



Site Stakeholder Group

HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP FORTY THIRD MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3 MARCH 2016 AT 1.30 PM AT LAURISTON HOTEL, ARDROSSAN

Present

Magnox Ltd

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

EDF (Hunterston B)

Mr Colin Weir (Station Director)
Mr Roddy Angus (Technical Support Manager)
Mr Andy Taylor

Community Council Representatives

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

CNC

Mr Alan MacRae (Hunterston B)

North Ayrshire Council

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

SEPA

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

Scottish Government

Mr Ewan Young

In Attendance

Mrs Sheila Adams (Minutes)
Mr Callum Corral (Press, Largs and Millport News)
Ms Marie Girvan (Balfour Beatty)
Miss Linda Grainey (Public)
2 other members of public

Apologies

Cllr Tom Marshall
Mr Frank Corcoran (Cumbrae CC)
Mr Bill Hamilton (NDA)
Mr Peter Donnelly (ONR, Hunterston A)
Dr Hazel Henderson (NHS Public Health)
Mr Ryan Maitland (ONR, Hunterston B)
Ms Jane McGeorge (Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Team)
Mr Stuart McGhie (Trade Union Rep, Hunterston B)

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks and Declarations of Interest

Mrs Holmes, Chair, welcomed everyone to the forty third meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group in the Lauriston Hotel, Ardrossan. All 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 December, she had attended the following meetings, on behalf of the Site Stakeholder Group: The Westernlink Liaison Group meeting on 23 February at Seamill Hydro Hotel; the NFLA meeting in Glasgow for presentation by Alex Anderson of Dounreay on Transport of radwaste/exotics from Dounreay to Sellafield and abroad; and monthly Socio Economic with Closure Director update meetings at Hunterston A site.

NDA Stakeholder Event, Manchester – 13/14 January 2016

Mrs Holmes reported on the NDA Stakeholder event, which she attended with Mr Lamb. Day 1 started with the Executive Team being introduced by Mr John Clarke, Chief Executive, who gave an update, followed by a Question and Answer session. The Government's Comprehensive Spending Review and NDA budget were discussed and the need to save £1 billion over five years. Union representatives asked questions regarding redundancy payments and the cap of £95k and were advised that this is the same as public sector workers. Direct and indirect spend of 25% for SMEs was questioned and Mr Clarke advised that this is now 31% over the next 5 years. Questions were asked about shipments from Dounreay by train and concerns from Fife Local Authority about emergency arrangements and lack of information. Mr Clarke responded that Police Scotland have detailed plans regarding a range of routes and modes of transport. The new Chief Executive of Sellafield, Tony Fountain, starts on 1 April 2016. Dr Brian Burnett, NDA Head of Programmes, is retiring and Mr Nigel Lowe will be responsible for Dounreay and Magnox stations. The Sellafield Programme Director, Mr Peter Lutwyche, presented on the Sellafield Model Change and new arrangements. The Executive Team gave updates from around the estate. Delegates were given reading homework after dinner in preparation for Day 2, which involved workshops and small group discussions, before closing remarks and a final Question and Answer session.

3. Actions and Approval of Previous Minutes

Minor amendments to wording for clarification purposes had been fed back to the Secretariat from Mr Grafton and Mr Phillips. Mr Young corrected the wording relating to the Scottish Nuclear Sites Meeting in Edinburgh on 5 November 2015 and Mr Stackhouse amended a typographical error on Page 6.

With the above revisions, the Minutes of the meeting of 3 December 2015 were proposed for approval by Mr Robert Barr and seconded by Mr John Lamb.

4. Hunterston B Station Reports

Hunterston B Report – Colin Weir

Mr Weir's report, circulated with the meeting papers, was taken as read. January began with a 'Safe Start' campaign to refocus on safety for the year ahead. The Station was pleased to report no Lost Time Incidents in more than 7 years. Under Environmental Safety, a discharge on 9 November outwith the tidal window was reported to SEPA. This was a procedural shortfall, as a

result of human error, with no harm to the environment but has been followed up and remedial action taken. Under Generation, Turbine Generator 7 was taken offline for planned maintenance on 16 December and was returned to power on 18 December. The unit's output was reduced for planned Low Load Refuelling on 28 January, which was completed on 31 January.

