

**UNITED KINGDOM ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY,
Minutes of the 7th UKAEA Board Meeting 2006**

Date: 10 October 2006

Location: Gresham Room, London Capital Club

Members present:

Barbara Thomas Judge, Chairman

Colin Bayliss

Arnold Wagner

Norman Harrison

Ken Vowles

Andrew Jackson

John Kennedy

Secretariat:

Stephen White, Authority Secretary

Bim Adesanya, Minutes Secretary

Others present

Steve Beackon

Martin Wenban

Lawrence Collins – Woodland Grange (Item 2)

Mike Weightman – NII Chief Inspector (Item 3)

Apologies

Mark Slaughter

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1 Chairman's Opening Remarks

- 1.1 Barbara Thomas Judge welcomed the members and other attendees to the meeting.
- 1.2 She pointed out that attendance at the Board had been reviewed and streamlined.

2 Health and Safety Briefing

- 2.1 Lawrence Collins introduced himself as a Health, Safety and Environment Consultant for Woodland Grange and said that the objective of the briefing was to highlight the Board Members' roles and responsibilities for health and safety in the context of the current Manslaughter Bill.
- 2.2 The control of corporate risk was a key issue for Board members and senior managers. The management and control of UKAEA's health and safety risks would result in the following:
 - Prevention of harm to people,
 - Improved well-being and productivity of all those who work on our sites
 - Improved reputation in the eyes of staff, customers, competitors, suppliers, stakeholders and the wider community.
 - Increased turnover and profitability
 - Better relationships with contractors and more effective contracted activities
 - Reduced likelihood of prosecution and consequent penalties.
- 2.3 It was the responsibility of Members to set out their expectations for the health and safety performance of the company. It was also necessary to have adequate arrangements in place to keep the Members informed and advised of all relevant matters concerning safety performance.
- 2.4 Members thanked Lawrence Collins for this briefing.

3 Nuclear Safety Directorate Presentation

3.1 Mike Weightman, the NII's Chief Inspector, said that he wished to re-iterate the following key points:

- UKAEA need to maintain a record of sustained excellence in its operations and promote this vision to all concerned.
- The right governance structures need to be in place to provide the Board with independent assurance on health and safety.
- The Board need to provide informed advice and challenge to the Executive Management

3.2 He said that the NII and UKAEA, as well as the nuclear industry at large, were facing a number of challenges as a result of the creation of the NDA and the recent energy review. Throughout the resulting changes, safety needed to remain visibly at the top of the agenda.

3.3 The NII had recently carried out a review of its structure, processes and approach to ensure that they were robust enough and necessary to carry out the decommissioning of the UK's nuclear liabilities in a safe and cost effective manner. He commented that the Nuclear Installations Act and the UK approach to regulation had and would continue to serve the country well and give assurance about safety.

3.4 He noted that UKAEA in collaboration with its partners was implementing the Integrated Safety Management (ISM) across their sites, particularly to address the safety of plant operations. However, he said that there was room for improvement in communication about and visibility of safety performance.

3.5 Mike Weightman said that the NII endorsed programme acceleration proposals that were adequately controlled.

3.6 Barbara Thomas Judge thanked Mike Weightman for being frank and open. She said UKAEA would seek to go beyond mere compliance to achieve excellence in safety performance and will work with the NII to achieve this. In parallel, we would demonstrate that we are managing the underlying issues

arising from the business restructuring to ensure that safety remains at the top of the agenda.

- 3.7 UKAEA would place more emphasis on the promotion of behavioural and operational safety and also ensure that safety was the headline news in all our publications.

4 Harwell Science and Innovation Campus Development Presentation

Barbara Thomas Judge retired from the meeting at this point due to a conflict of interest.

- 4.1 Stephen White briefed the Board on the campus development and the Joint Venture with the private sector to drive the development forward. The key points were:

- The development supported the government's science and innovation policy objectives through optimising investment in science and providing a connection between science and technology capability and expertise, knowledge transfer and the development of the campus.
- The development secured value for money for UKAEA over the longer term.
- The development would provide high value adding employment for the region.
- A number of companies had been short-listed as potential partners in the Joint Venture (JV) from whom we would shortly be seeking developed proposal.
- The project was being run as a joint project with Council for the Central Laboratory Research Councils (CCLRC), our neighbours on the campus. CCLRC was itself considering taking a stake in the JV.

- 4.2 It was agreed that although the strategy for the campus had been agreed and was strongly backed by the government, the Board would need to be satisfied that the specific proposals for the JV would deliver the strategic objectives and provide the best value. The Board would also need to understand what opportunities, risks and liabilities would be created by the JV.

Barbara Thomas Judge re-joined the meeting at this point.

5 October 2006 Chief Operating Officer's Report

- 5.1 Norman Harrison briefed the Board on the operational performance for Period 5 considered in more detail under item 6.
- 5.2 On Friday 15th September 2006, the Acting Head of Site at Dounreay stopped all work without notice to have a day of safety briefings and reviews. A similar exercise was carried out at Windscale and, subsequently, other Heads of Sites have reiterated to their staff that the highest levels of safety performance should be maintained at all times.
- 5.3 The competition and restructuring model was discussed with the NDA and NII on 26 September 2006. Good progress was made and a consensus was agreed between NDA, Regulators and UKAEA about the model and the underlying principles for creating the Site Licensee Companies.
- 5.4 The Korean Power and Engineering Company senior team visited Harwell and Culham on 12th and 13th September 2006 respectively. They were very impressed by the decommissioning progress at Harwell and the technology developments at Culham.
- 5.5 The Board noted the report.

6 Period 5 Business Performance Report

- 6.1 Andrew Jackson briefed the Board on the financial performance up to the end of period 5.
- 6.2 The overall NDA decommissioning work was £10.1m lower than the plan. The value of the additional approved work, £13.5m exceeded £5.6m of deferred work.
- 6.3 The Board noted the paper.

7 Any Other Business

7.1 The Board approved the minutes of the 6th meeting in 2006.

7.2 The next Board meeting would be held at Eversheds' Offices in London on Monday 27 November 2006.

Bim Adesanya, Minutes Secretary

Approved by:

Barbara Thomas Judge, Chairman

