# Draft Minutes of a Meeting of: HSE NII approach to AWE following West Berkshire Core Strategy Examination Inspectors Request

## held on: 30th November 2010

**Present:**

[redacted] West Berkshire (Chair)
[redacted] (HSE NII)
[redacted] (HSE NII)
[redacted] (Health and Safety Laboratory)
[redacted] (AWE)
[redacted] (Basingstoke)
[redacted]
[redacted] (Wokingham)

**Action**

1. **PURPOSE**

The meeting was called to talk about the Inspectors request for more information relating to "headroom" in the East Kennett Valley and in particular the settlements of Burghfield, Mortimer and Spencers Woods. Also how development in each of these areas overtime will effect the overall potential development for each authority.

2. **SITES**

The two sites of AWE Aldermaston (AWE A) and AWE Burghfield (AWE B) are very different in nature. For example the nuclear licence for AWE A covers the entire site whereas the nuclear licence for AWE B relates to only part of the site.

AWE B poses the greatest potential hazard, [redacted] indicated that it would be preferable to keep development small scale and phased towards the end of the plan period. Larger scale development proposed earlier is likely to receive an 'advise against' by HSE NII.

Furthermore a programme of refurbishment at AWE B will mean that the red line for the nuclear license site will move westwards when next reviewed after "MENSA" becomes operational around 2015. This will result in an overall improvement to the site as newer/more modern safety systems will be used.

[redacted] - questioned the Safeguarding zones

[redacted] – Changes to the DEPZ does not mean that the consultation zones will change as there will be a need to preserve the site characteristics. With MENSA operational a new safety case will need to be approved. The big issue with this area is that Reading

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dictates the acceptable margins around AWE B until such times as the full review is known in 2021.

3. **POPULATION**

The model used by the HSE NII is based on populations and a desire for information regarding occupancy rates of all the new developments together with the location of these developments and build rates by single year would be needed.

The councils pointed out that they did not know the future population of developments and could not even give the exact house type on each development. Furthermore, build rates on developments are not very controllable so most authorities worked on an assumption of 50 dwellings per developer per year on large sites and smaller build rates on other sites, but this was very site dependent. Further difficulties in terms of phasing given that some sites have been allocated in Core Strategy Documents to which the HSE NII made no comment. This is set in the context of expected high levels of growth in the SE region.

The baseline focus was on the resident population as these were the most affected. However, proposals for Schools Care Homes and Hospitals are also affected as these are special groups and need to be catered for by the emergency services.

HSE NII use a hazard based policy with 3 – 5 year review points to take account of new developments. However, given the increase in population since the site was first licensed in 1997 it is very likely that the strong resistance to development within the Inner zones will remain. Safety cases evolve overtime not overnight but everything will be much better following the review when MENSA becomes fully operational in 2021.

4. **OUTPUTS AGREED**

Each authority will provide a household to population conversion factor for their area.

Each authority will provide a list of developments (site location, number of units, phasing of delivery) by single year. Proposed SHLAA sites in Tadley area will not be provided by BDBC at this time given uncertainties.

Where possible a GIS file should be provided. [redacted] indicated this would not be possible for BDBC given GIS limitations and resource implications.