



Site Stakeholder Group

HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP FORTY SECOND MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER 2015 AT LAURISTON HOTEL, ARDROSSAN

Present

Magnox Ltd

Mr Martin Grafton (Closure Director) (Hunterston A)
Mr Sean Marshall (Communications Manager)
Mr Reuben Phillips (EHSS&Q Manager)
Mrs Jill Callander (SSG Secretariat)

EDF (Hunterston B)

Mr Colin Weir (Station Director)
Mr Andy Taylor

NDA

Mr Bill Hamilton

Community Council Representatives

Mrs Rita Holmes – SSG Chair (Fairlie CC)
Mr John Lamb – SSG Vice Chair (West Kilbride CC)
Mr Douglas MacFarlane (Largs CC)

Office for Nuclear Regulation

Mr Peter Donnelly (Hunterston A)

North Ayrshire Council

Cllr Robert Barr (Dalry and West Kilbride)
Mr Hugh McGhee (Environmental Health)
Cllr Tom Marshall (North Coast and Cumbræes)

SEPA

Mr Keith Hammond (Hunterston B)
Mr Adam Stackhouse (Hunterston A)

Scottish Government

Mr Ewan Young

NFU

Mr William Jack

In Attendance

Mrs Sheila Adams (Minutes)
Ms Marie Girvan (Balfour Beatty)
Mr Brian O'Hare (Balfour Beatty)
2 Members of Public

Apologies

Mr Gareth Dew (TU Representative)
Dr Hazel Henderson (NHS Public Health)
Mr Ryan Maitland (ONR, Hunterston B)
Mr Allan MacRae
Ms Jane McGeorge (Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Team)
Mr Alan Penman (NHS, North Ayrshire)

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks and Declarations of Interest

Mrs Holmes, Chair, welcomed everyone to the forty second meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group in the Lauriston Hotel, Ardrossan. Those present introduced themselves. Mrs Callander read out the apologies, as listed above. There were no declarations of interest.

2. Chair and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence **Manchester Science Festival – 29 October 2015**

Mrs Holmes commented on an exceptionally good presentation on the concept of it being better to accept and manage some risks and make good progress than to accept and manage no risks and make no progress.

Scottish Nuclear Sites Meeting, Edinburgh – 5 November 2015

Mr Lamb reported on this meeting which had received a presentation from the Scottish Government on the Higher Activity Waste Strategy Implementation as well as an update from Mr Bill Hamilton on the NDA's Draft Strategy 3. A response from Hunterston SSG has been sent to the NDA on the Draft Strategy 3 and a further response will be sent during the next consultation period in January.

SSG Chair's Meeting, Manchester – 17 November 2015

This meeting comprised an update on the Company, Waste Strategy, Decommissioning, Progress Reports from Sites and the proposal for a revised structure of the Communications function. This will involve streamlining of the service. Mr Sean Marshall will continue to be the Communications representative for Hunterston site. The Chairs had received assurances that the quality of service currently received will be maintained and the service will be reviewed in mid-2016.

Hunterston B

Councillors Tom Marshall and Elizabeth McLardy MBE, with Community Councillors Mrs Rita Holmes and Mr John Lamb, had been invited on site to receive a tour of the Site and a presentation on the graphite bricks which have been the subject of significant media coverage recently. Mrs Holmes had found this very informative and thought that the bricks would better be described as blocks to give a better perspective of the size.

3. Actions and Approval of Previous Minutes

Action 01 – Mrs Callander had made contact with Mr Adam Stackhouse, SEPA, who was present at the meeting – completed. **Status closed.**

The Minutes of the meeting of 17 September 2015 were proposed for approval by Mrs Rita Holmes and seconded by Mr John Lamb.

4. Hunterston B Station Reports

Hunterston B Report – Colin Weir

Mr Weir's report, circulated with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Weir pointed out the key highlights in his report to the end of October and since then. Mr Weir reported that industrial safety performance remains exceptionally good. There have been three entries in the Accident Book, from 1,500 people on site, carrying out 10,000 tasks which is an incredible testament to training and induction procedures. Indicator performances are as expected. The statutory outage of Reactor 3 ended successfully on 3 December and connection to the grid is expected within 36 hours. With regard to the cracks in the bricks or blocks as reported in the media, Mr Weir extended an invitation to SSG members to visit the Station as it is easier to explain and get

perspective by seeing the bricks, which Mrs Holmes confirmed.

