



## Site Stakeholder Group

**HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP  
FORTIETH MEETING HELD ON  
THURSDAY 4 JUNE 2015  
AT FAIRLIE BOWLING CLUB, FAIRLIE**

**Present:**

**Magnox Ltd**

Mr Martin Grafton (Site Director) (Hunterston A)  
Mr Sean Marshall (Communications Manager)  
Mr Reuben Phillips (EHSS&Q Manager)  
Mr Gareth Dew (TU Representative)  
Mrs Jill Callander (SSG Secretariat)

**EDF (Hunterston B)**

Mr John Morrison (Tech & Safety Manager)  
Mr Andy Taylor

**NDA**

Mr Bill Hamilton  
Mrs Laura Baker

**Community Council Representatives**

Mrs Rita Holmes – SSG Chair (Fairlie CC)  
Mr John Lamb – SSG Vice Chair (West Kilbride CC)  
Mr Frank Corcoran (Cumbrae CC)

**Office for Nuclear Regulation**

Mr Peter Donnelly (Hunterston A)  
Mr Ryan Maitland (Hunterston B)

**SEPA**

Mr Keith Hammond (Hunterston B)

**North Ayrshire Council**

Cllr Robert Barr (Councillor representing Dalry and West Kilbride)  
Cllr Alex Gallagher (Councillor representing North Coast and Cumbraes)  
Cllr Alan Hill (Councillor representing North Coast and Cumbraes)  
Cllr Tom Marshall (Councillor representing North Coast and Cumbraes)  
Mr Hugh McGhee (NAC Environmental Health)

**Scottish Government**

Mr Charles Stewart Roper  
Mr Martin Macdonald

**CNC**

Mr Alan MacRae (Hunterston B)

**In Attendance**

Mrs Sheila Adams (Minutes)  
Mr Tony Bale (Public)  
Mr Allan Rice (Public)  
Mr Drew Cochrane (Public)  
Marie Girvan (Balfour Beatty)  
Miss Linda Grainey (Public)  
Mr Sean Jarman (Public)  
Mr Craig Lafferty (Balfour Beatty)

## **Apologies**

Mr Adam Stackhouse (SEPA)  
Mr Angus Cochrane Patrick (Hunterston Estate)  
Dr Elvira Garcia (NHS)  
Joanne Johnstone (Balfour Beatty)  
Mr Douglas MacFarlane (Largs Community Council)  
Cllr Elizabeth McLardy (Councillor representing Dalry and West Kilbride)  
Mr Alan Penman (NHS, North Ayrshire)  
Mr Adam Stackhouse (SEPA) (Hunterston A)  
Mr Ewan Young (Scottish Government)

## **1. Chairman's Opening Remarks and Declarations of Interest**

Mrs Rita Holmes, Chair, welcomed everyone to the “ruby” or fortieth meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group. All members introduced themselves, as did the members of the public in the audience. Mrs Holmes read out the apologies, as listed above. There were no declarations of interest.

## **2. Chair and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence**

Mrs Holmes gave verbal updates on the meetings she had attended on behalf of Hunterston SSG in May, which included:

Scottish Sites Meeting, Edinburgh, 14 May – this was a two way engagement between the Scottish Government and Site Stakeholders and was very worthwhile. Reports were received from the statutory agencies, MoD, ONR, NDA, etc, as well as reports from the other Scottish sites. Mrs Holmes described the MOD report on Naval Base Clyde and Vulcan as a highlight of the meeting.

NDA Strategy Meeting, Manchester, 19 May and SSG Chair's Meeting, Manchester, 20 May – both meetings had been worthwhile and informative.

## **3. Proposal to adopt updated Constitution**

This had been discussed in detail at the last meeting and comments invited. No objections were received to the proposal and the Constitution was adopted, which was nominated for approval by Mr John Lamb and seconded by Mr Tom Marshall.