New scheduled closure dates have been announced for Torness, East Lothian, which is being extended by 5 years to 2024 and Hartlepool in Teesside, which is being extended by 7 years to 2030. This is seen as good news in the current market conditions. Hinkley Point C project continues to build momentum.

Hunterston B power station marked a special milestone on 6 February with 40 years of generation. Nine years of EDF Energy operation has seen the most successful, reliable and safe generation. A book is being published to commemorate this milestone, which Mr Weir will bring to the next SSG meeting.

Questions and Observations

Mr Lamb asked what the aqueous radioactive waste discharge was. Mr Taylor responded that water and sea water are captured, drained and filtered from the systems, typically 2-3 times/week, some of which can be contaminated. Mr Weir added that this is a routine discharge, which is extremely Low Level Waste (LLW) and is well within discharge limits.

Under the section of the report entitled 'Life extension announced for half of nuclear fleet', Mr Lamb asked about the reference to the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). Mr Weir clarified that ONR does not authorise the extension, which is a commercial decision, but permission is sought from ONR for outage.

Mr McGhee asked about the discharge outwith the tidal window. Mr Taylor confirmed that this was 200 yards off shore and was always covered by water.

Cllr Gallagher asked if the recruitment of apprentices would be local or part of a national programme. Mr Weir advised that this is a national campaign but figures quoted in the report are relevant to Hunterston B site. Apprentices at Hunterston B are generally local, with the furthest away coming from Stranraer.

Mrs Holmes asked if the Station kept statistics of which Reactor is offline most, Reactor 3 or 4. Mr Weir confirmed that records are kept but results would depend on the specific time period. For reporting purposes, records are maintained for a 3 year rolling period and figures will be included in future reports. He considered that reliability fluctuates between the two reactors. Last year the jellyfish and seaweed outage saw Reactor 3 being taken off which will affect its figures but equally Reactor 4 could have been chosen to be taken off. The sea water ingress outage on R4 in 1983 had the biggest impact in 40 years. In terms of lifespan, Reactor 4 is 18 months younger.

Under the Company Update, Mrs Holmes asked about the EDF Group results. Mr Weir explained that these are across the fleet and not just relevant to Hunterston B and there are different drivers of why improvements have been made.

Mrs Holmes noted that the presentation on the graphite bricks / blocks, given to Site Stakeholder Group representatives and Community Councillors, as reported at the last meeting, had been shared with representatives of North Ayrshire Council. Mr Weir confirmed that the same presentation involving fact sharing, films and models had been given to North Ayrshire Council and would be referred to in his report to the next SSG meeting.

Cllr McLardy wished to record that she is not anti-nuclear and considered that the site had operated for years without causing concern. She thanked Hunterston B Station for the informative presentation on the graphite blocks but the cracking was now causing concerns. She referred to a number of different reports, one by the ONR in 2006 referring to unexplained cracks and another by British Energy in 2004 stating that Hunterston B, Torness and Heysham might not be able to extend the life of the Stations due to cracked bricks. Mr Weir replied that he cannot speak for the Regulators but explained that what has changed dramatically is the research into Reactors, along with development and computer modelling of the reactor core. Knowledge and understanding has increased significantly since 2006 and there is now more understanding of the bricks and the graphite aging processes. A huge amount of time, effort and money has been invested resulting in more knowledge, mathematical modelling and far more confidence in predicting future cracking. Cllr McLardy noted that the blocks will not stop cracking and asked what happens next. Mr Weir explained the process and that bricks will crack until the end of operation. Both reactors will experience more cracks, which is why the life of the reactor is restricted. Graphite core and boilers limit the life of the Station. More cracking maybe reported after each outage. This is a fact of the ageing mechanism and reactor conditions. However, more is now understood about the process and inspections and models are used to determine safety cases".

