



Site Stakeholder Group

HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS FROM THE FORTY FIFTH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT LAURISTON HOTEL, ARDROSSAN

Further detail is available in the full Minutes of the meeting.

Chair and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence

Mrs Rita Holmes, Chair, gave an update on the various meetings that she, and Mr John Lamb, Vice Chair, had attended in the three month period since the last meeting.

Actions and Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of 2 June 2016 were approved and there were no actions carried forward.

Hunterston B Station Reports

Hunterston B Report – Roddy Angus

The Station is proud of its excellent safety performance with it being over eight years since the last EDF Lost Time Injury. The site was audited by an external company against the International Standards for Environmental Management, Quality, and Industrial Safety (ISO14001, 9001 and 18001) which resulted in no areas for improvement and no findings, a first within the EDF Energy Fleet. A successful demonstration exercise to the regulator on emergency arrangements for a security event was completed in June 2016. Apprentices from Hunterston B station have won a number of accolades.

ONR Report – Ryan Maitland

All routine compliance inspections in the period had been graded 'green', in line with ONR's new simplified ratings structure. A Licence Instrument was issued during the period which simplified operating rules to allow a more streamlined way of working and clarity of compliance. The ONR has restructured its organisation and more details on this can be found on the website www.onr.org.uk.

SEPA Report – Keith Hammond

Mr Hammond explained the algal blooms in the Firth of Clyde which are due to an organism called *Karenia*, commonly referred to as the 'red tide'. SEPA has received a number of complaints in relation to discolouration. Sand living organisms such as lugworms and possibly some fish have died as a result of this. After investigation, SEPA believes the deaths to be the result of the algal bloom and not due to any radioactive discharges from Hunterston, as was suggested by one complainant. Mr Hammond recommended reading SEPA's new strategy for tackling the challenges facing Scotland's environment in this century, 'One Planet Prosperity – Our Regulatory Strategy', available to view on SEPA's website www.sepa.org.uk.

Hunterston A Site Reports

Hunterston A Report – Martin Grafton

Magnox has introduced a new campaign, Target Zero, as part of the Company's Safety Improvement Plan, the aim of which is to have zero accidents, zero incidents and zero harm. Three out of eight bays within the Pond project have been cleaned. The Solid Waste Bunker Retrieval (SAWBR) project team has completed bunkers 5 and 4 and broke through into bunker 3 in June. During the reporting period, there was one minor radiological event with a small piece of radioactive particle being found in a back pocket of overalls. This was identified and dealt with appropriately. A total of £12,906 has been awarded from the Socio Economic Fund.

ONR Report – Peter Donnelly – Mr Donnelly was not present at the meeting.

SEPA Report – Adam Stackhouse

There were no scheduled site inspections during the period.

NDA Report – Bill Hamilton

EnergySolutions EU submitted a claim for damages to the High Court, following its unsuccessful bid in the Magnox Competition to secure the Parent Body Organisation (PBO) Contract. The High Court Judge ruled against the NDA in respect of the way that the scoring was carried out. The NDA will lodge an appeal and the case continues. The NDA will address community engagement over coming months to ensure that Site Stakeholder Groups are fully engaging with the whole community and transparent.

Update from Scottish Government – Ewan Young

Confirmation of approval for publication of the Scottish Government's Higher Activity Waste (HAW) Implementation Strategy is awaited from the Cabinet Secretary. The definition of 'near site, near surface' was given. An update on the Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCORS) was given.

Next Meeting – Thursday 1 December 2016 at 1.30 pm in the Lauriston Hotel, Ardrossan.



