

**Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group**

**THE THIRTY-FOURTH SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2013  
SEAMILL HYDRO HOTEL, SEAMILL**

**Present:**

**Magnox Ltd**

Mr Mark Stubbs  
Mr Tony Bale  
Mr John Morrison  
Mr Reuben Phillips

**NDA**

No Representation

**Community Councillors**

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

**ONR**

Mr Malek Ghannad

**Community Council Representatives**

Mr Douglas MacFarlane (Largs)

**SEPA**

No Representation

**Councillors**

Cllr Robert Barr  
Cllr Elisabeth McLardy  
Cllr Tom Marshall

**In Attendance**

Ms Shelagh Milligan, Magnox Ltd  
Mr Ewan Young, Scottish Government  
Mr Ralston Ryder, Hunterston Estate  
Mr Willie Jack, NFU

Several members of the public were also in attendance.

**Apologies:**

Mr Angus Cochrane Patrick, Hunterston Estates  
Mr Richard Howells, Amec  
Mr Keith Hammond SEPA B Station  
Mr Gordon Jones, Community Policing Inspector  
Ms Karen Yeomans, Development Planning North Ayrshire Council  
Mr Hugh McGhee, Environmental Department, North Ayrshire Council  
Mr Chris Kemp, ONR Inspector

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**1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

Mrs Rita Holmes, Chair, welcomed everyone to the 34th Meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group.

**2. CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR UPDATES/CORRESPONDENCE**

Mrs Holmes noted apologies and made reference to Mr Kemp's decision to withdraw from the SSG, advising that future representation would be from Mr Peter Donnelly. Mrs Holmes noted that they were still awaiting the report from Mr Kemp on dose rates at site boundary and aerial discharges at ILW store and that he aimed to forward this information to the group as soon as possible. Mrs Holmes proposed that the Secretariat express thanks to Mr Kemp on behalf of the SSG for his involvement over the years. **(Action 01)**

The SSG were informed that the annual emoluments for SSG Chair and Vice Chair had been increased by 10%, effective from September 2013.

Mrs Holmes gave a brief overview of various meetings that she had attended, partly in association with Mr John Lamb, Vice Chair. Mrs Holmes confirmed that she had emailed the SSG on 4 November 2013 with a summary from the NDA National Stakeholder Group Meeting at Bradwell and Scottish Sites Meeting and that a hard copy had also been included within the documentation for today's meeting. In particular, Mrs Holmes noted her attendance at the following meetings:

01 October 2013: Department of Environment and Climate Change Meeting with NGOs.  
24 October 2013: Scottish Sites Meeting.  
21 & 22 October 2013: NDA National Stakeholder Group (NSG) Meeting at Bradwell.  
25 October 2013: Introductory meeting with Mr Dave Wilson, Chief Operating Officer for Scotland and Wales Decommissioning Sites.  
05 November 2013: Office of Nuclear Development, NGO Forum.  
06 November 2013: Lecture on Fukushima from Japanese journalist.  
08 November 2013: CoRWM meeting, London.  
27 November 2013: Initial Meeting of Western Link.

In addition, Mrs Holmes advised of her planned attendance at the following:

11 December 2013: Consultation Workshop for Low Level Waste Repository facility at Drigg.  
12 December 2013: Meeting of Magnox SSG Chairs, London.

Mrs Holmes advised that on 15 November 2013, NDA would publish preferred options for ILW storage and FED treatment with all comments on this to be received by 31 January 2014. Further details of the individual meetings she had attended could be provided on request.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

*Action – To facilitate a tour of the Hunterston A SAWBR.*

Mrs Holmes indicated that this tour had taken place successfully with a further tour planned for January 2014. It was suggested that anyone who wished to attend should arrange this via the Secretariat. **(Status – Closed)**

*Action – Mr John Morrison to provide an update on moisture monitoring.*

This information would be contained within Mr Morrison's report later in the meeting.

**(Status - Closed)**

*Action – Mr Mark Stubbs to provide information on biodiversity action plan.*

Mr Stubbs noted that leaflets had been circulated giving general information and that a detailed report was also available. In response to a point made by Mr Allan Rice, Saltcoats Community Council regarding the generic photographs used within the leaflets, Mr Stubbs acknowledged that the images required to be reviewed.

**(Status – Closed)**

### 4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

With no amendments noted, the minutes were proposed by Mr Allan Rice, Saltcoats Community Council and seconded by Councillor Robert Barr.