Hunterston B ONR Report

Mr Maitland was not present at the meeting and his report, provided with the meeting papers, was taken as read.

Questions and Observations

Referring to paragraph 12 on Page 4 of the report, Mrs Holmes noted that 'ONR issued its consent to restart Reactor 3 on the basis that, if necessary, EDF Nuclear Generation Ltd would shut down after six months of operation to undertake further core inspections' and asked what would make this necessary. In the absence of Mr Maitland, Mr Weir advised that the Station sent a safety case to the Regulator, as reported at the last meeting. The Regulator has asked EDF to demonstrate understanding and submit a safety case before May 2016. Information from Hinkley Point and Hunterston will substantiate this safety case. Mrs Holmes asked if this would be dealt with locally or fleet-wide. Mr Weir advised that this is a fleet-wide issue. He added that safety personnel are well qualified and knowledgeable.

Hunterston B SEPA Report – Keith Hammond

Mr Hammond's report, circulated with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Hammond advised that an informative inspection and staff interviews had taken place on 18 February, with no contraventions noted. With regard to the variation to its Radioactive Substances Act 1993 (RSA) Authorisation applied for by the Station in December 2013, the ONR and Food Standards Scotland have no objections and this will now go before Scottish Ministers for determination. It is hoped that an indication will be received before Purdah. In terms of compliance results in 2015, Hunterston B has received 4/6 'excellent' scores and 2 'good' scores, which is quite an achievement.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Gallagher noted that the Variation is taking a long time and asked if it is likely to be allowable with conditions. Mr Hammond believed this would be the case but SEPA has to follow consultation procedures. Cllr Gallagher asked what type of conditions would be applied. Mr Hammond replied that a document would be produced and he is unable to comment on this at the present time as the process is incomplete. He expected to have more information for the next SSG meeting. This information will be in the public domain, with the decision document published on SEPA's website and links sent to consultees.



Cllr Barr asked if there had been a complaint about the radioactive waste. Mr Hammond confirmed that the Station had reported this to SEPA and it had to be investigated to establish if there was a contravention of licence conditions.

Mrs Holmes recalled the original application for the variation and asked if there had been a second application. Mr Hammond responded that further information had been requested from EDF but a second application had not been required or submitted.

Public Questions and Observations

Miss Grainey stressed that she is not anti-nuclear and commended the nuclear industry in general for being honest and upfront, which she does not believe to be true of the Government. She noted however that the community has concerns that the nuclear power plant has passed its sell-by date by being extended from 2006 to 2023. She was extremely concerned to read in SEPA's report that Higher Activity Waste is not allowed to be transferred. She asked what is causing the cracks in the blocks, which the general public believes to be pressure and pressure on ageing construction gives cause for concern. She also asked what the aqueous discharge release was contaminated with.

Mr Hammond advised that Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) is not allowed to be transferred because this would not be in accordance, with the Higher Activity Waste (HAW) policy. Waste transportation is however the remit of ONR and not SEPA.

Mr Taylor advised that examples of contaminants in the aqueous discharge are tritium and cobalt-60. Each tank discharge is about 100 cubic metres and the Site discharge a tank every 3-4 days. Samples are taken and analysed before discharge. The contaminated waste water can come from, for example, maintenance of plant which has been in contact with contaminated liquid. This is low level waste which is assessed, analysed and reported to SEPA in detail, regularly. In terms of the effects on the environment, EDF technicians spend a large amount of time in the local environment testing farm produce and marine samples, looking for traces of contamination. The levels found in the environment are such that there is little or no effect on the public and EDF and our Regulators are content that this is the case. The results are published in a regulatory report called Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE Report), available from the SEPA website.