Site Stakeholder Group

**HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
FORTY FIFTH MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 1.30 PM
AT LAURISTON HOTEL, ARDROSSAN**

Present

Magnox Ltd

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

Community Council Representatives

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

North Ayrshire Council

Cllr Robert Barr (Dalry and West Kilbride)
Cllr Tom Marshall (North Coast and Cumbraes)

Scottish Government

Mr Ewan Young

In Attendance

Mrs Sheila Adams (Minutes)
Mr Calum Corral (Press, Largs and Millport News)
Ms Marie Girvan (Balfour Beatty)

Apologies

Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick (Hunterston Estate)
Mr Peter Donnelly (ONR, Hunterston A)
Mr Hugh McGhee (North Ayrshire Council, Environmental Health)
Dr Will Munro (Food Standards Agency Scotland)
Mr Colin Weir (Station Director, Hunterston B)

EDF (Hunterston B)

Dr Roddy Angus (Technical Support Manager)
Mr Andy Taylor
Ms Fiona McCall (External Communications
Manager – Generation (Scotland))

ONR

Mr Ryan Maitland (Hunterston B)

SEPA

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

CNC

Mr Alan MacRae (Hunterston B)

NDA

Mr Bill Hamilton

Mr Roland Gilchrist (Greenway Consulting)
Miss Linda Grainey (Public)
Dr Liz Willetts (Public)
Mr Martin Kostigovs (Public)



1. Chairman's Opening Remarks and Declarations of Interest

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

2. Chair and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence

Mrs Holmes reported that since the last SSG meeting in June 2016, she and Mr Lamb had attended monthly meetings with the Site Closure Director at Hunterston A. These monthly meetings facilitate update and discussion on current work programmes, proposed plans and an update on the Socio Economic Fund. On 24 August, the Chair and Vice Chair visited Hunterston A site to see the Solid Active Waste Bunker Retrieval (SAWBR) Control Room, the Wet Intermediate Level Waste Retrievals and Encapsulation Plant (WILWREP) which has just completed inactive commissioning, the construction site of the Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation (SILWE) Plant and inside one of the Reactor Buildings.

On 21 July, Mrs Holmes and Mr Lamb met with Mr Asahiko Mihara, Japanese MP and Chair of Committee on Nuclear issues, at Hunterston A. This had been organised by the NDA's Head of International Business to discuss issues around the restart of nuclear power stations in Japan, which is proving very difficult as National Government agrees to restarts but Local Authorities object, then injunctions are taken out and the process is stopped. Mr Mihara also visited the Mitsubishi wind turbine and expressed an interest in tidal power.

Mrs Holmes attended the Magnox SSG Chair's Meeting in London on 26/27 July along with eleven of the twelve Site Stakeholder Group Chairs. This consisted of an update from each site and a presentation on waste management plans. Workshops took place where four questions were up for discussion and the varied membership of Hunterston, Hinkley and Sizewell led to some healthy debate.

Mrs Holmes advised that Cllr Gallagher was named as North Ayrshire representative on the Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCORS), which was set up to fill the gap when the Radiation Team at Strathclyde Public Analysts Department was disbanded when Strathclyde region was abolished. This loss was compounded when the Scottish Universities Research Reactor at East Kilbride was closed. Both bodies had provided invaluable help and independent advice to groups and Hunterston, and Scotland in general, after the Chernobyl disaster.

An invitation to Site Stakeholder Group members to attend a presentation on Tuesday 23 August on EDF's variation on transportation of waste, which was granted by regulators, received a very limited response and the meeting was subsequently cancelled. The invitation was sent by Hunterston B's Station Manager's Secretary and will be rescheduled if there is sufficient interest. It was suggested that the invitation is distributed by the SSG Secretariat to ensure it reaches the correct people. It was agreed that should EDF wish to issue any invitations to SSG Members, SSG Secretariat to liaise with Hunterston B to circulate invitation to SSG members.

In terms of forthcoming meetings, Mrs Holmes advised of the Scottish Sites Meeting hosted by Scottish Government on 29 September which both she and John Lamb would attend.

Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) has scheduled a meeting on 13/14 October in Manchester for SSG Chairs.

The Magnox SSG Chairs meeting will take place on 22/23 November 2016.

