



## Site Stakeholder Group

### HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS FROM THE FORTY SIXTH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER 2016 AT 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 1 September 2016 were approved and there were no actions carried forward.

#### **Hunterston B Station Reports**

##### **Hunterston B Report – Dr Roddy Angus**

The excellent safety performance at the Station continues, with it being over 8.5 years since the last EDF Lost Time Injury. A 'Safe Start' campaign using virtual reality technology will be rolled out in January 2017. Three minor events were reported under environmental safety, with no harm to the environment. The recruitment process for the next intake of apprentices has begun. Questions were raised with regard to core brick cracking and waste authorisations. A presentation was requested and will be given at the March 2017 Meeting.

##### **ONR Report – Mr Ryan Maitland**

One non-routine investigation had taken place with regard to scaffolding, erected to allow access for maintenance on the turbine hall crane, which was not removed afterwards and resulted in a collision between the scaffold structure and turbine hall roof beams which caused minor damage. The ONR judged that the Station's arrangements for control of such work were not sufficiently robust and has requested improvements. The three yearly Level 2 exercise undertaken in September was commended.

##### **SEPA Report – Mr Keith Hammond**

The latest edition of the RIFE 21 (Radioactivity in Food and the Environment) report covering 2015 has been published and is available to view or download from SEPA's website. The numbers in the report are broadly similar to previous years. The Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (SPRI), giving details of releases of pollutants to all environmental media and transfers of non-radioactive waste, is also publicly available on SEPA's website.

#### **Hunterston A Site Reports**

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

It is 31 months since the last Lost Time Accident (LTA) on site which is testament to the performance of personnel. Two new Safety Representatives have joined the site team. The annual regional review of safety, security and environment was carried out by ONR and SEPA at Chapelcross, for both Chapelcross and Hunterston. A minor radiological event occurred when an individual was splashed with a small amount of pond water, affecting only their personal protective clothing. Good progress is being made in decommissioning work.

**ONR Report – Mr Rob Eales** – Mr Eales was not present at the meeting.

##### **SEPA Report – Mr Adam Stackhouse**

A Radioactive Substances Act inspection on control, monitoring and clearance of materials and waste had taken place at Hunterston A site on 21/22 November. This theme was selected due to the number of events and near misses at both Hunterston A and Chapelcross over the last few years. This inspection was carried out by three SEPA inspectors with a similar inspection carried out at Chapelcross in September. All arrangements are compliant with the authorisation conditions with some examples of good practice. The annual Safety Review concluded that reports from both sites are to a good standard and well received.

##### **NDA Report – Mr Mark Raffle**

Major changes are taking place within the NDA's Executive Team due to the impending retirement of John Clarke, Chief Executive, resignation of Mr Peter Lutwyche, Chief Operating Officer, and Stephen Henwood, Chairman, reaching the end of his three year term of office. There is no update since the last meeting on the Court Case against EnergySolutions EU.

##### **Update from Scottish Government – Ewan Young**

Updates were received on the Scottish Government's position on Brexit, the Article 35 visit to Torness, the Submarine Dismantling project and the Scottish Nuclear Sites Group meeting held on 29 September 2016. The next Scottish Sites Group meeting will be held on 23 March 2017.

**Next Meeting – Thursday 2 March 2017 at 1.00 pm for 1.30 pm in the Lauriston Hotel, Ardrossan**



## Site Stakeholder Group

### HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP FORTY SIXTH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER 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)

##### **North Ayrshire Council**

Cllr Robert Barr (Dalry and West Kilbride)  
Cllr Alex Gallagher (North Coast and Cumbraes)  
Cllr Elizabeth McLardy MBE (Dalry and West Kilbride)  
Cllr Tom Marshall (North Coast and Cumbraes)  
Mr Hugh McGhee (Environmental Health)

##### **Scottish Government**

Mr Ewan Young

##### **In Attendance**

Mrs Sheila Adams (Minutes)

