

**HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS FROM THE FIFTIETH MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 7 JUNE 2018 AT THE WATERSIDE HOTEL, WEST KILBRIDE**

Chairman's Opening Remarks

Mrs Rita Holmes, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular, Mr Jonathan Jenkin from the NDA on behalf of Mr Bill Hamilton, and Sgt Alex Marshall, on behalf of Insp Colin Convery. The scheduled meeting in March had been cancelled due to heavy snow and dangerous travelling conditions.

Chair and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence

Mrs Holmes gave an update on six meetings attended by herself and the Vice Chair on behalf of the Site Stakeholder Group since the beginning of the year.

Actions and Approval of Previous Minutes

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

Hunterston A Site Reports

Hunterston A Report – Mr John Grierson and Mr Ian Warner

The Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) and the Day Away Case Rate (DACR) for the site are zero. This means that there has been nothing worse than a first aid injury. It is now 48 months since the last Lost Time Accident. Progress on the ponds, SILWE project and SAWBR project was explained. The colour chosen for the weather envelope is organic patina (blue) and the contract is due to be let. Mr Ian Warner gave a brief overview of the new regulatory guidance and proposed regulatory changes. He explained the proposed new Guidance on Requirements for Release of Nuclear Sites from Radioactive Substances Regulation (GRR) and will return to future meetings with more information,

ONR Report – Mr Rob Eales

Mr Eales explained the inspections which had taken place over the last few months. The ONR has received a request from the site regarding a revision to emergency arrangements to remove one of the monitor staff from the 24-hour rota, which is being assessed.

SEPA Report – Mr David Stone

On behalf of Mr Stackhouse, Mr Stone described the inspections which had taken place during the period. The latest report on Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) is now available on SEPA's website, as is the Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (SPRI).

NDA Report – Mr Jonathan Jenkin

The NDA Business Plan 2018-2021 has been published. The second edition of the NDA digital newsletter #Decomm is now available online. The NDA has published its first ever Socio-Economic Report, giving an overview of socio-economic spend and activity in 2016/17. The NDA has published details of the Gender Pay Gap. The Holliday Inquiry report into the handling of the Magnox Competition is now expected late summer/early autumn.

Update from Scottish Government – Mr Ewan Young

Mr Young's report included information on Euratom, the Nuclear Safeguards Bill and Scottish Sites meeting.

Hunterston B Station Reports

Hunterston B Report – Dr Roddy Angus

The excellent safety record continues with it now ten years since a Lost Time Accident. Reactor 3 was taken out of service in February for a scheduled inspection of the core and has not yet returned to service as a detailed safety case is being prepared for a longer period of operation than 90 days. There was significant discussion relating to this and the cracking of the bricks. The ONR assured members that the reactor will not return to service until the ONR is completely satisfied that it is safe to do so.

ONR Report – Mr Stuart Fannin

Mr Fannin described the four inspections undertaken at Hunterston B during a busy first quarter of the year, all of which were fully compliant with licence conditions.

SEPA Report –

Mr Keith Hammond was not present at the meeting.

Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group Constitution

The updated Constitution, revised in line with NDA guidelines, was formally adopted.

A large number of questions were asked by members and the public and further detail on these can be found in the full Minutes of the meeting.

Next Meeting – Thursday 6 September 2018 at 1.00 pm for 1.30 pm at The Waterside Hotel, West Kilbride



Site Stakeholder Group

**HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
MINUTES OF FIFTIETH MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 7 JUNE 2018 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 Lead)
Mr Sean Marshall (Magnox Communications)
Mr Reuben Phillips (EHSS&Q Manager, Hunterston A)
Mr Alastair Walker (Programme Delivery Manager)
Mr Ian Warner (Contaminated Land Manager)

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 Todd Ferguson (Dalry and West Kilbride)
Cllr Tom Marshall (North Coast and Cumbranes)
Mr Hugh McGhee (Environmental Health)

NDA

Mr Jonathan Jenkin

In Attendance

Mrs Sheila Adams (Minutes)
Mr Ronald Gilchrist (Fairlie and Millport CC)
Ms Marie Girvan (Balfour Beatty)
Mr Alan Holden (Fairlie CCC)
Elizabeth McLardy (Public)
Mr David Nairn (Clyde Porpoise CIC)