### 5A. HUNTERSTON B STATION

Mr John Morrison, Hunterston B took the report as read. Mr Morrison indicated that as of March 2014, the Site would be six years without lost time incident to either staff members or contract partners. Mr Morrison informed the SSG of the Site's involvement in European Safety Week with a number of valuable presentations and demonstrations for staff. With regards to environmental safety, he indicated that there had been a couple of near misses on site related to sodium hypochlorite used to reduce mussel growth in the sea cooling water systems and also a small spillage of fuel on the plant and that lessons could be learned from both of these incidents.

Mr Morrison stated that with regard to radiological issues, the overall dose level for the year looked like being well below the estimated dose and that they continued to see a reducing trend in low level contamination events at the Site which was a great improvement. He noted that the Site had been generating for the past several months at optimum load.

Mr Morrison referred to the Hinkley Point C Agreement with Government and that they were now finalising commercial arrangements to commence work on that Site along with the main investors in the plant. He noted that in relation to EDF Energy, they had held back on price rises to half the level of competitors. Overall in terms of staffing, Mr Morrison informed the SSG that there had been a large recruitment drive in terms of operation technicians and engineers and apprentice recruitment. Mr Morrison recognised that apprentices had been doing well within the business with one apprentice being awarded "Apprentice of the Year". The Station continued to recruit apprentices with another six on board for the four year apprenticeship scheme.



Mr Morrison stated that the Visitor Centre had been awarded a 5 star rating from "Visit Scotland". He informed the SSG of the purchase of three new sail boats for the Large Sail Training Association for youngsters to become competent sailors.

Mr Allan Rice enquired with regards to radiological protection whether it would be possible for Mr Morrison to include the number of employees associated with the collective doses. From within the public audience, Mr Andy Taylor, Environmental Secretary advised that this information could be provided.

Mr John Lamb, Vice Chair enquired about hot water discharges into the River Clyde and at what temperature they were monitoring discharges in terms of temperature limit. Mr Morrison advised that the outfall limit was 34 degrees and that they were currently discharging well below this figure. Mr Andy Taylor offered further information and explanation of this process.

Mrs Holmes enquired whether the SSG had access to the quarterly report to SEPA, detailing samples obtained and analysis carried out. Mr Morrison indicated that the information contained within this report was shared between SEPA and B Station and that SEPA would report back if there was anything to be noted.

Mrs Holmes requested further information on the radiological protection AGR fuel route. Mr Andy Taylor offered further details in this regard with no specific problems noted and the continuation of on-going maintenance. In response to Mrs Holmes, Mr Taylor advised that Body Monitors had been installed at the exits in March/April of 2013. Mr Morrison confirmed that 43 households were within the 2.4 km boundary and had been in receipt of potassium iodate tablets from the Station. Mr Willie Jack NFU expressed concern that he had not received these tablets and queried whether his property was out-with or near to the boundary. Mr Morrison gave assurance that he would check this and report back to Mr Jack.

**(Action 02)**

Mr Morrison commented on a recent programme undertaken in relation to working at height. He advised that a "Working at Height Group" had been set up consisting of industrial safety engineers and practitioners to manage and assess tasks conducted at height. The group had looked at lots of initiatives from around the world to improve capability of working at height safely.

## **5B. SEPA REPORT**

In the absence of any representation from SEPA, Mrs Holmes proposed that any questions be conveyed to SEPA via the Secretariat.

## **6. ONR REPORT**

Mr Malek Ghannad took the report as read. He informed the SSG that there were approximately 30 key systems in each site, inspected by ONR specialist inspectors against claims made in the safety case. The intention was to check six key systems per year so that over a five year period, all of the main systems would be checked. Mr Ghannad advised that during the reporting period they had carried out various inspections of electrical no break systems, liquid waste and gas circulators with all three systems found to be satisfactory and no issues of concern.



Mr Ghannad advised that they had taken part in a Level 2 Emergency Exercise to test Hunterston off-site plan and that this exercise was found to be satisfactory. He stated that the Chief Nuclear Inspector's Annual Report had been published. ONR had identified three levels of regulatory priorities:

- Level 1: Sites that require significant enhanced levels of regulatory attention over the next 5 years or so and Sellafield ponds and silos required to be decommissioned;
- Level 2: Requires enhanced level of regulatory adaptation over the next 2 years (eg. Dounreay);
- Level 3: Routine level of regulatory attention involving all 7 nuclear reactor sites.

