

**ESEU Section**Spring 2016

# Pensions Update

For members of the Magnox Group of the Electricity Supply Pension Scheme (ESPS)

## Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to the latest Pensions Update. This is the first edition of the trustee's newsletter which has been issued since I took over as Chairman. The very first thing I would like to do is record both the trustees and my personal thanks to the previous Chairman, Tony Cooper, who retired at the end of July 2015. Tony led our trustee body for 6 years during which we, and the scheme, benefitted from his wise counsel.

Some of the information in this newsletter is included because we have a legal obligation to provide it on an annual basis, including an update on the funding of the scheme. We add other information which we think you might find interesting but if there are other matters you would like to see included please let us know by contacting Rachel Hewlett at the address shown under further information. Work is now underway on the formal triennial actuarial review which was due at 31st March 2016. We are expecting the results of this formal valuation towards the end of the year and will issue a further update once they are available. The results in this newsletter are based on the less formal update which we complete each year between.

As you will see from the numbers, the funding position has strengthened significantly this year which is largely as a result of the special additional contributions paid in by the employer.

During the year we completed a de-risking of our investment strategy whilst the future of the employer remained uncertain. We maintained good dialogue with EnergySolutions throughout the year since the announcement of the potential sale to W.S. Atkins. We have since engaged in positive discussions with them and have been reassured by their commitment to the scheme.

The obligations on trustees to demonstrate good governance of pension schemes seem to be constantly increasing so during the year we set up a Governance and Audit Sub-committee to concentrate specifically on these aspects. This committee will usually meet four times a year and reviews in detail such things as the administration arrangements, risks which the scheme is exposed to and the financial accounts.

Some of you will be aware that Brian Hibdige sadly died in October and as a result Nick Gore was asked to re-join the trustee board. Although it is in very sad circumstances, I was delighted when Nick agreed and am looking forward to working with him going forward.

I am grateful to all of my colleagues on the trustee board for their support in looking after the scheme and for the many hours of their time which they commit to this work.



Best Wishes
Susan Jee

Chairman



## **BRIAN HIBDIGE**

1947-2015

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Brian Hibdige who passed away on 23rd October 2015.

There are thousands of people in Magnox and its predecessor companies who owe Brian a debt of gratitude. He was one of the most formidable trade union representatives of recent times. He had a powerful intellect. His passion and commitment to support members and to uphold ethical standards were reflected in a uniquely robust style, which some of us were privileged to experience first-hand. During the period of electricity privatisation and its aftermath, which saw major de-merger activity and the transition from national to company based collective bargaining structures, Brian was a powerful force in shaping the post privatisation world. In his trade union role, he became President of the EMA (now Prospect), a role to which he brought the same energy as he did to his collective bargaining role with Nuclear Electric and then Magnox. In the years before his retirement, he managed the Magnox withdrawal from the Littlebrook site and worked tirelessly to secure good outcomes for the hugely talented technical team who had been based there.

His most distinguished contribution was arguably made in the nearly twenty years as an elected Magnox Trustee. Even after his retirement and while living in France, his focus and commitment to the role were legendary. This commitment was undiminished when he was far from well. Indeed, at our meeting on 23rd September Brian played a full and active part.

Brian was justly proud that the Energy Solutions Section of the Magnox Group pension scheme was so well funded compared to many other schemes. That position is in no small part due to Brian's contribution. He was a veteran of five triennial actuarial valuations, including some prior to the sectionalisation of the Magnox Group. This included work to ensure that the funding of the Energy Solutions Section started from a position of strength, when it was created in 2007 by

obtaining appropriate funding from BNFL.

As a key member of the investment committee, many of the innovative strategies adopted by the Trustees and the nimbleness with which were made and opportunities taken, reflected his leadership qualities. Fund managers in the city were kept on their toes in interviews with Brian in which he would drive down their fees and forensically challenge their performance. All this was of course to the great benefit of members. Brian's stature was reflected in the unusual decision to appoint him, as an elected trustee, as Chairman of the Investment Committee between 2008 and 2011.

Brian was an amazing individual. It sounds trite, but nonetheless true, to say he will be sorely missed. His combination of intellect, diligence and the ability to challenge is literally irreplaceable. The trustees will however continue to work hard to ensure his legacy continues into the future.