EDF Energy welcomed its 100,000th visitor at its Visitor Centres, which are frequently visited by Schools and the public showing openness and transparency. There was a fantastic take-up at the Apprentice Information Days which were designed to encourage youths to take part and submit applications to the Station.

Questions and Observations

Mr McGhee referred to paragraph 2 of the report under 'Environmental Safety' and asked for more detail or examples of the 'small number of environmental related events which were managed appropriately and did not result in any environmental impact'. Mr Taylor explained that these were minor events which could have been a precursor to larger, more serious events. He gave examples of a fuel oil padlock which had not been properly applied and a road vehicle dripping oil on to the roadway which themselves were low level incidents but could have led to more serious incidents had they not been noticed and addressed.

Cllr Tom Marshall referred to his visit to Hunterston B Station to hear the presentation on the graphite blocks and asked Mr Weir to confirm the numbers affected which he considered to be relevant. Mr Weir clarified that there were 3/350 fuel channel bricks affected, during an inspection of 10% of 3,600 bricks. There are ten layers of blocks and the cracking occurred where it would be expected, on levels 4/5/6. Shrinkage or stress to the blocks is expected on these levels as they are the closest to the core. Cllr Barr asked Mr Weir his opinion of the media reports. Mr Weir considered that the media reports had been fairly balanced and were reasonably factual.

Hunterston B ONR Report – Ryan Maitland

Questions and Observations

In the absence of Mr Maitland, Mrs Holmes asked if Mr Donnelly and Mr Weir could respond to any questions on the ONR Report. She referred to Item 8 on Page 4 of the ONR Report regarding the inspection of the Station's heating and ventilation systems which 'Inspectors judged that the requirements of the safety case were not fully met by these systems'. Mrs Holmes asked for clarification on this. Mr Taylor advised that this related to the air supply and vent extract monitoring system of the heating and ventilation system which has a significant number of air intakes, fans, filters and ducts in which material deficiencies were observed, such as water leaks and corrosion, for which remedial works are being undertaken.

Referring to Item 16 on Page 5 of the report, Mrs Holmes asked about the Licence Instrument. Mr Weir explained that this approval amended Nuclear Safety Requirement 6 under Licence Condition 23(5) which allow the Station more flexibility and access to undertake more maintenance and access emergency generation equipment than was previously possible.

Mrs Holmes paid tribute to Dr Andy Hall, Chief Nuclear Inspector of ONR, whom she had met on several occasions and who had now retired. She had found him to be very helpful and open and felt that he will be missed.

Hunterston B SEPA Report – Keith Hammond

Mr Hammond's report, circulated with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Hammond advised that the next formal inspection of the site would be in the coming week with ONR. In respect of the variation to the RSA Authorisation in order to provide the Station with more flexibility in disposing of its radioactive waste, SEPA has consulted with the public, ONR, Food Standards Scotland and the Scottish Government and a decision is expected to be issued in March 2016, of which Mr Hammond will keep the SSG informed. The 2014 Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) Report is now available on SEPA's website.

Mr Hammond advised that SEPA's Chief Executive, Mr Terry A'Hearn, is on site at Hunterston B Station today meeting his counterparts.

Questions and Observations

Mrs Holmes asked Mr Weir if the Station is looking forward to receiving SEPA's decision on the variation to the RSA Authorisation. Mr Weir confirmed that this is the case.

Mrs Holmes observed that she had noticed the smell of sewage when she left the site after visiting and asked about this. Mr Hammond replied that there is an issue with the sewage plant, which is not radioactive but the last sample had failed on pH tests which is very disappointing when a lot of money has been spent on the plant. Mr Weir added that the plant levels were not right for the number of people on the site. This was a particular problem at the beginning of the outage work on Reactor 3 but the plant is now functioning correctly since adjustments were made. Mr MacFarlane asked if SEPA monitored all around the area. Mr Hammond confirmed that monitoring is undertaken by SEPA, the Environment Agency and the Food Standards Agency independently of the site, which also does its own monitoring. Mr Stackhouse added that the levels are not unusual and have been the same low level for the last four or five years.

