

**HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP  
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS FROM THE FORTY NINTH MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER 2017 AT THE WATERSIDE HOTEL, WEST KILBRIDE**

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

**Chairman's Opening Remarks**

Mrs Rita Holmes, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular, Mr Paul Dale from SEPA; Mr Paul Forrest, EDF's Acting Site Director for Hunterston B; Mr Allan Rice from Saltcoats Community Council and Mr Andy McDade, Trade Union Representative for Hunterston A, who has replaced Mr Gareth Dew, whom she thanked for his work and input to Site Stakeholder Group meetings.

**Chair and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence**

Mrs Holmes gave a brief update on meetings attended by herself and the Vice Chair on behalf of the Site Stakeholder Group since the last meeting in September 2017, including the NDA Stakeholder Summit.

**Actions and Approval of Previous Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of 7 September 2017 were approved.

**Hunterston B Station Reports**

**Hunterston B Report – Dr Roddy Angus**

The statutory outage of R 4/TG8 was successfully completed after nine weeks of maintenance and the unit was back to full power on 13 November 2017. This outage involved almost 700k hours of work by a large number of people, completed with only two minor first aid injuries. Five new apprentices have been recruited with one older apprentice being awarded Apprentice of the Year. The Visitor Centre has welcomed 14,500 visitors since 2013 and is proud to have retained its five star rating from VisitScotland.

**ONR Report – Mr Stuart Fannin**

Mr Fannin described the inspections undertaken during the period, which focussed on the statutory outage. A detailed project assessment of graphite and integrity of the core will be undertaken in the next few weeks and results made available on the ONR website.

**SEPA Report – Mr Keith Hammond**

Mr Hammond reported on the joint SEPA/ONR inspection on 21 November 2017. The latest edition of RIFE 22 (Radioactivity in Food and the Environment) covering 2016 is available and the results are very similar to previous years and give no particular concerns. The Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (SPRI) has also been updated for 2016 and can be viewed on SEPA's website.

**Hunterston A Site Reports**

**Hunterston A Report – Mr John Grierson**

'Target Zero' campaign topics included Radiological Safety, Fire Safety, Mental Health Awareness and Slips Trips and Falls. Mental Health First Aid training courses have been undertaken by 100 individuals to raise awareness of mental health issues and provide pathways for support. Mandatory training sessions on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion are now being delivered by a professional company. Consultation with Trade Union and employees continues with regard to proposed changes in shift operations. Working conditions in the ponds are very difficult in the final phases, involving shaving and ultra-high pressure washing, draining and stabilisation. The planning application for the Hunterston Reactor Cladding project has now been determined and granted, conditional upon written approval from North Ayrshire Council on the colour and material of the cladding.

**ONR Report and SEPA Report**

Mr Eales (ONR) and Mr Stone (SEPA) were not present at the meeting but their reports were circulated with the meeting papers.

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

Mr Young's report included information on the European (Withdrawal) Bill; Euratom; Nuclear Safeguards Bill; Basic Safety Standards Directive; Public Exposure; Emergency Preparedness and Response Consultation and Proportionate Regulatory Control. SCCORS has two new joint Convenors from Renfrew and Inverclyde from January 2018.

**NDA Report – Mr Bill Hamilton**

The new NDA digital newsletter *#Decomm* was launched in November 2017. Sellafield's 60 year old tallest chimney, measuring 61 metres, is being taken down by means of a self-climbing platform, at a rate of one metre per week. New appointments have been made to the NDA Executive Team. The draft Business Plan will be published in December 2017. The National Audit Office and Public Accounts Committee have carried out investigations into the procurement of the Magnox Competition and the Holliday Inquiry report is expected in the first half of 2018.

**Next Meeting – Thursday 1 March 2018 at 1.00 pm for 1.30 pm at The Waterside Hotel, Ardrossan.**



## Site Stakeholder Group

**HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP  
MINUTES OF FORTY NINTH MEETING HELD ON  
THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER 2017 AT 1.30 PM  
AT THE WATERSIDE HOTEL, ARDROSSAN ROAD, WEST KILBRIDE, KA23 9NG**

### **Present**

#### **Magnox Ltd**

Mrs Jill Callander (SSG Secretariat)  
Mr John Grierson (Scottish Regional Closure Director)  
Mr Sean Marshall (Magnox Communications)  
Mr Andy McDade (Trade Union Rep, Hunterston A)  
Mr Reuben Phillips (EHSS&Q Manager, Hunterston A)

