



OLDBURY/BERKELEY SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
3rd June 2026
Oldbury Conference Centre, Oldbury Power Station,
Oldbury Naite, Thornbury, Bristol, BS35 1RQ

Attendees:

Cllr Chris Jennings	Vice Chair SSG and Parish Council
John Stanton	Chair, Berkeley SSG
Cllr Maggie Dutton	Stroud District Council
Cllr Nick Phillips	Hinton Parish Council
Cllr John Crook	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr Chris Davies	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr Chris Bloor	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr Chris Davies	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Dominic Power	Chepstow Town Council
Cllr Hugh Johnson	Tytherington Parish Council
Brian Roberts	Thornbury Chamber of Commerce
Barbara French	STAND
Sue Haverly	STAND
Bill Otto	STAND
Trevor Hellen	Berkeley Research Group
Geoff Wheeler	Berkeley Research Group
Peter Williams	Liverpool University
Nic Penkonen	Artist
Anthony Grafton -Green	Thornbury
Tom Hibbert	Environment Agency
John Alderton	NRS – Oldbury Site Director
Emily Ciezarek	NRS – Berkeley Infrastructure Manager
Sharon Fry	NRS – Communications & Socio-Economic Lead
Emma Burwood	NRS – Employee Communications Manager
Abby Cunliffe	NRS – Minute Taker

1. Welcome and Introduction – Chris Jennings, Vice Chair, Oldbury

Chris Jennings opened the meeting, welcomed attendees to the meeting and confirmed the meeting was being recorded to support minute-taking.

2. Apologies for absence received

Matthew Riddle – Oldbury Chair; Mike Heaton – Berkeley Site Director; Tony Williams – South Glos Council; Tony Mitchell – Thornbury Residents Association; Adrian Birch – Forest of Dean DC; Peter Reynolds – Environment Agency; Stewart Henderson – Gloucester Harbour Trustees; Liz Ashton – Berkeley TC; Steve Chandler – Berkeley Vice Chair; Charles Berkeley – Berkeley & Spetchley Estates; Barnaby Harding – South Glos Association of Parish & Town Councils; Philip Matthews – NuLeaf; Tracy Braithwaite – Environment Agency; Demelza Turner-Wilkes – Stroud DC; Kate Baxter – NRS

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Following a query raised at the previous meeting, clarification was provided regarding intellectual property rights for the AUTO-SAS project. It was confirmed that the contractor retains ownership of the intellectual property, with NRS retaining usage rights.

4. NRS Oldbury Site Report – John Alderton, Oldbury Site Director

John shared an NRS companywide safety message with regards to a serious domestic incident involving a patio heater as a reminder to follow safety procedures.

Updates were given on the following:

Asset Management – 23 packages of work in total have been funded for 26/27, including:

- New accommodation block
- Security system upgrades – repairs to fence line & sensitive detection equipment
- Roof repairs
- Refurbishment and upgrades of various welfare facilities on site
- Upgrades to on-site road traffic management – phased approach

Major Projects

- AUTO-SAS schedule
- Turbine Hall current schedule

Decommissioning Projects

- Demolition of Back Up Feed (BUF) tanks
- Continuation of decommissioning and removal in the Ponds Filtration Plant. Fine Filter Sludge Tank A (FFST) removal now complete (key milestone achieved - first in NRS fleet this financial year)
- Early FED (Fuel Element Debris) – vaults 3 & 4 complete, work commenced on preparation for vaults 1&2

Sustainability

- STEM visit to KLB school
- Tree planting
- Nature trail litter picks
- No Mow May
- Oystercatchers have nested and hatched chicks (for the third year running)

People

- Apprentice success highlighted

Charity

- 500-mile cycle planned to raise money for Jigsaw charity

Corporate

- NRS is expanding with the addition of Hunterston B joining in April and Hinkley B transferring in the autumn
- Changes to regulation – New guidance from the ONR

- Elections and stakeholder engagement
- NRS socio-economic funding supports 129 community projects across the UK (25-26) – almost £2M invested last year

Q1: Once demolished will the Turbine Hall basement be used for battery storage?

A1: John Alderton - The current strategy for the Turbine Hall basement is to leave the area as an open void. All existing equipment and concrete plinths will be removed, and the space will be maintained with an appropriate water management system in place. The perimeter will be secured with fencing. At present, no definitive future use has been identified, and the area is being retained for potential strategic opportunities.