3. Actions and Approval of Previous Minutes

There were no Actions carried forward from the previous meeting. The Minutes of the meeting of 2 June 2016 were proposed for approval by Mr Robert Barr and seconded by Mr John Lamb.

4. Hunterston B Station Reports

Hunterston B Report – Roddy Angus

The Station Director's report, circulated with the meeting papers, was taken as read. In Mr Weir's absence, Dr Angus highlighted the main points in the report.

Under Safety and Environment, Dr Angus was pleased to report that the Station continues to have a good safety record, with it being over eight years since the last EDF Lost Time Injury. The Station is proud of this excellent performance but is not complacent and continues with its Safety Campaign.

With regard to environmental safety, the site was audited against the International Standards for Environmental Management, Quality, and Industrial Safety (ISO14001, 9001 and 18001). The audit, carried out by an external company, resulted in no areas for improvement and no findings. This is a first within the EDF Energy Fleet and an outstanding result for the Station. Two 'near miss' type events were recorded in the period, which consisted of some waste material being deposited into an incorrect skip for disposal and a small leak of bleach from a storage container. The leak was contained within the protective bunding which was designed for this purpose. Repairs have been implemented and there was no loss to the environment. Improvements are being made to the surface water discharge point to improve safe access for personnel.

In respect of Radiological Protection, the actual collective radiation dose for the period was half that of the expected level. A table demonstrating this was included in the report.

A successful demonstration exercise to the regulator was completed in June 2016 relating to emergency arrangements for a security event. Reactor 3/Unit TG7's outage was completed in May. Apprentices from Hunterston B have won a number of accolades and it is very pleasing to see this level of talent being trained in the industry.

ONR Report – Ryan Maitland

Mr Maitland highlighted the main points in his report, which was circulated with the meeting papers and taken as read. Mr Maitland confirmed that all routine compliance inspections in the period had been graded 'green', in line with ONR's new simplified ratings structure. A more comprehensive systems based inspection was undertaken on the buffer store, which received a satisfactory result, with requirements of the safety case being adequately fulfilled. Security specialists observed the counter terrorism security exercise which was also adequate. Under non-routine matters, the discovery of two keyway root cracks during an outage of Reactor 4 was not unexpected. ONR was satisfied from the safety case that the reactor is safe to return to service until the next planned outage in September 2017. ONR Specialists continue to engage with EDF personnel. A Licence Instrument was issued during the period which simplified operating rules to allow a more streamlined way of working and clarity of compliance. The ONR has recently reorganised its organisational arrangements to ensure that its regulatory structure is appropriately focussed to deliver front-line regulation. Three nuclear safety programmes have been created, each led by a Deputy Chief Inspector.



More details of the organisational structure and full regulatory structure can be found on the ONR website.

SEPA Report – Keith Hammond

Mr Hammond's report, circulated with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Hammond summarised the key points in his report. A site inspection took place on 17 August 2016 to look at the Station's radioactive gaseous discharges which was satisfactory. Mr Hammond explained that there have been algal blooms in the Firth of Clyde which are due to an organism called *Karenia*, commonly referred to as the 'red tide'. SEPA has received a number of complaints in relation to discolouration. Sand living organisms such as lugworms and possibly some fish have died as a result of this. After investigation, SEPA believes the deaths to be the result of the algal bloom and not due to any radioactive discharges from Hunterston, as was suggested by one complainant. Mr Hammond recommended reading SEPA's new strategy for tackling the challenges facing Scotland's environment in this century. The strategy is entitled 'One Planet Prosperity – Our Regulatory Strategy' and is available to view on SEPA's website www.sepa.org.uk.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Barr complimented the management and staff of Hunterston B Station on eight years without injury.

Mr Lamb referred to the stoppages on Reactor 4/TG8 throughout June due to issues with the refuelling charge machine and agreed with the conservative decision to give staff time to understand the fault.

