

**Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group**

**THE THIRTY-NINTH SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 5 MARCH 2015  
LAURISTON HOTEL, ARDROSSAN**

**Present:**

**Magnox Ltd**

Mr Reuben Phillips  
Mr Sean Marshall  
Mr Gareth Dew

**EDF**

Mr John Morrison

**NDA**

Mr B Hamilton

**Community Councillors**

Mrs Rita Holmes – Fairlie CC(Chair)  
Mr John Lamb - West Kilbride CC(Vice Chair)

**ONR**

Mr P Donnelly

**Community Council Representatives**

Mr Hugh McGhee, Environmental Department  
Mr Douglas MacFarlane

**SEPA**

Mr Keith Hammond  
Mr A Stackhouse

**Councillors**

Mr Robert Barr  
Ms Elizabeth McLardy

**NFU**

Mr William Jack

**In Attendance**

Mr Angus Cochrane Patrick, Hunterston Estate  
Mr Ewan Young, Scottish Government  
Mr S McGhie, Trade Union Representative, Hunterston  
Mrs J Callander, Magnox (Secretariat)  
Mrs Mel Coulter (Note-taker)  
Joanne Johnstone (Balfour Beatty)  
Craig Lafferty (Balfour Beatty)  
Ross Baird (Scottish Government Resilience Team)  
Alan McRae, Hunterston B Civil Nuclear Constabulary Unit Commander

Several members of the public were also in attendance.

**Apologies**

Mr Frank Corcoran, Cumbrae Community Council  
Councillor Alex Gallagher  
Councillor Tom Marshall  
Councillor Alan Hill

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**1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

Mrs Rita Holmes, Chair, welcomed everyone to the thirty-ninth meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group.

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

With introductions given from all attendees, Mrs Holmes noted apologies from Mr Frank Corcoran, Cumbrae Community Council and Councillors Alex Gallagher, Tom Marshall and Alan Hill. Mrs Holmes welcomed Mr Ross Baird, Scottish Government Resilience Team; Ms Joanne Johnstone and Mr Craig Lafferty from Balfour Beatty present within the public audience. No declarations of interest were noted.

Mrs Holmes advised that prior to the Site Stakeholder Group Meeting, a House Keeping Meeting had taken place where the Constitution and proposed changes had been discussed. Details of these discussions would be circulated before the next SSG and it would be proposed to adopt the updated Constitution at the June Meeting.

Mrs Holmes noted that correspondence had been received from Mr Allan Rice advising his resignation from the Site Stakeholder Group and read the content of his letter to attendees. Mrs Holmes thanked Mr Rice, who attended as a member of the public, for his involvement with the Group.

Mr John Lamb, Vice Chair advised the SSG that he and Mrs Holmes had attended a NDA meeting in Warrington where Vice Chairs and Chairs of other NDA sites had met to discuss the Socio-Economic Strategy to be included in NDA Strategy 3. Mr Lamb highlighted that the strategy would not change significantly from its existing format, however it was open to suggestions for improvement. It was noted that NDA would not be a main contributor to any regeneration or employment project and would be a partner, if the project met the criteria. NDA was not sole provider of socio-economic for any area. It was highlighted that NDA were awaiting announcement of the funding level for 2016 onwards and were unaware at this stage as to what their future funding would be until Government made the decision. Mr Lamb concluded that the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy had been reviewed and revisions were included in Strategy 3. He advised that the first draft Strategy 3 would be available to the SSG by Autumn, and thereafter for public consultation by the end of 2015 and implementation in early 2016.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

*Action 1 - Secretariat to correspond with Ayrshire & Arran Health Board regarding non-attendance at SSG meetings:*

Mrs Jill Callander, Secretariat advised that she had contacted the Public Health Department at NHS Ayrshire & Arran and noted Dr Elvira Garcia's intention to attend future Site Stakeholder Group Meetings.

**Status – Closed**



Action 2 – To arrange a meeting with relevant parties to discuss Mr Allan Rice's intention to attend the SSG:

This request was withdrawn following Mr Rice's resignation from the SSG. **Status – Closed**

Action 3 – To amend typographical errors from September minutes. **Status – Closed**

Action 4 – To report on the legal height restriction on flying an unmanned aerial vehicle from a nuclear power station:

Mr John Morrison addressed this matter with the SSG and Mr Alan McRae, Hunterston B Civil Nuclear Constabulary Unit Commander present within the public audience advised that there was a two-mile exclusion zone with minimum 2000 ft height exclusion. **Status – Closed**

Action 5 – To update on pollution, prevention and control permit following the site visit on 5 December 2014:

Mr Keith Hammond advised this matter was included within his report and that no issues had been identified. **Status – Closed**

#### 4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Following notification of typographical amendments by Mr Keith Hammond to the Secretariat, the minutes were proposed by Councillor Robert Barr and seconded by Mr John Lamb.

