

Hunterston B Decommissioning (Waste Facilities)

Planning Process Briefing Note

(August 2020)



Purpose of this Note

This planning process briefing note has been prepared by EDF to inform the public on the approach to planning required to prepare for the future decommissioning of Hunterston B (HNB). There are a number of steps that are to be taken early, before the decommissioning process formally begins.

This note provides a high-level overview, setting out the background to decommissioning, including a brief explanation of why waste facilities are needed, along with a diagram explaining the planning process, our anticipated next steps and answering some key questions on the process at the end. This includes details on when more information will be available.

Background, waste facilities and consultation

EDF's current expectation is that HNB will stop generating power in 2023, with the works relating to preparation for decommissioning the nuclear power station commencing shortly after.

Before decommissioning begins, **supporting waste facilities** have to be in place. These facilities are for the **treatment, disposal and safe storage of waste from HNB power station only**.

There will be three buildings proposed, with further details contained later in this note:

- **Operational Waste Processing Facility (OWPF)**
- **Intermediate Level Waste Store (ILWS)**
- **Decommissioning Waste Processing Facility (DWPF)**

To enable the construction of the facilities, EDF is preparing a planning application. **The application is anticipated to be submitted in the first half of 2021.** It will be determined by North Ayrshire Council (NAC), who act as the local planning authority, with all relevant stakeholders to be consulted on the application.

“Ahead of the planning submission for the waste facilities, a period of public consultation with a range of stakeholders, including the local community, will be held – likely in late 2020 or early 2021”

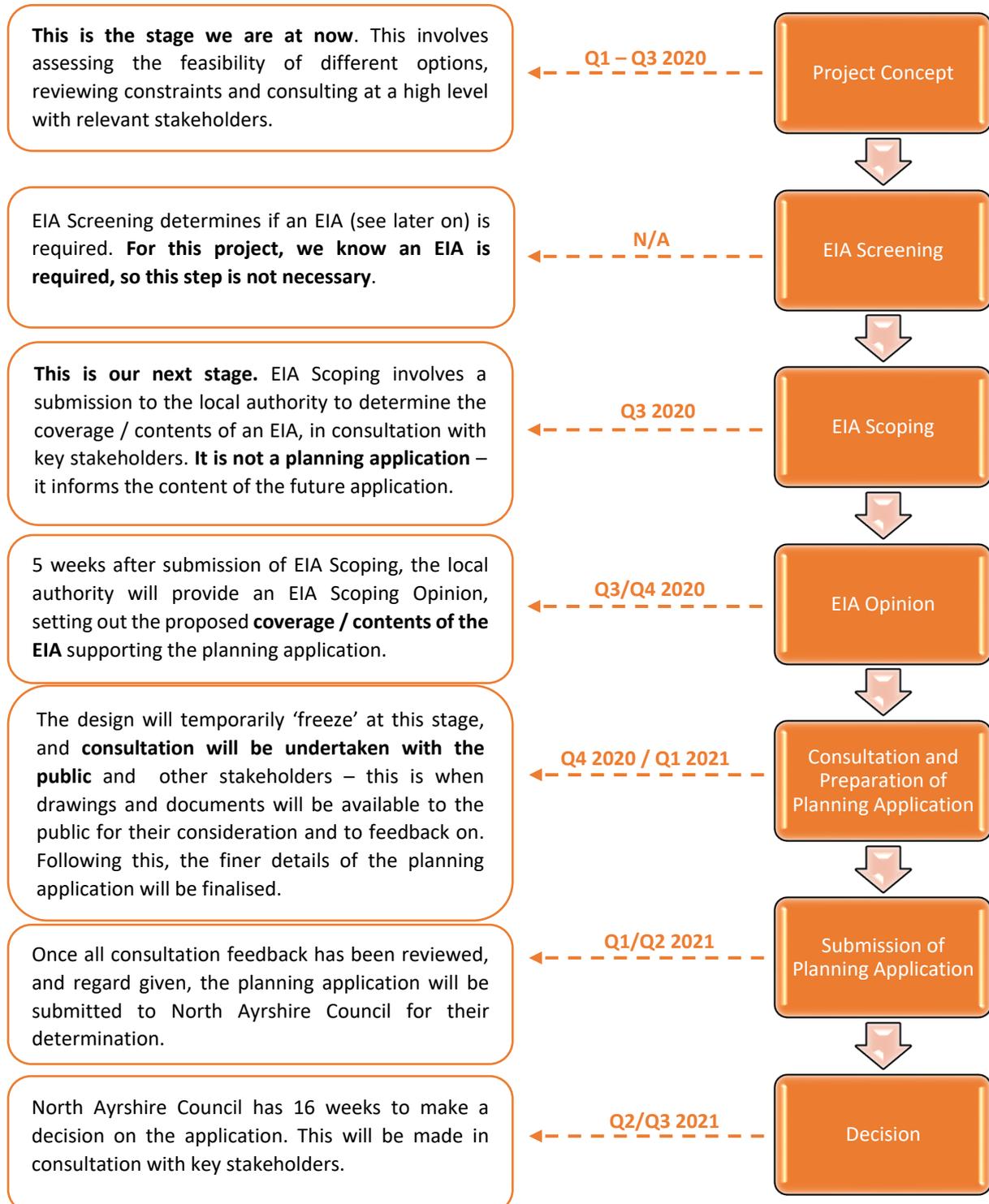
Ahead of this planning application, EDF will be undertaking some limited ‘enabling works’, to clear the proposed waste facilities site. These works will be undertaken via ‘permitted development (PD) rights’, a process which does not require formal planning permission. EDF have received formal confirmation from NAC that these works are PD, with further details provided later in this note.

