

Minutes of the Local Liaison Committee (LLC) Meeting Held on 07 Sep 2023 at Market Hall, Devonport.

<p>Committee Members Present</p> <p>Others Present</p>	<p>Brig M Tanner RM P Watson R Dickson R Robilliard Cllr T Tuohy</p> <p>L Langsford (Sec) R Clark P Wooldridge R Foran B Staniforth H Smethurst M Mapstone R Parsonage R Lee M Carter V Winspear-Roberts B Matthews D Brooker-Evans J Settrington Members of Public x3</p>	<p>NBC (Chair) Babcock MOD Babcock PCC</p> <p>MOD MOD MOD Babcock Babcock Babcock Babcock Babcock EA DNSR ONR ONR PCC PCC Public</p>
<p>Item 1 - Chair's Opening Remarks</p>		<p>Action</p>
<p>The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and provided a safety brief. The Chair confirmed that this meeting covers the period Jan – Jun 2023, although it was being held later in the year to suit availability of key personnel.</p> <p>Apologies have been received from Cllr S Haydon (PCC) and Cllr R Croad (DCC).</p> <p>The Chair highlighted that the operators are focussed on joint collaborative working and that safety remains the number one priority. P Watson added the ongoing investment at Devonport, which is driving a busy period both in terms of construction and operations on site.</p>		
<p>Item 2 – Minutes of Last Meeting</p>		
<p>The minutes of the Feb 23 meeting were approved with no amendments.</p>		
<p>Item 3 – Action Updates & Matters Arising</p>		
<p>There were two actions raised in the Feb 2023 meeting both of which have been addressed and closed out.</p> <p>There are no outstanding actions.</p>		

Item 4 – Devonport Site Safety & Operational Updates	
<p>R Dickson provided an overview of the Devonport site, highlighting those areas where the Naval Base conduct nuclear operations, and the areas where Babcock conduct nuclear operations.</p> <p>R Dickson provided an update on nuclear operations and relevant events on behalf of the Naval Base.</p> <p>R Robilliard provided an update on nuclear operations and relevant events on behalf of Babcock. This included highlighting that the majority of events were the activation of dockside crane safety mechanisms. The increased number of events reported to the regulator reflected a decision by Babcock to broaden the criteria for reporting events to the regulators with a view to further improve safety on site, and that 5 out of 7 cranes are currently upgoing upgrades to reduce the number of spurious activation of these safety mechanisms.</p> <p>R Robilliard also provided a summary of radiation doses received by all workers and radioactive waste discharges from the Devonport site.</p> <p>R Robilliard provided a summary of the site’s emergency arrangements, highlighting that the site will be conducting it’s annual on-site demonstration emergency exercise in Oct 2023.</p> <p>R Robilliard gave a brief on environmental monitoring for 2023 to date, confirming the Devonport Site continues to be a site of low radiological significance.</p> <p>The Chair summarised the updates provided and stated that work is continuing to deliver both the output required by the Royal Navy and the infrastructure works on site in line with the site’s ambition. However, safety is always at the forefront of everything we do, and nothing will compromise this. In addition, the regulators continue to maintain a strong presence on site to provide independent assurance of our safety.</p>	
Item 5 – Questions from the Committee & Public	
<p>A member of the public queried whether the site’s discharges can be reported in MBq rather than GBq in future meetings. The site operators agreed to consider this.</p> <p>A member of the public queried why the Naval Base river discharges reported a significantly higher gross beta value in Q1 2023. L Langsford responded that the usual instrument used for this analysis was unavailable for a short period of time, therefore an alternative instrument, which was less sensitive was used, this resulted in a higher Minimum Detectable Activity (MDA) value. While no radioactivity was detected, the higher MDA value was used to calculate the figure reported to the EA. The member of the public queried if the site would consider revising it’s process to include re-analysing the samples with the more sensitive instrument when available for the future, and use this to report discharges to the EA. The Naval Base agreed to consider this and update any procedures as required.</p>	<p>Action MOD 03/23</p> <p>Action MOD 04/23</p>

