



**Minutes of the 107th AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting
Tuesday 25th April 2023
AWE, Recreational Society, Aldermaston**

Present:

Janine Mantle	Chair
Cllr Philip Bassil	Brimpton Parish Council
Cllr Graham Bridgman	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Avril Burdett	Tadley Town Council
Cllr John Chapman	Purley-on-Thames Parish Council
Cllr Jonathan Chishick	Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish
Cllr Sophie Crawford	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Robert Jones	Padworth Parish Council
Cllr Mark Keeping	Reading Borough Council
Cllr David Leeks	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Clive Littlewood	Holybrook Parish Council
Cllr Mollie Lock	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council
Cllr George McGarvie	Pamber Parish Council
Cllr Clarence Mitchell	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Ian Montgomery	Shinfield Parish Council
Cllr Susan Mullan	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Carolyn Richardson	West Berkshire Council
Cllr David Shirt	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Jo Slimin	Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council
Cllr Jim Thompson	Wokefield Parish Council

Ian Beveridge	AWE
Nick Bolton	AWE
Suzanne Chenery	AWE
Chris Daniels	AWE
Scott Davies-Hearn	AWE
Toni Lilly	AWE
Claire Lockwood	AWE
Helen Maclean	AWE
James Platt	AWE
John Steele	AWE
Jo Walker	AWE

Regulators:

Ian Rogers	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Gareth Lock	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Rob Green	Environment Agency

Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: Mark Binns, Dominic Boeck, Penee Chopping, Stuart Coker, Kevin Cross, John Durrant, Suzie Ferguson, Stuart Frost, Chris Johnson, Malcolm Large, Royce Longton, Tim Whitaker, Paul Woodley and Jonah Maddox (Emergency Planning WBDC).

Actions from previous meetings

- **Action 106/01:** Meeting to be arranged with Cllr Slimin to discuss AWE's relationship with Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council. (*John Steele*)
Response: *John and Cllr Slimin to get in touch. Ongoing.*
- **Action 106/02:** Cllr Bridgman asked why there is a chunk of waste incinerated for energy recovery rather than being recycled/reused? (*Nick Bolton*)
Response: *Nick to provide a breakdown of this waste and where it goes. Actioned*
- **Action 106/03:** Discharges to be added as an agenda item at the next LLC Meeting. (*Suzanne Chenery*)
Response: *Actioned.*
- **Action 106/04:** Details to be provided on how schools are contacted regarding updates to the emergency plan. (*Carolyn Richardson, WBC*)
Response: *There is a schools guide provided normally on an annual basis, but more frequently if needed due to changes. This provides background information and guidance in relation to their own on-site plans. Until the COVID19 pandemic, annual meetings were also held with the schools in Feb/Mar of each year. This is being resurrected in 2023 with meetings being looked into for June 23 and/or Sept/Oct 23 depending on school availability. Within the AWE Off-Site Emergency Plan itself there is a cascade notification chain for all the schools to be contacted directly by their respective Councils. Actioned*
- **Action 106/05:** Details to be provided of emergency plans for school children who walk to school within the DEPZ in the event of an emergency. (*Carolyn Richardson, WBC*)
Response: *In the event of a radiation emergency when a child, or indeed anyone else is outside at the time, then unlike those in dwellings who would get the landline notification then the warning would be via media outlets. In addition, it would be considered appropriate that the child's parent/guardian would be contacting them and informing them to go to the school or come home, whichever is the nearest, immediately.*

The landline notification has been recognised as a gap in the alerting process as people are no longer so likely to have a landline. As a result, in the future everyone, including children with mobile phones, will be actively encouraged to register with the new notification system which is being put in place. There is also a National Cell Broadcasting system planned and the deadline for that is still TBC but this too will support the notification of anyone in the vicinity to be alerted.

Update to be provided at the 108th LLC meeting

OFFICIAL

- **Action 106/06:** Details to be provided of the WBC team dealing with the emergency plan. (Carolyn Richardson, WBC)

Response: *The lead officer in West Berkshire Council is Jonah Maddocks, however other members of the team can pick up queries. It is recommended that all communications be sent to emergencyplanning@westberks.gov.uk.*

The lead officer in Hampshire County Council & Basingstoke and Deane BC is Penny Lewendon emergency.planningteam@hants.gov.uk.

The lead officer in Reading BC is Justin Patient Justin.Patient@reading.gov.uk

The lead officer in Wokingham BC is Harry Williamson Harry.williamson@wokingham.gov.uk. Actioned.

- **Action 106/07:** DEPZ to be made an agenda item for the next meeting (Suzanne Chenery / Scott Davies-Hearn)

Response: *Actioned.*

- **Action 106/08:** Future planning to be added as an agenda item at the next LLC Meeting (Suzanne Chenery / John Steele)

Response: *Actioned.*

- **Action 106/09:** A visit to the Educational Collection will be arranged for LLC members in 2023. (Chris Daniels / Claire Lockwood / Suzanne Chenery)

Response: *We hope to arrange for LLC members to visit the Educational Collection in October.*

- **Action 106/10:** Discuss arrangements for a visit to the Educational Collection for members of the general public. (Chris Daniels / Claire Lockwood / Suzanne Chenery)

Response: *Chris and Claire are looking into whether this will be possible as clearance is required from the MOD regarding visits to the Educational Collection by members of the public.*

Approval of the 106th meeting minutes

Questions arising from 106th meeting minutes:

It was noted that on pages 8 and 9 of the 106th minutes it should read that Cllr Slimin asked the questions listed and not Cllr Burdett.