In Mr Ghannad's opinion, the resource for the inspection of Hunterston B would remain unchanged as it was extremely positive in terms of accidents reported etc and was considered an excellent EDF site.

Mrs Holmes requested more explanation on the electrical no break system. Mr Ghannad explained that they had concentrated on the no break system which supplied emergency lighting etc. He advised that they had chosen six systems to inspect with work being completed on five of these systems, which he found to be satisfactory. Mrs Holmes enquired whether there were similar findings to Hinkley Point with it being of similar age. Mr Ghannad explained that the systems were similar across all AGRs however they did not necessarily inspect the same system at the same time as Hinkley as the Hunterston system may have been inspected already. He clarified that it was dependent on the importance and information available from the Site as to which systems were chosen for inspection at what point.

Mrs Holmes made reference to a previous point raised by an SSG member who had enquired whether there should be some degree of SSG presence during the emergency planning practices. Mr Morrison advised that as this was a very busy time with the entire organisation being involved, it was not deemed feasible to have visitors on-site during this time as this may be a distraction for staff. He indicated that during such exercises, a representative from North Ayrshire Council would be present at the Strategic Control Centre at Lancaster House, Prestwick where the Main Co-ordinator and Gold Commander were located during the exercise.

Mr Douglas MacFarlane, Largs Community Council requested an overview of the liquid involved in the various joint inspections. Mr Ghannad explained that as part of Licence Condition 34, the site had arrangements and procedures in place to make sure liquid waste did not escape. He stated that a system inspection had been carried out to ensure procedures in place were adequate.

Mr Morrison gave further information and explanation of the process in relation to moisture monitoring noting they had introduced new automatic diverse systems in terms of technology over the past five or six years which operated well and were regularly tested.

## **7. HUNTERSTON A STATION**

Mr Mark Stubbs, Hunterston A took the report as read. He advised that site safety remained crucial with it being 20 months since the last lost time accident or medical case. Mr Stubbs stated that they had focused in the past year on working at height, resulting in an emphasis on improving this across the company.

Mr Stubbs made reference to the European Week of Safety which had covered various topics and had been well attended by the workforce and contractors. Mr Stubbs indicated the focus on pond decommissioning and ILW. He added that they had completed a milestone for 1500m squared of wall area and that they were down to 4ft 9 inches with the next milestone to achieve 3ft by the summer of 2014.

Mr Stubbs confirmed that high dose rate items were successfully retrieved, secured and dispatched off-site to Sellafield. Good progress continued in relation to the solid active waste bunker retrieval project with this being on schedule and bunker breakthrough planned for February/March 2014. With regard to the solid intermediate level waste encapsulation project, Mr Stubbs confirmed that detailed design had been completed for the building and they were working with two companies to tender and commence building the facility in June 2014.

Mr Stubbs indicated that with regard to the wet intermediate level waste, the building was largely completed and they continued with commissioning of that facility for use next year. The ILW store was ready and they had received the licence instrument to allow the use of the store from ONR.

Mr Stubbs concluded that they continued to have regular site visits from NDA to ensure they were satisfied with the completed work. He explained that Pond Teams from Sellafield had visited to observe the pond decommissioning work and that this had proved a great opportunity to share ideas with another team. Mr Stubbs was pleased with the SSG tour and hoped to continue to have regular visits from security regulators and SEPA.

Mr John Lamb raised the issue of the ponds at Bradwell which had been drained; the inside coated with a radio-active retardant coating and enquired whether this was forecast for Hunterston. Mr Stubbs confirmed that there were two possible end points with the current plan being to work on the walls and then demolish the building. He advised however that they were closely monitoring the work at Bradwell which could prove an alternative option, however they were not in a position to make a decision at the present time. Mr Stubbs advised that work would commence in the next financial year to look at the end result and define the requirements for Hunterston. He gave assurances that whatever the result, it would be safe and environmentally secure.

Mr Tony Bale, Magnox stated that it was his belief that the end state had already been determined after in-depth consultation exercises across several towns to determine the final state and that SSG had been assured by NDA that this was the final position. He expressed concern that if this end state were to change, the Site would have to approach local council for planning permission to amend it and discuss the change with Scottish Government and the Regulators. Mr Stubbs agreed that currently the plan was a three box strategy and at this point, they would try and do the best thing for the environment but if in the future it was the right thing to do to make a change, assurances would be given that there would be proper consultation with the community.

