



Bradwell Reactor Site

Minutes of the 43rd Local Community Liaison Council (LCLC) Meeting (Annual General Meeting) Held at Minerva Centre, Mundon

Wednesday 5 December 2007

Present:

LCLC Executive:

Brian Main
Cllr John White
Miss Rhiannon Williams

LCLC Chairman*
Deputy Chairman
LCLC Secretary

LCLC Members:

Cllr Jean Allen
Cllr Brian Beale
Cllr John Bouckley
Mr Martin Court
Mrs Carol Ellmers
Cllr Adrian Fluker
Greg Gibson
John Grierson
Simon Hayward
Paul Hetherington
Cllr Ray Howard
Andrew Kelleher
Chris Lloyd
Sean Moules
David North
Lisa Reece-Ford
Jack Reust
Selwyn Runacres
Oly Serrano
Cllr Sylvia Wargent
Sarah Townes
Carl Pullen
Neil Fenwick
Paul Walker
Cllr Timothy Drain

Bradwell on Sea Parish Council
Maldon District Council
Colchester Borough Council
Tendring District Council
LCLC member
Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council
Bradwell Site
Bradwell Site
Bradwell Site
Magnox South
Essex County Council
Bradwell Site
Environment Agency
NDA
Magnox South
Bradwell Site
Bradwell Site
Food Standards Agency
Bradwell Site
Mersea Town Council
Tendring District Council
Essex County Fire & Rescue
Essex County Fire & Rescue
Essex County Council
Bradwell Parish Council

- denotes voting members

Members of the public in attendance:

Mr Allan Bird
Mr David Bragg
Mr John Harrison
Mrs Val Mainwood
Mrs Bobby Teague

1. INTRODUCTION

1664 The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Oly Serrano in his new capacity of Site Director and John Grierson, Deputy Site Manager of Bradwell Site, Jean Allen from Bradwell Parish Council, Sean Moules from the NDA and Allan Bird of Bradwell Oystermen's Association.



2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1665 Apologies were received from:

- David Fisher
- Mr Baker
- Kathy Brown
- Laurence Fitt-Savage
- Pauline Rampling
- Geoff Betts
- Mr Rees
- David Webbe-Wood
- C Robertson
- Bruce Archer
- Colin Daines

1666 The Chairman would like to encourage other parish councils to attend the LCLC meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

1667 The minutes of the 42nd Meeting held on 6th June 2007 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

1668 P Hetherington confirmed that the website is now live and can be viewed at: www.magnoxsouthsites.com. A page has been designed to hold LCLC information and includes copies of previous meeting minutes.

5. SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1669 O Serrano introduced himself as the new Site Director of the Site and provided an overview of the progress achieved this year including Asbestos removal, Circulator Hall characterisation, Ponds deplant and Transformer removal.

1670 O Serrano explained that the site is now branded as Magnox South as part of a company reorganisation to support the NDA competition schedule. The Site Licence Company, Magnox Electric Ltd, is in a period of Work Shadowing, operating as Magnox North and Magnox South regions ahead of legal separation into two separate companies currently scheduled for 2008. The company with the contract to manage the sites, Reactor Sites Management Company, formerly part of BNFL, has been sold to EnergySolutions, LLC. The only employee directly employed by the management company on the site is the Site Director.

1671 The Site's focus continues to be on the safe and compliant decommissioning of Bradwell. Work continues to identify opportunities to self-perform and self-fund projects, making full use of the resources and funds currently available.

1672 The meeting was made aware that the Site has received a summons from the Environment Agency relating to a historic case of an alleged leak of effluent within the site.

1673 O Serrano outlined details of the Site's continued involvement and support of local community activities.

1674 In response to a question asked concerning how the reduction in funding has affected work on Site, O Serrano explained that projects have been re-prioritised. The Site will continue to focus on its decommissioning strategy, however it will result in some delay into entering the care and maintenance phase of the decommissioning programme.

1675 Following a question from S Wargent regarding the cooling ponds, O Serrano advised the meeting that there are plans to de-water the ponds next year. The Ponds water is currently treated and the same treatment process will be conducted when the ponds are de-watered. This removes 99% of activity from the water.



