

## Minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting

Held Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2000

**Present:**

RA Bradley	AWE/Hunting/BRAE,	Chairman
GG Hammond	AWE/Hunting/BRAE	
Dr JA Crofts	AWE/Hunting/BRAE	
Mrs A Burdett	AWE/Hunting/BRAE	Secretary
Martin Sayers	HSE/NII	
Ian Jackson	Environment Agency	
Dr John RAE	Observer from AWEML	
Alan Brandwood	Observer from AWEML	
Members of RWMAC		
W Cane	Mortimer West End PC	Community Liaison Officer
DA Leeks	Tadley Town Council	
TAJ Faulkner	Tadley Town Council	
MR Broad	Tadley Town Council	
Mrs S Allen	Baughurst Parish Council	
P Frazer	Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council	
G Traynor	Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council	
G Eddy	Hampshire County Council	
J Mazillius	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council	
Mrs C Clemson	Aldermaston Parish Council	
T Price	Silchester Parish Council	
A Ferguson	West Berkshire Council	
J Parfitt	West Berkshire Council	
Mrs J Lomax	West Berkshire Council	
R Meredith	West Berkshire Council	
Mrs M Hobbs	Ufton Nervet Parish Council	
P Hobbs	Sulhamstead Parish Council	
MRP Eden	Theale Parish Council	
Mrs P Bale	Pangbourne Parish Council	
F Kirkham	Woolhampton Parish Council	
D Mundy	Burghfield Parish Council	
K Holyer	Reading Borough Council	
J Morris	Reading Borough Council	
Dr AM Roberts	Padworth Parish Council	
M Bryant	Wokingham Unitary Authority	
Mr A Sumner	Wokefield Parish Council	
T Whitaker	Mapledurham Parish Council	
J Southall	Purley on Thames Parish Council	

**Apologies from:**

D Cowdery, \*AR Marshall, \*Colin Thomson, Roy Waite, \*Margaret Dadswell, Angus Campbell.

\* sent a representative

## 1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Robin Bradley announced that this would be his last Local Liaison Committee.

**New Members:** Robin Bradley welcomed new member Cllr Tim Whitaker of Mapledurham Parish Council who had joined to represent the interests of some of those on the north bank of the Thames. Also to John Southall, the new member for Purley-on-Thames, replacing Reg Marshall who is retiring. He thanked Mr Marshall for his support of the LLC. Mrs Hobbs, who had been a member since 1994 was also retiring, Robin Bradley extended his thanks and good wishes to her.

**AWEML:** The Chairman introduced Dr John Rae, Chief Executive Designate of AWE under the AWEML contract to run AWE and Alan Brandwood, Assurance Director Designate. They were present as observers.

**RWMAC:** Also present were members of RWMAC, the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee who were visiting AWE over a period of two days, as part of an assessment of MoD management of radioactively contaminated lands, this visit was part of a series of visits to various MoD sites. They gave a presentation on their work (Agenda item 2).

### ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING:

**19/1** Avril Burdett to put copies of the minutes of all previous LLC Minutes onto the AWE Web site. Action completed.

**19/2** Avril Burdett to ask members whether they preferred the new style of quarterly report, or the old style. Action Completed  
Of those members who responded, the majority preferred the new style.

**19/3** John Crofts to supply LLC members with the performance parameters for the year 2000, before the end of 1999. Action Completed

**19/4** Avril Burdett to write to members to ask whether they wished the press to be invited to LLC meetings. Action Completed

**19/5** John Crofts to report if Beta Activity figures can be adjusted to allow comparison with previous results.  
John Crofts said that the problem had arisen when the contractor responsible for processing the samples was changed. At this time there was a raised level for Beta activity reported, which, whilst still at a low level, raised concern. Despite extensive enquiries, no reason for the rise could be found. Problems with the supplier of these services led to a new contractor being appointed. After this time the discharge results returned to their previous levels. Whilst there is no proof that this was due to the assay method, no other reason can be found. The results can now be compared with past years.

**19/6** Avril Burdett to send copies of Community-Link to the House of Commons Library, local libraries, and local council offices. Any members wishing for copies sent anywhere should contact Avril.

