



WINFRITH SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG) MEETING

Meeting Reference **SG14**

Date **Tuesday 18th October 2011**

Venue **Winfrith Newburgh Village Hall**

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introduction

Mrs Sandra Ellis, SSG Chairman, thanked everyone for coming and welcomed everyone to the 14th meeting she extended a warm welcome to Terry Joslin and Terry Fraser, the Chair and Deputy Chair from Harwell. Mrs Ellis expressed her appreciation to the two Terry's on the support she has received over the past years. Sandra also welcomed James Godsmark from the Weld estate who has replaced Patrick Durnford. Apologies were received from Alan Neal (RSRL/Babcock), Nick Blackburn (ONR), Andy Staples (RSRL/Babcock), Robert Rummey and Chris Lloyd (EA).

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted with no amendments.

The Chairman commented that since the last meeting she had attended a Harwell LSG Meeting and had an opportunity to look around the Harwell site which she found interesting and informative. The Chair also attended the Winfrith stakeholder open evening held in July, which again she found very interesting and was very well attended, she would like to pass on her thanks to all the RSRL staff that helped and contributed to the evening and to Emma Burwood for organising the event.

Mrs Ellis also wanted recorded her thanks to David Jones who was the Property Manager for the site and left at the end of August. Sandra explained that David helped her out over many years and she wished him well. Thanks were also given to Kitty Barker who had previously provided the refreshments; unfortunately she is no longer able to provide this service.

The chair concluded her introduction by reminding the audience that they are free to ask any questions during the meeting.

2. Update from RSRL

Susan Adams (Director for Support Services) gave the update from RSRL. The presentation was broken down into the sections below;

- Safety
- Business Performance
- Visits
- Planned Work
- Additional Work
- What else?

- Business Case
- What next?

Safety

The presentation began by explaining that RSRL were proud to report that they have reached 1 year without a RIDDOR reportable incident this is excellent news. Since the last meeting RSRL have received a RoSPA Gold award.

Dr Adams explained that the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) is introducing a new set of reporting criteria from 1st January 2012. The purpose of this is to bring greater consistency across all the licensees and to ensure regulators are fully informed of incidents of interest. RSRL will of course follow the new requirements however there may be an increase in reportable incidents as many incidents that have not been reportable in the past will become notifiable to ONR.

Business Performance

Last year RSRL completed specific targets set and to date this year are currently on target. Support cost savings were achieved as well as Value for Money claims.

Visits

Since the last meeting a number of visits have taken place at Winfrith. These include senior members from the NDA, Mark Leskini, Adrian Simper and Jeff Sutor.

Planned Work

Work is progressing well on the decommissioning and final demolition of the EAST tanks and WETP. Improvements to the Active Liquid Effluent System have taken place. Additional work that RSRL will be undertaking this financial year;

- Sodium disposal
- Phase 2 preparatory work for Dragon
- A50 area – soft strip out and final decommissioning
- SGHWR – Soft strip out

An increase in work has been possible because of extra scoping works being approved.

What else?

As discussed at previous SSG meetings RSRL has submitted a case to ONR for changes to the emergency response team at Winfrith, RSRL await feedback.

As Sandra mentioned earlier an open evening was held early in July and many stakeholders enjoyed an evening at the site with tours to different facilities.

The cattle have arrived along Gatemore road!

Business Case Business Case

The Support Services Director continued her presentation by explaining that a Business Case had been submitted to the NDA; the case put forward a number of options from the future RSRL programme, some of which would involve closure of Winfrith earlier than currently planned. The case has been developed by Babcock with support from RSRL. The NDA would consider the options and a decision were expected shortly.

What Next?

RSRL will continue to deliver the work planned whilst operating safely and prepare to deliver the newly approved work.

Q) Will the change in reporting of incidents, mean that there will be more incidents reported and how will this affect public perception?

A) Yes it will mean that we have to report less severe incidents.

Q) Who will look after the heathland after the site has been fully decommissioned?

A) Too early to reply to this at the moment, however if the site is still licensed the NDA has the liability until it is de licensed.

