

Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

**THE THIRTY-FIRST SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY, 14 MARCH 2013, SEAMILL HYDRO HOTEL, SEAMILL**

Present:

Magnox Ltd

Mr Mark Stubbs
Mr Derek Rooney

Community Councillors

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

Community Council Representatives

Mr Douglas MacFarlane - Largs
Mr Ian Frame - Cumbrae

Councillors

Cllr Robert Barr
Cllr Tom Marshall
Cllr Alex McLean

In Attendance

Mrs Shelagh Milligan, Magnox Ltd
Mr Sean Marshall, Magnox Ltd
Mr Andrew Taylor, EDF Energy
Mr Ewan Young, Scottish Government
Mr Ross Murdoch, Scottish Government

Several members of the public were also in attendance

Apologies:

Mr Tony Bale, Mr Bill Hamilton, Mr William Jack, Dr Jane Cooper, Mr Chris Kemp, Cllr Elizabeth McLardy and Cllr Alan Hill.

EDF Energy

Mr Colin Weir
Mr Stuart McGhie (Trade Union Representative)

NDA

Ms Karen Dickens

ONR

Mr Malek Ghannad

SEPA

Mr Keith Hammond
Mr Adam Stackhouse

North Ayrshire Council

Mr Hugh McGhee

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Mrs Rita Holmes, Vice Chair, welcomed everyone to the 31st meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group.

2. CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR UPDATES/CORRESPONDENCE

Other than apologies for absence, there was no further correspondence noted.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Action 01 – Mr John Morrison to give a presentation on Enhanced Emergency Plans.

Mr Colin Weir would give a presentation at today's meeting. **(Status – Closed)**

Action 02 – Mr Adam Stackhouse to provide Mr Allan Rice with a copy of the CP7 investigation report once completed.

Mr Stackhouse indicated that he would discuss this within his site report later in the meeting. **(Status - Closed)**

Action 03 – Mr Mark Stubbs to respond in writing to an email from a resident in Arran regarding emergency arrangements.

Mr Stubbs informed the group that he had responded in writing to this email which was copied to Hunterston B and the Ayrshire Civil Contingencies team. He noted that should anyone wish to view this response, they could contact the Secretariat. **(Status – Closed)**

Mrs Holmes advised of two additional actions pending closure from June and September 2012 SSG meetings.

Action 01 (carried forward from 06/09/12) – Hunterston B Station to measure the discharge rates from now until the next SSG Meeting and present the results in a diagrammatic form over a 24 hour, weekly and monthly period.

Mrs Holmes advised that some members of the SSG had attended an information session at Hunterston B and thanked the Station for an excellent presentation on gaseous discharges. However, no data had been given in diagrammatic form therefore this action should remain active. **(Status – Ongoing)**

Action 03 (carried forward from 07/06/12) – Mr Adam Stackhouse to contact the Environmental Agency to confirm their satisfaction with the Regulator at Drigg and that unsatisfactory conditions had been rectified.

Mr Stackhouse confirmed that he had spoken to the Waste Facility Inspector and there were no concerns with regards to the operation of the Site and the Environmental Agency were satisfied with the waste facility overall. Mr Stackhouse noted that the Inspector had indicated that briefing notes were available on the Environmental Agency website and if people had further concerns, they should contact the Environmental Agency directly. **(Status – Closed)**

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

With one minor typographical amendment noted, the minutes were approved by Mr John Lamb and seconded by Cllr Robert Barr.

5. NDA UPDATE/MAGNOX RSRL COMPETITION

In a slight change to the agenda, Ms Karen Dickens, Corporate Responsibility Manager for the NDA, commenced by advising of an amendment within the 'Diary' section of the NDA monthly report in that the preferred options for Southern and Central Scotland ILW storage solutions had been changed and would be released in April 2013.

Ms Dickens explained that the NDA has published a three-year plan to support greater opportunities for smaller businesses seeking to work in the UK's decommissioning market. The Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Action Plan builds on initiatives already under way across the NDA estate and meets a Government requirement for all departments to develop proposals that will help to increase the proportion of public contracts awarded to the SME community. The NDA's plan sets a challenging target of 20% of annual sub-contract spend (at least £300 million) to SMEs by 2015, almost doubling the currently reported level. Half the NDA's current £3 billion annual budget is spent with the supply chain, via the SLCs.

Ms Dickens informed the SSG that Cumbria County Council had voted against a geological disposal facility and the process was now finalised in Cumbria. She added that the invitation remained open to other communities to come forward and offer their services and that the Government would undertake a review on the recent events in Cumbria, consult on the issues and publish a report.

Ms Dickens advised the SSG that she was leading on the socio-economic and stakeholder engagement aspects of the Magnox/RSRL Competition. She explained that competitive dialogue had been conducted with each of the bidders visiting Hunterston A.