Mr Weir and Mr Taylor left the meeting at 2.05 pm.

5. Hunterston A Site Reports

Hunterston A Report – Martin Grafton

Mr Grafton's report had been circulated with the meeting papers and was taken as read. Mr Grafton highlighted that the safety record on site remained good and it is now 18 months since the last Lost Time Accident (LTA) on site. There have been several stand downs on site to emphasise safety when Working at Heights. The site was delighted to be awarded the RoSPA Presidents Awards for successfully gaining its tenth consecutive Gold Medal. In line with Magnox estate's 'Go Home Safe Every Day' philosophy, staff are being encouraged to adopt this principle at home as two staff have been seriously injured in accidents in the home and are still off work. There have been some technical issues with the draining of Ponds Bay 2 but this area of work is on target to complete in December 2016. Good progress is being made on the Retrieval of Solid Intermediate Level Waste (SILW) with 244 packages of ILW transferred to the ILW store. With regard to People, 11 individuals requested voluntary severance in advance of the Company-wide organisational restructuring programme. Site consultations on the restructuring programme have now concluded and individual consultations are taking place. A 'Best Fit' process will take place after Christmas and not many redundancies are expected. Programmes are in place to support and help place people in alternative jobs, within the Parent Body Organisation and across the Magnox estate. Support is also being provided through Skills Development Scotland. Under Emergency Preparedness, the site is working to justify to the ONR that it no longer has obligations under Regulation 9 of REPIR (Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations). This would mean that the site can reorganise its emergency response capability to focus on events restricted to within the site boundary. This work is already being undertaken at other Magnox sites. Sites which have removed mobile hazards and who have reduced their site shift staff. The Site Strategy is part of the LifeTime Plan process, for which Hunterston A site is looking towards January 2016. With regard to final site clearance it is a possibility that the original three box model may become a five box model and it will be necessary to ensure that money is spent mitigating risks. The Ponds buildings may remain and buildings will be clad similar to the ILW store. The building is situated between the two Reactor buildings and would be difficult to demolish.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Barr asked if North Ayrshire Council had been involved in discussions regarding staffing and redundancies. Mr Grafton confirmed that superficial discussion had taken place but not in detail. He emphasised that this is the start of this restructuring phase and it is a slow process so there is still time to involve North Ayrshire Council and put further assistance in place. Mr Grafton undertook to discuss this with HR personnel. Mrs Holmes asked how many people the restructuring was likely to affect and Mr Grafton responded that in numbers this is likely to be around 20 people.

Mr Lamb asked if waste from the Sand Filter project would be treated as low level waste or recycled. Mr Grafton and Mr Phillips responded that this would be treated as low level waste as the metal cannot be cleaned enough to be recycled. Mrs Holmes asked for more information on the cleaning of the ponds pontoons. Mr Phillips advised that the radioactivity is washed off but cannot be classed as decontaminated as the plastic may still contain radioactivity and the washing is a cleaning process to allow safer handling. Mrs Holmes asked where the waste is destined for and was advised by Mr Phillips that this is shredded and incinerated. The preference is for reuse but this is unlikely to be appropriate due to the different stages that the other sites are at. Mr Grafton thought that the 13 containers, which are light but bulky, may be sent to Sellafield as it is more cost-effective to ship them in a special container than treat on site due to training requirements and radioactivity.

On Page 4, paragraph 2.2, Mrs Holmes commended the decision to stand down the Contractor and was pleased to see that Contractors are being closely monitored over the whole Magnox estate following a near fatality at Sizewell in summer 2014.

Mrs Holmes asked about the radioactive content of the Radioactive Discharges referred to on Page 6, paragraph 4.1 of the report. Mr Stackhouse clarified that the site is allowed to send only Low Level Waste (LLW) off site but the volume is not specified. The site has to ensure that the waste is going to the best place that it can and that that site has a licence to take it. He confirmed that Higher Activity Waste (HAW) has to stay on site. Mr MacFarlane asked if the LLW containers are transported by train. Mr Phillips advised that due to network logistics they are first transported by truck, then train. The placarded trucks are driven by specially trained drivers.

