

Minutes of the 56th AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting

Thursday 12 March 2009

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 Philip Bassil	Brimpton Parish Council	
Cllr Michael Bound	Basingstoke & Deane Council	
Cllr Mike Broad	Tadley Town Council	
Cllr Jonathan Chishick	Tidmarsh with Sulham	
Cllr Terry Faulkner	Tadley Town Council	
Cllr Geoff Findlay	West Berks Council	
Cllr Valerie Frost	Tadley Town Council	
Cllr John Heggadon	Shinfield Parish Council	
Cllr Dudley Ives	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council	
Cllr David Leeks	Tadley Town Council	
Cllr Royce Longton	West Berks Council	
Jeff Moss	Swallowfield Parish Council	
Cllr Irene Neill	West Berks Council	
Tom Payne	Basingstoke & Deane Council	
Cllr Murray Roberts	Padworth Parish Council	
Cllr David Shirt	Aldermaston Parish Council	
Cllr Chris Souden	Sulhamstead & Ufton Nervet	
Cllr Tim Whitaker	Mapledurham Parish Council	
Cllr Jenny Williams	Silchester Parish Council	
Cllr Richard Willis	Reading Borough Council	
Cllr David Wood	Theale Parish Council	

Regulators:

Mike Finnerty	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Graeme Thomas	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Andrew Pembroke	Environment Agency
Paul Kennedy	Food Standards Agency

Introduction

Dr Cook welcomed members to the 56th meeting.

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Malcolm Bryant, Cllr Bill Cane, Cllr Pennee Chopping, Cllr Kay Lacey, Mr Ian Lindsay, Cllr George McGarvie, Ms Carolyn Murison, Mr Barry Richards, Cllr John Southall, Cllr Alan Sumner, Cllr Clive Vare.

Actions from the last meeting

Action 55/1: Copies of the REPPiR leaflet were sent to all LLC members.

Minutes of the 55th Meeting

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

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

Mensa Planning application

The application for Mensa, the Warhead Assembly and Disassembly facility at AWE Burghfield has been approved by West Berkshire Council's East Area planning committee. Construction enabling works will begin soon and the facility will be commissioned during 2014 and 2015.

Beacon Award

Representatives of the AWE Apprentice Academy recently attended a ceremony in London to receive a Beacon Award given by the Learning and Skills Improvement Service. The award was presented by the Minister, Siôn Simon MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Further Education. The Academy is one of only 34 workplace providers within the UK to have been given the award, and one of only 140 organisations including schools, colleges and universities to have received this accolade. Achieving Beacon status is the hallmark of a standard of excellence in learning providers.

Director Systems Engineering

AWE's Director of Systems Engineering left the Company at the end of February to take up a new position as Managing Director at the National Physical Laboratory. The process for appointing his successor is underway.

Charities of the Year

The 2009 Graduate Charities Project Team will carry on the positive work done by last year's team who helped the Company raise over £17,000 for charity. Based on nominations from AWE staff, two new Charities of the Year have been agreed. They are BLISS and the Basingstoke Advocacy Scheme.

BLISS is a national charity dedicated to ensuring that the best possible care is available for premature or sick babies and provides support for their families. The Basingstoke Advocacy Scheme acts with, and on behalf of, people who struggle to get their points of view across and their wishes, needs, and rights acknowledged. People, for example, who have a mental illness, have communication or language difficulty, autism, have physical disability or illness, and many others.

The Charities Team's aim is to at least match the fund raising totals previously set, by planning a series of events run over the course of this year.

Healthy Workplace Challenge 2009

Following the success of the June 2008 GetFit@AWE campaign, the Company's Wellbeing Programme is about to launch the Healthy Workplace Challenge for 2009 which will be run in conjunction with SportReading.

As part of the challenge the Company will be providing information on activities and ways to improve the lifestyle of workers at AWE. Organised activities will include lunchtime walks, cycling awareness sessions and lunchtime information sessions.

AWE Today

February's edition of AWE's in-house magazine has been given a new look and relaunched as "Inside AWE". Following feedback from a reader survey last summer, the Corporate Communications team has worked with its design and publishing partner to come up with a refreshed publication. It is printed on 100% recycled paper and it will continue to be a bi-monthly publication.

AWE plc Managing Director

LLC members had received a letter informing them that after three years as Managing Director, Don Cook will be returning to the United States over the following few months. Dr Cook stated it had been a real pleasure and a special privilege to be at the helm of AWE during a time of significant growth and change. Looking to the future, Dr Cook said he is pleased to welcome the appointment of Robin McGill as his successor. Mr McGill is currently Chief Executive of the Institution of Engineering and Technology.

Cllr Findlay thanked Dr Cook for his commitment and the major contribution he had made to the Local Liaison Committee.

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Health, Safety & Environmental Report – Heather Young, Director Assurance**Slides attached****Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**

In setting its KPIs for the coming year, the Company has chosen not to introduce any new items or remove any existing indicators. This will help to analyse trends and provide continuity of management attention on key assurance items.

There have, however, been changes to targets for Radiation (RA) Doses and Waste Recycling.

- Individual and Collective RA Dose limits have been raised to take account of a significant rise in the need to manage legacy material in our key facilities.
- Waste recycling targets have been lifted from 20% to 50% - in line with the improvements made throughout last year.

