

See Distribution

MINUTES OF THE LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE (LLC) MEETING HELD ON 16 JAN 2020 AT WELCOME HALL, DEVONPORT.

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| <p>Committee Members Present</p> <p>Others Present</p> | <p>Cdre P Coulson RN Mr M Homer Mr R Dickson Mr R Foran Cllr G Wheeler</p> <p>Mr C Crook (Sec) Mr R Clark Mr B Phillips Mrs M Clark Mr S Tucker Mr R Collison Ms J Bound Ms M Langsford Ms M Mapstone Mr S Foster Mrs L Coulton Mr A Turner Mr N Parsons Mr R Lee Mr A Griffiths Mr A Williams Mr B Vincent Insp S Harris Mrs D Brooker-Evans Mr B Vincent Mr R Nelder Mrs J Pollard</p> | <p>NBC (Chair) Babcock MOD HMNB Babcock PCC</p> <p>MOD MOD Babcock Babcock Babcock Babcock Babcock Babcock Babcock Babcock MOD MOD MOD EA ONR DNSR PCC D&CC PCC PCC PCC Public</p> |
| <p>Item 1 - Chairman's Opening Remarks</p> | | <p>Action</p> |
| <p>The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming attendees, providing a safety brief and a reminder of the meeting protocols.</p> <p>He conducted a brief review of activity at Devonport since the last meeting and said that, once again, the previous 6-month period had been a very busy, interesting and safe period whilst delivering operational capability to the fleet. He outlined the upgraded infrastructure development program that the site was about to implement to enhance its capability to support the fleet over the next 5-10 years.</p> | | |

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| <p><u>Item 2 – Minutes of Last Meeting</u></p> | |
| <p>The minutes of the Jul 19 meeting were approved with no amendments.</p> <p><u>Item 3 – Action Updates & Matters Arising</u></p> <p>Mr R Dickson, Nuclear Safety Assurance (NSA) said that there were two Actions arising from the Jul 19 LLC meeting, both concerning letters received from Mrs Pollard and Mr Reese to NBC and Environment Agency (EA) respectively. Both had now been responded to, to the satisfaction of the recipients, and would now be considered ‘closed’. He added that he had subsequently received another letter from Mrs Pollard regarding an off-site planning issue which he would pass on to Plymouth City Council to respond to.</p> | <p>NBC/PCC</p> |
| <p><u>Item 4 – Devonport Site Safety & Operational Updates</u></p> | |
| <p>Mr Dickson, Nuclear Safety Assurance (NSA) provided a brief overview of Naval Base activity and Devonport-based submarine support activities over the past 6 months. He said that it had been a routine operational period with ongoing T-class maintenance programmes and operational visits by both Clyde-based and foreign SSNs.</p> <p>He said that the area around 3 Basin became an Authorised Site in Mar 2019 and in Sep was subject to an inspection by ONR and resulted in a ‘green’ overall rating with several aspects of the arrangements considered to be good practice.</p> <p>Courageous would be taken from 3 Basin to 10 Dock imminently for her routine preservation package which would take approximately 8 months to complete.</p> <p>Mr R Foran (Director Assurance, Babcock) presented an overview of Babcock operations since the last meeting.</p> <p>Mr Foran said that two T-class submarines had been maintained during the last six months: one boat in 5 Basin undergoing preparation for long-term storage and one boat in 15 Dock undergoing maintenance as part of her normal cycle of operations. HMS Vanguard’s deep maintenance in 9 Dock continues.</p> <p>As far as planning for the future was concerned, he said that site preparations for the support of Type 26 frigates at Devonport was now underway in collaboration with Navy Command. He said that the contract to supply Type 31 frigates to the Navy had been won by Babcock with construction taking place at Rosyth. Both Devonport and Bristol would provide engineering expertise and support.</p> <p>He said that the company had launched its iSupport strategy which would focus on state-of-the-art technology integration to underpin its Go Digital programme. This is influencing the company’s recruitment of graduates and</p> | <p>Enclosure 1</p> |

apprentices and the interface with Plymouth University and local schools and colleges.