Hunterston A ONR Report – Peter Donnelly

Mr Donnelly's report had been circulated with the meeting papers and was taken as read. Mr Donnelly highlighted the systems based inspection undertaken on Nuclear Lifting and Handling Systems, which was judged adequate. The ONR raised some points regarding the operating rules associated with one of the systems and also found specific areas of non-compliance with regard to operating instructions in a facility. This point of non-compliance was also found in a previous inspection and will be reinspected in the near future. An inspection of organisational capability found some issues with the nuclear baseline around how the site calls off specialists not on site. Specialist knowledge is required for safety but these specialists are not site based so clarification is required on how this works between site and corporate demands.

Questions and Observations

With regard to Page 2, point 4, of the report, Mrs Holmes asked for clarification on the issues with the ILW store package handling machine and the Solid Active Waste Bunker Morris hoist. Mr Donnelly clarified that there are two different cranes – one package handler and one Morris hoist and these were judged adequate in terms of safety but had points for improvement. The non-compliant issue related to a handwritten sign which was a temporary measure but it had not been signed off to complete the Quality Assurance requirements.

Mr Grafton reiterated that a handwritten note or signs annotated by hand should be verified through the Company's procedures and this one had been missed.

Mr MacFarlane asked if the problems with the cross site transporter had been fixed. Mr Grafton replied that although the transporter is still in use with precautions in place, it is over complicated, over engineered, unreliable and therefore too expensive. Funds have been applied for to purchase a different transporter to allow a more permanent solution, with the existing being used as a spare. Mr Donnelly added that ONR is satisfied with the precautions and justification for continued use of the transporter which allows it to be used rather than stop the process for weeks. Mrs Holmes asked if the dust is being controlled when the lid goes down on the container. Mr Grafton confirmed that modifications have been made and Mr Donnelly added that the modifications made provide a seal and cleanliness. Checks are still being carried out and the modifications made speed up the process.

Mrs Holmes asked about the specific shortfalls associated with the organisational baseline. Mr Donnelly responded that the concerns have been addressed and two posts have been added to the baseline structure. Another post is still being addressed with a common understanding across the estate. Mr Grafton added that there are a number of Management of Change documents, each of which contain a number of enablers. If the enablers do not happen, the Management of Change documents do not get approved. Mrs Holmes asked if this situation had occurred before the change of Parent Body Organisation (PBO). Mr Donnelly was unable to comment on this as he only had eight months with the previous PBO. Mr Grafton considered that restructuring would have taken place, regardless of whichever Company had won the Competition. Mr Phillips added that there have been several Company name changes and Departmental changes and the site has been through similar processes but the current restructuring affects the whole estate so is on a bigger scale. Mr Grafton added that he is working with John Grierson of Chapelcross site and changes are being made with a corporate view across all sites. The Stakeholder Steering Groups should take comfort from the involvement of ONR and SEPA in the process.

Hunterston A SEPA Report – Adam Stackhouse

Mr Stackhouse apologised for his absence from the last meeting and for the lack of a written report. He undertook to provide written reports in future and gave a verbal report at the meeting. Mr Stackhouse advised that there have not been many inspections at the site over the summer months. SEPA is liaising with Cavendish Fluor Partnership on the restructuring. From a corporate perspective, SEPA will seek to ensure that after restructuring changes are implemented that they work practically on the sites. The latest site visits on 1 and 2 December were to check contamination of CP7 Compound. Outfall was tested twice weekly for five years and SEPA has now agreed to monthly testing as it is satisfied that remediation work was successful and there can now be a routine monitoring programme. Pump cleaning on the ponds will be addressed by the end of next year. Discharges will be very small as decommissioning progresses. Mr Stackhouse was pleased to be an independent observer of a simulated contamination oil spill on site the previous day. He reported that all personnel took this very seriously and responded well and would have stopped off site release. Mr Grafton pointed out that this was a routine training exercise which was not rehearsed and did not involve specialist staff. Mr Stackhouse was invited to observe as it was coincidence that he was on site for other matters. Mr Stackhouse referred to the review of the LifeTime Plan for which SEPA is trying to produce guidance and will include stakeholder engagement.