#### **Community Council Representatives**

Mr Drew Cochrane (Largs CC)  
Mrs Rita Holmes – SSG Chair (Fairlie CC)  
Mr John Lamb – SSG Vice Chair (West Kilbride CC)  
Mr Allan Rice (Saltcoats CC)

#### **North Ayrshire Council**

Cllr Robert Barr (Dalry and West Kilbride)  
Cllr John Glover (Kilwinning)  
Cllr Todd Ferguson (Dalry and West Kilbride)  
Cllr Tom Marshall (North Coast and Cumbraes)  
Mr Hugh McGhee (Environmental Health)

#### **NDA**

Mr Bill Hamilton (Head of Communications)

#### **In Attendance**

Mrs Sheila Adams (Minutes)  
Mr Ronald Gilchrist (Fairlie and Millport CC)  
Ms Marie Girvan (Balfour Beatty)  
G Lafferty (Saltcoats CC)  
Mr David Nairn (Clyde Porpoise CIC)  
Mr Ken Tully (Local Resident)

#### **Apologies**

Cllr Alex Gallagher (North Coast and Cumbraes)  
Mr Phil Lonsdale (Cumbrae CC)  
Ms Jane McGeorge (Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Team)  
Mr David Stone (SEPA, Hunterston A)  
Mr Colin Weir (EDF, Hunterston B)

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

Dr Roddy Angus (Technical Support Manager)  
Mr Paul Forrest (Acting Site Director)  
Ms Fiona McCall (External Comms Manager)  
Mr Stuart McGhie (Trade Union Rep)

#### **ONR**

Mr Stuart Fannin (Hunterston B)

#### **SEPA**

Mr Paul Dale  
Mr Keith Hammond (Hunterston B)

#### **Scottish Government**

Mr Ewan Young

#### **NFU**

Mr William Jack

#### **Hunterston Estate**

Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick

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

Mrs Holmes, Chair, welcomed everyone to the forty ninth meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group in the Waterside Hotel, West Kilbride. All those present introduced themselves. The apologies, as listed above, were read out. There were no declarations of interest. Mrs Holmes introduced and welcomed Mr Paul Dale from SEPA; Mr Paul Forrest, EDF's Acting Site Director for Hunterston B in Mr Weir's absence; Mr Allan Rice from Saltcoats Community Council and Mr Andy McDade, Trade Union Representative for Hunterston A, who has replaced Mr Gareth Dew, whom she thanked for his work and input to Site Stakeholder Group meetings.

Mrs Holmes confirmed the meeting dates for 2018, all of which are on Thursdays as has been normal practice: 1 March 2018, 7 June 2018, 6 September 2018, 6 December 2018.

Mrs Holmes advised of a change to the running order of the Agenda where Hunterston B reports would be heard first to allow representatives to leave the meeting due to other commitments.

## 2. Chair and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence

The Chair reported that of the five meetings with various bodies scheduled during the period, three had been postponed. Mrs Holmes and Mr Lamb had attended the NDA Stakeholder Summit held in Cumbria in September 2017. Mrs Holmes considered that the event, which took place over three days, had been very well run and provided good networking opportunities. The second meeting attended was in Edinburgh, hosted by SEPA, on the consultation on the draft Environmental Authorisation (Scotland) Regulations and Mrs Holmes thanked Mr Hammond, Mr Stackhouse and other SEPA Officers for the work that went into this.

Mrs Holmes advised of a proposed teleconference for Magnox Site Stakeholder Group Chairs as part of the Holliday Inquiry into the procurement process for the Magnox Competition, which she does not propose to participate in.

## 3. Actions and Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of 7 September 2017 were proposed for approval by Cllr Robert Barr and seconded by Cllr John Glover.

## 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 key items in the report.

The statutory outage of Reactor 4 was concluded with the asset successfully maintained after a nine week maintenance period. This involved almost 700k hours of work by a large number of people. The outage safety performance was very high with only two very minor first aid incidents. Both units have been operating at full load since 13 November 2017.

There were no significant environmental events in the period. The Emergency Preparedness Team, with Visitor Centre Guides, undertook an exercise to test both security and nuclear safety which involved representatives of the local Council, Scottish Government and Police Scotland. Feedback was positive, demonstrating secure arrangements.



