

## **ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT FOR BRADWELL NUCLEAR POWER STATION – CONSULTATION**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has asked Rochford District Council to comment on the Non-Technical Summary of the above document.
- 1.2 The Non-Technical Summary outlines the safety measures and environmental impacts of the options for decommissioning Bradwell Nuclear Power Station.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The HSE are the competent Authority for overseeing the decommissioning of nuclear power stations. As part of the application to commence the decommissioning process, the licensee of a nuclear power station is required to produce an Environmental Statement for the HSE, on which consultation from appropriate bodies is then sought. The licensee for Bradwell Nuclear Power Station is Magnox Electric plc, a wholly owned subsidiary of BNFL Group.
- 2.2 A copy of the Environmental Statement Non-Technical Summary, produced in April 2002, has been placed in the Members' Room. The deadline for comments is 30 September 2002. All consultation responses will be forwarded to Magnox Electric plc and made publicly available following the end of the consultation period.

### **3 CONSULTATION DETAIL**

- 3.1 Three options for decommissioning have been considered by BNFL, and are detailed below:

#### **A) Early Site Clearance (or Early Dismantling)**

- 3.2 This entails the dismantling, but not removal, of all plant and structures on site at the earliest technical convenience, resulting in the production of significant quantities of radioactive waste. The construction of a large store is then required to retain the waste until an off-site disposal route is found.

- 3.3 This option has the largest employee health and safety and cost implications, and the potential consequences of any faults could have greater impact upon workers, the local residents and their environment.

**B) Deferred Site Clearance (or Deferred Dismantling)**

- 3.4 The lead plan for this option is the early dismantling of all but the reactor housing, with all wastes that are not passively safe to be retrieved and packaged. Low Level Waste would be disposed of off site, with Intermediate Level Waste retained in a store until it could be transferred to a national repository.
- 3.5 The remaining reactor buildings would remain secure and be maintained until such time as the radioactivity had reduced to an acceptable level to commence dismantling. This deferral period may last up to 100 years. The site is required to remain licensed until it is cleared at the end of all decommissioning works.
- 3.6 This option reduces the employee health and safety and cost implications and the potential consequences any faults could have upon workers, the local residents and their environment.

**C) On Site Disposal (or In-Situ Decommissioning/Mounding)**

- 3.7 This option entails more simple engineering and waste disposal techniques whereby few plant and buildings are dismantled and the reactor buildings are covered over with millions of tonnes of cement, sand and soil. The site would then remain a radioactive waste disposal site permanently and be unavailable for alternative use.
- 3.8 This option offers the least employee health and safety and cost implications, but could not feasibly be reversed should rainwater seep in to the mounding and will have the greatest long-term visual impact.

**4 CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 It is BNFL's preferred option to follow a plan as proposed under Deferred Site Clearance, which gives a balance between the safety, environmental, technical, financial and regulatory factors.
- 4.2 A Deferred Site Clearance option is in line with the Council's responses to consultation regarding Management of Radioactive Waste in April 2002 and the previous Environmental Statement for the decommissioning of Bradwell Nuclear Power Station.

**5 RECOMMENDATION**

5.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That, subject to Members' comments, the Council's response to this consultation is as follows:

Rochford District Council supports the Deferred Site Clearance option for decommissioning Bradwell Nuclear Power Station. Discharges from the site should be kept to a minimum.

Graham Woolhouse  
Head of Housing, Health & Community Care

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**Background Papers:**

Letter from HSE dated 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2002  
BNFL Bradwell Nuclear Power Station, Environmental Statement Non-technical Summary, April, 2002

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