Ahead of the planning submission for the waste facilities, a period of public consultation with a range of stakeholders, including the local community, will be held at which stage more information about the proposals will be available. This is likely to be late in 2020, or early 2021 and depending on the circumstances, may be held virtually.

Before consultation and submission of the planning application, **EDF expect to be submitting a formal “scoping request” to North Ayrshire Council in September 2020.** Submission of a scoping request is the first formal planning stage for this type of application, enabling EDF to understand what environmental elements should be addressed in detail within the planning application (e.g. transport, noise or air quality). This work is known as an Environmental Impact Assessment (‘EIA’).



Planning Process and Anticipated Next Steps



Key Questions

Why is EDF preparing a planning application?

A planning application allows EDF to apply for consent to build the new waste facilities required to support future decommissioning work at Hunterston B. As the local planning authority, North Ayrshire Council will determine the application for waste facilities.

What are the waste facility buildings?

There are three waste facilities buildings proposed, with details of each provided below.

Operational Waste Processing Facility (OWPF)

This building will provide space and equipment for receipt, characterisation and segregation of wet/fluid higher active wastes. It will contain processing equipment to enable the stabilisation of wastes and decanting into high integrity containers/packages suitable for final disposal in accordance with Scottish regulations. Once waste has been prepared, it will be transferred to an Intermediate Level Waste Store.

Intermediate Level Waste Store (ILWS)

This building will provide space for the receipt and placement equipment for all higher active waste from the OWPF at HNB, providing a container/package suitable for final disposal.

Decommissioning Waste Processing Facility (DWPF)

This building will provide space and equipment for receipt, characterisation and segregation of dry low level waste materials/equipment to be managed from HNB, which may then be shipped to a third party for treatment.

EDF are investigating the feasibility of utilising Magnox's Hunterston A existing waste processing and storage facilities which may mean one or more of the three buildings above are not required. These discussions are at a preliminary stage with a review being undertaken. The current assumed position is that all three buildings will be required.

What is Permitted Development (PD)?

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992 provides the ability for certain bodies to undertake specific types of work without needing to apply for planning permission. These are called "permitted development" (PD) rights. Provided works are within the scope set out by the Order, formal planning permission is not required. EDF received formal confirmation in July 2020 from North Ayrshire Council via a Certificate of Lawfulness for a Proposed Use or Development that the 'enabling works' (to clear the proposed waste facilities site) would constitute PD.

What is an EIA?

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process of evaluating the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project or development, taking into account inter-related socio-economic, cultural and human-health impacts, both beneficial and adverse.

When will I get the chance to find out more information and express my views?

EDF will consult with relevant stakeholders, including members of the community late 2020 / early 2021 before the application is submitted in the first half of 2021. Detailed information about the proposals will be made available beforehand and arrangements will be made to ensure that we run the consultation within social distancing guidelines.

Who can I contact for further information?

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