

Minutes of the 30th AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting

Held Thursday 12th September 2002

Present:

Malcolm Hutchinson	AWE	Chairman
Bill Haight	AWE	
Alan Brandwood	AWE	
Andrew Jupp	AWE	
Jonathan Brown	AWE	
George Sallit	AWE	
Graeme Hammond	AWE	
Avril Burdett	AWE	Secretary
Pamela Bale	Pangbourne Parish Council	
Peter Beard	Reading Borough Council	
Mike Broad	Tadley Town Council	
Roger Brown	West Berkshire Council	
Malcolm Bryant	Wokingham Unitary Authority	
Bill Cane	Mortimer West End Parish Council	
Chrissie Clemson	Aldermaston Parish Council	
Margaret Dadswell	Aldermaston Parish Council	
Geoff Eddy	Hampshire County Council	
Maurice Eden	Holybrook Parish Council	
Tony Ferguson	West Berkshire Council	
Peter Hobbs	Sulhamstead Parish Council	
David Leeks	Tadley Town Council	
Michael Lochrie	Burghfield Parish Council	
John Mazillius	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council	
Ron Meredith	West Berkshire Council	
Jeff Moss	Swallowfield Parish Council	
Doug Mundy	Burghfield Parish Council	
Tom Payne	Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council	
Terry Price	Silchester Parish Council	
Murray Roberts	Padworth Parish Council	
John Southall	Purley-on-Thames Parish Council	
Peter Taylor	Brimpton Parish Council	
Colin Thomson	Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council	
Roy Waite	Shinfield Parish Council	

Observers:

Darren Baker	Environment Agency
Martin Sayers	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Mike Jeel	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate

1. Apologies

Sheila Allen; Chris Bridges; Angus Campbell; Chris Goss; Des Hoad; John Parfitt; Alan Sumner; Graham Ward and Tim Whitaker.

Tom Payne for Basingstoke and Deane and Michael Lochrie for Burghfield Parish were welcomed as new members.

Minutes of the 29th Meeting

The Secretary apologised, although not listed Cllr Dave Dymond had attended the meeting.

2. Actions from the last meeting

Action 29/1: Alan Brandwood to investigate a means of providing a numerical indication of risks to the public from AWE. **Covered at agenda item 5.**

Action 29/2: Avril Burdett to pass on the request for councils with a direct interest in changes on the roads around the Aldermaston site to be included in the discussions. **Action complete. More details at agenda item 6.**

3. Chairman's remarks

Malcolm Hutchinson, Executive Chairman

Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Hurricane – first British Nuclear Test

'Hurricane' veterans had been invited to a reunion at AWE. As well as an opportunity to meet old colleagues, the group would be given an opportunity to visit AWE's Historic Collection.

Site Development Plan briefed to West Berkshire Council

At the previous meeting, members had been given a confidential briefing on AWE's Site Development Plan. Subsequently a public information leaflet had been published which had lifted that embargo. AWE had given an in-depth briefing to the Local Planning Authorities, particularly West Berkshire, to give them an understanding of the background to future planning submissions. The media had also been briefed and the coverage had been balanced and factual on the whole. AWE undertook to give presentations at public meetings as required.

The Chairman announced that AWE anticipated being in a position to submit an outline Notice of Intended Planning for the first of the scientific research facilities outlined in the Site Development Plan, namely the Hydrodynamics Research Facility, later in the year. He said that this would give AWE a state of the art facility to replace the existing hydrodynamics facility and would be essential in enabling the Company to continue to underwrite the safety and reliability of the Trident nuclear stockpile.

He stressed to members that the development proposals were driven by the need to underwrite the safety and reliability of the Trident warheads. He said that contrary to what some sections of the media had speculated, the Company had not been asked to develop a new warhead. That would require a political decision.

