

HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

The thirtieth meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group will take place on Thursday 6 December 2012 in The Lauriston Hotel, Ardrossan at 1.30pm. (1pm for lunch)

AGENDA

13.00 Lunch and information gathering

13.30 Chairman's opening remarks

Chair and Vice Chair updates and correspondence

13.35 Actions and approval of previous minutes

13.45 Hunterston B Station Reports

John Morrison, Hunterston B

Keith Hammond, SEPA

Malek Ghannad, ONR

14.30 Hunterston A Site Reports

Mark Stubbs, Site Director, Hunterston A Site

Adam Stackhouse, SEPA

Chris Kemp, ONR

Bill Hamilton, NDA

15.30 Tea & Coffee

15.45 ILW Strategy Presentation

Heather Robertson, Engineering Manager, Hunterston A Site

16.15 Public Q&A

Future Meetings:

Thursday 14 March 2013 – Seamill Hydro Hotel, Seamill

Thursday 6 June 2013 – Brisbane House Hotel, Largs

Thursday 5 September 2013 – Lauriston Hotel, Ardrossan

Thursday 5 December 2013 – Seamill Hydro Hotel, Seamill

16.30 Close



Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

**THE TWENTY-NINETH SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2012, BRISBANE HOUSE HOTEL, LARGS**

Present:

Magnox Ltd

Mr Tony Bale (Chair)
Mr Mark Stubbs

Community Councillors

Mr John Lamb - West Kilbride
Mrs Rita Holmes – Fairlie (Vice Chair)
Mr Allan Rice – Saltcoats

Community Council Representatives

Mr Douglas MacFarlane (Largs)

Councillors

Cllr Robert Barr
Cllr Elizabeth McLardy

In Attendance

Ms Vicky Simm, Magnox Ltd
Mr Reuben Phillips, Magnox Ltd
Mrs Shelagh Milligan, Magnox Ltd
Mr Sean Marshall, Magnox Ltd
Ms Claire Cook, EDF Energy
Mr Ewan Young, Scottish Government

Several members of the public were also in attendance

Apologies:

Mr Adam Stackhouse, Mr Chris Kemp, Cllr Alex McLean, Mr Stuart McGhie, Mr John Robertson and the Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Team.

EDF Energy

Mr John Morrison

NDA

Mr Bill Hamilton

ONR

Mr Malek Ghannad

SEPA

Mr Keith Hammond

North Ayrshire Council

Mr Hugh McGhee

**THE TWENTY-NINETH HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2012
BRISBANE HOUSE HOTEL, LARGS**

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Mr Tony Bale welcomed everyone to the 29th Meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group (SSG).

2. CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR UPDATES/CORRESPONDENCE

Mr Bale advised that the Secretariat had received correspondence from the NDA Competition Team regarding the recent six week extension to the pre-qualification questionnaire period, following the announcement that EnergySolutions was for sale. Consequently, a request had been made to circulate the following announcement:

"Following the announcement of the EnergySolutions sale process, the NDA has concluded that it would be appropriate to extend by 6 weeks, the response period for the pre-qualification questionnaire to 12th October 2012. The submission of questionnaires by interested parties is followed by a period of formal dialogue with those who have successfully pre-qualified, which lasts more than 6 months, before bidders submit tenders for evaluation. The NDA remains committed to completing the Competition by June 2014 as outlined by the bidder conference in Manchester, however, the milestones will be reviewed and we will keep you fully informed of any changes".

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES/ACTION POINTS

Action 01 - Sean Balmer of the NDA to investigate the reimbursement of expenses.

(Status: Complete)

Action 02 – Colin Weir to investigate whether a drawing or sketch of the B Station reactor gaseous discharge route could be issued to Mr Rice.

(Status: Complete)

Action 03 - Adam Stackhouse to contact the Environment Agency to confirm their satisfaction with the regulator at Drigg and to confirm that unsatisfactory conditions had been rectified.

(Status: On-going)

Action 04 - Sean Marshall to seek clarification from Mr Jonathan Jenkin at the NDA on whether an application for funding had been received from or awarded to an Inverclyde Sports Centre project through the old funding scheme. Mr John Robertson was under the impression a large amount of funding had been awarded, however this has shown not to be the case. The only application received related to the construction of a £200k indoor sports hall.

Mr John Lamb stated there was an application four years previous from Inverclyde, which was sent back to Inverclyde for further clarification on costing which they failed to return.

Mr Jonathan Jenkin provided a full list of all applications that had been submitted to the old NDA scheme prior to 1 April 2012, including Inverclyde.

(Status: Complete)

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mrs Rita Holmes directed the SSG to an anomaly on page four of the previous minutes (last paragraph) which read “Mrs Holmes enquired if their findings would be dependent”. Mrs Holmes advised that it should be replaced with “...if they were appearing as a witness it would be dependent upon their findings”.

Mr Rice directed the SSG to an anomaly on page five stating that in his opinion the paragraph read as if the blow down valve was connected to the granular charcoal. Mr Rice stated that in his opinion these were two completely different things. From within the public audience, Mr Andy Taylor agreed and advised that he would provide the Secretariat with a slightly redrafted minute to read “procedures for blow down valve operation have been amended”.

With these amendments noted, the minutes were proposed by Mrs Holmes and seconded by Mr Rice.

5A. HUNTERSTON B STATION REPORT

Mr John Morrison, deputising for Mr Colin Weir, took the report as read. Mr Morrison stated that with regards to the station safety performance, there had been no injuries in the period from July 2012.

With regards to community safety, Mr Morrison advised that the new guide dog had arrived and that it would take at least a year for the dog to be trained. Thereafter, it would be gifted to an individual within the community.

Mr Morrison stated that Hunterston B had its surveillance audit by Lloyds Register covering major industrial business standards ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001, which cover quality, environment and industrial safety. He stated that Hunterston B had successfully demonstrated that their management systems were at a standard to be continued for the coming year.

Regarding the WANO peer review, Mr Morrison advised that this occurred in May 2012. Thirty peers from around the world conducted a review of safety and performance within their plants. No significant safety or performance issues were found. He added that Hunterston B was also commended on a number of strengths and good practices and that 16 gaps to excellence were received. Mr Morrison advised that the WANO peer review’s aim was to find areas of improvement, which Hunterston B would take on board and implement over the coming three years.

For environmental safety, Mr Morrison stated that Hunterston B had seen continuous regular inspections from SEPA and in particular with ONR for low level waste. No issues were noted.