Questions and Observations

Mr Lamb asked if the final discharges in the ponds would bring an increase to the limit in discharges. Mr Stackhouse replied that the discharge levels should not increase and this was



taken into account when authorised last year.

Mrs Holmes asked if it would be worthwhile changing the authorised limit. Mr Stackhouse responded that it may be worth considering if the authorisation was changing for other reasons but not on its own. He added that discharges have to be kept to the minimum within the limit, not go up to the limit.

Mrs Holmes referred to the LifeTime Plan and the original three box model which may change to being a five box model and asked if the five bunkers would be removed. Mr Grafton explained the compact nature and difficulties of the site and considered it too premature for this detail of question. Mr Stackhouse replied that SEPA does not have a predetermined view and expects decommissioning to occur in a timely manner, dealing with waste as soon as practicable. The site will have to make its case, producing justifications which will depend on the level of contamination in the structures. Mrs Holmes asked if the cooling pond could be used as a waste repository, Mr Grafton responded that it was also too early to answer. Mrs Holmes asked if the pond area would fill with water after it was emptied. Mr Grafton advised that there would be a new roof on the building. He assured members that at the appropriate time, when information was available regarding the final end state of the site strategy, that there would be a presentation to Stakeholder Group members to explain the position more clearly. Mr Phillips informed members that the waste taken out of bunkers is dry waste which is easier to clean than the ponds. Mrs Holmes asked if the inside of the bunkers would be cleaned, which Mr Phillips confirmed will be done to eliminate loose contamination only.

Hunterston A NDA Report – Bill Hamilton

Mr Hamilton referred members to the overall picture in the monthly updates report which had been circulated with the meeting papers and was taken as read. The last couple of updates demonstrate the practical progress being made in achieving the mission for the setting up of the NDA. Dungeness and Oldbury have reached major milestones. Wylfa will cease generation in December 2016, which is the last operating Magnox reactor in the UK. The Magnox fleet was a feat of UK engineering and science and its end will bring both sadness and celebration and significant media coverage. The UK Nuclear Archive at Wick was supported by funding from the NDA and has brought much needed jobs to the area. Mr Hamilton thanked the Stakeholder Steering Group for responding to the consultation on Draft Strategy 3, following the presentation by Mr Markku Koskelainen at the last meeting. The Draft Strategy is being reviewed to take account of feedback when the Final Draft is published in January 2016. The Draft Business Plan will also be published then with a six week consultation period. Following the speculation and concern over the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review, the figure announced by the Chancellor last week for the NDA was £11 billion over five years. Together with almost £1 million of income from reprocessing and storage of spent fuels for foreign customers at Sellafield and production from Wylfa until December 2016, it gives an annual budget of around £3 billion. Savings of £1 billion over the next four years require to be made, which will come from savings through better contracts, management of Sellafield, Site Licence Companies and lastly through reprioritisation of non-safety critical projects. Overall, the budget is good news and not as drastic as had been feared by some. The budget will allow a steady future with broad progress across the estate over the next five years. Some further detail on budgets will be contained in the documents to be produced in January 2016 but detailed information for each site will not be available before April 2016. The National Stakeholder Event which was postponed in September 2015 will now be held on 13 and 14 January 2016 in Manchester.

Questions and Observations

Mrs Holmes asked what percentage of budget cuts would affect Hunterston A bunkers not being removed. Mr Hamilton reiterated his comments from the last meeting regarding the Competition won by Cavendish Fluor Partnership to deliver the same work more effectively, in a reduced timescale for less money and pointed out that changes are not as a result of a cut in NDA funding.

Mr Jack asked what would happen when the next generation of decommissioning arrives. Mr Hamilton replied that the new generation of Nuclear Power Stations, Hinkley Point in Somerset for example, was built with obsolescence and decommissioning in mind. He reiterated that the Magnox fleet is a feat of engineering but they are expensive to deconstruct. Now every year 2.5% of the price of electricity received by the generating Electricity Company is deposited in a Government Fund to pay for decommissioning. There is a separate, independent Nuclear Liabilities Fund, in which the NDA has an advisory role and provides technical advice to ensure that there will be adequate provision at the appropriate time. Mr Jack commented that he will be interested to learn how much the final bill for cleaning up Hunterston A is in comparison to the build cost.