Ms Dickens advised of an "Interim Drop" facility, whereby bidders would present interim proposals on socio-economics with the intention of achieving an excellent result from the competition.

Ms Dickens highlighted that the venue of the Stakeholder and Bidder Engagement sessions in Glasgow had been changed from The Radisson Blu Hotel to The Jury's Inn Hotel. She added that the intention of these sessions was for stakeholders and bidders to meet for a private discussion on each SSG's expectations from the competition process. Ms Dickens gave further information on the intended format of the sessions and explained that whilst she envisaged representatives would attend from Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise, Council Regeneration Officers and SSG Chair and Vice Chair, it would ultimately be the SSG's decision on the other parties or individuals to be invited.

Mrs Holmes enquired if trade unions would be represented. Ms Dickens advised that bidders had suggested that they had easy access to unions at national level but not at site or regional level, therefore they were keen to see local unions involved. Ms Dickens noted that the stakeholders could decide on the consensus of this. Mr Stuart McGhie proposed that to ensure openness and transparency, a written invitation could be extended to the unions. Mrs Holmes suggested that an informal discussion take place at a later date to obtain an overview on this topic from the SSG and Community Councillors.

In response to a question raised by Mrs Holmes as to whether NDA would expect feedback from the SSG, Ms Dickens clarified that NDA required to operate within certain constraints and although feedback would be useful, she did not wish there to be a conflict of interest relating to her work on the competition. Consequently, Ms Dickens advised that she would seek legal clarification.

6A. HUNTERSTON B REPORT

Mr Colin Weir took the report as read. He highlighted that safety performance remained extremely high with no lost-time accidents in nearly five years recorded for both EDF Energy employees and good contract partners. R3 statutory outage had been completed with no lost-time accidents and no recordable injury events which was an enormous achievement given the amount of staff and contractors on site during the outage period. Mr Weir indicated that major plant projects had progressed such as landscaping and a new nitrogen plant under construction.

Mr Weir advised that generation had been good and steady on both units whilst end of year targets had been met in generation and exceeded by half a terawatt, almost 10% above business plan.

Mr Weir offered a Company update on life extension at Hunterston and Hinkley B Stations and announced planning target dates of 2023. The new reactor design had been approved by the regulator and Mr Weir advised that they were awaiting various policies being approved in Government to move forward with any new build at Hinkley Point C.

Mr Weir stated that output from the existing fleet was the best in over eight years, with 60 Terawatt hours being a significant achievement. He noted that the business plan was 59.5 with previous best being 58 and 54, therefore a considerable increase had been noted in terms of reliability of fleet.

Mr Weir commented on the success of the Visitor Centre since it's opening in August 2012 with over 1,500 people undertaking a tour and 550 people booked for March/April 2013. He added that apprentice recruitment continued and anticipated employing six new apprentices.

Mr Hugh McGhee, Environmental Health, North Ayrshire Council requested further information regarding the mixed metals waste materials incinerated. Mr Andy Taylor, Environmental Safety Group Head, advised that this had been normal consignments of mixed low-level contamination waste and a routine consignment to the incinerator.

Mrs Holmes made reference to the construction of the High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) convertor and the related blasting and enquired if there were any concerns regarding this work due to its close proximity to both stations. Mr Weir advised that they had looked at the risk assessment of the plant and any blasting would be within sizeable recordable levels.

Mrs Holmes enquired as to whether Hunterston B opposed the access road between the Hunterston House and Hunterston B Station. Mr Weir indicated that a Compulsory Purchase Order had been raised which had met objections and that discussions with Scottish Power Networks were ongoing.

A question from the public gallery enquired whether (in view of the recent tragic event) there had been any changes in terms of heavy equipment and transportation through Fairlie. Mr Weir confirmed that road movements had been checked and that most frequent suppliers of CO₂ and other gases did not travel through Fairlie.

6B. SEPA REPORT

Mr Keith Hammond took the report as requested any questions. In response to Mrs Holmes, Mr Hammond indicated that he could not comment on the blasting as he was not involved in this type of work.

6C. ONR REPORT

Mr Malek Ghannad advised that Reactor 3 had shutdown for statutory outage on 17 August 2012 and returned to service on 16 October 2012, operating at nominal full load since returning to service. No significant safety issues were reported to ONR. During outage, a large number of ONR specialist inspectors visited Hunterston B and were satisfied with the work. Mr Ghannad added that Reactor 4 operated at nominal full load and shut down for interim outage on 22nd February 2012.

Mr Ghannad informed the SSG that ONR's Chief Operating Officer and Superintendent Inspector had visited the Station on 12 December 2012 and were satisfied with the standard of safety. No issues were recorded adding that consent for Reactor 3 was issued on 5 October 2012.