Mr Morrison added that emergency arrangements were continuing in a full state of readiness and that there had been no significant radiological protection events in the period, although there was a focus on continual improvement.

Regarding generation, Mr Morrison stated that Hunterston B had been operating more or less on full load for the period with short load reductions for refuelling.

Mr Morrison highlighted an important company event during the period with the publication of the Energy Bill on 22 May 2012. He stated that final investment decisions would be taken with regards to the new nuclear power plant at Hinkley by the end of this year.

With regards to business and community, Mr Morrison advised that EDF Energy engaged significantly with the community and as such, the Olympic Games had been of particular focus whereby staff and members of the community had attended and volunteered at the Olympics. Hunterston B site held an Olympic Day to celebrate the working achievements of the staff with regards to the Olympics. This proved to be a success and a great team building opportunity for all.

Mr Morrison advised that the new Visitor Centre had opened on 31 August 2012 which was well attended and deemed a tremendous success. Mr Morrison hoped that local people would take the opportunity to visit the centre, although he noted that visits around the plant would require prior notice.

Cllr Robert Barr thanked Mr Morrison for his report on the Community. Cllr Barr advised that on 8 June 2012, two areas within North Ayrshire Council had been chosen to participate in the Olympic torch relay, one area being Barrmill. The local community wished to commemorate this and in turn, Hunterston staff and the apprentices made an inscribed time capsule which was filled and interned on 11 August 2012. Consequently, Cllr Barr wished to express his appreciation and that of the local community, onto Hunterston B.

Mr Rice enquired as to which plant defects were identified in the environmental safety report. Mr Morrison responded that anything identified would not significantly reduce safety margins and were primarily operational for pumps, valves and control instrumentation. Mr Rice stated that he would expect a planned maintenance for plant defects and enquired as to who would conduct this. Mr Andy Taylor advised that he had written this part of the report which was in the realm of "terms of defects" occurring on the plant. Mr Taylor added that there was a focus on safety to ensure there were no significant defects which had the potential to impact on the environment.

Mrs Holmes requested further information on the "16 gaps to excellence". Mr Morrison responded that they generally related to processes and how Hunterston B could improve on efficiency or effectiveness. Mr Morrison advised that a worldwide criteria detailed the excellence to which Hunterston B was aspiring. Mr Morrison added that 16 meaningful gaps for excellence were identified and these were expected to close within the next three years. Mrs Holmes enquired if an additional budget would be required for plugging the gaps for excellence. Mr Morrison responded that this may not be the case as in many cases, changing the way in which something is done is all that is required, which may involve the retraining of individuals.

Mr Bale requested further clarification on the shutdown. Mr Morrison responded that it was currently on day 20 and was on course. He stated all graphite core inspections had been completed successfully which was a statutory requirement, however no issues had been reported. Boiler inspections were half-way through outage and were due to be completed in early October.

Mr Rice requested further clarification on the boiler inspections. Mr Morrison explained that the two most important components in a reactor were the graphite core and the boilers as these could not be taken out and replaced. Mr Morrison stated that the options were to either

stop generating if they no longer worked, or repair them insitu. Mr Morrison went on to explain that the graphite core cannot be repaired but the boilers can, therefore they are regularly inspected. As the boilers are working at high temperatures and pressures, small cracks can appear. Mr Rice sought clarification that the pressure of the boiler was checked after repair. Mr Morrison confirmed a full pressure test was completed after repair.

Mr Rice made reference to discussions from the previous meeting when the lifting of pressure relief valves were discussed. Mr Rice wished clarification if this was where the pressure relief valves had come from. Mr Morrison confirmed that the boiler pressure relief valves are tested regularly which involves moving to check that they operate in the range that they are required to operate in for safety reasons. There is therefore a small escape of steam as a result, but that is perfectly normal.

5B. SEPA REPORT

Mr Keith Hammond took the report as read however proposed further clarification with regards to radioactive substances. He advised that an inspection was conducted on 30 August 2012 which focused on solid and exempt waste from Hunterston B or waste being transferred for disposal to another facility. He stated nothing of significance was found during that inspection.

Mr Hammond stated that from the habits survey that was undertaken, feedback had been received from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) and they wished to pass on their gratitude to the community for being receptive. Mr Hammond advised that the next edition of RIFE 17 would cover the calendar year for 2011 and should be published next month.

Mrs Holmes requested further clarification on the enhancements to the programme. Mr Hammond responded that within the district survey, a number of documents had been identified as overlooked or in duplication. Recommendations had been made to combine these into a single document to reduce the overlap and potential confusion.

Mrs Homes advised that in the recent past, the SSG received information on the different sampling areas around the station, such as milk sampling, and enquired as to why these were no longer received. Mr Taylor responded that this information was contained in the "RIFE Report for Radiation in Food and the Environment". Mrs Holmes responded that this report was issued at a later stage and the SSG were previously issued with a quarterly sampling report. Mr Taylor could not recall this and stated that the purpose of the district survey sampling regime was to look for activity where it should not be or identify substances that had the potential to cause harm. Mr Taylor added that reports were regularly made to SEPA in relation to findings and that there were no significant ill effects.

Mrs Holmes enquired as to whether shellfish were sampled also. Mr Taylor responded that a number of products were sampled, such as representative stock and materials in the local area, which could contribute to public uptake if there were to be significant radioactivity in the environment. Mr Taylor advised that if no milk farms were in the vicinity, sampling would be conducted outside the area via the nearest milk farm. Mr Taylor added that the organisation was looking to develop the materials sampled. Mrs Holmes requested clarification if this was part of the enhancement. Mr Hammond advised that SEPA contacted CEFAS to undertake the radiological habit survey, which was conducted over the summer. Mr Hammond stated that CEFAS questioned people on what they ate in the local area, their habits and how long they spent on the beach etc. Thereafter, CEFAS would calculate the most critical group.



Mrs Holmes wished clarification that the oyster farm at Hunterston was being sampled, as the product was shipped abroad. Mr Taylor was unaware of the oyster farm, however stated that they tested fish and other samples from various places within the local catchment area, which was confirmed as normal practice. Mr Taylor advised that the process was continually under review as habits within the local area would change. Mr Hugh McGee confirmed that the oyster farm was still operational and that environmental health took samples on a monthly basis, not for radioactivity, but purely for hygiene purposes.