Action Completed

**19/7** Avril Burdett to canvas members for a new Community Liaison Officer.  
Action Completed

Bill Cane has been re-elected as the LLC Community Liaison Officer – Robin Bradley congratulated him and thanked him for his work in his previous term of office.

## **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

**Environment Agency Prosecution of Hunting-BRAE for discharges via the Aldermaston Stream:** Hunting-BRAE had decided to plead guilty and was fined £17,500 with a possible £45,000 costs.

As Robin Bradley had said at earlier meetings, these discharges were made by Hunting-BRAE in the belief that they were below regulatory concern and that the Company was acting properly.

Hunting-BRAE had pleaded guilty because they agreed they had committed a technical offence. Regrettably the law has a limited vocabulary and the Company had suffered for that. He said that Hunting-BRAE had not lied.

Robin Bradley had written to the head of the Agency about this issue.

He reiterated that the Environment Agency had confirmed that the amounts of tritium were well below any level that could give rise to concern for health in drinking water supplies. The Agency had given approval for the discharges to continue pending a formal discharge authorisation, which AWE had applied for.

Tony Ferguson pointed out that it still gave rise to public concerns. Robin Bradley replied that the company had done its best to address the issues raised by the prosecution. The Environment Agency and the Company did not believe that there were safety issues associated with this.

**Chevaline:** Chevaline, the weapon before Trident, and possibly better known to members as Polaris, (but different to the United States' Polaris) was currently being disassembled. Progress was good, one third of the warheads had been dismantled, and this was ahead of schedule.

**Trident:** Also in the week before Christmas AWE had met its agreed annual production target for the Trident warheads. Both of these achievements were excellent examples of teamwork at AWE. The project was on programme despite the challenge of such a tough target. This was an excellent achievement for those involved.

The Company had also carried out a Trident Design Review and a Knowledge and Capability review for the Ministry of Defence. Lord Oxburgh, when Chief

Scientific adviser had conducted a survey and said that there should be an in-depth review of Trident every seven years. These will be important in the process of underwriting a refurbished Trident and in extending the life of the warhead.

**Above Ground Experiments:** These are carried out to validate the database from which AWE works in the absence of Underground Testing. In the 1999 Above Ground Experiments Programme AWE had completed 12 extremely complex and demanding integrated trials, supported by many smaller experiments to investigate specific aspects of warhead physics design.

**Billi G:** AWE, in conjunction with the US, had also conducted a highly successful lightweight implosion experiment in the United States, known as Billi G. The experiment concerned the use of simulant materials to assess how plutonium would behave when imploded. At AWE it is done with X rays to look into a very dense material as it is imploded. This was another outstanding example of successful collaboration with the United States. It brought acclaim from American colleagues and demonstrated the commitment, ingenuity, dedication and scientific excellence of AWE's scientists and engineers in producing excellent results from state-of-the-art technology.

Using protons instead of X-rays, AWE Scientists were able to produce, for the first time, a progression of pictures of the heart of an implosion as it happened. AWE has learned a lot from these experiments.

This project was the winner of the Company's Science and Technology Excellence Award.

**Excellence Awards:** The Excellence Awards, which also have business and teamwork categories, were an initiative introduced by Hunting-BRAE to recognise the many and varied achievements of their outstanding workforce. The effect was to boost staff morale, particularly as the awards had been the subject of extensive media coverage.

Robin Bradley said that greater recognition was vital to AWE's success. AWE must be viewed as a valuable collaborative partner, both with other United Kingdom centres of excellence and with American colleagues.

**Academic Council:** Hunting-BRAE had established an Academic Council two years previously, comprising eminent academics and industrialists in an attempt to bring AWE closer to universities. The aim was to ensure that AWE could benefit from the wealth of knowledge and research in universities and that AWE's own science could be utilised in the future on broader research issues.

AWE can benefit from the Council's ideas and knowledge and AWE's own science can be used on a broader basis.

Robin Bradley was pleased that this project had been a great success. During its first year, the Academic Council, had addressed potential research

collaborations in physics, systems relevant to the needs of AWE and in 'near-neighbour' areas with technology spin-off potential.