EDF Energy's Chief Executive Officer, Vincent de Rivaz CBE, visited Hunterston B Station before stepping down from his position. He has been replaced by Simone Rossi. Mr Paul Forrest has been carrying out the Station Director's role since November, while Mr Colin Weir takes on the temporary role of Chief Nuclear Officer for the regional business of EDF.

Hunterston B Station worked with Moving Arts Scotland CIC from Ayr to produce a virtual reality training video made by local people. The training video was shown to more than 1,120 people before the statutory outage and contributed to the successful maintenance work.

Five new recruits have commenced their apprenticeship. One of Hunterston B's older apprentices won Apprentice of the Year which is good recognition for the Station. The Visitor Centre continues to draw in a good number of visitors and has welcomed 14,500 visitors since opening in 2013. It is very proud to have retained its five star rating from VisitScotland.

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

Mr Hammond's report, issued with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Hammond highlighted the main points in the report. The joint SEPA/ONR inspection on 21 November 2017 looked at Licence Conditions 32 and 34 and the overlap with the RSA authorisation. The inspection found no contraventions of the licence conditions and two recommendations were made.

The closing date for the consultation on the supporting guidance to the draft Environmental Authorisation (Scotland) Regulations is 22 December 2017 and is available on SEPA's website.

The latest edition of RIFE 22 (Radioactivity in Food and the Environment) covering 2016 is available and the results are very similar to previous years and give no particular concerns. The Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (SPRI) has also been updated for 2016 and can be viewed on SEPA's website.

#### **ONR Report – Mr Stuart Fannin**

The ONR report, circulated with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Fannin highlighted the main activity in the period, which focussed on reviewing maintenance activities during the statutory outage. The purpose of the inspections was to seek to confirm the safety case being presented and involved several inspections over many days by civil engineers, mechanical engineers, compliance inspectors etc. There were no issues identified by ONR Inspectors and they were satisfied that Reactor 4 could be safely returned to service, consent for which was given on 6 November 2017.

A detailed project assessment of graphite and integrity of the core will be undertaken in the next few weeks and results made available on the ONR website.

#### **Questions and Observations**

Cllr Barr congratulated staff at Hunterston B Station on maintaining their excellent safety record for over nine years and suggested that this should be formally marked in some way if the Station reaches ten years without a Lost Time Accident.

Mr Rice asked the procedure for returning the reactor to full service. Dr Angus explained the process which involves a staged approach and various tests over the course of a week before returning to full power.

Mr Lamb asked which organisations the Station teamed up with as part of the emergency arrangements.



Dr Angus responded that this involved the local Fire Service, a hierarchy of Police Scotland, as well as Ambulance Crew. The exercise involves liaison of the services, comparison of responses and discussion of scenarios etc.

Mr Lamb asked if the turbine was replaced with a previous turbine during the outage. Dr Angus clarified that a rotor had been taken out and refurbished in Germany which would be kept as a serviceable spare.

Mr Lamb asked if there had been an increase in cracking of the core bricks in Reactor 4. Mr Fannin responded that there were three keyway root cracks and one additional crack. Some cracks appear to be developing or expanding and will be subject to a detailed assessment report, a summary of which will be available on the ONR's website. This information will then be used to estimate future cracking.

Referring to the last paragraph of the Station Report under Safety and Environment, Mr Rice asked about the consignment to Cyclife. Dr Angus explained that Cyclife is the name of the Company which is a licensed waste disposal route. This is a new route now open to Hunterston B and permission has been granted by SEPA for Hunterston B to send its Low Level Waste (LLW) to Cyclife instead of being stored at Hunterston. Dr Angus confirmed that the waste is processed and chemically cleaned before being recycled and it does not go to landfill.

Mrs Holmes noted that when she was last on site the gate from the main access road to the Station was broken and asked if this was connected to the outage work. Dr Angus advised that this was nothing to do with the Station and an unfortunate incident where a lorry driver got lost and hit the gate in the process of doing a U turn.

Mrs Holmes referred to Item 11 on the ONR report and asked if this related to the discharge release at the wrong tidal time. Mr Fannin confirmed that Item 11 related to the availability of batteries in July. There were not sufficient batteries and generators in service which contravened an operating rule and required a shutdown which did not happen. The Station is required to preserve the safety of the plant and there were a number of reasons why this was not done and although the level of risk was negligible, the operating rules were contravened. Mr Fannin further explained the enforcement model which comprises a warning letter, a Compliance Notice or a Prohibition Notice. The Station was issued with a letter telling it not to do this again and a number of actions to be undertaken. Mr Fannin explained that Reactors are very complex and are subject to very complex safety rules. In this case, the number of batteries had dropped from three to two which was fairly low risk but nonetheless it contravened an operating rule, which must be complied with.