Mrs Holmes asked if the cracking of core bricks at Hinkley was the same as that at Hunterston. Mr Maitland understood that there had been an issue with bore cracks at Hinkley ten years ago but the cracking mechanism at Hunterston was in relation to keyway root cracks which is less onerous. Mr Taylor added that there had been an outage at Hinkley in January / February looking for cracking but none was found. Dr Angus added that Hinkley and Hunterston mimic each other but Hinkley is further behind so no keyway root cracks have appeared yet. Information from both sites is pooled and Reactor 3 will be examined again in January 2017. Mrs Holmes asked how often keyway root cracks should be inspected. Dr Angus responded that inspections are made on a continuous cycle of 12 months for Reactor 3 and 18 months for Reactor 4. Mrs Holmes asked if the inspections cycle could be shortened. Mr Maitland advised that the cycle is proposed by EDF, determined by what is found at each inspection, and results cannot be pre-empted. The cycle proposed by EDF will be agreed with ONR. It is likely that more defects will arise as time progresses.

Cllr Marshall referred to paragraph 3.10 of the ONR Report on non-routine matters and the monitoring of the two cracks discovered in 2014 to identify any increase in size. He asked for a measurement of 'significant' in respect of 'no significant increase in their size since the last outage'. Dr Angus confirmed that the gap had increased by less than 1mm, which was regarded as not significant, as up to 12mm had been predicted.

Mr Macfarlane asked if there is a difference between Hinkley and Hunterston which causes their Reactors to be different. Dr Angus clarified that procedures are similar and management should be the same but Hunterston started before Hinkley so the differences are in age and time not in procedures.

Mrs Holmes asked Mr Maitland for more detail on the Licence Instrument which allowed streamlining of procedures. Mr Maitland advised that this was a change in the way that changes



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are approved as EDF had a number of operating rules approved in an unnecessarily bureaucratic process which had been simplified by a new single operating rule. Mrs Holmes asked for an example of 'minor' changes. Mr Maitland responded that this would apply to administrative procedures for approval of issues that do not have implications on nuclear safety. This was a legacy from 40 years ago and the focus is now on higher nuclear safety than admin procedures.

Mrs Holmes enquired about waste shipments. Mr Taylor confirmed that a shipment of 40 drums of lightly contaminated waste destined for incineration at Hythe had been authorised. A load of metallic waste is destined for Studsvik at Lilyhall in Cumbria. The removal of Low Level Waste would have been allowed prior to the variation but would not have been allowed to go to that particular receiver previously. Mr Hammond added that the variation has optimised choices for the site's removal of waste. Mrs Holmes asked what happens to metallic waste. Mr Taylor explained that the drums are opened and sorted through, some is sent for smelting at another facility, some will be low level waste burial and some might go to another destination. There is a hierarchy of disposal, with the decisions being made by the authorised disposal person.

Public Questions and Answer Session

Miss Grainey referred to the variation authorised by SEPA for transporting Low Level Waste (LLW) between EDF stations at Torness and Hunterston B and onward to LLW facilities, discussed at length at the last meeting, and asked for further clarification as to why oily waste has to be transferred. Mr Hammond responded that both Hunterston B and Torness are authorised to dispose of oily waste but are not authorised to send it back and forth. Incineration is treatment, in accordance with the Higher Activity Waste (HAW) Policy and the waste goes to Southampton to be treated. Miss Grainey had concerns regarding the safety of transportation of the waste and suggested that the variation is increasing the amount of nuclear waste on the roads which is more dangerous than leaving it where it is. Mr Hamilton explained that there is no Higher Level Waste in Scotland. Spent fuel is spent fuel, not waste. All spent fuel goes to Sellafield for reprocessing and storage. Sellafield reprocesses the spent fuel and over 90% of the waste (uranium and plutonium) is recovered, with the remainder being classed as Higher Level Waste (HLW). HLW is vitrified into a unified glass block, double hulled with steel shells in a special building in Sellafield for an interim period until a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) is built.

