



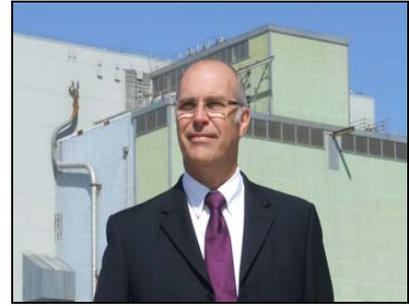
**SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT  
DUNGENESS A SITE**

**12 October 2011**



## Site Director's Summary

As deplanting and decommissioning work increases, my focus for the site is to concentrate on progressing work safely and compliantly. This heightened level of awareness on safety has resulted in there being a consistently low level of first aid events since the last SSG. This has also been reflected in the site being awarded RoSPA Gold Medal for safety performance and management.



The NDA Nuclear Safety Assurance Manager visited Dungeness for the first time. The visit provided a familiarisation with Dungeness and the challenges ahead for the site and involved an interactive presentation on current performance, issues and future planning within the Environment, Health, Safety, Security and Quality (EHSS&Q) Department, along with a site tour. The feedback received was extremely positive. The Nuclear Safety Assurance Manager, on leaving the site, stated that he was confident in the fact that Dungeness has sound control of current activities and assured of the site's confidence, but not complacency, with future accelerated plans.

Following new regulator personnel appointments, Dungeness looks forward to working with Donald Urquhart, Office for Nuclear Regulations (ONR) Site Inspector who becomes our new site inspector. I would like to thank Bruce Archer the previous ONR Site Inspector for his support in helping Dungeness maintain its high standards of nuclear safety and wish him well in his new role.

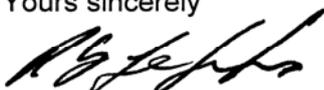
Bulk defuelling continues at Dungeness with, between four and six flasks being despatched weekly for reprocessing at Sellafield in recent weeks. Following submission of a Category 1 Safety Case to the Nuclear Safety Committee, Dungeness received permission to increase the amount of wetted fuel in the ponds to 40Te each pond should the need arise. This is also tempered by the allowance for wetted fuel across the Magnox Fleet and Sellafield. This is excellent news for the site and a testament to the commitment of the staff to achieve this throughput as the numbers of flasks requiring despatch to complete defuelling is now less than 90 flasks.

I am pleased to announce that Dungeness received a further £2.4million, in addition to the £45million already allocated to the site, for enabling early systems reconfiguration and demolition of a number of buildings around the south side of the site; preparatory work is progressing well. This is seen as an enabler to the proposed plan for demolition of the south side of Dungeness A which includes the Turbine Hall and ancillary buildings.

The next stage of the transition programme (defuelling to decommissioning) is nearing completion with the second stage of counselling about to start. The best fit process has been given approval to proceed.

My strategy for Dungeness A remains "To safely prepare the site for Interim Care and Maintenance by 2018." My aim is to do this whilst maintaining the highest of Magnox safety standards by getting everyone involved in and being responsible for safety.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. G. ...', written over a white background.

