



Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

**THE THIRTY-THIRD SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2013, LAURISTON HOTEL, ARDROSSAN**

Present:

Magnox Ltd

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

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 Elizabeth McLardy
Cllr Tom Marshall
Cllr Alan Hill
Cllr Alex McLean

In Attendance

Mr Reuben Phillips, Magnox Ltd
Mr Allan McRae, CNC
Mrs Sue Fletcher, EDF Energy
Ms Lindsey Ingram, EDF Energy
Mr Andrew Taylor, EDF Energy
Ms Kirstie Barbour, UK Nuclear Restoration Ltd

Several members of the public were also in attendance

Apologies:

Mr Colin Weir (EDF Energy), Mr Stuart McGhie (EDF Energy), Mr Malek Ghannad (ONR), Mr Chris Kemp (ONR), Inspector Gordon Jones (Police Scotland) and Mr Bill Hamilton (NDA).

EDF Energy

Mr John Morrison

NDA

Mr David Batters

SEPA

Mr Keith Hammond

Scottish Government

Mr Ewan Young

North Ayrshire Council

Mr Hugh McGhee

Hunterston Estate

Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick
Mr Ralston Ryder

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1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Mrs Rita Holmes welcomed everyone to the 33rd meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group (SSG).

2. CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR UPDATES/CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs Holmes informed the SSG of her attendance at various meetings and reported back to all members:

- 20 June 2013: Magnox UK Chairs Meeting with EnergySolutions;
- 03 July 2013: Non-Governmental Organisation Meeting with DECC
- 31 July 2013: Scottish Government Higher Active Waste Implementation Strategy Meetings (also attended by Mr John Lamb, Vice Chair)

Mrs Holmes and Mr Lamb had also recently attended an NDA Bidders Conference, commenting that the meetings had been tense as the date for the final bid drew near. Mr Lamb confirmed that all final bids had to be submitted to the NDA by 1 November 2013 with successful bidders being informed on 14 March 2014. He concluded that public announcement of the bid was scheduled for 31 March 2014 with the new consortium taking over on 14 September 2014.

During October, Mrs Holmes advised she and Mr Lamb would be attending the Annual National Stakeholder Group Meeting at Bradwell in addition to the Scottish Sites Meeting and also the Scottish Government Higher Active Waste Implementation Strategy Board Meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Action 01 – To facilitate a tour of the Hunterston A SAWBR and WILWREP facilities for SSG members.

Mrs Holmes confirmed that this had been arranged for 25 September 2013 and that invites had been sent by the Secretariat. **(Status - Closed)**

Action 02 – Mr Bill Hamilton, NDA to provide an update on the outlined agreement regarding support for SSG and EDF.

Mr David Batters stated that Mr Hamilton was in discussion with Magnox and EDF regarding funding. **(Status – On-going)**

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

5A. HUNTERSTON B STATION

Mr John Morrison took the report as read. Mr Morrison highlighted another good quarter for Hunterston B in terms of safety performance, with it being five and a half years since the Station's last absence through injury. It is an expectation that the Station will achieve 2000 days since its last lost-time accident.

Mr Morrison informed the SSG of the renovation of the Site's Safety Centre which was due to re-open on 19 September 2013, coinciding with the aforementioned 2000 day milestone.

With regard to environmental safety, Mr Morrison reported that the combination of low tides and elevated ambient temperatures had caused the cooling water discharge temperature to rise closer than normal to the return to sea water temperature limit. He added that whilst the limit had not been reached, a decision was taken to reduce some power output to avoid the warmer water limit for the return to sea. This work had been completed quickly and effectively. Mr Morrison also made the SSG aware that a small oil tank had been overfilled and drain pumps had been shut-off to prevent small releases of oil to sea. He highlighted the effort which had been undertaken to learn from these near misses, thus ensuring no repetition. This was deemed a very important part of the Site Safety Policy.