Mr Weir confirmed that the nuclear industry does try to be as transparent as it can be. He provided a simplified explanation of the graphite blocks, which is very complex. When graphite is radiated it becomes porous and cracks with the stresses. The safety consequences are that as the graphite loses weight it cracks. Seismic events on the west coast of Scotland are estimated at 1 in 10,000 years. Theoretically the core of the graphite can become distorted during such a seismic event and this is mitigated by the insertion of 12 additional control rods which are super articulated to counter any distortion, furthermore the reactor can be injected with nitrogen to hold down the reactor. The nitrogen plant is also seismically qualified to withstand such an event. With the research, development and understanding, together with the backup of the super articulated control rods, the nuclear safety consequence is more than adequate in margins. Mr Weir reiterated that safety is the number one priority in every aspect of operation. Miss Grainey suggested that it would be beneficial to host a public seminar to give the public a greater understanding. Mrs Holmes agreed this could be interesting to members of the public as she had attended the presentation offered to SSG members and found it extremely worthwhile.

A lady in the public gallery asked why it took SEPA three weeks to determine if the aqueous waste discharge on 9 November was a contravention. Mr Hammond explained that this involved a very complicated investigation and, rather than jump to conclusions, SEPA allowed investigations to be undertaken and waited for the findings of those. The member of the public argued that three weeks is too long to wait and Mr Hammond reiterated that it takes time for investigations to be carried out. Mr Weir confirmed that the Station's immediate response to the event was to notify SEPA, investigate, carry out remedial actions and continue investigations. When satisfied with the reasons for the error, processes were put in place to ensure no reoccurrence of this event. Mr Taylor added that in this instance the human error resulted during an inadequate shift handover. Handover arrangements have now been strengthened, as well as increased tracking and following of tides.

A gentleman in the public gallery referred to the initial life expiry of the Station in 2006, which was extended to 2016 and now 2023. He is very familiar with the extension of assets for economic and political consideration but asked if there is an absolute end date for the facility or if it could be extended beyond 2023 due to the improvements in technology. Mr Weir replied that there is no definitive date for the closure of assets. Current understanding is that the Station will cease generation in 2023 but this could be earlier or later. Within the Regulations every statutory outage in a three year period complies with a maintenance inspection routine which looks at wide range structure, including graphite, boilers, cables, equipment etc and a comprehensive report is submitted to the Regulator, who, if satisfied, will give permission for the next three years. There is also a Periodic Safety Review every ten years, in line with world standards. Mr Weir added that Hunterston B generation was reduced to an average of 70% in 2007 due to boiler problems. With repair and inspection technology this is now 80%, but it will not operate at full power again.

Mr Weir, Mr Angus, Mr Taylor and Cllr Hill left the meeting at 2.45 pm.

5. Hunterston A Site Reports

Hunterston A Report – Martin Grafton

Mr Grafton's report had been circulated with the meeting papers and was taken as read. Like Hunterston B Station, Hunterston A site had started the new year with a 'Safe Start' message to reemphasise the importance of safety and bring this to the forefront of minds, which includes taking the safety disciplines from the workplace home. Site safety performance remains good and is one of the best in the Magnox fleet. Safety representatives from both Magnox personnel and contractors attend a fortnightly Safety Forum which is very productive. Learning is shared across other sites and offices. In terms of decommissioning progress, there is a focus on cleaning and draining ponds and the cleaning of stabilising walls will be complete by the end of the year. The biggest challenge in this project is the removal of water from the Pond. Good progress is being made on retrieval of Solid Intermediate Level Waste (SILW), with 320 packages safely transferred from bunkers 4 and 5 to the ILW store. The clearance of Bunker 4 will be complete by the end of March 2016. In terms of Wet Intermediate Level Waste, a review will be undertaken by ONR at the end of March 2016. The Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation Plant is being built in parts across the UK and tested in Renfrew and will be delivered to site for installation after completion of the testing.

Mr Corral left the meeting at 2.50 pm.