Mrs Holmes asked how Hunterston B Station compares to other sites. Mr Fannin responded that the site compares favourably to most sites and does not receive many contravention letters and is well managed.

Mrs Holmes asked about the period between the checks for cracking of the core. Mr Fannin replied that the normal period is 12-18 months and Reactor 3 will be checked in March 2018 and Reactor 4 in June/July 2019 and core inspections do take place before these periods.

Mr Rice enquired about the time period for discharges. Dr Angus confirmed that discharges are made at high tide and withdrawing tides. If windows are missed, the waste is held in tanks until the next appropriate tide. The waste is sampled before discharge and is generally a water mix from hand wash / showers.

Mrs Holmes referred to failed fuel at Fleetvale and asked about failed fuel at Hunterston B. Dr Angus confirmed that Hunterston has been failed fuel free for some years. Mrs Holmes asked why fuel fails. Mr Hammond explained that this can be caused by a number of reasons, such as carbon deposition or manufacturing defects. Mrs Holmes asked what the dangers are. Mr Hammond responded that these could be higher discharges, more tritium or radionuclides etc. This would be in very small quantities and are subject to advisory levels. Mrs Holmes asked how a site would know if it had failed fuel. Dr Angus replied that there is a gas analysis system and individual samples are taken from each channel. This is an automatic continuous process. If failed fuel is suspected, it would be removed from the reactor as quickly as possible, bottled, stored and processed properly. If reactors are properly looked after, it is less likely to happen and Hunterston manages its reactors and fuel well.

*Dr Angus, Mr Forrest and Mr Fannin left the meeting at 2.15 pm.*

## **5. Hunterston A Site Reports**

### **Hunterston A Report – Mr John Grierson**

To accompany his written report, circulated with the meeting papers, Mr Grierson gave a powerpoint presentation visually summarising the main points in his report.

Mr Grierson was pleased to report that it is now 44 months since the last Lost Time Accident (LTA) on site which is an excellent safety record. There had been one minor first aid case involving a cut finger.

Topics focussed on as part of the 'Target Zero' campaign during the period include Radiological Safety, Fire Safety, Mental Health Awareness and Slips Trips and Falls. Mental Health First Aid training courses have been undertaken by 100 individuals to raise awareness of mental health issues and provide pathways for support.

Safety representatives attended the Company Safety Conference in Bristol in November and safety personnel meet fortnightly on site. A Safety Culture Survey was issued to elicit views anonymously from all staff. The survey is in HSE format and is very lengthy and to date has attracted a 50% response rate. It is hoped to receive 60-70% return rate and results of the Survey will be brought to the next meeting.

The Annual Review of Safety, Security and Environment took place at Hunterston.

A counter-terrorism contingency exercise was held in October, supported by Police Scotland, and was deemed an adequate demonstration of response arrangements.

Magnox and the NDA continue to focus on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and a survey issued across the estate attracted a healthy return rate of 72%. Mandatory training sessions are now being delivered by a professional company. Feedback is positive from the sites who have already received training, with training at Hunterston being scheduled for January 2018.

Consultation with Trade Union and employees continues with regard to proposed changes in shift operations. Operations no longer required to be manned 24/7 although security guarding will continue to be manned 24/7. A two-step approach is envisaged with changes likely to take place between March – June 2018 and the process will be subject to Management of Change justification.



Tony Moore has taken on the role of Managing Director of Cavendish Fluor Partnership, replacing Kenny Douglas. Mark Raffle, NDA Programme Manager for Scottish Sites, has moved to Dounreay and has been succeeded by David Rushton.

Employee and contract numbers are currently stable, with no plans for displacement as part of the restructuring.

Mr Grierson explained the key activities and work programmes on the Critical Path diagram. He showed photos of the progress on the Ponds draining and cleaning project, Wet Intermediate Level Waste Retrieval and Encapsulation Plant (WILWREP), Solid Active Waste Bunker Retrieval project (SAWBR) and Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation project (SILWE). Working conditions in the ponds are very difficult in the final phases, which involve shaving and ultra-high pressure washing, draining and stabilisation. The final stages are expected to be complete by April 2018. Under waste operations, most of the waste is metallic items from the ponds.