## **4. Actions and Approval of Previous Minutes**

*Action 01 – Mr P Donnelly to seek a response from the ONR to an email from Mr McKay (regarding his enquiry on the evacuation procedures in place for the Isle of Arran).* **Status closed.**

*Action 02 – SSG Secretariat to liaise with Mr McKay to advise him to contact Mr Baird from the Resilience Team for further information regarding his enquiry (above).* **Status closed.**

With the amendment of the typographical errors and omissions in the Minutes of 5 March 2015, previously notified to the Secretariat by Mrs Holmes, the Minutes were proposed for approval by Mr Robert Barr and seconded by Mr John Lamb.

## 5. Hunterston B Station Reports

### Hunterston B Report – John Morrison

Mr Morrison's report, circulated with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Morrison highlighted the continued strong industrial safety performance, which is always a continual learning process. Under environmental safety, sewage plant works have been carried out successfully and it is working well. Under radiological protection, the actual collective dose was higher than predicted due to work in the Irradiated Fuel Dismantling (IFD) cell. On 29 April, a Counter Terrorist Response Emergency Arrangement took place, followed on 5 March by a full Nuclear Response Emergency Demonstration, both of which the ONR attended and regarded as adequate outcomes. Generation and refuelling have operated as normal. Storms earlier in the week had resulted in a huge influx of seaweed which affected the cooling systems. One unit was manually tripped and load reduced on the other unit.. The influx has now been cleared out and the unit is expected to be back in service in 12-24 hours. In the community, the site supported a Generation Science 2015 visit to West Kilbride Primary School. On site, the new recruits and apprentices are settling in well.

### Questions and Observations

Mr Lamb asked about the Failed Fuel project referred to at the Scottish Sites meeting. Mr Morrison stated that from time to time there are failures in Advanced Gas Cooled Reactor fuel which can be due to manufacturing faults. At Hunterston over the past 12 years there have been three stringers where we identified failed fuel, removed them from the reactor and held them within a store awaiting transfer from the site. He explained that the transfer project uses a new technique to put the fuel elements into a flask for normal transfer to Sellafield for investigation. The first flask has been dispatched, with the second expected next month and the 3rd and final flask towards the end of the year.

Mr Gallagher asked why the seaweed had resulted in machine failure when it was not the worst storm historically and asked if this was due to the age of the facility. Mr Morrison advised that there were a combination of factors – storm surges, high and low tides and winds. The plant has processes in place to deal with this based on the weather forecasting. On this occasion there was an abnormal influx of at least 30 tons of seaweed in a very short timescale. The accumulation affects the cooling systems and the decision was made to trip one unit as the seaweed was coming in quicker than the strainers could cope with. This is nature and happens from time to time and with the plant has procedures to deal with it. Mr Rice asked why the cooling systems were not reduced just to a workable level instead of taking one unit off. Mr Morrison confirmed that both units were taken to a reduced load but it was judged that one unit be taken off in order to manage the situation.

Mrs Holmes referred to ten fuel element failures at Torness and the three at Hunterston and asked if more failures were expected. Mr Morrison explained that fuel elements do have failures – these are expected and there are arrangements in place for dealing with them. Torness has a slightly different design which is more prone to fuel failures. Mrs Holmes asked if there was an urgency to remove the fuel stringers from the station. Mr Morrison responded that they go as does other fuel to ponds at Sellafield as we aim to move spent fuel from the the site. One of the benefits of removing fuel from an assembly is that it releases equipment that can be re-used.

### Hunterston B ONR Report – Ryan Maitland

Mr Maitland was not present at the meeting, the SEPA Report for Hunterston B was circulated to members at the meeting,.