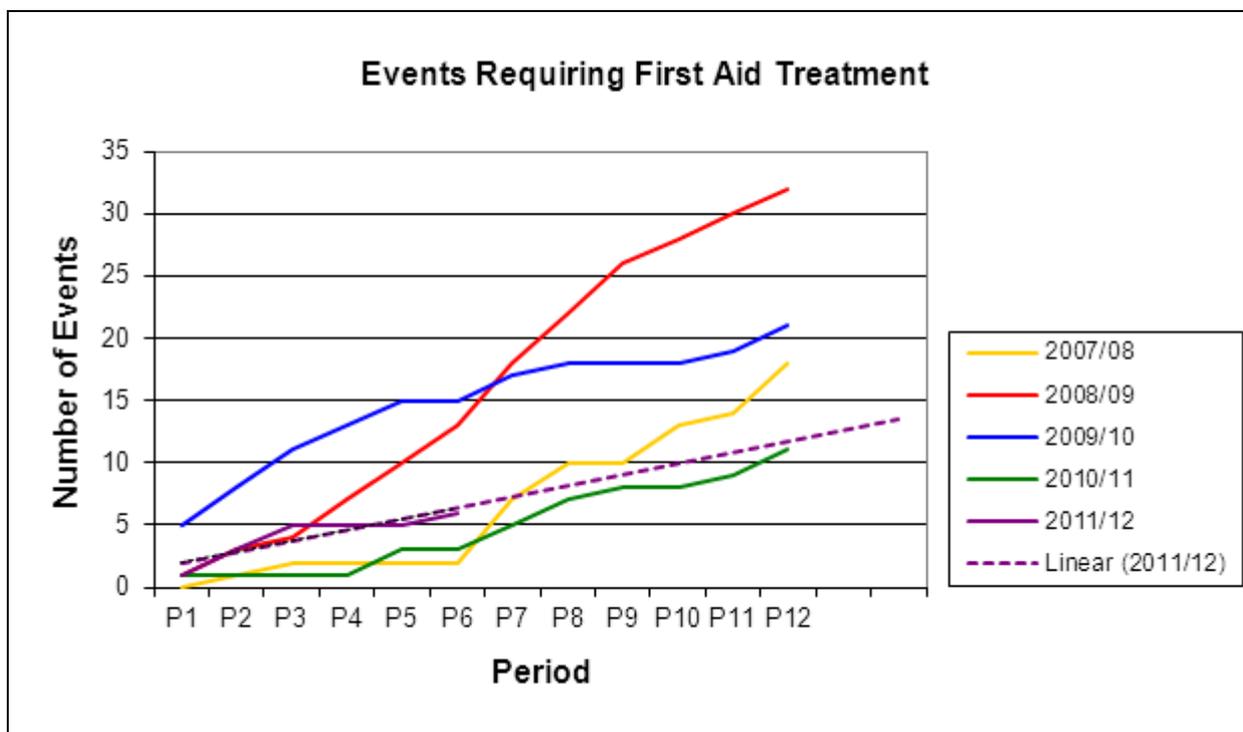
Site Director

## 1. SAFETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Dungeness has been awarded a Gold Medal (the eighth consecutive gold) award in the prestigious Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) Occupational Health and Safety Awards 2011. Gold winners have achieved a very high level of performance, demonstrating well developed occupational health and safety management systems and culture, outstanding control of risk and very low levels of error, harm and loss. This independent award recognises the strong safety performance and culture of the site.

Actions from the Safety Improvement Plan (SIP) continue to be addressed with the implementation of a new daily meeting format and increased Lead Team visibility on site.

The Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) policy has been strengthened with the mandatory carrying of light eye protection and gloves coming into force on 1 June 11.



There have been no lost Time Accidents at Dungeness for over 220 days. The number of events requiring First Aid Treatments remains lower than expected thanks in part to the re-focussing of attention of working safely.

The site has initiated plans to improve Human Performance. A Human Performance Strategic Plan has been developed to support and enhance good behaviours, situational awareness, safe working and compliance. This will be via a systematic process of discovering and analysing important human performance gaps, and planning for future improvements in Human Performance. With a view to embedding Human Performance skills and cultures across the site Human Performance Champions have been selected from every business area in order to achieve the site's vision of "Everyone Responsible, Everyone Involved, Everyone Safe".

Ron Harland (Independent Auditor) conducted a Nine Month Surveillance Visit to assess our processes and procedures in relation to ISO 9001 (Quality), ISO 14001 (Environment) and OHSAS 18001 (Safety) standards. The visit identified no major areas of concern and complimented the site on its willingness to continually improve and maintain a good standard of housekeeping across the site.

An event report raised on 26 September highlighted that a number of individuals working at Dungeness had been entering the Radiation Controlled Area without valid written arrangements. These individuals have had their access revoked. An investigation has commenced to determine the root causes of this event.

The relocation of the site Emergency Control Centre to the Central Control Room has been completed and a peer assist demonstration exercise of our emergency arrangements has been conducted to assure readiness prior to the ONR inspected demonstration exercise on 26 October.