4. NRS Berkeley Site Report – Emily Ciezarek, Berkeley Infrastructure Manager

- Health campaign “Know Your Numbers” launched
- Waste retrieval update – over 50% of waste in vaults 1&2 has been retrieved to date
- Waste package transfer to the Interim Storage Facility (ISF) progressing
- Ductile Cast Iron Container (DCIC) MOSAIK transfers from Oldbury to Berkeley completed successfully
- Ongoing socio-economic support – a total of 9 Projects supported in 25/26 (5 Good Neighbour projects and 4 projects above £2000)

Q2: Chris Jennings – What has been the response from staff to the “Know Your Numbers” health campaign?

A2: Emily Ciezarek – The response has been very positive with a strong uptake of the blood tests. Individuals have reported that, following receipt of their results, they have consulted their GP for further advice. This has led to follow-up actions and, where necessary, changes to their health management plans.

Q3: Geoff Wheeler – How much of the 43 tonnes ILW retrieval target is total ILW? Can the waste be segregated into power station waste and laboratory waste?

A3: Emily Ciezarek – The total ILW waste retrieved can be separated into waste retrieved from the vaults and waste retrieved from the shielded area (ex BRK laboratory waste). We are using LIDDAR scanning to help accurately measure the amount of ILW waste left in the vaults and compare this to the paper records. This will give us a better indication of the future waste total to be retrieved.

Q4: Barbara French – Is Oldbury still receiving and storing waste from Bradwell and Sizewell?

A4: Emily Ciezarek – Oldbury has never received or stored waste from Bradwell. There is no current intention to receive waste from Sizewell. The IONSIV filters which were recently transferred to BRK in a MOSAIK came from Sizewell, Dungeness and Oldbury. No waste will be transported via the railhead.

Q5: Barbara French – What does ‘Interim’ storage facility mean?

A5: Emily Ciezarek – The Interim Storage Facility is currently storing site waste until the UK Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) becomes available. The timescales for the GDF sit with the UK Government.

5. ONR Reports

No submission – the next ONR report will be published in July.

6. Environment Agency Reports

Tom Hibbert, Regulator for Oldbury advised that he would be representing Tracy Braithwaite, Regulator for Berkeley, at today's meeting.

The Environment Agency reports were circulated with the meeting papers four weeks ago. Mr Hibbert highlighted the key points and updates which had occurred since the reports were written.

Oldbury Report

- Report prepared at the start of May
- No changes to the site permit
- Inspections of the environmental monitoring programme at Oldbury and Berkeley have been undertaken. This involves samples of soil, beach sediment, airborne gamma and surface contamination indicators being taken across a wide geographical area, which are then used to understand radioactivity levels. This data is then used to calculate potential dose to the public and the environment. The inspection found no non-compliances, with the contractor performing well. There were some minor recommendations including strengthening checks on contractor procedures and improving location accuracy of sampling using more precise location systems.
- Since the beginning of May an asset management and maintenance inspection has been carried out, with no compliance issues identified so far.
- Discharges from site remain as expected, and well below 1% of permitted limits in all categories
- Planned inspections over the coming year include asset management and maintenance, low level and non-radioactive waste, management, staff competence and training and gaseous discharges.
- Minor Incident – In March, a group of samples associated with civil engineering works were sent off site in error. One of these contained a very small amount of radioactive contamination. The receiving site identified the issue and the sample was returned. After the investigation it was classified as material, not waste and therefore no breach of environmental regulations occurred. The site is carrying out follow-up actions internally.

Q6: Bill Otto – 4 Becquerels in 1 Litre is very hard to measure as it's such a low level?

A6: Tom Hibbert – It is very hard to measure, as C-137 can be detected down to extremely low levels. The limit detection for Caesium and water is 1 so this sample was just above detectable levels, but it was present and makes the water radioactively contaminated albeit extremely lightly.

Q7: Bill Otto – What's going to happen to the Borehole?

A7: Tom Hibbert – The sample was taken from a Borehole for the IBC. To characterise the Borehole wash water, the samples were taken and a radiochemical and suit of chemical analysis were undertaken which informs the site disposal route. The chemical analysis had not yet been done when the sample was incorrectly sent off site, and I am unsure whether this has been actioned yet. The results of this analysis will determine whether the sample will be discharged via the Active Effluent Treatment Plant (AETP) or via another route.