Security

Bill Cane had raised the question of security following incursions onto the site during the Trident Ploughshares protests in June. The Chairman said that, because the cases were now before the courts, the matter was sub-judice and he was unable to comment on these incidents at that time. He said that it was always difficult to give details of security measures because in doing so those measures could be compromised. He gave an assurance that AWE had security in depth and had measures in place to deal with perceived threats.

Shuttle Commander Brian Duffy

AWE was pleased to be hosting a visit to the UK of Shuttle Commander Brian Duffy, courtesy of Lockheed Martin, one of AWE's Parent Companies. Colonel Duffy was to talk about Teamwork at the AWE's Assurance Conference on 9th October (more about the Conference at agenda item 5). There would also be a chance for AWE staff to attend a presentation on the astronaut's work. Whilst he was the Company's guest, AWE was arranging for him to visit some of local schools. AWE staff involved in the Schools Liaison Programme were working on a programme to make the most of this opportunity.

Naina Visani

Malcolm Hutchinson was pleased to tell members that Naina Visani, an AWE scientist working in International Liaison had won a prestigious MBA scholarship from the Financial Mail Women's Forum and Henley Management College. Her winning essay had been on Women in the Boardroom and the scholarship would cover the cost of her two-year Business Course.

Burghfield Sitex

AWE would be holding its major Level 1 demonstration exercise on the morning of Tuesday 1st October 2002 at AWE Burghfield in order to fulfil the requirements of Licence Condition 11 (Emergency Arrangements) of the Nuclear Site Licence for the Assembly Area. This Level 1 exercise was to be observed by representatives of the Health and Safety Executive, the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and the MoD.

As part of this year's exercise there was to be on site participation by Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue and Royal Berkshire Ambulance Trust and mock casualties (supported by a Health Physics team) would be sent to the Royal Berkshire Hospital Accident & Emergency Department, where hospital staff would exercise their role.

Supercomputer Update

The Chairman said that AWE's new supercomputer was now fully operational. This achievement was two years ahead of the commitment made in the bid to manage AWE. In real terms it meant that calculations which had previously taken 2 months were now taking only 15 minutes.

Hurst School

Malcolm Hutchinson said that he was very pleased to hear that the Hurst School had won its bid to become a specialist science college. AWE had helped the School to achieve Science Status, giving them their largest donation of £20,000 towards the £50,000 they needed. In addition senior members of staff had assisted them in preparing their bid document. Malcolm said that AWE attached a lot of importance to promoting science in education and he hoped that with their new science laboratories designed and built by AWE's Graduates and the government funding which this award brought, the new scientists of the future would emerge. The Chairman had told the headmaster Mr Christian that AWE intended to maintain its support and interaction with his school.

Councillor Leeks, as a Governor of the Hurst School thanked AWE for their generous support.

Schools Engineering Challenge

The Company had held a very successful Schools Engineering Challenge in July, with a total of 114 local year 10 pupils taking part. AWE's Graduates had set a very challenging task of designing and building an office tower of the future. Some of AWE's environmental testing equipment was put to use to simulate an earthquake, industrial fans simulated hurricane force winds and finally the structures, made only from items of stationery, were tested to destruction with weights.

This year's winners had been Abbey School, Reading, an all-girl team. They won a trophy and £1000. Second prize of £500 went to St Bartholomew's School and third prize was won by Maiden Erleigh School.

Community-Link

The Company planned to publish an edition of its community newspaper 'AWE Community Link' in October. This would be circulated to approximately 20,000 addresses around Aldermaston and Burghfield. Community-Link would also be used as a vehicle to distribute copies of the new REPPiR leaflet (Radiation Emergency Preparedness Public Information Regulations), which replaces the PIRER leaflet (Public Information Radiation Emergency Regulations) and the summary report of Southampton University radiological survey of the areas around the Aldermaston and Burghfield sites.

Dr Croudace gave a presentation on the Southampton University study at agenda item 4.