Mrs Holmes enquired as to whether the variation application had been carried out. Mr Hammond stated it was his understanding that it had not been carried out to date. Mrs Holmes wished to know if it was a temporary variation notice, however Mr Hammond clarified that this was not the case and stated it was a permanent variation and that there was no notification requirement.

Mrs Holmes raised concern regarding steam released through these valves and that there may be an additional radioactive burden for emissions. Mr Hammond confirmed this to be the case. At this point in the discussion, Mr Taylor interjected and requested that the discussion revert back to the release valves, highlighting that the authorisation variation being discussed was on the main gas release valves, not steam. Mr Taylor advised that the discharge route was filtered, so in the event of a main gas relief valve having to operate, it would create a release of reactor gas through a filtered route. The filtration built into that route is slightly different and slightly less effective than the normal operation reactor blow down, however the reactor gas is the same. Mrs Holmes wished clarification on whether there would be an increase in emissions. Mr Taylor responded that there would be no increase in emissions, adding that at the start of reactor three's outage, the reactor had been blown down to zero atmospheric pressure into the environment. Mr Allan Rice queried if that was through the charcoal filter. Mr Taylor confirmed this was the case.

Mrs Holmes made reference to outage and the blowing of gas or steam and enquired if there would be an increase in the levels of radioactivity into the air. Mr Taylor responded that there would be an increase immediately at the time of blow down, however this would be considered a normal, authorised discharge. Mrs Holmes enquired whether there would be peaks in the outage. Mr Taylor confirmed that was the case and stated that those peaks were reported in the authorised returns to SEPA in terms of activity discharged into the environment. Mr Taylor advised that if there was a reactor outage during a particular month, it would show as an increased discharge. Mrs Holmes requested clarification as to how the peaks were recorded and whether the recordings were hourly or daily and detailed what had been found. Mr Taylor responded that they had come to an agreement with SEPA that a monthly summary would be provided and any deeper analysis would be subject to periodic review. Mr Taylor added that small atmospheric gaseous discharges were on-going and spikes or peaks occurred with planned outages.

In addition, Mr Hammond advised that there was an annual limit which could not be breached for a number of radionuclides. Mr Hammond added that there were quarterly notification levels and weekly advisory levels which were set at significantly lower limits which, if exceeded, required SEPA to be informed.

Mr Bale sought clarification as to whether consent levels had been breached at any time in the last four years. Mr Taylor confirmed that consent levels had not been breached.

Mr Rice enquired if the data could be presented to the SSG in graphical form. Mr Taylor confirmed that a discharge data could be provided in graphical form, however Mr Morrison was unsure how valuable that information would be to the SSG. Mr Bale actioned B Station to measure the discharge rates from now until the next SSG meeting in December and to provide a chart showing the data over a 24 hour, weekly and monthly period. **(Action 01)**

5C. ONR REPORT

Mr Malek Ghannad commenced by advising that there had been no significant safety issues reported during the quarter.

Mr Ghannad advised that in May 2012, members of the USA Nuclear Regulatory Commission visited the station to compare pressurised water reactors. Commissioner Magwood had made a number of positive comments about the station, such as its operation.

With regards to outage, Mr Ghannad advised that reactor three was shut down for the strategy outage on 17 August 2012. Mr Ghannad added that nine ONR inspectors and specialist inspectors had visited that week, however this was considered quite normal. Mr Ghannad advised that the specialist inspectors included three fire safety inspectors, two nuclear inspectors and one conventional specialist. No significant safety issues had been reported.

Mr Ghannad advised that several minor safety issues had been raised, such as scratches on a fire door. Although the door was still fit for purpose, it was deemed prudent safety protocol to replace it, which had subsequently been done. In conclusion, Mr Ghannad advised that specialists were due to inspect the results of the boilers next week.

Mr Bale raised concerns with regards to previous allegations regarding fire safety. Mr Bale asked for clarification that during the ONR's latest inspection, the inspectors would have taken on board what had been said with regard to allegations. Mr Ghannad confirmed that every allegation made had been satisfactorily investigated and had met the specifications required for operating a Nuclear Power Station.

Mrs Holmes requested clarification on the marking of the site boundary. Mr Ghannad explained that every nuclear licence site had 36 licence conditions and site marking boundary was considered one of the licence conditions. He advised that these were checked once every three years to ensure the signs for the boundary were in good condition. They were also a visual assurance to visitors that they were entering a nuclear licenced site.

6. HUNTERSTON A SITE REPORT

Mr Stubbs took the report as read however he wished to highlight on a few points.

Mr Stubbs advised that Hunterston A continued to have a good safety and environmental performance and had no significant events since the last meeting. It had now been over six months since the last lost time accident.

Mr Stubbs stated that Hunterston A was always seeking continuous improvement, including comparing and learning from other businesses. As such, he advised that members of staff had recently visited Hunterston B Site and had taken away some good ideas and best practices to implement at Hunterston A.



Mr Stubbs advised that the Site continued to strive to improve its safety and environmental standards through adopting best practices. Recent examples included improvements to working at height, safety barriers and signage.

With regards to draining and decontaminating the cartridge cooling pond (CCP), Mr Stubbs advised that the current water level was at 13' 6", therefore a third of the pond had already been emptied. He added that dewatering was progressing extremely well.

Mr Stubbs made reference to the historical contaminated land around CP7 and advised that the first phase was complete. As the contamination was underneath the Site access road, a new temporary road had been constructed which was brought into use on Wednesday 5 September 2012. Mr Stubbs advised that this would enable the Site to commence the main body of remediation work, with the installation of an insitu engineered barrier to contain the contaminated land, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of the financial year.

Mr Stubbs advised that the Wet ILW Retrieval and Encapsulation Plant had been constructed earlier in the year and the non-active commissioning was on schedule. He added that Hunterston A were looking forward to start retrieving, encapsulating and then transferring wet ILW to the ILW store by the end of the financial year.

Mr Stubbs highlighted that all discharges remained well within authorisation limits, however due to the work being done on the CCP dewatering, the volume of liquid being discharged had increased significantly and would continue at this higher rate until the pond was emptied around mid-2014.

Mr Lamb requested clarification on the radioactive discharges and whether the solid waste metal transferred to Studsvik was being transferred by road or rail. From the public audience, Mr Reuben Phillips explained that it would be transferred by road in the same containers as other solid radioactive waste. Mr Phillips advised that the containers were reused unless they were being transferred to the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR), where they would be buried underground. Studsvik would clean the containers before returning them and they were also checked on and off-site to ensure there was no contamination.

