

## **BABCOCK-MBN STATEMENT OF ALIGNMENT TO MoD'S RESPONSE TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION FINDINGS**

### **RECOMMENDATION 1**

*Consultation findings, which fall outside the remit of Project ISOLUS, should be passed to the relevant bodies.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

### **RECOMMENDATION 2**

*The ways in which public concerns relate to the practices and motivations of other stakeholders need to be taken into account. Stakeholder practices should be developed in ways that demonstrably address public concerns.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

### **RECOMMENDATION 3**

*The appropriate bodies should be informed of the strength of feeling against building further nuclear powered submarines, especially in relation to the absence of a final disposal route for the radioactive wastes.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: No Comment

### **RECOMMENDATION 4**

*Further action and decisions need to be clearly justified in terms of their ethical premises and principles, with cost being subsidiary to this.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported. Babcock-MBN proposal fully promotes openness (subject to the constraints of the UK/US Agreement of 1958) and liaison with all stakeholders, including representatives of the public.

### **RECOMMENDATION 5**

*Relevant bodies should be informed of the strength of feeling regarding the need for international collaboration, and public information on the collaboration, which is taking place, should be available.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported. Babcock-MBN would co-operate with MoD and DTI initiatives in this matter.

### **RECOMMENDATION 6**

*Project ISOLUS should establish and maintain relationships with government bodies involved in the development of radioactive waste policy, closely monitor the development of this policy and assess its relevance for Project ISOLUS.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported. Babcock-MBN would co-operate fully with government departments, agencies and advisory bodies in achieving this aim.

### **RECOMMENDATION 7**

*A clear statement on whether the BRDL proposal will proceed or not should be made at the earliest possibility.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.  
Babcock-MBN Position: Accepted.

### **RECOMMENDATION 8**

*Openness and trust should be pursued by the MOD.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.  
Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

### **RECOMMENDATION 9**

*Understanding public views and respecting their legitimacy should be encouraged at all levels; decisions should clearly demonstrate this respect and those public concerns have been addressed.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.  
Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

### **RECOMMENDATION 10**

*It is recommended that the MOD recognise that consultation of itself can engender more positive relationships.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.  
Babcock-MBN Position: Supported. Babcock-MBN proposal fully promotes openness (subject to the constraints of the UK/US Agreement of 1958) and liaison with all stakeholders, including representatives of the public.

### **RECOMMENDATION 11**

*Bodies who are widely seen to be acting in the interests of people and the environment should be enabled to provide authority to information through their review and verification of that information (see also Recommendation 19 and Recommendation 50).*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported. Babcock-MBN would co-operate fully with government departments, agencies, advisory bodies and independent bodies as may be approved by MoD to achieve this aim.

### **RECOMMENDATION 12**

*The MOD should review approaches to information provision being developed in other agencies, and considers ways of providing more publicly accessible information.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported. Babcock-MBN would co-operate fully with government departments, agencies and advisory bodies in achieving this aim.

### **RECOMMENDATION 13**

*The MOD should specifically consider the ways in which the local media can be utilised in relation to consultation at specific sites, and seek out other local information channels for similar use.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 14**

*Serious consideration should be given to ways in which further details of the submarines, relevant to all aspects of the interim storage of the radioactive wastes, can be made public or made available for independent expert scrutiny. MOD compliance with Radiation Preparedness and Public Information Regulations (REPPIR) should be publicly stated. Where information cannot be made available, the reasons should be clearly and publicly explained.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 15**

*The consideration of intergenerational equity lends some weight to the preference for leaving reactor compartments intact and this should be taken into account.*

MoD's Response: Noted for further consideration.

Babcock-MBN Position: **Rejected.** Babcock-MBN cannot support the long-term storage of Reactor Compartments. The argument to "keep options open" may be seen to have some merit but is not a component of intergenerational equity. The Reactor Compartment storage option (in effect the "do nothing" option) is totally incompatible with the concept of sustainable development and the "act now" arguments is a far more compelling representation of balanced intergenerational equity.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 16**

*Although assessed as relatively low, the risks associated with submarine wastes should not be presented as insignificant; this is likely to be counterproductive in terms of generating public acceptability.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: **Rejected.** Babcock-MBN will present the risks associated with submarine wastes in accordance with recognised best practice for risk assessment. If risks are assessed to be trivial, they will be presented as such. The results of risk assessments will be presented in non-technical language for public consultation purposes.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 17**

*Public acceptability will be enhanced the more 'best possible' practice is utilised (rather than best practicable means), and thus best possible practice should be pursued and not be constrained by cost, unless a robust case for doing otherwise can be publicly justified.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported

**RECOMMENDATION 18**

*Residual risks and uncertainties should be acknowledged in communication activities, and judgements about them debated and justified.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 19**

*Recording and record keeping practices in relation to worker exposure to radiation should be independently reviewed (see also Recommendation 30).*

MoD's Response: Rejected.