Strategic Plan

AWE's Strategic Plan had been launched; it looked at the development of the Company into the future. Bill Haight gave details:

The Company was now two-and-a-half years into the contract to manage AWE and it was therefore an appropriate time to update the strategic plan. Over 3000 AWE staff had been briefed over the previous week. The plan looked at the long-term needs of AWE and the weapon programme. The strategy outlined five imperatives which were key essential elements of the vision for the future

- World-class assurance - Safety Quality Environment Security and Health.
- Modernisation of technical capability
- Establishment of a culture of continuous improvement
- Establishment of partnerships with stakeholders - the LLC is one element of that
- Development of and investment in staff

Bill said that the strategy was underpinned by investment which went beyond that stated in the original bid and made investments for the future of AWE. He pointed out that the existing contract allowed AWE latitude to generate savings and invest those savings in people, services and the sites. He said that the plan aimed for enduring excellence and would last for many years. He added that he had had favourable comments from employees and all those comments would be fed back to the Executive and Managing Director over the coming weeks.

In answer to questions Bill Haight said that the investment programme went beyond the requirement of the current contract. He said that some of the projects in the site development plan were long term and therefore would take a long time to come to fruition. He said that this did pose risks for the Company if the contract was not extended to 25 years. He was optimistic about the extension; discussions had been held at a very high level, but with only seven years of the current contract to run, time was now pressing, some decisions needed to be made almost immediately. He was asked whether one way to save costs without the 25 year contract would be to trim the workforce. Bill pointed out that a large percentage of this reduction in staff had already happened, and bigger savings would be made by reducing the infrastructure costs. With 1200 buildings on the site, many of which were under used, it was costly to heat, light and maintain them. It made sense to have new buildings, consolidate old ones and demolish redundant ones. The chairman pointed out that doing this would make a better workplace for everyone.

Councillor Broad asked if the strategy would be made public. He was told that there would be an article about it in the forthcoming edition of Community-Link.

4. Southampton University Study Dr Ian Croudace

The presentation slides are attached.

Action 30/1: to put the Southampton University Study report on the website.

Secretary's note: The Southampton University Study Report would shortly appear on the Southampton University website and will be shown as a link on the AWE website.

Cllr Taylor suggested that 600 samples in a large area with a peppered distribution of contamination did not prove that there were no levels of plutonium likely to be a danger to the public. Dr Croudace answered that they had used 200 sites many on land undisturbed throughout the lifetime of AWE and he was absolutely confident that the results were representative, it had been proved statistically that this was the case.

John Mazillius asked what the results of the Tritium survey had been. Dr Croudace said that this had been a much smaller study and showed tritium at levels well below the drinking water limit. The difficulty was that there was a considerable amount of tritium in the environment, some from weapons fall-out, but a considerable amount from the medical field and from the disposal of exit signs and Trimphones on landfill sites. Unlike plutonium and uranium there were no specific isotopes of tritium which could be traced to one source or another.

Ian Croudace was asked about the implications of a recent report suggesting that recommendations for safe levels of tritium should be halved. Ian said that his survey had found levels at $1/1000^{\text{th}}$ of the annual safe dose and therefore even if the dose limit was halved, tritium levels in the area were well below even that limit. The WHO drinking water limit for tritium was 7,800 Bq and the sample had contained 9Bq. He concluded that although it would be scientifically interesting to pursue this, health-wise there was very little to be concerned about.

5. Health, Safety & Environmental Issues

Alan Brandwood, Assurance Director

Alan Brandwood said that the Company continued to work very hard across the whole safety spectrum and was continuously reviewing safe systems of work etc. It was apparent that accidents and near misses were not due to the processes and systems, but showed that the focus should now be towards behavioural safety. Results of the recent safety attitude survey were being reviewed and assessed in individual areas to see what changes needed to be made locally. Managers and supervisors were being trained in observational techniques to help them spot hazards and in how to give and accept constructive advice and act on feedback.