**William Penney Fellowships:** AWE's Lord Penney fellowship scheme had also been successfully launched. Five post-doctorate candidates had been selected to work with AWE in areas of scientific research of interest to them. The fellows are :

**Roger Evans** on a two-dimensional fluid models of laser plasma generation, he is the author of many papers on high intensity laser plasma physics.

**Joanne Holford** on fluid mixing, Joanne is a Cambridge mathematician.

**Jeremy Chittenham** to investigate magneto-hydrodynamic wire array in z-pinches, he has been working at Imperial College.

**Tim Nunney** who will be investigating the interaction of hydrogen with uranium and uranium oxide.

**Timothy Goldrein** on explosives and high strain rate physics studying deformation in polymer bonded explosives.

These fellowships are bringing AWE even stronger links with universities.

**Y2K:** Whereas the Press had been extremely interested in AWE's potential Y2K problems, they had quickly lost interest when the transition was problem free. AWE had moved smoothly into the new millennium without any significant problems. Robin Bradley put this down to the hard work which had been put in by staff over the last couple of years. He said there was no doubt that there would have been problems with computerised equipment had they not been diligent. The measure of AWE's success was that none of the operational or safety critical equipment had had problems. There had been one or two minor inconveniences, such as the defibrillator held by the Fire Station, which had needed the date changed manually, though even this had not stopped it working.

**Oil spill at Blacknest:** In November staff had discovered a leak in an underground domestic heating oil supply pipe at the Blacknest site, caused by historic corrosion. Urgent action had been taken to contain the oil. Most of the spilled oil had flowed into an old drainage system at Blacknest and had been recovered safely, following an extensive tanker operation, which had continued over the Christmas and New Year period.

AWE had written to the LLC and local residents and the regulating authority had been kept informed of progress.

**Liquid Waste Treatment Plant:** Robin Bradley reminded members that he had taken those that wished on a visit to the Liquid Waste Treatment Plant after a previous LLC meeting. He said that this building now required modification and adaptation to suit it for evaporator technology. He reminded members that AWE was investigating evaporator technology as an alternative to the Pangbourne Pipeline. He said that AWEML had included withdrawal from the pipeline in their bid. This meant the liquid waste treatment facility would not be fully commissioned at present, pending a decision on what modifications are required. To commission now could involve AWE in expensive decommissioning. In parallel to this, AWE is trying to reduce the

amount of liquid effluent which needs processing. AWE aimed to have as small an evaporator as possible

**New Tritium Facility:** This new, purpose-built facility had now been commissioned and replaced two old tritium facilities on site which are now undergoing decommissioning. The new building contains facilities for the safe and secure storage of tritium, modern glove boxes for the processing of material and a de-tritiation or gas clean-up plant to minimise discharges to the environment. The design of the glove boxes, monitoring system and the availability of the de-tritiation plant ensures maximum protection for both the operators and the environment. In the coming years more process equipment will be added to facilitate the processing of legacy wastes. This would be an environmental advantage in all aspects and was good news for all concerned.

**Community:** AWE has continued to work closely with people in the local communities. In December the company had sent out 18,500 copies of the community newspaper 'Community-Link' to people in the areas adjoining the two sites.

AWE's Schools' Liaison Committee was flourishing. There were now direct links with 35 local schools and AWE continued to offer support including talks, sponsoring equipment and helping refurbish facilities.

Following the successful junior science laboratory project last year, AWE is planning to refurbish a science laboratory in a secondary school.

AWE is extending its links with schools by hosting a Science Day on site during March. This is a follow-up to the successful Science Day last year when university professors and lecturers were invited to visit AWE. This year AWE was giving the opportunity to local science and technology teachers to tour some of its facilities and develop a greater understanding of its work.