Babcock-MBN Position: MoD's position supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 20**

*Doses to the public and workers should be minimised and avoided where at all possible. Records of doses should be in the public domain.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 21**

*Where options and choices that have implications for the management of the toxic substances within the submarines are considered, similar principles to those raised in relation to radioactive wastes should be applied. Information on the toxic substances contained in the submarines should be publicly accessible, especially at sites proposed for dismantling the submarines.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 22**

*Metals contaminated with very low levels of radiation should not enter the scrap metal market; a policy of 'dilute and disperse' is not acceptable.*

MoD's Response: Rejected.

Babcock-MBN Position: MoD's position supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 23**

*Afloat storage should be discontinued.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 24**

*Contingency plans for dealing with delays and limitations of access to necessary facilities need to be considered, so those situations such as that pertaining to the Valiant do not arise.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 25**

*Project ISOLUS should proceed with developing interim storage on land.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: **Qualified support.** Babcock-MBN will only support the submarine disposal project on the basis that all the waste will be removed from Rosyth to either a permanent location or to another location approved by MoD.

**RECOMMENDATION 26**

*Continuous monitoring of the stored wastes should be undertaken*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 27**

*Plans for responding to problems, including the flexibility to respond to unanticipated problems should be developed.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 28**

*The store itself should provide a level of containment, and be capable of being temporarily sealed in the event of leakage to provide environmental isolation within the building.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 29**

*Provision should be made for local publication of all monitoring results at waste storage sites and at sites where submarines are dismantled.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 30**

*Consideration should be given to additional means for providing independent monitoring, and/or independent peer review of monitoring.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 31**

*Consideration should be given to means of independent auditing of management and security procedures and practices.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 32**

*A site with existing, relatively large scale, nuclear activity should be used, unless there are strong and clearly justified reasons otherwise.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 33**

*Geological stability and the implications of climate change need to be assessed in relation to the site(s) used for storing the wastes.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 34**

*The wastes should be stored in a site where unauthorised access is prevented.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 35**

*The possibility of storing the wastes at more than one site should not be discounted.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 36**

*The MOD should be explicit about the potential for expansion of storage beyond the existing 27 submarines, and should clarify, as far as possible, what this potential could imply for the storage site(s).*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 37**

*The MOD should be explicit about the responsibility, location and management of the waste beyond the initial 30 year period, and clarify, as far as possible, the implications for the storage of site(s).*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 38**

*Transportation of the wastes should be minimised, and should avoid centres of population, subject to other considerations, unless there are strong and publicly acceptable reasons otherwise.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: **Qualified Supported**, subject to the proviso that all waste will be removed from the site at Rosyth. We also note a potential conflict with

Recommendation 32 – (Use of existing nuclear sites) as it may be that transportation distances are relatively large in UK terms but are nonetheless required in order to reach the most suitable sites to undertake the project.

### **RECOMMENDATION 39**

*The Minister should be informed of the strength of feeling against privatisation, and the problems of trust and confidence in contractors, and serious consideration is given to ways of organising Project ISOLUS that maximise the control, responsibility and accountability of the MOD.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: **Rejected.** Whilst Babcock-MBN have no objection to the Minister being informed of the strength of feeling against privatisation, attention needs to be drawn to the extensive and impressive track record of contractors in the nuclear industry to undertake work responsibly and safely.

### **RECOMMENDATION 40**

*When assessing proposals, consideration should be given to the availability of suitable expertise in both the geographical area and the relevant areas of knowledge and experience, and for how this expertise will be maintained over time.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

### **RECOMMENDATION 41**

*An audit of the skills and knowledge bases required over the first 30 years of storage, and beyond, should be conducted and used to develop plans for the maintenance of such skills and knowledge bases.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

### **RECOMMENDATION 42**

*Provision of whistle blowing should be made within the management plan.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported. Babcock has maintained a policy of openness with its employees since privatisation in 1987 and has enjoyed the full support of its trades unions and staff associations in avoiding the need for "whistle blowing".

### **RECOMMENDATION 43**

*The principles and practices of regulation should be made more publicly accessible, especially around potential sites. The responsibilities of different bodies need to be made clear. Regulators should seek to engage in two-way communication, especially with affected populations. The responsibilities of various regulatory bodies need to be reviewed to assess duplication or lack of contiguity in regulatory responsibilities for nuclear submarines.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 44**

*Serious consideration is given to supporting the case for civil regulation of waste stores specifically, and with other MoD nuclear activities more generally.*

MoD's Response: Rejected.

Babcock-MBN Position: The NII have intimated that submarine disposal will take place only on a Licensed Site, and this policy has been supported by MoD. Submarine disposal will, therefore, be subject to civil regulation. Babcock-MBN is content to support this policy.