Mrs Holmes requested clarification on the location of the metal containers once cleaned. Mr Phillips advised that they are reused and that Studsvik and other facilities would decontaminate the metal to a useable level which would be processed as scrap metal into the market.

Mrs Holmes enquired as to how many containers would be required at Hunterston A. Mr Phillips estimated that this year there may be 20 containers for disposal in total. He also advised that there was a metal decontamination facility on site. Mr Stubbs added that the surface contamination was jet blasted off, which in turn allowed the metal to be reused.

Mrs Holmes asked if the material removed from the metal would eventually be transferred to the ILW Store. Mr Stubbs confirmed that materials removed only had low levels of contamination and would therefore end up as either very low level or low level waste and sent to LLWR for disposal.

Mrs Holmes requested clarification regarding the water ingress into the solid ILW waste retrieval facility. Mr Stubbs reminded the SSG of the extreme rainfall that affected the community last December which resulted in a high water table and some water entering this building. The building is still empty and is not due to become operational until late in 2013 or 2014. He advised that work was near completion to ensure the building was watertight. Mrs Holmes wished clarification that this would not reoccur which Mr Stubbs confirmed.

6A. NDA REPORT

Mr Hamilton commenced with reference to the competition and confirmed the contents of the letter read earlier by Mr Bale. He advised that a review was taking place with some changes to the short term milestones, and in terms of taking the competition forward, the NDA could see no reason why it would not be completed by June 2014 when it was scheduled to finish. Mr Hamilton reiterated that EnergySolutions was for sale. He stated that the NDA were not in control of the buying and selling process, however they had an absolute right of veto of the buyer. He stated that the buyer had to be a fit and proper operator of nuclear plants.

Mr Hamilton advised that the NDA had lost both of the Ministers from the Department of Energy and Climate Change. These Ministers had a role to play in NDA activities and were particularly responsible for decommissioning, waste and the search for the Geological Disposal Facility. He advised that the Coalition Government in Westminster had named two new Junior Ministers, Mr John Haines and Mr Gregg Barker, however at the present time, the NDA were unaware of their remits.

With regards to MOP 9, Mr Hamilton stated that the SSG members should have received a copy of this paper, however added that it was irrelevant to Hunterston A as fuel was no longer there. He summarised the MOP 9 report by highlighting that the difference between the previous MOP was the overall holistic plan for handling all spent fuel from all of the Magnox sites, ensuring it was re-processed and into interim storage, ready for final disposal. He stated the previous versions of the MOP (1 – 8) had an end date, however the end date would not be as quoted within the report, as the Sellafield plant was over 40 years old and the reprocessing route had been irregular. It was therefore virtually impossible to provide a definitive end date.

Mr Hamilton advised that under NDA guidance, extra funding had been given to Sellafield and the licence company had been working to bring forward the improvement programme for the reprocessing plant. He stated that the range of dates mentioned in the performance range table were the dates that the NDA hoped to finish. In addition, Mr Hamilton advised that the NDA had spent money with the licence company on improvement programmes, making the efficiency and throughput of the Magnox reprocessing plants healthier and more robust.

Mr Hamilton discussed intermediate level waste storage solutions for Central and Southern Scotland and in particular, the recently published credible options report which. In summarising the report, Mr Hamilton made reference to the two credible options; one being the continuation of the current base line and the second being the consolidation of Hunterston B's sludge and resins at Hunterston A and the continuation of the current base line for all other sites and wastes. He stated that the report also identified the opportunity to move the equivalent of eleven 3m³ packages of resin from Torness to Hunterston A, Chapelcross or Rosyth. He quoted from the report stating *"...no further work will be done on the Torness waste options in the near future as the waste is not planned to be packaged for some time and also there is sufficient capacity for the relatively small volume of this waste in all the stores"*.

Mr Hamilton explained the outcome if the option to consolidate the Hunterston B sludge and resin in the ILW store was preferred. He stated that the equivalent of 76 packages of Hunterston B sludge and resin could be stored in the ILW Store in addition to the 1179 packages which were estimated to arise from Hunterston A. He reiterated that the other credible option would be to leave the material in its current location. In conclusion, Mr Hamilton advised that the NDA would take account of any stakeholder views that emerged before a final decision was taken and the preferred option published.

Mr Bale requested clarification on MOP 9 and Mr Hamilton's comment that it was not applicable to Hunterston A, advising that there was still high dose rate items (HDRIs) at Hunterston A. Mr Stubbs responded that Hunterston A had two HDRIs which would be released this year. Mr Hamilton advised that the NDA did not include these as it was in such a small quantity. Mr Bale requested Mr Stubbs keep the SSG advised on the progress of the HDRIs and how they will be dealt with. **(Action 02)**

Mr Bale made reference to the option paper and reiterated the Hunterston SSG's preference that the ILW Store be used for Hunterston waste only. Mrs Holmes added that when the Store was initially applied for, it was noted as being for Hunterston A waste only. She added that although she could see the merits of storing Hunterston B waste, there would be other considerations to take into account. Mr Lamb added that it was up to the NDA to effectively consult with the SSG and local communities regarding the credible options report and what was considered acceptable in the existing store.

Mr Bale advised that he and Mrs Holmes had discussions with the Scottish Office in which they dismissed military arising from it. Mr Hamilton responded that he had been quite clear in stating what the credible options would be. He added that he had also provided the number of potential packages, the exact nature of the material and exactly where it is from. The report had been published with clear consultation and engagement with the Scottish Government.

Mrs Holmes made reference to the Hunterston A ONR report quoting "...meetings have been held with the licensee to discuss three proposals by other bodies for industrial developments near the site". Mrs Holmes enquired as to who these bodies were. Mr Stubbs responded that one was Scottish Power High Voltage Direct and advised that there was also on-going work with wind energy. Mr Ghannad confirmed the third to be the coal fire proposal.

Mr Ghannad stated that for the three developments, it had to be clear that emergency response did not affect the site. He also stated for the coal fire proposal, the licensee had to raise objections which Hunterston B had done and ONR had supported. However, it was noted that this proposal had now been withdrawn. He stated that the wind power plant had no impact on Hunterston B due to its proximity, therefore ONR had no objections. Mr Ghannad stated that he thought the offshore wind generators would be out-with the 2.4km zone.