**Media Coverage:** Graeme Hammond reported that in the previous few weeks there had been two BBC Radio 4 programmes. The first, 'File on Four' focused on the change of management at AWE. Initially the programme makers had told AWE that they wanted to interview Robin Bradley for a programme about openness and whether AWE's policy of openness had proved beneficial. It transpired that the programme was intended to highlight the alleged bad safety record of Lockheed Martin, one of the partners in the AWE Management Ltd consortium. In the programme the BBC neglected to mention that the consortium, not Lockheed Martin would manage AWE, or that it would remain under UK regulatory controls. Several interviews were conducted which showed some very positive aspects of AWE's work but all these had been left out. It seemed to AWE that openness was a one-way street as far as the programme makers were concerned.

By comparison, the BBC radio 4 science programme 'Test Beds' had dealt with the challenges facing the British and US in seeking new scientific methods to underwrite nuclear warheads. Several AWE staff had been interviewed. This

had been a well balanced, well put together and informative programme which highlighted AWE's world class science.

The Mark Thomas show had briefly mentioned the EA prosecution and had given the impression that AWE would be managed solely by BNFL.

## **2. PRESENTATION BY RWMAC**

Robin Bradley introduced the team from RWMAC, and handed over to Gerry Butler to talk about the project they were undertaking for the Ministry of Defence.

Mr Butler said that RWMAC's remit was to advise the Secretary of State for the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, and Scotland and Wales on an overall policy for the management of civil nuclear waste. He said that they were a generally technically based group looking at civil waste matters. They had had a request to do a follow up study on MoD waste following their initial study in 1997. They had formed a sub group to do this and would report back to the MoD. This report, as with the previous one would be published.

The project was divided into two main parts. Part one would be reported to the MoD by Easter and looked at radioactively contaminated lands except for current nuclear sites. This would include air force bases, REME sites etc. which could have been contaminated by radioactive luminous dials. That study was almost complete.

Part two covered recognised nuclear sites such as the MoD dockyards and AWE. This visit to AWE was their first of this survey. The survey would include contaminated land. The principle concern was to test whether AWE had plans in place for the holistic management of the sites stretching into the future. They wished to assure themselves that plans would span the change of management contractor.

He explained that AWE was a complex site which would continue to exist well into the future. He reported that he had had excellent co-operation this far and had gathered large amounts of information. He said that the team would do an honest job of evaluation and the report would go to Ministers around July. The report would then be made public.

Bill Cane asked whether the team could suggest to Ministers that there was a need for RA waste movement in the absence of a NIREX repository. Mr Butler answered that their previous study had assumed a NIREX repository would be available in the short term and the current study would examine plans against the new scenario.

Jonny Morris asked whether there were criteria against which they had been asked to work. For example had they been asked to advise the Government on long term storage, ground contamination or zero emissions. Mr Butler

answered that at Easter there would be four sets of public consultation on radioactive waste policy and national discharges would be reported to OSPAR. Also there were Environment Agency initiatives which were currently in a transitory phase. Current legislation was becoming dated and needed to be reviewed. The policy background was also changing and he said that the team would use ALARA and ALARP (as low as reasonably achievable and as low as reasonably practicable) criteria to see if plans in place looked sensible, were being maintained and that there were milestones in place to judge progress. The study was many faceted.

Mr Butler went on to say that RWMAC had no tight criteria set so that a balanced, sensible, scientific and responsible view could be taken by a balanced team.

Malcolm Bryant asked whether, if Sellafield failed to get the Japanese contract it would close. Mr Butler replied that he did not know but that the important thing for the study and for AWE was whether the functions BNFL currently carried out for AWE would continue to be done. (This related to the storage of low level waste). He did not see a future for BNFL which got in the way of that. He said that BNFL Sellafield was a test bed for procedures for AWE so that AWE did not have to lead in this field.

Tony Ferguson asked whether RWMAC would re-address the specific issues raised in their last report and was assured that they would. He then asked if RWMAC was looking specifically at Drigg and its capacity. He felt that if the Pangbourne Pipeline was decommissioned and removed, the facility at Drigg would be full. Robin Bradley answered that any such rumour was untrue. Mr Butler said that the MoD had input into the forward plans on the national inventory to ensure that this was not the case.