Assurance Conference

On October 9th the Company was to hold its second Assurance Conference. There were two themes to the conference, 'Working Together' and 'Recognising Performance'. The aim was to raise awareness and share best practice. This year the conference would be chaired by a director other than the Assurance Director. This would reinforce the message that safety was not a just job for the Assurance Group but for everyone. Alan said this conference was particularly aimed at people on the shopfloor and their supervisors. The speakers were to include a representative of the national Trades Union on the role of safety representatives; a representative from Lloyds Register; an ex scaffolder, Ian Whittington, who had not followed his safe system of work and had broken his back and was now confined to a wheelchair. He would talk about why and how that had happened. Astronaut, Colonel Brian Duffy would speak about teamwork and Richard Noble, holder of the land speed record and the first person to break the sound barrier on land in 'Thrust 2' would talk about teamwork and the management of risk. There would also be an award for Assurance Performance in recognition of teams that had made the most improvement in their safety performance or had maintained a previously high standard of safety performance. There was a shortlist of four teams and each had to describe and publish how they had made their improvements. Their reward would be a cheque to a charity of their choice, which would also benefit the community. He said that the Senior Managers on visits to facilities were also tasked with looking at where best practice existed, where supervisors were most effective and who had the best Risk Assessments.

Comments on the Quarterly Report data

Work addressing power failures over the previous year was beginning to bear fruit, there had been six such incidents in the previous year but none currently in 2002. Similarly, problems with refrigerant gas had been reduced to one in the current year and 13 problems with radiological protection equipment had reduced to three so far in 2002.

The 7th COMARE Report (Committee on the Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment) had been issued and it pointed away from radiation being the cause of leukaemia clusters. More

and more experts were beginning to support population mixing as a much more likely explanation. This was where many people from different parts of the country came together in a previously rural area and were exposed to bacteria, viruses and other illnesses they had not met in their previous communities, and therefore had no resistance to the diseases.

During the quarter there had been the first revisit by Lloyds to look at the Company's environmental management systems. Lloyds were still happy to accredit the Company to ISO 14001, however there were still areas for improvement to ensure that AWE kept that accreditation. Alan reported that AWE was ever vigilant on security matters but for obvious reasons he could not go into detail. MoD had made their final accreditation inspection for ISO 9001 and was satisfied that this process could now be accredited by a third party, Lloyds Register.

The KPI (Key Performance Indicator) on Warning Letters had been dropped as it did not give information which helped to assess performance and indicate where improvement was required. It was black and white, you either did or didn't get Warning Letters, and the target would always be zero. However, letters from regulators were always reported and treated extremely seriously. There were details of two such letters in the Quarterly Assurance Report. The first, on fire certification would be covered at item 6 in the agenda. The second, on compliance with site licence arrangements covered providing documents which readily identified arrangements for compliance with licence conditions i.e., the document should be readily available and in date.

Tony Ferguson again asked AWE to reconsider its decision to drop Warning Letters as a KPI. He felt that this sent the wrong message to the public and asked that it was brought back to the November meeting for discussion prior to the new KPIs being set for 2003. Alan said there would be an annual review for KPIs and if it was felt an issue needed monitoring more closely it would be included, he said he would bear Cllr Ferguson's comments in mind during this process.

There had been a number of Level 2 events concerning contractors. There had been good progress over the last three years, regular meetings with contractors on safety issues and a new improved safety induction course for all new contractors was showing results. Firstly there had been an improved level of reporting of accidents and incidents by contractors. When an abnormal event involving contractors happened, AWE carried out an investigation but also involved the contracting company's Managing Director to ascertain what they would do to ensure that it did not happen again. To underline this there would be a joint presentation between AWE Infrastructure and Haden at the Assurance Conference .

Cllr Ferguson also asked why there was such a wide monthly variation in the figures for recycled domestic waste. Alan Brandwood explained that the figures currently included waste which could not be recycled and it was currently proposed that this would be changed to a more realistic measurement of AWE's performance on recycling.

