



Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

**THE THIRTY-SECOND SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY, 6 JUNE 2013, BRISBANE HOUSE HOTEL, LARGS**

Present:

Magnox Ltd

Mr Mark Stubbs
Mr Derek Rooney
Mr Sean Marshall
Mr Tony Bale (Trade Union Representative)

Community Councillors

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

Community Council Representatives

Mr Douglas MacFarlane (Largs)

Councillors

Cllr Robert Barr
Cllr Alex McLean

In Attendance

Mr Reuben Phillips, Magnox Ltd
Mr Andrew Taylor, EDF Energy
Mr Ewan Young, Scottish Government
Mr David Whyte, Ayrshire Civil Contingencies

Several members of the public were also in attendance

Apologies:

Mr Adam Stackhouse, Mr Malek Ghannad, Councillor Tom Marshall, Mr Angus Cochrane-Patrick, Inspector Gordon Jones, Ms Hazel Henderson, Councillor Elizabeth McLardy, Mr Colin Weir and Mr Ian Frame.

EDF Energy

Mr John Morrison
Mr Stuart McGhie (Trade Union Representative)

NDA

Mr Bill Hamilton

ONR

Mr Chris Kemp

SEPA

Mr Keith Hammond

North Ayrshire Council

Mr Hugh McGhee

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1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Mrs Rita Holmes welcomed everyone to the 32nd meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group (SSG).

2. CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR UPDATES/CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs Holmes noted the apologies which had been received.

Mrs Holmes informed the SSG of her attendance at the Scottish Sites and Scottish Government Higher Active Waste Implementation Strategy meetings with Mr John Lamb. Mrs Holmes noted that she had already reported back on these meetings to all members. She advised the SSG of her attendance at the recent quarterly meeting of all SSG Chairs in London.

No declarations of interest were noted from SSG members.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Action 01 – Cllr Robert Barr to approach North Ayrshire Licensing and Planning Departments regarding the blasting issue and provide feedback.

Cllr Barr contacted the department and provided Mr Derek Rooney with the relevant information. **(Status - Closed)**

Action 02 – Mr Hugh McGhee, North Ayrshire Council, to contact the Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Manager regarding the emergency evacuation procedure for Millport.

Mr McGhee noted that he had contacted the Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Manager, Mr David Whyte, who was in attendance at today's meeting. In response, Mr Whyte stated that whilst there was no definitive plan for any evacuation procedure, a strategic overview would be taken by the Strategic Management Council in conjunction with partner agencies (Police, Fire and Rescue, Maritime Coastguard Agency and the Met Office) with regard to any action required to alleviate suffering and risk. Whilst it was common practice to stay indoors during emergency situations, there were occasions where it was prudent to move to safer locations. Strategic Commanders would identify such required locations and any necessary support requirements to assist in the passage of affected residents to an alternative location.

Mr Whyte confirmed that decisions taken would be in relation to information available and addressed by emergency planners and responders at the time. **(Status – Closed)**

Action 03 – Mr Mark Stubbs to give a presentation on the grouting and encapsulation of ILW.

A presentation was scheduled to take place at today's Meeting. **(Status - Closed)**



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 this information had been provided via email and indicated any further questions could be addressed at future meetings by a gaseous expert.

(Status – Closed)

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

With two minor typographical changes indicated, the minutes were approved by Cllr Robert Barr and seconded by Mr John Lamb. Cllr Barr and Mr Lamb also approved and seconded the housekeeping and extraordinary minutes respectively.

5A. HUNTERSTON B STATION

Mr John Morrison took the report as read. Mr Morrison noted that safety remained good and the Station had celebrated five years without lost time incident. With regard to Reactor four planned interim outage, all safety targets had been met. Mr Morrison noted the introduction of new safety working groups to focus on various areas, including hand safety, working at height, manual handling, asbestos and sharing of knowledge between site and contract partners.

Mr Morrison indicated that there had been no significant environmental events in the period. With reference to emergency arrangements, he highlighted the success of an annual Level One exercise which had taken place at Hunterston and covered both nuclear and counter terrorism events with regulators happy with the ability to respond to both simultaneously. Mr Morrison added that there had been no radiological protection events in the period.

Mr Morrison highlighted the Company had recorded its best monthly output in eight years which was an important milestone.

It was noted that 2,100 people had attended site tours since the Visitor Centre opened in August with a further 430 booked for tours during May and June.

Mr Morrison commented that the Station was sponsoring Generation Science shows as part of the challenge to encourage people into the nuclear industry. He advised that five males and two females had been offered apprenticeships and the Station were also in the process of recruiting a number of positions in engineering and graduate grades.

