

NATIONAL SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP CHAIRMEN'S FORUM

Wednesday 21st November 2007

Hilton Hotel, Gateshead

Present:

David Moore	-	Chairman, West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group
Mike Caswell	-	Chairman, Hinkley Point Stakeholder Group
Sandra Ellis	-	Chairman, Winfrith Stakeholder Group
Brian Main	-	Chairman, Bradwell Stakeholder Group
Penny Wride	-	Chairman, Berkeley Stakeholder Group
Jayne Ashley	-	Vice Chairman, Springfields Stakeholder Group
Bernard Whittle	-	Chairman, Springfields Stakeholder Group
Sean Marshall	-	Vice Chairman, Chapelcross Stakeholder Group
Ian Lindsay	-	Chairman, Chapelcross Stakeholder Group
Louisa Whenday	-	Vice Chairman, Dungeness Stakeholder Group
George Smythe	-	Chairman, Dungeness Stakeholder Group
Richard Smith	-	Chairman Sizewell A and B Stakeholder Group
Mike Davidson	-	West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group
David Turner	-	Vice Chairman, Culham Jet Side Stakeholder Group
David Challem	-	Chairman, Capenhurst Stakeholder Group
Terry Joslin	-	Vice Chairman, Harwell Stakeholder Group
John Deighan	-	Vice Chairman, Dounreay Stakeholder Group
Alastair Macdonald	-	Chairman, Dounreay Stakeholder Group
Mike Hankins	-	Vice Chairman, Oldbury Stakeholder Group
Val Mainwood	-	Bradwell community representative
John Lamb	-	Chairman, Hunterston Stakeholder Group
Angus Cochran Patrick	-	Vice Chairman, Hunterston Stakeholder Group
John Roberts	-	Wylfa Stakeholder Group
John Byast	-	Vice Chairman, Wylfa Stakeholder Group
Marianne Fellowes	-	Vice Chair, Sizewell A and B Stakeholder Group
Terry Fraser	-	Chairman, Harwell Stakeholder Group
Rosina Robinson	-	Secretariat, West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group

Agenda item 1 – introduction and feedback of meeting between David Moore and the NDA.

The Chairman reported to the group the outcome of the meeting he had held with Richard Griffin from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. This meeting had been arranged following a request at the previous NSG meeting. He had agreed the following as a result of the meeting with regard to the National Site Stakeholder Group Chairmen's forum:

- The meetings will take place the day before the NDA NSG meetings.
- Overnight accommodation expenses will be covered by the NDA.
- NDA representatives will not attend the meeting but will be available should they be required.
- Feedback from the meeting will be given to the NDA on the same day prior to dinner by the Chairman and other interested SSG representatives.
- The agenda for the meeting will be agreed prior to the meeting via the Chairman.
- For future meetings, if the NDA wish agenda items to be added they will be agreed prior to the meeting by the group.
- The secretariat will be provided by Sellafield SLC.

Agenda item 2 – Terms of reference.

The terms of reference were discussed in some detail. Amendments were discussed and agreed. A new draft copy will be circulated to members and ratification of the terms of reference will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Action: Secretariat to amend terms of reference, send to members and ensure agenda item is included in next meeting agenda to ratify/further discuss document.

Note: The group nominated and agreed:

- David Moore - Chairman, NSG Chairmen's forum
- Richard Smith - Vice Chairman, NSG Chairmen's forum

Action: During discussions on the terms of reference several questions were raised which the Chairman agreed to speak with the NDA about as follows:

- Who will provide the funding for the forum to operate.
- Can additional funding be made available for extra meetings, ie: visits to other sites.

Agenda item 3 – Site Stakeholder Group Chairs forum identity ie: logo.

The identity and logo were discussed and it was decided that no logo will be required for the group. All correspondence will be posted onto the NDA website. Individual Site Stakeholder Groups with their own websites can create a link to the NDA website to direct their members to the relevant documentation.

Action: Chairman to discuss the use of NDA website with NDA.

Agenda item 4 – Harmonisation of all Site Stakeholder Groups.

Agenda item 5 – Update on progress of current SSG arrangements.

These agenda items were discussed together and created much debate, with representatives from the various SSG's giving examples of how their committee differed from some of the others particularly with regard to expenses and payments to Chairs and Vice Chairs. It was also noted that some groups are still not receiving a basic secretariat service. It was concluded that it would be very useful if the NDA could make clear to the SSG's and the Site License Companies providing the secretariat to the group the minimum standards each SSG is expected to adopt, including the minimum payment for Chairs and Vice Chairs. It was also suggested that there should be a single point of contact at the NDA who could visit some of the SSG's and compare how each operates to understand the differences between them, this would help to ensure closer alignment of the groups.

Some Chairs did report that there was an enhanced attendance by the NDA at their group meetings.

Action: Chairman to discuss with NDA

Agenda item 6 – Site priorities/finance/socio economic implications

This agenda item created lots of discussion:

Socio economics: Site Stakeholder Group members shared their understanding of what socio economic packages were available to their areas which raised several comments. The group were in agreement that it is an NDA responsibility to provide socio economic funding and it was evident that some sites receive it and some don't.

There were also examples from some of the sites representatives of projects that could create revenue for socio economic purposes but are unable to because of staffing issues at the NII which is holding back decisions on plants which if received could begin to operate and earn the sites money.

It was reported that last year each site received an application form in order to submit their applications to the NDA. Some members were unaware of this and did not know how to obtain a form.

Action: Chairman to discuss with NDA

Funding: This was a very emotive issue, particularly for those members representing Winfrith and Harwell sites. Concerns were reported about ‘mothballing’ projects which was resulting in staff redundancies at certain sites. Concerns were also raised about the loss of the skills base and income to the areas that would be inevitable.

All the sites have been affected by the current funding situation, some more than others. The view around the table was that the group should have the power to address issues like this which has an affect on each one of the SSG’s with a united front.

Reference was made to the NDA 3 year plan currently out for consultation. The comment was made that it cannot possibly be a consultation because, certainly with regard to Winfrith the NDA has already put its suggestions into action; Winfrith is currently in a care and maintenance phase. The question was also posed how mothballing projects like Winfrith can obtain optimum value to the tax payers as suggested in the plan.

The Harwell representative reported that Harwell and Winfrith had written to the House of Commons about their concerns and had visited Malcolm Wicks stressing to him that the NDA was not living up to what it had initially promised. The MP’s reply was that there is a bigger issue in terms of high hazard at the Sellafield site which needed more of the funding to address.

It was suggested by the Harwell representative that the group could write to Government as one entity in order to assert pressure.

The Chairman felt that if the group was to write as a united front then it should be in response to the draft NDA business plan.

It was suggested at the meeting that the ultimate issue with regard to funding lay with the treasury at government level and that the NDA is in a similar situation in that it has been given an amount of money by government and it is not sufficient to fund everything that each site would like. It seemed that the group and the NDA had a common cause and it was suggested that both could go forward together.

Action: Chairman to raise the groups concerns with the NDA. Chairman also encouraged each member to raise their concerns and ask questions of the NDA at the NSG meeting due to take place the following two days.

Agenda Item 7: - Effect on ‘new build’ on existing site stakeholder groups

This item was added to the agenda at the request of Richard Smith, Chairman of Sizewell A and B Site Stakeholder Group. He was concerned about what effect there would be to existing Site Stakeholder Groups if 'new build' was announced and what role the Site Stakeholder Groups would undertake. He felt that Site Stakeholder Groups needed to be prepared with regards to what it would be expected to deliver.

Action: - Chairman to discuss with NDA.