##### **Apologies**

Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick (Hunterston Estate)  
Mr Rob Eales (ONR, Hunterston A)  
Mr Bill Hamilton (NDA, Head of Communications)  
Dr Hazel Henderson (NHS Ayrshire and Arran, Public Health)  
Mr William Jack (NFU)  
Mr Douglas MacFarlane (Largs Community Council)  
Ms Jane McGeorge (Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Team)  
Mr Stuart McGhie (EDF TU Representative, Hunterston B)  
Dr Will Munro (Food Standards Agency Scotland)

##### **EDF (Hunterston B)**

Dr Roddy Angus (Technical Support Manager)  
Mr Andy Taylor

##### **ONR**

Mr Ryan Maitland (Hunterston B)

##### **SEPA**

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

##### **NDA**

Mr Mark Raffle (NDA Programme Manager,  
Scottish Sites)

##### **In Attendance**

Ms Marie Girvan (Balfour Beatty)  
Mr Ronald Gilchrist (Greenway Consulting)

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

Mrs Holmes, Chair, welcomed everyone to the forty-sixth 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. Confirmation was awaited but it was noted that following the recent Community Council elections, this may be Mr Corcoran's last meeting as a representative of Cumbrae Community Council.

## 2. Chair and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence

Mrs Holmes summarised the meetings that she and Mr Lamb had attended since the last Site Stakeholder Group meeting in September.

The Scottish Sites meeting in Edinburgh was held on 29 September which included updates from all the Scottish civil nuclear and MOD sites, as well as presentations on Regulatory Reform and Proportionate Regulatory Code. Mrs Holmes commended the Scottish Government for hosting these meetings which allow for more openness and transparency about what is happening at sites, which English and Welsh Site Stakeholder Groups do not have access to. Mrs Holmes felt better prepared for meetings as a result of the information learned at Scottish Sites meetings.

Mrs Holmes and Mr Lamb had attended the Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) meeting in Manchester on 13/14 October 2016.

Mrs Holmes attended the Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCORS) meeting in Glasgow on 27 October 2016. Mr Scott McKenzie attended for North Ayrshire Council and it was understood that a Councillor Representative from North Ayrshire Council would be formally elected at a full Council Committee meeting.

**Action** – Mrs Callander to contact Melanie Anderson, North Ayrshire Council Secretariat, to establish name of Councillor nominated as the Council representative on SCCORS. **Action 01**

Mrs Holmes attended the Magnox Chair's Meeting in London on 22/23 November 2016 where there was concern from some Chairs about the questions in the survey on the effectiveness of the Site Stakeholder Groups. Updates were given by each of the sites which generated robust discussion.

A Pre Consultation meeting in respect of the Discussion Paper on the Regulation of Nuclear Sites in the Final Stages of Decommissioning and Clean Up was held in Manchester on 28 November. Concerns over the ONR handing over its role to the Environment Agency / SEPA and Local Authorities were discussed openly and frankly. Robust regulations and processes will be required and consultation on this will begin in spring 2017. An ONR presence will be retained at Hunterston A site due to its long-term storage of Intermediate Level Waste (ILW).

## Questions and Observations

Cllr McLardy MBE asked for clarification on the withdrawal of the ONR. Mrs Holmes explained that as some sites are nearing the end of decommissioning, the need for regulatory regime should be proportionate to the level of risk.

This is the beginning of a long and ongoing process to produce legally binding procedures to enable the Environment Agency and Local Authorities to deal with decommissioned sites at the

end of their lives. Mr Maitland was not qualified to comment but will take back concerns.

Mr Stackhouse further clarified that there are currently two Regulators – the ONR and the Environment Agency. The ONR has responsibility for nuclear and high hazards and disposal of waste. In the future, when stores and reactors are gone, leaving only Low Level Waste (LLW) Stores or contaminated land, it may be more appropriate for the Environment Agency to be the only Regulator. Mr Young added that a 23 page Discussion Paper has been out since mid November and can be found on the UK Government website until 29 December 2016. The formal public consultation will commence in spring 2017. Cllr Gallagher asked if there was any point in commenting before the formal consultation and thought that a collective response would have more impact. Mrs Callander clarified that anyone can feed into the process individually but a group response could be arranged which would only be applicable to voting members.