### **Hunterston B SEPA Report – Keith Hammond**

Mr Hammond tabled his report and apologised for not providing this in advance of the meeting. The new Chief Executive of SEPA is Mr Terry A'Hearn who was previously the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. Policy and Guidance Notes are being produced in respect of enforcement measures under the Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014. There will be a Concepts paper for each regime with consultation for the Draft Administrative Regulations in November 2015. The Technical Regulations for four regimes are expected in May 2016. The Regulations are expected to go live in January 2017. Changes are being considered to a Charging Scheme for the non-nuclear side but there are no charges proposed for nuclear at present. Changes within the Compliance Assessment Team will see the emphasis change to continuous assessment. Schemes are being simplified and will focus more on environmental harms. These will all be published on SEPA's website.

### **Questions and Observations**

Mr Gallagher referred to new techniques being developed for interim storage and removal of Higher Activity Waste and asked if new technology could be used to manage waste.

Mr Hammond responded that fuel is not generic and receives different treatment but the process has been shortened to get fuel through fuel routes quicker. Mr Morrison added that sites have an obligation to remove waste inventories on site and techniques for removal have been looked at. Mr Gallagher asked why it is not possible to do this with Higher Activity Waste on site if it is possible to speed up or enhance the process. Mr Morrison confirmed that there are no plans to move Higher Activity Waste other than fuel.

Miss Grainey advised the group that her background was in education and referred to School inspections. She voiced concerns at the 'adequate' safety standards and emergency arrangements referred to on P7 of the Minutes of the March meeting. She asked when judgements would be deemed 'inadequate' and whether safety could be recorded as 'very good' or 'excellent'. With regard to the Emergency Exercise, Mr Donnelly advised that the result is either a Pass or a Fail. Areas for improvement are recommended or an exercise could have to be rerun. Where it is a judgement of Compliance, there is a six point score measured against 36 Licenced Conditions. Miss Grainey commented that she would have hoped that a nuclear body would receive a result of more than adequate. Mr Morrison added that the site learns from each exercise and they present opportunities for continuous improvement. He reiterated that safety is a priority on all fronts and the site continually strives to improve on all areas of safety. He added that the site must, by law, meet certain Licence Conditions and as a Company it strives for excellence. He advised that 30 people from the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) are on site at the moment assessing the plant against excellence and looking for areas for improvement. In law, the site is either adequate in that it meets its Licence Conditions, or not adequate if it does not meet the Licence Conditions. Miss Grainey repeated her concerns that safety performance could be excellent but is only 'good' and considered that the site referred to itself as being 'excellent' when it is not. Mr Morrison objected to this and pointed out that perfection is not possible but the site continuously strives to improve its performance. He asked for clarity on the definition of 'good', which Miss Grainey considered to be 'sound'. Mr Grafton added to the discussion by explaining the 'Home Safe Every Day' principle. Excellence could only be claimed when everyone is Home Safe Every Day. He pointed out that the sites have good safety records comparable with other industries. Miss Grainey added that she would like to see 'Very Good' or 'Excellent' in future meeting reports. Mr Gallagher mentioned the continual improvement process alluded to and asked if there is a recognised model, such as EFQM or PSIF frameworks for excellence. Mr Morrison invited interested persons to arrange a visit to the site if they wished to appreciate more of the detail on how it operates to high standards of safety. Mr Bale, ex-employee and ex-Chair of

Hunterston A, referred to the prestigious Sir George Earle Trophy, the highest competitive accolade for Health and Safety, which was won by Magnox in 2014 and pointed out that Hunterston A and the B station have similar operations.

Mrs Holmes recorded her thanks to Site Director, Mr Grafton and Technical and Safety Manager, Mr Morrison, for their work.

Mr Rice asked if the sites had emergency arrangements to prevent against hacking of IT systems. Mr Morrison replied that cyber terrorism applies to all industries and that he could not divulge in detail how this is dealt with but assured him that significant investment is made in both systems and IT effort along with staff training.