ACTION – John Alderton to provide an update on the chemical analysis results and the discharge route at the next meeting

Q8: Sue Haverly – How many sites are samples taken from?

A8: Tom Hibbert – There are a number of sample sites in close proximity to Oldbury. At each location, multiple types of samples are collected. Immediately outside the fence line, samples include soil and herbage, along with tacky mats positioned to the North and South of the site. In addition to these there are 5 more sites: 2 located on the Eastern bank of the River Severn and 3 on the Western (Welsh) bank. At each site more than one sample may be taken, for example at Lydney there is a surface scrape sample of sediment from the river at low tide and a gamma count in the air.

Q9: Sue Haverly – Is the number of sites determined by the fact that there are less radioactive operations? Were more samples taken when the power station was generating?

A9: Tom Hibbert – It is unclear whether there were more sampling sites in place when the power station was operational, as this was some years ago. During the generating period, monitoring focused on a wider range of radionuclides associated with power generation. Many of those specific radionuclides are no longer present more than a decade after generation ceased, so they are no longer included in routine monitoring.

Q10: Barbara French – At one time it appeared that samples were being collected by scientists at the Oldbury and Berkeley sites rather than by the Environment Agency (EA). Is the EA now responsible for collecting the samples?

A10: Tom Hibbert – Samples are collected by a contractor working on behalf of NRS. The Environment Agency (EA) carries out inspections to ensure that sampling activities are conducted in line with approved standards. Each year, the site produces an Environmental Monitoring Programme (EMP) which outlines how the site will monitor environmental impact and potential doses to both people and the environment. The programme specifies where samples will be taken, what types of samples will be collected, and the methods used for collection. The EA then reviews and approves this programme in accordance with its guidance, and periodically observe sampling activities in the field. They check that samples are collected appropriately, without contamination, and that records are accurate and complete. Inspectors also review laboratory analytical methods, personnel training and competency, and reporting processes to ensure compliance.

Berkeley Report

- **EDTA-Containing Waste** - There were two containers holding water which contained low levels of radioactivity and EDTA, a chemical which can increase mobility of contaminants. The site had initially proposed discharge via normal routes, however the Environment Agency raised concerns. The corporate guidance is to incinerate this waste. The site are reviewing the BAT option and will discuss with Tracy Braithwaite once complete.
- **Environmental Monitoring and Sampling Confidence** - In response to questions raised we approve the monitoring programme, inspect how samples are taken, observe contractors in the field and review analytical methods, training, and reporting. Independent verification is carried out using split samples - one analysed by the site contractor, and one analysed independently by UK Health Security Agency, which are compared to ensure consistency.
- **Americium Detection (under investigation)** - In one split sample at Berkeley the independent lab detected a very small amount of americium-241 which the site lab did not detect. This is unexpected for a defuelled site and currently under investigation. Both laboratories are reviewing their analytical methods. If confirmed as a genuine result, a full Environment Agency investigation will follow. At this stage, we are not speculating on the cause.
- **Packaging/Transport Observation** - During the transport of waste containers, a slightly loosened retaining bolt was found which caused a minor surface scratch on

one container. This did not compromise the package and posed no safety risk. The issue was identified, corrected and did not recur in subsequent shipments.

- General conclusion across both sites - Compliance is strong, environmental monitoring is effective and no significant issues identified. Some minor improvements and investigations are ongoing, but nothing of concern.

NOTE: *We have requested an update from the EA on the results of the Americium detection, and hope to be able to provide an update at the next meeting.*

Q11: Bill Otto – What is the resolution for the EDTA issues? Are you going to extract all radioactivity associated with EDTA and leave the rest for disposal into the river? How many Curies are in the EDTA containing waste?

A11: Tom Hibbert – The NRS corporate route for disposal of EDTA contaminated water is to incinerate it at an incinerator permitted to take low levels of radioactive waste, which there are three of in the UK. The EDTA will be destroyed and the radionuclides in the waste will be tracked out as oxides on the filters in the permitted incinerator and then go as disposal to either Low Level or Very Low Level Waste depending on the activity.

ACTION – Tracey Braithwaite to respond to Mr Otto to confirm how many Curies are in the EDTA containing waste.

