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Minutes of the 61st AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting

Thursday 3 June 2010

Present:

Dr Andrew Jupp	Director Infrastructure Programme, AWE	Chairman LLC
Richard Lucking	Head Environment, Safety, Health, AWE	
Alan Price	External Communications & Marketing Manager, AWE	
Lindsey Appleton	Public Affairs Manager, AWE	Secretary LLC
Cllr Mike Broad	Tadley Town Council	
Cllr Geoff Findlay	West Berkshire Council	
Cllr P Garrett	Baughurst Parish Council	
Cllr M Hall	Burghfield Parish Council	
Cllr John Heggadon	Shinfield Parish Council	
Cllr Dudley Ives	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council	
Cllr David Leeks	Tadley Town Council	
Mr Ian Lindsay	Wasing Parish Council	
Cllr George McGarvie	Pamber Parish Council	
Cllr John Robertson	Mortimer West End Parish Council	
Cllr David Shirt	Aldermaston Parish Council	
Cllr Marilyn Tucker	Basingstoke & Deane Council	
Cllr Clive Vare	Aldermaston Parish Council	
Cllr Tim Whitaker	Mapledurham Parish Council	
Cllr Richard Willis	Reading Borough Council	
Cllr David Wood	Theale Parish Council	

Regulators:

Andrew Pembroke	Environment Agency
Stuart Fannin	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII)
John Lindsay	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII)

Introduction

Dr Jupp welcomed members to the 61st meeting.

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Robin McGill, CEO AWE, Heather Young, Director Environment, Safety and Health AWE, Cllr Philip Bassil, Cllr Michael Bound, Cllr Jonathan Chishick, Cllr Pennee Chopping, Cllr Valerie Frost, Cllr Kay Lacey, Cllr Royce Longton, Jeff Moss, Carolyn Murison, Cllr Irene Neill, Tom Payne, Cllr Murray Roberts, Cllr Graham Round, Cllr Chris Souden.

Actions from the last meeting

Action 60/1: An action for Dr Jupp to work with West Berkshire Council and the NII to ensure all the local community, including those occupying mobile homes and caravans are protected- this was covered later in the meeting.

Minutes of the 60th Meeting

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

Chairman's remarks – Dr Andrew Jupp, Director Infrastructure Programme, AWE.

Action 60/1:

An action had been placed on Dr Jupp to work with West Berkshire Council and the NII to ensure all the local community is protected within the emergency sheltering plan. Cllr Shirt asked for further clarification of the status of mobile homes and caravans within the AWE sheltering plan.

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Dr Jupp said that these types of dwellings are covered under current AWE emergency plans. However AWE has sought further formal advice from the Health Protection Agency (HPA). Dr Jupp said the LLC would be informed as soon as that advice was available. **Action 61/1:** Dr Jupp

Concrete Pours

An overnight concrete pour took place on the night of 12 May as part of the construction of a new facility at the Aldermaston site. Around 160 return lorry movements were required to deliver 750 cubic metres of concrete. This was the first of three similar concrete pours which will be required for the project over the next few months. Every effort was made to minimise disturbance and the Company is grateful for the patience and understanding shown by local residents.

Basingstoke Gazette Article

An article appeared in the Basingstoke Gazette based on a letter to the editor, purporting to have been sent by an AWE employee. The authenticity of this letter, which was critical of AWE business practices, is highly questionable. The individual in whose name it was sent has stated that he did not send it. AWE takes this matter very seriously and is being investigating thoroughly.

AWE'S Future Strategy

The Company's vision for the future is to ensure that AWE is a trusted partner to UK Government as well as being internationally renowned for offering unrivalled scientific and technical expertise within the national nuclear security arena. Future goals are to protect the UK deterrent; deliver high performance; be lean, fit and responsive, and to secure our capability by developing and exploiting our core competencies, offering ever broader solutions to UK Government. Members of the LLC were given copies of the booklet "We are AWE" incorporating and its contents. The booklet is now available on the Company website.

New Government

A new Liberal Democrat-Conservative coalition Government is in place. In setting out their programme, they have said the following on the UK deterrent: 'We will maintain Britain's nuclear deterrent, and have agreed that the renewal of Trident should be scrutinised to ensure value for money. Liberal Democrats will continue to make the case for alternatives. We will immediately play a strong role in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, and press for continued progress on multilateral disarmament.'

Head of Business Development

Sarah Nichols has joined AWE as the new Head of Business Development. Sarah joins the Company from Aerosystems International Ltd (owned by BAE Systems), where she was Marketing Director.

Newbury Spring Festival

For the past three years, AWE has sponsored one of the events at the Newbury Spring Festival. This year it was a workshop given by percussion quartet 4-MALITY, followed by an evening concert. Their artists have more than 80 drums, gongs, cymbals and tuned percussion. The music and performance was visually spectacular as well as physically demanding. More than 400 youngsters took part in the workshop.

REPPIR

This booklet explains what to do in the event of an emergency at AWE. The booklet has been produced in partnership with West Berkshire Council under the Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations (REPPIR) and is updated every 3 years. It has been sent out to all local residents in zones close to Aldermaston and Burghfield.

Environment, Safety & Health Report – Richard Lucking, Head Environment, Safety & Health Slides attached

A new format of report was issued at the meeting and this is attached to the Minutes.

Infrastructure Report - Dr Andrew Jupp, Director Infrastructure

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Slides attached**Site Exercise**

The Aldermaston Sitex took place on 12 May 2010. The Company and its independent regulators agreed that this was “an adequate demonstration of our emergency arrangements”. This is a key achievement in maintaining the Company’s licence to operate.

Pangbourne Pipeline (PPL) –Sulham Weir removal

An ecology survey has been completed in support of the weir removal on the Sulham brook and Environment Agency consent has been received. Work was expected to be completed during June if water levels remain low.

Construction and Environmental Protection

Graham Day gave a presentation on the above at AWE.

National Nuclear Security Activities

Gary Butler gave a presentation on the above and the support to the UK Government.

Ask the Regulators

No questions were asked of the Regulators at the meeting.

Any Other Business

Cllr Leeks said he had noticed increasing levels of traffic around the AWE Aldermaston Main Gate. Graham Day said that traffic is continuously monitored and consultants are employed to conduct routine surveys.

Cllr Leeks asked whether there are any further redundancies planned. Dr Jupp said that apart from the already announced phase involving up to 100 employees, no further redundancies are planned at present.

Cllr Broad asked for an update on the issue of the MoD search for sites to store waste from dismantled submarines. Dr Jupp said there was nothing to report but AWE will keep members of the LLC informed when there is further news.

Dr Jupp informed members that a security exercise was to be held on June 29 at AWE Aldermaston. The exercise will be contained within the Main Gate at Aldermaston. Neighbours will be notified.

Dates of future meetings

Thursday 30 September 2010- changed from 2 September, Thursday 16 December 2010.

Lindsey Appleton
Secretary to the AWE LLC