

**HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS FROM THE FIFTY SIXTH MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2020 AT THE WATERSIDE HOTEL, WEST KILBRIDE, KA23 9NG**

Chair's Opening Remarks and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence

The Chair was disappointed in the NDA's decision, based on advice from BEIS, not to let the Site Stakeholder Group meeting in December 2019 go ahead due to the upcoming general election, meaning there had been no meeting for six months. During that time, two very important issues were ongoing – Hunterston B Reactor 3 and Reactor 4 Safety Cases and the implementation of REPIR 2019. The Chair and Vice Chair attended the Scottish Sites meeting in Edinburgh on 31 October 2019. Mrs Holmes attended the annual Magnox SSG Chair and Vice Chairs meeting in London on 23/24 January 2020.

Actions and Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of 5 September 2019 were approved.

Hunterston A Site Reports

Hunterston A Report – Mr John Grierson

The site's Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) remains at zero. The site successfully demonstrated two contingency exercises with both being rated green and providing learning points. Focus groups are being set up through the Mental Health and Wellbeing Initiative. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) improvements are being assessed through analysis of surveys. The site will move to a 4 day/wk (from 4.5 days/wk) from April 2020. Deplanting is moving on in the ponds. The SAWBR project is slower than anticipated due to various challenges. Updates were given on SILWE and WILWREP plants. £8,231 has been awarded to nine projects under the Socio Economic Scheme.

ONR Report – Mr Bill Kings

Mr Kings described adequate performance all round on two inspections in the period, with both inspections graded 'adequate' and closed out, with the site taking learning points on board.

SEPA Report – Mr David Stone

There were no non-compliance issues identified in either of the two inspections reported on. The 2018 Compliance Assessment Scheme Scores have been published, in which Hunterston A site achieved a score of 'excellent'. The Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) edition 24, covering 2018, has been published and is available on SEPA's website.

NDA Report – Mr John McNamara and Mr Andrew Van Der Lem

A public consultation exercise is anticipated between August and November 2020 for the NDA's Strategy IV. A national Stakeholder Day will be arranged. The NDA's annual Stakeholder Summit is being planned for 19-20 October 2020 in the Sheraton Hotel, Edinburgh. The new Chief Executive Officer at Sellafield is Martin Chown. The new Chief Executive Officer of Radioactive Waste Management is Karen Wheeler. The NDA's new Stakeholder Engagement Officer for Scotland is David Wallace. Mr Van Der Lem updated on the new Socio Economic Strategy being prepared.

Update from Scottish Government – Mr James Fox

An update was provided on new appointments within the Scottish Government Radioactive Substances Team, BEIS Policy Review, Scottish Higher Activity Waste Policy Review, NDA Strategy IV and Scottish Government Resilience Division

Hunterston B Station Reports

Hunterston B Report – Mr Paul Forrest

Safety cases for Reactors 3 and 4 are expected to be submitted to ONR in the next few months. Safety performance has been good. Investigations are ongoing into a flask received from Sellafield containing debris. A challenging joint security and nuclear demonstration exercise took place as a learning exercise at the end of 2019.

ONR Report – Mr Stuart Fannin

All routine inspections carried out in the period were graded green. The safety case for Reactors 3 and 4 is awaited from EDF. A corrective Action Plan has been produced by EDF in response to the enforcement letter issued in October 2019 regarding the Station failing to adequately account for and label radioactive sources. Presentations on REPIR 2019 were given to North Ayrshire Council and SSG voting members in February 2020.

SEPA Report – Mr Keith Hammond

The fuel flask from Sellafield containing debris is being investigated. Hunterston B also received a score of 'excellent' in the 2018 Compliance Assessment Scheme Scores.

Any Other Business

Skelmorlie Community Council has formally applied to join the SSG. The meeting was inquorate and a decision will be made at the next meeting.

A number of questions were asked by members and members of the public in attendance and further detail on these can be found in the full Minutes of the meeting, available from the Secretariat.

Next Meeting – Thursday 4 June 2020 at 1.00 pm for 1.30 pm at The Waterside Hotel, West Kilbride.

**HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
MINUTES OF FIFTY SIXTH MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2020 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 Reuben Phillips (EHSS&Q Manager)

Community Council Representatives

Mr Drew Cochrane (Largs CC)
Mrs Rita Holmes – SSG Chair (Fairlie CC)
Mr John Lamb (West Kilbride CC)
Mr Graham Wallace (Cumbrae CC)

North Ayrshire Council

Ms Lesley Jeffrey (Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Team)
Mr Scott McKenzie (Senior Manager Protective Services)

NDA

Mr John McNamara
Mr Andrew Van Der Lem

EDF (Hunterston B)

Mr Paul Forrest (Station Director)
Ms Fiona McCall (External Comms Manager)
Mr Stuart McGhie – SSG Vice Chair

Scottish Government

Mr James Fox
Mr David Gurney
Mr Alan Hodberry

ONR

Mr Stuart Fannin (Hunterston B)
Mr Bill Kings (Hunterston A)

SEPA

Mr Keith Hammond (Hunterston B)
Mr David Stone (Hunterston A)

CNC

Inspector Alison Wilson

In Attendance

Mrs Sheila Adams (Minutes)
Mr Jon Bassett (Local Resident)
Ms Linda Grainey (Local Resident)

Mr Alan Holden (Fairlie Community Council)
Mr Martin Kaarits (Skelmorlie Comm Council)
Mr Peter Roche (Nuclear Free Local Authorities)

Apologies

Cllr Robert Barr (Dalry and West Kilbride)
Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick (Hunterston Estate)
Cllr Todd Ferguson (Dalry and West Kilbride)
Cllr Alex Gallagher (North Coast and Cumbraes)

Cllr John Glover (Kilwinning)
Cllr Tom Marshall (North Coast & Cumbraes)
Mr Andy McDade (Trade Union Rep)
Ms Johan Milliken (Trade Union Rep)

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks and Declarations of Interest

Mrs Holmes, Chair, welcomed everyone to the fifty sixth 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.

2. Chair and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence

The Chair noted that there had been no Site Stakeholder meeting since September 2019 and therefore no public discussion or questioning of the Regulators, EDF, Magnox, NDA or the Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Team, during those six months. During that time, two very important issues were ongoing – Hunterston B R3 and R4 Safety Cases and the implementation of REPIR 2019. For this reason, Mrs Holmes had asked the NDA at the Scottish Sites meeting on 31 October 2019, not to cancel the December Site Stakeholder meeting but was told it had to be cancelled due to the forthcoming general election. It has since been established that the meeting could have gone ahead, and EDF, ONR and SEPA were willing to attend, and the NDA has apologised for its error. On behalf of the Site Stakeholder Group and local communities, Mrs Holmes thanked the management of Hunterston B Station, particularly Paul Forrest and Roddy Angus, and the ONR, for updates during that period. She also thanked Fiona McCall for facilitating the use of the Visitor Centre on 10 February 2020, for voting members of the Site Stakeholder Group to meet with EDF, ONR and the Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Team and in particular thanked Stuart Fannin and Steve Harrison from ONR for travelling to the meeting in adverse weather conditions. Mrs Holmes thanked John Grierson for the monthly updates on Hunterston A site and thanked Sean Marshall for his work on Socio Economics and he and Jill Callander for the support given to the Site Stakeholder Group. Mrs Holmes asked Site Stakeholder Group representatives to reflect on the privilege, which was a long time coming, for community representatives and members of the public to be allowed to ask questions of both nuclear sites and the Regulators. The NDA oversees this and this is what constitutes openness and transparency. Mrs Holmes recognised the limbo situation which the workforce at Hunterston B Station are in until a decision on the operation of the Reactors is made. She acknowledged and was appreciative of all the work that has been and is being done at both Stations.

Mrs Holmes and Mr McGhie attended the Scottish Sites meeting in Edinburgh on 31 October 2019 and, as always, found it useful and informative. Mrs Holmes had attended the annual Magnox SSG Chair and Vice Chairs meeting in London on 23/24 January 2020, where an update of on all the Magnox decommissioning sites was given and a presentation on site end states. The Site Stakeholder Group continues to be hopeful that Hunterston A might become a lead decommissioning site as this could ensure work into the future.

