

Minutes of the 52nd AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting

Thursday 21 February 2008

Present:

Dr Don Cook	Managing Director, AWE	Chairman LLC
Dr Andrew Jupp	Director Infrastructure, AWE	
Heather Young	Director Assurance, AWE	
Alan Price	Head Corporate Communications, AWE	
Lindsey Appleton	Corporate Affairs Manager, AWE	Secretary LLC
Cllr Peter Beard	Reading Borough Council	
Cllr Mike Broad	Tadley Town Council	
Cllr Malcolm Bryant	Wokingham Borough Council	
Cllr Bill Cane	Mortimer West End Parish Council	LLC Liaison Officer
Cllr Jonathan Chishick	Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council	
Cllr Pennee Chopping	Ufton Nervet Parish Council	
Cllr Terry Faulkner	Tadley Town Council	
Cllr Geoff Findlay	West Berkshire Council	
Cllr John Heggadon	Shinfield Parish Council	
Cllr Peter Hobbs	Sulhamstead Parish Council	
Cllr Dudley Ives	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council	
Cllr David Leeks	Tadley Town Council	
Cllr Royce Longton	West Berkshire Council	
Cllr George McGarvie	Pamber Heath Parish Council	
Jeff Moss	Swallowfield Parish Council	
Cllr Irene Neill	West Berkshire Council	
John Southall	Purley-on-Thames Parish Council	
Cllr Alan Sumner	Wokefield Parish Council	
Cllr Clive Vare	Aldermaston Parish Council	
Cllr Tim Whitaker	Mapledurham Parish Council	
Cllr David Wood	Theale Parish Council	

Regulators:

Martin Sayers	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Stuart Parr	Environment Agency
Andrew Pembroke	Environment Agency

1. Introduction

Dr Cook welcomed members to the 52nd meeting and introduced Lindsey Appleton as the new LLC Secretary.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Philip Bassil, Cllr Pat Garrett, Ms Julie James, Mr Gul Khan, Mr Ian Lindsay, Ms Carolyn Murison, Mr Tom Payne, Cllr David Shirt, and Cllr Wendy Williamson.

3. Actions from the last meeting

Action 50/5: John Steele's presentation to West Berkshire Council on Site Development was given on 6 February.

4. Minutes of the 51st Meeting

On page 1 of the minutes, Julie James was quoted as being a member of Hampshire Parish Council. This should read Hampshire County Council.
The minutes were then accepted as a record of the meeting.

5. Chairman's remarks – Dr Don Cook, Managing Director, AWE Plc.

Disarmament Laboratory Proposal

The Secretary of State for Defence, Des Browne, gave a speech at a conference on Disarmament in Geneva. Mr Browne proposes to host a conference for technical experts from all the recognized nuclear states. It is hoped the conference will take place before the Non-Proliferation Treaty review in 2010.

Suspicious suitcase incident

A suspicious suitcase had been left in the Aldermaston Recreational Society car park. Significant commitment of resources from AWE, MDP and the Army bomb disposal team were required to ensure safety. The suitcase was destroyed and the incident was declared a false alarm.

Sludge Cementation Project

In December 2007, an AWE cross-directorate team working with external suppliers has successfully completed a three-year project to meet regulatory requirements for dealing with radioactive sludge. The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) has confirmed that AWE has met the requirements of specification LI33 in respect of ceasing the accumulation of radioactive waste in the sludge storage tanks by 1 January 2008.

HEFF Planning decision

West Berkshire Council's Eastern Area Planning Committee approved the application to construct a new High Explosives Fabrication Facility at Aldermaston. The proposed development will allow AWE to replace a number of existing operations currently undertaken in separate buildings within a single new plant at Aldermaston.

Charities of the year

Just under £15,000 was raised by AWE's workforce for the 2007 "Charities of the Year". This was shared equally between Age Concern of Tadley and the Down's Syndrome Association. The "Charities of the Year" for 2008 are the Alzheimers Society and Naomi House which is a hospice for children.