**RECOMMENDATION 45**

*Further phases of consultation should aim to include anyone who wishes to be included, as far as this can be made possible.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported. Babcock-MBN proposal fully promotes openness and the principle of consultation on relevant matters with anyone.

**RECOMMENDATION 46**

*The consultation design should enable those who may not feel they can speak freely to contribute.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATIONS 47**

*Counter experts should be included in future phases of consultation (see also Recommendation 50).*

MoD's Response: Noted for further consideration.

Babcock-MBN Position: MoD's position supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 48**

*The Steering Group in future stages of consultation should be reconvened to include a lay person, a national ENGO, and representation of relevant international experience. Once sites are identified, people from sites under consideration should also be represented in the Steering Group(s). It may be necessary to fund individuals to enable them to serve on the Steering Group.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported

**RECOMMENDATION 49**

*A Steering Group for future consultation should continue to be convened and serviced by an independent third party. How the Steering Group might provide a greater degree of accountability for the consultation process, especially in terms of ensuring findings are taken into account, should be given further consideration.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported

### **RECOMMENDATION 50**

*Consideration is given to establishing an independent advisory group to provide input to Project ISOLUS. Consideration should also be given to convening a technical advisory group, which should include counter expertise (see also Recommendation 47)*

MoD's Response: Noted for further consideration.

Babcock-MBN Position: MoD's position supported.

### **RECOMMENDATION 51**

*The public preference for independent oversight of radioactive waste management should be communicated to the relevant bodies (see also Recommendation 1).*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

### **RECOMMENDATION 52**

*The MoD's response to these recommendations should clearly indicate where consultation outcomes have been taken into account, and where not. The reasoning behind plans and decisions should be fully transparent. The response should be in the public domain and easily accessible (for example, on the website, in printed form available on request, and distributed to participants in the Front End Consultation).*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported

### **RECOMMENDATION 53**

*Further stages of consultation should undertake to publish all outputs, unless there are strong and clearly justified reasons otherwise.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

### **RECOMMENDATION 54**

*An independent third party or parties should conduct subsequent stages of consultation.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: **Rejected.** Babcock-MBN cannot support this recommendation *at this time* for the reasons discussed in our submission to Section 5 - Public Consultation.

### **RECOMMENDATION 55**

*A fund should be made available to which prospective participants can apply for funding, and clear guidelines developed regarding the provision of such funding.*

MoD's Response: Noted for further consideration.

Babcock-MBN Position: MoD's position supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 56**

*Widespread publicity should be given to subsequent consultation activities to maximise awareness and to inform people who may wish to participate of their opportunity to do so.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 57**

*As much information as possible should be publicly available, including all safety related information. Where information is not made publicly available, reasons should be given as to why this is the case.*

MoD's Response: Noted for further consideration.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported. Babcock-MBN proposal fully promotes openness (subject to the constraints of the UK/US Agreement of 1958) and liaison with all stakeholders, including representatives of the public.

**RECOMMENDATION 58**

*Project ISOLUS should provide information, or indicate where such information can be found, on areas where the knowledge bases are disputed or uncertain, such as the health effects of low-level radiation, and notify relevant bodies of particular areas of concern raised by consultees.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 59**

*The consultation and decision processes should be laid out more lucidly, and be more accessible, with (in as far as is currently possible) a clear timetable of action. It should be clear from the outset of any activities what the objectives of the consultation are, its relationship with and timing within the decision-making process and linked processes, and how the consultation findings will be used.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 60**

*A broad range of the public and other stakeholders should be actively included in the next phase of consultation (see also Recommendation 45).*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 61**

*Principles emerging from the Front End Consultation, as identified by the Front End Steering Group, should be used for the next stage of consultation. Reference should also be made to principles of best practice as identified by a range of other sources.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 62**

*People with local knowledge will need to be included in the consultation team (see also Recommendation 54)*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 63**

*The next stage of consultation should take place not later than the time at which the Outline Proposals are received. In the meantime, Chief Executives of Local Authorities, and other appropriate bodies, should be informed by the MOD of the decision-making and consultation process (including the process prior to Outline Proposals being received) and its projected timetable. The information should also be posted on the consultation web site and provided to those who participate in the Front end Consultation (see also Recommendation 59).*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: **Qualified Support**, subject to our concerns regarding the next stage of public consultation.

**RECOMMENDATION 64**

*Consideration is given to providing expert advice on consultation and public acceptability, and the means, by which this can be done, to potential contractors.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: Supported.

**RECOMMENDATION 65**

*Once potential sites are identified, consultation techniques should include the provision for people from different sites to meet together to pursue more acceptable solutions.*

MoD's Response: Accepted.

Babcock-MBN Position: **Qualified Support**, subject to the views of the regulator and our business interests.