**Action** – Mrs Holmes’ notes to be circulated to voting members to add any comments and feed back to the Secretariat who will formulate a response from the Site Stakeholder Group. **Action 02**

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

There were no Actions carried forward from the previous meeting. Mr Lamb requested clarification in respect of the ‘no significant increase’ in the cracks in the blocks, referred to on Page 4 of the Minutes. Mr Taylor confirmed that the dimension of the existing crack was 1mm and on re-examination was 1.5mm, which was not regarded as significant as up to 12mm had been predicted. Mrs Holmes corrected the name of the member of the public, which should have been Mr Ronald Gilchrist, not Roland. With this amendment, the Minutes of the meeting of 1 September 2016 were proposed for approval by Mr Robert Barr and seconded by Mr Frank Corcoran.

### 4. **Hunterston B Station Reports**

#### **Hunterston B Report – Dr Roddy Angus**

The Station Director’s report, circulated with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Dr Angus highlighted the main points in the report.

Safety performance continues to be excellent, with it being more than 8.5 years since the last EDF Lost Time Injury. The Total Recordable Injury Rate is currently 0.54% which the site hopes to reduce to 0% and it continues to work towards zero harm. A proactive campaign to further promote safety has seen two productions made using virtual reality technology, which will be rolled out on site in the new year as part of the “Safe Start” campaign in January 2017.

There were no significant events under environmental safety. Three minor events were reported, with no harm to the environment. On sampling the sewage system, SEPA detected an increased pH reading on a discharge to sea. Specific levels must be maintained and on this occasion the pH level of the dose was 9.2 instead of 9.0, as a result of a fault in a pH meter. The fault was found and rectified quickly and the site is looking to strengthen procedures here so it is not vulnerable.

Under Generation, Reactor 4/TG8 had tripped for five days in September due to a small issue with the turbine control system which was repaired giving extra defence and depth.

Heysham’s world record-breaking Reactor was taken out of service for planned maintenance, following 940 days of continuous operation, showing that the investment is paying dividends.

The latest round of apprenticeship recruitment has begun. Information sessions will be held and

following an intensive selection process, between five and eight apprentices will be taken on across site disciplines.

### **ONR Report – Mr 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 but one of the routine compliance inspections in the period had been graded 'green', in line with ONR's new simplified ratings structure of red, amber or green from April 2016. Under Non-Routine Matters, Mr Maitland referred to paragraph 10 of his report and explained Licence Condition 7 which requires adequate arrangements for the notification, investigating and reporting of incidents recorded at the Station. ONR examined the details of an incident which occurred in February 2016 and found that scaffolding erected to allow access for maintenance had erroneously been left in place on top of the turbine hall crane which was not removed afterwards and resulted in a collision between the scaffold structure and turbine hall roof beams which resulted in some minor damage. ONR judged that the Station's arrangements for control of such work were not sufficiently robust and has requested improvements, which will be followed up in future inspections.

Mr Maitland commended the three yearly Level 2 exercise undertaken in September 2016 which was not included in the report. The exercise tested the Strategic Co-ordination Centre, as well as the predetermined Media Briefing Centre at HMS Gannet and the onsite Emergency Control Centre. Mr Maitland described this as a good exercise and commended North Ayrshire Council's effort on the off-site arrangements.

### **SEPA Report – Mr Keith Hammond**

Mr Hammond's report, circulated with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Hammond referred to the last page of this report advising of the publication of the latest edition of the RIFE 21 (Radioactivity in Food and the Environment) report covering 2015, which is available to view or download from SEPA's website. The numbers in the report are broadly similar to previous years. Mr Hammond advised that The Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (SPRI), giving details of releases of pollutants to all environmental media and transfers of non-radioactive waste, is also publicly available on SEPA's website.

