

Attendees:

John Stanton	Chair, Berkeley SSG
Steve Chandler	Vice Chair, Berkeley SSG
Cllr Matthew Riddle	Chair, Oldbury SSG; South Gloucestershire Council
Chris Jennings	Vice Chair, Oldbury SSG; Oldbury-on-Severn Parish Council
Jon Evans	ONR
Tom Hibbert	Environment Agency
Cllr Demelza Turner-Wilkes	Stroud District Council
Cllr Maggie Dutton	Stroud District Council
Cllr Chris Bloor	Thornbury Town Council
Cllr Sally Gordon	Tytherington Parish Council
Cllr Chris Davies	Stinchcombe Parish Council
Cllr Chris Davies	South Gloucestershire Council
John French	STAND
Bill Otto	STAND
Cllr Nick Phillips	Hinton Parish Council
John Alderton	NRS Oldbury Site Director
Mike Heaton	NRS Berkeley Site Director
Bethany Sear	NRS Communications
Dina D'Alessio	NRS Minute Taker

1. Welcome and Introduction – John Stanton, Chair

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

2. Apologies for absence – Apologies were received from:

Elizabeth Norton – NDA; Cllr Hugh Johnson - Tytherington Parish Council; Angela Paine - Friends of the Earth/Green Party; Tony Mitchell - Member of the public; Barbara French – STAND; Cllr John Crook - Monmouthshire County Council; Cllr Adrian Birch - Forest of Dean District Council

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Actions in the minutes were addressed - EA incinerator to be confirmed by Tracey Braithwaite – the EDTA was confirmed to be 0.0000001 curies. The site had revisited the BAT for this calculation, but the details had not yet been shared with the EA.

4a. NRS Berkeley Site Report – Mike Heaton, Berkeley Site Director

The report from Berkeley was presented by Mike Heaton.

Updates were given on the following:

Decommissioning Projects

- Retrievals in vault 1 have been taking place via remote handling
- On target to meet the end of year sum of 43 tonnes
- Outage commenced at the beginning of week and will last six weeks
- One of four Low Level Waste (LLW) shipments have been completed
- The telescopic arm in the vault has been retrieving successfully
- In process of designing retrieval equipment for vault 3
- Four of seventeen packages have been sent to the ISF

Charity

- A donation of £2,000 has been made to Cromhall Parish Hall
- A donation of £1711.68 has been made to Rockhampton Cricket Club
- A donation of £1,145 has been made to Dursley Football Club

Volunteering

- Two days volunteering took place at the Berkeley Scout Hut
- Two days volunteering took place at Springboard school
- Planning for two days volunteering for Berkeley Primary school, although this may change to Stone

Corporate

- NRS has been joined by AGR site Hunterston B and Hinkley B is joining next month

Awards

- NDA employee awards successful
- NDA Leadership update

Q1: Is there any update on the GDF?

A1: Mike Heaton responded that the proposed sites were two in Cumbria and there had been no further updates.

Q2: How much is left to take out of the vaults?

A2: Mike Heaton responded with Vault 1 was two-thirds complete, Vault 2 was half empty and work on Vault 3 had not yet begun. Around eight or nine years of work remained.

Q3: What is the NRS financial year?

A3: Mike Heaton responded with April to April.

Q4: Chris Jennings - Where does the waste go?

A4: Mike Heaton responded with goes to nuclear repository near Drigg. Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) is being stored in the ISF and will go to the GDF when it is built.

Q5: Steve Chandler - Has Berkeley accepted any waste from other sites?

A5: Mike Heaton responded that Berkeley had accepted MOSAIKs from Oldbury, but would not accept waste from any other sites.

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

John shared an NRS companywide safety message of a staff member travelling had car broken into and company laptop had been stolen. IT security confirmed that no access to the laptop or company systems had occurred. Learning for everyone at the meeting was that valuables should be stored out of sight.

Asset Care

- Accommodation block tender has been returned
- Security fence upgrades have now completed
- A roof upgrades contractor has been selected and mobilisation was being planned
- Refurbishment and upgrades of various welfare facilities on site are ongoing

Major Projects

- AUTO-SAS schedule, planning submission submitted in August 2026
- Turbine Hall
- Ponds filtration plant de-planting

Decommissioning Projects

- Early FED characterisation of Waste in Vaults 1 and 2

Q6: Chris Jennings – What happened with the Boreholes?

A6: John responded that the borehole results were satisfactory.

Q7: Chris Jennings – How confident are you about the funding for the turbine hall?

A7: John responded that the tender costs had not raised any concerns and were roughly as anticipated. The Executive was supportive of the plans but final approval would still be needed.

Q8: Matthew Riddle – Is the aging of the building a concern and part of the business case for demolishing it?

A8: John responded with there was flaking paint, plant degradation and structural integrity concerns for the glass roof, all of which fed into the business case.

Q9: Chris Jennings – Is the ponds equipment standard or nuclear waste?

A9: John responded that some of the equipment had been contaminated and had therefore been sent to the LLWR.

Q10: Chris Jennings – When is removal from the vaults going to start?

A10: John responded that the currently this is simply to find out what is in the vaults. Oldbury is many years away from retrieving the waste out of their vaults.