Mr Lamb requested more information regarding the SEPA environmental safety report which mentioned that there had been a number of enhancements to the programme. Mr Morrison advised that this was an ongoing improvement programme and expressed the hope to deliver the plan on schedule. Mr Keith Hammond, SEPA, confirmed that this related to a district survey and as things changed, it is vital that this is reflected within the programme. Mr Hammond added that a habit survey had been carried out last summer with results being available within the next few months.

Mr Lamb enquired whether there would be the requirement to increase staff due to the number of visitors to site. Mr Morrison confirmed that staffing levels were based on 3,500 visitors per year and should that increase, they would address this matter.

Cllr Barr wished to note his thanks on behalf of North Ayrshire Council to all the staff at Hunterston B on their achievement of reaching five years without a lost time accident.

With regard to the habit survey that was carried out, Mr Allan Rice asked who pays for this. Mr Hammond confirmed that the cost comes out of SEPA's budget, who then charge it back to B Station.

Mr Rice asked if consideration is given to which herbicides and pesticides are used by the contractor responsible for cutting grass next to the Station given that it was a specific habitat area. Mr Hammond stated he was not aware of this as it was a separate programme. Mr Andrew Taylor, EDF, added that the land being referred to was not part of the operation site and was instead part of the Hunterston Estate.

In response to a question raised by Mrs Holmes as to the reasoning behind the removal of a fuel assembly, Mr Morrison confirmed that this was part of the normal process for inspecting the core, and that a small percentage was removed every year for inspection. Mr Morrison stated that, whilst being removed, this fuel assembly had shown an increase in friction. A decision was therefore made to return it to its location and this would be reviewed at the next outage.

5B. SEPA REPORT

Mr Hammond took the report as read. He wished to add that there had been a significant amount of engagement between SEPA, ONR and EDF and that he had attended a recent annual safety review meeting. Mr Hammond highlighted that efforts had been made by the Station regarding oil storage which had been carried out to a good standard.

Mr Douglas McFarlane enquired if there was anything of interest within the improvements in identifying the process hazard review. Mr Hammond advised that this referred to the ongoing Hydrazine issue and that a programme was in place with completion later in the year.

Mr Rice asked for more information regarding the greenhouse gas permit and gas training for the Emissions Trading Scheme, enquiring as to whether they would buy or sell off carbon. Mr Hammond advised that it could be traded back and forth with certain allowances largely based on their combustion. Mr Andrew Taylor offered more information on this, confirming that the scheme was based on installed capacity of diesel generation or the ability to consume diesel fuel. Under this scheme, the company must buy carbon permits in advance in order to permit the discharges. Mr Taylor advised that further information could be obtained online.

Mr Lamb requested further information in relation to a recent application to erect storage for hazardous substances. Mr Taylor explained that this related to planning permission for existing facilities, confirming that no new facilities were intended. He added that it was his understanding that this was either a change in legislation or the permit had been omitted from the original licence arrangement which had now been regularised.

6A. HUNTERSTON A REPORT

Mr Mark Stubbs took the report as read. Mr Stubbs highlighted that safety performance remained good with the Site now over 16 months since its last lost-time accident. He made reference to the fact that behavioral safety and human performance improvements were being strongly enforced by the management team and workforce to continuously improve upon the Site's safety performance.



Mr Stubbs stated that the pond decommissioning team had cleaned 1148m² of the pond wall area, and that work to remediate the CP7 compound was nearing completion. A drainage system to prevent flooding was currently being implemented and additional work to straighten out the curvature of the access road and landscaping was expected to be complete in August.

Mr Stubbs confirmed that work was being undertaken to ensure the ILW Store would be ready to receive its first active package. He mentioned the requirement of licence instruments and was intending on submitting an application to ONR in June 2013 for permission to use the Store. Commissioning of the wet ILW retrieval and encapsulation plant was going steadily with the intention to commence active commissioning during July.

Mr Stubbs informed the SSG of a minor environmental event that occurred when a member of the public noticed a hose pipe, which had been placed underneath a fence near the CP7 work area, that was discharging water to the road. Mr Stubbs clarified that the hose was pumping water from an area where work had been undertaken on a manhole which required to be kept clear of groundwater. He noted that work had ceased when this matter was reported and a report was submitted to SEPA. Mr Stubbs concluded that the hose had been moved to ensure it was discharging onto unmade ground rather than the roadway.

Mr Stubbs highlighted the Site's future intention to commence consignment of very low level waste to a suitably licenced facility in accordance with existing Radioactive Substances Act authorisation.

With regard to the CP7 compound, Mr Tony Bale enquired as to what was in place to monitor future contamination levels. Mr Stubbs explained that an extensive characterisation process had been completed. This ensured that the specific area of contamination was identified, allowing the bentonite slurry wall to be installed around that area. He added that boreholes were being put in place, and during high rainfall periods, it was expected that the water table would rise. This situation would be monitored with the expectation of virtually no change within the contaminated area itself. Mr Stubbs explained that the Site would continue monitoring until the Site and SEPA were completely satisfied the facility was working well. He concluded that all tests carried out to date had exceeded the design specification and had been extremely successful.