In addition to the report, Mr Hammond reported that a meeting has been held with EDF, the Environment Agency and ONR to begin discussions on defueling at Hunterston and Torness. An Article 35 visit to monitor programmes and environmental discharge took place. SEPA's Chief Executive, Mr Terry A'Hearn, is meeting with Senior NDA representatives at Torness.

### **Questions and Observations**

Referring to the malfunction of the pH meter, Cllr Barr asked if there was a back-up system in place. Dr Angus responded that there was no back-up in place at that time as it is very unusual for a device such as this to fail but this was one of the remedial actions taken and a back-up system is in place going forward. Mr Taylor added that this is a standard Scottish Water sewage plant with standard UK fittings which has been adapted to suit Hunterston's requirements. Mr McGhie asked if this was for domestic sewage and Mr Taylor confirmed that this is the case.

Mrs Holmes asked if any members would be interested in seeing the virtual reality technology.

**Action** – Dates to be circulated among members in January 2017 to establish interest in site visit to see new virtual reality technology. **Action 03**

Cllr Gallagher asked Mr Maitland if the rating system is known to the public and considered that

red, amber and green gradings lack detailed information. Mr Maitland responded that the decision to change the system attracted much internal debate. The decision to change the system was made as the rating is less important than the content of the report. The rating is merely an indicator of whether or not compliance has been achieved. The descriptions of 'adequate' and 'inadequate' are no longer used as these tended to cause concern among the public.

Under Environmental Safety, Mrs Holmes asked if the fuel spilled was diesel. Mr Taylor confirmed that this was the case. In respect of the ammonia spilled into a bund, this was due to an error in preparation with the tank and pump system being configured wrongly, which was noticed immediately and rectified.

Mrs Holmes asked for more information on the turbine hall crane and scaffolding incident referred to in the ONR report. Dr Angus explained that a noise was heard and the operation was stopped. Investigations were carried out and there is a responsibility on the owner of the crane to undertake pre-use checks but other safeguards should also have been in place. The root cause was a shortfall in additional processes which could have been in place. New training awareness has been provided to operators.

Mrs Holmes asked if there is any one person who has overall knowledge of everything that is happening on the site on any one day. Dr Angus responded that this is a difficult question as there is always a Shift Manager but there are also delegated lines of responsibility.

Mrs Holmes asked if the site was aware that a helicopter was going to land close to the Site. Mr Taylor confirmed that the site had been advised of this and confirmed that it was well away from the site. Mrs Holmes asked if the ONR had prior knowledge of the landing. Mr Maitland clarified that this is out with the jurisdiction of the ONR and it is for the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to set the required altitude and distance and the owner of the helicopter is responsible to the CAA. Cllr Gallagher was concerned about the potentially dangerous situation of radioactive material being in transit when helicopters are landing. He was concerned that three statutory agencies all have responsibilities but none has overall responsibility. Mr Maitland understood the concerns and explained that the agencies have complementary responsibilities; the ONR's being for the transportation of the radioactive material. Mrs Holmes asked if the Civil Nuclear Police knew in advance of the landing. Mr Taylor confirmed that they had been consulted and correct protocols had been followed and permissions granted.

Mrs Holmes referred to Operation Kestrel and Mr Maitland advised that up until April 2016, Technical Advisers would provide direct reports to Government Ministers but the Government took the decision to remove this requirement. Now the "Stack" is chaired by Public Health England and the ONR is represented. There are also COBRA (Cabinet Office Briefing Room A) meetings and the Scottish Government's Resilience Division.

Mrs Holmes noted that the invitation to Site Stakeholder Group members to receive a presentation on site to explain the EDF's variation on transportation of waste which was granted by regulators had received a very low response. Mr Hammond considered that it was worth seeing on site but as the level of interest did not merit a site visit, Mr Hammond had offered to do a short presentation at the next SSG meeting. Mr Taylor will feed into this and provide photos and materials.