#### 5A. HUNTERSTON B STATION

Mr John Morrison took the report as read. He noted a good industrial safety performance record with almost seven years since the last lost time incident. With regards to environmental safety, Mr Morrison indicated that there had been a few challenges in relation to outfall equipment with a fair amount of storm damage to skimmers which had resulted in one being replaced with a new design. He stated that all equipment was fully functional with them looking to introduce further sea wall protection for that lagoon. Mr Morrison highlighted that the sewage plant had not been performing as well as they would have liked and that a programme of investment in that area had begun which would be managed over the next month. He added that there was nothing of significance to report with regards to radiological issues.

Mr Morrison informed the SSG of a Level 1 demonstration exercise which was due to be conducted on 5 March 2015 by the nuclear regulator ONR. A counter terrorism demonstration exercise is also scheduled for 29 April 2015.

In addition, Mr Morrison reported that Reactor 3 Turbine Generator 7 had generated normally during the period. Mr Morrison advised the SSG of a TG8 trip on Christmas Day which had been challenging for all concerned. Mr Morrison offered further detail on this, which had been due to a valve pipework failure with the unit being brought back to full operation on 28 December 2014.



With regards to a Company update, Mr Morrison made reference to the energy price cuts around the country and noted that they too had reduced their prices. Mr Morrison commended the high performance of Mr Daniel Lawson who had been awarded “Apprentice of the Year”.

In addition, he advised that there had been a visit by some Olympic athletes to the site to mark the one-year anniversary of the on-site gym to support encouraging staff to use these facilities.

Mr Morrison informed the SSG of the Biodiversity Bench Mark awarded to the site from the Wildlife Trust in recognition of the work they do to enhance wildlife around the site.

Mr Morrison advised that there had been no staffing changes during the period.

Mr John Lamb noted that EDF had applied to increase reactor from 75% to 80% of its potential and enquired whether it was running at this higher level.

Mr Morrison advised that the reactor output is currently at 80%. Mrs Holmes asked, as the site got older whether they had noticed an increase in unplanned manual trips. Mr Morrison responded that they had not and that they had a programme of equipment reliability which will continue throughout the life of the plant. Mrs Holmes advised her appreciation of the efforts of the workforce and management at Hunterston B in order to maintain the plant in good working order.

Cllr Robert Barr passed congratulations to Mr Morrison and the workforce at Hunterston B for the swift dealing with the trip on the reactor on Christmas Day, and the SSG acknowledged that festivities for some people would have been disrupted.

## **5B. ONR REPORT**

Mr John Morrison advised that Mr Ryan Maitland ONR was unable to attend today's SSG due to the Level One exercise that was being carried out. A copy of Mr Maitland's report had been circulated and any questions could be forwarded to Mr Maitland via Mr Morrison. Councillor Robert Barr enquired whether the new nitrogen supply system was in operation. Mr Morrison advised this would be up and running next month.

Mrs Holmes directed a question to Mr Alan McRae, Hunterston B Civil Nuclear Constabulary (who was present within the public audience) and asked whether there was a group that monitored security arrangements at different sites and whether there were any comparisons. Mr McRae advised that arrangements were standardised with staff attending the same training at the same locations and confirmed that staff were trained to the same standard as colleagues from other units. He informed the SSG that all EDF sites were run fairly similarly with similar infrastructure and officers. He advised that as staff worked and trained together, there was a great deal of interaction between sites and officers. Mr McRae stated that risk assessments were carried out to assess each site's requirements for security, and the sites were treated individually in this respect.

## **5C. SEPA REPORT**

Mr Keith Hammond took the SEPA report as read. Mr Hammond advised that the scheduled inspection had gone ahead. They had looked at waste transfer to other sites and



arrangements of disposals through the supply chain, and that the site was compliant. With regards to ongoing variation application, Mr Hammond noted that they had written to EDF in January requesting more information on the higher activity waste they wanted to send in addition to the waste they wanted to bring onto site for movement or disposal. He advised that they had met with EDF on 4 March 2015 to discuss this in further detail and awaited their response. There were no issues identified with regards to pollution prevention and control. Mr Hammond highlighted their involvement with the sewage plant noting that another failure had taken place and that they would remain on enforcement sampling for a bit longer. A comprehensive list of additions/upgrades in relation to the plant had been agreed and should be completed by the end of April 2015 which SEPA would review once accomplished.

