

Project ISOLUS

Front End Steering Group

Meeting 1

1.30 pm, Friday, 2nd March, 2001
London Voluntary Sector Resource Centre
356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA

Minutes

Present: Fred Barker, RAWMC;
Rob Gray, Health & Safety Executive, HM Nuclear Installations
Inspectorate;
Mark Hannan, Berkeley Power Station;
Brian Hooper, MoD;
Stewart Kemp, Nuclear-Free Local Authorities Secretariat;
Judith Petts, University of Birmingham;
Di McDonald, Bristol Submarine Forum;
Jane Hunt, Simon Pardoe & Pamela White, CSEC, Lancaster
University.

Apologies: Andy Elmer, Local Government Association.

1. ***Welcome and introductions:***

Jane Hunt welcomed everyone to the meeting, pointing out its historic nature. Individual introductions followed.

2. ***Election of chairperson:***

Nominations for the chair were invited. Judith Petts was nominated by Stewart Kemp, seconded by Brian Hooper, and elected unanimously.

3. ***Terms of Reference:***

These were read out and comments invited. There were no objections, additions or amendments.

4. Reporting Steering Group Meetings:

It was suggested and agreed that Minutes of Steering Group Meetings would be publicly available, including on the *ISOLUS Consultation* website, with comments not attributed, to facilitate free and frank exchanges. Each member of the Steering Group would receive a draft copy, for comment by a given date. Lack of response by that date would be taken as approval.

5. Project ISOLUS: Briefing:

Questions were raised about work in progress in advance of ISOLUS and whether this might limit discussions in public and with stakeholders. There was agreement that other options other than those in the BRDL Proposal may need to be discussed. Similarly, the PEST analysis in “The ISOLUS Investigation” was questioned. This will be open to discussion as to its logic and weightings.

Action:
Brian Hooper agreed to provide more detailed information to supplement Concept Phase Report Annex E

6. Front End Consultation: Briefing:

Jane Hunt briefed the meeting on the nature of the Front End Consultation.

A summary of responses from the previous consultation was requested.

It was agreed that they would be non-attributable and that individual responses would not be disclosed.

Discussion centred around the content of the Front End Consultation and the balance between focus on options, siting and consultation, given the time constraints. The composition of the membership of the Stakeholder Workshops, the effect of the website, and questions of safety in the light of exemption from Environmental Impact Regulations were also discussed.

Action:
Lancaster to add to ISOLUS website

It was agreed that witnesses to the Citizens' Panel, and the Panel's findings, should be heard in public. Panel deliberations, however, would take place in private. Potential witnesses would include members of the public from affected areas. After discussion of the membership of the Panel, it was decided to hold one of the Stakeholder Workshops in Devonport, so as to balance input to the consultation process. Press releases regarding the Panel, to be handled by the MoD Press Office, would go to the national media and media neighbouring any nuclear site.

Action:
Lancaster to include dates of Citizens' Panel in Stakeholder Workshop information

7. Feedback on Project Plan:

a) Consultation Aims:

These were as listed in the contract.

b) Stakeholder Workshops' Participants:

It was agreed that Lancaster would circulate a list of participants for comment and additions, and for the Steering Group to judge the balance of representation, including between industry and others. The locations would be London, Manchester and Devonport, with Lancaster deciding if the fourth would be either Carlisle or Newcastle-upon-Tyne. [Now arranged for the latter.]

Action:
Lancaster

c) Website and hard copy consultation:

It was agreed that the website would be linked to a range of other sites, some giving competing views, including those based overseas.

8. Dates of next meetings:

These were fixed as: Thursday 10th May, Manchester; Thursday 21st June, Birmingham; Friday 20th July, London.

9. Any Other Business

No reservations were expressed about the existing membership of the Steering Group. It was agreed that the Environment Agency and SEPA should be considered as potential members. [This was subsequently decided against, as it was felt that regulators would be over-represented.]

Action:
Judith Petts

The question was raised of funding for interested groups and individuals to enable them to be included in what might prove to be a lengthy consultation process.