**Action** – Mr Hammond and Mr Taylor to prepare a short presentation on the variation authorisation to the Site Stakeholder Group meeting in March 2017. **Action 04**

*Dr Angus and Mr Taylor left the meeting at 2.20 pm.*

## 5. Hunterston A Site Reports

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

Mr Grafton's report on Hunterston A, which had been circulated with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Grafton was pleased to report that it is 31 months since the last Lost Time Accident (LTA) on site which is testament to the performance of personnel. Two new Safety Representatives have volunteered to join the site team, which now has more than the number required. The Safety Representatives attended the Magnox Safety Conference at Heathrow in November which was a very good, thought-provoking Conference. The annual regional review of safety, security and environment was carried out by ONR and SEPA at Chapelcross, for both Chapelcross and Hunterston. This was the first regional event in Scotland and the review was considered to be of good quality.

In an overview of decommissioning, Mr Grafton advised that the floor decontamination in the ponds continues, with a small layer remaining at the bottom causing some difficulties. Under the Solid Active Waste Bunker Retrieval (SAWBR) project, 448 boxes have been recovered with Bunker 3 being one third complete. Permission to start the ventilation active commissioning on the Wet Intermediate Waste Retrieval and Encapsulation Plant (WILWREP) was granted and successfully completed. It is expected that the first drum of encapsulated active waste will be delivered by the end of the year and Mr Grafton explained the photograph under section 2.3. Mr Grafton described the photos in section 2.4 and progress on the Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation (SILWE) project.

A minor radiological event occurred during the period when an individual was splashed with a small amount of pond water during the changeover of a hose. This affected only the individual's personal protective clothing and not their person but was taken seriously and is being investigated.

The ONR witnessed a Contingency Arrangements exercise which demonstrated that the Site Control Room can react quicker to provide relief to the casualty than waiting for the Emergency Control Centre and Access Control Point to be set up. Contractors will be brought up to the same standard as Magnox personnel.

An invitation to tender in January 2017 will be placed in the Official European Journal for the cladding of the reactor building.

The NDA's Stakeholder Engagement Team will present an overview to the Site Stakeholder Group at the meeting in March 2017.

### **ONR Report –**

Mr Eales was not present at the meeting and the ONR report, circulated with meeting papers, was taken as read.

### **SEPA Report – Mr Adam Stackhouse**

Mr Stackhouse's report, included in the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Stackhouse advised that a Radioactive Substances Act inspection on control, monitoring and clearance of materials and waste had taken place at Hunterston A site on 21/22 November. This theme was selected due to the number of events and near misses at both Hunterston A and Chapelcross over the last few years. This inspection was carried out by three SEPA inspectors with a similar inspection carried out at Chapelcross in September. Mr Stackhouse was pleased to report that all arrangements are compliant with the authorisation conditions and expectations with some examples of good practice. Mr Stackhouse had attended the annual Safety Review mentioned by Mr Grafton and concluded that reports from both sites are to a good standard and well received.

In respect of the Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) report, Mr Stackhouse directed members to section 4.9 on pages 121-123 where the figures for radioactivity levels are shown to be very low, a fraction of the permitted dose and consistent with figures of previous years.

### **Questions and Observations**

Cllr Gallagher referred to some controversy over the colour of the proposed cladding of the reactor building and asked if there would be public consultation as part of the tendering process. Cllr Marshall added that planning consent would be required. Mr Grafton confirmed that this would be the case and would not happen for a couple of years but the process has been started now as it takes so long.

Mrs Holmes commented that less than 1.5 boxes per day on the SAWBR project was not a great output. Mr Grafton responded that the model allows for 4.2 boxes per week over a year which allows for outages and the site is slightly ahead of this. Eight boxes can be put through on a good week but there are often very minor but time consuming delays (such as punctures or battery defects). Mrs Holmes asked for more information on the mechanisms which Mr Grafton explained.

