

## Minutes of the 55th AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting

Thursday 11 December 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 Michael Bound	Basingstoke & Deane Council	
Cllr Mike Broad	Tadley Town Council	
Cllr Malcolm Bryant	Wokingham Borough Council	
Cllr Bill Cane	Mortimer West End	LLC Coordinator
Cllr Jonathan Chishick	Tidmarsh with Sulham	
Cllr Terry Faulkner	Tadley Town Council	
Cllr Geoff Findlay	West Berks Council	
Cllr Patricia Garrett	Baughurst Parish Council	
Cllr Dudley Ives	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council	
Cllr David Leeks	Tadley Town Council	
Ian Lindsay	Wasing Parish Council	
Cllr Royce Longton	West Berks Council	
Jeff Moss	Swallowfield Parish Council	
Cllr Irene Neill	West Berks Council	
Cllr Barry Richards	Hampshire County Council	
Cllr David Shirt	Aldermaston Parish Council	
Cllr Chris Souden	Sulhamstead & Ufton Nervet	
John Southall	Purley-on-Thames Parish Council	
Cllr Tim Whitaker	Mapledurham Parish Council	
Cllr Jenny Williams	Silchester Parish Council	
Cllr David Wood	Theale Parish Council	

### Regulators:

Mike Finnerty	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Graeme Thomas	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Stuart Parr	Environment Agency

### Introduction

Dr Cook welcomed members to the 55th meeting.

### Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Pennee Chopping, Cllr John Heggadon, Cllr Kay Lacey, Mr Tom Payne, Cllr Murray Roberts, Cllr Alan Sumner, Cllr Clive Vare and Cllr R. Willis.

### Actions from the last meeting

**Action 54/1:** Copies of the complaints procedures were sent to Parish Clerks.

**Action 54/2:** A briefing for all the relevant Parish Councils bordering the Pangbourne Pipeline was held on 18 November.

### Minutes of the 54th Meeting

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

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

#### Channel 4 programme – flooding

In October, a report broadcast by Channel 4 News made a number of unfounded claims about the impact of flooding at AWE last year. Like much of the UK, AWE's sites at Aldermaston and Burghfield were both affected by the extremely heavy rainfall on 20 July 2007 – assessed as a one

in 215 year event – which led to flash flooding and water damage to some buildings. However, at no time was there any threat to the operational safety of AWE sites, to the public or the environment.

Cllr Longton stated there had been an article in one of the local newspapers, following the Channel 4 programme. Cllr Longton asked whether the Company had deliberately withheld information regarding the flooding from the public. In response, Alan Price said this was a good example of the unfounded claims which had resulted from a misinterpretation of a Company report on the impact of the flood.

### **UK-US trials**

A major UK-US collaborative trial, sponsored by AWE's Threat Reduction division, has been successfully conducted at the Nevada Test Site. The trial involved staff from different parts of the company - including manufacturing, design physics, diagnostics and engineering. The team used extensive instrumentation to produce a wealth of data which is still being assessed. There has been strong customer interest in this test in both UK and US at various levels, including senior government.

### **Institute of Physics Re-Accreditation of the Graduate Scheme**

The AWE Graduate Development Programme is accredited with the Institute of Physics (IoP), allowing for the AWE Head of Profession for Physics to approve competency requirements for AWE applicants seeking Chartered Physicist status.

The IoP visited AWE with external assessors in November 2008, when mentors, graduates and a member of the Company's senior management team, were interviewed to ensure AWE continue to comply with IoP requirements. The IoP team have reaccruited the programme as a result of their visit for a further three years.

### **Institute of Engineering and Technology Re-Accreditation**

In November, a panel from the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) visited AWE. Following a review of the Company's engineering and technology training programmes, they granted AWE a further three year accreditation.

### **Aldermaston Site Exercise**

The annual Aldermaston Site Exercise was held on 22 October and was assessed by AWE and the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and the Nuclear Weapons Regulators as a satisfactory demonstration of the site's emergency arrangements.

Performance in response to the incident by the AWE emergency teams and the Ministry of Defence Police was considered to have been of a particularly high standard and showed that AWE has developed a much more integrated "one team" approach to the management and response to emergencies at the site. This was a high note in the exercise and was praised by the regulators.

### **Anti-Nuclear protest action**

An anti-nuclear protest took place on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2008 at Aldermaston. There were several attempted and successful 'lock-on' incidents at various locations around the site in addition to groups of protestors who gathered at the gates to the site in an attempt to prevent entry for staff and contractors.

Although there was some disruption to traffic flow on the roads around the sites, this was kept to a minimum. Given the determination of the protest groups, the degree to which traffic flow was maintained is a credit to the police forces involved. At no time did the protestors achieve their aim of a total blockade of the site and most gates were kept open throughout the protest.

Cllr Shirt felt that the diversion arrangements for traffic were insufficient during protests. Andrew Jupp said that AWE will continue to look for ways to improve the situation. Cllr Bryant asked whether the Company is notified in advance regarding protests. Andrew Jupp said the Company works closely with the appropriate agencies but needed to remain ever vigilant.

### **Apprentice Prize Giving Ceremony and Graduate Programme Awards 2008**

On Thursday, 13th November two award ceremonies took place at AWE. These were the annual Apprentice Prize Giving and the Graduate Programme Awards.

The Apprentice Prize Giving recognises and rewards those apprentices that have completed a three to four year apprenticeship programme and those that have achieved key framework qualifications during the period. This year 26 Apprentices received their Deeds of Apprenticeship, 15 prizes were handed out, 99 technical certificates acknowledged and 77 National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) achievements listed in the programme.