*Mrs Holmes offered a refreshment and comfort break at this stage but this was declined and members chose to carry on with the Agenda items.*

## **6. Hunterston A Station Reports**

### **Hunterston A Report – Martin Grafton**

Mr Grafton's report had been circulated with the meeting papers and was taken as read. Mr Grafton was pleased to report that there were no lost time accidents. Minor treatment had been required for a cut nose by someone who fell off scaffolding. A RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) event had occurred when a lifting beam was being tested and the end stops did not work, resulting in a trolley falling to the ground and grazing a worker, who received first aid. As this had the potential for serious injury, it was reported to the Health and Safety Executive who have confirmed that they are content that no further action is required, other than that already identified. Mr Grafton informed members of a good reporting culture where over 100 reports are received per month which is good as it raises awareness and prevents more serious accidents. Magnox has introduced a 'Slips, Trips and Falls' Campaign across its sites to raise awareness and remedy hazards. The site has submitted an application to The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) for its tenth consecutive Gold Medal.

Under decommissioning, good progress is being made in Ponds with the first bay being drained and completely cleaned. Sand has been removed from sand filters to sludge retention tanks. Excellent progress is being made in retrieving Solid Intermediate Level Waste and there are 105 boxes in the Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) Store. With regard to organisational restructuring and shaping of Magnox, the proposed restructuring will take place over next 15 months. Numbers are still being developed but Hunterston A is likely to reduce by 20% or 40 posts. Environmental discharges were all within limits. A successful Level One Exercise was undertaken in early May. Under the Socio Economic Scheme, £1,275 has been awarded to local Clubs.

### **Questions and Observations**

Mr Lamb asked about the continued control and management of Compound 7 within Land Quality Management. Mr Grafton replied that onerous sampling currently takes place but there are no signs of any activity. The site intends to ask SEPA if sampling can be reduced to less frequent timescales.

Mr Barr advised that North Ayrshire Council will work with Hunterston site regarding potential redundancies and the future of employees. Mr Grafton thanked Mr Barr and added that Cavendish Fluor Partnership and Babcock International hope to offer some positions to people who are displaced. Mr Barr was pleased to hear this but pointed out that this is already a high unemployment area and some people will be unwilling or unable to move.

Mr Bale asked if a reduction in workforce and reduction in funding from the NDA would result in the end date being pushed back. Mr Grafton advised that there are no plans at present to change the end date of the Site, with the site expected to go into Care and Maintenance in 2022, although Mr Grafton added that the end state may be reviewed.

Mr Bale asked why the Scottish Government is involved in a review of the three box storage model previously agreed. Mr Grafton replied that the result may still be the three box model but a review is to be undertaken.

Mr Bale asked if a reduction in staff numbers by 20% would still allow the site to meet its targets to end date. Mr Grafton replied that processes are being streamlined but safe delivery is being maintained. This will involve centralisation of some services where they can be delivered from elsewhere to achieve more for less.

Mrs Holmes asked if the new office block for Solid Intermediate Level Waste (SILWE) will be adjacent to the new Encapsulation Plant or within the office block. Mr Grafton responded that a portacabin adjacent to the plant is being used by Babcock just now. Mrs Holmes asked about the design issues with WILREP (Wet ILW Retrieval and Encapsulation Plant) and how long it will be before it is functioning properly. Mr Grafton advised that contractual discussions with the manufacturer were not effective and the work has been taken in-house. It is currently being redesigned and will be trialed early next year.

#### **Hunterston A ONR Report – Peter Donnelly**

Mr Donnelly's report had been circulated with the meeting papers and was taken as read. An inspection of essential services had been undertaken with adequate safety requirements. A Remediation Plan has been produced of areas of concern. Organisational changes on site were adequate, in line with expectations and guidance. The site committed in November 2014 to address shortfalls and on inspection in March 2015 it was found that individuals had been trained and shortfalls addressed which was commended. There were no non-routine matters to report. The licence for the joint amalgamation of Magnox and RSRL sites had been signed on 30 March 2015.