Cllr Shirt commented that the survey results were not mentioned in the minutes and that he would prefer more frequent and less lengthy meetings in future. He feels that the importance of the LLC has been reduced.

Cllr McGarvie asked that there should be a vote from the full committee before making decisions on the format of the meeting and suggested maybe two long meetings and two short meetings during the year would be appropriate.

Action 107/01: Check that the feedback from the survey was shown and sent separately from the minutes. (Claire Lockwood)

Introduction

Janine Mantle who is the Corporate Affairs Director chaired the meeting and Chris Daniels who is Senior Manager, Environmental, Social Governance Corporate Affairs welcomed members to the 107th meeting.

Chairman's update

Membership Changes

AWE would like to welcome one new LLC member:

- John Durrant replaces David Livingstone on behalf of Silchester Parish Council
- Peter Markwick has resigned from Baughurst Parish Council and a new councillor will be named shortly

Organisation update including site operations

After 18 years at AWE, and the last three as CEO, Alison Atkinson will formally leave the organisation next month as CEO. The process to find her successor is underway and will be led by AWE Chair, Sir John Manzoni. Whilst this process is ongoing Iain Stevenson will act as Interim CEO until the process concludes. Iain will be sending a letter to all LLC members in the next couple of weeks to introduce himself and will hopefully be joining us at the next meeting in October.

AWE continues to take all actions necessary to keep the sites secure during this period of escalated tension in Europe. Action like this brings with it an increased threat of cyber or other security issues and the Security team has been monitoring the situation, ensuring preparations to protect AWE are robust.

AWE's annual report was published in January and is available on the AWE website. The next edition of Connect will be circulated in May/June time. Following feedback from some LLC members, AWE will be reviewing the mail out recipients for Connect and the areas it is sent to.

Environment, Safety and Health Update

Nick Bolton

ESH&Q Service Delivery Lead

Nick gave an overview of performance in personal and process safety during the period, advising members that the OSHA TRI rate to the end of February 2023 was 0.243. Our estimated OSHA rate remains better than the World Class Benchmark of 0.350.

There was a total of 19 Recordable Injury Events that occurred in the 12 months to the end of February 2023. In the same period to end of February 2022 there were 16 OSHA Events recorded at 0.205.

Since the last LLC meeting in November 2022, there have been no Process Safety events raised during the period. Process safety training for supervisors remains an ongoing focus, increasing Process Safety knowledge across the organisation, supporting supervisors who supervise in high hazard environments.

The Leadership Process Safety training in partnership with Cogent Skills is now being delivered to leaders at AWE with an initial focus on Operations. The intention remains for this course to become a key course for all senior leaders at AWE.

The Process Safety Team are also continuing to develop virtual reality training that can be used to raise hazard awareness amongst staff at all levels of the organisation. The training encourages the organisation to think differently about each activity and details things that should be noted as early warning signals.

With regards to Waste Management, the controlled waste disposal for the financial year to end February 2023 target from the Environmental management System (EMS) is 99% for the financial year 22/23. The total waste diverted from landfill is 98.7% and disposal is 1.3%.

The Atmosphere & Trade Effluent Public Dose Assessment for Aldermaston Stream for the period January 2022 to December 2022 had calculated doses representing minute fractions of the dose constraint set by the Environment Agency of 500 μ Sv (0.5 mSv) per year for a nuclear site and concludes that there is no hazard to members of the public.

For the nuclear worker during the period 1st April 2022 to 31st December 2022, the maximum individual dose recorded by any worker at AWE is tracked throughout the year and the maximum value recorded was 1.51 mSv.

Questions arising:

Cllr McGarvie: Your numbers are relatively small, internally do you have a filter that removes the bottom or top 10%? Do we only see the trend in the middle?

Nick Bolton: The trend as a whole is reported on. AWE looks into what kind of accidents happen, these are mostly lack of spacial awareness incidents due to distractions.

Cllr Mullan: Are mobile phones a big cause of accidents?

Nick Bolton: Its not been a direct cause of incidents that we are aware of.

Cllr Chishick: Is the increasing trend due to there being more activity on site?

Nick Bolton: No, it's because we have more awareness now to report incidents more often and in more detail than we did before. We also report on more areas of the business and all events are reported through out internal system from which we triage and report.

Cllr Bridgman: Regarding the waste figures, how much waste do you actually divert to energy recovery?

Nick Bolton: From the 98.7% of waste diverted from landfill, 0.4% is used for energy recovery. 96.6% is recycled and 1.7% is reused and 1.3% is disposed of.

Overview of Aqueous Discharges at AWE

**Helen Maclean
Senior Environment Specialist**

A plan showing the surface water network at AWE Aldermaston was presented showing the locations of the various outfalls around the site boundary.

Surface water outfalls from AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield Sites are sampled monthly for a suite of chemical parameters and the EA also attend and take samples at the same time.

There is also an RA environmental monitoring programme whereby outfalls and the watercourse into which they flow are sampled. The outfalls are sampled monthly and external watercourses are sampled quarterly. Sediments at various locations are also sampled periodically (either quarterly, bi-annually or annually). Water and sediment samples are collected for use in the ERICA Assessment Tool to enable assessment of the radiological risk to freshwater biota. With regards to discharges to public sewer, environmental monitoring takes place on-site at South Road Sewer (SRS) prior to discharge into public sewer, and also at Silchester Sewage Works.

The non-RA (trade effluent) discharges from A Site from the surface water networks site are permitted by the Environment Agency. At A Site, there were separate permits for each of the outfalls and there was an improvement activity in 2017 where the permits were consolidated into one single permit under the new style regulations - the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR). There is a plan to consolidate the permits at B Site into a single permit under EPR.