The company Health, Environment and Safety Advisory Committee (HESAC) visited Dungeness Site on 20 September and conducted a comprehensive safety tour of the site. A number of minor observations were recorded, however feedback received of the site's standards of safety were held in high regard.

## ENVIRONMENT

A water leak on the towns main ring system located outside the Permit Office was repaired on 5 August. The usage figures recorded for September (the first full month after the leak repair) showed approximately a 45% reduction when compared to the usage figures for the same period in 2010.

Two members of the Environment Team visited Bradwell in order to observe the work being undertaken on the demolition of the Turbine Hall and the associated environmental mitigations required during demolition works. This visit will assist Dungeness as we move forward.

Phil Heaton (Environment Agency Nuclear Regulatory Group) and Rob Price (new EA inspector) visited on 5 July. The visitors were given presentations on biodiversity, compliance with environmental legislation, ecology and the Nuclear Industry Sector Plan. Current and planned projects were discussed, along with a video on the current opportunities being progressed and Dungeness Interim Care and Maintenance (DICAM). Feedback from our guests was very positive.

An agreement was reached with the EA in August regarding the appropriate permission required in order to place inert non-hazardous material (such as demolished building rubble) into the site voids.

The Environmental Management Plan has been circulated to members of the SSG

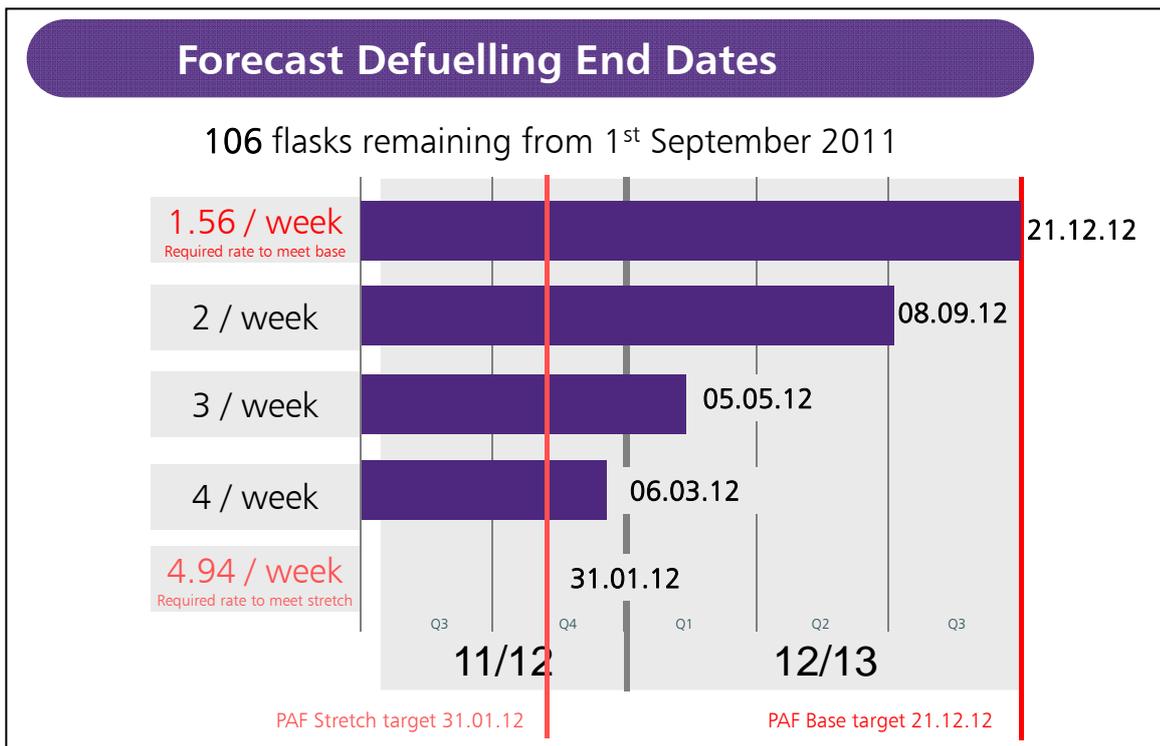
## 2. DEFUELLING

During the period from 1 April 2010 to 23 September 2011, 5,425 fuel elements have been removed from Reactor 1 and 5431 removed from Reactor 2. A total of 61 flasks have been despatched to Sellafield. Reactor 1 is 86% defuelled and Reactor 2 is 69% defuelled.