Cllr Barr requested clarification on whether the ONR were being consulted with regards to the wind turbines. Mr Ghannad responded that ONR were not in consultation as it was a Council matter, however ONR had to ensure it was in the detailed emergency planning zone. He added that the Council would advise ONR if an application was received.

7. PUBLIC Q&A SESSION

There were no further questions from the public gallery.

8. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 6th December 2012 at the Lauriston Hotel, Ardrossan at 1.00 pm.

Mr Tony Bale
SSG Chair

ACTION LIST

29th Site Stakeholder Group Meeting

Thursday, 6 September 2012

No	Action	Responsible	Target Date	Status/Comments
01	Hunterston B station to measure the discharge rates from now until the next SSG Meeting and present the results in diagrammatic form over a 24 hour, weekly and monthly period.	Mr Morrison	06/12/12	
02	Mr Stubbs to update the SSG on the progress of legacy fuel at Hunterston A and how it will be dealt with.	Mr Stubbs	06/12/12	
03	Carried forward from 7 June 2012 To contact the Environment Agency to confirm their satisfaction with the regulator at Drigg and that unsatisfactory conditions had been rectified.	Mr Stackhouse	06/09/12	Ongoing



HUNTERSTON A STAKEHOLDER REPORT DECEMBER 2012

**HUNTERSTON A
SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO THE SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
6 DECEMBER 2012**

Hunterston A continues to make good progress on our programme of work and the Site remains very busy. We continue to be adequately funded by the NDA and remain committed to addressing the nuclear liabilities at Hunterston A in a safe, secure manner with care for the environment.

1 SAFETY OVERVIEW

1.1 Safety Review Performance

The industrial safety performance at Hunterston A remains good, averaging approximately 60,000 man hours per month. It has now been nine months since our last lost time accident. The frequency of first aid cases fluctuates and the injuries are very minor, such as small cuts, muscle strain or bumps. These incidents are reported and investigated. Whilst any injury is unwanted, this confirms that our open reporting culture is fully supported by our staff and contractors alike. Any corrective actions or recommendations identified during investigations are reviewed and discussed at event review meetings. These reviews afford us the opportunity to affirm that our corrective actions are suitable. The learning from these events is then shared within Magnox and the wider nuclear community via our Operational Experience Feedback (OEF) process.

Site safety representatives continue to provide support and be proactive on site and are involved with the Site's housekeeping inspection tours. These tours help to maintain our high standards and are carried out by a lead team member, area owner and safety representative. The safety representatives also supported visits to Hunterston A by the Nuclear Safety and Environment Council, Company Health and Safety Advisory Committee and the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Fire Inspector.

The 2012-2013 Safety and Environment Enhancement Plan (SEEP) is well underway and the Site is confident that all targets will be met.

1.2 Learning and Improvement

Working at height is one of the most hazardous activities we undertake on site. It is critical that this work is planned, supervised and carried out by competent persons in accordance with legislation. Magnox has taken the learning from its 10 sites and looked for areas where we could implement improvements.

Company Standard S-604 Control of High and Low Risk Work areas has been produced and issued to all Magnox sites. Its purpose is to ensure that the company maintains a suitable standard for the control of high and low risk work areas and the planning, erection, inspection and control of exclusion zones to protect individuals from hazardous situations and conditions.

Company Standard S-465 Work at Height has also been produced and issued to all Magnox sites. The purpose of this standard is to ensure that all that is reasonably practicable is done to prevent anyone falling or being struck by a falling object.

Magnox will be rolling out training on the above standards to staff and contractors on site.

Magnox continue to promote open reporting and continue to maintain a positive safety culture on site. We strongly believe in our behavioural safety and human performance processes and encourage everyone on site to commit to them. Human performance error avoidance tools and error traps are being used and discussed on a daily basis. A human performance question of the day is developed from events reported and discussed at the morning safety meeting. This question is communicated site wide and is discussed at all meetings held on site that day.

OEF continues to be shared and used during tasks. Information from the OEF process is shared company wide in the form of green and red briefs. Green briefs are for information sharing and red briefs require a mandatory review on site by selected persons. Any corrective actions identified from the reviews are communicated, implemented and monitored for effectiveness and suitability.

2 DECOMMISSIONING PROGRESS

2.1 Pond

The pond decommissioning team are continuing with the draining and decontamination of the cartridge cooling pond (CCP). The pond level started at 21'6" in November 2011 and after 11 months of draining, the level currently sits at 10'8". Approximately 3,330m³ of water has also been treated via the MAETP and discharged to sea. Notwithstanding this, the project team continue cleaning the pond walls with ultra-high pressure equipment and have now cleaned over 859m² of pond wall surface.

During the operational years, six sand filter vessels were utilised for the filtration of contaminated liquids. The project team has currently deplanted, size reduced and disposed of two redundant sand filter vessels from the Active Effluent Treatment Plant, leaving two more remaining which are still operational. Within the CCP there are two pond water treatment plant sand filter vessels which are shutdown. Entries into each sand filter cell were conducted and radiological surveys and dimensional checks were carried out providing useful data for future decommissioning. An optioneering study was undertaken to review the options for the safe removal and disposal of the sand media from the vessels. Further investigative work is now being planned to justify the preferred methodology.

The project team looking at decommissioning redundant underground miscellaneous sludge retention tanks (MSRT) have commenced the removal of the concrete roof slabs on each of the three tanks in the compound. Currently the roof slab has been removed from the supernatant tank and the works are almost complete on MSRT1. The target is to complete the remaining roof removal works by the end of December. An off-site trial was also conducted in October to trial a scabbling machine and dust extraction equipment required for shaving radiologically contaminated concrete surfaces. The results were favourable and a report is being produced for review and to assess any recommendations.

2.2 Land Quality Management

The project to implement the in-situ remediation of the CP7 compound and associated drainage at Hunterston A is well under way. Murphy Group, one of the most recognised names in the building and civil engineering industry, commenced work on 28 May.

The project has been programmed very carefully to minimise the risk of any unauthorised releases to the environment occurring during the works. Following the installation of the temporary access road, work to install the in-situ barrier commenced during November.

During the remediation work the Site reported to SEPA that it believed that three intermediate bulk containers containing liquid radioactive waste had been inadvertently discharged to ground. There is no evidence that this event has had any off-Site impact. SEPA is investigating this incident as a potential unauthorised disposal of radioactive waste. The investigation is still ongoing.

