

## Springfields Fuels Ltd Site Stakeholder Group Meeting

Minutes of the 30th Springfields Fuels Ltd Site Stakeholder Group meeting, held at Ashton & Lea Golf Club, on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021, starting at 1330hrs.

### **Present:**

#### **Westinghouse Springfields Members:**

Mr Dave Mills, EHS&Q Director  
Mr Nick Jones, UK, Middle East & Central Europe Communications Manager  
Miss Katie Oliver, Business Degree Apprentice  
Mr Glyn Russell, Westinghouse / Prospect Union  
Mr Damian Holohan, Westinghouse / Unite Union  
Mrs Janet Stevenson,  
Mrs Lindsay Roche, Head of Government Affairs

#### **External Members:**

Mr Martyn Ball, Lancashire Fire and Rescue  
Cllr Robert Boswell, Preston City Council  
Cllr Matthew Brown, Preston City Council  
Mr Chris Caney, Lancs County Council Emergency Planning  
Mr Melvyn Gardner, South Ribble Council  
Mr Chris Hodson, Preston City Council  
Mr. Richard Jewkes, Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)  
Cllr Roger Lloyd, Fylde Borough Council  
Cllr Keith Martin, Lancashire Association of Local Councils  
Cllr David O'Toole, Lancashire County Council  
Mr Andrew Penman, F2 Chemicals Ltd  
Cllr Paul Rigby, Lancashire County Council  
Cllr David Shaw, South Ribble and Borough Council  
Mr Dave Walker, South Ribble Borough Council  
Dr Sarah Wallace, Environment Agency  
Mr Bernard Whittle, SSG Chairman  
Bev Duckworth, Newton and Clifton Parish Council

### **1. Welcome and opening remarks by Mr Bernard Whittle**

The Chairman opened the meeting.

### **2. Apologies and Changes to Membership**

Apologies were received from the following:

Cllr Lynne Brooks, Preston City Council  
Cllr Phillip Helvin, Lea Parish Council  
Mr Paul Jenneson, Office for Nuclear Regulation  
Mr Paul Lomas, Site Director  
Mr Mark Warwick, Lancashire Fire and Rescue

### **Changes in membership** *(that we have been notified about)*

- Brian Nixon (Springfields), replaced by Paul Lomas (Springfields)
- County Councillor Matthew Brown (Lancashire County Council) – additional member

If there are any other changes in membership that you are aware of then please let us know.

### **3. Minutes of the last meeting of the Springfields Site Stakeholder Group**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

### **4. Matters arising (that will not be covered by the agenda)**

None.

### **5. Actions from last meeting**

There were no actions from the last meeting.

### **6. Business Report (Mr Dave Mills)**

The full report was issued separately prior to the meeting and is available on the Springfields website ([www.westinghousenuclear.com/springfields](http://www.westinghousenuclear.com/springfields)).

Mr Mills reported that this was the first Stakeholder Group Meeting to take place for over 2 years and that during this period Springfields had continued to operate. The only restrictions faced had been availability of outside contractors and services. It had been a challenging period, however, Springfields had continued to make fuel. Power stations across the country have closed or announced closure dates which will have an impact on Springfields business and level of income for the site as going forward the amount of AGR sales will be less than previously predicted. There will not be the same level of income or activity for people on site and so there had been a voluntary redundancy exercise with the expectation of further redundancies going forward. Prior to lockdown the Clean Energy Technology Park had been announced and this was an opportunity to bring new business to the site.

Westinghouse recognised the need to make a decision about the future of Springfields and had been working on opportunities to support the future success of the site. Which included analysis work, focus on opportunities and interaction with Government.

Mrs Roche said that over the last 2-3 years there had been frequent dialogue with Government who recognised that Springfields is a strategic national asset. There had recently been announcements from Government as to how they see energy portfolio with nuclear being a vital component. Energy Security was becoming increasingly important and there had been productive, open and honest, discussions with Government as to how we bridge the gap. We see a future with new stations in the UK, and overseas, that could be fuelled from UK and manufactured at Springfields. There had been good collaboration with BEIS, LEP, Unions, NDA, NNL and Mark Menzies MP to ensure we preserve the pipeline of jobs as we do not want to lose vital skills nationally.

Mr Whittle stated that we have a long history of nuclear power in this country that has been relatively safe. COP26 offered an opportunity for UK to produce fuel that can create energy that doesn't present pollution in the atmosphere. Members of the public should have confidence in companies

### **Comments and Questions from Members**

None

### **7. Environment, Health and Safety Report (Mr Dave Mills)**

The full report was issued separately prior to the meeting and is available on the Springfields website ([www.westinghousenuclear.com/springfields](http://www.westinghousenuclear.com/springfields)).