Healthy lifestyles

AWE is supporting those employees who are entering the annual London to Brighton bike ride. The Company is providing coach transport plus a van for the bikes. This coincides with National Cycling week which AWE will be promoting in June.

New face for Website

AWE's external redesigned website went "live" on 9 February. The website now has a fresh design and user-friendly navigation.

Books for Schools Scheme

Schools have just received their cheques under the above initiative, part of the Company's scheme to support local schools in developing their resources in science and technology. The scheme has been running since 2005 and any school registered can apply for a £200 share of the £10,000 annual pot.

6. Health, Safety & Environmental Report – Heather Young, D. Assurance **Slides attached**

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) April 2007 - December 2007

The lost time accident rate and total recordable injury rate (TRIR) have improved but figures from earlier in the year meant that the rolling average is on an upward trend despite improvements in the last quarter.

Improvements are always being sought and everyone who is injured on an AWE site is interviewed to identify any issues surrounding the accident.

In August 2007, there were 29 First Aid injuries compared to December's total of 13.

Construction Waste Recycling Facility

A proposal has been put forward to build an external Construction waste recycling facility that will reduce our lorry movements on and off AWE sites whilst also reducing the cost of disposal and providing a supply of varying grades of hardcore for roads and foundations.

Cllr McGarvie asked whether AWE has undertaken a benchmarking exercise to assess the Company's safety performance against other businesses undergoing some form of construction work. Mrs Young stated that AWE's aim was to sustain no injuries and that AWE's figures were more favourable than other comparable sites.

Action 52/1: Heather Young to provide data at the next meeting.

Cllr Findlay applauded the setting of zero as being a rigorous target but asked AWE to look at the issue of reducing the use of excessive packaging.

Action 52/2: Head of Environment, Gareth Beard, will report back at the next meeting.

Incident and Injury Free (IIF) Workshops

The key objective of AWE's Target Zero campaign remains the development of an improving health and safety culture within AWE and working towards an Incident and Injury Free workplace (IIF). Workshops continue to be delivered to all employees and contractors, centering on personal responsibility for ensuring safety. To date, over 6,600 people have been through the process and the Company is on target to complete the programme by the end of February 2008.

IIF will be part of the general employee induction process and we will expect to see some improvements in behaviours across Site. The IIF programme will move forward to engage the same people who are supervisors to make sure they are trained in the necessary skills and approaches required to ensure the IIF message are reinforced and supported.

Environment Annual Report

The Environment Annual Report for 2007 was produced just before Christmas and summarises the work done on environmental enhancement whilst acknowledging those areas where improvement has been sought from the regulators.

AWE has joined the Cleaner and Greener partnership. Cleaner and Greener comprises representation from a number of bodies to advise and drive environmental improvements. Efforts will largely focus on areas such as, renewable energy, waste reduction, encourage the use of locally grown produce in the food chain and the increase in number and management of, wildlife reserves and habitats. This will include monitoring and enhancing biodiversity.

Pollution Prevention Control (PPC)

In July 2007, we received directions from DEFRA secretary of state, allowing the Environment Agency to place information for the first time on the public registers and to enable the full public consultation of the processes on emissions and environmental impacts. Three processes are covered by the regulations: Combustion process, carbon activity, non-ferrous metals. We had previously held permits under the Integrated Pollution Control provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 but this legislation no longer applies.

7. Infrastructure Report - Dr Andrew Jupp, Director Infrastructure Slides attached Burghfield Site Exercise

As part of our continuous improvement and in order to fulfil the requirements of Licence Condition 11 (Emergency arrangements) of the Nuclear Site Licence, a major Site exercise will take place on 22 April.

The Level 1 exercise will be observed by representatives of the Health and Safety executive, NII and MoD as part of their normal duties. The Site alarm will be sounded and the Site placed under cover.

Easter protest

A large CND protest on Easter Monday will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the first Aldermaston march by CND protestors. The plan is to surround the Site and protestors will link hands. There will be speakers and some entertainment with themes for each decade at different gates.

