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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Statement of Local Engagement has been prepared to accompany the planning application to import low-level radioactive waste, principally arising from the demolition of ancillary buildings at decommissioning nuclear power stations, to East Northants Resource Management Facility (RMF). It describes the measures taken to inform the local community, and all other stakeholders, of Augean plc's plans for the site and the opportunities that were provided to stakeholders for them to comment on what was proposed.
- 1.2 The preparation and implementation of the public consultation process for the East Northants RMF proposals has been informed by Northamptonshire County Council's Statement of Community Involvement and is in line with the consultation guidelines of the Government's Policy for the Long Term Management of Solid Low Level Radioactive Waste in the United Kingdom (2007). An early meeting to discuss the Communications Plan with Northamptonshire County Council's Development Control Manager was the starting point for this process.
- 1.3 In so doing, Augean has sought to engage actively, meaningfully and continuously with all the key stakeholders, particularly the local community, and intends to continue this dialogue in accordance with national and local authority guidance and the company's Corporate and Social Responsibility policy.
- 1.4 The objectives of the public consultation programme were and are to:
- Conduct a timely and meaningful dialogue with the local community and its elected representatives on the proposals for the East Northants RMF.
  - Promote a greater understanding of the development, within the context of the planning application, through openness and transparency at all stages of the process and through clear and easily understandable consultation information and materials.
  - Enable those most affected by the scheme to view the proposals, discuss their concerns with experts involved with the proposed development and to record their comments.
  - Take note of comments made and report back on the results of the consultation process, addressing the issues that have arisen.
  - Comply with Northamptonshire County Council's Statement of Community Involvement and the consultation guidelines of the Policy for the Long Term Management of Solid Low Level Radioactive Waste in the United Kingdom (2007).

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## 2.0 COMMUNICATIONS AND CONSULTATION PROGRAMME

### Public Consultation Elements

2.1 The focus of the pre-application consultation was a public exhibition and surgery held in the Memorial Hall, King's Cliffe, in conjunction with a number of other measures to inform the local community, elected representatives and others about the proposed development.

2.2 The following materials were used to publicise the proposals:

- A two-sided A4, full-colour public information leaflet was designed, printed and distributed locally. It summarised the proposals for East Northants to give those unable to attend the public exhibition an overview of what was proposed and also acted as the invitation to the event. The leaflet also included a Helpline number for those wishing to contact the company to discuss the proposals.
- Copies were posted to over 560 households and business premises in Duddington and King's Cliffe. In this way the company was confident that all those living closest to the site were aware of the proposals. **Appendix A**
- Copies of the leaflet were mailed to elected representatives at every level, including MEPs, MPs, Northamptonshire County, East Northamptonshire District and Peterborough City Councillors and Kings Cliffe, Duddington with Fineshade, Collyweston, Easton-on-the-Hill, Thornhaugh and Wansford Parish Councillors, with the offer to brief them in person, where appropriate. Meetings were subsequently arranged with Cllr Smith (Prebendal ED, NCC), Cllr Bradberry (Fineshade Ward, ENDC), Cllr Glithero (Kings Forest Ward, ENDC) and the Chairman of King's Cliffe Parish Council, Andrew Howard.
- Particular attention was paid to sending information to the Primary Care Trust, local doctors' surgeries and King's Cliffe Middle School.
- The exhibition was advertised in the local newspapers, the Stamford Mercury, Peterborough Evening Telegraph and Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph, the week prior to the event. **Appendix B**
- An information pack was created containing the public information leaflet, site map, news release, key facts about the proposals, key facts about the site, frequently asked questions (FAQs) and a fact sheet on the sources of radioactivity and comparative doses. **Appendix C**
- Journalists from the local press were sent the information pack and then briefed by telephone with an offer to meet them if they wished. There was coverage in the Stamford Mercury and the Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph. **Appendix D**
- King's Cliffe Waste Watch group also publicised the event throughout King's Cliffe with a poster campaign.

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### The Public Exhibition

2.3 In the week before the public event, Augean gave a presentation on the proposals to the Lead Member for Environmental Services and the Leader of the Council of East Northamptonshire Council. Officers and the Heads of Planning Services and Environmental Services were also present. A record of the meeting was sent to those attending. **Appendix E**

2.4 The day preceding the public exhibition, Wednesday 20 May 2009 at 2 p.m., the East Northants RMF Professional Team gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposals and a preview of the public exhibition to members of the King's Cliffe Local Liaison Group and King's Cliffe Parish Council. The Chair of Collyweston Parish Council and Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) and East Northamptonshire District Council (ENDC) officers were also present. A total of 12 people attended. Representatives of the Health Protection Agency, Environment Agency and Research Sites Restoration Ltd (UKAEA) were also present to answer questions. Those attending were:

