and clothing etc.

Q2: Geological Waste Storage Facility?

A2: Not confirmed a location so far. There were 4 locations, one was wrong geologically, a Lincolnshire site pulled out so two possible sites in Cumbria now left but it is some years away from a location being finalised.

Q3: Do Berkeley monitor the groundwater?

A3: Flooding has happened repeatedly on the approach road. The flood defences have been strengthened around the vaults. The rain affects access to site but does not cause issues with protection of facilities.

4. **NRS Oldbury Site Report – John Alderton**

- The turbine hall demolition out to tender, returns due 22nd June. Final approval due in December 2026 and mobilisation around January to February 2027
- Decommissioning of ponds plant ongoing, shield wall taken down and displayed a close up photograph within a tank that is being size reduced from inside out
- Early FED retrievals are underway
- AVDS has been a victim of business planning and has been pushed out by 2 years
- Auto SAS pathfinder project being funded by NDA [robotics partnership](#) – project to look at AI methods of sorting waste across entire NDA fleet. Chose Oldbury because can use the early FED retrievals. A number of years away before work takes place. Will be sited in CO2 tank farm area and it has been levelled to ground level in preparation
- Modular buildings cleared, footbridge and old planning block demolished
- FED entries completed in Vault 3 and 4. Being set up to go into vaults 1 and 2
- Sustainability – visit from local schools and colleges for teachers to be able to speak with authority when they asked questions by pupils. Have attended careers fairs at KLB School John Alderton to follow up on which schools visited Oldbury
- Silt lagoon 3 contract now let and sluice gate work will be complete by end of March. Will then enter a period of monitoring for 12 months
- Shared community funding projects – Gympanzees at Aust
- Apprentice from Oldbury has been nominated for apprentice of the year in March
- Fundraising charity has raised £4725 last year for Jigsaw and they have been nominated for the charity for next year

Questions:

Q1: Do NRS hold Intellectual Property Rights to Auto SAS?

A1: This will be reported back at the next meeting.

Q2: Is the Turbine Hall highly irradiated?

A2: There is a significant hazard from Asbestos but not radiation. Can enter the building with conventional PPE without receiving a radioactive dose.

5. **NRS Update – Bill Hamilton**

Bill Hamilton advised that after 15 years this would be his last Berkeley/Oldbury SSG.

The business is entering a new phase, with AGRs coming over - Hunterston B in April and Hinkley B in October this year.

Following the recent NRS re-structuring, more power has been given to Site Directors, therefore there will not be much presence from corporate at the SSG meetings.

The SSG can request Subject Matter Experts on specialist subjects as required. A number of external communications specialists have left the NDA, therefore representation from the NDA has been limited. Further updates will be provided to the Chairs on Friday, 6 February.

6. Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) – Paul Jennesson

Paul advised that he is moving onto Hinkley B, and introduced new inspector, John Evans. Records were correct and no non-compliances.

- Wrote two reports and have no open issues other than the conventional safety at Berkeley
- Joint inspection on ILW to make sure it was compliant with staff from both sites
- Significant number of buildings taken down at Oldbury
- Separation of turbine hall is a massive achievement over the last 3 years
- Move of MOSAIK from Oldbury to Berkeley was a lot of work from regulators and the highways agency
- Working now to ensure that proportionate regulation is being applied as now appropriate to reduce nuclear regulation burden
- Berkeley ONR permissioned waste encapsulation plant to passively store radioactive waste
- ISF can now be used on both levels, when arrived was only using one level
- Shielded area has become a thriving waste segregation area
- Specifically asked Safety Reps if there are any issues and they didn't have anything significant to report.

Questions:

Q1: Asked if it was completely radiation free in the Turbine hall?

A1: Replied that there is no risk other than Asbestos. It is outside of the radiation controlled area. Would be happy with conventional PPE but no reading on radiation badge over 5 – 6 entries.

Q2: Reduction of regulatory burden – new build, is it the same thing?

A2: Paul responded that he is a decommissioning expert but has been a perceived high regulation burden but trying to adopt a similar approach. But with new build there is a legal requirement but gold plated regulation is not required on decommissioning sites.

Q3: Flooding issue?

A3: External hazard to site and generally content that periodic review has satisfied requirements and has a degree of climate change considerations. Accept that approach road does flood but there isn't a risk to the nuclear safety case and no risk from rainwater. The nuclear safety case negates any escape of radioactive material. Conversations are had around the provisions of the work force and that they aren't

marooned with no provisions. From a health and safety perspective the guard force is well looked after.

7. Environment Agency (EA) – Peter Reynolds

Peter introduced the new inspector for Oldbury, Tom Hibbert. A joint inspection on the Intermediate Level Waste has been carried out. All records and documentation was correct with no non compliances.

- 2nd Inspection at Oldbury was managing of liquid effluent to ensure that all records were maintained and accurate. Maintenance schedules were correct and ensured that instruments used were accurate. Recommended that the site should review its water balance because a significant proportion of the discharges appears to be surface water. The site accepted that this needs to be improved upon.
- Apart from that routine engagement has taken place every 2 weeks and there hasn't been any events of concern.

8. NDA Update

There were no NDA representatives present at the meeting, but their report was submitted within the meeting pack.

9. Any Other Business – John Stanton

None

- **Date of Next Meeting** – Wednesday, 3 June meeting will be at OCC
- *Wednesday, 9 September meeting is scheduled to be at GL13*