Mrs Holmes asked about the ONR's response to the person who was splashed with the pond water. Mr Grafton responded that he had not yet received the ONR's report but he did not expect this to say anything untoward. Mr Grafton added that he is very grateful for the high level of site safety but would also like to see no radiological instances.

Mrs Holmes asked what percentage of waste goes to Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) at Drigg or elsewhere. Mr Phillips explained the process of decontaminating the waste and clarified that waste which cannot be dealt with on site goes to LLWR at Drigg.

Cllr Gallagher asked if near misses are recorded. Mr Grafton confirmed that absolutely everything is recorded and examined to look at trends and enhance learning. The number of Learning Capture Forms (LCFs) received demonstrates a healthy reporting culture on site.

Mrs Holmes asked more about the Emergency Preparedness assessment by the ONR. Mr Peter Donnelly, Mr Rob Eales and a colleague had attended and there was also a Magnox team on site. Going forward, the site will be self-assessing. Hunterston is the eighth Magnox site to go through this process with the standards set from the assessments of the sites which have already gone through the process. Mrs Holmes added that she was sorry that Mr Donnelly was no longer the representative for Hunterston and she wished him all the best and looked forward to meeting Mr Eales.

Mrs Holmes invited comment from Mr Dew. Mr Dew confirmed that he had nothing to add from a Trade Union perspective and commended the good relationship with management on site. He added that the Unions have been very active in lobbying against current proposed legislation with regard to changes in employee pensions.

### **NDA Report – Mr Mark Raffle**

The report from the NDA was circulated with the meeting papers and was taken as read. Mr Raffle explained changes within the Executive Team. The Chief Executive, Mr John Clarke, will retire during 2017; Mr Peter Lutwyche, Chief Operating Officer, is leaving to take up a post in the private sector and Mr Stephen Henwood, Chairman, has reached the end of his three year term of office. Once the successors to the above positions are in post, a new structure will be put in place.

There is no update since the last meeting on the Court Case against EnergySolutions EU. The NDA has sought leave to appeal and no date has yet been fixed. It is too early to speculate what level of damages, if any, may be awarded.

#### 6. Update from Scottish Government – Mr Ewan Young

With regard to Brexit, Mr Young reported that the Scottish Government firmly believes that EU membership delivers many social, economic and cultural benefits for individuals, business and communities across Scotland. It is therefore considering all possible options to ensure Scotland's continuing relationship with Europe. It has a duty to provide reassurance and certainty, and to continue to govern competently in Scotland across all its priorities. The Scottish Government's priority is to protect all of Scotland's interests. It will therefore seek to embed itself as firmly as possible in the UK's process of developing its negotiating strategy. It will do this by adopting a three pronged approach:

- it will seek to make common cause with those of like minds across the UK, to try to reach the least-worst outcomes for the UK as a whole. This means remaining in the single market.
- it will seek to explore differential options for Scotland. The Scottish Government's Standing Council on Europe is already working on a spectrum of options.
- it will make sure that the option of independence remains open, if it concludes that it is simply not possible to protect Scotland's interests in the UK. The consultation on a draft bill was published on 20 October 2016.

As this is a constantly evolving item, Mr Young recommended checking the Scottish Government website and in particular the news page for the latest updates <http://news.gov.scot>.