Apologies

Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick (Hunterston Estate)
Insp Colin Convery (Police Scotland)
Mr Derek Davidson (Fire Scotland)
Mr Keith Hammond (SEPA, Hunterston B)
Mr William Jack (NFU Scotland)

EDF (Hunterston B)

Dr Roddy Angus (Technical Support Manager)
Mr Bob Fenton (Head of Communications)
Ms Fiona McCall (External Comms Manager)

ONR

Mr Rob Eales (Hunterston A)
Mr Stuart Fannin (Hunterston B)

SEPA

Mr David Stone (Hunterston A)

Scottish Government

Mr Ewan Young

CNC

Mr Paul Gilmartin (Hunterston A)

Police Scotland

Sgt Alex Marshall

Mr Anil Mander (CNC, Hunterston B)
Mr Andy McDade (Trade Union Rep, HA)
Mr Stuart McGhie (Trade Union Rep, HB)
Mr Will Munro (Food Standards Scotland)

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks and Declarations of Interest

Mrs Holmes, Chair, welcomed everyone to the fiftieth 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 Sgt Alexandra Marshall who was attending on behalf of Insp Colin Convery who had replaced Brian McSkimming following his retirement; and Mr Jonathan Jenkin from the NDA who was attending on behalf of Mr Bill Hamilton.

Mrs Holmes noted that this was the first meeting of 2018 due to the March meeting being cancelled because of very heavy snow and adverse weather and travelling conditions.

2. Chair and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence

The Chair summarised several meetings that she and the Vice Chair had attended on behalf of the SSG since December 2017. The Chair attended the BEIS/NGO Engagement Forum in London on 22 January 2018, the ONR/NGO Engagement Forum in Birmingham on 20/21 March and the NDA Parliament Reception evening at the Scottish Government on 15 May. The Chair and Vice Chair attended the SSG Chairs meeting in London on 13/14 February, which included the opportunity to speak privately with the Holliday Inquiry team. They also participated in the Scottish Sites meeting in Edinburgh on 26 April and BEIS meeting in Edinburgh on 6 June.

3. Actions and Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of 7 December 2017 were proposed for approval by Cllr Robert Barr and seconded by Mr Drew Cochrane.

4. Hunterston A Site Reports

Hunterston A Report – Mr John Grierson and Mr Ian Warner

Mr Grierson's report, issued with the meeting papers, was taken as read and he highlighted and expanded on key points. Starting with safety as always, Mr Grierson was pleased to report that the Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) and the Day Away Case Rate (DACR) for the site are zero. This applies to both Hunterston and Chapelcross sites and indicates that there has been nothing worse than a first aid injury. The site should be proud of this achievement and Mr Grierson hoped that the 48 months without a Lost Time Accident (LTA) would continue. The first day back at work in January saw a safety stand down and the 'Target Zero' campaign continues with the focus on a different topic each month. The site continues to carry out regular training exercises and involves the emergency services in these.

The site has followed up on the restructuring consultation and was able to accommodate all first preference aspirations from staff. Employee numbers are relatively stable, with contractor numbers reducing slightly. Mr Grierson showed slides of the dashboard system which explains the site's accountability system at various levels.

Under Key projects, the focus is on the ponds with 1,078 sqm of surface stabilised which is an ONR licence condition. Waste operations is busy with waste from the ponds. In December, 673 packages of waste had been retrieved through the Solid Active Waste Bunker Retrieval (SAWBR) project, which now stood at 783 packages. Mr Grierson showed photos of the active commissioning of the Wet Intermediate Level Waste Retrieval and Encapsulation Plant (WILWREP). The acid storage facility is the next part of the process and is currently being fitted out.



The Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation (SILWE) project is at an advanced stage with the building being energised. The equipment has all been tested at an integrated test facility and this self-contained building is expected to be up and running by early/mid 2019. Numbers for the Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) store were 695 previously, which is now 822 at over half way through the programme.

The colour chosen for the weather envelope is organic patina and the contract is due to be let.

The Socio-Economic Scheme has awarded £1,790 and the site would like to see more and bigger applications coming forward. Stakeholder engagement included a Viking Garden, Largs Colts and young people from local schools.