2.3 Solid ILW Retrieval

The Solid Active Waste Building Retrieval Facility has successfully completed plant performance trials. Remediation works to address the water ingress problem reported at the last SSG has been completed and the plant is being prepared for training. It is anticipated that active commissioning and solid waste retrievals will start early 2014.

Key to the ILW programme from a solid and wet perspective is the cross-site transporter vehicle, which will move the ILW packages between ILW facilities. Remediation works on the hydraulic system have been successfully completed and the transporter has returned to Site.

The strategic decision with respect to passivation of bunker one FED is to encapsulate. Plant design substantiation work is underway and contracts to manufacture, install and commission the encapsulation plant are likely to be let in the latter part of 2013.

2.4 Wet ILW

Commissioning of the plant continues with several trial drums filled with simulant and grouted as part of the in-active commissioning process. One drum has also been capped and will form part of further in-active commissioning trials using the cross-site transporter and the ILW store. Active commissioning is due to commence in the New Year. This will involve filling a drum with wet waste, grouting, capping and transportation to the ILW store.

Operator training will follow active commissioning with operation of the plant planned to commence May 2013. 30 commissioning drums have been delivered to Site and we are currently working on contracts to manufacture the remainder.

3 PEOPLE

3.1 HR and Occupational Health

Sickness absence is averaging 5.03 days lost over the past rolling 12 month period (1.85 days short term sick and 3.18 days long term sick) compared to the Company target of 6.25 days. The reasons for these long term sick absences vary from surgical procedures to serious illness and are managed via their line managers, Occupational Health, HR and

external professionals to ensure the support they require to get back to full health is in place. It is expected that three of the employees who are currently on long term sick will return to work imminently albeit a couple with restrictions.

Recruitment activity continues to focus on the Projects, EHSSQ and Engineering departments. In some cases, candidates are identified and are awaiting security clearance. Site HR staff continue to advise and liaise with line managers and recognised suppliers to provide resource where it cannot be found internally.

HR Processes within Agresso continue to be progressed with various areas being focussed on by the central project team e.g. TOIL, annual leave and sickness absence.

The Hunterston A 2012/13 training plan is managed by the central HR Services Team with Authorisation management still being co-ordinated locally on site. Site HR continue to advise and monitor learning and development requirements with line managers.

3.2 Learning and Development

Hunterston A continues to develop and maintain the high level of staff competence expected from Magnox Limited. Examples of learning, training and development to demonstrate this are outlined below.

This report has taken us into a period of initial and refresher training for operators of plant including lift trucks, tow tractor and trailer and mobile elevated work platforms. To further support this, a number of individuals have undergone banksman training to ensure that these pieces of plant are safely manoeuvred around site. Emergency first aid has also been rolled out to support the emergency response teams in the event of a muster.

Further training on the emergency procedures includes command and control for new operations engineers and search training to support our security arrangements.

Looking ahead, Hunterston A will be preparing the training plan for financial year 2013/14. This will involve all personnel at the Site and will include all new/refresher training to ensure that we meet legal and regulatory requirements, along with continual professional development to maintain and enhance the competence of the Hunterston A team.

In the meantime, the 2012/13 training plan continues to be delivered on schedule.

4 ENVIRONMENT

4.1 Radioactive Discharges

Solid

Low Level Waste (LLW) discharges to the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) continue. Disposals over the 12 month period from October 2011 to September 2012 equate to 170 m³, representing 29% of our authorised disposal limit. Radioactive nuclide content of this waste was well below authorised limits. The main contributions to the waste consignments were from projects such as pond decommissioning and clean-up operations. Metallic radioactive waste is now being processed through the Studsvik Metal Recycling Facility in Cumbria. This allows us to recycle waste metal instead of sending it to the LLWR.

Liquid

Liquid radioactive discharges during the period October 2011 to September 2012 were made at levels that represent 8.5% for total beta and less than 1% for Plutonium-241, Tritium and total alpha, of the Site's authorised discharge limit. The main source of this effluent is cartridge cooling pond dewatering.

Gaseous

Gaseous radioactive discharges during the period October 2011 to September 2012 were made at levels that represent 4.6% for Tritium, 4% for Carbon-14 and 2.5% for Beta particulate of the Site's authorised discharge limit. The main contributions to the discharges were from ventilation systems operating in contamination controlled areas and reactor vessel 'breathing'.

New Authorisation Application

The Site has submitted to SEPA an application for a new 'multimedia' authorisation for radioactive discharges. This authorisation (when granted by SEPA) will replace the Site's three current authorisations (solid, liquid and gaseous). SEPA are currently preparing a final draft of the authorisation.

4.2 Non-radiological Environmental update

Surveillance and analysis of the sewage treatment works effluent continues to ensure compliance with the discharge licence. The sewage treatment works reed beds continue to work efficiently to maintain good quality effluent.

Monitoring of resources such as water, electricity, fuel and paper use continues to determine where use can be minimised. Action plans are in place for resource use and all actions are being completed as planned.

4.3 Environmental Events

On 15 October three intermediate bulk containers containing potentially radioactive water which had been pumped out of the secondary containment on the discharge to sea line were passed through a Siltbuster and discharged to ground. The Siltbuster should only have been used to process water from cleaning the drains in the CP7 compound. The discharge was contained within the Site. SEPA are currently investigating this incident.

On 12 August slightly elevated levels of Cs-137 were detected on the foreshore at the end of the 18" outfall from the field drains system. The radioactivity was discovered after the discharge pipe was damaged by an excavator during remedial work in the compound.

In accordance with the site's open reporting policy both events were reported to SEPA.

5 RADIOLOGICAL SAFETY

Explanatory note: The maximum permissible dose to a radiation worker in the UK is 20mSv (milliSieverts) in a calendar year. The average annual radiation dose to the UK population from all sources is 2.6mSv. Collective dose is usually measured in man.milliSieverts. For example, if ten people were each to receive 0.1milliSieverts during

a particular task, then the collective dose for the task would be 10 people x 0.1mSv each = 1 man.milliSievert.

Doses for the calendar year 2012 (up to 30th September 2012) are as follows;

- Approximately 225 employees received a total collective dose of 12.906 man.mSv between them;
- Approximately 715 contractors received a total collective dose of 44.430 man.mSv between them;
- The highest individual dose received by an employee was 3.439 mSv;
- The highest individual dose received by a contractor was 3.711 mSv.

