

Cover Note to the Magnox Decommissioning Dialogue Progress Report, March 2005

This report, which is made up of a number of separate documents, is the principal output of the Magnox Decommissioning Dialogue. It is intended to inform the development of strategic decision-making on Magnox power station decommissioning.

Dialogue Working Period

This stakeholder dialogue was convened in December 2000 and concluded in January 2005. This report primarily covers the output from the Dialogue since March 2003.

A working group, the Timescales Working Group (TWG), ran from 2001 to 2002 and looked at decommissioning options, but preliminary agreements on its work were not finalised in a report. The Dialogue then had to be put on hold while process concerns were considered.

The Dialogue restarted when discussions between participants and the convenor had led to agreement on a way forward. A Drafting Group was formed from a Main Group meeting of March 2003. The Group produced improved Groundrules (reproduced in the appendix to the draft Coordination Group Process Report, Document 5a) based on maximising openness and with clear lines of accountability and an amended Aim.

Aim of the Dialogue

All participants in the process since September 2003 signed up to working to achieve the Dialogue's Aim:

“To bring together the range of stakeholders to identify and explore the various decommissioning options and their implications, associated with Magnox power stations

We will consider these options in the spirit of openness and transparency by:

- generating common understanding of issues, problems and solutions
- mutual understanding of all stakeholder perspectives
- identifying where consensus exists and where it doesn't, why
- developing links with other dialogues and proactively engaging with other initiatives
- forming a working group which meets regularly and starts a Strategic Action Planning (SAP) process, exploring the options for decommissioning as soon as reasonably practicable in the light of government policy.

Output

To release a progress report of the Magnox Decommissioning Dialogue to stakeholders and the DTI by Autumn 2004, in order to inform the development of strategic decision-making on Magnox power station decommissioning.”

Participants chose to become members of one or more of the three distinct groups identified by the Dialogue as necessary to making further progress:

- ❖ *Main Group*: The whole group of stakeholders responsible for identifying the issues to be addressed and the process for doing so; for providing feedback on outputs from the Working Group and for keeping constituents outside the Dialogue informed and engaged.
- ❖ *Working Group*: A sub-group responsible for exploring decommissioning options using a Strategic Action Planning (SAP) process and for informing and consulting with the Main Group about their work.
- ❖ *Coordination Group*: A sub-group responsible for the dialogue process.

Around 50 stakeholders from a range of sectors participated in the Main Group. These sectors were the nuclear industry, independent experts and academics, UK national and local government, UK regulators, community NGOs and nuclear workforce associations.

Documents in the Progress Report

The Progress Report contains the following documents in addition to this cover note:

1a. Report from the Strategic Action Planning Working Group (SAPWG) 25 January 2005

The Strategic Action Planning Working Group (SAPWG) was convened with 17 members drawn from the Main Group of the Dialogue and covered the range of sectors represented. The Working Group held twelve meetings between November 2003 and January 2005. The Working Group used a Strategic Action Planning (SAP) process to progress its work as agreed by the Main Group.

The SAPWG report contains strategic action plans ('SAP tables') that identify the actions and decisions that would have to be taken to keep three strategic options for decommissioning open, given the uncertainties inherent in these options. It also describes lessons learned by the SAPWG during its work and makes recommendations about actions to be taken by various stakeholders prior to decisions on Magnox decommissioning.

The SAPWG report has been reviewed by participants in the Dialogue (see Document 2a) and two external experts (see Documents 3a & 3b) have suggested directions for further work.

The SAPWG undertook its work within a limited timeframe and although it recognises that more could be done, it considers that its work is at a stage where it can be used to inform strategic decision makers, interested agencies and stakeholders.

1b. Main Group Responses to the Strategic Action Planning Working Group Report

All Main Group members were asked to indicate whether they were supportive of the Strategic Action Planning Working Group report going into the public domain as part of the Progress Report (and stating agreements and objections). These responses are appended to the SAPWG report in this document.

2a. Consultation Responses

During the development of the Strategic Action Planning (SAP) work, early drafts were circulated to the Main Group for comments and feedback to aid the Working Group in its SAP process. This included consultations with the DTI/Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) team and Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM). The Strategic Action Planning Working Group (SAPWG) made a response to each comment it received and these were collated (without attribution) and circulated back to the Main Group. There were three consultations with the Main Group by the SAPWG. The Main Group agreed that the consultation responses should be included as part of the Progress Report.

3a. Review of Technical & Logistical Aspects of the 1st Draft Report, Strategic Action Planning Working Group, 7 October 2004: John Large, Large & Associates, 23 October 2004

3b. The Strategic Action Planning Working Group's consultation on their draft report: Financial and timing considerations, Steve Thomas, Public Services International Research Unit (PSIRU), Business School, University of Greenwich, November 2004

The above two pieces of work were undertaken by independent experts chosen by, and on behalf of, some local NGOs in the Dialogue. This was in order to help them input to the consultation on the 1st draft of the SAPWG report. This help was funded by the Dialogue at the Coordination Group's agreement, in light of the comparatively limited access to resources of these local NGO's. The experts' work, which is on technical and financial aspects of the SAPWG report, was made available to all Dialogue participants. The SAPWG gave particular consideration to the report by Large & Associates as part of its consultation and its response to this work is included in the Consultation Responses (see Document 2a). The Main Group agreed that the two reports should be included as part of the Progress Report.

4a. Lists of Reference Documents

These are lists of available documents produced or used by the Dialogue's working groups. The Main Group agreed that these reference lists should be included as part of the Progress Report.

5a. Draft Process Report from the Coordination Group, 2 December 2004

The Coordination Group was convened with 13 members drawn from the Main Group of the Dialogue and covered the range of sectors represented within it. The Coordination Group held six meetings between November 2003 and November 2004.

The Process Report outlines the main stages in the dialogue and gives the views of various members of the Coordination Group about the effectiveness of the processes used in the second phase of the Dialogue.

The Process Report from the Coordination Group remains in draft form because the Group was unable to agree on a final form before the final Main Group meeting and unable to reconvene after this meeting. A version with comments from Group members that were to be discussed by the Group was produced. This was circulated as a work-in-progress to the Main Group before its final meeting on 6&7 December 2004. The Main Group agreed that this version of the Process Report should be included as part of the Progress Report.

Responses to an evaluation of the Dialogue initiated by the Coordination Group and completed by participants at the final Main Group meeting, 6 & 7 December 2004 are appended to the photoreport of this meeting. This photoreport can be viewed on The Environment Council's website at www.the-environment-council.org.uk or obtained from The Environment Council. The original evaluation form is appended to the Process Report.

5b. Main Group Responses to the Draft Coordination Group Report

All Main Group members were asked to indicate whether they were supportive of the draft Process Report from the Coordination Group going into the public domain as part of the Progress Report (and stating agreements and objections). These responses are appended to the Coordination Group report in this document.

Way Forward

Despite initial difficulties, the dialogue has produced information and advice intended for those who have responsibility for decisions on Magnox decommissioning, in particular the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). A Recommendations Monitoring Group has been set up to monitor progress on recommendations and actions and to communicate with participants in the Magnox Decommissioning Dialogue about their progress.

The Environment Council, convenors of the Magnox Decommissioning Dialogue
March 2005

**NOTE: This cover note is part of a suite of documents that form the
Magnox Decommissioning Dialogue Progress Report, March 2005**