Mr Young described the Article 35 Visit to Torness on 24–27 October 2016. The background to Article 35 of the Euratom Treaty states that *“Each Member State shall establish the facilities necessary to carry out continuous monitoring of the level of radioactivity in the air, water and soil and to ensure compliance with the basic standards. The Commission shall have the right of access to such facilities: it may verify their operation and efficiency”*. In addition the Commission can look at radiation monitoring as part of emergency preparedness systems in highly populated areas. In the event of a nuclear emergency, the reliable monitoring of doses to the population of large cities is very important, as decisions concerning sheltering and evacuation will be taken on the basis of these measurements. Carrying out verifications under Article 35 is a right of the Commission, not an obligation. Part of the procedure is the requirement for a detailed questionnaire to be completed. This is to ensure that the verification team have adequate knowledge of the monitoring systems in place. The completed questionnaire for Scotland focussed on monitoring undertaken in Scotland by both the environmental regulators and the site operator. It also provided details of the legislation in place as well as how each organisation interacted in respect of environmental monitoring and its reporting both to government and the EC. The visit took place over four days and included a visit to the Scottish Government for a series of short presentations from those involved in the production of the questionnaire response. The EC Inspectors then undertook a two day visit to the EDF Energy Torness site and a half day visit to Public Health England (PHE) laboratories, Glasgow. The EC Inspectors will write their draft report on the visit which will take around 6-9 months to produce. Once written the draft is sent to the UK Representative (BEIS). BEIS then circulate the draft to all those parties involved to seek views/comments on the draft. A period of six weeks is allowed for responses. The overall response will be issued back to the EC through BEIS. Following the Scottish Government's response, the EC will then finalise the report and publish it in English, together with the Scottish Government's comments on the EC website. The next UK Article 35 verification visit will be to London In 2018.

The Scottish Nuclear Sites Group met on 29 September 2016. This group is focussed on the nuclear sector covering both civil and defence and the meeting provides a forum to facilitate discussion of cross-Scotland issues and information sharing for site operators, Site Stakeholder Groups (SSG's) and other stakeholders. The Group received an update on how the Scottish Government is addressing the way forward in respect of Brexit and its possible implications to the nuclear industry and associated areas. In addition, SEPA provided a presentation on Proportionate Regulatory Control (PRC). The next meeting will be on 23 March 2017.

The Submarine Dismantling project is an historical project which has recently taken a significant step forward in terms of undertaking work to decommissioning. Applications have been made under a Memorandum of Understanding and RSA93 to SEPA by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Rosyth Royal Dockyard Limited (RRDL). The MoD application is to dispose of low level waste arising from the dismantling of the seven nuclear submarines laid up at Rosyth by transferring it to RRDL. The RRDL application is for the disposal of low level waste from the seven nuclear submarines once it has been transferred to them by the MoD. Both these applications have been considered by Scottish Ministers and it has been confirmed that Scottish Ministers will not be using their powers under RSA93 to either direct SEPA or refuse the applications. The relevant authorisations were issued by SEPA to MoD and RRDL on 3 November 2016.

### Questions and Observations

Cllr Gallagher referred to the seven nuclear submarines at Rosyth and also 17 at Devonport and asked where the store is being built. Mr Young confirmed that this will not be at Chapelcross, which had been one of the options, but will be at Capenhurst. Mr Corcoran asked what happens after the waste removal. Mr Young responded that there is a standard for recycling within the Ship Recycling Scheme.

### 7. Public Questions and Answers

There were no questions or comments from members of the public.

### 8. Any Other Business

Cllr McLardy MBE asked if it would be possible to see photographs of the inside of the reactors at Hunterston B Station to see the cracks. It was agreed that the Station should be encouraged to include photographs and more information in its future reports.

**Action** – Secretariat to request that Hunterston B Station provide photographs of the inside of the reactors in its next report or a powerpoint presentation on this. **Action 05**

Mrs Callander encouraged members to respond to the Magnox Stakeholder Engagement Survey, the details of which were previously circulated by email. The deadline for responses is 8 December 2016.

### 9. Next Meeting – Thursday 2 March 2017

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 2 March 2017 in the Lauriston Hotel, Ardrossan, at 1.00 pm for 1.30 pm. Cllr Barr gave his apologies for this meeting.

Mrs Holmes wished everyone the compliments of the season and thanked the representatives of the Regulators in particular for attending the meeting. The meeting closed at 2.55 pm.