Mrs Holmes enquired whether ONR had any input into the blasting. Mr Ghannad confirmed that hazards had been assessed and seismic assessment showed no concerns.

Mrs Holmes asked for as much information as possible to be given as to the work involved in the construction of the HVDC convertor, ensuring all aspects had been addressed and highlighted her concerns with various aspects including traffic increase, blasting, route, and floodwater. Mr Ghannad gave further information on the points raised and whilst understood community concern, confirmed that there were no major concerns.

Cllr Robert Barr raised the issue of a license being required from the Local Authority to carry out blasting with a similar procedure for ingress/regress of the road. Mr Ghannad advised that the Local Authority was responsible for looking at the plan for the road and was confident they would be addressing the issue of blasting. Mr McGhee advised that from an environmental health aspect, he was unaware of any requirement to submit a statement of intent to blast or any other notifications regarding blasting.

Mr Stuart McGhie enquired as to whether there were provisions to advise the local communities of blasting and whether this was the responsibility of Scottish Power. Mrs Holmes gave clarification that in such circumstances, Western Link usually liaises with Community Councils who thereafter, alert the community. Cllr Barr offered to approach Licensing and Planning regarding the blasting and provide feedback to the SSG. **(Action 01)**

7. ENHANCED EMERGENCY PLANNING PRESENTATION

Mr Weir gave a presentation on EDF Energy's Response to Fukushima from which the following questions were raised:

Mr John Lamb enquired as to the location of the back up equipment for Torness and Hunterston. Mr Weir confirmed that this was housed north of England, close to the border.

Regarding physical protection for flooding inundation, Mr John Lamb enquired as to what height flood inundation may reach. Mr Hammond advised that with regards to sea defenses, the reactor basement in the buildings was at 4.9 metres with the most severe tidal storm flooding being around four metres, explaining their main concern in this regard related to extreme rainfall rather than tidal storm flooding.

Mr Ian Frame expressed concern as to the emergency evacuation plan for the island of Millport and whether there was a back up system in place. Mr Hammond advised that whilst they would work in conjunction, this matter could not be answered by the operator and was

the responsibility of North Ayrshire Council who would have a plan for any disasters. Mr McGhee suggested that he could pose the question of how to evacuate Millport to Mr David White, Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Manager, and report back to the SSG. **(Action 02)**

In response to a question raised by Mr Allan Rice, Mr Weir advised that emergency generators were tested every five weeks.

8. HUNTERSTON A REPORT

Mr Mark Stubbs took the report as read. He indicated that industrial safety performance at Hunterston A remained good with it being over a year without a lost time accident or medical treatment case.

Mr Stubbs advised that work continued on the cooling pond which was progressing well.

With regards to land quality management, key work had been carried out on the CP7 compound. Installation of a Bentonite slurry wall was completed in December 2012 with the cap over the land completed in January 2013, therefore isolation of the contaminated land had been completed. Drainage works would ensure there was no flooding behind the slurry wall. Mr Stubbs stated that a temporary access road was constructed to allow this work to be carried out with the intention to return the road to its original position. However, due to the position of the contaminated land, this was no longer possible. Mr Stubbs explained that further work will be undertaken to improve the curvature of the temporary road, resulting in a standard permanent road, and then undertake some final landscaping to complete this project.

Mr Stubbs advised that the solid active waste bunker retrieval facility had been completed and the Site had undertaken some very successful commissioning work and training of personnel. The Site was now preparing to carry out performance trials and then begin the retrieval of solid intermediate level waste (ILW) in 2014.

With regards to the ILW Store, some final preparation works were due to take place and an application will be made to ONR for a License Instrument, thus allowing use of the Store.

Mr Stubbs advised that some further inactive commissioning was taking place in relation to the wet ILW retrieval and encapsulation plant, with the first active material due for transfer to the ILW Store during May 2013.

Mr Stubbs noted that he had been well informed by Western Link with regards to the HVDC convertor. He commented on the blasting which had taken place, resulting in relatively small charges, stating that risk assessments had been carried out. As it was increasingly likely that the main access road would be used rather than the alternative road near the Hunterston Estate, Mr Stubbs advised that the main concerns focused on the safety of the workforce and the general public. Mr Stubbs added that emergency arrangements, security and compliance with regulations had been discussed, which were open and frank and to his satisfaction.

With regards to Fukushima, Mr Stubbs indicated that Hunterston A had carried out the necessary stress tests to the satisfaction of ONR.

Mr Stubbs referred to the Magnox/RSRL Competition, noting that good feedback had been received from the bidders who had visited the Site. He added that all the bidders themselves had acted very professionally during the visits.