Gerry Traynor asked whether RWMAC would be checking on private land which had once belonged to MoD. Mr Butler answered that this would form part of the Easter report and that any aspects related to AWE, either as an airfield or in its current use would be covered in the 2<sup>nd</sup> report.

Mr Whitaker asked whether RWMAC would be advising Ministers on the Pangbourne Pipeline, Robin Bradley said that they would advise but not decide.

John Parfitt asked whether it was part of their remit to look at previous uncontrolled discharges. Mr Butler said yes they would and had been given a presentation on that topic the previous day.

The conversation then turned to Greenham Common and the conversation was continued outside the meeting since it had no bearing on AWE.

(\*RWMAC's comments concerning AWE from their previous report was given to members.

*\*The Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee's Review of Ministry of Defence's Radioactive Waste Management and Practices. Published by DETR, December 1997, ISBN No 1 85112 061 0)*

### **3.HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT ISSUES (Dr John Crofts, Director Assurance)**

**Quarterly Report, Qtr 4 1999:** John Crofts said that on the whole this had been a good quarter.

The 10 performance parameters for 1999 had been challenging given that there were up to 5000 people involved and covered a wide scope of work.

The radioactive dose results had been very good, with a maximum dose of 4.1 mSv. An evaluation of this staff member's work programme was being carried out to ensure that his supervisor was doing everything possible to reduce his dose.

The average dose amongst 3,500 workers being monitored was 622 mSv, this is a good record giving a very low average dose, very few staff had received a dose above background levels.

He said the sickness absence was good at 4%. It was a barometer of stress and the happiness of the workforce. AWE had no reason to be different to the National average unless there were problems.

AWE's performance against discharge targets was good. The EA discharge authorisations were above AWE's actual discharges and that was under consideration. There had been a meeting in London the previous day to discuss this. John Crofts called on Ian Jackson to give an update.

Ian Jackson said that the consultation in 1999 had resulted in 4,000 responses, the largest the EA had ever received. The EA was currently looking at those responses and comparing them with the consultation document. He could not go into details but a decision was likely to be announced in March 2000.

John Crofts said that AWE had set itself lower parameters than the authorisations and, though challenging, they had stayed within them.

Referring to the Graphs on page 21/22, Radiological discharges, disposals and transfers and Chemical discharges, John Crofts said that the RA discharges were at a low percentage. The Copper and Chromium look higher than average, this occurred in only one sample, backtracking had not produced a reason for this.

Terry Faulkner asked whether both the copper and the chromium were tested on the same sample, John Crofts confirmed this. John Mazillius raised concerns that the material had been discharged prior to the sampling results being known, he said that this meant that AWE was not in control of its discharges. John Crofts pointed out that the amounts were in parts per billion and that AWE was confident, knowing the chemistry of the processes, that the limits would not be exceeded. John Crofts said that he was sufficiently

confident that he did not need to hold back the discharges until the results were confirmed.

There had been three enforcement notices: the first was the release of tritium at the northern end of the Aldermaston site. The second was related to a facility handling tritium where not all the stack discharge was being reported to the EA. This improvement notice had been closed out. The third was related to AWE Emergency Arrangements. The NII had said that there were actions from previous exercises which were not being closed out quickly enough and that there was no system in place which said what risks there were for say a fireman entering a building. Operational procedures were being reviewed to take this into account. The deadline was the end of February.

Work was still ongoing to introduce a new set of alerting tones. The tones were in place and at that time a programme of alerting staff to the changes was ongoing.

The other part of the improvement notice related to the MoD police. In an emergency they deploy to protect the security of nuclear material. It was not obvious from a recent false alarm that their safety was being taken into consideration.

Kevin Holyer asked how AWE decided that the targets were demanding. Would zero not be a more demanding target for enforcement notices and warning letters from the regulating authorities? Robin Bradley said that the end objective was to get to the target, but all targets set must be achievable, too demanding a target would result in staff becoming disenchanted and not striving to meet the target. NII also had to show that they were doing their job.