Q12: John Stanton – It was mentioned in the report that the DCIC container was scratched which seems to be completely trivial. Was it mentioned in the report because it is more serious than it might imply? Could you explain why it's been mentioned and what's being done about it?

A12: Tom Hibbert – The issue was referenced to provide context. During the transport of DCICs from Oldbury to Berkeley - when they were loaded into a Type B overpack for transfer to the Interim Storage Facility (ISF) - it was identified that one of the bolts in the retaining section had vibrated during the road journey. However the bolt had not come loose and remained in place, although it had caused a light scratch on the exterior of the DCIC. On arrival at Berkeley the scratch was assessed and deemed not significant enough to impact the integrity of the container or lead to future degradation, as it had not penetrated the full paint coating. Despite the low safety significance, the situation highlighted that the overpack was not performing entirely as intended. Berkeley raised the observation with Oldbury, and the Type B overpack was subsequently inspected. All retaining bolts were checked and re-tightened to ensure this issue would not recur. Following this corrective action, subsequent deliveries of DCICs to Berkeley were completed without any further instances. The issue demonstrated a deviation from optimal performance, and it was appropriately identified, reported, and rectified.

Q13: John Stanton - What is the risk associated with the scratch?

A13: Tom Hibbert - The risk is long-term in nature. In theory, if a DCIC was to sustain a deep scratch sufficient to expose the underlying metal, there is potential for corrosion over time. Given that these containers are intended to be stored within the Interim Storage Facility (ISF) for several decades, any exposed metal surface could be susceptible to gradual degradation. However, the risk is manageable. There are straightforward mitigation measures available, such as applying protective grease or repainting the affected area to restore the integrity of the coating and prevent corrosion. As such, while the issue warrants attention and control, it does not present a significant or unmanageable problem.

Q14: Dominic Power – How thick is the paint finishes on the DCIC's? Are they Galvanised?

A14: Tom Hibbert – A few millimetres but I will take the action away to find out. The containers are cast iron, not galvanised.

ACTION – John Alderton to confirm the measurements of the thickness of the paint finish on the DCIC's.

Response: *Paint should be 180 microns and shouldn't exceed 540 microns.*

Q15: Barbara French – Is the EDTA contaminated waste going into LLW storage?

A15: Tom Hibbert – The NRS corporate route for LLW water contaminated with chemicals such as EDTA is incineration. Aqueous and some other wastes are routinely incinerated at permitted incinerators in the UK. The radionuclides are trapped out by the multiple HEPA filtration system and the filters and the bottom ash from the incinerator is required to meet the Waste Acceptance Criteria for LLW or VLLW for final disposal.

Q16: Barbara French – Where are the Low Level and Very Low Level waste disposal locations?

A16: Tom Hibbert – There are a number around the country - the main two are the Drigg site in Cumbria and the Auegan site in Northamptonshire.

Q17: Barbara French – That's a change to policy as there was a proposal some time ago to store LLW in the ground at Oldbury as opposed to moving it.

A17: Tom Hibbert – I am not aware of any proposals to store LLW in the ground at Oldbury.

Q18: Chris Bloor – How do you incinerate water?

A18: Tom Hibbert – You don't incinerate water; you incinerate the chemicals that are in the water. The concern with this is the chemical in the EDTA can make radionuclides more mobile and then, in theory, more able to get into the food chain. The water is turned into steam, and the organic chemicals are burnt in the incinerator and turned into carbon monoxide.

7. Any Other Business – Chris Jennings

Chris thanked John Alderton, Emily Ciezarek & Tom Hibbert for their comprehensive reports.

Due to the slow pace of decommissioning, and to align with other sites, a proposal will be brought forward to move to six-monthly meetings. This will be included on the agenda for the next meeting. Chris requested that attendees send any concerns regarding this proposal to Tonya Hughes in advance of the next meeting.

John Stanton will invite Lyn Matthews, Nuclear Staff Trainer, to attend the next meeting. However, as she is unavailable on the currently scheduled date, the meeting may need to be rescheduled to accommodate her.

Some questions were raised regarding new build. Chris Jennings advised the meeting that a separate forum is planned for future New Build discussions.

Chris Jennings thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.

OFFICIAL

Date of Next Meeting – 9th September 2026

GL13 Community Hub & Library; School lane, Berkeley, Gloucestershire, GL13 9DQ