At A Site, specific areas that are monitored are North Ponds which was constructed in 1995, where the outfall discharges into Aldermaston Stream, A4 Fish Pond which is located near the water abstraction boreholes in Aldermaston and was an historic dump for munitions. The A5 Stock Pond which is adjacent to the boundary fence near F28.4 in Aldermaston is also monitored and also discharges to a tributary of the Fishermans' Brook. The A7 Decoy Pond also located in Aldermaston covers the eastern area of the site where there are several water discharges into a large pond called Decoy Pond. The A6 Circus Farm located south of E2.1 Aldermaston covers a large area of the main section of the site, the outfall of which discharges into Circus Farm Ditch located in a neighbour's property opposite the A Site. The A2 Falcon Fields also located in Aldermaston discharges to Upper Moor's Gully. Due to the historical use of the area for cleaning Spitfires with Trichloroethane (TCA) there have been elevated TCA readings in the discharge. As a result two carbon filters were installed to intercept the surface water from the hanger hard standing area. These have since been taken out of service as the TCA levels per filter had dropped to levels that were no longer a concern however there is still an inspection manhole in place at this outfall.

A plan showing the foul waste network at Aldermaston was shown. AWE Aldermaston is consented by Thames Water to discharge certain types of Trade Effluent via the Foul and Trade Drainage network into public sewer and ultimately to Silchester Sewage Works. Monitoring is carried out at the on-site Trade Effluent Treatment Plant (TETP) and at South Road Sewer. Monthly returns (pertaining to discharges from the TETP) are made to Thames Water reporting 26 chemical determinands.

RA Aqueous Waste discharges from Aldermaston and Burghfield Sites - the Environment Agency has issued Permits covering RA Aqueous Waste discharges from A and B Sites, with AWE providing 6 monthly and/or annual reports to the EA to demonstrate that discharges are within specified permit limits.

A plan showing the surface water network at B Site was presented showing the locations of the various outfalls around the site boundary. Various slide photos were shown covering each of the surface water outfalls and a brief description of each. Photos of the Brook and the on-site sewage treatment works were also shown. The outfalls along the western and southern boundary of site discharge into the Burghfield Brook. 2 outfalls on the northern boundary discharge into the ditch to the north of site.

The non-RA (trade effluent) discharges from B Site from the surface water networks and from the on-site sewage treatment works are permitted by the Environment Agency.

Automatic/proportional samplers located in the Brook as it enters and leaves the site collect a composite sample over a monthly period. This forms part of the RA Environmental Monitoring Programme.

Treated sewage from Burghfield Sewage Treatment Works is discharged to Burghfield Brook which leads to the Foudry Brook that ultimately flows into the River Kennet. A continuous flow meter and recording system reports the daily volume of which shall not exceed 2000 cubic metres per day.

Questions arising:

Cllr McGarvie: Does the dump for munitions in the A4 Fish Pond affect the readings eg nitrates leaking in?

Helen Maclean: No there has not been any evidence of this.

Action 107/02: Cllr Keeping asked if sediment is sampled at South Road Sewer? Helen to provide an answer for the next meeting (Helen Maclean)

Cllr Slimin: How often do you sample?

Helen Maclean: The chemical is a monthly grab sample, for the RA we have auto samplers which are constantly taking a sample over a monthly period but that's in the brook and at the outfalls at B Site we do a grab sample.

Cllr Mullins: Do you do your testing in-house?

Helen Maclean: The RA monitoring is in-house but there are also labs with which AWE outsource testing. Chemicals are tested both on and offsite. If we wanted to achieve lower detection levels, AWE would send samples to an off-site lab (e.g. Wessex Water) if there is a specific issue that we were investigating.

Cllr Mullins: How often does the auto sampling equipment get checked.

Helen Maclean: As the auto-sampling equipment obtains a monthly composite sample, if there is an issue, then a maintenance request would be raised and it would be noted in the regulatory report. In terms of calibration, AWE follows industry best practice. All of our monitoring equipment is deemed as Environmentally Critical Equipment (ECE) so it is subject to testing and maintenance.

Cllr Slimin: Does the brook flow into the River Kennet?

Helen Maclean: Yes, eventually it does.

Action 107/03: Cllr Thompson stated that some parishioners live near the Burghfield Brook and they have expressed concerns to where it enters as the brook is choked with vegetation and immature trees, they are concerned that this will slow the flow which could cause flooding to their properties. They have made representation and were told that it would be looked at in September. It looks like the brook is between two levies and has the capability to rise considerably before it overflows but the impact upstream is unknown. Helen to find a response to the question from the Flood Litigation team. (Helen Maclean)

Cllr Thompson: We never see any water in the brook. It is working?

Helen Maclean: I have been told that it is very successful so I presume it is working. My area however is not flood risk.

Action 107/04: Helen to speak with David Ashworth regarding the working state of Burghfield Brook and report back at the next LLC meeting (Helen Maclean)

Action 107/05: Include Flood Risk as an agenda item at the next LLC Meeting (Suzanne Chenery)

Cllr Chishick: You state that the volume of discharge shall not exceed 2000 cubic metres. Have you ever been close to exceeding that limit?

Helen Maclean: We have come close but we haven't exceeded it in the past 3 years and it would be very unusual to exceed that.

Cllr Shirt: Will the fact that there are a lot of contractors working on the MENSA building make a difference to the figures?

Helen Maclean: Yes, the more people on-site, the higher the figures when using domestic systems.

Regulators Update

**Ian Rogers, Lead Site Inspector
Office for Nuclear Regulation**

The ONR report was circulated prior to the meeting for the period 1st October 2022 to 31st January 2023.