The planning application for the Hunterston Reactor Cladding project has now been determined and granted, conditional upon written approval from North Ayrshire Council on the colour and material of the cladding. Three tenders have been submitted for the work and tenderers will be on site in the next few days and will be asked to provide colour options.

Mr Grierson summarised the various activities and progress on deliverables in 2017/18. Under the Socio Economic Scheme, there have been 10 successful applications, attracting a total of £14,760. Mr Grierson encouraged projects, particularly larger schemes, to come forward and contact the Communications Team as he would like to see the funding awarded before the end of March 2018. Photos were shown of some of the Hunterston Stakeholder Activity.

Mr Grierson extended an invitation to Site Stakeholder Group members to visit the site in the new year.

**Action – SSG Secretariat to arrange a site visit for SSG members in the New Year.**

Mr Grierson concluded his presentation by reiterating that the safety of workers, the public and the environment will always be the number one priority.

#### **ONR Report – Mr Rob Eales**

#### **SEPA Report – Mr David Stone**

Neither Mr Eales nor Mr Stone were present at the meeting. Their reports had been provided with the meeting papers and were taken as read.

#### **Questions and Observations**

Mr Lamb noted that the pond walls are being shaved to decontaminate them and asked if they would be painted afterwards. Mr Grierson responded that painting will not be done if it can be avoided, if the surface walls can be stabilised.

Mr Rice referred to Site Objectives and asked what the baseline is for monitoring continuous improvement. Mr Grierson described the Dashboard System introduced by the Parent Body Organisation (PBO), Cavendish Fluor Partnership (CFP), and explained the matrix on the dashboard from which measurements are taken. Mr Grierson added that he has a monthly accountability session and in the nuclear industry standing still is going backwards so improvements must be continuous but must be within conditions and authorised limits as sites have to keep applying Best Practical Means.

Mr Grierson offered to include a snapshot of the matrix in his presentation at the next meeting.

Mrs Holmes asked if there would be no radioactive discharges once Bay 7 in the Ponds is emptied. Mr Grierson confirmed that Bay 7 is complete and the pond water has been removed. There is very little water discharged and this comes from sinks and showers and consists mainly of soapy water, from 40 workers showering three times daily.

Mrs Holmes had intended to ask ONR about the steam raising units. Mr Grierson confirmed that ONR agreed with the assessment work that there are no nuclear safety concerns and the boilers should be left in place within the weather envelope. Mrs Holmes considered that it would have been preferential for the communities for the building to be taken down but they would have to accept this if there are no safety concerns.

Mr Rice asked if it would be cost effective to scrap the ducts and the boiler shells rather than leave them. Mr Grierson responded that boiler shells had been lifted at Berkeley but had sat on site for a number of years before being sent to Sweden for smelting. It would not be impossible to do this at Hunterston but storage space would be required and the metals would have to go into the supply chain for removal, at the likely cost of £100millions.

Mrs Holmes asked about SEPA's site inspection of portable liquid containers on 28 November. Mr Grierson advised that these are interim bulk containers which are inspected by SEPA because they can pose a risk to the environment as they are portable. On behalf of Mr Stone, Mr Hammond confirmed that SEPA has no substantial issues with the portable liquid containers. Mr Grierson added that their destination depends on whether they contain radioactive or chemically contaminated liquid. Mr Hammond further added that there are a number of facilities for the receipt of the liquid, depending on what it is. Mr Holmes asked if it could not be discharged through a waterway. Mr Grierson replied that this might be the case but it would first have to be assessed for contamination.

Mr Rice referred to the emergency arrangements and the terminology for assessing these. Mr Grierson explained that the arrangements can either be determined adequate or not adequate. The arrangements are to demonstrate that the site is prepared for something happening on site and the site is pleased with an 'adequate' result.

Mr David Nairn introduced himself as a representative of Clyde Porpoise CIC. He referred to asbestos material washed up on the beach at Fairlie and explained that his organisation would like to coordinate an approach to protect the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and form a Focus Group to work with other organisations to re-establish the Biodiversity Action Plan and form a Work Programme to protect the marine environment. Mr Cochran-Patrick advised that EDF has regular land management meetings but these are not open to the public. Mr Phillips offered to speak to Mr Nairn at the end of the meeting and Mr McGhee asked Mr Nairn to report any environmental concerns to North Ayrshire Council.