Mr Grierson introduced Mr Ian Warner, End State Optimisation Manager for Magnox, who gave a brief overview of the new regulatory guidance and proposed regulatory changes. He explained that the Guidance on Requirements for Release of Nuclear Sites from Radioactive Substances Regulation (GRR) is an evolution of the UK policy. In 2006 there was only one disposal option at Drigg in West Cumbria which is projected to be full by 2019 and is not sustainable. The Environment Agencies published the Draft GRR in 2016 which is also referred to as Proportionate Regulatory Control (PRC). Mr Warner explained the role of BEIS (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) which has been undertaking a consultation exercise. Mr Warner explained the implications of the changes, if these are approved. At the end stage of sites, ONR would relinquish responsibility as safety regulator and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) would have responsibility for conventional safety issues with SEPA being the primary regulator. This is considered to be a pragmatic approach by operators with the focus on the end stage of sites. Mr Warner explained that optimisation is keeping exposures to the public from ionising radiation 'As Low As Reasonably Practicable' (ALARA). Mr Warner presented the options for possible disposition of radioactivity from a decommissioning site and explained a flow chart on optimised solutions for disposal. Magnox is taking a 'lead and learn' approach and there will be one Scottish site (Dounreay), one English (Winfrith) and one Welsh site (Trawsfynydd) trialled. Mr Warner offered to attend the September SSG meeting to report on progress and explain further.

Question and Answer Session

Mr Cochrane asked if the site was still on schedule for closure in 2024/25. Mr Grierson confirmed that this is the case. Mr Cochrane asked if there would be no staff presence after closure. Mr Grierson responded that Bradwell is in Care and Maintenance and still has a security presence. There are currently 200 people on Hunterston site, which will gradually reduce and he would expect there to be a maximum of 20.

Mr Rice asked if a Strategic Options Assessment has been done for Hunterston. Mr Warner replied that this has not yet been done and he would expect this some time next year.

Mr McGhee asked if the shipments consigned by road on page 3 of the report under Emergency Preparedness were Low Level Waste, which Mr Grierson confirmed was the case.

Mrs Holmes asked if there would be a burden placed on the Local Authority with Proportionate Regulatory Control and was advised that this would not be the case as responsibility would move from ONR to SEPA. As long as there is an ILW store on site, there will always be an ONR presence. Mrs Holmes asked about a Low Level Waste store at Hunterston and Mr Grierson advised that there is insufficient land at Hunterston for this.

Mr Lamb had attended a BEIS workshop the previous day and advised members that the



consultation is open from 8 May to 3 July and a response would be prepared by Mrs Holmes and himself and submitted from the Site Stakeholder Group.

Mrs Holmes was pleased to see that the colour of the reactor cladding had been chosen and was not white. She was however disappointed to see that this work was going out to tender as she assumed that this meant that the cladding work would go ahead and therefore Hunterston would not be selected as a site for early clearance. Mr Grierson responded that this is not necessarily the position as a business case has to be prepared and SSG representatives should continue to raise awareness at Scottish Sites meetings and at national meetings and Magnox group meetings. Mr Jenkin added that one of the break-out sessions at the National Stakeholder Summit would be a good opportunity to raise this but reminded members of the caveat that at the current time this is a review under consideration relating solely to Magnox reactor dismantling and has not been approved by the Government. He added that the review is looking at what the optimum pace for dismantling should be and the GRR will have no impact on this discussion.

Before moving on to the next report, Mr Grierson showed a three-minute video from a recent Leadership Conference, demonstrating the decommissioning achievements and work being undertaken across the other Magnox sites.

ONR Report – Mr Rob Eales

The ONR report, circulated with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Eales advised that he hopes to attend all Site Stakeholder Group meetings this year. ONR Inspectors were on site on 12/13 March to discuss proposals for focussed decommissioning. He was pleased to the progress being made. ONR has received a request from the site regarding a revision to emergency arrangements to remove one of the monitor staff from the 24 hour rota. ONR has asked some questions and will report on this at a later date when it has completed its assessment. Mr Eales explained LC35 milestone progress on the ponds. It is recognised that the ONR profile will increase during Proportionary Regulatory Control and one of the ONR's core principles is that it focusses efforts on key hazards on site.