Cllr Heather Smith – Prebendal ED, NCC  
Cllr Judy Shephard – Chairman Development Control, NCC  
Roy Boulton – Chief Planning Officer, NCC  
Phil Watson – Development Control Manager, NCC  
Cllr Pauline Bradberry – Chairman Development Control / Fineshade Ward, ENC  
Palden Dorjé – Environmental Protection, ENC  
Fiona Cowan – Chairman, Collyweston Parish Council  
Andrew Howard – Chairman, Kings Cliffe Parish Council  
Hilary Blunt – Clerk, Kings Cliffe Parish Council  
Michael Day – Kings Cliffe Parish Council  
Bernard Howard – Kings Cliffe Parish Council  
Kevin Howard – Kings Cliffe Parish Council

2.5 The exhibition and surgery was held in the Memorial Hall, King's Cliffe on Thursday 21 May 2009 from 11:00a.m. to 8:00p.m. Representatives of Augean were present to explain or discuss the proposals with visitors. In addition, representatives of the Environment Agency, the Health Protection Agency and Research Sites Restoration Ltd, a subsidiary of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA), were also in attendance to give independent expert advice on health, regulatory and technical matters relating to the proposals. **Appendix F**

2.6 Visitors were asked to sign an attendance register on arrival. Of the 220 people who attended the exhibition, 213 people did so and approximately 7 declined. Those who signed the Visitors Book at the exhibition represented a total of 125 households. 81.4 per cent of all visitors lived within King's Cliffe itself, representing 109 households and

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equating to approximately 21 per cent of the village population. This figure does not include elected and community representatives. **Appendix G**

2.7 The exhibition consisted of ten professionally produced, full colour information boards, including a plan of the site operations, the proposals themselves, the nature of the waste proposed and information on radioactivity and dose comparisons. **Appendix H**

2.8 Additional exhibition materials were on display to give more information about Augean as a company. Booklets on Augean plc, copies of the company's Corporate and Social Responsibility Report, Corporate Brochure and information on previous Landfill Tax Credit Scheme projects were available for the public to take with them.

2.9 The Health Protection Agency and the Environment Agency were able to provide a surgery style consultation with visitors. Each was also able to provide information on current guidance and legislation as issued by each organisation. Research Sites Restoration Ltd (UKAEA) also had information boards regarding the sources of the waste proposed and on radiation. **Appendix I**

2.10 Those wishing to make more detailed comments were invited to fill in a comment sheet at the exhibition or to return it later by post in a pre-paid envelope provided. A total of 57 completed comment sheets were received and the answers analysed. **Appendix J**

2.11 An initial Executive Summary of the comments analysis was prepared and sent to Phil Hope MP, Cllr Smith and Phil Watson at Northamptonshire County Council, Cllr Bradberry, Cllr Glithero, Cllr Harwood, Cllr Mercer, Trevor Watson, Mike Deacon and Palden Dorjé at East Northamptonshire District Council and Cllr Lamb, Cllr Holditch and Susan Marsh at Peterborough City Council. **Appendix K**

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### 3.0 FOLLOW-UP COMMUNICATIONS

- 3.1 Since the public exhibition, Augean has given presentations on the proposals to the Parish Councils of Duddington with Fineshade, Collyweston and Easton-on-the-Hill, to which members of the public were invited. A presentation was also made to the councillors of the neighbouring Peterborough City Council ward of Glinton and Wittering, together with the City Council's interim Head of Planning and the portfolio members for planning and strategic planning.
- 3.2 Articles regarding the proposals have been submitted to the Duddington and Tixover Digest and also to the King's Cliffe Parish Gazette. An article also appeared in the parish newsletter for Easton-on-the-Hill **Appendix L**
- 3.3 King's Cliffe Parish Council held a public meeting in the Memorial Hall on Thursday, 2 July. Augean offered to attend the meeting and make a presentation, however, the offer was declined.
- 3.4 The public meeting was publicised by a group formed on Facebook, King's Cliffe Waste Watchers.
- 3.5 A further newsletter, which answers many of the important questions that have arisen during the consultation process to date has been distributed to local residents and businesses in the local area, and widely elsewhere, to coincide with the submission of the planning application. A more comprehensive Questions and Answers document has been prepared and posted on the Augean website and included in this report. Appendix M
- 3.6 The newsletter also informs local residents where or how copies of the application documents can be viewed or copies obtained, namely at Northamptonshire County Council, Oundle Public Library, East Northants RMF and on the Augean website.
- 3.7 Visitors to the public exhibition expressed a wish to visit the site to see operations for themselves. Accordingly, a site Open Day will be held on Saturday 5 September, details of which will be promoted in the periodic newsletter, and on Augean's website in due course. In the meantime, the company has made it known that individuals are welcome to visit the site, having first contacted the site manager. A number of people have taken up this offer.

## **4.0 FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS**

4.1 In accordance with national and local authority guidance on public consultation, Augean will continue to engage with all those affected by our proposals in the period leading up to determination, and thereafter should consent be granted.

This will involve, particularly:

- Monitoring and responding directly to those making representations to Northamptonshire County Council and to the company.
- Maintaining a dialogue with the local community and their elected representatives through our periodic newsletter, Local Liaison Group meetings, the company website, updating news releases to the local news media and other opportunities that may present themselves.
- Presenting the opportunity for people to pose further questions through the Augean scheme website.