

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Nuclear Energy
Notes of meeting held on Wednesday 5 March 2008 at 10:00 in the Attlee Suite,
Portcullis house, London

Present:

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| John Robertson MP | Bill Tynan |
| Michael Connarty MP | Bill Bryce, Doosan Babcock |
| Ian Liddell-Grainger MP | Keith Parker, NIA |
| Lord O'Neill of Clackmannan | Amanda McMillan, NIA |
| Lord Jenkin | Adrian Bull, Westinghouse |
| Bill Olnier MP | David Powell, Westinghouse |
| Stephen Ladyman MP | Gilly Hutchinson, BERR |
| Paul Afsaar, Lloyd's Register | Malcolm Sullivan, Mandate |
| Victoria Barton, Lloyd's Register | Communications (On behalf of EDF |
| Graham Bambrough, Politics Direct | Energy) |
| Dorothy Seed, BNFL | Martin Tapsell, Doosan Babcock |
| Jonns Slokes, EON | Martin Adeney, Martin Adeney |
| David Whitmore, Atkins | Associates |
| | Robin Freer, ICE |

Apologies:

Apologies were received from:

Lord Dubs
Brian Iddon MP
Russell Brown MP
Baroness O'Caithan
Lord Christopher
John Garner – Babcocks
Simon James, NIA
Tristram Denton, NIA
Colin Pulner, Dounreay communications
Stuart Hudson
Craig Stevenson, British Energy

Welcome and introductions

John Robertson MP, Chair of the APPG welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the format of this meeting would be in the form of three presentations, each given 10 minutes each followed by a Q and A session.

He also notified the members that the next meeting of the group would take place on 2 April and the guest speaker would be the Energy Minister, Malcolm Wicks MP,

Professor Robert Pickard, Chair of CoRWM

Prior to the meeting a statement made by CoRWM on 16 December 2005 was circulated to the members of the group which stated:

“CoRWM has no position on the desirability or otherwise of nuclear new build. We believe that future decisions on new build should be subject to their own assessment process, including consideration of waste. As we have noted before the prospect of a new nuclear programme might undermine support for CoRWM from some stakeholders and citizens”.

Professor Pickard took over the chair of the committee in December of last year. They have 15 members and hold meetings monthly. In their first week, many requests were received to meet with the Committee including Greenpeace, local authorities, British Energy etc etc.

He gave a brief presentation on the work of the committee and the Chair thanked Robert on behalf of the group for coming along and giving an excellent overview of CoRWM.

Alastair Thomson Head of Nuclear Business and Martin Cottam, Technical Manager – Asset Management, Lloyd’s Register Proposals for the safety regulatory processes of the UK nuclear industry

Lloyd’s Register is a leading provider of independent assurance and verification services to major hazard industries, including nuclear. They employed 7000, with 240 offices in 190 countries. They have nearly 250 years of experience; independent and non-profit distributing. They are associated with over 85 nuclear projects worldwide including independent 3rd party inspection authority for Sizewell B and assessment and certification of management systems across the nuclear industry.

The attached presentation covers areas such as nuclear safety assurance in the UK, comparison with other safety assurance regimes – their findings, independent verification regime, benefits of an independent verification regime, independent accident investigation body

They ended by welcoming the groups thoughts and feedback and emphasised the group is uniquely placed to shape Government thinking in this area. Nuclear safety is a ‘post bag’ issue – helping to ensure independent verification of nuclear safety processes will help increase public confidence in nuclear safety.

Dr Paul Howarth, Director, Research, Dalton Nuclear Institute, Manchester University Revitalisation of Nuclear Skills and R & D in the UK

Dr Howarth gave an overview of the UK Public Sector fission R & D Funding showing that before 2000 there had been a decline in investment. He went on to show that over the last 20 years there had been a steady decline in research and development in manpower.

He went on to explain it was the University of Manchester’s mission, which was already the top UK University in the nuclear field, one of the world’s leaders in nuclear research and education. He outlined the centres within the Dalton Institute which includes: Waste Disposal; Radiochemistry; Materials Performance; Radiation Sciences; Engineering Decommissioning;

Reactor Technology; Social Sciences and Computing and Simulation. The intention is to have around 20.30 active researchers in each centre.

He stated that there was a £20m joint investment plan with the NDA and Dalton to establish the following: Radiation chemistry, Decommissioning Engineering, BTC Academic access and Dalton Cumbria Facility.

He went on to cover the recent UK positive developments including “Keeping the Nuclear Option Open” programme, the launch of the £5m Engineering Doctorate Centre, proposed establishment of UK national nuclear academy and the Tyndall Centre.

Dr Howarth explained the various levels of nuclear skills starting from schools, NVQs, Apprenticeships through to Foundation Degrees, Undergraduate Degrees, MScs to PhDs.

He went on to talk about the Centre for Nuclear Energy Technology with a vision to establish a world leading centre in reactor technology with a total investment of £25m There would be a phased approach to derisk and significant private sector interest and support with NWDA support of £4.2m for Phase 1.

He explained the C-Net Structure and the rationale and also talked about the international links with other leading countries with nuclear power programmes.

He finished off with saying that Manchester has ambitious plans to establish a Centre of Nuclear Energy Technology, and despite funding conditions, there was a track record of working nationally and internationally to “make the most of R & D investment”. The UK also has a unique opportunity to act on the international stage and Serco-Battelle and Manchester are all committed to UK National Nuclear Laboratory opportunity.

The Chair thanked all three speakers and a Q and A session followed.