Inspections

During this period ONR visited the site on ten separate occasions for the purposes of conducting a broad range of inspection activities.

It is worth noting that nothing should be inferred by the number of separate visits undertaken by ONR inspectors, this is more a function of the approach being applied currently to the scheduling of ONR's activities by AWE. ONR are now working with AWE to encourage a more consolidated approach utilising the scheduled monthly site inspection weeks more effectively to reduce the burden to the ONR inspection teams.

Routine Inspections

During this period the routine inspection activities covered a broad range of topics including: examination, maintenance, inspection and testing, staff training, qualifications and experience, emergency preparedness, radioactive waste management, decommissioning, assurance and governance, management of modifications to existing plant.

ONR inspectors attended site to assess the Level 1 Site Safety Demonstration Exercises at the Aldermaston Site [12 Oct] and Burghfield Site [7 Dec]. Both exercises were based on challenging scenarios, particularly with regards casualty management and recovery, and provided the opportunity to stretch AWE's emergency response arrangements. Both exercises were assessed as meeting the regulatory requirements of LC11(5) [Emergency arrangements] and Regulation 12 of the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2019.

ONR continues to seek assurance that the Aldermaston Site's response to the shortfalls in confined space arrangements, resulting in the Prohibition Notice reported at the last LLC, are progressing in a manner that will deliver the required regulatory requirements.

ONR continues to assess AWE's progress in delivering the safety improvements necessary to support the Aldermaston site moving to a routine level of regulatory attention. The outcomes from those activities have been encouraging with the site having made significant improvements over the last 12 months. As a result, ONR has closed out the associated Level 1 Regulatory Issue and is content that AWE remains on track to return to a routine level of regulatory attention.

In addition, ONR continues to undertake a series of activities in support of the oversight and permissioning of significant programmes of work.

Update on Non-Routine Matters and Events

There was only one event of particular note during the period:

- On the 25 Oct, AWE notified ONR that the Nitrogen supply to one of the operational glovebox lines within the Plutonium Technology Centre had been isolated for an extended period potentially exposing the interior of the glovebox to atmosphere. This has been rated as a Level 1 event on the International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) due to the failure of a principal line of defence. There was no challenge to primary containment which has been maintained at all times by the ventilation system in that area. In addition, all bulk material remains within containers within the gloveboxes. ONR is satisfied that AWE's response to the incident has been conducted in accordance with its arrangements. AWE is conducting its own investigation into the event, which is still ongoing to date; ONR will await the outcome from this investigation but findings to date have identified that the Nitrogen overblanket is there as a principal means of product quality control, rather than to perform a safety function.

Formal Regulatory Activity

No LIs, Enforcement Notices or Enforcement letters were issued during this period.

In December 2021, ONR issued AWE with an Enforcement Letter, ONR-EL-21-033 in response to the inadequate management of radioactive waste. The actions resulting from that Enforcement Letter were progressed via a Level 3 Regulatory Issue RI-10469. AWE have addressed the actions associated with this Regulatory Issue which has been closed via ONR's formal governance arrangements. Correspondingly, Enforcement Letter ONR-EL-21-033 has also been closed out.

News from ONR

For the latest news and information from ONR please visit the website [Local Liaison Committee / Site Stakeholder group reports \(onr.org.uk\)](https://www.onr.org.uk/local-liason-committee/)

Questions arising:

Cllr Slimin: Was the incident on 25th October an equipment or procedural failure?

Ian Rogers: It was a procedural failure resulting in a technical breach of an operating condition. Subsequent investigations have identified that there was no safety significance associated with the failure, instead it was part of the corrosion protection arrangements for the equipment involved.

Cllr Bridgman: Are there any other live enforcement issues to be closed?

Ian Rogers: There is one prohibition notice and one regarding organisational capability.

Cllr Keeping: Regarding the Nitrogen incident. What if it hadn't been containerised?

Ian Rogers: If Nitrogen was there to provide the safety function, then we would have taken correct

action. The Nitrogen in question was only there to prevent corrosion to the product itself and the material is not dangerous when introduced to air.

Cllr Slimin: We know that ONR are involved in determining exclusion zones. How many other sites have exclusion zones?

Ian Rogers: There are 37 nuclear sites and 10 defence sites. All have on-site emergency plans and all have outline planning zones. Where REPPiR 2019 requires they have exclusion zones (referred to as Detailed Emergency Planning Zones (DEPZ)). AWE is carrying out the 3 yearly review of their hazard evaluation and consequence assessment at present. This is part of the wider 3 year review under REPPiR 2019.

Cllr Slimin: With very limited development in our area, it would be interesting to know what other local authorities are experiencing.

Ian Rogers: There are two forums that deal with this. There is the Nuclear Emergency Arrangements forum, which includes operators and local authorities who specifically talk about nuclear arrangements. There is also a local authorities working group and ONR represent in each meeting. ONR no longer determines the detailed emergency planning zone. When the new REPPiR came into force in 2019, the determining of the DEPZ moved to the local authority.

Rob Green
Environment Agency

The Environment Agency report was circulated prior to the meeting for the period 11th November 2022 to 14th April 2023.

The Environment Agency issued its 2023-24 Site Environmental Review (SER) for AWE sites. The SER draws together the evidence and information used to support the Environment Agency's regulatory priorities and outcomes for 2023-24, as well as providing the organisation's view on AWE's regulatory environmental and compliance performance for financial year 2022-23. The SER can be made available upon request. For financial year 2023-24, the Environment Agency's priorities include AWE's Higher Activity Waste programme and the management of ageing assets. In addition, monitoring AWE's progress on its HEPA filter and ventilation management improvement programme and holding AWE to account against commitments it has made previously in this area remains a priority. As a reminder: these improvements are being sought by the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency as part of a joint intervention in response to shortfalls that were identified 3 years ago. AWE has, so far, made good progress on its improvement programme and hopes to complete this by the end of the year.