In relation to compliance, Mr Hammond noted three CAR licences for surface water and sewage with PPC permit and authorisation rated as excellent. He highlighted that the RIFE Report 19 was published in December 2014. The Scottish Pollution Release Inventory (SPRI) was also available on the SEPA website.

A member of the public audience enquired whether the site took advantage of other agencies during the planned anti-terrorist exercises or whether services were purely internal. They also enquired whether there was any military intervention. Mr Morrison responded and advised that police, fire and ambulance services participated in these exercises. Mr Morrison advised that ex-military personnel were also involved in providing command and control training.

Mrs Holmes made reference to the proposal from the site to give a presentation on the application for variation on the transport of waste to local community groups. She advised that she had mentioned this to Fairlie Community Council who responded that they were in agreement for SEPA to handle it and feedback as appropriate. Mrs Holmes noted that she had received a letter from Ms Katie Clark, MP which stated that she had written to the site asking to withdraw and resubmit the application to make it more specific. Mr Morrison advised that deliberations were now with SEPA and that the site would provide support around any clarification required regarding the variation.

## **6A. HUNTERSTON A STATION**

Mr Reuben Phillips (representing Site Director, Mr Martin Grafton) took the report as read. Mr Phillips noted that it had been nine months since the last lost time accident and seven months since the last medical treatment. He advised the SSG of one first aid case where an individual had got dust in their eye. Mr Phillips informed the SSG of several regulatory visits from ONR which were largely positive. There had been a visit from Nuclear Safety Environment Council looking at human performance radioactive waste management and site working at height events at Sizewell with positive feedback given to the Deputy Managing Director. Mr Phillips stated that during February and March, they had carried out a series of interactive "working at height" workshops to look at processes and planning of working at height in response to an event at Sizewell whereby a scaffolder fell from height.

With regards to decommissioning, Mr Phillips advised good progress had been made with draining the pond down to one metre water level with segregating parts of the pond in order to remove the water and de sludge the pond floor and thereafter review the pond floor shaving. In relation to Intermediate Level Waste programmes, Mr Phillips stated that they had finished emptying Bunker 5 on 6 February 2015 which marked the end of active commissioning of that



retrieval process. He advised they were now working on bunker breakthrough into Bunker 4 and expected 300 packages of waste to come out of this bunker. With regards to the SILWE (Solid Intermediate level Waste Encapsulation) plant, Mr Phillips advised the SSG that the construction of a base lab had commenced and was creating a challenge for the site due to the amount of lorries coming to/from site with work being continuous.

Mr Hugh McGhee, Environmental Department, North Ayrshire Council enquired as to why the annual limits for radionuclides were so generous. Mr Phillips responded that these limits had reduced from previous authorisations; however they wanted capacity to have variation on going forward.

Mr Phillips advised that when they commenced the operation of SILWE and encapsulation and grouting of the boxes, the forecast limits for that plant would be reviewed, resulting in potential variation nearer the time. Mr Adam Stackhouse, SEPA highlighted that the limits had been set when the pond was half full, which was now empty, so advised them to take account of some discharges which may come with emptying the pond and the finished limits being far higher than necessary in reality.

Mr Stackhouse advised that these limits could be reduced if necessary with them having a duty to review authorisations on a regular basis. Mrs Holmes enquired as to whether they were expecting an increase in the radioactive content in liquid discharges with regards to the shaving and cleaning of pond. Mr Phillips responded that they did not expect this to be of significance and gave further detail on the process. Mr Phillips advised that whilst there were still a number of concrete pours to be done, these would be smaller and would be a continuous process over a period of time. This would result in a reduction in the intensity of deliveries experienced. Mrs Holmes enquired as to what happened once the pond walls were stabilised and whether the site was considering rubberising any of the area. Mr Phillips gave further detail on the planned processes. With regard to emergency preparedness, Mrs Holmes enquired as to the location of the nearest whole body monitoring equipment. Mr Phillips advised that whilst such equipment was available at Hunterston B, Hunterston A did not have this facility onsite, noting that various monitoring could be undertaken in different ways other than full body monitoring.

## **6B. SEPA REPORT**

Mr Adam Stackhouse took the report as read. He informed the SSG that the current "Radioactive Substances Act" authorisation had been graded as excellent with no non-compliances noted over the year and no incidents or events. Mr Stackhouse added that the solid, liquid and gas authorisations had also been graded as excellent. He discussed two environmental permits - PPC permit related to cement bulking in grouting plant issued in August last year with no inspection undertaken as yet. CAR licence for sewage effluent and discharges was compliant and graded as excellent. Mr Stackhouse had carried out one inspection in February 2015. With regards to the new authorisations, additional information had been requested with a report to be submitted to him by 1 July 2015.