6. Update from Scottish Government – Ewan Young

Mr Young thanked the Chair and Vice Chair for attending the Scottish Nuclear Sites meeting. He advised that responses to the Higher Activity Waste (HAW) Implementation Strategy consultation are available on the Scottish Government website and thanked the SSG for its valuable input to this process. The Scottish Government has developed a new timeline which has been shared with the Project Board and Site Stakeholder Group representatives. This timeline sets out key milestones, based on present site plans, between now and the year 2150. Feedback from the majority of stakeholders strongly suggests that the scale of community and stakeholder engagement should not be underestimated. The Implementation Strategy will therefore include statements to ensure that subsequent communication and siting strategies should be underpinned by a 'bottom-up' type communication methodology, whilst also considering international best practice and case studies. The Implementation Strategy will commit the Scottish Government to reviewing both the policy and strategy at regular intervals. Subject to Ministerial approval, the Implementation Strategy will be published in the first quarter of 2016, possibly January 2016. The Scottish Government is grateful for the valuable input by Hunterston and Chapelcross SSG members as the Implementation Strategy was developed and hopes that the SSGs will continue to engage with the Scottish Government after publication of the HAW Implementation Strategy, as subsequent HAW Implementation Strategy work plans are developed.

In respect of the UK Low Level Waste (LLW) Strategy Review, the strategy provides a framework for continued capability and capacity for the safe, secure and environmentally responsible management and disposal of LLW in the UK. While the scope and direction of the original strategy remains unchanged; the revised strategy reflects the progress that has been made since 2010. It also reflects the expected direction for Low Level Waste (LLW) management in the future. Central to the strategy is the implementation of the waste hierarchy, which supports the provision of continued capability and capacity for managing LLW in the UK. In terms of publication the two Strategic Environmental Assessment documents have been finalised and will form part of the suite of documents which will accompany the Strategy. The revised strategy is now expected to be published following the Christmas recess by DECC on behalf of the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations. The revised strategy will be published on the DECC website and a link will be provided to the SSG Secretariat following publication.

The objective of the UK NORM Strategy is to ensure that UK NORM waste can be disposed of safely and efficiently. This strategy is in its implementation phase which is being led by DECC but which also includes the environmental regulators across the whole of the UK including Northern



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Ireland. An implementation group has been set up and a total of seven work streams have been identified and allocated to the relevant regulators and Government. Work is now ongoing on some of these work streams. A meeting of the implementation group is to be organised by DECC to be updated on progress. This is likely to be by teleconference. In addition, a stakeholder workshop is to be organised by the Environment Agency in 2016 to both update those engaged in the NORM industries and allow them the opportunity to seek further information in respect of the implementation of the Strategy.

With regard to the work streams DECC has engaged Public Health England (PHE) to undertake the work on the potential impact on NORM industries from the implementation of the exemption and clearance criteria in the revised European Basic Safety Standards Directive (BSSD) and provide a report by 31 March 2016. The issues covered in the strategy are long term in nature, and the strategy is intended to set out a clear policy direction for many years. Government intends the strategy to endure for a minimum of 5 years, and will consider when to review the strategy in light of developments in NORM waste arising's and disposal practices.

Questions and Observations

Mrs Holmes noted that NORM Strategy and LLW Strategy are both long-term strategies.

Mrs Holmes asked about the location of facilities. Mr Young replied that it is for the market to determine. The relevant processes will be followed and decisions determined by developers and industry, not by the Scottish Government. In respect of NORM, the facility is currently at Peterhead but again it will be for the market to determine.

7. Public Questions and Answers and Any Other Business

There were no comments from the public gallery and no other items of business raised.

8. Next Meeting – Thursday 3 March 2016 – 1.00 pm for 1.30 pm – venue Lauriston Hotel, Ardrossan,

Mrs Holmes thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished them the compliments of the season. The Chair closed the meeting at 3.20 pm.