

Minutes of the 59th AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting

Thursday 10 December 2009

Present:

Robin McGill	Chief Executive, 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 Geoff Findlay	West Berkshire Council	
Cllr Pat Garrett	Baughurst Parish Council	
Cllr John Heggadon	Shinfield Parish Council	
Cllr Dudley Ives	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council	
Cllr Ian Lindsay	Wasing Parish Council	
Cllr George McGarvie	Pamber Parish Council	
Jeff Moss	Swallowfield Parish Council	
Cllr Irene Neill	West Berkshire Council	
Cllr Murray Roberts	Padworth Parish Council	
Cllr David Shirt	Aldermaston Parish Council	
Cllr Clive Vare	Aldermaston Parish Council	
Cllr Tim Whitaker	Mapledurham Parish Council	
Cllr Jenny Williams	Silchester Parish Council	
Cllr David Wood	Theale Parish Council	

Regulators:

Stuart Parr	Environment Agency
Mike Finnerty	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate

Introduction

Mr McGill welcomed members to the 59th meeting.

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Valerie Frost, Cllr Jim Hanley, Julie James, Cllr Kay Lacey, Cllr David Leeks, Cllr Royce Longton, Cllr John Robertson, Cllr Chris Souden, Cllr Richard Willis.

Actions from the last meeting

Action 58/1: A request for the monitoring of traffic light sequences at the Falcon gyratory-this was covered later in the meeting.

Action 58/2: To look at the possibility of removing a section of the Pangbourne Pipeline- this was covered later in the meeting.

Minutes of the 58th Meeting

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

Chairman's remarks – Mr Robin McGill, Chief Executive, AWE.

Moving Forward

AWE's primary role is to deliver the requirements of its Management and Operations contract with the MoD. The Company has, however, been updating its future strategy. The outcome has been captured in a commitment statement which states 'Building on our proud heritage, excellent people and technologies, we will create a unique and internationally recognised, trusted partner to UK Government, delivering innovative and integrated national nuclear security solutions.'

UNCLASSIFIED

In support of these goals, the Company is recruiting a Head of Business Development.

Pegasus

A planning application has been submitted to West Berkshire Council for construction of a replacement facility for the storage and handling of enriched uranium close to the centre of the Aldermaston site. The proposed facility will provide approximately 18,490 square metres gross floor space in a two-storey building and will incorporate office accommodation, storage facilities, material handling areas and support services.

VIP Visits

AWE has hosted a number of VIP visits since the last LLC meeting. These have included: Brigadier General Harencak who currently fills the post of Deputy Administrator for Defense Programmes in the US on an interim basis, Commodore Andrew McFarlane OBE, Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR), The Rt Honourable Quentin Davies, Under-Secretary of State for Defence and Dr Julian Lewis MP, Shadow Defence Minister with responsibility for the Royal Navy.

Health, Safety & Environmental Report – Heather Young, Director Environment, Health, Safety and Quality **Slides attached**

Solvent Remediation Plant

An update was given on an area of land just outside the Aldermaston site boundary which has previously been identified as containing non-radioactive solvent contamination from past AWE operations. Based on the contamination levels and the current land usage, there is no immediate threat to health. Further investigation is underway to provide better understanding of the solvent contamination levels and extent. This work is being undertaken with the permission from the landowners and tenants.

Air Sampling

Some air sample results taken in October 2009, during decommissioning of a drain near a redundant facility at AWE Aldermaston, contained higher than expected uranium levels. There were no off site implications. However the readings detected, which are still to be confirmed by further tests, are not at a level that would cause any harm to the workforce, the public or the environment. The source of the contamination has been identified and contained. The Environment Agency (EA) and the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) have been informed.

Hi-Visibility

The introduction of the wearing of hi-visibility jackets for all staff when outside facilities on AWE sites has been successful and has proved, from data gathered, a positive and proactive step towards safeguarding health and safety.

Perfect Days

In October 2009, AWE has introduced the concept of Perfect Days on its sites. Six criteria must be met to achieve a perfect day. Whilst failure to meet the criteria did not mean that our sites were unsafe, the concept helped to ensure a focus on improving performance.

Radioactivity in Food and the Environment 2008 Report

The report continues to show AWE radioactive discharges are very low and dose rates due to discharges are less than 5 microsieverts per annum. An elevated dose rate on the banks of the Thames at Pangbourne had been identified by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the FSA has confirmed that it is not attributable to the operations at AWE. Mrs Young was asked to give an update at the next meeting. **Action 59/1: Heather Young**

Security Exercise

An exercise was held at the Aldermaston site in November. The exercise was conducted to demonstrate that AWE could deal with a postulated security threat. The exercise was a success with all elements of the site responding in a positive and effective manner.

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

A successful exercise was held at AWE Burghfield. The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate considered the exercise "an adequate demonstration of emergency arrangements and noted many good points."

Planning

John Steele gave an update on planning and development. He reported that traffic monitoring had been conducted around the Falcon gyratory and had revealed the original traffic light sequencing was incorrect. Further monitoring suggests that they are now working to the correct design specification. This closed Action 58/1.

Mr Steele confirmed a planning application for Project Pegasus- a replacement enriched uranium storage and handling facility- is likely to go before West Berkshire Council's Planning Committee at the end of February, early March 2010.

The 2009 Travel Plan annual survey indicated single occupancy vehicles (sov) targets almost met AWE (A)'s 2012 target of 65%. Currently sov figures at AWE (A) are 69%. The figures at AWE (B) were 76% against the target of 75%.

The Site Development Context Plan 26 will identify development and land use zones and continue enhancement to access and visual appearance. Investment will continue in the short, medium and long term and specific investment will be driven by security requirements.

Waste in perspective

Responding to action 58/2, Richard Hedley reported that this particular section of the Pangbourne Pipeline will be removed with agreement from the Environment Agency. This action is now closed.

Richard Hedley then gave a presentation regarding waste at AWE. The Company's integrated waste strategy's objectives are to improve processes for sustainable waste management, improve strategic planning for future waste management, minimise waste production and manage residual waste in a sustainable way.

Any Other Business

Cllr McGarvie asked whether any decisions had been taken regarding the possibility of re-naming AWE. Mr McGill said the Company had no current plans to rename AWE but would keep things under review.

Cllr McGarvie asked for an update regarding the proposed redundancies. Mr McGill informed members that a redeployment bureau has been created which gives employees the opportunity to seek employment elsewhere within the business and to give support to those who wish to seek employment away from AWE.

Cllr Broad asked whether AWE will continue to recruit mature apprentices into the apprentice scheme. Dr Jupp confirmed that the Company will continue this policy.

Cllr Whitaker requested a list of those countries who have signed up to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty- the information can be obtained via the internet- www.CTBO.org

Dates of next meetings

Thursday 25th March 2010, Thursday 3 June 2010, Thursday 2 September 2010, Thursday 16 December 2010.

The meeting ended with a tour of the Gemini facility.

Lindsey Appleton
Secretary to the AWE LLC