## 6. NDA Reports – Mr Bill Hamilton

The NDA report for September, circulated with the meeting papers, was taken as read. The report for December was tabled. Mr Hamilton summarised highlights from the reports. The NDA's new digital newsletter #Decomm was launched in November and anyone interested in receiving this can sign up at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKNDA/subscriber/new>. A video of the Stakeholder Summit held in September is featured in the online newsletter, as well as information on the Supply Chain Event, attended by over 2,000 people and robots cleaning Sellafield.

Of interest at other sites, the jammed fuel in the fast reactor at Dounreay is now being removed.



Sellafield's 60 year old tallest chimney at Windscale, measuring 61 metres, is being taken down by means of a self-climbing platform, at a rate of one metre per week.

Further to the court case on the Magnox Competition and the decision by the NDA and Secretary of State to terminate the contract with Cavendish Fluor Partnership, an investigation has been undertaken by the independent National Audit Office and the Public Accounts Committee. The focus of the investigation is to establish the actual condition of the estate when CFP took over the sites, the legal advice given when the court action was initiated and the experience of the NDA Executive Team and Board. The new Chief Executive has reinstated the post of Commercial Director which has now been filled and a new position of Legal Counsel has been created and appointed. A new Chief Operations Director has just started, demonstrating the high level executive support brought in by the new Chief Executive. The Public Accounts Committee will continue to watch the NDA. The Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) set up an independent Inquiry, the Holliday Inquiry, which has interviewed many NDA staff and will also speak with Site Stakeholder Group Chairs. The final report from the Inquiry is expected in the first half of 2018.

The NDA's draft Business Plan will be published in the next week and include the next three financial years, looking at spend across the NDA estate. Mr Hamilton invited comments on the draft Business Plan, which is shorter and easier to read than previously and will be available on the NDA website.

### **Presentation on Reactor Dismantling**

Mr Hamilton explained that there are 19 potential strategic priorities identified by the NDA in its Strategy document, which is produced every five years. These are whittled down to key priorities, one of which is TS4: the timing and sequencing of Magnox Reactor Decommissioning. This was brought into the public domain at the Stakeholder Summit in September and received a good response. Mr Hamilton reminded members that the current strategy is to prepare each Reactor for Care and Maintenance and many years of quiescence and undertake final decommissioning in 85 years' time. Benefits of this strategy are radioactive decay over time and delaying costs until later but it also has risks. Since the original Strategy in 2007-08, there have been a number of developments, such as hands-on experience of dismantling across the estate and expert international opinion favouring prompt reactor decommissioning. A Strategy Review is being undertaken to see if a case can be made for earlier dismantling and to consider things such as timing and sequence of dismantling, practical implementation, a timeline for stakeholder engagement and conclusions.

### **Questions and Observations**

Mrs Holmes noted that in 2007 the Site Stakeholder Group was advised that it was preferable to leave reactors till late decommissioning but accepted that things change and considered it would be a positive move for workforce employment for decommissioning to be brought forward.

Mrs Holmes asked about the BEIS meeting intended to discuss locations of Geological Disposal Facilities (GDF). Mr Hamilton responded that the NDA had intended to piggyback this meeting but it had to be cancelled as BEIS did not have Government approval for the meeting.

Mr Cochrane noted that closure is scheduled for 2024 and asked how the present Site Stakeholder Group could influence process in 85 years' time. Mrs Holmes added that things change strategically and some changes do come from the Site Stakeholder Groups.



Mr Hamilton replied the NDA cannot stop sites moving forward while decisions are made and the status of decommissioning and what has been spent on Care and Maintenance at sites will be a factor when determining the review.

Cllr Barr asked about the risk of loss of records over time. Mr Hamilton confirmed that this was an issue when the NDA was formed in 2005 as it found that not all records were present from over 60 years from all sites. The new NDA Nuclear Archive Facility at Wick should however help mitigate this problem.

*Mr Hamilton left the meeting at 3.30 pm.*

#### **7. Update from Scottish Government – Mr Ewan Young**

Mr Young presented his report which was less weighty than the previous one. He thanked Mrs Holmes and Mr Lamb for attending the Scottish Nuclear Sites Group meeting on 12 October 2017 and for raising questions and taking part in open discussion. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 26 April 2018. This meeting will enable the Magnox Scottish Region Closure Director to provide an informative presentation on an item of interest to the membership of the group.