Cllr Ferguson noted that the figures for sickness injury and accidents were disappointing and asked what AWE was doing to address the problem. Alan Brandwood said that he had talked about behavioural problems and the Company's strong push to work on improving individual behaviour. On the question of sickness absence Bill Haight said that there were a number of initiatives under way to improve the situation. In some areas there was a culture of "sick leave" and it needed to be made clear this was not an entitlement, but was to accommodate legitimate illness. He stressed that the Company was dealing with those who abused sickness absence and there was a follow-up process on legitimate sickness absence.

Alan Brandwood reported that in conjunction with Trident Medical, every area of site now had its own dedicated occupational health nurse. The nurse was able to identify problems in the workplace which might cause health problems, such as bad backs and eyestrain.

Cllr Taylor raised concerns that, according to the Quarterly Report, 45% of senior managers were failing to carry out their duties. He said that this sent out the wrong messages. Alan replied that he had done a lot to improve that, and the figure was now up to 75% of visits taking place and he was determined that by the end of the year it would be at 100%. He said that this was a new measure and an important tool in behavioural safety. There was an ongoing commitment to make the entire organisation aware of performance. He agreed that the level should be 100% and he was pushing for behavioural change from the shop floor to the most senior management.

John Southall questioned the number of events related to problems with alarm or communication systems. He pointed out that these could be vital in an emergency and had the potential to turn in emergency into disaster. Andrew Jupp replied that each event was investigated both on an individual basis and together so that root causes, which could impact elsewhere, could be identified. This information then went into the review, learn and improve process and in this case it had not turned up a systematic fault. Dr Jupp said that this had been the focus of one of his facility visits and staff were looking at these events in more detail.

John Mazillius noted that, looking at causal factors, maintenance and risk assessments cropped up several times, as did the question of pressure testing and respirators. He suggested that there must be a proportion of staff and contractors who were not aware of the safety management system. He pointed out that many disasters happened when the management took their eye off the ball and the consequences were horrendous. Alan Brandwood said he shared some of Cllr Mazillius' concerns which was why some of the actions already discussed were targeted at improving awareness. It was not processes or systems that were the problem, but people not following those processes to the letter and he was pressing supervisors and management to make sure that they did what they should to improve the situation. He said that current benchmarking was already identifying best practice in some areas and there was a strong system in place to make sure this was shared. He did point out that AWE reported every transgression, however minor. Processes and Systems had been put in place over previous years, and these were working well, the focus now was changing away from processes and towards people. At the same time work instructions and safe systems of work were being rewritten in the clearest possible terms to make sure that staff could fully understand what was expected of them.

Bill Cane asked what safety criteria were used to measure new contractors' safety performance and records. Andrew said that there was a rigorous process in place and as an example cited the new contract which covered catering, cleaning and vending machines etc. Previously there had been 27 different suppliers and the general performance was not as good as required. Instead a contract had been let to supply all the services through one contractor. As part of the process of appointment, AWE staff had visited the Headquarters of the contractor and facilities of their customers. One of the criteria for selection was that they shared the same philosophy on safety and written into the contract were requirements of continuous improvement and total integration into AWE's safety system. Alan Brandwood added that AWE had recently recruited a Head of Quality and Product who had an excellent track record of successfully implementing simple procedures. He added that there had been excellent progress but there was still room for improvement.

John Southall noted that the considerable improvement and reduction in actual events could lead to a position where there was insufficient data to show trends. Alan Brandwood agreed and explained that that was why AWE looked at data from near-misses. This then showed where

there was potential for accidents and improvements could be made to prevent accidents happening.