Mr McFarlane referred to the suggestion of putting very low level waste into a repository North of England and noted complaints in the media about large amounts of waste from Scotland to Cumbria. Mr Bill Hamilton, NDA, offered an explanation stating that the complaint from a very small unrepresentative group in Cumbria is about very low level waste from Scotland going to Lillyhall in Cumbria. He clarified that this complaint is completely incorrect as the waste was not being sent to Lillyhall, instead it is brokered through Low Level Waste Repository Ltd (who manage and operate the UK's primary facility for the permanent disposal of solid low level waste) to other specially licensed landfill sites in England as per government policy.

In response to Mrs Holmes who had expressed concern in relation waste being sifted through, Mr Stubbs stated that Hunterston A had containers of low and very low level waste with provisions in place to ensure they were correctly characterised and consigned for disposal to the correct facility.

Mr Stuart McGhie added that in the broader debate, it wasn't purely a case of Sites keeping their own waste, more specific sites and repositories for specific wastes.



Mr Bale referred to previous discussions about building a smelter at Hunterston A. He suggested this would take care of most waste issues but noted that the idea was not favorable with residents of Fairlie and surrounding areas, neither would it be deemed cost effective. Mr Bale commended Hunterston A's process of re-categorisation of material before it was placed into containers. Mr Stubbs indicated that whilst at present the Site was not producing a great deal of waste, in a few years time the deplanting of Hunterston A will generate huge amounts of steel and concrete and emphasized the importance that this would be undertaken in the best environmental manner.

With regard to radioactive discharges, Mr Rice enquired about The Radioactive Substances Exemption (Scotland) Order 2011 and if there was a similar order in England. Mr Reuben Phillips advised that exemption levels were similar but in England they now have environmental permitting regulations.

Mrs Holmes enquired if the Site intended to remove any of the pond furniture. Mr Stubbs confirmed that this was in the process of being carried out, with the intention to remove pond furniture then treat, decontaminate and size reduce before appropriately consigning it as waste.

Mrs Holmes enquired about breaking through into the bunkers to retrieve graphite and how far this work had progressed. Mr Stubbs advised that the focus had been predominantly on wet ILW as opposed to solid ILW, however good progress had been made with the intention to break through into bunker five around February 2014. Mr Stubbs invited the SSG members to Hunterston A for a tour of the Solid Active Waste Bunker Retrieval facility and the Wet Intermediate Level Waste Retrieval and Encapsulation plant whilst the opportunity to access these areas was still available. The secretariat took an action to make arrangements and send invites. **(Action 01)**

6B. SEPA REPORT

Mr Adam Stackhouse, SEPA, had submitted apologies for the meeting, however Mr Hammond offered to take any questions on his behalf.

Mr Lamb requested that the SSG be kept up to date with issues raised regarding the ILW Store. Mr Stubbs advised that SEPA wished assurance that information would be kept on all ILW waste packages that are transferred into the Store. Mr Lamb enquired as to the methods used to record and maintain such information so that it did not become inaccessible over time as technology progressed. Mr Stubbs advised that a rigorous process was in place regarding what is recorded on all packages. Mr Phillips clarified that there is a Company Standard which states that five different methods of recording be undertaken in line with Government standards on how to retrieve and maintain data to ensure that the information is accessible. This included PDF files, two different paper records, photographs and microfilms to mitigate the chance of not being able to get access to the data in the future.

Mrs Holmes enquired whether there was written justification for ungrouted packages going into the Store and if the public could access this information. Mr Stubbs advised that the Site had been producing a safety case to ONR and a best practicable means case to SEPA which was available to view upon request. Mr Hammond added that provided it contained nothing of national security or a commercially confidential nature, this could be released for information by SEPA in agreement with Magnox.

6C ONR REPORT

Mr Chris Kemp took the report as read and highlighted that with regards to waste being transferred to the ILW Store, a report had to be written and approved which provided recommendations. Mr Kemp confirmed that consultation had taken place with SEPA and particular thought had been placed on the type of inspections requested prior to packages being placed in the Store. Mr Kemp advised that his report would be available online.

Mrs Holmes enquired if Hunterston A resins were different from those of the MOD. Mr Kemp clarified that whilst similar characteristics, MOD resins were used in chemical processes that cleaned primary circuits of submarines and that Hunterston A resins were generally used for keeping the pond clean.

Replying to a point raised by Mrs Holmes regarding Site boundary doses and monitoring dose rates throughout the UK, Mr Kemp noted that this was an ongoing job of measuring dose rates around nuclear sites and would report back any findings to the SSG as they became available.