Regulatory Issues

In 2008 the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) had served AWE with an Improvement Notice regarding the Company's arrangements on criticality controls and procedures. The agreed remedial programme was completed well ahead of schedule to the satisfaction of the NII and the new industry leading arrangements are now in place.

Oil spillage

At the last meeting, a spillage of oil was reported on a pond on the Aldermaston site. This led to a significant set of activities to investigate the occurrence and check that other similar installations did not present a threat to the environment. In the light of this response the Environment Agency did not serve any form of regulatory notice on the company.

Target Zero

The Leading Safety Excellence (LSE) training has progressed well, engaging with over 1400 managers and supervisors to deliver an enhanced safety culture across the sites through improved safety leadership. In addition to this, a "Just Culture" is in early stages of deployment. It is hoped that this will clarify some issues around personal responsibility being delivered through the company's Incident and Injury Free (IIF) programme.

Infrastructure Report - Dr Andrew Jupp, Director Infrastructure**Slides attached**

Dr Jupp informed the committee that the Company is continuing to replace old facilities with modern ones, taking into account travel and transport, as well as environmental issues. Dr Jupp said he was extremely proud of all the AWE staff who were involved in keeping the sites open during the heavy snowfall and was pleased to receive complimentary comments from schools and local residents, many of whom had been assisted by AWE staff.

Travel and Transport

Dave Murray gave an update on the objectives of the Travel and Transport plan and off site improvements. He highlighted the progress made towards achieving travel plan targets and said that another survey was taking place shortly. The campaign to encourage car sharing and reduce business travel was continuing.

A system for neighbours to register complaints had been introduced. The Company aims to respond to these complaints within 24 hours and close them out within two days.

Cllr Souden asked whether AWE is monitoring traffic along Amners Farm Road. Mr Murray replied that AWE is currently carrying out surveys to determine the number of Company vehicles and other traffic using the road.

Mr Murray said the Company is liaising with other agencies seeking improved bus and rail services in the area. Cllr Williams said Silchester Parish Council is unhappy over changes to local bus availability. Mr Murray said he would hold further discussions with Cllr Williams.

North Ponds Water Management System

Paul Pounder gave a presentation on the North Ponds Water Management System which was established following storms in 1989. The ponds are designed and built to manage a 1 in 100 year storm. Mr Pounder said the Company would continue to maintain surface water discharges within authorized limits as development continued at the Aldermaston site.

Food Standards Agency (FSA) Report attached

The RIFE Report, Radioactivity in Food and the Environment has just been published. Mr Kennedy said the report is produced by the FSA in conjunction with the Environment Agency and assesses the impact of discharges into the environment and the presence of radionuclides in foodstuffs. A survey is carried out across the country but particular emphasis placed on the areas around nuclear sites. The latest report covered the 2007 data. Mr Kennedy stated that AWE's results were comparable to other MoD sites and, in many cases, below those of comparable sites. For more information, see the Food Standards Agency website www.food.gov.uk

Mr Kennedy said that the FSA was in the process of restructuring and would welcome feedback with regards to future presentations. A discussion followed around the issue of data being taken from single samples and the timing of the FSA's presentation to the LLC. Mr Kennedy agreed to consider the comments for future reports. Dr Jupp said it would be useful to supplement data from the FSA with data obtained from AWE's significant on site monitoring regime in future reports to the LLC.

Ask the Regulators

Heather Young reported that Cllr Cane had raised an issue associated with planning following the NII presentation to the LLC in December. To clarify, Graeme Thomas from the NII said that as a non-statutory consultee, NII provides advice to Local Authorities with regard to planning applications in the vicinity of the Aldermaston and Burghfield sites. NII has no power to direct refusal of planning.

There is an obligation on HSE/NII to provide objective and consistent advice to Local Authorities with regard to planning applications in the vicinity of the Aldermaston and Burghfield sites in order to protect people and society from the hazards of operations on the site. NII are prioritizing their work with AWE to ensure recently implemented improvements to facilities and safety cases are properly informing the considerations for planning and Emergency Arrangements local to the sites. This issue is looked at nationally following Planning Advice for Developments near Hazardous Installations (PADHI) regulations.

Andrew Jupp and Heather Young agreed to organize a workshop for a sub-group of LLC members to work through this issue with representatives from the NII. **Action 56/1: Secretary to arrange.**

Any Other Business

Cllr Leeks asked whether AWE would be able to provide statistics to show how many Company employees and contractors live in Hampshire. **Action 56/2: Secretary to provide.**

Cllr Wood asked for an update at the next meeting on the Pangbourne Pipeline (PPL). **Action 56/3: Dr Jupp.**

Cllr Shirt raised the issue of the traveller's site on Paices Hill near Aldermaston. He said that objects had been thrown at vehicles traveling along the road and asked whether AWE held a database of such incidents. Dr Jupp said employees could raise an abnormal event report and this would be passed on as appropriate to Thames Valley Police.

Cllr Heggadon commented on the improvements in site entry arrangements for LLC members and said the effort by AWE staff was much appreciated.

Date of next meeting

Thursday 11th June 2009

Thursday 23rd September 2009

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Thursday 10th December 2009

The meeting ended with a visit to North Ponds and a buffet lunch.

Lindsey Appleton
Secretary to the AWE LLC
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