Action 29/1 - Presentation on Risk – George Sallit

The presentation slides are attached

Cllr Taylor asked whether the risk to the public was calculated over the whole population making the risk locally higher than the figures AWE gave. George explained that the maximum possible dose to the public from discharges at AWE was calculated using a hypothetical person who lived on a smallholding at the boundary to AWE. He ate only the produce he grew and took his water from a stream alongside the site; in other words, a very pessimistic assumption was used. The risk to members of the public from an accident at AWE, that is a one-off release of radioactive material, is calculated as a lifetime risk, so again it is a pessimistic assumption. The REPPiR regulations apply if it is reasonably foreseeable that there could be an incident which might result in the public receiving a dose of 5mSv or above and there is a requirement for nuclear sites and local authorities to have plans to cope with such a situation. At AWE the risk is $1:10^{-5}$ or 1:100,000 per year. These figures were based on a safety case which used information from the whole of the nuclear industry.

Cllr Taylor asked for a list of the risks from AWE to which the public were exposed, in order of magnitude. George Sallit said that it was the same as counting apples and pears, chemical and radiological hazards were totally different. The degree of radiological risk to the public was clear. There was a direct correlation between dose and risk. The situation for chemicals was less clear, there was no direct correlation between the amount released into the environment and the health effect. However, AWE was confident that there was no cause for concern as AWE's emissions were within the requirements of the EA and the World Health Organisation who monitored and controlled drinking water standards.

Cllr Taylor said that he needed to be reassured that AWE was addressing the most significant risks. George Sallit answered that AWE was addressing all risks, for both chemical and radiological hazards. AWE's discharges and accident probabilities were as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP). He added that the Environment Agency and the HSE were tough regulators, their role was to ensure that AWE focused on the safety of all chemicals and radiological materials and ignored none.

Cllr Moss commented that he regularly heard of accidents at chemical plants. George Sallit said that there was a large number of chemical factories and factories using chemicals, therefore there was a higher rate of incidence. Whatever the hazard, the Emergency Response reaction was the same, to 'overreact' and put the public under shelter until the extent of the hazard had been determined. Malcolm Hutchinson said that there had been two fatal road accidents on the roads around the Aldermaston site, perhaps that should be the priority.

6. Infrastructure Issues – Andrew Jupp, Head of Site Management Services

Telephone alerting system.

The current position on the telephone alerting system was that the hardware had been installed at the service centre operated by the service provider V.I.P, based in Poole, Dorset. The software to generate the telephone number database had been procured and a return slip was to be sent out with the REPPiR Leaflet to gather any additional (ex-directory, or mobile phone) numbers. These would then be added to the database. The service provider would update the database every quarter.

The installation of the essential high-speed telephone link lines at the centre was proceeding. AWE would be in a position to conduct tests by mid October. AWE did not plan to test the system on the local community, but would test on a set of AWE internal numbers. Members were asked whether they would be willing to be contacted by the system as a further test. This would allow the Company to test a realistic array of locations, without causing inconvenience or concern to the general public. The call would be at a pre-arranged time, with a pre-arranged message and AWE would ask for a feed back of the results. **Action 30/2: All willing LLC members to supply the secretary with a number on which they could be called.**

The trigger mechanism would be housed in AWE's emergency control centre, with a backup at the Burghfield site, and both would incorporate very robust security features to prevent false or malicious use of the system.

Progress on Accessibility Issues

A Business Case had been produced which included a scope of the requirements to update access for staff and visitors with special needs. The work had been prioritised and the capital scheme agreed. AWE was currently looking at detailed design work and expected to commence work in the next few weeks. Early work had already been carried out to meet the needs of specific members of staff.

AWE was looking at what changes to the external web site were needed to make it more user-friendly to persons with visual or hearing impairments. Other improvements included improved toilet facilities and a transmission system in the building where LLC meetings were held, to help staff and visitors with impaired hearing.

Road and Traffic Improvements

Two meetings had been held with West Berkshire Council about AWE's proposed safety improvements on the roads and entrances around the Aldermaston site.