Mr Stackhouse advised that they had written to the site to discuss managing contaminated structures on site and how much radioactivity was left and the arrangements in place. He noted SEPA's interest in the outcome of the pond. Mr Stackhouse indicated that they had looked at gaseous monitoring arrangements and had discussed SILWE and the process



required for it to go through for authorisation. SEPA had had several discussions with Magnox and internally within SEPA regarding the removal of demolition rubble and topsoil from neighbouring work. He noted that SEPA were supportive of this rather than shipping rubble and soil to great distance on the proviso that a robust plan be put in place to ensure they were aware of what the material was going to be used for, was fit for use and of genuine need. Mr Stackhouse reiterated that they were not the only regulator and that the material had to be covered by appropriate planning controls if it were to be used, and encouraged Magnox to speak to North Ayrshire Council to make sure all was in order.

Mr Stackhouse noted that the RIFE report had been published in December 2014 and highlighted monitoring data reported with nothing unusual listed. He added that the highest estimated force of 0.02 millicieverts (approximately 2% of the dose) was in comparison with that recorded over the last five years.

Mrs Holmes enquired as to what sort of gaseous radioactive discharges would be expected from the SILWE plant. Mr Stackhouse indicated that they expected there to be very little, if any at all. Mrs Holmes asked whether they had observed less gaseous discharges from the non-encapsulation. Mr Reuben Phillips replied that there had been very little gaseous discharge and if it were to occur, it would be minimal and be in particular relation to current processes which they could abate.

Mr Phillips advised that when encapsulation works were complete, they would be in discussion with EDF regarding future use of the encapsulation plant.

## **6C. ONR REPORT**

Mr Peter Donnelly took the report as read. He noted that there had been no non-routine matters and no formal action taken in terms of issuing the licence instrument. With regards to compliance inspection, there had been one inspection undertaken between October and December which covered incidents on site. With regard to safety standards and emergency arrangements these were found to be adequate. In relation to incidents on site, Mr Donnelly reported that they had found arrangements had not been compatible with corporate standard for the company with regards to investigations. He advised that the company provided commitment to address this area and further inspection this week had shown they had adopted corporate standard with individuals trained accordingly.

Mr Donnelly advised that they had reviewed the corporate and local site organisation arrangements and found that what was presented within the documentation, did not correspond with what was given to inspectors as information. He reported that whilst customer practice was adequate resulting in the fundamentals of the licence being met, the information did not meet the clarity required. Mr Donnelly advised that local arrangements were being updated to provide that clarity with a draft of the new arrangements expected by next week. Mr Donnelly gave further detail of external specialists who were brought onto site to look at external hazards and emergency arrangements.

From within the public audience, Mr Craig Lafferty from Balfour Beatty advised that with regard to SILWE concrete walls would each be about 50m cubed which resulted in two to three trucks over a period of a day and therefore there would be a reduction in the volume of trucks to the site experienced previously.

## 7. NDA UPDATE

Mr Bill Hamilton provided an update to the SSG highlighting a few points. Mr Hamilton spoke of the Ministry of Defence consultation for a site for interim storage of former nuclear submarine reactor vessels noting that two NDA sites (Sellafield and Chapelcross) had been mentioned in this regard. He stated that Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group are not in support of the site being used for such a purpose.

With regards to Sellafield, he stated that West Cumbria SSG had not taken a position yet but the Local Authority had taken a formal stance to oppose the use of Sellafield for interim storage of these reactor vessels. He advised that current indications suggested that it would not be one of the NDA sites that would be used due to community objection.

Mr Hamilton advised that the Government had taken the decision on their recommendation regarding changes to management arrangements at Sellafield. He explained that there would not be a parent body organisation that owned the company called Sellafield Limited. He advised that Sellafield Ltd would hire a strategic partner company to add capability to the management of Sellafield Ltd but that the NDA would own Sellafield Ltd. Mr Hamilton noted that there would be a new board of the company comprising of representatives of Sellafield management, senior directors of NDA and independent non-executive directors appointed by Government.

He added that the parent body Nuclear Management Partners were aware of this and NDA were working closely with them and Sellafield Limited to make the transition to the new arrangement a reality.

NMP's contract would officially terminate at the end of March with a 12-month notice period and them exiting the business in Spring 2016. Mr Hamilton assured that these changes to management arrangements were very much a response to unique challenges that were faced as a nation at Sellafield and that they were a unique set of challenges.