In terms of people, all employees have received feedback on the Best Fit process. Post reductions

are not significant at 8% and everyone who requested voluntary severance has received this. In the Environmental section of the report, all radioactive discharge levels are well within regulatory limits. A significant amount of Solid ILW is self-treated on site, which amounted to 47 tonnes treated on site in the last year. Mr Grafton explained the Radiological Safety statistics quoted in the report. The site has continued to work with the ONR on the assessment of the site's HIRE document (Hazard Identification and Risk Evaluation). It is hoped that the ONR will determine in March 2016 that the site no longer has obligations under Regulation 9 of REPPIR (Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations). It should be noted that this would have no impact on EDF Hunterston B Station. In respect of Site Strategy, potential changes are still being discussed and it is likely that the site will now enter Care and Maintenance in August 2024, not March 2022. Mr Grafton highlighted the Socio Economic Awards distributed, as detailed in his report.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Barr asked about the attitude towards safety of the main contractor on the SILWE site and how many warnings would be issued before the contract was withdrawn. Mr Grafton advised that the Health and Safety Executive had been on site this week undertaking a routine inspection of the site and contractors. He admitted that the Contractors need more oversight than should be the case but clarified that there had been no accidents but a trend of low level incidents. Mr Phillips added that the Contractors are working on a conventional construction site, not a nuclear site.

Cllr Gallagher thanked the Socio Economic Fund for the contribution to Largs Viking Festival. He asked what the cost would be of not entering Interim Care and Maintenance for 2-5 years. Mr Grafton responded that this is being calculated now and would be in the region of £10s of millions, which is paid by the NDA/Government.

Mrs Holmes asked what the pipes in the Sand Filter project are made of and how the two cells will be cleaned without people getting high doses of radiation. Mr Grafton confirmed that the pipes are made of stainless steel metal. The risk of radiation is the highest, but is not a high dose, being one quarter of the legal limit. The work could be spread but then it takes longer and more people are affected. The work is structured so that as much of it as possible is done remotely to lessen contact.

Mrs Holmes asked where the robots for the Solid ILW Encapsulation project are being manufactured. Mr Grafton replied that they are being built by firms with expertise in Wolverhampton and Sheffield, with testing being done in Renfrew.

Mrs Holmes asked what the worst case scenario would be in the active commissioning of the Wet Intermediate Waste Retrieval and Encapsulation Plant project. Mr Grafton responded that the work requires people being close so the worst scenario is a leak or burst on a pipe moving waste from sludge retention tanks to tanks. Splashes would result in a higher dose. However, significant work is done to detect and minimise any risk in advance and there are only 2-3 people in the facility at any one time, with others working outside.

Mr Lamb asked how much gaseous discharges come from the ILW store and Mr Phillips responded that this is very little.

Hunterston A ONR Report – Peter Donnelly

Mr Donnelly was not present at the meeting and his report, provided with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Cllr Barr and Mrs Holmes would have liked more information on the announcement

of the new Chief Executive for ONR but this was not able to be answered.

Hunterston A SEPA Report – Adam Stackhouse

Mr Stackhouse tabled his report and apologised for not providing this in advance of the meeting. Mr Stackhouse highlighted that the site's end of year assessment for 2015 under the Compliance Assessment Scheme was consistently excellent, as it was in 2014. He referred to the joint inspection between SEPA and ONR on 3 February 2016 which focussed on three areas where the organisations have a joint interest: Accumulation of radioactive waste; Leakage and escape of radioactive material; and Decommissioning arrangements. Some shortcomings were identified in the manner that some radioactive waste was being accumulated on site, which has been recorded as non-compliant with authorisation conditions. Magnox has undertaken to resolve the issues promptly and this will be followed up at future inspections. This was the first joint inspection by ONR and SEPA and they have agreed to do more joint inspections in future. There were no environmental incidents or events reported to SEPA during the report period, 3 December 2015 – 3 March 2016.

Mr Stackhouse reported that SEPA is jointly consulting with the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales on guidance for operators of nuclear sites. This is an important document as it will provide the guidance to be assessed against when nuclear sites become delicensed.

Questions and Observations

Mrs Holmes requested a link to the consultation, which can be found on the SEPA 'Consultation Hub' website at <https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/operations-portfolio/grr>.