Mr McGhie added his appreciation of the successful meeting with the ONR and Hunterston B site and update meetings with management.

3. Actions and Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of 5 September 2019 were proposed for approval by Mr Drew Cochrane and seconded by Mr John Lamb.

The only action from the previous meeting was on Mair Jones, Socio Economic Lead Magnox Ltd, to circulate socio-economic figures for Hunterston A site. This had been done and the action was discharged.

4. Hunterston A Site Reports

Hunterston A Reports – Mr John Grierson

Mr Grierson's presentation covered the six months since the last Site Stakeholder Group meeting. As always, Mr Grierson started with safety. The site is performing well and it was now 68 months since the last Lost Time Accident, with the Total Recordable Incident Rate remaining at zero. The site had been stood down for a 'safe start' on the first day back at work in January, with staff asked to take personal responsibility and make individual commitments to safety.



An example of Mr Grierson's own commitment was to make more conservative decisions when travelling after travelling in bad snow last year and returning home late and tired after a flight delay. The Target Zero campaign continues, with March's theme being 'Lifting Equipment'. The site successfully demonstrated two contingency exercises with both being rated green and providing learning points. The site budget is £29.4M.

Scotland is leading the way in Magnox Ltd with its Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing initiative. Focus groups have been set up, for example, yoga classes and reading groups. Sites are also considering welfare improvements such as office and canteen improvements. Results of a 2019 survey on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) have been compared with a survey done in 2017 to establish if progress is being made. Improvements have been made and there are some to focus on. Positive improvements were Mental Health and Wellbeing initiatives and alternative working arrangements. Focus points included individual behaviours, having the courage to raise complaints and people being comfortable being themselves.

In respect of Continuous Reactor Dismantling, a Magnox Team is doing assessments of both Hunterston A and Chapelcross sites. This will give individual end points for each site and it is hoped that both Scottish sites are in the upper part of the table in moving forward. More detailed presentations on this subject will be given in due course. Following consultation, the business case for a new working pattern has been approved by a vote of over 90%, with both sites moving to a 4 day/wk (from 4.5 day/wk at Hunterston and 5 day/wk at Chapelcross). The new arrangements are expected to be implemented by the end of March 2020, with a working week of 7.30 am – 5.15 pm from Monday to Thursday. Hunterston A is the last Magnox site to have 24/7 security cover and staff affected by Operations Shift Transition are being consulted. Alarm systems will be upgraded, making the plant more resilient and there will be no redundancies. Staffing numbers are stable and Magnox Ltd is in the final stages of agreeing the new Terms and Conditions for new employees.

The Critical Path diagram was unchanged since the last meeting. Deplanting is moving on in the ponds, which Mr Grierson demonstrated with photographs. The Solid Active Waste Bunker Retrieval (SAWBR) project has not progressed as fast as forecast due to various challenges with robots, resources and outages. The plant was shut down for two days in February for investigation of suspected fuel fragments, to allow for checking through the Fuel Detection System and physical weighing and measuring. It is expected to be September 2021 before the 170 remaining boxes are complete, with the aim of doing 40-50 over a six month period.

The bulk of sludge has been removed from the three sludge retention tanks in the Wet Intermediate Level Waste Retrieval and Encapsulation Plant (WILWREP). Residuals in Tank 3 are being cleared to tank 1 then tank 2 will be cleared so that all residual waste will be in Tank 1 before it is refigured, which is expected to take around 18 months. The Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation Plant (SILWE) is still in the commissioning process, with software systems now up and running. Forty packages have been sent to the Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) Store in six months. The site is implementing succession/ resilience within the Leadership Team where the Waste Manager, EHSS&Q Manager and Infrastructure Manager are swapping roles.

Under Socio Economics, £8,231 has been awarded to nine applications, the breakdown of which is available in the report. Stakeholder activity included school students undertaking work experience as part of the STEM project. 'Movember' fundraising generated £2,268 which is being shared between McMillan Cancer Care and Kidneys for Kids.