- 1676 B Teague asked whether it would be possible to conduct the dewatering works during the Winter months rather than during the Summer months. G Gibson confirmed that this process causes no risk to people bathing in the water.
- 1677 A Bird stated that in the past the water was chlorinated and he believed that this process killed shell fish and wildlife. G Gibson advised the meeting that this process stopped a significant time ago. This chlorination was originally used to reduce the risk of mussels growing in the pipework however this process was subsequently found not to be required. When the station was running it drew a large amount of water from the estuary – this has significantly reduced following the end of operations.
- 6 NDA REPORT**
- 1678 S Moules delivered a presentation on behalf of the NDA. The NDA has published its draft Business Plan for the period 2008-2011, which is open to public consultation up to 31 January 2008. Copies were available at the meeting and on the NDA website.
- 1679 S Moules outlined the Business Plan's primary objectives, site deliverables, strategic challenges and key objectives.
- 1680 S Moules explained that funds have been prioritised on high hazard facilities such as Sellafield and Dounreay. This will have implications for Magnox Sites, Harwell and Winfrith who will be working on revised strategies.
- 1681 S Moules explained that responses to the consultation can be made by groups or individuals during the consultation process. Approval of the Business Plan is expected in March and it will become effective from April 2008.
- 1682 J Allen raised concerns regarding plans for residential development in the area surrounding the Site on land owned by the NDA. S Moules explained that the NDA has an obligation to engage with anyone who has future use for sites to ensure it gets best value from its assets. A lot of sites have de-licensed land for future use.
- 1683 S Moules confirmed that extensive studies have been conducted on the long term future of sites in terms of sea surges, flooding etc.
- 1684 B Beale advised the meeting that Maldon District Council plan no large developments. All applications for planning are made through the local authority and are subject to their processes.
- 1685 V Mainwood asked a question regarding the double handling of graphite. S Moules explained that the baseline for graphite is to encapsulate it and put it into a national repository when one becomes available – this results in double handling. Intermediate Level Waste areas are required at sites until a national repository becomes available, which could be in around 40 years. [Bradwell Site's confirmation to comment by S Moules is: At Bradwell Site the graphite cores and restraint system is to be removed in layers and that the site has NO expectation to double handle the graphite cores. The response made by Sean Moules / NDA in respect of double handling refers to the National repository and not Bradwell Site".]
- 1686 J Bouckley asked whether waste is imported from other countries for treatment in the UK. S Moules advised that there are a number of contracts in place with other countries which involve the treatment of waste at Sellafield. This provides revenue for the NDA and helps to finance the decommissioning programmes at other sites such as Bradwell.
- 7 NDA END STATE STATEMENT UPDATE**
- 1687 The Chairman confirmed that the preferred option which resulted from the end state consultation had been agreed by the NDA. The consultation concluded that an undeveloped, unlicensed site was the most favoured option. B Main stated that it was noted that the preferred end state would preclude onsite storage of waste.



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1688 In response to a question about a timeframe for the removal of the barrier wall, S Hayward said that the Lifetime Plan currently indicated the wall would be removed around 2018.

1689 It was raised that other generating companies have indicated a need to use electricity pylons. It was suggested that a representative from the National Grid should be invited to attend a future LCLC meeting. S Hayward confirmed that he is in contact with the NDA and British Energy concerning the sub-station and power lines as some of the equipment is currently owned by the NDA. S Hayward will look into the option of inviting a member of the National Grid to a future LCLC meeting.

ACTION: S Hayward

NII REPORT

1690 A report was received by the LCLC in the absence of Bruce Archer. The chairman summarised by stating that Bradwell have maintained a good site and safety performance over the last 12 months.

1691 In response to a question from B Teague regarding the condition of the FED in the vaults, it was confirmed that samples would be taken before the end of March 2008.

9 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT

1692 C Lloyd confirmed that he is pleased with work on Site. The Site has improved over recent years and was recognised as the most improved Site last year at the Reactor Sites Safety Awards.

1693 C Lloyd advised the meeting that there has been a change in Government policy concerning the disposal of Low Level Waste. This may result in some waste going to local landfill sites in the future.

1694 The Environment Agency has issued the site with a summons relating to an alleged leak of effluent within the Site. The Magistrates hearing has been adjourned until January 2008.

1695 B Teague asked whether this leakage was associated with tritiated water in ditches. G Gibson advised it was not, but explained that occasionally tritium is found in the water, although tritium is found in natural rainwater. B Main stated that these two issues were not related.