John Crofts agreed that zero would be more demanding. He pointed out that when AWE was first licensed the regulators were helping AWE to achieve a better standard. Then, a target of 12 warning letters was a challenge for AWE to significantly improve. This year's target did not mean that NII were not regulating AWE but that communications had improved. It was also inappropriate for Hunting-BRAE to introduce a new system for the new contractor. Robin Bradley suggested that it might be better to track performance rather than set targets for items like warning letters. A discussion ensued. One suggestion was to have a mirror set of performance targets set by the NII. The suggestion was noted.

John Parfitt asked why the discharge target for tritium was set so high. John Crofts replied that in setting the targets he had to take into account the programme of work for the coming year. In this case, as Robin had said, a new tritium facility was being commissioned and this meant that two existing tritium facilities could be decommissioned. He said that it was inevitable that the discharges would be commensurate with this work.

In 1999 the target for lost time accidents was set at 0.3/100,000 hours worked. In 1998 this target was missed by 0.06, in 1999 the target was again set at 0.3/100,000 hours worked and was missed by 0.02. These accidents

were most often the result of trips, slips, bumps and falls. Last year there had been two road traffic accidents on site resulting in injury. The target for 2000 has been set at 0.3/100,000 hours worked.

On the environmental front, there were several issues already mentioned, the heating oil at Blacknest, the RSA deliberations, the copper and chromium spike but also there was a raised level of zinc in water going to North Ponds. This was traced to some old zinc galvanised pipework. At previous meetings the subject of tritium in the area of North Ponds had been discussed. Dr Crofts said that a lot of work was being done to trace the source of the (albeit low) levels of tritium.

The report on the second year of the Southampton University study was expected in time for the Annual Report Launch, the information group would be made aware of the results prior to that. Ian Croudace from Southampton University had agreed to give a short presentation on the results. Members had asked for tritium to be included in the third year of the study and this had been agreed. The study would also look at groundwater.

Kevin Holyer asked whether the new contractor would commit to the third year of the story. After verifying facts Dr Rae agreed that there would be a commitment.

John Crofts went on to say that AWE was presented with an Excellence Award by Mars in Berkshire in recognition of their commitment to achievements in improving environmental performance and the Company's openness in the publication of the results. They were also impressed with the Company's efforts to recycle domestic waste, reduce the number of cars coming to AWE, the transport policy and the pressure on reducing energy consumption.

He went on to talk about lost time accidents and incidents in general. He said that in the SRI reporting system, observations made up the bulk of reports. He said that 845 per quarter sounded terrible but that AWE is pleased to have such a good safety culture, as the number of reports increased, the number of actual incidents and accidents had decreased. John Crofts said that the reports were now measured against the internationally recognised INES (International Nuclear Event Scale). This system allows countries all over the world to compare and understand the scale of nuclear events. Three of the incidents were INES level one, 'an anomaly' and at the bottom of the scale. Members were given an addendum to the quarterly report which listed all the AWE SRIs at level 2 or above from June 1998 to June 1999. The report showed that none of the SRIs were above INES level 1 during this period. The three which were at INES 1 are:

- 1 Nuclear materials movement is tightly controlled and governed by a series of stringent rules. Although the amount of nuclear material allowed in one place at any time was not exceeded, there was a deviation in the number of containers, either empty or full which are

- allowed to be in one place at one time. Operations are now in full accordance with the safety assessment.
- 2 Access restrictions had been placed on a safe containing RA material. Paperwork to lift this restriction was raised in error, but the movement control system detected the mistake and the restriction remained. The method of lifting embargoes had now been amended to ensure that this does not happen again.
  - 3 Two automatic fire detectors were not tested in accordance with their maintenance schedule. When tested they still worked as they should, equipment has now been provided to enable correct testing in the future.

Recent media reports had said that AWE had not reported these incidents. Dr Crofts hoped that this system of reporting SRIs would reassure members that the Company was not trying to hide anything but had made a decision on what it thought members wanted to see.

Jonny Morris said that he was now responsible for contract labour employed by Reading Borough Council and he was using AWE's model for lost time accidents as a model against which they should be working and that AWE were to be congratulated.