Mr Foran said that the company had a joint strategic plan in place with MOD for facility upgrade within Devonport. Over the next ten years a significant amount of work would be carried out on the dockyard and its facilities which would stand the site in good stead for the future.

The company had recently acquired the City College Goschen Yard site with options for its future use currently being considered.

Preparations for the arrival of Astute class submarines for maintenance at Devonport continue with infrastructure construction taking place over the next six years. The impact of this construction on the local area will be one of the key considerations of the work.

Mr Foran gave a brief overview of the company's Nuclear Safety Improvement Programme (NSIP) and the core themes that underpin it. He said that there were currently nine projects underway, all of which were aligned to these themes. Some 50 milestones had been delivered so far in 2019 resulting in further improvements in safety culture and performance across the site.

Mr Dickson said that there had been no MOD Site Events in the last 6 months. However, an event initially reported as an INES Level 0 at the previous LLC had subsequently been re-categorised as a Level 1 (Anomaly). The event in question was originally categorised as Level 0 based upon the additional 'defence in depth' present within the operations. It was subsequently raised to a Level 1 to ensure that any issues associated with the event were disseminated as widely as possible across the nuclear submarine community.

Mr Foran said that Babcock had reported nine Site Events to the Regulators in the last 6-month period: eight Level 0 and one Level 1. All were related to maintenance operations and the lessons learnt will be fed back into the business.

Mr Dickson said that there had been four MOD RIDDOR incidents since the last meeting. He added that there had been 9 non-RIDDOR accidents reported in the period and that slips, trips and falls continued to be the main causation of non-RIDDOR reportable accidents.

Continuing, Mr Dickson said that there had been 40 fire alarm activations since the last meeting (up from 39 in the previous period) and that he was confident that the 'call challenge' procedures continue to work well at Devonport. There had only been 1 actual fire which had required fire service attendance during the last 6 months. This occurred aboard an RM landing craft and produced a large amount of smoke which had dissipated by the time the fire brigade arrived.

Mr Foran said that there had been eleven RIDDOR accidents reported by Babcock during the last six months, two of which occurred on the nuclear licensed site although not related to nuclear safety.

There had been a total of 144 non-RIDDOR accidents reported (up from 127 in the previous period), with the single highest causation involving

moving, falling or flying object impact. Slips, trips and falls also constituted a major causation.

Mr Foran said that, as far as radiation dose accrual was concerned, the 2019 collective annual personal radiation doses was lower than previous periods due mainly to less nuclear work being carried out. Body scanning continued to be offered to staff. 17 scans had been conducted during the period with no anomalies detected.

He said that, as far as radioactive waste discharges were concerned, all continued to be well below the set limits.

Marine sampling results for 2019 had shown that no Cobalt-60 had been detected and that recorded levels of Tritium, Carbon-14 and other nuclides were all low and well within permitted discharge limits. Consequently, there was no significant radiological hazard present.

Turning to Emergency Arrangements, Mr Dickson said that the period since the last meeting had been a very busy one as far as emergency arrangement exercises were concerned. An off-site nuclear emergency response exercise 'Short Sermon 2019' had taken place in Sep which successfully demonstrated the interface arrangements between the Devonport site and off-site agencies.

Mr Dickson said that a communications exercise was conducted in Nov. The on-site element went well but, due to exercise artificialities, the message did not get communicated off-site resulting in a re-test of those elements in Dec. Although the initial alert was successfully transmitted from the site, the objectives were not fully met off-site. Consequently, further investigation was underway to identify the causes.

A Level 1 on-site exercise was conducted in early Dec to test interactions with the emergency services. This achieved an 'adequate' rating although aspects of Forward Command Post casualty rescue prompted a review.