Mr Mills reported that there had been one RIDOR reportable accident since 2014 which was when an individual injured their back moving a condenser. Regulatory bodies work well with Westinghouse and do not have any serious concerns. Going forward work with ONR will now be carried out remotely as they are based in Gloucester and will only attend site if there is a reason to visit.

#### Comments and Questions from Members

None

### **8. Socio-Economic Report (Mr Nick Jones)**

The full report was issued separately prior to the meeting and is available on the Springfields website ([www.westinghousenuclear.com/springfields](http://www.westinghousenuclear.com/springfields)).

Mr Jones advised there currently were very few visits taking place on site as we were trying to limit people into going into the fuel manufacturing facility to ensure we had control of measures in place on covid front. During the pandemic Westinghouse made donations to charitable donations to local causes. It has been challenging, however, we continue to work with school partners remotely as much as we can work.

#### Comments and Questions from Members

None

### **9. Report by Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (Mr Richard Jewkes)**

Mr Jewkes reported that Springfields does a lot of work to produce fuel. There is a lot of transformation taking place on site which will enable the removal of hazardous buildings and opportunity to recycle large amounts of material. There is still more work to do and some of it is mid-flight at the moment on Magnox Island. There are mutual benefits as soon as opportunities become facilitated as we are able to decommission building. We have made good process in the last couple of years with a programme that has continued during the during pandemic.

Mr Mills advised that there are a significant number of assets such as environmental permits which enable Springfields to operate within a nuclear regime. It is easier to develop and evolve with license rather than setting up from scratch.

Mr Whittle added that the company was still investing in young people and he had every confidence that competence of site will not reduce.

#### Comments and Questions from Members

Mr Lloyd asked a question as to where does construction material that is removed go to.

Mr Jewkes advised that this is recycled and used for other projects on site or recycled in the supply chain. The amount of material reused has increased and the NDA work on site will continue for many

decades.

Mr Mills clarified that only clean hard core was reused and solid contaminated materials that can't be used go to Clifton Marsh.

#### **10. Report by Site Inspector, Office for Nuclear Regulation (Mr Paul Jenneson)**

The full report was issued separately prior to the meeting and are available on the Springfields website ([www.westinghousenuclear.com/springfields](http://www.westinghousenuclear.com/springfields))

Apologies from Mr Jenneson

The report was taken as read

#### Comments and Questions from Members

None

#### **11. Report from the Site Inspector, Environment Agency (EA) (Dr Sarah Wallace)**

The full report was issued separately prior to the meeting and is available on the Springfields website ([www.westinghousenuclear.com/springfields](http://www.westinghousenuclear.com/springfields)).

Sarah Wallace introduced herself as the new Lead Regulator for Environment Agency and advised that there had been weekly meetings with site in addition to a few remote inspections throughout main lockdown period. Support was being provided on opportunities relating to permit changes. There were significant changes to site, however, capability resource was being maintained with suitably qualified people. There had been a few environmental events around that period, but nothing that was concerning.

#### Comments and Questions from Members

None

#### **12. Off-site Emergency Planning (Mr Chris Caney)**

The full report was issued separately prior to the meeting and is available on the Springfields website ([www.westinghousenuclear.com/springfields](http://www.westinghousenuclear.com/springfields)).

Chris Caney explained that there was still work required on regulations to ensure the off-site plan was fit for purpose. Exercises are usually held every 3 years; this year it was slightly different as there were 4 mini exercises which will be followed with a full debrief taking place later this week. Following the review the learning and recommendations will be shared. Mr Caney advised that an exercise, involving outside bodies, is planned for February 2022 at Heysham. The next exercise involving Springfields will be October 2024 and the hope is that this will be face-to-face.

Mr Whittle advised attendees that Mr Jones was departing from Springfields. Mr Whittle thanked Mr Jones for everything he has done to support this Group and would like to wish him well in the future.

#### Comments and Questions from Members

Mr Whittle asked when the next external exercise will be, Mr Caney Confirmed again that it is planned for February 2022 at Heysham.

### 13. Open Forum

Mr O'Toole asked a question about the demolition of buildings and reported contaminated material taken away. How is contamination handled and is there any?

Mr Mills advised that contamination is predominantly within buildings and that uranic material is kept within containers. There have been some leakages in buildings and there are a few small areas where contamination to ground. When a building is decommissioned remediate as part of that process and leave the land in a suitable condition. There are some areas where we have decommissioned to slab which would be removed by NDA all at once.

Mr Whittle reported that consideration had previously been given to moving the site boundary, but the decision was taken that the boundary should stay where it is. If it had been moved it may have been possible to create a business park that would not have been regulated. There are sidings adjacent to site which could attract some businesses. Mr Whittle thinks this is an idea that should be recycled.