3. NDA Update – Dave Rushton

Dave Rushton introduced himself as the Programme Manager for RSRL and apologised for not being able to attend the last meeting. He explained that a written report by the NDA was available at the back of the room and that he would talk through some of the relevant items in this report and also about items that were Winfrith specific.

- CEO Tony Fountain has resigned since the last meeting, he will be returning to a career in the oil and gas sector. Mr Rushton explained that at the current time Tony Fountain is very much still part of the exec and a part of any decision making process.
- The NDA issue a document called NDA Insight which comprises a roundup of activities going on across the estate. The latest copy includes an item regarding retrieval of the 5000th can at a Harwell facility as well as decommissioning activities ongoing across the estate.
For NDA INSIGHT Newsletter issue 7 2011, see link:
<http://www.nda.gov.uk/documents/upload/Insight-into-nuclear-decommissioning-7th-edition-September-2011.pdf>
- The NDA published options associated with the management of exotic fuels, nuclear materials and wastes from Harwell. The NDA has been engaging with stakeholders and local communities.
- An update with the competition process the preferred bidder for DSRL will be announced at the end of November. It is envisaged that RSRL will be competed as part of the Magnox group.
- The draft business plan will come out for consultation in December with a view to issuing the final document in March 2012. This plan will lay down how NDA will operate for the next three years.
- Overall there had been a good safety performance and it was good that RSRL were learning from previous accidents and engaging with the wider estate and SLCs to prevent future events.
- RSRL were tasked with reviewing plans for Harwell and Winfrith. One area was to look at early closure of Winfrith and a business case was presented to NDA at the end of September which is being reviewed by the NDA executive. There is more work to do on this and to develop the scenario before reporting back to RSRL.
- Alongside the Winfrith project NDA are developing a credible options paper for RSRL ILW which covers material stored at Harwell and Winfrith that won't move to Sellafield as part of those moves. The paper is in the process of being developed. It is hoped it will be released in the early part of the next calendar year. There will be a form of consultation and engagement before we get to the final phase.

To view a full copy of the NDA stakeholder monthly briefs please follow the link:
<http://www.research-sites.com/stakeholder-relations/nda-stakeholder-briefs>

4. Regulators

a) Office for Nuclear Regulation Nick Blackburn

Nick Blackburn was unable to attend the meeting, a paper was submitted please follow the attached link. <http://www.research-sites.com/archived->

[records?folder=/Stakeholder%20Groups%20Minutes%20and%20Papers/Winfrith%20Local%20Stakeholders](http://www.research-sites.com/archived-records?folder=/Stakeholder%20Groups%20Minutes%20and%20Papers/Winfrith%20Local%20Stakeholders)

b) Environment Agency – Chris Lloyd

Chris Lloyd was unable to attend the meeting he submitted a paper report that can be found by the following the attached link. <http://www.research-sites.com/archived-records?folder=/Stakeholder%20Groups%20Minutes%20and%20Papers/Winfrith%20Local%20Stakeholders>

Nick Holt from Inutec spoke to the meeting and explained that since the last meeting they have had a variation to their permit, it broadens the scope for solid waste disposal.

5. Progress on EAST project and DVD

Steve Withers gave a short presentation about the Waste Encapsulation Treatment Plant and External Active Sludge Tanks project. He explained that it was a turn key contract which meant the contract was awarded to design, operate and decommission the facility. Mr Withers explained that the WETP had now performed its task and was in the process of being decommissioned with demolition expected before the end of the calendar year. The project at EAST is going well and it is expected that the building will be done by the end of the financial year.

A DVD was then shown on the EAST project and the decommissioning achieved to date.

Q) The challenges faced at WETP and EAST, how do they compare with the challenge of decommissioning SGHWR?

A) At SGHWR you are dealing with waste at the higher end, the WETP was a clean plant as it was built specifically for the task of encapsulating the sludge. The task at SGHWR is challenging but knowledge will be pooled around the NDA estate.

6. Update on Dorset Green

A report or representative from Dorset Green was not present.

7. Any Other Business

Mrs Ellis raised the question as to whether any other person wanted to stand as Chairman, if so please forward the names to Emma Burwood.

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