Rob explained that although he represents the organisation's Nuclear Regulation function, which regulates the disposal of radioactive waste at nuclear licensed sites, the Environment Agency has a number of broader regulatory duties and interests. These include sustainability and climate change mitigation arrangements and the Environment Agency has been working with AWE to monitor AWE's progress in this area also. This remains something of interest to EA and will continue to monitor this moving forward.

There were six site-based regulatory (permit) compliance inspections completed during the period, covering both a mixture of facility inspections and thematic compliance assessment activities. There were no permit non-compliances identified during these inspections but regulatory observations and recommendations on areas for improvement were identified to AWE and will be monitored as part of the Environment Agency's routine regulatory business.

AWE is required to provide the EA with information and data concerning radiological environmental monitoring that it is obligated to undertake, as well as data from the analysis of samples of gaseous and liquid radioactive waste discharges into the environment. The Environment Agency scrutinises

these data on a periodic basis and completed a compliance assessment activity covering this area during the period.

AWE operates under a number of other permits, in addition to its radioactive waste disposal permits, that the Environment Agency has issued for certain industrial activities. This includes the combustion activity permit, which the Environment Agency assessed during a compliance inspection in September 2022. Two minor non-compliances were identified in relation to the inappropriate storage of potentially polluting liquid. The issue was corrected by AWE relatively quickly and EA are still working with AWE to satisfy itself that AWE has put in place appropriate improvements to its management arrangements to ensure that this issue doesn't arise again.

In addition to the routine compliance assessment activities Rob previously described, he drew attention to a non-routine matter concerning the disposal of a non-conforming waste package from AWE to Sellafield. AWE notified the Environment Agency that a radioactive waste drum found to be containing a small amount of liquid had been sent to Sellafield in error, since Sellafield's Waste Acceptance Criteria did not allow for the receipt of liquid within radioactive waste drums. The presence of the liquid was not picked up by AWE's radiography equipment but it was detected by Sellafield's radiography system before being accepted into its waste treatment facility. The drum was subsequently quarantined at Sellafield. The Environment Agency identified two minor non-compliances with AWE's environmental permit and is currently in discussions with AWE as to what improvements might be made to prevent a similar incident reoccurring.

Questions arising

Cllr McGarvie: I take it that the licence of that drum from AWE to Sellafield does not include a return journey on an empty lorry?

Rob Green: AWE's environmental permit at Aldermaston Site allows for the receipt or return of radioactive waste. However, in this case the ownership of the waste has been transferred from MoD to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, under established arrangements, and the waste will remain at Sellafield.

Estate Services Update

Johann Walker
Head of Estate Services

Protestor activity continues with the 'Womens Peace Camp' on the second weekend of each month. There is no other planned activity scheduled at this time.

Concern was reported for an imminent planning application for four buildings being proposed external to AWE. This was a non AWE issue and the caller was advised to contact West Berkshire Planning authority.

The Community Concerns line received a call to advise AWE that there were private works taking place on a property near Blacknest, this was for AWE information only.

Finally an individual contacted the Community Concerns line with regards to a restricted covenant on their property. An Estate Surveyor in the Defence Infrastructure Organisation contacted them to confirm correct route for the query and contact details.

AWE has a target to be Net Zero for direct carbon emissions by 2040 and one of the many activities in support of this target is to accelerate the decarbonisation of AWEs' electricity supply by developing low carbon power generation sources such as solar. Several of the new facilities such as The Hub will have solar roof panels, however despite the size of the site, AWE only has very limited space available

for further solar installation. To meet the Net Zero targets, AWE is engaging with potential supply chain partners to develop offsite solar farms for both AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield sites.

AWE's site strategy is to remove redundant facilities to both reduce the nuclear liability but also eliminate the costs of maintaining these facilities in a safe condition. Decommissioning is now being delivered in a holistic manor which provides AWE with both efficient hazard reduction, predictable performance and flexibility to address changing requirements or discoveries.

Works are currently underway in a cluster of former production facilities and the Sites' former liquid waste treatment plant. Preparation is underway to bring all of the remaining redundant nuclear facilities into decommissioning as they transit through the Post Operative Clean Out (POCO) phase of their lifecycle.

Questions arising:

Cllr Keeping: Is there still an objection to wind power?

Chris Daniels: Because of the safety regulations, we would only be allowed a total of three turbines on the site so it would not be a valuable addition.

Action 107/06: Jo to provide Cllr Keeping with more information regarding the rumour of an issue with Green Park disturbing the AWE monitoring system due to vibrations from this source. (Jo Walker)

Cllr Bridgman: Bloomfield Hatch, which is a solar farm being developed by WBC was put forward for a commercial opportunity to the Exec for two reasons. Firstly, it was a commercial sale into the market and secondly selling the power to AWE. What percentage of AWE's requirement of a site of that size is it going to provide. How much solar would AWE need?

Jo Walker: The figures for this are still being worked on but we will update you at the next LLC meeting.

Action 107/07: Jo to provide details on how much solar energy AWE require to run the selected operations on site. (Jo Walker)

Action 107/08: At the request of Cllr Shirt, Jo to update LLC members on what external sites AWE are considering to use as solar power areas. (Jo Walker)

Cllr Mullins: What does happen to liquid waste?