Mr Rigby asked if consideration has been given to solar power on site? Mrs Roche advised that there are restrictions as to how site is owned and regulated; this regulates activities you can do there. Westinghouse are looking at developing new business opportunities which fit with a nuclear licensed site.

Mr Rigby also asked if it was possible to cut down on the use of electricity for the business so make it a more profitable venture? Mr Mills confirmed that this was a possibility.

Mr Brown advised that he had been contacted by Unite around potential change of ownership and potential problems as a result of this.

Mrs Roche said that regular discussions are held with LEP where we look at how we can work collaboratively to open opportunities for the site. There is also a nuclear fuel working group and Mark Menzies MP is a driving force on this and we work closely with Mark Menzies on this.

Mr Whittle asked if it would be possible to have discussions over the next 12 months with Fylde Borough Council and Preston Council as to how we can maximise opportunities for further employment.

**Action: Mrs Roche to provide an update on opportunities at the next meeting.**

Mr Brown also discussed security in general and reported an increase in local bloggers. In addition there had been reports of flying a drone which violates CIA rules. Mr Brown asked if security will be maintained at a high level and if there had been any learning from recent events.

Mr Mills reported that training has been carried out and staff have been trained not to respond. Legally we are protected but that doesn't stop flying of a drone, however, this has been reported.

Mr Martin was asked about potential for the site being used as a reactor site.

Mrs Roche advised that there was the potential to do demonstration of new technologies. Unlikely we would have a reactor on site.

Mr Martin was asked about the ability to get people back or how long it would take to re-train a skilled workforce.

Mr Mills advised that we could get equivalent people back to site, however, AGR is at the end of its life and the challenge is how to make fuel less expensive per unit.

Mr Whittle stated that the site still has a lot of unique futures and we need to market Springfields within the Westinghouse group?

A question was asked about the future of the CHP plant.

Mr Mills said that we move to a smaller site CHP is looking oversized and so this is a decision that goes with the future of site.

Mr Whittle advised that 2 members had put their names forward for consideration as position of Deputy Chairman. It was important to look at a succession plan and identify a successor for the Chair. Mr Whittle asked that anyone who aspired to improve the group put their names forward. A ballot would be held with the intention of having a deputy in place for the next meeting. Interested parties should contact provide a bio which would be circulated by Westinghouse who would also arrange a vote by email.

Mr Rigby thanked Mr Whittle for everything he had done during covid.

**14. Any other business**

None

**16. Date of the next SSG meeting: TBC – April 2022**

## Glossary and Abbreviations

AHF	Anhydrous Hydrofluoric Acid
ALARA	As Low As Reasonably Achievable
ALARP	As Low As Reasonably Practicable
AGR	Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor
AUAM	Advance Uranium Asset Management
Cogent	The sector Skills Council for the Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals, Nuclear, Polymers, Petroleum and Oil & Gas industries
COMAH	Control of Major Accident Hazards
COSHH	Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations
CR	Community Relations
DDR&WM	Decontamination, Decommissioning, Remediation & Waste Management
EA	Environment Agency
EURRP	Enriched Uranium Residues Recovery Plant
GDA	Generic Design Assessment
Hex	Uranium Hexafluoride (UF <sub>6</sub> )
HID	Hazardous Industries Directorate
HR	Human Resources
IIP	Investors In People
* LTA	Lost Time Accident
LWR	Light Water Reactor
Millisievert & microsievert	<i>These are units of measurement for radiation dose to individuals</i> 1 Sievert (Sv) = 1000 Millisievert (mSv) 1 Millisievert (mSv) = 1000 Microsievert (µSv)
NDA	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
NNL	National Nuclear Laboratory
NSAN	National Skills Academy Nuclear
NSG	National Stakeholder Group (Facilitated by the NDA, as an interface between local, national and international stakeholders)
ONR	Office for Nuclear Regulation
* OSHA DAC	Occupational Safety & Health Administration (US) Day Away Case
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PWR	Pressurised Water Reactor
REPIIR	Radiation Emergency Preparedness Public Information Regulations
RIDDOR	Reporting of Injuries, Diseases & Dangerous Occurrences Regulations
RoSPA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents
SFL	Springfields Fuel Limited
TRIR	Total Recordable Incidence Rate
UAM/AUAM	Uranium Asset Management/Advanced Uranium Asset Management
UNL	Uranyl Nitrate Liquor
UO <sub>2</sub>	Uranium Dioxide (both powder and granules)
WEC UK	Westinghouse Electric Company UK Ltd

\* *These classifications refer to accidents causing an individual to require time away from work of more than 3 days and 1 day respectively*