AWE's proposals included a reduction in the 60mph speed limit around the site; speed restrictions to protect cyclists using the Winkworth Lane cycle path; improved traffic flow at the western entrance to the site and better signage and other improvements at the other entrances. AWE was also looking at the provision of cycle routes to reduce the number of vehicles coming into and out of the site and improve safety for cyclists.

These suggestions had been put forward but the Company had been somewhat disappointed with the response. The next stage was a review of the speed limits which West Berkshire Council had said it was unable to afford in the current financial year.

AWE remained concerned about the safety of staff and other road users on what it considered to be dangerous stretches of road around the site and particularly in the light of the recent fatal accidents on the A340.

AWE was therefore prepared to accelerate the process by funding the review and had indicated a willingness to help towards the cost of implementing the speed restrictions.

Bill Haight said that in AWE's opinion there was a clear and present danger of serious injury or death on the roads around the site. He felt that the study was a relatively modest investment for the safety of AWE staff and the community and was shocked that this had not been done before. He said that he was prepared to fund the study on the understanding that positive action would be taken.

Cllr Taylor asked whether the Company brought any sanctions against staff who broke the speed limits on external roads. Bill Haight answered that he could not enforce what staff did outside the

site, but on site there was a 20mph speed limit and the penalty for breaking that speed limit went up to and including dismissal. He added that outside site he hoped that the full force of the law would be brought to bear.

Bill Cane said that he welcomed the arrival of the long-awaited public alerting system. He said that he also welcomed the suggestion of cycle paths in the area. Tony Ferguson and Roger Brown also commended AWE's efforts on the off site road safety issues. Bill Haight said that the risk of his staff having accidents was too high, there had already been too many near-misses. LLC representatives from bordering councils will be included in discussions once the survey has been completed.

Cooling Plant

AWE had a large number of cooling units under regular monitoring and maintenance, these ranged from cooling towers to air conditioning units. When the recent outbreak of Legionnaires disease was announced AWE had carried out a review of processes and were satisfied with the arrangements. In addition, West Berkshire Council representatives came in to review the processes and check sampling data. They also took samples of their own from two cooling towers. West Berkshire Council had since written to the Company to confirm that they had checked the sampling records of the two cooling towers together with maintenance schedules, relevant procedures, guidelines and the storage of records and concluded that wholly adequate systems were in place for legionella and other microbial testing. They were awaiting the results of their tests.

Pangbourne Pipeline Update

Jonathan Brown reported that the programme for the closure and replacement technology for the Pangbourne Pipeline had been submitted to the Environment Agency. Once the programme got underway, there would be quarterly reports on progress for the LLC. No work would take place until after the pipeline was taken out of service in 2005.

PASCALEA – Public and Stakeholder Consultation on AWE's Long-term Environmental Aims.

Jonathan Brown's presentation slides are attached.

7. Any other business

Cllr Price asked about the strategy for closing the AWE Burghfield Site. Bill Haight answered that although the bid to manage AWE had included closing the Burghfield site. Staff were currently carrying out a comprehensive study to determine whether or not this was the best course of action. No decision had yet been made and once the study was completed, there would be discussions at a strategic level with and within the Ministry of Defence. If the decision was made to close the site, it would be irreversible, so careful thought needed to be given to this issue.

Peter Taylor asked what information was available to be read at AWE's Main Gate Reception. He was told that currently there were only the REPPIR documents for the two main sites. Other documents were on the AWE web site and most were also available in public libraries. AWE was anticipating increasing the capacity of the web site so that more information could be made available. It was explained that it was necessary to limit the number of copies of controlled documents such as the REPPIR documents so that any copies were automatically replaced when the document was updated. For this reason, it was not widely circulated but was readily available for anyone to read.

Action 30/3: Report back to the next LLC on the expansion of the web site.

Action 30/4: Presentation at the next LLC on REPPIR

Next Meeting

28th November 2002 – Please note change of date.

The meetings for 2003 will be held as follows:

Thursday 6th March

Thursday 5th June

Thursday 4th September

Thursday 4th December