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FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY

S Runacres explained that the Food Standards Agency produce an annual report 'Radioactivity in Food and the Environment' along with the Environment Agency. Copies were available at the meeting and are available from the FSA.

1697 S Runacres gave a presentation to the meeting to demonstrate the raw data received from food samples taken from the local area during 2006 (i.e. milk samples, terrestrial non-milk products and sea food samples). This was compared with historical UK data and put into context when compared with dose rates arising from natural sources.

1698 In conclusion S Runacres confirmed that monitoring carried out in 2006 around Bradwell show low levels of radioactivity in food and the environment and that estimated doses are well within recommended limits. Any unusual activity can be detected via the monitoring process.

11 LLW REPORT DISCUSSION

1699 B Main advised the meeting that studies so far are pointing to an on site storage option that our end state preference precludes.



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1700 C Ellmers asked S Moules of the NDA whether there was any intention to dispose of LLW at the base of wind turbines that have been proposed in the local area as this was of concern. B Main advised that following discussions at the National Stakeholder Group he was able to report that this matter had not previously been considered as an option and that timescales would probably not be appropriate. S Moules advised the meeting that he is not aware of any proposals although explained that the NDA are interested in recycling options where they are considered appropriate.

12 FUEL ELEMENT DEBRIS BPEO REPORT

1701 The LCLC sub group reported that they had visited Dungeness dissolution plant. B Beale advised that the visit proved to be very useful and informative and felt he had a better understanding of the processes used.

1702 G Gibson briefed the meeting on the positive and negative aspects of dissolution and the other options that had been considered as part of a detailed Best Practicable Environmental Option study. Work is now being carried out to prepare designs for a potential plant and it is hoped that the site will be in a position to present concept designs in January 2008. This will help the site reach a conclusion in its optioneering studies and produce a preferred route forward for managing FED.

1703 B Teague raised concerns that she felt that the decision to progress dissolution had been taken prior to the involvement of the sub-group and other avenues have not been fully explored. The meeting noted that B Teague would have liked earlier involvement in the BPEO study, however it was acknowledged that options have been previously discussed and studied by subject matter experts with observation from LCLC and regulatory representatives.

1704 Reporting back from the FED Sub-Group, V Mainwood described her initiative of a 'Blackwater exploration' to bring together information on the physical state of the estuary in relation to possible impacts from Site decommissioning.

1705 A Bird asked whether the environmental impact of the oysters has been taken into account. B Beale made the point that the oysters were previously affected by a disease not relating to the site.

1706 C Lloyd advised the meeting that a full environmental impact assessment is not required for dissolution. G Gibson stated that the discharges associated with a dissolution plant are the same as the Ponds water now, but the volume of water discharged will be less. It would account for a small fraction of the discharge limits already agreed with the Environment Agency.

13 NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER GROUP

1707 B Main explained that he had received a letter from the NDA, suggesting that the LCLC may like to encourage the Site Licence Company, Magnox Electric Ltd, to hand back funds in order to support the Harwell and Winfrith sites who were facing budget cuts. He declined the invitation on the basis that the NDA is responsible for allocating funds and not the LCLC.

1708 B Main reported that the decommissioning process will be put back at a number of UK sites as a result of funding cuts. He will write to the NDA, and our local MP to express disappointment that decommissioning at Bradwell will be delayed due to lack of funding.

1709 B Main invited the meeting to comment on how it should respond to the NDA draft Business Plan. B Main encouraged members of the meeting to read the plan and to respond individually. B Main agreed to write to local councils to encourage representatives to attend future meetings at which these issues will be discussed.

ACTION: B Main



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14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1710 B Beale suggested it would be useful to receive an organisational chart of the site which may assist members to understand the site staffing structure.

ACTION: R Williams

1711 It was agreed to bring forward the next LCLC meeting to March 2008. The main agenda item for discussion could be the Management of FED optioneering work and NDA Business Plan. The suggested date given was 19 March 2008 at a venue to be confirmed.

1712 B Main informed the LCLC that he has been in consultation with British Energy as they have expressed an interest in keeping him informed of their activities. This meeting was outside of his LCLC activities and not associated with Bradwell Site or NDA.

15. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

1713 Proposed as Wednesday 19 March at 10:30 – date and venue to be confirmed.

Brian Main closed the meeting.

The Bradwell Local Community Liaison Council (LCLC) is an independent, local community body acting as a link between the Bradwell Reactor Site and its neighbours.

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