The Chairman summarised by stating that the health and safety of the workforce and general public remained the highest priority for both MOD and Babcock and that all nuclear submarine activities continued to be undertaken safely as planned. Independent site Regulators continue to maintain a strong presence at Devonport and environmental monitoring continues to show no significant radiological hazard as a result of activities on the site.

Item 5 – Questions From The Committee & Public

Cllr Wheeler enquired whether the two INES Level 1 incidents mentioned by both Messrs Dickson and Foran in their respective reports concerned the same event. Mr Dickson confirmed that they did not.

Item 6 – Plymouth City Council (PCC)

Mr R Nelder said that, as mentioned at the last meeting, the report into the incidence of local cancer rates had now been published and was available to view on the PCC website. The next review was due to take place in three

years time. Ms D Brooker-Evans then gave a brief overview of the Short Sermon '19 exercise from PCC's perspective. She said it constituted a test of the city's off-site emergency plan and involved 23 agencies across Devon and Cornwall. The Council had subsequently received a letter from ONR confirming the adequacy of the plan which remains valid for three year until Sep 2022. A multi-agency debrief took place in Oct to identify any learning from which the subsequent report will be submitted to ONR by the end of Jan 20. These learning point will be incorporated into an updated version of the off-site emergency plan, in accordance with the REPIR 19 regulations, and published by 20 May 20.

Item 7 – Regulators' Reports

Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

Mr A Griffiths gave a short brief to the meeting covering his role and the contents of the last ONR quarterly report, covering the period Sep-Dec 2019. He said that, as advised at the last meeting, legal action had been taken against DRDL consequent to the Safety Improvement Notice issued regarding lifting operations at Devonport in Sep 2018. The company had pleaded guilty which had resulted in DRDL being fined £666K in Aug 19.

Cllr Wheeler asked if there was any further progress to report on the Reactor Access House and when the laid-up submarine de-fuelling program might formally commence. The Chairman said that some progress was expected in the first half of this decade and that the program was being pushed as fast as was safe to do so.

Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR)

Mr A Williams presented a short brief on behalf of the DNSR covering the contents of the last two quarterly reports.

Environment Agency

Mr R Lee provided a brief review of EA activities at Devonport during the last six months and said that a recent inspection of the Active Water Treatment Plant had produced a 'satisfactory' rating. A visit to the Laid-Up Submarine (LUSM) program in the dockyard in Oct had also proved very useful and successful.

He said that the response to the letter submitted by Mr Reese at the last meeting had now been made available in hard copy to Committee members.

Cllr Wheeler asked whether, with regard to sludge disposal, it could be re-affirmed that no nuclear waste from the Devonport site was treated at the DNVV plant at Weston Mill. NBC confirmed that this was the case.

Enclosure 2 & 3

Enclosure 4

Enclosure 5

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| <p><u>Item 8 - Items Raised by LLC Members</u></p> <p>There were no questions raised by LLC Members.</p> | |
| <p><u>Item 9 – Questions From the Floor Relating to Briefs</u></p> <p>There were no further questions from the floor.</p> | |
| <p><u>Item 10 - AOB</u></p> <p>The next two meetings were tentatively scheduled for 23 Jul 2020 and 23 Jan 2021 with the venue for both to be advised nearer the time.</p> | |
| <p><u>Item 11 - Closing Remarks</u></p> <p>In closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked everyone present for their attendance and input. As this was the final LLC at Welcome Hall before its closure, he wished to thank its manager, Mrs G Lidster, for all her kindness and assistance over the years in supporting meetings at the venue by presenting her with a bouquet of flowers and commemorative NBC(D) medallion.</p> | |

Signed: On Original

Date: 07 Apr 2020

Cdre P Coulson RN (Chairman)
NBC(D)

Enclosures:

1. Joint MOD/Babcock Operations Presentation.
2. ONR Report 2019/20 Q2
3. ONR Report 2019/20 Q3
4. DNSR Report 2019/20 Q3
5. EA Report

