

ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY

Notes of meeting held on Tuesday 17 April, 2007 at 10.00 am in The Thatcher Room, Portcullis House, London

NOTES OF MEETING

Present

John Robertston MP, Chairman
Michael Connarty MP, Secretary
Baroness O’Cathain
Sir Nicholas Winterton MP
Lord Frances Tombs
John Spellar MP
Baroness Elspeth Howe
Lord Ron Oxburgh
Robert Key MP
David Drew MP
David Powell, Westinghouse
Mike Tynan, Westinghouse
Adrian Bull, Westinghouse
Rory O’Neill, Sovereign Strategy
John Midgley, Sovereign Strategy
Keith Parker, NIA
Simon James, NIA
Tris Denton, NIA
Stephanie Longland, NIA
Craig Stevenson, BE
Bill Tynan, TUSNE
Linda Smith, NIA

Apologies:

Apologies were received for John Arnold, Politics Direct, Jimmy Hood MP

Welcome and Introduction

John Robertson MP, Chairman of the Group welcomed the members, visitors and guest speakers.

David Powell, Regional Vice President, UK Westinghouse and Mike Tynan, Vice President, UK Fuel Westinghouse addressed the group on “A Westinghouse Perspective from within the Changing UK Nuclear Industry”.

The presentation was divided into two with David concentrating on the history of Westinghouse and the global nuclear renaissance and Mike providing an overview of Westinghouse’s role as M & O contractor at the Springfields site to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

A question and answer session followed the presentation and some of the key points are listed below:

Q If the UK and the US decide to build, could Westinghouse meet the demand?

A Yes, Westinghouse have the capability to deliver in both markets – and others around the world.

Q You say there is a programme of 10 years to roll out. Are you limited by your resources?

A We are limited by the market. Slots are already reserved for manufacture of the very heavy components and if more come up we won't be able to guarantee to meet all the interest. If demand is high the picture will change when more and more countries commit. The US have not committed as yet.

Q Capacity for forging very limited. Do you have the capacity?

A Westinghouse will go out to open market but have strong links with the US and Korea where there is significant heavy manufacturing capability. As noted earlier, we have slots reserved already for some of the very heavy components.

Q What work are you doing to within education/universities to attract young people in the nuclear manufacturing industry?

A Over the last 12 months a serious effort has been made through graduate recruitment, apprentices, links with 6th year students and have we have also developed a programme in Central Lancashire to attract new nuclear skills.

Q How can we ensure that young people want to get involved in the nuclear industry. Why have you not been speaking to Higher Education much sooner.

A There were commercial and economic reasons but we are now confident the industry is getting back on the right track. Universities are seeing a greatly increased level of interest in nuclear courses. There is time to train up people to operate new stations given the lead time. The key resource issue is with the regulators, where skilled people are needed urgently to assess technologies for pre-licensing.

Q You mention China, USA and UK. How many orders do you have to date?

A There is an order for four units for China. Orders in the US are expected to follow shortly but we have not built any yet.

Q If the UK decide to build 10 reactors. Can you do this?

A Yes, the first would be operational in 2017. Five year planning and five years to build.

Q What is the security of supply of uranium?

A We have a contract with Canada and there is a plentiful supply available around the world.

Q What guarantees can you give the UK Government about meeting a deadline for delivering a new plant?

A It will be up to the utilities to be the customers in the UK, not the Government. But we would have the assurance by then of having delivered the AP1000 in China, and we would also hope to be well on the way to building units elsewhere, so any being built in the UK would be part of that standard series.

A full copy of the presentation is attached for your information.

John closed the meeting by thanking the guest speakers for providing a very interesting overview of Westinghouse. He mentioned that a report on a visit to France by the Group in February was available to interested parties.

Date of next meeting

Date and speakers to be confirmed.