Tim Whitaker asked where the Pangbourne Pipeline discharges were measured and whether the Environment Agency checked the figures. He was assured by both Robin Bradley and Ian Jackson that the measurements were taken at both ends of the pipeline and that the EA carried out random spot checks about once a month. The figures from the EA tests were published on the Environment Agency's Public Register.

#### **4. DISCUSSION ON INCIDENT REPORTING**

Robin Bradley said that he had asked Graeme Hammond to prepare a discussion paper on the subject of incident reporting. This document had been sent to members prior to the meeting. He asked members to accept his assurance that incident reports were not edited by him, but came direct from the Assurance staff, with both positive and negative results. He said that it would be impossible to give everyone everything they needed. The recent alarmist reporting was the penalty that AWE had paid for getting it wrong – the reports looked at things from a technical point of view. He said that it also tried to anticipate the interests of the LLC and the views of neighbours as to what they wanted to know.

Tony Ferguson reiterated the decision made at the last meeting that there should be four meetings each year in line with the Quarterly reports and that material for discussion should be with members one week in advance of the meetings. Action had already been taken to move to quarterly meetings and the date of the next meeting was set with that in mind.

It was expected that members' views on incident reporting would be aired at a future meeting.

## **5. SURVEY RESULTS ON MEDIA ATTENDANCE AT LLC MEETINGS**

Robin Bradley thanked those members who had completed the survey on media attendance at LLC meetings. He said that there was a movement towards more members wanting to see the media attending. He said that it was his feeling that there were strong views on both sides and he did not think it proper to make a decision on this issue. He felt that the Chief Executive under AWEML would find the survey results useful. He added that his own feeling was that the LLC forum would be difficult with the media present. He felt that the discussions would be very different and that it would not be beneficial to the LLC. He stressed that this was his own personal view.

## **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Annual Report Presentation:** The presentation of the 1999 Hunting-BRAE Annual Report will be held at Aldermaston on Monday 20 March, attendance would be by invitation only and all members had been invited.

Terry Price asked about the status of the planned supermarket on the site of the old Boundary Hall. John Crofts explained that AWE's emergency plans were concurrent with the supermarket being built and run there, but that there was concern from the emergency services that if there were an accident at AWE the traffic congestion from people leaving the supermarket could prevent them getting through. The road plans were being re-addressed and new plans were expected imminently.

Bill Cane presented Robin Bradley with a memento from the committee in recognition of his chairmanship of the LLC. He cited nine major achievements at AWE during those years. The licensing of the Aldermaston & Burghfield sites, the openness towards the LLC and the local public, the appointment of Southampton University to carry out an independent survey, the total safety package introduced into the operation of the sites, winning the RoSPA gold medals two years running, the generosity of AWE and its active involvement in local charities, AWE's involvement in local schools, colleges and universities to further science and engineering, the building of the North Ponds complex to protect the environment and particularly the local residents and finally for his award of a CBE. On behalf of the LLC he wished him well for the future.

## **7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2000.

## **8. CLOSING REMARKS**

Robin Bradley took this opportunity to thank members for their interest in AWE and for their support in helping to make AWE's activities more transparent.

He said that he and his staff had tried very hard to be a good, safe and trusted neighbour. He hoped they had managed to achieve a greater public understanding of AWE's work and greater confidence in their ability to manage AWE safely and securely and with regard to the environment and the needs of neighbours.

Over the whole seven years of Hunting-BRAE's stewardship of AWE, the Company had achieved all that was asked of it – and more. Indeed, the past seven years had seen remarkable achievements.

He said that AWE had met the demanding Trident production schedule and decommissioning tasks whilst achieving nuclear site licensing – a task that many believed was impossible in the timescale. AWE had made major improvements in safety, reduced costs, improved waste management, begun to clean up the legacy of the past and opened up AWE's operations for greater public scrutiny.

All of this was the result of an excellent partnership between Hunting-BRAE and AWE's talented and remarkable employees.

He said that his team had unshakeable faith in the value of AWE to the nation. Also that it had been a major contributor to world peace over the past 50 years and he wished to see it succeed in the future. He said he was proud to have been part of it.

Avril Burdett  
Secretary  
Local Liaison Committee  
22 February 2000