Mrs Holmes asked about sites storing large quantities of Higher Activity Waste for long periods of time without a licence. Mr Stackhouse advised that this would have to be authorised by the ONR but the rest of the site could be delicensed. There will come a time when a permit is not required and there has to be a process to follow. Actions are being taken now to assist with decommissioning in the future. Mrs Holmes referred to Winfrith site as being furthest forward and asked if this site would be used as a guide or pilot. Mr Stackhouse did not know the answer to this. The consultation will close in May 2016 and three sites will be selected to trial the draft / unpublished guidance before it is completed and published.

Mrs Holmes asked about the shortcomings referred to during the joint site inspection. Mr Stackhouse stressed that SEPA and ONR had had a good look around the site and the site was most accommodating. The shortcoming related to storage around the reactor site area which had not been kept secure. If this had been contaminated it could have affected wildlife. Mr Grafton confirmed that this had already been identified by the site as an action but had been picked up on by SEPA and ONR before it had been dealt with. This was not a major concern but would be dealt with as a priority.

Hunterston A NDA Report – Bill Hamilton

Mr Hamilton was not present at the meeting and the NDA report, issued with meeting papers, was taken as read.

6. Update from Scottish Government – Ewan Young

Mr Young was disappointed to report that it is unlikely that the Higher Activity Waste (HAW) Implementation Strategy will be approved before May 2016. This latest delay to the HAW project is due to the formal pre-election period before the 2016 Scottish Parliament elections. While this delay is unfortunate, it is expected that the Strategy will be formally approved soon after a new Scottish Government in May 2016 (and assuming the HAW policy remains the same) and before the next Site Stakeholder Group meeting in June 2016. In the meantime, the Scottish Government



has published all the responses to the HAW Implementation Strategy consultation on the Scottish Government website. These responses have been carefully considered and have helped improve the quality of the draft HAW Implementation Strategy. As advised previously, the HAW Implementation Strategy is expected to include new content on milestones, public engagement and Research and Development (R&D). The timeframe of the work involved in delivering the strategy will take many decades. The Scottish Government aims to work closely with Site Stakeholder Groups, as the work streams emerging from the strategy over the coming months and years ahead become clearer.

In respect of the UK Low Level Waste (LLW) Strategy since the last Site Stakeholder Group meeting, following Ministerial agreement across the whole of the UK, including Northern Ireland, the revised Strategy has now been published by DECC on behalf of the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations. The document is available on the UK Government website on the link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-an-update-of-the-uk-strategy-for-the-management-of-solid-low-level-radioactive-waste-from-the-nuclear-industry>.

In addition to the Strategy, DECC has also published the Government's response to the consultation responses received, which can be found on the website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-an-update-of-the-uk-strategy-for-the-management-of-solid-low-level-radioactive-waste-from-the-nuclear-industry>.

It is the Scottish Government's intention to make reference to the publication on its website and provide a copy of the links to the UK Government website, subject to agreement from IT colleagues. Moving forward, the Strategy provides a framework for continued capability and capacity for the safe, secure and environmentally responsible management and disposal of LLW in the UK. While the scope and direction of the original Strategy remains unchanged; the revised Strategy reflects the progress that has been made since 2010. It also reflects the expected direction for Low Level Waste (LLW) management in the future. Central to the Strategy is the implementation of the waste hierarchy, which supports the provision of continued capability and capacity for managing LLW in the UK.