#### **Questions and Observations**

Mrs Holmes asked if the Electrical Specialist on site had concerns about the condition of the equipment. Mr Donnelly replied that there were a number of electrical panels which were not in the expected condition and replacement of these has been requested, with a review of other panels, which will be reinspected. Mrs Holmes thanked Mr Donnelly and colleagues for undertaking the inspections and Mr Donnelly for reporting to the SSG meeting.

Mr Rice asked if the 'very involved remediation work' to the Cross Site Transporter (XST) was more than maintenance. Mr Grafton replied that weld failures had been identified but the equipment was not new in age but new in usage. Mr Rice asked if the equipment was fit for purpose. Mr Phillips confirmed that the equipment was fit for purpose and they were surprised by the defect but they had resolved this by changing the design and changing the route. Mr Grafton added that the discovery of this malfunction was testament to the thorough inspections which were carried out and an increased inspection regime had also been introduced.

Mr Bale asked when the next full inspection by the ONR will be. Mr Donnelly responded that 'Management of Change' procedures will be implemented across the 12 Magnox sites and a special Team will be deployed to manage this change, as well as carry out the annual inspections. Hunterston A and Berkeley are two sites currently being sampled. Mr Grafton added that no reductions in staff numbers can be made until the sites have been through the Management of

Change procedure which is anticipated in July 2015. Nuclear related posts are bound by the Regulator and Management of Change relates to all posts. The Regulator can determine if posts should be graded nuclear or not.

Miss Grainey asked if there were any other issues of relevance to local residents. Mrs Holmes considered that all activities were of interest and consideration and stated that she believed that hazards should always be the first priority to deal with.

#### **Hunterston A SEPA Report – Adam Stackhouse**

Mr Stackhouse was not present at the meeting and a report was not available.

#### **Hunterston A NDA Report – Bill Hamilton**

Mr Hamilton noted some of the big issues being raised and explained the background to the NDA and the operation of the sites. The NDA was set up by the Government in 2004 to make nuclear decommissioning more efficient. The Government funds the NDA which in turn funds the Parent Body Organisation, Cavendish Fluor Partnership. Currently the bulk of NDA funding goes to sites at Sellafield and Dounreay. The NDA continues to own Hunterston A site. The NDA employs a Contractor to manage the site, which was *EnergySolutions* and is now Cavendish Fluor Partnership, as the result of a two year competition. The competition assessed four bidders against criteria of financial and time targets. Magnox Ltd is an enduring entity – the name stays in perpetuity and 90% of staff are employees of Magnox. The NDA ownership also remains permanent. Some senior management at sites has changed but the majority of the workforce remains. Cavendish Fluor Partnership make money by achieving and bettering targets. Funding has been secured from the Government for 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016 and sites know their budgets. Announcements made regarding restructuring are all part of the new Parent Body Organisation implementing the Plan they agreed with the NDA when they won the Competition. There have not yet been any cuts made by the Government – cuts being seen now are part of the Contract with Cavendish Fluor Partnership to deliver the same service for less cost. The Government is still to review its Spending Plan and there will inevitably be cuts. The NDA did well at the last Comprehensive Spending Review and will try to defend its whole programme but the Government is under pressure to deliver more severe cuts across all budgets. Decisions will have to be made before March 2016 as that is when current funding runs out. The NDA has statutory requirements and there are Acts governing nuclear sites so funding for these areas cannot be cut. There are opportunities however to delay non safety critical works but this may increase costs in the long term. Cavendish Fluor Partnership is expected to bring Care and Maintenance over 14 years and save £1 billion.

Mr Hamilton went on to explain that the NDA is refreshing and renewing its Five Year Strategy and brought together a range of stakeholders to a meeting. The Draft Strategy will be launched for consultation in September 2015 and Mr Hamilton recommended either rescheduling or convening an extra meeting to coincide with the draft consultation. Mrs Holmes suggested that a separate meeting should be arranged to discuss in depth the Draft NDA Strategy. **Action 01.**

## **7. Update from Scottish Government**

Mr Charles Stewart Roper passed on the best wishes of Mr Ewan Young. Mr Roper advised that during the consultation period between January and April on the UK Strategy for the Management of Low Level Waste, 51 responses had been received. Responses are being collated and a Nuclear Industry Strategy for Management of Low Level Waste should be finalised in September 2015.