Dr Willetts asked if spent fuel is not waste, although it is not called waste, when being transferred to Sellafield, and therefore is still hazardous in transportation. Mr Young confirmed that 90% of spent fuel is transported by rail, in containers of which 90% is shielding, with the containers being independently tested to the ultimate. The rail transportation is undertaken by Direct Rail Services in Carlisle, which is a direct subsidiary of the NDA and a specialist company. There have been no incidents in the Company's history.

Dr Willetts asked to what extent political changes, such as Brexit and the Scottish Government, would be likely to impact on Hunterston. Mr Hamilton responded that the NDA's position is that there is absolutely no change at the current time and none foreseen within the short-medium term. He assured members that the global regulatory system remains the same. Mr Young echoed Mr Hamilton's position in respect of the Scottish Government. Mr Stackhouse added that the regulators have the highest standards and the UK leads the way on radioactivity safety, with UK legislation predating European regulations. Mr Maitland echoed Mr Stackhouse's comments and reassured members of the rigorous and time-honoured processes.

5. Hunterston A Site Reports

Hunterston A Report – Martin Grafton

Mr Grafton's report on Hunterston A, which had been circulated with the meeting papers, was taken as read. The site's safety performance continues to be good, and while not quite as good as Hunterston B Station, is one of the best within the Magnox estate. There have been three minor first aid injuries since the last meeting. Magnox has introduced a new campaign, Target Zero, as part of the Company's Safety Improvement Plan, the aim of which is to have zero accidents, zero incidents and zero harm. The campaign will be themed each month, focusing on a specific topic. Management visibility in the field has been increased, demonstrating commitment from top management to the workforce and encouraging two-way communication.

In terms of decommissioning, three out of eight bays within the Pond project have been cleaned, which is slightly behind programme. The Solid Waste Bunker Retrieval (SAWBR) project team has completed bunkers 5 and 4 and broke through into bunker 3 in June. The start of the ventilation system active commissioning is the first step in the process of actively commissioning the Wet Intermediate Level Waste Retrieval and Encapsulation Plant (WILWREP) and the ONR has concluded an inspection on the facility to start active commissioning.

With regard to Human Resources, the restructuring of the site is almost complete. Mr Grafton explained the radioactive discharges detailed in his report. In respect of the small piece of graphite found in a tool box, discussed in detail at the last meeting, Mr Grafton updated on the thorough and deep investigation of the incident, which has been completed and the findings shared with ONR and SEPA. The ONR is satisfied with the outcome of the investigation and will follow up on remedial actions arising from this. During the period of this report, there has been one minor radiological event with a small piece of radioactive particle being found in a back pocket of overalls. This was identified and dealt with appropriately. Work continues on Emergency Preparedness, with an exercise being held on 7 July 2016. A total of £12,906 has been awarded from the Socio Economic Fund, with the largest award of £10k going to the Friends of Portencross Castle for a toilet and septic tank project. A list of dates and visitors to the site is included in the report for reference and information.

ONR Report – Peter Donnelly

Mr Donnelly's report, provided with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Donnelly was not present at the meeting.

SEPA Report – Adam Stackhouse

Mr Stackhouse apologised for his absence at the last meeting and advised that there was no written report for this meeting as there had been no scheduled inspections on the site during the period. From the Minutes of the June meeting, Mr Stackhouse referred to the joint inspection with ONR and the question on the shortfalls in respect of accumulated radioactive waste. Mr Stackhouse advised that there was some 'potentially' radioactive material stored outside which could, if it was contaminated, have been spread by the weather or animals. On the last visit to the site, considerable progress had been made in addressing this and actions taken. SEPA was pleased to see that Magnox responded well and quickly to these concerns and committed the funding and manpower to address this. With regard to the small piece of graphite found outwith the controlled area, explained at the last meeting, Magnox provided a report on this and SEPA has decided, due to near misses at Chapelcross and Hunterston, to look across the board at the arrangements for monitoring and clearance at Magnox sites in Scotland. SEPA takes this very seriously as it is critical to have the confidence of the public and for the public to trust the Regulators and Magnox. Magnox has kept SEPA updated as organisational changes progress at Hunterston and Chapelcross and the new Lifetime Plan.