In relation to emergency arrangements, Mr Morrison added that the Station was continuing with training and exercising which was relentless all year round. There had been an improvement in performance with regard to radiological protection.

Mr Morrison noted the Station's generation performance, stating that both units continuously operated at optimum power with the exception of a refuelling load reduction on both units.

Mr Morrison confirmed that the Company had announced a three year charity partnership with Marie Curie Cancer Care.

In relation to carbon emissions targets, Mr Morrison highlighted that Ofgem had been complimentary in terms of the Station performing above set targets and that a lot had been undertaken in terms of supporting installation of energy efficiency measures. He added that £560 million had been invested back into the business over the last 12 months which kept the Station in a strong position.

The Hunterston B Visitor Centre has reported over 3000 visitors and there has been a new intake of apprentices who will undergo induction and a four year training programme.

Mr Morrison commended Hunterston B on achieving a Silver Healthy Working Lives Award and intimated that the Station was now working towards achieving a Gold Award.

Mr Allan Rice raised a question relating to accreditation from Lloyds Register who had visited the Station recently and whether this body re-accredited Occupational Health & Safety, Environmental Management and Quality Management Schemes. Mr Morrison confirmed that Lloyds accredited all three and highlighted certain areas where rigorous monitoring had been carried out to ensure standards were being met. He added that the Station had been awarded a clean bill of health.

In relation to generation, Mrs Holmes asked Mr Morrison for further explanation on the boilers superheat margin project. Mr Morrison advised that this project (which had been on-going for

over a year), was to increase output and that the Station was able to increase superheat margins without it affecting plant. This had resulted in obtaining a further 60 megawatts out of the plant. Mrs Holmes expressed concern relating to original lessening of the power due to problems with bifurcations in the boilers and enquired as to how the Station checked this. Mr Morrison responded that checks were undertaken at every outage with teams sent in non-destructively to inspect all boiler components on the edge of the reactor and inside the containment.

Mrs Holmes requested an update at the next meeting on moisture monitoring equipment.

(Action 01)

Mr Rice enquired with the forthcoming opening of the new wind farm, whether EDF had offset carbon against this as an entire company. Mr Morrison indicated that this was the case, advising that EDF had to purchase allowances to generate carbon.

In response to Mrs Holmes, Mr Morrison indicated that the three main hazardous chemicals on Site were Sodium Hypochlorite, Ammonia and Hydrazine and offered further explanation of their uses on site.

Mrs Holmes noted two areas of concern; firstly questioning whether contractors working at Hunterston B were overseen correctly, and secondly, the on-going problem with articulated rods that had been discussed at previous meetings. Mr Morrison clarified that the rod mentioned was fuel assembly and not a control rod, therefore no further problems had been noted. The intention is to review, inspect and remove the rod during the next outage. In relation to contractors, Mr Morrison advised that EDF field supervisors were in place for overseeing contract partners who are asked to apply certain Site standards as a minimum requirement. He also confirmed that extensive training was given to contract partners.

5B. SEPA REPORT

Mr Keith Hammond took the report as read. Mr Hammond explained that a few meetings had taken place between SEPA and EDF to discuss radioactive substances. Mr Hammond advised that discussions had ensued around their baseline decommissioning for both Hunterston B and Torness and confirmed that SEPA had been given a description of EDF's technical governance arrangements.

In relation to future prevention and controlled activities regulations, Mr Hammond highlighted that two inspectors had visited Hunterston B and no significant issues were noted. Mr Lamb asked for clarification as to what was considered a 'non-significant issue'. In response, Mr Hammond explained that this could refer to another procedure that subsequently had been removed/amended and not deemed to be endangering the environment.

Mr Rice enquired whether a waste oil burner could be used at Hunterston B. Mr Morrison explained that it could not as the Station did not burn enough oil to make it worthwhile having a local heating system and that instead, it was sent for reprocessing.