Fuel flask loaded onto flask transporter

Since the last SSG, excellent progress has been made on defuelling with less than 90 flask despatches left until the site is finally defuelled.



The above chart illustrates the forecast defuelling dates for Dungeness A dependant on the number of flasks received. The current company plan is to supply four flasks a week which will see Dungeness A fuel-free before the end of April 2012.

### 3. SITE NEWS AND PROJECTS

#### Magnox Dissolution

The dissolution of Dungeness FED continues steadily with 3.5Te dissolved since 1 April 2011 to date. At the current rate the dissolution of Dungeness A FED should be completed by the end of December well ahead of the original target.



The Magnox Dissolution Plant

#### Proposal to process Trawsfynydd FED at Dungeness A - update

A letter was sent to Kent County Council (KCC) informing them of intention to transport and dissolve FED from Trawsfynydd. KCC have confirmed that planning permission is not required.

Trawsfynydd is currently carrying out their Best Practical Environmental Options (BPEO)/Best Achievable Technique (BAT) with input from Dungeness.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Decommissioning of Reactors 1999 (EAIDR99) screening questionnaire has been completed and no significant impact found.

A Safety Case Author has been commissioned to review the current safety cases for the MXD plant and write any addendums or a new safety case as required.

Trawsfynydd are in communication with a number of companies to procure a suitable package for the transport of Fuel Element Debris (FED) to Dungeness.

A review of plant modifications is being undertaken at Dungeness to assess the requirements for receiving and dissolving of Trawsfynydd FED.

#### Asset Care

The management of the site's infrastructure is essential to enable future decommissioning works to go ahead, and to maintain the integrity of essential buildings and services for the future. The work includes numerous roof repairs, reactor building drains refurbishment, installation of Pond Water filtration and Caesium Removal air inlet supply heater and thermocouple junction pots refurbishment.

## Electrical Overlay Scheme (EOS) – Site Reconfiguration.

After overcoming a number of technical difficulties, the new Station Transformer 4 was successfully energised in May. In June members of the Electrical Overlay Scheme Team participated in a lessons learnt workshop across Magnox in order to aid development of future Electrical Overlay Schemes at other sites.

The specialist electrical contractor commenced work in July. The detail design is being developed and work has commenced on site erecting an access scaffold to enable the installation of new cable containment around the Reactor buildings.

## Sludge Project

The Retrieval, Processing & Disposal of Sludge has progressed well. Phase 1 (homogenisation and sampling) is now complete. The samples sent off site for further analysis have been returned and comply with the criteria to dispose of to the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR). Phase 2, encapsulation of the sludge, has commenced with in-active trials being undertaken off-site. Active commissioning is expected to start in December.

A permit application has been submitted to the Shepway District Council for a cement hopper that is required for bulk cementation storage.

The Waste Characterisation Forms for the Retrieval, Processing and Disposal of Sludge project have now been submitted to the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR). The LLWR have acknowledged receipt and provided favourable commentary on the forms. The approval process is now underway.

The Pollution Control Permit issued by Shepway District Council for the cement storage silo has been received in draft form and approval is expected soon.

By thoroughly assessing the composition of the sludge and assigning it to the correct disposal route of Low Level Waste, this has realised a saving of approximately £6million pounds overall to the NDA.



The sludge project homogenisation equipment

## Enabling Works

Good progress is being made on the accelerated work packages (£2.4M) identified to enable a managed retreat from site and subsequent demolition of buildings. These packages are being carried out ahead of the Magnox Optimised Decommissioning Programme (MODP) and are further enhancing savings opportunities. Demolition surveys have been completed for a number of buildings and characterisation surveys are underway.

## 4. ITEMS TO NOTE

The Old Training Building, which has been mostly redundant for the last couple of years since the new Administration Building has been in use, was successfully dismantled and relocated to Dungeness B for re-use there instead of demolishing and disposing of it.