Jo Walker: AWE does have a plant on-site that manages any potential radio active liquid on site and it gets treated and becomes a small bi-product and then it gets moved offsite as radio-active waste.

Estate Development Update

John Steele
Head of Estate, Development & Planning

There are major developments in the centre of the Aldermaston site, which is in an area called the Central Development Area [also to be known as Future Materials Campus], details of which will be broadcast to you as they mature for which we are developing a planning strategy.

This time there may be a strategy which involves more than one building some of which will be in detail and some of which will be in outline. This is called a hybrid application. Further details will be presented when the planning strategy has matured.

AWE may also come forward with an enabling application which will allow for the removal of legacy infrastructure and prepare [enable] the ground for future construction. The application will go through due process and will be sent to WBC for consideration.

Over the next few months we will be submitting a number of prior-approval notifications to WBC. These will be for demolition and clearance as whenever a new building is developed there needs to be clearance to demolish and clear an old building.

Questions arising:

Cllr McGarvie: Green park is downstream and they are putting in requests for thousands of houses. Has the due diligence been done to take in to account the railway station?

John Steele: There are two embankments to the railway both of which will restrict any flooding back to the AWE site. There should therefore be no upstream flooding effects upon AWE B.

Cllr McGarvie: My concept of the regeneration is you will concentrate the whole site into a couple of key buildings and the space where the old explosives buildings used to be will be cleared in time so why can't you put solar in there because it's only going to be there for 25 years?

John Steele: The explosives area is discounted due to the fragmentation of the solar panels under certain accident scenarios. Although AWE needs solar power, it might be better for the business if it was provided off-site.

<p>Action 107/09: Cllr Slimin and Cllr McGarvie requested an update on solar and how this will effect local residents at the next meeting (Andrew Lowe)</p>

Cllr MCGarvie: I believe that MoD are looking at how they respond to single planning applications around the DEPZ moving forward and the emergency plan for areas around AWE. Is that correct?

John Steele: AWE reviews planning applications in the area as well as local plan allocations and AWE/MoD take any action as required (including occasionally objecting to planning applications).

There is a public enquiry starting on 6th June at West Berkshire District Council's Offices regarding a proposed development called the Hollies at Burghfield Common, which is an application to build 39 houses to which AWE, ONR, MoD are appearing. The evidence which will be presented will all be in the public domain. It will provide a detailed explanation of the AWE/MOD position in respect of proposed developments within the DEPZs.

Cllr Burdett: We find that some building contractors have their own emergency plan in place so there is no need to consult with anyone else. There is an application for April and they are saying that there is an emergency plan in place for that.

John Steele: That application is for a site near Boundary Hall which is unlikely to get consent.

Cllr McGarvie: Would ONR have the right to inspect that emergency plan that private landlords allegedly have in place?

John Steele: My personal view is that emergency plans presented by residential landlord's don't work well given the regulatory framework. It is different if it's a commercial business and then you can resort to health and safety legislation and approach it that way. ONR is the regulator of West Berkshire and the Off-Site Emergency Plan but is not the regulator of private landlords so has no right of inspection.

Cllr Mullan: There is a business pushing for a new development outside the DEPZ. This is also a concern due to illegally placed caravans, this hasn't come up as a planning application but how does this fit in with emergency planning?

John Steele: AWE would have to look at the boundary and where the caravans are concerned, if there is a pre-app in place.

Action 107/10: A3 External Planning to be an agenda item at the next meeting. (Suzanne Chenery)

AWE Emergency Planning & Preparedness

Carolyn Richardson
Service Manager – Joint Emergency Planning Unit

DEPZ

Every three years there is a review under REPPiR 2019. The last 3 year review was completed in January 2023. AWE produced a letter stating that there were no changes to their 2019 consequences report for A and B Site. WBDC went through the whole process of redetermination the DEPZs for A and B Sites. There were two small changes to the DEPZ around AWE Burghfield where properties were not included, so changes had to be made to include them. The next formal review will take place in three years unless WBDC requires there to be a change or AWE require to undertake a review as a result of a material change to operations on site. All the information regarding this is available on the WBDC website.

Off-Site Plan

The AWE Off-Site Emergency Plan was revised in March 2023 mainly due to Aldex 23 taking place in April 2023. The plan was created as a 2-part plan, one being a public version and one a secure plan due to the sensitivity of the information. The plan now needs to be reviewed with the MoD before issuing. However as a result of the Aldex 23 exercise the learning from it will mean the plan will be updated again.

Training sessions on the plan have been taking place with professional partners which is routine and are usually held every 6 months. It is recognised that a LLC session was also due to be put in place.

Action 107/11: Arrange a date for the LLC awareness session. (Jonah Maddocks)

School Guidance

The schools guidance has been revised and issued to all the schools. WBDC are meeting with the schools in June to go through the the guide with them so they have a full understanding and if there is anything that needs to be clarified. When WBDC get notification from AWE that an incident has happened, there is a list of all the school email and phone numbers including personal phone numbers. The format used is to initially email everyone to get as many notifications out as quickly as possible and then to prioritise phone calls into the schools that are in and around the affected area.

Aldex 23

Testing of the plan (Aldex 23) took place on 24th April 2023. There was approximately 180 personnel from 35 agencies involved. It was focused on an AWE Burghfield incident so both Reading and Wokingham Councils were also involved along with emergency services, UK Health & Security Agency,

public health consultants from all of the councils, DLUHC, Network Rail and GWR. A lot of good learning came from the event. A hot debrief started straight after the event and is now moving into the cold debrief via a survey and then physical meetings will take place to discuss the lessons identified. This whole process will take roughly three months to complete. Although the next exercise is not planned for at least another 3 years, there will still be regular workshops in place for areas that we feel need attention.