Mr Bale requested an update on baseline figures for CP7 compound. Mr Stubbs advised that this information had been communicated to the SSG via a presentation during their recent visit to Site and that he had brought copies of the presentation with him to the meeting and was happy to address any questions/queries which arose. Mr Bale stated that it was his belief that it had been agreed that this information would be provided on a regular basis as part of the on-going environmental report.

Mr Stubbs clarified that he would not present it at every meeting as it may be considered monotonous; however the information was available on request at any time with the project engineer available to give further information if necessary. Mr Bale stressed the importance of this information as lifetime records were being kept and therefore data should be available on an on-going basis. Mr Stubbs suggested that if the SSG wished to see the information it would be made available and could be included within future reports.

Mr Bale emphasised the importance of taking on local apprenticeships and training packages and noted that there was definitive financial encouragement to do this. Mr Bale requested that this information be conveyed to Magnox and that they should reconsider taking on more local apprentices and providing training for young people for a future within the British workforce. Councillor Robert Barr commented that more information could be obtained from North Ayrshire Council highlighting the monetary incentives connected with employing local young people.

From within the public audience Mr Reuben Phillips responded to a request from Mr Allan Rice and gave further explanation of the very low level waste associated with radio-active discharges.

Mrs Holmes noted an issue in relation to dust deposits related to box lid bolting. Mr Stubbs indicated that the dust had accumulated electrostatically and would have occurred whether grouted or ungrouted due to the graphite material. He added that a vibration plate had been placed on the underside of the lid to avoid accumulation of dust.

In response to a point raised by Mr Allan Rice on radiological safety in relation to employees entering the restricted area and doses given, Mr Stubbs confirmed that most employees entered radiological controlled areas at some point but that there were different grades of areas. He clarified that contractors were employed to do the higher hazard work and that doses inflicted on staff were low. He added that specialists from ONR inspect the work carried out to ensure doses are as low as practical and contamination control is good with them being satisfied that this was being carried out to a good standard. Mr Reuben Phillips offered further explanation on the method of reporting.

Mrs Holmes inquired as to whether there were any very low level waste sites in Scotland and whether there was a facility planned for Polmont. Mr Ewan Young, Scottish Government confirmed that there was a hazardous waste site at Polmont but was unsure whether it dealt with very low level waste and agreed to look into this. **(Action 03)**

## **7B. ONR REPORT**

In the absence of any representation from ONR in relation to A Station, Mrs Holmes proposed any questions be conveyed via the Secretariat.

Mrs Holmes noted that the Licensee had discovered that records of some of the sealed radio-active sources used for laboratory and testing purposes were inconsistent. Mr Stubbs gave further explanation noting that a few forms had been corrected stating that this had been an internal matter and activities were regularly tested over and above requirements of the Regulators, who were satisfied that the Station had acted correctly.

In relation to the monitoring of the air and gases in the bunkers, Mrs Holmes enquired about the lower hydrogen detected. Mr Stubbs stated that the expectation would be that there would be some hydrogen in the bunkers but it had to be kept to a low level. There had been recent concern that the detectors within the bunker were shown to be working below the lower specified range, however the detectors had been checked and were working satisfactorily.

Mrs Holmes spoke of her attendance at the recent CoRWM plenary session in London where it had been highlighted that SEPA and ONR had not attended the Scottish Sites Meeting. She stated that CoRWM had commented on this and whilst she appreciated SEPA's increasing workload, she felt it had to be addressed that SEPA had failed to attend and had not submitted a report on A Station and therefore stressed that a degree of input was required. Mr John Lamb also wished it noted that the action for Mr Bill Hamilton, NDA to provide an update to the SSG had been outstanding since June 2013. Both these issues would be addressed by the Secretariat. **(Action 04)**

## 8. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATE

Mr Ewan Young, Scottish Government provided an update for the SSG. The Eleventh Meeting of the Scottish Nuclear Sites had taken place on 24 October 2013 and was well attended. A presentation had been given on the Regulatory Reform Scotland Bill with the intention to provide regular updates to members of the Scottish Sites Group. Since the last meeting, the Bill had negotiated Stage 1 of the process with Stage 2 commencing on 4 December 2013 and was on target to be in place by late spring 2014.