Questions and Observations

Mr Lamb had questions for Mr Donnelly but, in his absence, advised that he would write to him directly. Mrs Holmes invited Mr Lamb to share his questions with members. Mr Lamb referred to item 4 of Routine Matters on Mr Donnelly's report, regarding the inspection of the SILWE project which had achieved a rating of amber due to a number of deficiencies with regard to compliance. Mr Lamb considered that the report was misleading and should be clarified as it did not state that this was a desk-based analysis. Mr Grafton clarified that this partly referred to Method Statements of Contractors which were not up to Magnox quality and Mr Grafton stopped work until this was rectified by the Contractors.

Mrs Holmes asked about the statutory maintenance period on the Solid Active Waste Bunker Retrieval (SAWBR) project and how often there were planned shutdowns for statutory maintenance. Mr Grafton responded and advised that inspections are undertaken to ensure equipment remains fit for purpose and also that statutory and routine maintenance are choreographed. Mrs Holmes asked about an issue which was noted with regard to the ropes. Mr Phillips advised that specialist analysis is required as the ropes were expected to last longer than they have.

Mrs Holmes asked about the ventilation system on the Wet Intermediate Waste Retrieval and Encapsulation Plant (WILWREP) and Mr Grafton explained this in more detail.

Mrs Holmes referred to the Apprentices taken on at Hunterston B station, which she considers lends itself more easily to this than Hunterston A. Mr Grafton replied that the Government's Apprenticeship Policy does present a challenge for Hunterston A site due to the declining workforce and workload. Mrs Holmes asked about the workload implications for the supervisors of apprentices and asked the views of the Regulators. Mr Hamilton responded that the NDA is committed to encouraging apprenticeships and considered that this is an urgent requirement as new young blood is vital to the industry. Mr Hamilton added that he believed this was not an appropriate question for the regulators as the site or Company has to have a safety structure in place irrespective of the personnel. Mr Grafton reassured members that apprentices are given appropriate training and supervision. Mr Stackhouse reiterated Mr Hamilton's comments that there are processes to be adhered to in respect of appropriate training and supervision, regardless of the status of the employee. Magnox has undertaken to provide 40 apprentice positions across its sites. Mr Dew confirmed that the Unions are supportive of any attempts to increase employment, particularly youth employment.

NDA Report – Bill Hamilton

The NDA report, issued with meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Hamilton referred to the meeting and workshops held in July with Magnox, NDA and the Site Stakeholder Group Chairs. Magnox led a discussion on local and community engagement which is of particular interest to the NDA as it looks across the estate at the future of community engagement, indicated in the NDA's Strategy 3, published in April 2016. It is intended that materials presented to Site Stakeholder Groups (SSG's) will be more understandable and user-friendly and new technology will be used to summarise more easily. The NDA recognises that while some SSG's are fully representative of the local community, others are not and the core audience has shrunk. A conversation has been started with SSG Chairs, which will be widened over the coming months, and Mr Hamilton requested additional time on the Agenda for the March 2017 meeting to glean the views of

members.

EnergySolutions EU submitted a claim for damages to the High Court, following its unsuccessful bid in the Magnox Competition to secure the Parent Body Organisation (PBO) Contract. The High Court Judge ruled against the NDA in respect of the way that the scoring was carried out and the case continues. If found in *EnergySolutions* favour, it would receive financial damages and the NDA has made the decision to appeal the Judge's decision. The final hearing is not expected until Autumn 2017 at the earliest, so the case has a long way to go. The question now being asked is about the impact on the decommissioning programme of financial damages being awarded to *EnergySolutions*, the answer to which is none as it is too early to say if an award will be made and for how much.