Mrs Holmes questioned enhancements to the programme that had been agreed with SEPA as part of a recent inspection relating to off-site monitoring. Mr Morrison indicated that this work was on-going. Mr Hammond added that this work had started in 2007 when the Station revamped the Environmental Monitoring District Survey, confirming that the Environmental Monitoring Programme was a subset of the District Survey which responded to local changes that occurred.

6. ONR REPORT

In the absence of Mr Malek Ghannad, Mrs Holmes requested that any questions relating to the ONR report be sent to Mr Derek Rooney who would forward to Mr Ghannad.

7. HUNTERSTON A REPORT

Mr Mark Stubbs took the report as read, noting that it had been over 18 months since the Site has experienced either a lost-time or medical injury accident, equating to over one million man hours. Mr Stubbs stated that safety remained paramount at Hunterston A, as did the care of the environment.

Mr Stubbs explained that work to clean and drain the pond continued to progress well, with the depth now at 5ft 2" in comparison to 21ft 6" at its time of commencement.

Mr Stubbs was happy to report that work to remediate the Site's Catch Pit 7 (CP7) compound is now complete, which involved the isolation of contaminated land, construction of a new permanent access road, installation of new drainage systems and landscaping of the finished work area. Mr Stubbs commented that this had represented the first major land remediation project by a Magnox site and a lessons learned exercise had been conducted in order to share information with other sites across the fleet.

Mr Stubbs noted that work to retrieve solid intermediate level waste (ILW) from the bunkers situated on site continued to progress and that breakthrough into the bunkers was on schedule to commence in February 2014. Mr Stubbs added that the detailed design of the facility to encapsulate this waste had been completed during September 2013 and groundwork for its construction had commenced. The main construction work was scheduled to begin in June 2014.

Mr Stubbs explained that the non-active commissioning of the wet ILW retrieval encapsulation plant (WILWREP) had proved challenging and as a result, was slightly behind schedule due to some equipment issues. It was noted however that these were now being overcome with the intention for the plant to be up and running in the coming months.

Mr Tony Bale asked for further clarification of what was meant by "challenging". In response, Mr Stubbs advised that the WILWREP was a "first of its kind" and that some unique parts of the plant had never been used before. If a section of plant did not work as expected, then it would have to be changed or redesigned. This, along with a few minor design issues, had resulted in the work being slightly behind schedule. Mr Stubbs stated that at times decommissioning is not easy, but the Site was ready to meet the challenges and would keep the SSG informed.

Mr Stubbs commented that the ILW Store and cross site transporter had been working well and were ready to receive packages once produced.

Mr Bale raised concern surrounding no report or update being available in relation to CP7. Mr Stubbs offered to make available the initial test results that had been carried out following installation of the Bentonite slurry wall. So far, results had been very encouraging and had shown to be beyond specification. He explained that boreholes had recently been installed to measure the water level, with the expectation being that during the winter months, the water table would rise whereas during summer, it would be expected to fall.



Mr Rice requested further clarification on “utilisation of contractors” as mentioned in Section 3.1 of the Hunterston A Site Report. Mr Stubbs confirmed that Magnox employees are given the opportunity to apply for jobs where appropriate, but otherwise contractors or agency supply workers were used to cover short-term projects as and when required. Mr Stubbs explained that the Trade Unions were aware of and satisfied with this process.

Mrs Holmes requested an update on the detailed design of the solid ILW encapsulation facility. Mr Stubbs confirmed that he would provide an update when Mrs Holmes and other SSG members visited the Site on Wednesday 25 September 2013.

In response to a request from Mr Rice, Mr Stubbs agreed to provide information on the biodiversity action plan at the next SSG meeting in December 2013. **(Action 02)**

8. NDA UPDATE

Mr David Batters, NDA Chief Financial Officer, addressed the SSG in the absence of Mr Bill Hamilton.

Mr Batters stated that the NDA's Annual Report had been published in record time this year and gave evidence of the confidence the National Audit Office had in the NDA and association with the Treasury.