## APPOINTMENT OF NICK GORE

When an unexpected vacancy occurs on the trustee board, according to the constitution of the Trustee Company, the elected trustee directors may appoint someone to fill the vacancy to the end of the term of office of the vacant position. Following the death of Brian Hibdige in October 2015, the elected trustees approached Nick Gore and asked him to join the board. Nick agreed and formally became a trustee director on 11th December 2015. He will complete Brian's term of office which runs to December 2017. Nick brings a wealth of experience to the trustee board and is a very welcome addition.

## **Trustee Board**

The trustee board comprises of eleven directors, five of whom have been appointed by Magnox Ltd, the Principal Employer to the scheme and six who have been elected by members of the Magnox Group of the ESPS.

#### **Company Appointed Directors**

#### Susan Jee

Magnox
Non-Executive Director

Member of the Investment Committee

**Chairman of the Group Trustee** 



#### **Martin Grafton**

Cavendish Fluor Partnership seconded to Magnox Ltd – Site Closure Director Hunterston A

Deputy Chairman of the Group Trustee



#### **Paul Edwards**

Cavendish Fluor Partnership seconded to Magnox Ltd – Head of Finance

Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee



**Professor Andrew Clare** 

Independent Trustee

Chairman of the Investment Committee



Karen Walkden

Magnox Employee

Head of Organisational Change and HR Projects



#### **Member Appointed Directors**

#### Jim Boyd

Retired employee - in receipt of pension from the Scheme

Member of the Investment Committee



#### **John Jones**

Magnox employee Wylfa Site

Active member of the Site Licence Company Section of the Group



# David Openshaw

Retired employee in receipt of pension from the Scheme

Member of the Governance and Audit Committee

Member of the Investment Committee



#### **Nick Gore**

Retired employee in receipt of pension from the Scheme

Appointed 11th December



#### **Fergus Hall**

Retired employee in receipt of pension from the Scheme

Member of the Governance and Audit Committee



#### **Ceri Davies**

Magnox employee Berkeley Centre Active member of the Site Licence Company Section of the Group

Member of the Governance and Audit Committee



For more information on the Board visit the trustee section of the website at <a href="www.megtpensions.com">www.megtpensions.com</a>

Following the death of Brian Hibdige on 23rd October 2015, Nick Gore was appointed as Brian's replacement on 11th December 2015.

## PENSION INCREASES

The rules of the Scheme provide for all pensions to increase from 1 April each year in line with the increase in the Retail Price Index (RPI) in the 12 months ended on the preceding 30 September. The increase payable from 1 April 2016 was 0.8%. A proportionate increase has been paid to those who have not been retired for a complete year at 1st April 2016.

# **PENSION SCAMS**

The Pensions Regulator is concerned to make sure that members of pension schemes are aware of the risk of becoming the victim of a pension scam. Scammers use a range of tactics to tempt members to invest their pension pot with them, including directing them to transfer into small (often one or two member) occupational schemes to avoid scrutiny from regulators.

Usually a scam will require you to transfer your benefits out of the Magnox scheme. If you are already receiving your pension it is not usually possible to transfer your benefits elsewhere and so it is highly unlikely that you will be approached with this type of scam.

For members who are not currently receiving benefits it is possible to transfer your benefits in to other arrangements. If you request a transfer value quotation RPMI EPAL will provide you with leaflet from the Pensions Regulator about potential scams. We would strongly urge you to read this leaflet carefully. You can also find information from the Government's Pensionwise service at <a href="https://www.pensionwise.gov.uk">www.pensionwise.gov.uk</a>

## LIFETIME ALLOWANCE

HMRC also imposes a Lifetime Allowance on pension savings, which for the 2015/16 tax year was set at £1.25 million. This limit applies to the total cash equivalent value of your pension savings, including those from any previous or future employer's schemes. It does not however apply to State Retirement Benefits. For this test the cash value of pension is calculated by multiplying it by 20. This should be added to the amount of cash lump sum provided by the scheme to provide the total amount of the lifetime allowance which has been used. If, when you take your benefits, your total pension savings exceed this limit you will be taxed on the excess by means of a Lifetime Allowance Charge. This charge is currently set at 25% if your additional savings are taken as a pension (this is in addition to income tax which is payable under the PAYE system) and 55% if taken as a lump sum. **THE LIFETIME ALLOWANCE WILL REDUCE TO £1 MILLION FOR 2016/17 TAX YEAR.** Most people will be unaffected by this limit but you should be aware of it and those with a number of years for retirement should keep the matter under review. It is possible however that a number of employees could be impacted immediately. There will be an opportunity to apply for protection and further information is available from HMRC's website. It is also recommended that you seek professional financial advice, as necessary.