Incidents

There have not been any incidents relating to AWE that WBDC have had to respond to which is good news.

Resourcing

At the last LLC meeting, there were a few questions relating to resourcing within the WBDC team. At the start there was a team of five, then during COVID19 the team increased to seven. Due to some staff leaving the team was down to four for a period of time. Recent recruiting has meant that within the next few weeks the team will be back up to seven which will create more resilience. Jonah Maddocks has taken on the role that Amy Gower had within the team.

Emergency Alerting Texts

The question of using the national alert system for any AWE Incidents arose. This currently isn't a possibility due to the nature of the business, any nuclear related emergency at AWE requires an instant alert system in place. This is currently a work in progress with the government and the regulators.

Public Information Leaflet

The Public Information Booklet will be delivered in May 2023 and website pages updated.

Off-Site Emergency Planning Group

The Off-site Emergency Planning Groups is now meeting on a more regular basis again after the COVID period. WBDC are also heavily involved with the National Local Authority Nuclear Working Group which is where all of the local authorities who have nuclear licensed sites get together, normally twice a year to discuss new legislation, new issues, new learning and is a good forum to catch up and find out what everyone else is doing and to see how things can be done better.

Questions arising:

Cllr Slimin: How is the relationship with schools over the border in Hampshire?

Carolyn Richardson: We work jointly with the surrounding Councils including Hampshire, Reading and Wokingham.

Action 107/12: Check which schools are registered to take part in the Emergency Plan outside of West Berkshire and provide this information at the next LLC meeting. (Carolyn Richardson)

Cllr Crawford: Is it the responsibility of the schools to educate the parents and children of the emergency plan and do they organise emergency exercises?

Carolyn Richardson: The WBDC do encourage this and also encourage the schools to put the processes on their websites.

Cllr McGarvie: Under development and control, are the local plans covered? Basingstoke & Deane currently does not have a 5 year plan for land and everything outside the DEPZ seems to get planning permission due to the fact that no plans are currently in place.

Carolyn Richardson: They are covered. The WBDC speak with about four planning authorities to make sure the DEPZ and the people inside are protected as far as possible.

Cllr Slimin: What would you classify as a clear break from the DEPZ? We just had a presentation from Beaulieu Homes yesterday at the town council about Skates Lane potentially coming forward.

Carolyn Richardson: There have been long discussions with the planners about this site. There is a buffer to be put in place with a requirement that nothing gets built within that buffer area.

Scott Davies-Hearn
Manager Emergency Response

AWE B ran a (Level 1 Demonstration Exercise) which was successfully delivered and assessed by the regulators as an adequate demonstration of the AWE emergency response arrangements.

AWE provided scenario information and general support to the West Berkshire District Council (WBDC) Aldex delivery team for the recent Aldex 23 exercise.

There has been a technical review and update to the public AWE (REPPiR) warning and informing leaflet. The leaflet is in the process of being issued by WBDC.

There have been no activations of the site emergency response arrangements requiring the attendance of external emergency services during this period.

On-going support is being provided to assist WBDC in the preparation and future delivery of the AWE OSEP awareness activities.

External Technical Partnerships

Dr Toni Lilly
SET Principal Operations Manager

The Business Plan identified key strategic priorities to enable AWE to be successful which included the need to partner with industrial and academic collaborators to innovate ways of working, accelerate delivery and access additional talent pipelines.

The aim of technical partnerships is to;

- Provide understanding of external research and innovation landscape
- Provide financial leverage
- Provide technical peer review and advice
- Enable workforce development
- Extend external influence
- Extend technical capability
- Enable recruitment opportunities
- Support for studentships

- ~ AWE funds doctoral level studentships through a number of routes including established Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs) across UK academia.
- Industry Partners
 - ~ These interactions are vital in utilising existing UK facilities effectively, securing investment in future projects and ensuring an integrated approach, to help address the national skills agenda across the nuclear and defence enterprise
- William Penney Fellows
 - ~ An established scheme that creates and fosters a strategic link between the company and selected academics. William Penney Fellows are highly respected leaders in their fields, act as ambassadors for AWE in technical communities.
- Strategic Relationships
 - ~ Mutually beneficial enduring academic, industry and professional collaborations enabling our people to acquire, share and transfer knowledge, promoting a diverse and skilled workforce enabling access to specialised resources and unique facilities.
- Centres of Excellence
 - ~ AWE funds CoEs at universities across the UK, providing strategic long-term research and key services. The centres deliver research and support through academic, postdoctoral and postgraduate activities and engagement in specific disciplines.
- Strategic Alliances
 - ~ Strategic Alliances deliver opportunity for further work in various fields that are of interest to the university, AWE and wider academia.

AWE is currently sponsoring 75 PhD students and 93% of those students are based in science areas, a much smaller number in engineering but AWE are looking to grow that and there is also a small number of staff who wish to do a PhD.

AWE works with around 30 Universities around the UK. AWE also work with a huge range of organisations within the UK. The vast majority of which will be just in a supplier relationship.

The Department of Science, Innovation and Technology funds organisations known as a 'Catapult Centre'. These centres were established to take ideas and grow the applicability to industry, giving industry an opportunity to try these ideas out before bringing them in-house. The one that AWE is involved with most at the moment focuses on high value manufacturing.

AWE is also interested in partnering with industries because due to the current economic climate, it is proven valuable to partner with industries of similar interest.