The NDA's Chief Executive, John Clarke, has announced his retirement.

Mr Hamilton advised of a Panorama programme to be aired on Monday 5 September on safety at Sellafield. The NDA has been in continual contact with journalists and programme producers for some months and has cooperated fully. The content of the programme will not be known until it is aired but Mr Hamilton invited anyone with any issues or concerns following the programme to contact him, through the SSG Secretariat. Mr Hamilton added that it is the NDA's intention to show SSG Chairs around Sellafield, probably in Spring 2017.

Mrs Callander added that at the meeting in London in July, it was agreed that an Executive Summary would be produced from now on, with the usual full Minutes to make it easier for members to report back to their respective organisations. Any comments on this should be fed back to the Secretariat.

Questions and Observations

Mrs Holmes enquired about the Police training facility in Cumbria. Mr MacRae advised that this firearms training facility is not yet complete but is believed that it will be world class.

Dr Angus and Mr Taylor left the meeting at 3.10 pm.

Miss Grainey welcomed the NDA's desire to liven up Site Stakeholder Groups and better inform the public. She considered that SEPA and the Scottish Government should consult the public on variations as the vagueness of information available leads the public to assume the worst. She suggested holding an annual seminar or workshop to better inform the public. Mr Hamilton thanked Miss Grainey for her feedback and advised that the idea of a different kind of meeting, in addition to the standard SSG meetings, is being considered.

6. Update from Scottish Government – Ewan Young

Mr Young reported that following the result of the EU Referendum vote on 23 June the Scottish Government has been asked how it will work going forward until the UK leaves the European Union. The First Minister has made a number of statements on the subject which have all been well documented. One of the main concerns asked of the Scottish Government refers to membership of the European Atomic Energy Community and also membership of Euratom. The most recent answers to these questions appear in the Hansard for the House of Lords and are as follows:

The implications of the European referendum result for the Scottish Government's membership of the European Atomic Energy Community have yet to be determined. It will be for the UK



Government to begin negotiations to exit the EU and determine the future relationship with the European Atomic Energy Community.

In terms of membership of Euratom, the UK Government's guiding principle throughout the process of leaving the EU will be to ensure the best possible outcome for the British people.

With regard to Scotland, the Scottish Government's starting point must be that the best way of solving anything other than very local issues is to co-operate across national boundaries and that solutions need to be developed in a common framework. Whatever shape that takes does not change the fundamental necessity. The European Union has been the mechanism by which that common approach has been taken. It has provided strategic policy direction for environmental measures and for many of the laws that the Scottish Parliament has passed. Laws to protect the environment have been made in the framework of EU legislation. The referendum result does not change the force of Scotland's domestic law, in which regulation and protection are embedded. Scotland's regulatory bodies - SEPA, ONR and others - will continue to regulate and protect and will continue to do what they need to do to effect the outcomes that are considered to be necessary. Mapping of all the different impacts on different policy areas and assessing how quickly they might be felt is in the early stages. There are certain uncertainties that are not easy to calculate at the moment, but understanding Scotland's exposure will be important. The Department will have to do work not only in its policy area but also across the whole of the Scottish Government. The timescale for remaining in the EU is uncertain and looks as if it might continue to be uncertain for quite some time so EU rules and obligations continue to apply. The Scottish Government will continue to contribute to EU-wide environment policies, and to make sure that its own environment is maintained, protected and advanced.

With regard to the Scottish Government's Higher Activity Waste (HAW) Implementation Strategy, written confirmation of approval from the Cabinet Secretary to publish the Implementation Strategy is awaited. The Implementation Strategy is expected to include new content on milestones, public engagement and Research and Development and the timeframe of the work involved in delivering the Strategy will take many decades. The Scottish Government aims to continue to work closely with the sites as well as the Site Stakeholder Groups, as the work streams emerging from the Strategy over the coming months and years ahead become clearer.