Mr Hamilton noted that consultation was now complete on the NDA business plan with the approved plan due for publication at the end of March. The plan included work scheduled for Hunterston A for the next three years as of 1 April 2015 and details of monies awarded. He advised that beyond next year, no further funding was available across the entire estate with this matter being addressed post General Election by the emerging Government, when a spending review would be carried out. Mr Hamilton assured that he would report back regularly to the SSG in terms of progress and also on the outcome of the spending review.

With reference to recent media attention regarding nuclear affairs, Mr Hamilton highlighted headlines which had stated that the cost of clean up of Sellafield had risen by £5Billion. He urged the SSG to remember that this amount was a "best guess" approximate figure and was an estimate of costs spread well over a century. He provided explanation as to the rise in cost and drew attention to the publication "Nuclear Provision Explained" which was available on their website.



Mr Stuart McGhie, Trade Union, Hunterston made reference to the relationship of the decommissioning companies associated with the Sellafield contract, which had been removed or exited from the contract, whether this had been due to financial overrun, loss of finances or lack of management skills. Mr Hamilton noted NDA's disappointment with the performance of the three companies that formed the NMP but stated that these were world class companies and it was therefore about changing the way NDA engaged with the private sector in developing and creating the right role for the private sector company. He confirmed that it was the model of working rather than the companies that had to be addressed. Mrs Holmes asked whether ONR had any position on the changeover from NMP being asked to leave Sellafield.

Mr Peter Donnelly clarified that ONR had awareness that there was a management of change process and that this had to be followed in terms of the adequacy of the change and whether senior management were competent. He concluded that this would be followed through a similar process as carried out with the change of PBO.

## **8. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATE**

Mr Ewan Young, Scottish Government provided an update to the SSG. Mr Young advised that the UK Strategy for the Management of Solid Low Level Waste consultation which launched on 27 January 2015, would now close on 21 April 2015. He added that public engagement within this consultation and responses to the questions asked were necessary to ensure that Government had the opportunity to consider all views on the review of the strategy. Mr Young advised that the consultation and associated documents could be viewed on the DECC website and he would provide the Secretariat with the relevant link.

The Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) Strategy Implementation Group met twice within the period and focused on a number of specific areas of the strategy. The next Scottish Nuclear Sites Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 14 May 2015 in Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh. It was hoped that there would be two presentations from different sites and a call for relevant stakeholder update reports which would be issued in early April. At this point Mrs Holmes invited Mr Ross Baird, Scottish Government Resilience Team (present within the public audience) to provide the SSG with a brief outline of the Resilience Team's duties.

Mr Baird advised that his team was involved in emergency planning response and recovery. He explained he also chaired the Scottish Nuclear Resilience Group which brought together stakeholders and looked at how Scotland was prepared. This involved working with UK Government to review all the emergency planning guidance available and to take the lead for this in Scotland. Mr Baird offered to provide further detail at a future SSG if required. Mrs Holmes asked whether it would be beneficial for a representative from the Resilience Team to attend the Scottish Sites Meetings. Mr Ewan Young advised that an invitation could be extended to them to attend.

## **9. PUBLIC Q & A / AOCB**

There were no questions or points raised from within the public audience.

Mrs Holmes made reference to Mr McKay who had previously been present within the public audience who sought information on evacuation procedures in place for the Isle of Arran. Mr Peter Donnelly, ONR advised that having spoken to him Mr McKay had emailed ONR but had



not received a response. Mr Donnelly stated that he would address this matter with ONR. He also indicated that it may be beneficial for Mr McKay to speak to Mr Baird from the Resilience Team who could offer further information on these procedures. Mrs Jill Callander, Secretariat would contact Mr McKay in this regard. **(Action 01 & 02)**

Mrs Jill Callander indicated that going forward she proposed to send future meeting packs to members electronically, but also confirmed that if any members wished a hard copy, this would be available and an email request would suffice.

#### 10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next SSG meeting will be held on Thursday, 4 June 2015 in the Lauriston Hotel, Ardrossan.

## ACTION LIST

### The Thirty-Ninth Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group Meeting

Thursday, 5 March 2015

No	Action	Responsible	Target Date	Status/Comments
01	To contact ONR seeking a response to an email from Mr McKay (regarding his enquiry on the evacuation procedures in place for the Isle of Arran).	Mr P Donnelly	04/06/15	
02	To liaise with Mr McKay and advise that he contact Mr Baird from the Resilience Team who could offer further information regarding his enquiry (above).	Secretariat	04/06/15	