With regard to the UK NORM Strategy Implementation, the objective of the Strategy is to ensure that UK NORM waste can be disposed of safely and efficiently. This Strategy is in its implementation phase which is being led by DECC with support from the Scottish Government but which also includes the environmental regulators across the whole of the UK, including Northern Ireland. An Implementation Group has been set up and a total of seven work streams have been identified and allocated to the relevant regulators and Government. Work is now ongoing on some of these work streams. A meeting of the Implementation Group, likely to be by teleconference, is to be organised by DECC to be updated on progress. In addition, a stakeholder workshop is to be organised by the Environment Agency in 2016 to both update those engaged in the NORM industries and allow them the opportunity to seek further information in respect of the implementation of the Strategy. With regard to the work streams, both SEPA and the Environment Agency have been undertaking work on a number of these and updates are expected at the next meeting of the Implementation Group. On one of the work streams, DECC has engaged Public Health England (PHE) to undertake the work on the potential impact on NORM industries from the implementation of the exemption and clearance criteria in the revised European Basic Safety Standards Directive (BSSD) and provide a report by 31 March 2016. On the work stream in respect of the trans frontier shipments, a number of real examples are actively being considered. These real examples provide a good opportunity to identify issues causing problems and identify possible solutions. The issues covered in the Strategy are long term in nature, and the Strategy is intended to set out a clear policy direction for many years. The Government intends the Strategy

to endure for a minimum of five years, and will consider when to review it in light of developments in NORM waste arisings and disposal practices.

Questions and Observations

Mrs Holmes asked about the NORM facility at Peterhead and asked if it was likely to stay there. Mr Young replied that this may be the case.

Cllr Gallagher asked if the HAW Implementation Strategy is UK wide. Mr Young clarified that is Scottish only, not UK wide. The Scottish Government favours the 'near site, near surface' concept, as opposed to Graphite Disposal Facility (GDF) favoured by the rest of the UK.

Cllr Gallagher thought that the HAW Implementation Strategy had already been published. Mr Young confirmed that the Strategy has been published but the Implementation Strategy requires full Scottish Government Minister approval.

Mr Young advised that Purdah begins on 24 March 2016 for the Scottish Government pre-election period till the elections on 5 May 2016. In terms of the UK's EU Referendum, the Purdah period will run from 23 May to 23 June 2016.

Mr Young reported that the Scottish Nuclear Sites meeting scheduled for 7 April has been cancelled due to Purdah. Due to summer recess, the next meeting is likely to be held in September 2016.

7. Public Questions and Answers and Any Other Business

Miss Grainey referred to Page 7 of Mr Grafton's report on Hunterston A, with regard to Solid Low Level Waste (LLW) disposals and was concerned that 'there is no limit on the volume or radioactivity content of LLW being disposed of under the new authorisation'. She asked if Hunterston A would receive LLW from other sites. Mr Grafton confirmed that the site had spare capacity to take more waste and it is sensible to use the facility to maximise its potential but it had not applied to take waste from other sites and he was not aware of an intention to receive waste from other sites. If this was to happen in the future, it would be most sensible to take waste from EDF's Hunterston B Station. Mr Stackhouse advised that there are no limits as sites could retain waste instead of sending it for treatment which could lead to increased volumes. Mr Stackhouse added that there are no limits on sending waste as there are expected to be appropriate limits on receiver facilities. It was confirmed that Hunterston A is not allowed to receive waste from other sites. Hunterston B has applied but no decision has been made yet. Miss Grainey considered this to be an unacceptably long timescale for a decision as the consultation period closed in October 2014. She was concerned that the application was interpreted as carte blanche for accumulation of waste and concerned that it was not yet known about any increased levels in volume and radioactivity going past people's houses. She was also astounded at the lack of information given to Councillors and considered that they were not in a position to make informed decisions without sufficient background information.

Miss Grainey thanked members of the Site Stakeholder Group for listening courteously and taking her concerns seriously.

Cllr Gallagher was interested to note that there are limits on the receiving of waste when facilities were built with extra capacity built in, ie the LLW Store at Hunterston A. Mrs Holmes noted that the facility at Hunterston A was built prior to Mr Grafton's employment on site. Mr Grafton responded that the facility would have been built with maximising storage opportunities in mind as it was originally intended to last until 2040 when GDF was perceived.



Site Stakeholder Group

Cllr Gallagher offered a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

8. Next Meeting – Thursday 2 June 2016 – 1.00 pm for 1.30 pm – Lauriston Hotel, Ardrossan

Mrs Holmes thanked everyone for attending the meeting and closed the meeting at 3.45 pm.