For the purposes of the Policy and Strategy, 'near surface' for storage and disposal means:

- Facilities located at the surface of the ground or at depths down to several tens of metres below the surface.
- Near surface facilities may use the geology (rock structure) to provide an environmental safety function, but some may rely solely on engineered barriers.
- Near surface facilities may use existing structures if an acceptable safety case is made.

The 2011 Policy does not give a prescriptive definition of 'near site' for storage or disposal facilities. However, the presumption will be that disposal facilities will be as near to the site where the waste is produced as practicable. Decisions will be made on a case by case basis and will be subject to robust regulatory requirements and the principles underlying the Policy.

The next meeting of the Scottish Nuclear Sites Group will take place on Thursday 29 September 2016 at 10.00 am in Scottish Government offices, Victoria Quay, Leith, Edinburgh. There will be two excellent presentations on two different but relevant topics which will be of great interest to all who will attend the meeting. The presentations will cover the work done to date in respect of the Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act and the various regulatory changes being proposed and the upcoming UK wide consultation on the subject of Proportionate Regulatory Control (PRC).



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Meetings of the Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCORS) took place on 15 April 2016 at which the appointment of Councillor Nick Gardner, Edinburgh Council, was ratified and on 1 July 2016 when members discussed consultation on requirements for the release of nuclear sites from radioactive substances regulation and appointed representatives to a number of groups. A presentation was given by Dr George Hunter on the extent of use of radioactive materials in society and how they are regulated in Scotland.

Edinburgh Council will now also provide the secretariat for the meetings. The next meeting will take place on 7 October 2016, where a speaker from the NDA will discuss the NDA's Higher Activity Waste Strategy and Mr Charles Stewart Roper and Mr Martin Macdonald will discuss the Scottish Government's Higher Activity Waste Implementation Strategy.

In respect of membership of SCCORS, the records held by the Scottish Government indicated that there are no Councillors listed for the following local authorities: Aberdeenshire, Dumfries and Galloway, Moray, North Ayrshire, Western Isles, West Lothian. Although there is no councillor from Dumfries and Galloway Council, Steven Herriot attends as the Council's representative. Similarly, although there is no Councillor from North Ayrshire Council, Scott McKenzie attends as the Council's representative. While it is acceptable for Officers to attend, each Council should have a Councillor representative and it may be worthwhile writing to the Council Chief Executives to request an Elected Member nomination.

Mr MacRae left the meeting at 3.22 pm.

7. Public Questions and Answers

Miss Grainey advised that she believed that the the SCCORS representative for North Ayrshire Council, according to its website, is Councillor Alex Gallagher.

Miss Grainey posed a question with regard to spent fuel going from Hunterston to Sellafield if a second independence referendum in Scotland is successful with a projected timescale of 2019-2020, when Hunterston will not be decommissioned until 2023 and Torness 2030. Mr Young responded that questions such as this, and many issues which would require to be addressed, would be discussed at the appropriate time, in the event of a yes vote.

Mr Young encouraged anyone interested to read the Scottish Government's 600 page document which was published to give the Scottish Government's position in the event of independence, and in which Mr Lamb had a question published.

Mr Hamilton finished by saying that people have every right to ask questions but the issue is very complex and would require much debate as there are many viewpoints to be taken into account. Mr Barr added that he does not think it appropriate that politics are discussed at SSG meetings.

8. Any Other Business

There were no further questions or items of other business raised and Mrs Holmes closed the meeting at 3.30 pm.

Mr Barr proposed a vote of thanks for the Chair.

9. Next Meeting – Thursday 1 December 2016

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 1 December 2016 in the Lauriston Hotel, Ardrossan, at 1.00 pm for 1.30 pm.



Site Stakeholder Group