Mr Grierson finished his presentation by reassuring everyone that safety is Magnox Ltd's number one priority.

ONR Report – Mr Bill Kings

The ONR report, provided in advance of the meeting, was taken as read. Mr Kings had undertaken a week long site inspection in November 2019, of Hunterston A site's contingency arrangements. A themed inspection had also taken place on Licence Condition (LC) 32, LC34 and LC35 on controlled waste. Mr Kings described adequate performance all round, with both inspections graded 'adequate' and closed out, with the site taking learning points on board.

SEPA Report – Mr David Stone

The SEPA Report, issued in advance of the meeting, was taken as read. Mr Stone summarised two site inspections in September and October 2019, one of which was inspection of the site's Low Level Waste (LLW) safety case, which looked at the site's management of LLW generated on site. The second was an inspection of the site's facilities and procedures for segregating and monitoring solid waste. There were no non-compliance issues identified in either inspection. A programme of inspections for 2020 is to be agreed. An application for a variation to the Solid Intermediate Level Waste (SILWE) plant is to be determined. The 2018 Compliance Assessment Scheme Scores have been published, in which Hunterston A site achieved a score of 'excellent'. The Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) edition 24, covering 2018, has been published and is available on SEPA's website.

Question and Answer Session (Public Forum)

Mr Lamb asked Mr Grierson if the material in SILWE bunker 1 is mixed or being segregated and also enquired about grouting. Mr Grierson explained the Fuel Detection system and described how the process works and explained that the grouting was put into the container in liquid form. Mrs Holmes asked what the parameters are in the Fuel Detection System but Mr Grierson was unable to give a specific answer to this.

Mr Lamb asked Mr Grierson for an update on the cladding project. Mr Grierson confirmed that the cladding project is currently at a standstill. Specifications are currently being drawn up, but it is perhaps opportune that the last contract did not work out as this has allowed for a pause, which Mr Grierson would like to delay until after the results of the assessment of Continuous Reactor Decommissioning are known. Mrs Holmes asked if there were any indications on timescale for Continuous Reactor Decommissioning. Mr Grierson advised that it is too early in the process to say as the assessment team have not yet been to all sites. Magnox is taking this forward, not the NDA, and it is estimated that it will take six months before a prioritised list is available.

Mrs Holmes asked about Area 400 and what the acronym DAP stood for. Mr Grierson responded that the SAWBR plant has different areas and this is just a specific area of the plant. DAP is a Duly Authorised Person, appointed specific duties.

Mrs Holmes referred to the packages in the ILW store which are unencapsulated and asked if it was the intention to encapsulate them, then put them back in the store. Mr Grierson confirmed that the plan was to encapsulate and this will be discussed with SEPA. Mrs Holmes asked if the bulk of packages within the store are unencapsulated. Mr Grierson responded that they are safe in the store and there has been a change in regulations. Mr Stone added that SEPA looks more at the procedures and processes for managing waste on site, rather than just disposal. Scottish Government policy differs to UK Policy but the desire is to make the packaging consistent. Mrs Holmes further asked if unencapsulated packages could go in a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) if Scottish Government policy was to change in future. Mr Stone replied that SEPA has to work with current policy. This refers to one small stream of bunker waste and SEPA is trying to maintain a level of flexibility for Magnox waste while remaining consistent with Scottish Government policy.

A lady in the public gallery asked if a presentation could be made to a future Site Stakeholder Group meeting on changes, GDF, spent fuel, graphite, etc.

