

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT FOR BRADWELL NUCLEAR POWER STATION – CONSULTATION

The appended statement concerning the potential risks from attack or flooding has been received from Magnox Electric:-

“As detailed in the Environmental Statement the decommissioning strategies that the Company has considered broadly fall into three main categories:

- Complete removal of all radioactive plant and structures from the site as soon as technically possible.
- Deferral of some aspects of plant/building removal and
- Incomplete removal of plant/buildings so that some are retained on site permanently.

Within these three broad approaches there are a number of variants, differing mostly in respect of the timing of specific activities.

However, with **all three** of the options detailed, there are a number of generic steps:

- the first is the removal of fuel from the reactors and transfer to Sellafield for reprocessing. When all the fuel has been removed from the site, so will around 99 per cent of radioactivity.
- the second is that the radioactive waste that accumulated on site when the station was operational will be retrieved from its present locations, treated and packaged. As there is no permanent disposal facility in the UK at the present time then these packages will have to remain on site, in an appropriate facility. Therefore, in the case of option 1, the reactor buildings and their cores will have to be cut up, packaged and retained in the same manner on the site.

At this stage, for all options, the vast majority of the most hazardous and mobile radioactivity that was present when the power station was operational has been removed from the site or placed into a secure matrix, known as passive safety.

It is after these steps that the detail of the options differ, and overall comes down to the extent of decontamination and dismantling of the plant and buildings, and the timing for doing this.

However, once the above two steps have been undertaken, there is no significant difference between the options in terms of safety from a terrorist attack, or rising sea levels and the threat of flooding over the next 100 years.

A nuclear power station, whether it is decommissioning or operational, is required to demonstrate the robustness of all aspects of its safety at the plant, including those that might occur under accident conditions such as aircraft crash along with flooding. As decommissioning progresses, the safety case will be progressively updated to cover the position at the site. All structures will be inspected periodically to confirm their good state of repair and general safety and the site monitored. Over any decommissioning timescale the safety case will be periodically reviewed, about every ten years, and at this review stage a period of time into the future is considered.

In terms of security, physical measures that comply with Government requirements would be in force for any decommissioning site, regardless of its decommissioning strategy. These are kept under review. In accordance with Government Policy, specific details of the security measures will not be disclosed. At all times the safety case for the site, regardless of decommissioning strategy, will demonstrate that the level of security is sufficient to prevent casual access to the area of the site and to alert for any unauthorised entry”.

Graham Woolhouse
Head of Housing Health & Community Care