Questions and Answer Session

Mrs Holmes asked Mr Eales what questions the ONR asked of the site. Mr Eales responded that when documents are presented there can be changes made to words that are significant and to ensure control of the site, ONR needs to understand the implications and the full picture. Mrs Holmes asked if control of the site related to manpower supervisors or more general. Mr Eales advised that it was more general and that ONR needed to ensure understanding of the implications of the wording of the documents. Mrs Holmes asked if there was a document available to read explaining what the greater risks are during decommissioning. Mr Eales explained that there is no such document and that the site owns all documentation relating to it. Mr Eales reassured members that Proportionary Regulatory Control would not allow ONR to retract any time soon. Mrs Holmes referred to the HIRE document which is a good read and gives the background. Mr Eales confirmed that this is owned by Magnox. Mr Grierson offered to run through the safety case with Mrs Holmes when she is next on site to allow her to fully understand how in depth the safety cases are.

Mr Rice asked if the document following the assessment of the removal for a duty responder to be present on site during silent hours would include the safety case. Mr Eales confirmed that this was the case and that qualified, experienced personnel carry out the assessments.

Action – Mr Grierson offered to present slides of the Risk-Based De-Planting (RBDP) process, referred to in the ONR report, at the next meeting.



Mrs Holmes advised members that Site Stakeholder Group members are welcome to attend ONR/NGO meetings.

SEPA Report – Mr David Stone

The SEPA report, circulated prior to the meeting, was taken as read. Mr Stone advised that he was attending the meeting on behalf of Mr Adam Stackhouse, who was currently doing policy work, and it is likely that he will cover the SSG meetings for the rest of the year. Mr Stone described an inspection of the site's procedures for managing and maintaining its active ventilation systems. This followed a minor event reported to SEPA in February 2018 relating to the failure to undertake a routine monthly check of the different pressure across an operating filter system. A filter was not checked as it was wrongly assumed that it had been turned off for maintenance. SEPA took the opportunity to look at systems and maintenance schedules and was content that there were no contraventions or non-compliance issues and lessons were learned by the site from the experience.

A site inspection on 6 June regarding management arrangements for control of waste on site showed appropriate disposal and records on management of waste and no contraventions.

An application is expected for a variation on new nominated stacks in the Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation plant. Every nominated gaseous discharge is listed and this will result in no increase to the overall discharge limit.

The latest report on Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) is now available on SEPA's website, as is the Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (SPRI).

Question and Answer Session

Mr Rice asked if the filter referred to in the failure to undertake a routine check of the pressure was air or water and if the difference in pressure was high or low. Mr Stone responded that it was an air filter and there are two systems, one of which was turned off. It had been assumed that there was no need to check the other system. Nothing was released and there was no environmental event but a failure in the maintenance schedule. SEPA was interested to note how the site dealt with this and the lessons learned.

Mrs Holmes asked when a decision would be made on the variation request. Mr Stone replied that it has not yet been applied for but discussion has taken place on the information which will be required by SEPA in order to make a decision on the variation. Mrs Holmes asked how a new discharge point would not add to the overall limit. Mr Stone explained that coincidentally one point is also being removed and there are individual sub limits but there would be no difference in the overall site limit. It will be for the site to demonstrate that any additional individual levels will not affect the overall limit. Mrs Holmes asked if there is a way of measuring this and Mr Stone reassured her that there is and this could not be done without analysis, measuring and reporting.

Cllr Marshall referred to the tables of radioactive discharges on Page 7 of the Magnox Hunterston A report which shows that the total annual gaseous discharge limit is 100 MBq but discharges made as a consequence of reactor breathing is 3000 MBq. Mr Phillips explained that these are Magnox site figures and the 100 MBq includes everything but the reactor buildings and the authorisation splits out the figures for the different areas.

Cllr Marshall considered this to be misleading and it was agreed that the table would be modified for clarification in future reports. **Action – Mr Phillips to amend table in 6.1 to show totals.**

Mrs Holmes asked if problems had been anticipated in dealing with what may be found in bunker one. Mr Grierson explained that this is akin to industrial archaeology. Fuel element debris, the metal part of the fuel can, can fragment and there is a safety case to cover this. Mrs Holmes asked what would happen if there were too many fragments in one box. Mr Grierson explained that there is a loading limit and too many would make it non-conforming. This is not radiation risk but it can cause problems when hydrogen gas could be present. It is not a big risk however or it would not be done and there are multiple layers of protection.

