

Minutes of the 49th AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting

Thursday 7th June 2007

Present:

Don Cook	Managing Director, AWE	Chairman LLC
Jonathan Brown	Director Infrastructure, AWE	
Dr Andrew Jupp	Director Assurance, AWE	
Alan Price	Head Corporate Communications	
Avril Burdett	Public Affairs Manager, AWE	Secretary LLC
Cllr Phil Bassil	Brimpton Parish Council	
Cllr Peter Beard	Reading Borough Council	
Cllr Malcolm Bryant	Wokingham Borough Council	
Cllr Bill Cane	Mortimer West End Parish Council	LLC Liaison Officer
Cllr Terry Faulkner	Tadley Town Council	
Cllr Mick Hall	Burghfield Parish Council	
Cllr John Heggadon	Shinfield Parish Council	
Cllr Peter Hobbs	Sulhamstead Parish Council	
Cllr David Leeks	Tadley Town Council	
Ian Lindsey	Wasing Parish Meeting	
Cllr Royce Longton	West Berkshire Council	
Cllr Jeff Moss	Swallowfield Parish Council	
Cllr Irene Neill	West Berkshire Council	
Cllr David Shirt	Aldermaston Parish Council	
Cllr Alan Sumner	Wokefield Parish Council	
Mr Bill Taylor	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council	
Cllr Clive Vare	Aldermaston Parish Council	
Cllr Tim Whitaker	Mapledurham Parish Council	
Cllr Wendy Williamson	Woolhampton Parish Council	

Regulators:

Martin Sayers	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Stephen Hughes	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Chris Hicks	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Ron McGregor	Environment Agency

1. Welcome

Dr Cook congratulated members who had been successful in the recent local elections. He welcomed new members:

Cllr Phil Bassil representing Brimpton Parish Council
Cllr Mick Hall of Burghfield Parish Council
Cllr Clive Vare representing Aldermaston Parish Council and
Cllr Wendy Williamson of Woolhampton Parish Council

He also passed on his thanks and those of colleagues at AWE to Cllr Margaret Dadswell, who had represented Aldermaston Parish Council since the first LLC meeting in 1993.

He also say good bye and thank you to:

Cllr Gul Khan,
Cllr Maureen Eden,
Cllr Claire Hutchings
Cllr Michael Lochrie
Cllr Graham Ward

and to Bill Taylor who was attending his last meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Pat Garrett; Julie James; Cllr Kay Lacey; Caroline Murison; Barry Richards; Cllr Murray Roberts; John Southall and from new members, Cllr Penee Chopping of Ufton Nervet Parish Council, Cllr Tony Stanley of Silchester Parish Council and Cllr Dudley Ives of Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council.

3. Actions from the last meeting

Action 47/3: Secretary to look at changing the AWE entries in local telephone directories: Thomson Local Directories will be updated in the next editions of the Reading, Basingstoke and Newbury editions, their e-version will reflect the change immediately. National Directories will follow later. **Action closed**

Action 48/1: Secretary to feedback this information on voltage reduction to Cllr Broad who asked the question at the 47th meeting. **Action complete**

Action 48/3: JB to report to the LLC on the future of the Pangbourne Pipeline. The costed options study has been completed and AWE are now working with MOD to identify the best way forwards. The LLC will be given updates as the project progresses. **Action closed**

4. Minutes of the 48th Meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Dr Cook announced that Jonathan Brown would be leaving AWE at the end of June to join the bid team of Serco, Bechtel and BWXT to operate Sellafield. He said that Jonathan had made a major positive difference to the organisation during his time at AWE. Members agreed and thanked Mr Brown for his enthusiastic input to the LLC and wished him well in the future.

5. Infrastructure Report – Jonathan Brown, Director Infrastructure

See attached presentation slides

Travel & Transport

Dave Murray was to talk to Tadley Parish Council on 11 June about AWE's Travel and Transport strategy and Jonathan offered the other councillors the same facility.

The recent travel survey has shown that single occupancy vehicles (SOV's) at (A) and (B) have both decreased and that car sharing has increased at both sites. The introduction of no right turns on to site has stopped the build up of traffic so that it flowed better. One LLC member stated the people did still ignore this and make right turns onto site. Jonathan Brown replied that this was to do with individual behaviours which he was trying to address.

Members pointed out that residents of Red Lane were concerned about the increase in traffic volume and the possibility of accidents at the junctions with the Reading Road. Jonathan stated that the 'U' turns had stopped and the introduction of the new roundabouts should ease this problem.

A question was asked about whether emergency vehicles could turn right onto site and Jonathan Brown replied that they could turn on to site in whichever way was the most appropriate.

WECE (West End Construction Enclave)

A medical and welfare facility will be provided for the construction workers. A central enclave is to be built at Aldermaston and also one at Burghfield. This is part of treating people fairly. The formal handover denotes the transfer of responsibility for the enclave to Bob Irvin, Director Major Projects.