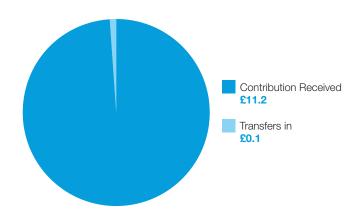
## ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Every year the trustee must produce a comprehensive report, including audited financial statements. This is a formal and lengthy document, but for those who wish to read the full document, it is available electronically on the Magnox Electric Group Trustees (MEGT) Pensions website – <a href="https://www.megtpensions.com">www.megtpensions.com</a>. Alternatively, a printed copy is available from Group Pensions at Oldbury Technical Centre on 01454 422608 or via email: <a href="mailto:group.pensions@magnoxsites.com">group.pensions@magnoxsites.com</a>

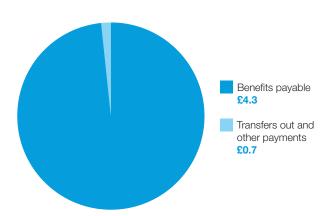
## **Financials**

From the 2014/15 Annual Report and Accounts we have extracted some key statistics for you.

### What came in (£millions)



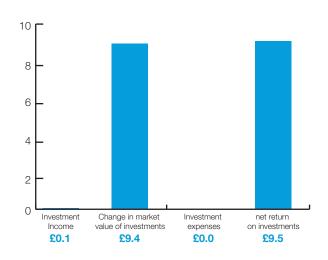
### What went out (£millions)



### **Group Assets/Liabilities** (£millions)



Return on investments (£millions)



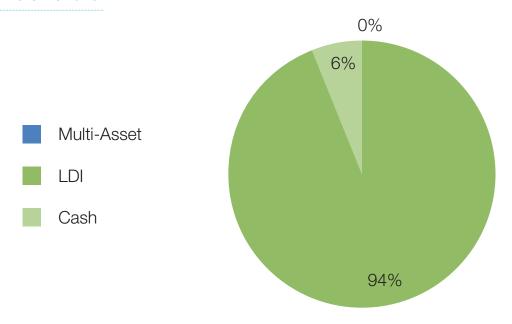
all values exclude AVCs



Membership Statistics		
31 March 2015		
Actives	11	
Pensioners	20	
Dependants	0	
Deferreds	17	
Total	48	

## **Investment Holdings**

#### **ESEU Section 31/12/2015**



# **Annual Meetings**

## **Magnox Electric Group Trustee**

The Magnox Group Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday 24th November 2016 at Hamfields Leisure, Berkeley, commencing at 1400.

This meeting provides the opportunity for members of all sections to meet with the Trustee Board and its advisers and ask questions.

If you can't attend the meeting but would like to ask a question, please email it to info@megtpensions.com or send it to Rachel Hewlett at the address shown under further information.

## **Electricity Supply Pension Scheme**

The Scheme's Annual Meeting will also take place in November 2016 in London. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the Scheme Annual Report and Financial Statements and the Auditors' Report, receive the report of the Scheme Trustee, and conduct any general business, including the consideration of any resolutions proposed by members.

Details will be provided nearer the time and the agenda, resolutions and notices may be obtained from mid-November by contacting a member of Magnox group pensions the website at <a href="https://www.megtpensions.com">www.megtpensions.com</a>.

# ESEU SECTION OF THE MAGNOX ELECTRIC GROUP OF THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY PENSION SCHEME 2015 SUMMARY FUNDING STATEMENT

In order to comply with a legal requirement (Pensions Act 2004), the Trustee, who looks after the section, is required to provide you with an annual update on the section's funding position.

# How the scheme operates

The section is a final salary scheme, or defined benefit scheme, which means that each member's retirement benefits are determined broadly by the amount of their pensionable salary and length of service as a member of the Group when they retire or leave. Contributions which are paid into the section are paid into one common fund which is used to pay for all members benefits. They are not paid into individual accounts which are earmarked to each member.

The trustee obtains regular valuations from an actuary. These calculations place a value on the benefits which the section is obliged to pay, which is then used to agree the rate of contribution needed with the employer.