5. NDA Report – Mr Jonathan Jenkin

Mr Jenkin was standing in for Mr Bill Hamilton who was attending Wylfa Site Stakeholder Group. The NDA report, issued with the meeting papers, was taken as read and Mr Jenkin highlighted the key points. Lorraine Baldry OBE has been appointed the new Chair of Sellafield Ltd and has extensive experience and skills.

The NDA Business Plan 2018-2021 has been published. The NDA budget of £3.1 billion includes £490 million for Magnox, of which Hunterston is allocated £36m. The Plan sets out priorities for this financial year and the following two years. Two NDA representatives attended a Waste Management Synopsis in Phoenix which focussed on robotic technology, which was very interesting and informative.

The NDA was very pleased to welcome Lord Duncan of Springbank, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Scotland Office, to Dounreay, and HRH The Princess Royal to the Nuclear and Caithness Archives in Wick. Records from across the Magnox estate will be transferred to Wick for safe storage.

The second edition of the NDA digital newsletter #Decomm is now available by registering on the NDA website. The NDA has published its first ever Socio-Economic Report, giving an overview of socio-economic spend and activity in 2016/17. This shows that in very recent years, North Ayrshire has not had a significant number of projects and Mr Jenkin reiterated comments from the last meeting to refer any good socio-economic community projects requiring funding to Sean Marshall or Mair Jones, Magnox Communications, to try and increase the proportion of funding allocated to North Ayrshire.

The NDA has published details of the Gender Pay Gap which all organisations with 250+ employees are legally required to do. This shows a 12-40% pay gap within the NDA itself, for which there are a number of reasons but it is not acceptable and the NDA is committed to addressing this and redressing the balance.

The Public Accounts Committee has published its report into the NDA's handling of the Magnox contract, which follows a report by the National Audit Office and the criticisms of the NDA's handling of the Magnox competition. The Holliday Inquiry continues. The final report was expected early in 2018 but the Inquiry is taking longer than anticipated and is not expected until late summer / early autumn. The NDA has cooperated fully and will accept the outcomes. This has been a difficult period for the NDA but lessons have been learned and this should not overshadow the good work being done.

Question and Answer Session

Cllr Marshall referred to the £20.2m of support to projects, £700k of which was spent in Scotland, and asked if there is information on typical projects that the NDA would fund and how these could be promoted. Mr Jenkin replied that the data in the Report is representative of only one financial

year and Scotland has received considerable support over the last few years (particularly Chapelcross and Dounreay). Mr Marshall gave examples of the type of projects supported locally, such as Irvine Bay, Youth Employment Scheme, Quayside Offices in Ardrossan and Marine Biological Station. He reminded members that a sub group of Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group had met with partners round the table to try and develop projects. There had been a lack of engagement from North Ayrshire Council but this group could be reconvened as the NDA and Magnox are keen to work with projects to provide match funding. Cllr Marshall thought it might be more appropriate to invite North Ayrshire Elected Members rather than Officers to such a meeting.

Action – Sean Marshall/ Mair Jones/Jonathan Jenkin to arrange sub group meeting of interested members to discuss potential projects which would benefit from match funding from socio economic fund.

6. Update from Scottish Government – Mr Ewan Young

Mr Young presented his report which was along similar lines to that of the last meeting.

Scottish Nuclear Sites Group

This Group met on Thursday 26 April 2018. The Group was provided with a number of presentations which included one on the WILWREP work at Hunterston A station, a SEPA presentation on its standard conditions consultation and an update from the Scottish Government on Euratom. Thanks to those representatives of Hunterston SSG who attended.

Euratom

The Scottish Government continues to maintain protection of the environment and human health to robust international standards where it has devolved responsibility. It continues to work 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. As this is a constantly evolving item, it is recommended that the Scottish Government website, and in particular the news page, is checked regularly for the latest updates <http://news.gov.scot>

Nuclear Safeguards Bill

This Bill forms part of the measures required to be taken prior to the UK leaving Euratom. The Bill addresses critical nuclear safeguarding issues, to ensure that there are no doubts about ownership of and responsibility for nuclear materials. This will enable the UK to demonstrate compliance with international agreements.