In relation to the Higher Activity Waste Implementation Strategy, work was on-going to help inform different sections of the proposed implementation strategy. NDA regulators, waste managers and other stakeholders had been engaged in work as appropriate and work on different issues was progressing. This work would allow Scottish Government to have better understanding of possible long term options for waste and provide an indication of how much of the waste may be suitable for near surface disposal. Consideration was also given to an alternative baseline strategy for NDA sites in Scotland which is compliant with Scottish Government Policy. Scottish Government hoped to consult on a draft Implementation Strategy in Spring 2014.

The Nationally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) Consultation was progressing with the intention to have a consultation document along with associated strategic environmental assessment published in January 2014. Mr Young noted that there would be a 12 week consultation period with the intention to have a stakeholder workshop in Manchester during that time. Consultation and associated papers will be published on the Scottish Government website.

Mr Young discussed the "Scotland's Future - Your Guide to an Independent Scotland", the Scottish Government white paper published on 26 November 2013 and noted various ways of accessing the document as follows: [www.scotreferendum.com](http://www.scotreferendum.com). Telephone: 0300 012 1809. Hard copies are available at local libraries. Personal hard copies could be requested via email quoting full name and postcode to [referendumwhitepaper@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:referendumwhitepaper@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

In response to Mr Lamb, Mr Young made reference to three areas within the document which related to Scotland's nuclear future - Chapter 10 and questions 396, 432, 447, 448. He indicated that any further queries or questions could be submitted by contacting [www.scotreferendum.com/contact](http://www.scotreferendum.com/contact).

## 9. PUBLIC Q & A SESSION

Mr Stubbs addressed points raised by Mr David Scougall present within the public audience regarding challenges faced by the Station and relating to their level of involvement with Local Authorities and Scottish Government in relation to recent investment in Cumbrae. Mr Stubbs confirmed that they did not have any significant challenges as far as their mission in decommissioning, adding that they employed locally as much as possible with the biggest challenge being trying to find further suitable employment for the highly trained, experienced staff in the area when the site is finished and business closes. Mr Stubbs commented that in relation to social economic growth, their focus was to sustain development within Ayrshire whether it is on the mainland or on Cumbrae. Mr Stubbs discussed the Magnox socio-economic scheme and stated that they made informed investments working in partnership with North Ayrshire Council and other Local Authorities in Scotland and took all further comments on board.

Mr John Riddell, Fairlie Community Council referred to the North Ayrshire Council draft Local Development Plan which was with Scottish Ministers for consideration stating that part of that plan identified the Hunterston area as an energy hub. Mr Riddell enquired as to what discussions would be taking place from A and B Station with North Ayrshire Council in the development of this hub. Mr Stubbs explained that when a request is received via the Magnox socio-economic scheme, they would evaluate and try to look at appropriate funding and development in the area. He confirmed that for Hunterston A, it was conducted through a decommissioning authority who provide the contracts to Energy Solutions to undertake the decommissioning for Magnox sites. He added that it was a different business for Hunterston B as they were a solely private enterprise. He confirmed however that no-one had approached them from North Ayrshire Council and agreed it was something that they required to give due consideration.

Councillor Robert Barr enquired whether Western Link had applied to join the SSG. Mr Stubbs confirmed that they had spoken to Western Link and they had asked whether the SSG was an appropriate portal to speak to the local community. Mr Stubbs advised that it had been felt inappropriate and whilst they fully supported the need to speak to the local community, this should be conducted via Western Link's own arrangements.

## 10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next SSG Meeting will be held on Thursday, 6 March 2014 in the Lauriston Hotel, Ardrossan.

## ACTION LIST

### Thirty-Fourth Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group Meeting

Thursday, 5 December 2013

No	Action	Responsible	Target Date	Status/Comments
01	To issue a note of thanks to Mr Kemp for his involvement on behalf of the SSG.	Secretariat	06/03/14	
02	To establish whether Mr Jack's property was out-with or near to the boundary (with regards to 43 households within the 2.4km boundary being issued potassium iodate tablets from the Station).	Mr J Morrison	06/03/14	
03	To investigate whether Polmont could accommodate very low level waste.	Mr E Young	06/03/14	
04	To investigate Action 02 from SSG Meeting 06/06/13 (see below) and SEPA's non-attendance at Scottish Sites Meetings.	Secretariat	06/03/14	

C/Fwd - Thursday, 6 June 2013

No	Action	Responsible	Target Date	Status/Comments
02	To provide an update on the outlined agreement regarding support for SSG from EDF.	Mr B Hamilton	05/09/13	On-going