Electric Vehicles

One of our major contractors is trialling an electric vehicle for postal deliveries that has a range of 60 miles and a top speed of 28 mph. This is part of AWE's initiative to look at sustainable transport.

Blacknest

New byelaws are now in place and a fence has been erected around the Blacknest site to define the boundaries. 609 English Berberis have been planted to screen the fence and the style of the gate is in keeping with a country house.

Burghfield Fence

In July 2005 MOD initiated a study into the defence of nuclear establishments in the UK. Existing MOD and HMG installations at Devonport Docks, RAF Fylingdales, UKAEA and Buckingham Palace have the type of electric fence now installed at Burghfield. This type of fence has been used for 25 years and is a multi-strand high voltage pulsed conductor barrier that gives a short, sharp, painful shock. It is not designed to cause injury.

Protestor Activity

Thames Valley Police will host a public meeting for 7.30 pm on 20 June at The Manor House so they can explain their policing procedures. Some LLC members thought this was too little notice of the meeting and as they would be unable to attend, asked for a second meeting to be arranged for the Autumn. A question was asked about the involvement of Hampshire Police and it was explained that they work through TVP who have control of policing the protests at AWE.

Cllr David Leeks again asked for warning signs on the main roads into Tadley when there is a protest and complained about the disruption and impact on local businesses. Jonathan said that local businesses are informed.

ACTION: 49/1: Avril Burdett will give David a list of the alerting procedures we have in place.

DI Assurance Campaign

A series of hard-hitting presentations by visiting speakers was given to more than 3,000 staff. The presentations covered the implications of suspect packages and the effects these can have at both a personal and business level. A poster competition was held with over 80 entries being received and the issuing of 4500 luggage labels promoting their use by staff. By raising awareness of behaviours it is anticipated that there will be a reduction in the number of suspect package incidents due to unmarked bags/packages.

PPL Update

The feasibility study and characterisation work are complete. The BPEO (Best Practicable Environmental Option) has been assessed and recommendations made. The report is now with MOD for comment. Once the way forward is agreed discussions will be held with landowners. Cleaning,

grouting and removal have all been considered. The sparge (discharge) pipes have been removed and the pumphouse will be demolished.

A question was asked about the car park at Ufton Nervet School and Jonathan replied that AWE is working with the contractor and work should start in July. Jonathan was asked if a letter could be sent to the local community to let them know what is happening. This is already in hand.

Further Note

A question was asked about what is happening with AWE's study of using wind turbines on site.

ACTION 49/2: To give the LLC an update on the data collection for potential use of wind turbines.

6. Chairman's remarks - Dr Don Cook, Managing Director, AWE Plc.

The latest edition of the AWE REPPIR leaflet will be distributed to some 22,000 homes and businesses in the area next week. This is the leaflet which gives instructions on what to do in the event of a major emergency on the Aldermaston or Burghfield sites. Also included in the mailing is AWE's 'CONNECT' magazine to keep our neighbours up to date with what is happening on and around our sites. Most of you will receive copies in the mail, but Avril will ensure that those from outside the distribution area will get their copy.

Independent Inquiry into examination of body parts

Dr Cook said that members may have seen coverage in the national media about the inquiry into the examination of body parts of former members of staff at Sellafield. The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry Alistair Darling has announced an inquiry into the claims of tissue sampling of autopsy material from former Sellafield workers between 1960s and 1990s.

The Minister appointed Michael Redfern QC to lead an independent investigation into trade union claims that permission was not obtained to remove the tissue samples.

AWE has been carrying out a check on its historic records and any information would be collated and supplied to the MoD. AWE stands ready to co-operate fully with the inquiry. The Secretary of State has announced the terms of reference for the inquiry and apart from the focus on Sellafield, they included examining additional information from UKAEA and AWE.

Aldermaston Site Exercise

The annual Level 1 Licensing Exercise (Sitex) was held, unusually, during the evening of the 21 May, and was observed by inspectors from HSE/NII and the Nuclear Weapon Regulator.

The regulators commented on the committed approach of all staff participating as a positive aspect of the exercise. Along with Jonathan Brown and Andrew Jupp, I also observed the exercise and fully endorse this fact.

In their observation summary, the NII reported that although many aspects of AWE's emergency arrangements were positively demonstrated and major objectives met, there were some aspects which, in their view as regulators, had not been demonstrated as being adequate.

They highlighted that several signals and notifications were done 'notionally', because of this they felt that the exercise had not fully demonstrated the capability to respond to an emergency outside normal hours. Ironically, in trying to keep down the nuisance to neighbours in not sounding

the site undercover alarms for real, and having staff and emergency services pre-positioned on site, we did not meet NII expectations.