6D. NDA UPDATE

Mr Bill Hamilton advised that the Magnox/RSRL competition engagement sessions had successfully taken place throughout the UK, allowing stakeholders to put forward their issues and concerns with each of the bidders. He added that there would be another opportunity to speak to the bidders before the competition process ended.

Mr Hamilton confirmed that the NDA's Annual Report and Accounts would go before Parliament on 24 June 2013, and made public later that day. Further information would be available on the NDA website in due course.

With regards to the NDA National Stakeholder Event, changes are being made to this event. Focus up until now had been on strategy, however feedback suggests that stakeholders wish to see more focus on delivery. It was also felt that these stakeholder events were always held in Manchester, bringing business into the Manchester economy rather than economies around NDA sites. As a result, the suitability of holding events at locations near to the sites will be trialed and a hotel near Bradwell will host the next event on 21-22 October 2013.

In response to a question raised by Mr John Lamb, Mr Hamilton agreed to report back on the outlined agreement about support for SSGs from EDF Energy. **(Action 02)**

7. PRESENTATION ON GROUTING AND ENCAPSULATION OF ILW

Mr Reuben Phillips gave a presentation on the grouting and encapsulation of ILW from which the following talking points arose.

Mr Lamb enquired as to whether the 3m³ drums for encapsulating wet ILW were vented. Mr Stubbs explained that gases were generated as part of the natural chemical curing process, therefore the drums did have a vent. Mr Stubbs added that there are no significant radiological emissions given off as the material itself is covered in concrete with a cap at the top.

In terms of regulatory requirements for ILW, Mr Kemp commented that Hunterston A had pursued what was the National Strategy and nationally understood to be the best process. He noted that most Magnox sites will put their waste into "yellow boxes" (thick-walled iron containers) that do not immobilize the waste but are said to be sufficiently safe. He added that it was not a case of Hunterston A following the only regulatory line, merely the most established one.



Mr Stuart McGhie asked whether it would be best practice financially to establish and continue with one operation rather than multiple methods of storage. Mr Kemp advised that finance was outside of his remit. There is a requirement to ensure risks are as low as reasonably practicable and this takes account of costs to reduce risks. He added that if individuals wished to propose different ways of achieving the same ends, ONR would have to decide whether it was safe enough and that is currently what they are doing. Mr Stubbs added that the ILW Store now had capacity for 2,500 packages, with the estimation that Hunterston A will use around 1,600 packages (1,200 boxes of solid waste and 400 drums of wet waste). Additionally, Mr Stubbs indicated that the Site had been in consultation with Hunterston B regarding the potential for storing an additional 300 packages. Mr Stubbs indicated that discussions relating to this matter were ongoing as there were benefits of storing B Station's waste within the ILW Store.

In response to a question raised by Mr Rice as to whether hydrogen produced during curing was flammable, Mr Phillips advised that the Store was designed so that there was no accumulation of hydrogen from a chemical point of view.

Mr Hugh McGhee asked whether they would expect the encapsulation process to completely attenuate all radioactivity. Mr Phillips confirmed that there would still be a considerable amount of radioactivity off the packages, and that all the encapsulation process was doing was fixing the waste into solid form. He added that although the actual drum is solid, it had a number of components inside which could move around until encapsulated. Mr Phillips noted that once the first active package is transferred to the Store, there would be no man access with operations being carried out remotely.

Responding to Mrs Holmes, Mr Stubbs advised that the SILWE encapsulation plant would be situated on rough ground to the east of the ILW Store with a footprint of approximately 50m by 40m in size.

8. PUBLIC Q & A SESSION

Mr Ewan Young from The Scottish Government's Radioactive Waste and Nuclear Decommissioning Policy team offered the following update to the SSG:

A higher activity waste implementation strategy meeting was held on 29 April 2013 with a further meeting scheduled for July 2013. Mr Young confirmed that the main aim of the strategy was to produce a high level framework in which waste management decisions can be taken to ensure government policy for higher active waste is implemented in a safe, environmentally acceptable and cost effective manner. He informed the SSG that the Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Bill was introduced into Scottish Parliament on 27 March 2013 and was under scrutiny by two parliamentary committees - The Economy Energy Tourism Committee and Rural Affairs Climate Change and Environment Committee.

Mr Young noted the level of commitment to maintain a high level of stakeholder engagement on this programme and was hopeful to provide a further update in October 2013.

9. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 5 September 2013 in the Lauriston Hotel, Ardrossan.

Ms Rita Holmes
SSG Vice Chair

ACTION LIST

Thirty-Second Site Stakeholder Group Meeting

Thursday, 6 June 2013

No	Action	Responsible	Target Date	Status/Comments
01	To facilitate a tour of the Hunterston A SAWBR and WILWREP facilities for SSG members.	Mr M Stubbs/ Mr D Rooney	5/9/13	
02	To provide an update on the outlined agreement regarding support for SSG from EDF.	Mr B Hamilton	5/9/13	

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