Why is a Bill needed?

- The UK has committed, as a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to have in place nuclear safeguards, which are processes that allow countries to show to the international community that civil nuclear material is only used for civil activities.
- The UK nuclear safeguards regime is currently provided primarily by the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom).
- The EU and Euratom are uniquely legally joined so as a result of the intention to leave the EU the process for leaving Euratom commenced.
- The Bill enables the UK to set up a domestic safeguards regime to meet international commitments on safeguards, and nuclear non-proliferation, standards.
- The new domestic nuclear safeguards regime will be equivalent in effectiveness and coverage to that currently provided for by Euratom.
- The new regime will be run by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) which already regulates nuclear safety and nuclear security.

What will the Bill do?

- The measures in the Bill will amend the Energy Act 2013 to:
 - replace the ONR's existing nuclear safeguards purposes with a new nuclear safeguards purposes definition (the ONR will regulate the new nuclear safeguards regime using its existing relevant functions and powers);
 - create new powers for the Secretary of State, so he can put in place in regulations the detail of the domestic safeguards regime, such as accounting, reporting, control and inspection arrangements;
- The Bill will also create a limited power for the Secretary of State by regulations to amend the Nuclear Safeguards and Electricity (Finance) Act 1978, Nuclear Safeguards Act 2000 and the Nuclear Safeguards (Notification) Regulations 2004 this is so that references in legislation to existing international agreements can be updated once new international agreements have been reached.
- The UK has been a member of the IAEA since its formation in 1957 and will continue to apply civil nuclear safeguards in the UK.

Where is it at?

The Bill has passed through three readings in the House of Lords, as well as two sittings in the Committee stage and also the Report stage. Amendments suggested by the House of Lords have been passed back for consideration to the House of Commons.

Nuclear Safeguards Bill: Factsheet

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has kindly produced a set of factsheets for ease of understanding. The link to the factsheets is:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-safeguards-bill-factsheets>

Regulation of Nuclear Sites in the final stages of Decommissioning and Clean-up

BEIS has now published this long-awaited consultation and the link is below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-regulation-of-nuclear-sites-in-the-final-stages-of-decommissioning-and-clean-up>

The proposals contained in the consultation have been developed in consultation with the Scottish Government and SEPA as its independent environmental regulator. The Scottish Government welcomes the overall intention to ensure that nuclear sites, as they reach the end of decommissioning, have the appropriate regulation for their evolving condition. This will ensure that there is effective and proportionate regulation and can move to free areas for future uses. The consultation opened on 8 May and closes on 3 July 2018. There are no nuclear sites in Northern Ireland, so the consultation will not directly affect Northern Ireland. The consultation proposes amendments to primary legislation (the Nuclear Installations Act 1965) and legal advice is that the most straightforward approach would be to develop new secondary legislation in support of these amendments. Although the initial changes required are to the reserved Nuclear Installations Act, there are important consequences for devolved environmental regulation and the planning system. The Scottish Government will continue to work closely with BEIS on these proposals to ensure that they are effective and reflect Scottish circumstances.

7. Hunterston B Station Reports

Hunterston B Report – Dr Roddy Angus

The Hunterston B Station report, issued with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Dr Angus expanded on highlights in the report. The excellent safety record continues and the Station has now celebrated ten years without a Lost Time Incident. This is the longest period in the operational UK nuclear fleet and is testament to all workers at the Station.

Trips to Reactor 3 in January 2018 were investigated, resolved and it was put back into service. Following an outage in February 2018, for an inspection of the core, 28 channels were inspected. 39 keyway root and induced cracks were found and although the Reactor could have returned to service for another three months, the Station took the decision to extend the outage until later in 2018 for further inspection and more understanding of the cracks. Safety cases are very complex and take some time to complete. As it is disruptive to take the unit off and on service, it was decided to take more time to examine the position and present a safety case. An inspection of more than 30 fuel channels will take place on 19 June. Dr Angus explained that there are 81 control rod channels and one is inspected at each outage. The extended outage is intended to give a more focused and greater understanding. To demonstrate, Dr Angus showed members a life size model of a 'brick' and distributed a 4-page handout entitled 'Hunterston Reactor 3: Graphite Inspections Update'. Station Director Colin Weir and ONR site inspector Stuart Fannin will meet with North Ayrshire Councillors at the council offices on 25 June to discuss graphite. A visit to site has been offered to understand the position in greater detail while the reactor is shut down.