Site Response Group are meeting with the NII to discuss which areas they wish to see additionally tested and agree methods to be used to demonstrate their adequacy. These will then be tested without the need for a full-scale repeat of Sitex.

AWE Summer Exhibition

We will be holding an AWE Summer Exhibition -titled 'Recognise the Past - Realise the Future - during the week starting Monday 18 June. As part of this, we will be inviting family members to look around the exhibition, enjoy some refreshments and to take a guided windshield tour around the site on Saturday and Sunday 23/24 June.

Part of the exhibition is a recognition of the value of the 'Grapple' atmospheric tests to the development of the UK's nuclear deterrent. This is covered in a time line of AWE's history. LLC members would be invited.

Basingstoke Voluntary Network

On June 11th, at the Ark at North Hampshire hospital, the Basingstoke Voluntary Network was launched. It was attended by about 100 representatives from the voluntary sector and local commercial organisations and was hosted by Basingstoke MP, Maria Miller. The project, sponsored by AWE, aims to match local charities needing 'support-in-kind' with local industries and retailers who are willing to release their staff to help out in the community.

We wish Basingstoke Voluntary Services well with this project and AWE will continue to lend its support.

Science, Engineering & Technology Awards 2006 - Winners

The outcome of the 2006 Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) Awards was announced recently. The judging panel members were impressed with the standard of all the nominations, but the winners were:

The John Challens Medal, which recognises the sustained, high quality and valued contribution of an individual to the work of AWE in the SET field, goes to Professor Ian Donald. Ian is a Distinguished Scientist who is internationally recognised for his work in the field of glass science and technology and has an extensive publication record.

The Discovery Award recognises an individual judged to have made the most innovative and significant contribution in the SET field during the early stage of their career, and goes to Dr Andrew Randewich. He has worked at AWE for nine years and during that time has become the UK expert on high altitude nuclear burst phenomenology, with particular emphasis on electromagnetic pulse (EMP) effects and artificial Van Allen belt generation.

The JC (Charlie) Martin Awards recognise excellent technical content, originality and presentation demonstrated in an AWE internal report or externally published paper. The award for an Internal Report goes to Dr Graham Ball for his publication "A physics-based model for friction". The award for an External Paper goes to Dr Mogon Patel, Dr Anthony Swain and Dr Jenny Cunningham for their publication "The stability of poly (m-carborane-siloxane) elastomers exposed to heat and gamma radiation".

The recipients of these awards will be recognised at a presentation ceremony where the guest speaker and presenter of the awards will be Professor Sir Peter Knight FRS, Principal of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, London.

Management Changes

Dr Cook said that in recent weeks he had made some significant senior management changes at AWE. Jonathan Brown will be leaving AWE at the end of June. Andrew Jupp will transfer to the role of Director Infrastructure as from 25 June. Heather Young will take up the role of Assurance Director.

A new role of Chief Information Officer is being created to coordinate the implementation and management of all Information Technology Systems across AWE. David Maitland, Director Corporate Services has taken up this role in addition to his current accountabilities.

Dr Cook said that he was also establishing a new Systems Engineering Directorate covering appropriate new processes and approaches to systems engineering. It will lead involvement, collaboration, and integration of key national and international partners in government and industry. Brian Bowsher, currently Director Research & Applied Science, will provide the Executive leadership in forming and shaping the new Directorate, and in heading the Systems Engineering Directorate once it is formed. David Chambers, who has presented to the LLC, will act as Director Research & Applied Science for an interim period.

Celebration of 50th LLC

The next meeting will be the 50th AWE Local Liaison Committee meeting, Dr Cook invited members to celebrate with dinner one evening.

Dr Cook concluded by saying that Sustainability would be a focus for future meetings and the Executive Board had agreed that the Infrastructure Directorate will have this as an additional role. He said that it was important to take account of AWE's impact on the environment in broad terms as well as in waste minimisation, recycling of assets etc.

7. Health, Safety & Environmental Report - Dr Andrew Jupp, Director Assurance

Slides attached

Several Health and Safety campaigns were running at AWE:

Healthy eating - The staff restaurant has cards on tables promoting the campaign for eating 5-a-Day fruit & vegetables and, in conjunction with our caterers Eurest, AWE is running a recipe competition to promote healthy eating. Ian Lindsey asked whether AWE caterers sourced their food locally.

Action 49/3: To ask Eurest for their policy on sourcing food.

Stress management - 2 workshops are being held, 1) coping skills 2) personal and team stress management.

Skin care - this campaign was aimed at the Apprentice Academy following 2 RIDDOR reportable dermatitis events.

Quit smoking clinics - 14 staff have given up smoking as a result of this campaign. AWE gave staff time and support to attend the clinics.