Mrs Holmes enquired as to the new road layout and whether the license site boundary had changed to include the old road. Mr Stubbs advised that there was no change to the site boundary, the land was owned by NDA and the site license boundary had not changed.

Mrs Holmes asked for an update on the compulsory purchase of land by Western Link for a pipeline to the sea. Mr Stubbs confirmed that a Compulsory Purchase Order had been raised which had since been responded. A two-day hearing was now scheduled to take place in Edinburgh during April 2013. In Mr Stubbs's opinion, more land than necessary had been sought, but clarified his wish to resolve the matter co-operatively as much as possible to ensure the work was carried out properly and successfully.

Mrs Holmes enquired if the cost of the road realignment would be met solely by NDA or whether it would be shared with Western Link. Mr Stubbs advised that the plan was to change the radius of the road slightly and use as much of the current road as possible, resulting in little cost which would be met by NDA. Mr Stubbs also highlighted that the original overall cost of the project had been estimated at over £8 million, but the likelihood is that the out-turn will now be less than £5 million.

On behalf of Fairlie Community Council, Mrs Holmes thanked Mr Stubbs for the good wishes and condolences expressed following the tragic road accident in Fairlie.

Cllr Barr expressed appreciation to Magnox for the recent grants given to various organisations and thanked them for their involvement with a local Robert Burns schools competition.

9. SEPA REPORT

Mr Stackhouse confirmed that SEPA had concluded its thorough investigation into the CP7 incident report. He noted that prior to the commencement of this investigation, Hunterston A had already put corrective actions in place to prevent a similar incident from recurring, including improved labeling, housekeeping, management and staff awareness of portable liquid containers. Furthermore, a Magnox Company Standard has been developed regarding the management of these containers.

Mr Stackhouse added that the environmental consequences of the incident were not measureable and nothing unusual was detected from the routine data which is collected several times per week. Taking into account that the Site implemented their own corrective actions very promptly, combined with the fact that there was no measurable impact on the environment, SEPA has decided that no extra enforcement action is required on Hunterston A.

Mr Rice questioned why these corrective actions were not in place prior to the incident occurring in the first place. Mr Stackhouse explained that it is easy to look back with hindsight and say the actions should have been in place, but stressed that this was a unique incident. Due to remedial work being carried out within the Site's CP7 compound, two very similar sets of containers were on site at the same time, but being used for different purposes. Mr Stackhouse stated this was mainly a breakdown in communication between project staff and contractors who were unfamiliar with the Site and its procedures.

Mrs Holmes referred to recent talks on whether ungrouted materials would be allowed to enter the ILW Store. Mr Stubbs explained that a new safety case had been written and approved. It was therefore the intention during 2014 to remove the bunker waste, place it within 3m³ boxes and transfer it ungrouted to the ILW Store.



Mrs Holmes spoke of previous misgivings which were expressed regarding additional transportation of material across the Site. Mr Stubbs clarified that the safety case showed the additional doses to operators undertaking extra transport to be very low. He explained that the boxes were placed in a shielded cross-site transporter, reducing the exposure to operators. Mr Stubbs explained the benefit of such a procedure was huge, enabling the Site to deal with this material approximately three years earlier. Mr Stubbs indicated that Hunterston A had worked closely with ONR and SEPA and would keep the SSG informed of progress.

SSG members expressed an interest for more information on the encapsulation process to be made available with Mr Stubbs agreeing to give a presentation at the next SSG meeting.

(Action 03)

10. PUBLIC Q & A SESSION

From within the public gallery, Ewan Young, representing the Scottish Government's Radioactive Waste team, provided information on the Scottish Government Higher Active Waste Implementation Strategy and noted the date of the forthcoming Scottish Sites Meeting as 25 April 2013 in Edinburgh. He informed the SSG of a Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Bill, which was hoped to be introduced in Scottish Parliament during spring 2013.

11. DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The date and venue of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 6 June 2013 within the Brisbane House Hotel, Largs.

Mrs Rita Holmes
SSG Vice Chair

ACTION LIST

The Thirty-First Site Stakeholder Group Meeting

No	Action	Responsible	Target Date	Status/Comments
01	To contact the Licensing and Planning Departments regarding the blasting issue and provide feedback.	Cllr R Barr	06/06/13	
02	To contact the Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Manager regarding the emergency evacuation procedure for Millport.	Mr H McGhee	06/06/13	
03	To give a presentation on the grouting and encapsulation of ILW.	Mr M Stubbs	06/06/13	

Action Points (cfwd) – 06/09/12

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	Ongoing <u>Addendum</u> (14/03/13): Mrs Holmes advised that some members of the SSG had attended an information session at B Station. However, no data had been given in diagrammatic form therefore this action should remain active.

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