ONR Report – Mr Stuart Fannin

The ONR report, issued with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Fannin reported on a very busy first quarter at the Station, with four inspections carried out.

Mr Jenkin left the meeting at 3.20 pm.

Two of the inspections were systems-based and lasted 2-3 days and the ONR was satisfied that the Station is complying with regulatory requirements. Mr Fannin explained the themed inspections which are intense and also lasted 2-3 days each, which have a broader approach regarding the licence conditions and which were consistent with the safety case. The inspections related to safety culture and how well this is being followed, engineering governance control and supervision of operations, plant operations and maintenance operations. The results of the inspections showed that Hunterston B is fully compliant and operating good practice and could be regarded as the best performing site in the EDF suite.

With regard to the reactor trips, Mr Fannin confirmed that the ONR was informed of all events and not just those within regulatory thresholds. An ONR inspector engaged with the site following the trips and was entirely happy with the causes, corrective actions and lessons learned.

Mr Fannin explained that as part of the Graphite Inspection Programme, Reactor 3 was taken offline on 9 March 2018 for a routine annual inspection of the core. The results of a sample of 23 channels was 14 new and 11 induced cracks. As this took the aggregated predicted cracks above the confidence level, the ONR formally wrote to EDF requiring a safety case to be submitted before return to service. Mr Fannin clarified that Reactor 3 cannot be returned to service without the consent of the ONR. The safety case for 90 days assessed by ONR included specialists and advice from the Universities of Manchester and Birmingham to ensure an independent view of the safety of the reactor. During the assessment of the safety case, EDF took the decision to do a more developed safety case. The longer the operating period, the more precision and detail is required in the safety case. Mr Fannin confirmed that the 90-day assessment has been completed but has not been published due to EDF requesting a longer period of operations.

SEPA Report

Mr Hammond was not present at the meeting and a brief report from SEPA was included with the meeting papers. Mr Stone offered to take any questions arising from this back to Mr Hammond.

Question and Answer Session

Mrs Holmes asked if EDF was confident that Reactor 3 would return to full service. Dr Angus replied that he was confident that it would but EDF had a responsibility to ensure a long-term safety case till the end of generation.

Mrs Holmes asked Mr Fannin if the ONR would have allowed a 90-day period of operation. Mr Fannin responded that this was likely but this was not requested and as a longer term period of operation is required, a more detailed safety case is required.

Mrs Holmes asked Dr Angus why EDF did not accept the 90-day period. Dr Angus explained that there is an outage, data is collected and analysed and a safety case is prepared. He considered that 90 days is not enough time to operate and see differences in the core. Operating plant for temporary periods and taking on and off is not good for it and as it was already down, it was decided to keep it down to enable more investigations to be carried out. Mr Fannin confirmed that the core would not change much in 90 days.

Mrs Holmes asked why there were more cracks than anticipated. Dr Angus replied that earlier data is limited and the Station is building up a bigger database as time progresses. It does not just count cracks but also core distortion and monitors the size of previously identified cracks. It is important to build a dataset to allow further investigations to be carried out and learning and technology is improving all the time. Greater understanding will substantiate better modelling and the data has to be collated to validate the levels.

Mrs Holmes commented that where she had previously been concerned, she was now very worried to hear that ONR would only grant 90 days operating permission. She considered that if a safety case takes that long it must be very difficult to prove that it will continue to be safe to run an ageing reactor. Mr Fannin assured members that the reactor would not return to service until the ONR is completely satisfied that it is safe to do so.

Mr Cochrane asked at what percentage the Station is operating without Reactor 3 in service. Dr Angus advised that the loss of reactor 3 equates to 520mw, or half of the total output or 1/8 of Scotland's electricity.

Mr Lamb noted that Reactor 3 is currently down and Reactor 4 is scheduled for core inspection next year. He noted that at Dounreay the cameras photographing the graphite core lasted a very short time and asked if this had been taken into account. Dr Angus confirmed that quality results are required from the inspections and precautions are taken with the cameras which are calibrated and operated by specialist teams, with spare cameras on standby.