#### **European (Withdrawal) Bill**

Scottish Ministers continue their commitment in principle to establish common UK frameworks where beneficial (as per the position set out in Scotland's Place In Europe) and are keen that principles and any frameworks are agreed between the administrations in the UK. The discussions continue to be ongoing. As this is a constantly evolving item, the Scottish Government would recommend regular checking of its website, and in particular the news page for the latest updates <http://news.gov.scot>.

#### **Euratom**

The Scottish Government continues to maintain protection of the environment and human health to robust international standards where it has devolved responsibility, including for radioactive substances, where some standards are currently set in Directives under the Euratom Treaty. It continues to look to the UK Government to ensure the same for reserved matters. It shall continue to work, including in cooperation with the other three administrations in the UK, to assess the impacts of exiting from the Euratom Treaty, and to mitigate any negative effects on Scotland. Again, as this is a constantly evolving item, the Scottish Government would recommend regular checking of its website, and in particular the news page for the latest updates <http://news.gov.scot>.

#### **Nuclear Safeguards Bill**

This Bill was referred to as part of the measures required to be taken prior to the UK leaving Euratom. The Bill is addressing critical nuclear safeguarding issues, to ensure that there are no doubts about ownership of and responsibility for nuclear materials, and that the UK can demonstrate compliance with international agreements. The Bill is currently at the Public Bill Committee stage and is undergoing scrutiny. There have been six sittings of the Public Bill Committee to date.

#### **Basic Safety Standards Directive (BSSD)**

Work is progressing in Scotland and across the UK on the transposition of the BSSD. Although the UK Government plans to take the UK out of the Euratom Treaty framework, the UK is still a member at the moment and has the obligation to transpose this Directive, which will become a part of domestic law on leaving Euratom. There are several strands of work to the transposition, with consultations on the Public Exposures measures, and on the Emergency Preparedness and Response consultation recently undertaken.

### **BSSD Background**

The BSSD is a complex and wide ranging Directive. It lays down minimum radiation safety standards for medical patients, workers, and members of the public.

The requirements cover planned exposure situations (e.g. nuclear medicine, nuclear power, and other industrial activities that use radioactivity) as well as existing exposure situations (e.g. the management of legacy radioactive contaminated land). The Directive also covers arrangements for responding to emergency exposure situations, ranging from spills in hospitals to major nuclear emergencies incorporating the lessons learned from the Fukushima nuclear accident.

### **Public Exposure**

The consultation on this item closed on 15 November 2017 and BEIS received a total of 20 responses of which 2 were Scottish based. BEIS is now considering the responses with a view to taking this forward and an update is expected shortly on the next steps towards the implementation date of 6 February 2018.

### **Emergency Preparedness and Response Consultation**

The consultation on this item closed on 15 November 2017 and BEIS received a total of 71 responses with 21 of these from Scottish based organisations. BEIS is reviewing the responses received before moving this forward and an update is expected shortly on the next steps towards the implementation date of 6 February 2018.

### **Proportionate Regulatory Control (PRC)**

This piece of work makes proposals which will result in the final stages of decommissioning and clean up being regulated under the existing environmental and health and safety legislation that applies to radioactive and non-radioactive substances at all non-nuclear sites. This would be by the various environmental regulators across the UK rather than the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). In Scotland this would be SEPA.

This work is being led by BEIS and a steering group was set up to look at how this work can be taken forward. The current position is that the steering group has concluded that amendments will be required to both primary legislation (Nuclear Installations Act 1965) and secondary legislation (Environmental Permitting Regulations 16) in England and Wales. In order to achieve this there will now be two separate consultations. The first consultation will deal with the amendments to the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 only and will be launched in early 2018. The second will concern amendments to secondary legislation which is the Environmental Permitting Regulations for England and Wales and will be in the summer of 2018.

Mr Young advised that the Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCORS) will have two new joint Convenors from 1 January 2018, from Renfrew and Inverclyde.

### **8. Any Other Business**

There were no other items of business raised.

**Action – SSG Secretariat to circulate links to consultations to members.**

### **9. Next Meeting – Thursday 1 March 2018**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 1 March 2018, at 1.00pm for 1.30pm, at a venue to be confirmed.

Mrs Holmes thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting closed at 3.35 pm.