The current and planned engagements with industry enable:

- Developing technical SQEP
- Upskilling benefits of partnering on engineering challenges
- Owning and placing complex technical requirements on industry
- Key technologies acting as UK technical authority and providing expert peer review
- Obtaining privileged information through NDA's
- Assistance with horizon scanning
- Keeping up with latest technologies
- On-the-job training and refreshed skills for staff
- The opportunity to bring in expertise when there is insufficient long term demand
- Participating in UK programmes for capability resilience in the nuclear sector.

There are 29 Heads of Profession at AWE and they cover everything from Finance to Engineering. They serve as AWE's senior professional ambassadors and support the staffing development. This runs 2-fold, not only is it training the staff but it's showing the country and the rest of the world about the quality of the staff that AWE has. AWE also goes out to help the professional bodies raise awareness of standards in the wider community.

AWE's development programmes are accredited with the Institute of Physics, IMA, IChemE, BCS The Chartered Institute for IT, Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE), Royal Society of Chemistry, I.M3, IMechE and The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET).

Finally, there is also an element of inspiring the next generation. AWE recently supported the Henry Royce Institute in a public outreach activity and regularly hold conferences for sponsored Phd students and also provide a prize for the ' Best Materials PhD Thesis' every year.

Questions arising:

Cllr McGarvie: Orion has been let out to Universities on occasion for research. Is that part of your programme as well?

Dr Toni Lilly: It's not part of my team specifically. We use the Science and Technologies Council to judge the bids for Orion time. About 15% of Orion's time is dedicated to academic research.

Cllr McGarvie: There was a large partnership that I saw advertised to do with the hydro-dynamic French deal. Is that still on the cards or did that not survive Brexit?

Dr Toni Lilly: That is in operation. We do have facilities in France that are covered by the Technology Centres as that is an operational process.

Community Update

Claire Lockwood
Senior Manager Community Engagement
Corporate Affairs

Orion Visit by St Swithun's School

Winners of the AWE Challenge at TeenTech from St Swithun's School, Winchester were awarded the prize of a visit to the Orion laser facility at AWE Aldermaston. The challenge was to programme robots to move around a maze. The winners were a group of female students which was great as AWE is trying get more females interested in STEM.

Part of the visit included a networking session with some of AWE's female staff members who talked about routes into different careers at AWE. Those involved included one of AWE's HR consultants talking about the Graduate Programme. Another consultant spoke about the apprenticeship route into AWE and a graduate and apprentice spoke about their roles at AWE. Finally Kerry Barker spoke to the students about how she started her career as an apprentice and now she is the Head of the Technology Centre. It was a very inspiring and engaging event to which AWE received some great feedback.

Virtual Careers Information Event

Student's in years 10 – 13 from schools and colleges in Hampshire and West Berkshire, along with their parents, were invited to attend this AWE event to find out about all the apprenticeship and

graduate opportunities that AWE has to offer. It was held in the evening so both students and their parents could attend. It was a great opportunity to speak with parents, guardians and students about the wide range of apprentice and graduate careers that are offered at AWE. The audience was also able to experience what apprenticeships and graduate roles are really like by hearing from some of the apprentices and graduates.

Get Inspired

Get Inspired Basingstoke and Get Inspired Basingstoke & Test Valley are both annual interactive careers events, held at the Apollo Hotel in Basingstoke. Over 50 employers across a wide range of sectors volunteered to showcase the opportunities their businesses offer. AWE attended to showcase the great work and job opportunities at AWE. AWE wanted to give the students the opportunity to gain a real understanding of the broad range of exciting career paths at AWE, especially as the recruitment window for graduate and apprentices was still open at the time of the event.

Time to Give

Staff at AWE continue to utilise the 'Time to Give' programme to share their skills and support with the local communities, either individually or as a team. Each staff member is allocated two full days a year to use as their 'time to give'. Volunteering not only benefits the community but allows staff to use their skills to make a difference and boost their wellbeing. The scheme has proved popular and has already seen staff supporting a wide range of community projects and charities.

Community Communications

Raising AWE's profile with community and other external stakeholders through the effective use of communications is one of our Community Engagement objectives. We use a variety of communications channels to do this including our website, Connect our community magazine, social media, the media and Vimeo for videos.

Questions arising:

Cllr Slimin: We've had the benefit of some of your staff helping us on Tadley Common to clear the gorse. Since then we have actively kept up the good work and really appreciate the help we received and the motivation to carry on with a group that has been formed called 'Friends of the Common' who will hopefully carry this forward after the bird nesting season.

Cllr McGarvie: You say each member of staff gets 16.5 hours in the 'Time to Give'. Do you have an aspirational target corporate wide with people spending that set time?

Chris Daniels: We're at an early stage of launching the programme and want to start boosting the number of people volunteering. Over time, we would like to be able to move to making sure the volunteering we do makes the most of our people's skills.

Cllr Slimin: As an example, if we were looking for people to advise local residents on how to use their energy more efficiently in their own homes, would some of your staff be interested in helping us do that?

Chris Daniels: Please send any specific requests to claire.lockwood@awe.co.uk and chris.daniels@awe.co.uk and we will advertise it to our staff.

Cllr Lock: asked about primary STEM and she and Claire agreed they would discuss this after the meeting ended as it was time to move to the next agenda item.

Any Other Business

We would like to give a fond farewell to John Chapman who is resigning his post on the LLC Committee. AWE and all the other LLC committee members wish him well and thank him for the time that he has dedicated to the committee.

Also, we say farewell to AWE's John Steel who will be retiring soon and thank him for his long time service in supporting the Local Liaison Committee.

Date of Next Meeting

18th October 2023