## **Actuarial Valuation**

An actuarial valuation of the scheme was completed as at 31st March 2013. The results of this valuation showed that (assuming that the section continues into the future) on that date, the funding position was as follows:

Assets of the EnergySolutions EU Section	£40.3M
Technical provisions	£40.3M
(Amount needed to provide benefits)	
Funding surplus/deficit	£NIL
Funding level	100%

The actuary has provided the trustee with a report setting out details of an approximate update of the funding position as at 31 March 2015. The results of the update are as follows:

Assets	£58.5M
Technical provisions	£50.0M
Funding surplus	£8.5M
Funding level	117%

The figures in the report were calculated by rolling forward the results of the 31 March 2013 valuation and making allowances for changes in investment market conditions since the date of the valuation. This is not as thorough as a formal valuation – for example, it takes no account for things like changes to membership numbers – but it still gives a useful guide to changes in the funding level.

As part of the valuation calculations, the actuary also estimated what the position would have been if the trustee had wound the scheme up and secured all members', including pensioners' benefits at that time through individual policies with an insurance company. The calculations revealed that at 31st March 2013, 70% of the section's liabilities could have been secured in this way. Please note that it is a legal requirement to provide this information. It is worth noting that a solvent employer can only wind up a scheme if 100% of the benefits can be secured with an insurance company. In addition, further protection for members may be provided by legislation, including the Electricity Act 1989 and the Energy Act 2004.

The funding level has improved since the valuation date. This is mainly due to the payment of special Company contributions and positive returns on assets, although this has been partially offset by lower than expected gilt yields at longer durations. The yield on Government bonds is used to estimate the cost of providing benefits under the scheme and as the return has fallen, the cost of providing the scheme's liabilities has increased.

The funding level has also increased since the last, less formal, annual update. This is largely due to the payment of additional special contributions by EnergySolutions over the period.

We notified you in a previous update that a special actuarial calculation had been completed as at 31st March 2014 as part of discussions between the Company and the Trustees prior to the loss of the Magnox contract. This was on a more cautious than the formal valuation basis and had resulted in a funding deficit of  $\mathfrak{L}4.4M$ . By 31st March 2015 this had improved to a surplus on the more cautious basis of  $\mathfrak{L}0.9M$ , largely as a result of the additional contributions paid by the Company during the year.

# Use of personal data

In providing actuarial services to the Trustees, including preparing this Summary Funding Statement, the Trustees, their adviser Aon Hewitt and the Scheme Actuary require access to personal data about members and their dependants. The Data Protection Act governs how the Trustees, Aon Hewitt and the Scheme Actuary use and store personal data. Members can find out more information about how their personal information is used in the provision of actuarial services at <a href="https://www.aonhewitt.co.uk/privacy-statement">www.aonhewitt.co.uk/privacy-statement</a>. Should a member have further questions regarding the processing of their personal information, they should contact the Trustees in the first instance (trustee contact details can be found in the scheme booklet or regular communications such as this). General guidance is also available from the Information Commissioner's website at <a href="https://www.ico.org.uk">www.ico.org.uk</a>

## What is the scheme invested in

The trustee's policy is to invest in a broad range of assets which are designed to ensure that the investment objectives of the scheme are met. A summary of the asset allocation at 31st March 2015 is given below:

Manager	£m	%
PIMCO Europe Ltd	22.4	38.3
Legal & General Investment Management Limited	22.3	38.1
Schroder Investment Management Limited	5.1	8.8
Ruffer LLP	4.8	8.2
JP Morgan Asset Management Ltd*	2.7	4.5
BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited	1.2	2.1
Total	58.5	100.0

<sup>\*</sup>Values as of 31 March 2015 for these managers are estimates only due to reporting lags.

## **Further Information**

If you would like details of, or have any queries concerning, your benefits, options or pension in payment please contact RPMI EPAL who deal with the administration of the scheme.

Please note RPMI EPAL's new address. All other contact details remain the same.

RPMI EPAL, Unit 2 Rye Hill Office Park Birmingham Road Coventry CV5 9AB

+44 (0) 24 76 47 2582

enquiries@epal.uk.com

Requests for other information should be sent to



rachel.l.hewlett@magnoxsites.com

This is a new address for the Magnox pensions team. Please let us know if you would like a larger print version of this

document by telephoning 01453 813115