Target Zero - The latest campaign under this banner was Road Transport - the introduction of 'no right turns' at Main and Boiler House gate were highlighted and West Berkshire Council has agreed to us extending it to other gates.

Dealing with suspect packages - this campaign started with presentations from specialist offices from the Army & MoD to staff to raise awareness of personal safety and to reduce the number of suspect package alerts on the sites.

Tri Service Health Physicians - Donald Bruce, TMS Physician and President of the Society of Occupational Medicine arranged for the Army/Navy/Air Force Occupational Health Physicians to visit site as part of their Continuous Professional Development Programme. This visit enabled the doctors to gain an insight into occupational health issues outside of the Armed Forces.

Assurance Recognition Awards

Nominations:

- 1) Hydrodynamic research
- 2) Ken Woodward seminars
- 3) Local facility waste minimisation
- 4) Civil and mechanical inspection at Burghfield
- 5) UKAS accreditation of analytical labs

Winners

Hydrodynamic research - £350 donated to Overcliffe House - Autistic Society

Waste Minimisation - >80% recycled - £350 donated to Living Paintings - partially sighted / blind

Ken Woodward seminars ~ 68% of staff attended - Cheque to the Greenham and Cookham

Conservation volunteers.

Radioactive Discharges - The Environment Agency was notified of discharges of Beta radioactivity to trade waste of 5.42 ± 0.24 MBq. This exceeded the quarterly notification level of 4MBq by 35.5%. Higher levels due to naturally occurring Potassium 40 present in ordinary raw materials such as salt, soaps used in the Powerhouse for reverse osmosis. The limit was reduced from 24 MBq to 4 MBq on 1 March 07. The tighter limits agreed with the Agency had the result that naturally occurring radioisotopes are becoming much more relevant. We are looking at whether it can be managed out of our systems or whether the material should be excluded from our calculations.

Environment Agency visit - Directors for Environmental Protection and Thames Region. We discussed our immediate and long term environmental commitments and took them around the newly commissioned B Area remediation plant, the new radioactive effluent treatment plant and the new plating shop. Feedback from them both was very positive and they were pleased to see the progress being made in the areas of contaminated land and the redevelopment of facilities with environmental protection designed into the very heart of facilities.

Regulatory Interface Framework

Three levels of interaction with the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate have been introduced:

- 1) Dr Don Cook and the Deputy Chief Inspector NII
- 2) Assurance Director and Superintendent Inspector NII
- 3) Business groups and site Inspectors

Uranium Levels in Prospect Park - during the period 29th March to 12th April 2007 the levels of natural uranium found at our monitoring station at Prospect Park in Reading was found to be slightly elevated. We notified the regulator for interest but the levels are not due to any activities at AWE. The result was 1434 (+/- 115) nBq/m³ against a threshold of 1000 nBq/m³.

Isotopic analysis confirms natural uranium and the dust loading on the sample was three times that found on other samples taken in the same period which would explain the elevated result.

RoSPA - Submitted 1) Occupational Health Award; 2) Health and Safety Award; 3) RoSPA International Dilmun Environmental Award - To demonstrate that consideration of the environment is part of the organisation's corporate social responsibility practice.

AWE has been short-listed for: 1) The Astor Trophy for Health and Safety Performance 2) A major Award for Occupational Health and Safety

4,000,000 Hours without LTA in DRAS - Directorate Research & Applied Science were awarded £500 - which was presented to a Wildlife Trust.

Injuries

1) For the months of April 06, January 07, February 07 and March 07 the ratio of reported Hand / Back / Falls injuries was approximately the same.

2) For March 07 there was a +93% increase in reportable injuries over February 07 and +107% increase over April 06. We have concluded that the Ken Woodward seminars which took place in January 07 had a significant effect on people reporting their injuries, which was a key message from Ken Woodward. We will monitor the number of injuries over the coming months to assess if the number of injuries are reduced.

Maximum Individual Dose - As required by CSP 1301 "Control of Exposure to Radiation", a Review Learn and Improve investigation is being carried out into the circumstances surrounding the KPIs being exceeded. For the Individual Maximum Dose KPI circumstances around the control of exposures to the individual are being reviewed.

Waste minimisation will be the focus of one of our summer '07 Target Zero campaigns.

8. Ask the Regulators

The Environment Agency had asked for a slot to be put in the agenda to allow members to ask questions directly to the regulators. Members were asked to feed back to the Secretary any comments on the content of the quarterly reports provided to them.

9. Any Other Business

Some members complained of the length of time it took to get onto the AWE Aldermaston site for the LLC meeting. Secretary will look at how this time can be shortened.

10. Visit to the Gemini and Orion construction sites

11. Dates of next meetings

Thursday 6th September 2007

Thursday 13th December 2007

12. Lunch

Avril Burdett
Secretary to the AWE LLC
0118 982 5602