Social Sustainability

Sir Thomas Rich's school visit

Employee Standards assessment has attended careers fairs

Environmental Sustainability

- Silt Lagoon 3 – Weir chamber defect rectification
- World Environment Day – nature trail tour
- New nature trail signs installed
- Change to permissive walking route due to evidence of anti-social behaviour

People

- Mollie York, an Oldbury apprentice, was named Apprentice of the Month
- Four new apprentices started

Fundraising

- Three colleagues cycled from Oldbury, via London, to Sizewell and back and raised more than £4,000 for JIGSAW Thornbury

Community

- Volunteering took place for local rivers and canals trust and JIGSAW in Thornbury
- Donated £2,000 to Oldbury Cricket Club
- Donated £8,000 to Environmental Vision Programme

Q11: Have the proposed nuclear new builds influenced the planning of the new Engineering block?

A11: John clarified that the new-build proposals were solely off-site and no on-site changes were being made as a result of them. The new engineering block is only for Oldbury NRS requirements. The NDA had provided British Nuclear Energy with a lease for land outside the existing site.

Q12: Is there still a need for a large number of staff on site?

A12: John responded that during generation there were approximately 400 staff and this has now dropped to 160.

Q13: Is there any plans to replace the aging electrical towers adjacent to the Site?

A13: John responded that this is a national grid asset. Chris Jennings further clarified that the towers are used by the National Grid for ongoing training of high-level work as it is the only facility that exists that isn't connected to the grid.

Q14: Have the buildings been risk assessed as a result of the long hot summer recently?

A14: John responded that the LC28 Asset Monitoring inspection takes place annually.

Q15: John Stanton asked if this would be for the buildings design life or would it go beyond that?

A15: John responded that it would be for the design life.

Q16: What is the lifetime for Oldbury Site?

A16: John responded that approximately 2110 would be the year for Oldbury to complete final site clearance.

5. ONR Report

Jon Evans, ONR Inspector for both sites, stated that the report in the meeting pack be taken as read. There are no outstanding issues and ONR have good confidence in the sites.

6. Environment Agency Report

Tom Hibbert, Regulator for Oldbury, advised that he would be representing James Heavingham, the inspector for Berkeley at the meeting.

The Environment Agency reports were circulated with the meeting papers five weeks ago. Mr Hibbert highlighted that there had been no inspections at Berkeley within the

period. There has been an application for using standard reporting for gaseous discharges at Berkeley Site. The EA is currently in consultation and the Berkeley site inspector, James Heavingham, will respond in due course. Mike clarified that this will be used on outlets that are routinely sampled and that are consistently low. This could save resources that are used to take these readings.

Q17: Chris Jennings – please explain the standard reporting value?

A17: Mike gave the example of it being a sample used for the previous three years consistently reading 2, so a value of 2 would be used.

Q18: Chris Jennings – How often are these taken at present?

A18: Mike responded that it would depend on the sample point and what the EA request.

Q19: Chris Jennings – Whilst I understand that the period between sampling will be up to the EA to set timescales.

A19: Tom responded that the agency had not yet made any decisions and that should this be agreed there would be a period during which it ran in parallel with the current monitoring regime.

Q20: Will this number be deemed to be zero?

A20: Tom further clarified that the claim is that this number will be very small but this will need to be underpinned. Mike responded that this is a request just for Berkeley not Oldbury.

Q21: Chris Jennings – are the discharge points passive or disposal points?

A21: Mike clarified there is a range of disposal points being considered.

Q22: Clarification was requested on the discharge presence of Americium 241

A22: Tom clarified that it was present in the liquid discharge, not the gaseous discharge.

Q23: Please clarify why there has not been an EA inspection within the period

A23: Tom replied that four inspections are carried out each year and if an inspection is carried out at the beginning of the period and the next one is carried out at the end of the period this is simply the way that the schedule can fall. The next inspection would be carried out in September so this will be within the next meeting's reporting period.

The Oldbury report had no non-compliances and one good practice. The next EA inspection will be jointly with Wessex area waste team. The Wessex team will be looking at non-radioactive waste including the Turbine Hall which will be approximately 11,000 to 12,000 tonnes of equipment and 5,000 to 6,000 tonnes of structural waste. This inspection will take place on 24 September 2026.

Q24: Chris Jennings – Will the nuclear element of the site at Oldbury be made smaller?

A24: John Alderton responded that Oldbury will look at delicensing areas of the site after the turbine hall demolition has been completed.

Q25: Report refers to areas where work may differ – please clarify

A25: Tom replied that is a standard sentence that is put into all reports and it refers to areas where radioactive work is not taking place, an example of this is the Oldbury turbine hall.

Q26: Has any sampling been done in the lagoons?

A26: Tom replied that it was a standard sentence that is put into all reports and it refers to areas where radioactive work is not taking place, an example of this is the Oldbury turbine hall.

Q27: Bill Otto – Has the EA claim of non-radioactivity been underwritten?

A27: Tom responded that samples had been taken from drainage ditches and silt samples in the Severn estuary and there is mainly iodine-131 which is from hospitals.

There was an event at Oldbury where borehole water was taken by the incorrect laboratory. This sample was returned to site two days later. The material was not waste so there was no RASCAR raised.

Q28: Chris Jennings – Has methodology changed as a result of this event?

A28: John Alderton responded that the layout of the laboratory has been changed and the way in which delivery drivers are escorted in order to prevent this event happening again.

7. Any Other Business

John Stanton thanked Mike Heaton, John Alderton, John Evans and Tom Hibbert for their comprehensive reports.

The proposal to move the meeting to a 6 monthly schedule was accepted. The date for the next meeting will be advised in due course.

Chris Jennings informed the meeting that there is an inaugural meeting taking place the following day with Great British Nuclear with terms of reference and structure now in place.