Sustainability Programme

Emcor have taken delivery of 8 electric vehicles to be used for escorting and maintenance. The cars will be used as mobile escorts, escorting delivery vehicles on Site. The vans will be used across the estate in water treatment areas, for post pick up, deliveries and general maintenance work.

The loss of EMCOR's diesel vehicles means an on-site saving of 25 tonnes of CO2 per annum. While the typical unleaded car costs 19.4p per mile over 30,000 miles, the running costs of these cars are less than 1.5p per mile. Both vehicles have room for a driver and passenger and can travel for 50 miles before they need to be recharged from a normal 13 amp socket.

Following on from this, Transport are purchasing two 17 seater electric minibuses and one 3.5 tonne electric transit van. The electric buses will be used on courtesy bus duties for Site visitors. The Portland House Park and Ride shuttle service will be utilizing large hybrid buses (electric/diesel) later this year.

Waste Management Group– Paul Pounder, Facility and Operations Manager

Slides attached

Paul Pounder gave an overview of the main operations and the key objectives of the Waste Management Group.

These include the solid radioactive waste section, the liquid effluent section, the hazardous waste section and the North Ponds Water Management system. Paul Pounder stated that the Waste Management Group (WMG) continues to operate safely and in accordance with relevant legislation, consents and authorizations. WMG work with the NII, EA and NWR to ensure assurance and legacy matters are being managed.

WMG strive to continuously improve its operations, with particular regard to reducing the potential hazard its operations pose to the environment and the community.

Travel & Transport Update – Dave Murray, Manager Special Projects

Slides attached

Dave Murray gave an update on the current initiatives across Site pertaining to travel and transport. These were listed as no parking at Portland House, the introduction of a shuttle service to Abbey Wood, the construction of a pavement from Heath End roundabout to Aldermaston gate and an alternative entrance to Paices Hill.

Dave Murray stated that as a result of the continued analysis of traffic exiting the main gate, it had been determined that 20% of traffic leaving site by this gate, turn left. Cllr David Leeks had received a complaint from a resident in Falcon Fields that traffic from AWE is using this road to turn round in. Mr Murray stated that Thames Valley Police (TVP) are aware and will make every effort to prevent this from happening.

8. Food Standards Agency Report

Slides attached

The RIFE Report, Radioactivity in Food and the Environment has just been published. The report is produced by the Food Standards Agency in conjunction with the Environment Agency and assesses the impact of discharges into the environment and the presence of radionuclides in foodstuffs. The survey is carried out across the country but particular emphasis on the areas around nuclear sites. This report covers the 2006 data. The findings confirm our own findings of nil radiological impact on our surroundings.

For more information, see the Food Standards Agency website www.food.gov.uk

9. Ask the Regulators

Cllr Irene Neill asked whether any housing developments should take place within a 25 mile radius of a nuclear site. Martin Sayers (NII) said that there are restrictions which can affect the decision whether or not to build. The ability for safe evacuation was one example.

Cllr George McGarvie asked whether the NII had undertaken any benchmarking exercises against other construction sites. Martin Sayers said that licensed sites should not be treated any differently so as to be disproportionate across the country and that the NII were part of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

10. Any Other Business

Cllr David Leeks raised the issue of the amount of refuse surrounding the site, in ditches and opposite the Falcon Public House. **Action 52/3:** Heather Young to investigate the problem.

Cllr Bill Cane stated that the local tip has been closed for the past 4 months which encourages fly tipping. Cllr Geoff Findlay informed members that the tip will shortly reopen. The tip has been closed due to commercial waste being dumped and the delay in reopening results from a need to procure a tilt and zoom camera for increased security purposes.

Members commented that the overhead slides were difficult to read. **Action 52/3: Secretary to ensure slides are on A4 in future.**

11. Dates of next meetings

Thursday 5th June 2008

Thursday 4th September 2008

Thursday 11th December 2008

The meeting ended with a tour round Portland House and a buffet lunch.

Lindsey Appleton
Secretary to the AWE LLC
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