The old Training Building being dismantled

## 5. VISITS TO SITE

Dungeness A site has hosted a number of visits since the last meeting – some of which are mentioned below:

- Office for Nuclear Regulation (formerly Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) and Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS)) and Environment Agency (EA) annual review of safety and environment meeting in May.
- Nuclear Safety & Environment Council (NSEC) routine meeting held on Dungeness A in May.
- Dr, Brian Burnett, NDA Head of Programme for Magnox & RSRL and Peter Harrop, NDA, Programme Manager – Fuelled Sites visited site in June.
- In June, Stephen Barker, NDA Lead Programme Manager – Decommissioning, Mark Steele, NDA Stephen Price, Director FED Dissolution, Magnox.
- Foreign security managers visit in June.
- On 17 August a contingent from Hinkley Point A visited site on a fact finding mission for their proposed MXD Plant. Brian Hughes, Site Director, Mike Caswell, Site Stakeholder

Group (SSG) Chairman and Mervyn Brown, SSG Deputy Chairman, Hinkley Site met with staff from Dungeness and SSG Chairman to discuss how the plant operates and also tour the facility. It is hoped that their visit here will help their understanding of how the MXD system works should be decided to go ahead with the construction of a plant at Hinkley.

- The Nuclear Safety Assurance Manager for the NDA, Steve Blakeway, visited the site on Wednesday 24 August.
- Richard Waite, EnergySolutions EU Ltd President, UK and Europe visited site on 27 September.

## **6. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

### **Matter of Interest arising from the EPCC**

- 2012 Calendars will be distributed late November.
- New Potassium Iodate (KI) Tablets to be distributed in January 2012.
- As a part of the learning from events process; Dungeness has been responding to questions raised by World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) and the European Regulators on the recent accident in Japan. This was to assess the ability and readiness of Magnox to respond to a similar event.

### **Emergency Plans and Handbook**

- The Dungeness A Emergency Plan has been approved by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR).
- The site has started reviewing the changes required within the Emergency Plan and Handbook post defuelling in preparation for decommissioning phase for the site.
- The works to relocate the Emergency Control Centre (ECC) into the Central Control Room (CCR) is complete and the new ECC exercised in September prior to the ONR demonstration.
- The remaining modifications to access control and muster systems are being arranged and modifications to the Nuclear Industry Airwave System (NIAS) are underway to enable the final relocation.

### **Emergency Exercises**

- On 26 May the site conducted a Level 2 Demonstration Exercise (involving the Local Authorities aspect of the Off-Site Plan). This was deemed satisfactory by the regulator.
- A total of five shift exercises have taken place since the last meeting.

### **Next Planned Exercises**

- Week commencing 24 October 2011 – the site will conduct its annual Level 1 Exercise.

## 7. STAFFING

As of 31 August 2011 there were 351 Full Time members of staff (including three Trainees) at Dungeness A. Since April, Dungeness A has welcomed one new starter on a fixed term contract. Two members of staff have left the company through retirement or resignation.

### Transition

The 2 into 1 transition was completed with very little impact in terms of staff numbers at Dungeness A.

The defuelling transition preparation is going well and we are still looking to go through the transition in the spring of 2012. The second stage counselling where the individuals will be informed of the decisions is due to start in the next couple of weeks.

This defuelling transition will have a significant impact on the number of employees remaining at Dungeness post defuelling. However, the impact is not expected to be as great as first anticipated due to the enabling and acceleration work now being undertaken.

## 8. COMMUNITY RELATIONS

### Sponsorship and Donations 20011 – 2012

The monies distributed by Dungeness A are provided by *EnergySolutions* which manages the site on behalf of the NDA.

Applications for support should be sent to:

The Communications Team,  
Dungeness A Site,  
Romney Marsh,  
Kent TN29 9PP

Please note that requests for sponsorship of individuals will not be granted.

### Staff charity

Following a summer event of cake selling, tombola, raffle and donations, over £1,100 has been raised for Pilgrim's Hospice, Ashford the staff chosen charity for 2011/12.



A coarse fishing competition is being organized and a Quiz Night is planned over the next month or so.

Staff enjoying the Mexican themed summer fundraiser