The majority of dose accrued in 2012 has been from a combination of the pond decommissioning project and other Site projects. All doses in these projects have been prior-assessed, planned and are tracked throughout the project duration to ensure that no limits are exceeded and that doses are kept as low as reasonably practicable.

5.1 Radiological Events

There were no radiological events in the period from August 2012 to October 2012.

6 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The proposed Issue 11 of the Hunterston A Emergency Plan has been endorsed by the Nuclear Safety Committee and is currently in the process of being sent to the ONR for approval.

Emergency exercise training continues to challenge the emergency teams with very diverse scenarios presented to the teams from a nuclear safety and conventional safety perspective.

There have been no on-site incidents or off-site nuclear emergency declarations in this quarter.

New working at height rescue equipment has been procured for the emergency response team which allows us to go onto a single rescue system for the first time. A new self rescue descender unit has also been purchased and training is currently underway for the emergency response team to familiarise with the system so they can better support working at height projects in an emergency situation. A new inflatable decontamination shower has been procured and should arrive on site within the month.

7 NATIONAL MATTERS THAT LINK TO HUNTERSTON A

Magnox and RSRL PBO Competition Update

The NDA's competition process continues to progress in line with the current timetables.

Further to the communication issued on 17 July, the NDA has been advised by EnergySolutions that the company will continue in its current role as Parent Body Organisation for Magnox Limited, under contract to the NDA, and will seek to Pre-Qualify on October 12 and participate in the competition process.

For more information on the Magnox and RSRL PBO competition, please visit:

<http://www.nda.gov.uk/contracts/competition/magnox-rsrl.cfm>

8 PA/PR ACTIVITIES/CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Hunterston A is delighted to continue supporting the local community by funding worthwhile groups and organisations through the new Magnox Socio-Economic process. The following highlights the 21 applications that have been allocated funding by Magnox since April 2012:

<i>Socio-Economic Funding:</i>	£
Irvine Beat FM	3,195
Kilbirnie Warriors U9's Community Football Club	250
Largs Viking Festival	1,500
Ardrossan Castle Rovers FC	1,594
Cunninghame Youth Football Club	1,000
Ardrossan Academicals Rugby Football Club	2,000
Saltcoats Gala – Sea Queen Festival	250
Irvine Meadow 1998 Boys Club	250
Maritime Volunteer Service – North Ayrshire Unit	2,203
Sail and Oar Festival – Isle of Cumbrae	250
Largs Youth Theatre	250
North Ayrshire Amateur Swimming Club	500
West Kilbride Community Association – East Wing Development Project	20,000
Caledonian Piping Club	500
Hessilhead Wildlife Rescue Trust	1,000
Kirktonhall Business Centre Group	1,250
1 st Stevenston Boys Brigade	555
Glencairn Primary School	750
Kilwinning Sports Club – U9's & U11's Girls Football	300
Dalry Burns Club – Schools Competitions	500
Ardrossan Christmas Decorations Committee	250
<i>Total</i>	£38,347

9 SITE VISITS

Hunterston A Site continues to attract the right kind of interest through our good safety and business performance. A selection of visitors during the period included:-

12 September 2012	Adam Stackhouse, SEPA Site Inspector, at Hunterston A for site inspection
26 September 2012	Chartered Quality Institute Nuclear Specialist Interest Group visit to Hunterston A
2 October 2012	Nuclear Safety and Environment Committee and Magnox Company HESAC visiting Hunterston A
10 October 2012	Adam Stackhouse, SEPA Site Inspector, at Hunterston A as part of re-authorisation process
31 October 2012	Adam Stackhouse, SEPA Site Inspector, at Hunterston A for investigation of event
22 – 25 October 2012	Chris Kemp, ONR Site Inspector, at Hunterston A for site inspection
14 November 2012	Adam Stackhouse, SEPA Site Inspector, at Hunterston A for site inspection and CP7 event update

Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

SEPA Update on Hunterston A

HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING,

6th December 2012, The Lauriston Hotel, Ardrossan

Introduction

This report covers the period 22 August 2012 – 20 November 2012.

Regulation and site related meetings

12 September – inspection

SEPA carried out an inspection of the solid waste management arrangements. No issues were identified that required further action.

10 October – Visit in relation to the ongoing re-authorisation process

SEPA visited the site as part of its determination process of Magnox's application for a new RSA authorisation. The main topics discussed were the number of gaseous discharge outlets and how best to regulate losses of radioactive gases from the de-fuelled reactors in the future. SEPA have requested more information to allow us to proceed with the determination of the application.

31 October – Investigation of event

SEPA visited site to carry out an investigation in relation to the mistaken disposal of liquid radioactive waste to land. More detail about this event (CP7-IBC event) is presented below.

14 November

This date was assigned as part of SEPA's routine inspection programme. However, much of the site visit was spent carrying out further investigation into the event CP7-IBC noted below.

Events

CP7 IBC event - disposal of liquid radioactive waste to land

The site reported to SEPA that it believed that three intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) that contained liquid radioactive waste had been inadvertently discharged to ground as part of the ongoing CP7 compound remediation works. There is no evidence that this event has had any off-site impact.

SEPA is investigating this incident as a potential unauthorised disposal of radioactive waste. The investigation is still ongoing.

Other matters

Re-authorisation of Hunterston A

As noted above SEPA is continuing to determine the Magnox's application for a new RSA authorisation. We anticipate that a draft of the new Authorisation will be sent for a second stage of statutory consultation (to the Food Standards Agency and the Office for Nuclear Regulation) before the end of 2012. Once the results of this consultation have been received and taken account of the draft authorisation and decision document will be sent to the Scottish Government to allow them to determine if they wish to exercise their powers of direction.

The final version of the authorisation and the decision document will be published on the SEPA website in due course.

Forthcoming visits to site

The next SEPA visits to Hunterston A as part of its routine inspection programme will be:

23 January 2013

6 March 2013

Ad-hoc visits will take place as required.