Mr Rice asked how many control rods are held. Dr Angus responded that there is one actuator per rod and one rod caused the rest to trip. This is known as a Single Point of Vulnerability as one activated rod caused the rest to trip and was potentially avoidable. This was an undetected fault and there was no indication on the panel light. The panels have now been fitted with caps and indicators. Mrs Holmes asked how long the rods have been operating if the Single Point of Vulnerability had only come to light now. Dr Angus responded that it had been in operation since 1976 and as Mr Grierson had alluded to earlier, 'archaeological' issues are now starting to present themselves. Guidance is also sought from the USA and each reactor has 150k components so research and data collation takes time. Mrs Holmes asked for more information on the control rods. Dr Angus advised that there are regulating rods, bulk rod and super articulated rods, all of

which have different functions.

Mrs Holmes asked if there is debris in the fuel channels. Dr Angus replied that there is no debris within the channels. Debris is checked for through the camera and there is a checklist of acceptance criteria.

Cllr Marshall thanked Dr Angus for the invite to the Station. He disagreed with the Chair on the levels of concerns among the local community and as an Elected Member, considered that the local population generally do not have safety concerns.

Cllr Marshall asked why the safety case which was 350 cracks has now been exceeded. Mr Fannin explained that the safety case is very complex. Cracks of less than 12mm are very small and the effect on the core is negligible. Cllr Marshall clarified that the concern is not the quantity of the cracks but the quality. Mr Fannin agreed that the type and nature of the crack is most important, rather than the number, and has asked EDF to further develop the nature of understanding of the cracks. Mr Cochrane summarised that of 350 hypothetical cracks, there are 39 actual cracks which was confirmed is the case.

Mr McGhee asked if there is another way of shutting down other than by control rods. Dr Angus explained the procedure which would happen if there is a seismic earthquake, where 12/81 rods would be required to shutdown the reactor and if required nitrogen could be injected as a blanketing agent.

Mrs Holmes asked if having the reactor shut down for longer than anticipated created an additional risk. Mr Fannin clarified that this is not the case as the reactor is being kept at a steady temperature with CO₂ circulated and the fuel kept cool.

Mrs McLardy MBE alluded to the small number of bricks affected and was surprised to hear that it is such a low number when she has heard about bricks cracking for 14 years and asked how the Station can consider restarting the reactor when the bricks cannot be repaired or replaced. Dr Angus clarified that there are different types of cracks, some of which are 'benign'. The relevant cracks are those which have an impact on the control rods. Mrs McLardy added that her understanding was that the cracks went from top to bottom and that every nuclear expert except EDF and the ONR think that Hunterston B should no longer be in operation. Mr Fannin explained that ONR's role is to make an independent decision after comparing the operating safety case against benchmarked industry standards. If the case is made and meets the standards, permission will be authorised. The ONR's job is to review and assess the safety case, it is EDF's responsibility to make the safety case. He assured members that the ONR is not politically or commercially driven and is completely independent. The ONR has to form a view one way or the other within 90 days of submission of the safety case.

Mrs McLardy MBE left the meeting at 4.05 pm.

8. Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group Constitution

The Site Stakeholder Group Constitution for Hunterston, revised in line with NDA guidelines, was circulated with the meeting papers in advance of the meeting. Mrs Holmes requested adoption of the amended Constitution by members and this was proposed by Mr John Lamb and seconded by Cllr Robert Barr.

Action – SSG Secretariat to recirculate the adopted updated Constitution to members.



Site Stakeholder Group

9. Any Other Business

Mr David Nairn of Fairlie Community Council and Clyde Porpoise CIC introduced himself. He described the large number of marine mammals locally and sought assurances that effluent and sediment would not be released and have an adverse effect on the marine life and food chain. Mr Stone referred to the Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) report published by SEPA and offered to discuss this with Mr Nairn outwith the meeting.

10. Next Meeting – Thursday 6 September 2018

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 6 September 2018, at 1.00pm for 1.30pm, at The Waterside Hotel, West Kilbride.

Mrs Holmes thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting closed at 4.10 pm.