Distribution:

Committee Members

Mr M Homer, Managing Director, Babcock (Meeting Chair)

Cdre P Coulson, ADC, RN, Naval Base Commander, MOD

Mr R Foran, Assurance Director, Babcock

Mr R Clark, NSA AHd Radiological Protection Advisor, MOD

Dr R Harrell, Director of Public Health, Plymouth City Council

Councillor John Crago, Cornwall Council

Councillor Jesse Foot, Cornwall Council

Councillor J Hart, Devon County Council

Councillor R Croad, Devon County Council

Councillor G Wheeler, Plymouth City Council

Councillor S Haydon, Plymouth City Council

Councillor B Vincent, Plymouth City Council

Councillor M Coker, Plymouth City Council

Councillor J W Squire, South Hams District Council

Councillor R Pike, West Devon Borough Council

Devonport Site Operators

Captain N S Bower, RN SUBFLOT (SOUTH) MOD

Captain I Bartlett, RN, SUSM MOD

Ms L Coulton, SPRO, NBHQ, MOD

Chief Inspector C Pitcher MOD Police

Capt A Price RN, CoB, MOD

Mr S Foster, Nuclear Assurance Manager, Babcock

Ms M Mapstone, Corporate Affairs Manager, Babcock

NUCLEAR REGULATORS

Mr R Lee, Nuclear Regulator, Environment Agency

Mr A Griffiths, HM Principal Inspector, Health and Safety Executive, ONR

Mr A Williams, Principal Inspector, Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator

External:

Emergency Services

Mrs D Simpson, Assistant Chief Constable, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary,

Mrs L Jones, Civil Contingencies and Emergency Planning Officer, Devon & Cornwall Constabulary

Mr S Wilkins, Contingency Planning Unit, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary,

Mr N Jones Group Manager, Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service

Cornwall Council

Ms Sharon Watts, Cornwall Council Resilience & Emergency Management

Ms Claire Penellum, Cornwall Council Resilience & Emergency Management

Devon County Council

Ms Amanda Palmer, Senior EP & Resilience Manager

Plymouth City Council

Ms T Lees, Chief Executive and Town Clerk

Mr G Perritt, Assistant Chief Executive

Mrs D Brooker-Evans, Civil Protection Manager, Civil Protection Service

Mr R Longford, Public Relations Officer

South Hams District Council

Mr D Incoll, Chief Executive

Mr I Bollans, Chief Environmental Health Officer

Mr P Dale, Emergency Planner

West Devon Borough Council

Mr I Luscombe, District Emergency Planning Officer

Health Organisations

Mr P Smith, Health Protection Practitioner, South West (South) Health Protection Unit, Richmond Court, Emperor way, Exeter Business Park, Exeter, EX1 3QS

Dr Mark Kealy, Consultant in Communicable Disease Control, South West (South) Health Protection Unit, Richmond Court, Emperor Way, Exeter Business Park Exeter, EX1 3QS

Mr C Pallot, Health Emergency Preparedness Manager, Health Protection Agency South West, 2 Rivergate, Temple Quay Bristol BS1 6EH

Mrs D Burton, Emergency Planning Manager, NHS Devon, Commissioning Headquarters, County Hall, Topsham Road Exeter EX2 4QL

Dr N Rowles, Principal Physicist, Derriford Hospital, Derriford Road, Plymouth, PL6 8DH

G Vivian, Clinical Director of Nuclear Medicine, Level 6, Derriford Hospital, Derriford Road, Plymouth, PL6 8DH.

Mr N Vine, Emergency Planning Manager, NHS Plymouth, The Public Dispensary, 18 Catherine Street, Plymouth, PL1 2AD.

External Authorities

Mr P Daybell, Wood Group, MOD Project Registry

Mr D Haigh, Resilience Unit, Government Office for the South West, Regional Resilience Team

Ms S Swainbank, South West Water