The Graduate Programme Awards ceremony celebrated those graduates who had successfully completed their two-year programmes. In all, 50 graduates received their completion certificates from former England rugby star, Richard Hill MBE who was the guest of honour.

### **Celebrate Success**

The winners of the 2008 Company recognition awards were announced at a celebration event in October.

The individual Gold Award winner was Agnes Vent, from AWE's Precision Engineering Business Unit, who won the award for action which led to cost savings in Direct Supply. The Team Gold Award winners went to a cross-directorate team from the Directorate of Research and Applied Science and Stockpile Management. The team included: Michael Bowden, Jeff White, Keren Jobbins, Sarah Knowles, Ben Grant-Jones, Richard Lynch.

This year's event to celebrate our successes also paid tribute to all the other AWE award winners throughout the year, who picked up Bronze, Silver and SET Awards.

### **Appointment of new Finance Director**

Andy Kershaw, has joined the Company as Finance Director. Andy, who has extensive experience working with blue chip industrial companies, in construction and the public sector, joins AWE from CityWest Homes Ltd where he was Director of Finance. He also has extensive experience of working on Public Private Partnership (PPP) and Private Finance Initiative (PFI) projects.

### **Project Mensa Planning Application**

The Company will shortly be submitting a planning application to West Berkshire Council for a new assembly/disassembly facility to be located at Burghfield.

### **Health, Safety & Environmental Report – Heather Young, Director Assurance**

#### **Slides attached**

#### **Key Performance Indicators**

Whilst the Company's overall performance remains static, Heather Young stressed the need to maintain a focus on the prevention of injuries at work.

Waste recycling remains well above the target, while both collective and individual radiation dose rates are within planned targets. Continuing the positive theme, waste management is improving and there is now a single focal point for these issues. Following a question from Cllr Findlay, Heather Young said efforts to further improve the management of waste were continuing.

### **Visit of Lord Chris Smith, Chair of the Environment Agency**

The Company hosted a visit from Rt Hon Lord Chris Smith of Finsbury, Chair of the Environment Agency (EA). Accompanied by other senior EA representatives, he stated he had taken away a good impression of AWE and, in particular, the way in which methods of resolving flood issues are being built into AWE's forward programme. Lord Smith's visit concluded with a ceremony in which he planted a tree to mark his visit.

### **Regulatory Workshop**

A regulatory workshop was held in September. This workshop reviewed the regulatory interface arrangements for the last year. A number of actions arose from the workshop. These included further development of the AWE regulatory strategy and enhancement of the regulatory interface protocols.

### **Oil spillage**

Heather Young reported that an oil spillage in the hydrodynamics area of the AWE Aldermaston site had resulted in a film of oil on the surface of one of the site's ponds. Though the oil was not harmful to aquatic life, the Company responded quickly to negate any potential off site issues. The Environment Agency stated that AWE had reacted to the incident in a timely manner and could not have done anything more.

### **Just Culture**

The Company is taking a close look at the issue of personal accountability and responsibility in the context of safety and security related incidents on site. An approach, known as "Just Culture" would separate investigations from management actions and eradicate the blame/no blame approach.

### **Infrastructure Report - Dr Andrew Jupp, Director Infrastructure**

#### **Slides attached**

#### **Travel and Transport**

Andrew Jupp reported that travel and transport improvements on-going include lighting and pavement improvements, cycle ways, pelican crossings and measures to improve traffic flow. Car share figures are up to 10% from 6%. The Company is looking at improvements to cycle ways and footpath links.

Cllr Garrett asked whether a roundabout had been considered at Burnham Road. Dr Jupp said that this was not currently being planned.

Cllr Leeks again raised the issue of litter surrounding the Aldermaston Site.

#### **Planning and Development**

John Steele informed members that the site development context plan, issued in 2005 has now been refreshed and is available on the AWE external website.

An update was given on the planning application for AWE's proposed replacement assembly and disassembly facility at AWE Burghfield, to be known as MENSA. John Steele reported that the Company has worked with local councils regarding the controlled movement of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) and operational traffic will be kept separate from works traffic. Proposed arrangements meet West Berkshire's freight strategy and will prevent traffic going through Burghfield village.

Cllr Williams asked whether AWE would ensure HGVs kept to the specified route. Mr Steele said HGVs would be given an allotted time to approach the Site and staff will be placed at strategic points to ensure this is adhered to. Any complaints would be dealt with via the corporate complaints procedure.

#### **Operations at Burghfield**

Mike Holbrook gave a presentation on flood mitigation at AWE Burghfield. A flood contingency plan is in place and improved links with the Environment Agency and off site landowners have been established.

Cllr Wood asked what seismic criteria had been applied regarding the flood safety improvements. A detailed answer is attached to the minutes.

### **Nuclear Installations Inspectorate**

#### **Slides attached**

A presentation was given on Land Use Planning.

**Environment Agency**

**Slides attached**

A presentation was given on oil disposals and planning roles.

**Ask the Regulators**

Cllr Leeks asked whether the representatives of the NII and EA would be content to move their respective families into this area. All representatives said that they would.

**Any Other Business**

Cllr Leeks asked the Company to ensure that some LLC meetings continue to be held at AWE Burghfield. Andrew Jupp said the Company would aim to hold one LLC meeting each year at Burghfield.

Cllr Garrett requested copies of the REPPiR leaflet be sent out to all LLC members. **Action 55/1: Secretary to arrange.**

Cllr Cane asked whether a decision had been reached on the long-term treatment of the Pangbourne Pipeline, closed in 2005. Andrew Jupp replied that the decision stage has not yet been reached.

**Date of next meeting**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2009

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Lindsey Appleton  
Secretary to the AWE LLC  
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