*Mr Tom Marshall left the meeting at 3.12 pm.*

### **Higher Activity Radioactive Waste Draft Implementation Strategy - Consultation**

Mr Martin Macdonald tabled a report on this and gave an overview of the background. He talked members through the paper, which is also available on the Scottish Government's website, and thanked Mrs Holmes and Mr Lamb for attending the meeting to contribute the views of the SSG.

### **Questions and Observations**

Mr Hugh McGhee asked if the consultation closed on 7 August 2015 and Mr Macdonald confirmed that this is the case but the deadline could be extended by a week or two if required. Mr McGhee asked if waste would be stored 'near site, near surface' rather than moved long distances unnecessarily.

Mr Gallagher referred to a Seminar two years ago where this question could not be answered. If Higher Activity Waste currently goes to Sellafield why it is now better to be 'near site, near surface'. Mr Gallagher also asked the cost of this and who would pay. Mr Roper responded that this is a consultation on Government Policy and has not yet been implemented and advised that Higher Activity Waste from Scottish sites does not currently go to Sellafield. Mr Macdonald added that the cost is very difficult to project and still has to be addressed. This is difficult now, never mind in 70 years' time but ultimately the cost will be borne by the taxpayer. The alternative, Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) is also expensive. It was noted that GDF has an initial high cost but then stops whereas other storage solutions would have ongoing costs. Mr Gallagher considered that there would be higher combined costs if different solutions are used within the UK than a unified approach. He asked why the Scottish Government is proposing a Strategy which goes against scientific advice. Mr Roper responded that the contrast is not as stark as is being implied but there are still questions to be asked about what can be stored where and in what ways.

Miss Grainey was concerned and upset that the Scottish Government was dismissing 'near site' and felt that communities were not being protected. Mr Roper pointed out an omission in the slide which should read 'near site, near surface'. The Scottish Government favours a 'near site, near surface' approach, while the rest of the UK opts for GDF.

*Mr Frank Corcoran left the meeting at 3.45 pm.*

Miss Grainey referred to a planning application to SEPA to transfer waste. Mr Hammond confirmed that this was a proposal to move Low Level Waste for bulking up purposes and was not High Level Waste. He clarified that Hunterston B is not allowed to dispose of any waste to Hunterston A. Mr Hamilton agreed that the NDA would not allow this and it is contrary to Scottish Government policy on the treatment and management of waste. Mr Hammond conceded that the application is not clearly written but it does not mention Higher Activity Waste. Miss Grainey felt that the application should be withdrawn and resubmitted to accurately reflect the correct position. Mr Bale added that it was made very clear at Largs Community Council meeting that no waste would be deposited at Hunterston from any other site. Mr Barr pointed out that not everybody objects to waste being brought in. Mr Hammond clarified that the application is to move Low Level Waste to the EDF Energy station.

Mr Barr stated that not everyone attending the meeting was anti-nuclear.

Mrs Holmes brought the discussion to a close by reminding everyone that whether people are pro or anti-nuclear, the focus is decommissioning and to clean up nuclear legacy.



## Site Stakeholder Group

### 8. Public Questions and Answers and Any Other Business

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

Mrs Holmes thanked Fairlie Bowling Club for the use of their Club facilities for the meeting.

### 9. Next Meeting – Thursday 3 September 2015 – West Kilbride Community Centre – 1.00 pm for 1.30 pm

*(Mr Peter Donnelly offered his apologies for this meeting due to leave commitments)*

Mrs Holmes thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 3.55 pm.

No.	Action	Responsible	Target Date
01	SSG Meeting to be arranged to allow presentation by the NDA Five Year Strategy	Jill Callander, Secretariat	17/09/15