Mr Batters explained that the one year spending round had gone well despite the tough economic environment. Whilst there had been a 4% cut in the government grant awarded, the NDA had been able to maintain their overall budget by increased assumptions on their income. Mr Batters spoke about the NDA's unique relationship with UK Government in that they had special access to the Treasury's reserve. He stated that the NDA were awarded approximately £3 billion per year, over half of which went to Sellafield with the rest divided between Magnox, Dounreay and Research Sites Restoration Ltd (RSRL).

In response to a point raised by Mr Bale, Mr Stubbs confirmed that Hunterston A Site was adequately funded. Mr Batters added that the aforementioned £3 billion was allocated based on operating plans and explained the balance of trying to complete decommissioning as quickly as possible. Mr Batters stated that this financial year, Magnox had requested £5 million over and above what they had been allocated. Due to portfolio management, Mr Batters advised that this had been awarded and would be spent at Wylfa Site in support of its continued generation programme.

Mr Bale enquired about on-going recruitment issues across the Magnox fleet and reiterated the importance of recruiting from local labour.

9. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATE

Mr Ewan Young provided an update for the SSG, highlighting that the eleventh meeting of the Scottish Nuclear Sites would take place on 24 October 2013 at Scottish Government Offices in Edinburgh. In relation to the Higher Activity Waste (HAW) Implementation Strategy, Scottish Government had developed a number of “Next Steps” papers in response to the Strategy Skeleton Outline document which was agreed by the project board in April 2013. These papers identified work packages which are required to inform different sections of the strategy. Mr Young advised that the NDA, regulators, waste managers and other stakeholders had been engaged as appropriate and work on different issues was now under way. The next

meeting of the HAW project board would be held at the end of October 2013 and it was hoped substantial headway could be reported on work package progression.

Mr Young advised that the Reform (Scotland) Bill had been introduced to Parliament on 27 March 2013 and that since June, the main milestones included Mr Paul Wheelhouse, Minister for Environment and Climate Change, giving evidence to the Rural Affairs, Climate Change, and Environment Committee on 5 June 2013. Additionally, SEPA and Scottish Government facilitated a stakeholder workshop on new enforcement measures and regulatory charging scheme on 11 June 2013. Mr Young added that the team had been influencing at UK level and devolved administrations working on similar environmental regulating programmes. Feedback from stakeholders and committee looked to develop a programme for implementation which would be updated to SSG later in the year.

Mr Young stated that Mr Fergus Ewing, Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism, and Mr Derek McKay, Minister for Local Government and Planning, would give evidence to the Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee on part one of the Reform (Scotland) Bill on 11 September 2013. The committee were expected to report on stage one before October recess. Stage one debate would take place around this time and stage two would take place during November. A further stakeholder workshop would be arranged for later in 2013 on the regulatory charging scheme.

Mrs Holmes mentioned the forthcoming conference in Berlin on disposal of waste. Mr Young commented that whilst aware of the conference, no decision had been made as yet as to whether Scottish Government would be in attendance at this event.

10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 5 December 2013 in the Seamill Hydro Hotel, Seamill.

Rita Holmes
SSG Chair

ACTION LIST

Thirty-Third Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group Meeting

Thursday, 5 September 2013

No	Action	Responsible	Target Date	Status/Comments
01	Provide an update on moisture monitoring.	Mr Morrison	05/12/13	
02	Provide information on the biodiversity action plan.	Mr Stubbs	05/12/13	

Thursday, 6 June 2013

No	Action	Responsible	Target Date	Status/Comments
01	To provide a presentation in relation to the bunker and retrieval facility. To facilitate a tour of the Hunterston A SAWBR and WILWREP facilities for SSG members.	Mr M Stubbs	05/09/13	Closed (Tour 25/09/13)
02	To provide an update on the outlined agreement regarding support for SSG from EDF.	Mr B Hamilton	05/09/13	On-going