<p>A written question was submitted by a member of public to the Chair who will provide a written response.</p>	<p>Action MOD 05/23</p>
<p><u>Item 7 – Devonport Strategic Planning</u></p>	
<p>B Staniforth provided an overview of the key activities of the Naval Base and the planning for work activities looking 50 years to the future, which is enabling the site to make good decisions on investment today to meet current and future demands. Devonport provides a submarine Deep Maintenance capability which is unique within the UK.</p> <p>B Staniforth then provided an overview of the contribution of the site to the local population and economy, including that the site employs approximately 11% of the total employable workforce in Plymouth. This is projected to increase and the site is investing in developing the community and education locally to help meet this requirement.</p> <p>B Staniforth ended with a presentation of key findings on Babcock’s contribution to the local economy, and the focus on using local businesses in the supply chain where possible.</p>	
<p><u>Item 8 – Questions from the Committee & Public</u></p>	
<p>No questions were received for B Staniforth.</p>	
<p><u>Item 9 – Plymouth City Council (PCC)</u></p>	
<p>J Settingrington provided an update on the Devonport Off Site Emergency Plan (DOSEP), stating that the current version (7.2) is being updated, taking into account key lessons learned from holding the modular exercises in 2022. This is at the same time as undertaking a more fulsome review of the plan, to reduce duplication with the Standard Operating Procedures of partner agencies, such as the Emergency Services. This will provide an easier to follow plan with reduced duplication and won’t require updating whenever a partner agency makes updates to their procedures.</p> <p>The Stable Iodine Tablets (SITs) distribution plan has been reviewed, and the next focus will be to look at those sites where SITs are pre-distributed. And added that two industrial sites have been added to the pre-distribution list.</p> <p>The updated DOSEP public information booklets were issued in June 2023 approximately 18,500 were distributed, this was accompanied by a media campaign by PCC.</p> <p>The PCC Emergency Notification System was successfully tested, this included remote activation of the system from the Devonport site, and this test was successful.</p> <p>D Brooker-Evans briefed that PCC is reviewing the cancer diagnosis report issued in 2019, the Director of Public Health’s team are gathering data held by various organisations and hope to be able to share the report by the next LLC in 2024.</p>	

<p>Item 10 – Regulators’ Reports</p> <p>Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)</p> <p>V Winspear-Roberts highlighted from the report available that a fall from height event had met ONR’s threshold for investigation, and that the ONR investigation was ongoing, as well as an internal Babcock investigation.</p> <p>ONR had previously issued Babcock an Improvement Notice regarding control of work on electrical systems, Babcock had complied with the requirements of this Improvement Notice and ONR consider this to be closed.</p> <p>Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR)</p> <p>M Carter gave a brief introduction on the role of DNSR and summarised that DNSR had maintained a strong presence on site. DNSR have been focussed on three main activities on-site during the period; permissioning the commissioning of HMS VANGUARD, assessment of arrangements for ASTUTE Class maintenance and the ongoing safe storage of Laid Up Submarines. DNSR were content with the findings for all these areas.</p> <p>Environment Agency</p> <p>R Lee introduced the role of the Environment Agency, stating that the discharges from the Devonport Site were so low that EA judges there is no requirement for further EA intervention over and above the routine regulatory engagement.</p> <p>R Lee highlighted that EA had granted the Naval Base a variation to it’s Approval, this is the inclusion of some land adjacent to 3 Basin to support preparations of Laid Up Submarines to undergo the defuel process.</p> <p>R Lee also highlighted that an administrative error resulted in the witnessed sample taken from the Naval Base not being independently analysed in November, and that another sample was taken in April, which the EA are awaiting the results for.</p>	
<p>Item 11 – Questions from the Committee & Public</p> <p>A member of the public queried whether learning from the delays experienced during maintenance on HMS VANGUARD would be applied to future VANGUARD Class maintenance. P Watson replied that this is very much the case, and the intention is for the Deep Maintenance Period for HMS VICTORIOUS to be shorter than that for HMS VANGUARD.</p> <p>A member of the public asked for additional information regarding the nature of the waste associated with a waste storage tank overflow reported by Babcock to the EA. Babcock replied that the failure of a stop-valve resulted in waste water tanks being filled with tap water, this overflowed the tanks into their bund area, and that all effluent was contained within the bund, with no release to the environment. It was clarified that these tanks are separate to the tanks associated with the Naval Base river discharge disposals. The member of the public queried whether the investigation report would be made publicly available once complete, R Lee advised that the Radioactive</p>	

<p>Substances Compliance Assessment Report (RASCAR) produced by EA would become a public record.</p> <p>A member of the public queried whether PCC would take the opportunity to include a cell broadcast system, akin to that used by the UK government emergency notification system, as part of the off site alerting system in the future. J Settingington replied that there is a Local Authority Nuclear Working Group and this is engaging with the Cabinet Office regarding the ability to use the cell broadcast system. The next version of DOSEP may include this, but this will be in addition to existing notification arrangements, rather than replacing the existing arrangements.</p>	
<p>Item 12 - AOB</p>	
<p>The next meeting will be held in February 2023 at the Market Hall, Devonport.</p>	
<p>Item 11 – Closing Remarks and Review of Actions</p>	
<p>The review of actions identified that 3 actions have been raised during the meeting.</p> <p>The Chair expressed thanks on behalf of the LLC to the Market Hall team for hosting the meeting. They also reflected that the last two meetings had included a topical presentation which is aimed at providing the information the committee and members of the public are most interested in, and that any suggestions for future topics would be gratefully received.</p>	

Signed on Original

Signed:

Date: 08 Feb 2024

Brigadier M Tanner RM (Chair)
Naval Base Commander Devonport