Adam Stackhouse
Specialist 1 – Nuclear Regulation
SEPA

NDA Monthly Update

November 2012

Summary

- Audit Office reports on Sellafield
- Insight magazine published
- Funding secures grant scheme for Cumbrian businesses
- ILW storage options for Central and Southern Scotland
- Wylfa generation continues to 2014
- DECC report on geological disposal
- Magnox and RSRL competition formally launched
- MOP9 published
- NDA's Annual Report and Accounts available
- Britain's Energy Coast Blueprint published
- Oxide fuels decision

Diary Dates

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| • Transfer of Dounreay breeder material to Sellafield starts | Late 2012 |
| • NDA estate supply chain event, Bolton | 22 November 2012 |
| • Cumbrian councils decide on GDF next steps | January 2013 |

NDA Monthly Update – November 2012

National Audit Office reports on Sellafield risk reduction

The NDA welcomes the National Audit Office's Report which provides a useful external check on progress at Sellafield and how we can further improve performance. We have been working with the NAO in an open and transparent way over the last 12 months to help them to understand the complex site and congratulate their team on the quality of its work. The Report has focused on the major projects element of the Sellafield programme which represents some £450 million a year out of the £1.6 billion annual expenditure at the Cumbrian site. The Report recognises the unique nature of the task at Sellafield and the scale of the challenge to deliver major projects at Europe's most complex industrial site, where facilities, equipment and materials date back to the 1940s and 50s. The NDA will continue to work closely with Sellafield Limited and NMP to improve capability and performance on what remains a unique and highly complex national priority.

[Weblink: NAO report](#)

Latest edition of Insight published

The autumn edition of the NDA's news magazine Insight has now been published and is available for download from the website.

[Weblink: Insight Issue 10](#)

Grants for Cumbrian businesses

West Cumbrian businesses are invited to apply for grants from a new programme which could help create and safeguard more than 1,000 jobs and unlock £31 million of private sector investment. Supported by a £1 million contribution from the NDA, Britain's Energy Coast, the West Cumbrian economic development organisation, successfully secured £5.6 million of Regional Growth Fund from Government for the "Investing in Business" scheme. The programme is targeted at manufacturing, processing, engineering and fabrication businesses, with emphasis on nuclear, renewables and tourism.

[Weblink: Britain's Energy Coast](#)

ILW storage options

The NDA has published a Strategy Paper on options for Intermediate Level Waste Storage in Central and Southern Scotland. The publication of this paper is consistent with the NDA's Integrated Waste Management (IWM) Strategy, which supports consideration of centralised and multi-site approaches, if this brings benefits. A small number of credible options have been identified, which will be taken forward for further assessment. Stakeholders are invited to comment on these options by 5 October 2012.

[Weblink: Central and Southern Scotland ILW Storage Solutions - Credible Options](#)

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Wylfa continues generating

Wylfa Power Station has been given the go-ahead to transfer fuel between its reactors, enabling electricity generation to continue until September 2014, almost four years beyond its original closure date. Following several independent reviews, the site has been permitted to continue using one reactor, transferring partially used fuel from its second reactor, which closed in April. The move was given approval by the Office for Nuclear Regulation and is supported by the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC). Inter-reactor fuel transfer has already been used at Oldbury and has now been successfully trialled at Wylfa, which started generating electricity in 1971.

[Weblink: Wylfa continues generating](#)

DECC publishes second Annual Report on MRWS

The Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has published the 2nd Annual Report on its Managing Radioactive Waste Safely programme, which focuses on developing geological disposal in the UK. The report sets out the work being undertaken by the NDA's Radioactive Waste Management Directorate to deliver the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF), including stakeholder engagement, the development of site assessment criteria, international updates and work on options for accelerating work.

[Weblink: MRWS Annual Report](#)

Magnox and RSRL competition under way

The competition to appoint a new Parent Body Organisation for the 12 Magnox and RSRL sites is now formally under way. Almost 170 delegates, including potential bidding organisations, stakeholders, regulators and trade unions, recently attended a Bidder Conference in Manchester to hear details of the schedule as well as the NDA's expectations on progressing decommissioning at each site. Valued at £4-5 billion over the next seven years, the competition is one of the UK's largest public procurement exercises. SSG chairs and vice chairs have been invited to a socio-economic workshop, taking place on the afternoon of 30 October, immediately after the national stakeholder event. Those not yet registered should do so via their secretariat.

[Weblink: Competition information](#)

Magnox operating programme updated

The NDA, in conjunction with Magnox Ltd and Sellafield Ltd, has published the ninth update of The Magnox Operating Programme (MOP), the fourth to be published by the NDA. The MOP defines how the whole Magnox fuel cycle is managed and co-ordinated between the different sites, and covers fuel manufacture, electricity generation, fuelling and defuelling of reactors, and reprocessing of spent fuel. MOP 9 has adopted a flexible approach that takes account of different possible scenarios. Meanwhile, the NDA has

NDA Monthly Update – November 2012

also published its Magnox Fuel Strategy Position Paper which looks at strategic options for managing any contingencies that arise.

[Weblink: MOP9 and Strategy Position Paper](#)

Annual Report and Accounts published

The NDA has published its Annual Report and Accounts for 2011/2012, which demonstrate that significant progress in decommissioning has been made coupled with real savings for the taxpayer and marking a year of solid progress. John Clarke, NDA Chief Executive, said: "I am pleased to report that performance over the last 12 months has been generally good across all our sites, against challenging targets.

"We continue to perform strongly in terms of income generation and introducing efficiencies both within the organisation and across the wider estate while maintaining progress on the core mission."

[Weblink: Annual Report and Accounts](#)

Blueprint welcomed

The NDA, Sellafield Ltd and Nuclear Management Partners have welcomed the publication of Britain's Energy Coast Economic Blueprint. The Blueprint sets out Britain's Energy Coast's vision for the development of the local economy in West Cumbria over the next 15 years; a period that could see the creation of more than 3,000 jobs as well as a significant boost to the local economy. The programme, launched in 2009, has seen around £25 million of public and private sector resources invested in regional economic regeneration activities, which has levered in a further £35 million to the area.

[Weblink: Energy Coast Blueprint](#)

Oxide fuel decision

The NDA has confirmed that contracts for the reprocessing of spent oxide fuels from the UK's AGR reactors, and those from overseas that remain in storage at Sellafield, will be continue to be completed through the THORP plant. Once reprocessing finishes in 2018, the plant will close prior to decommissioning. The decision follows a review of options to establish the most cost-effective strategy for managing the fuels associated with contracts which the NDA inherited when it was established in 2004. Any remaining AGR fuel, including any future arisings, will be placed into interim storage pending a decision to dispose of it in a geological disposal facility.

[Weblink: Oxide fuels](#)