Mr Stone agreed that a presentation could be done if required on the distinction between the Acts and the Higher Activity Waste Management Policy. [Action – David Stone to give a presentation](#)

5. NDA Reports – Mr John McNamara, Mr Andrew Van Der Lem

The NDA reports circulated with the meeting papers were taken as read. Picking up on the Chair's comments in her update, Mr McNamara advised that it had been made clear at the Magnox Chairs' meeting in London in January 2020, that a different course of action should have been followed for Site Stakeholder Group meetings in December 2019. Advice from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) was that Site Stakeholder Group meetings should not be held as UK Government and Civil Servants are unable to attend meetings during a period of electoral sensitivity. It was recognised however that this had been particularly damaging for Hunterston and Sizewell sites and this had been argued internally between the NDA and BEIS to come up with a workable solution for independent groups. Going forward, it is hoped that Site Stakeholder Group meetings will be allowed to go ahead during an election period, although NDA and Magnox staff (as Government employees) would not be able to attend. Mr McNamara apologised on behalf of the NDA for making the wrong decision on this occasion. He reminded members that the NDA had updated its Terms of Reference for Site Stakeholder Groups in 2018 and these will be further reviewed and updated to include a clause to cover this situation. [Action – John McNamara to update the NDA Terms of Reference to include information.](#)

With respect to Continuous Reactor Decommissioning, Mr McNamara reported that the technical approach has the full agreement of the NDA and Magnox. The approach is to create the opportunity for a lead and learn site(s) to see if this is an appropriate way forward, taking into account environmental impacts, socio economics, costs, workforce, etc. He reminded members that Bradwell was a Care and Maintenance Lead and Learn site and this was hugely beneficial to the NDA in terms of learning more about costings and environmental impacts. The approach is waiting for clearance from the UK Government and full presentations will be brought to Site Stakeholder Group meetings when the NDA is able to do so. Mr McNamara assured members that progress will happen on all sites, whether they are a key lead and learn site or not.

Development of the NDA's Strategy IV is underway for the production of a five-year strategy. It is expected that the Strategy will be published in the first quarter of 2021, with a public consultation exercise between August and November 2020. A national Stakeholder Day will also be arranged, possibly in Birmingham in May 2020. The Site Stakeholder Group Chairs' annual meeting of Magnox sites, Dounreay and Sellafield will be held in June 2020. The NGO Forum, comprising a wide range of groups including anti-nuclear groups, in conjunction with Radioactive Waste Management (RWM), will be held on 27 March 2020 in Birmingham. The NDA's annual Stakeholder Summit is being planned for 19-20 October 2020 in the Sheraton Hotel, Edinburgh.

Mr McNamara advised of changes in personnel. The new Chief Executive Officer at Sellafield is Martin Chown, while the new Chief Executive Officer of Radioactive Waste Management is Karen Wheeler. The NDA's new Stakeholder Engagement Officer for Scotland is David Wallace and he will attend future Site Stakeholder Group meetings and engage with the Stakeholder Groups and communities of the three Scottish sites.

Mr Van Der Lem leads on socio economics for the NDA and assured members that the NDA takes socio economics seriously. The NDA's Socio Economic Strategy is out for consultation. There has been some criticism in the past of a lack of transparency and annual spend by site will now be published. The NDA will also consider how decisions are made and rationale and be clearer about priorities. It has worked with local authorities to assess the economic impact after

decommissioning and will think more about bigger, transformational projects. The consultation process for NDA documents is an open process and comments and feedback is welcome at any time, even outwith formal consultation periods. There are three bands of funding - £0-£10,000; £10,000-£100,000; and over £100,000. For very small projects, the current approach will remain.

6. Update from Scottish Government – Mr James Fox

Scottish Government Radioactive Substances Team

The Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning Team in Scottish Government is now fully staffed after a period of transition. Pat McAuley has joined as the head of team, filling the post vacated by Charles Stewart Roper. James Fox has taken on Ewan Young's role as policy advisor responsible for community engagement. James and Pat report to Thekla Garland, the new head of the Environmental Quality Unit. Martin Macdonald remains in post as the senior policy advisor in the team.

BEIS Policy Review

The team's immediate focus is to ensure Scottish-specific aspects are reflected in the policy review being taken forward by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Its main objective is to tie together the UK's many policies on radioactive substances and nuclear decommissioning into a single, comprehensive document. BEIS will launch a consultation on its proposals with a view to publishing its response and the paper later this year.

The Scottish Government have provided comments on BEIS' draft policy paper and will provide further updates to the Hunterston SSG as matters develop.

Scottish Higher Activity Waste Policy Review

In 2011, the Scottish Government committed to review Scotland's Higher Activity Waste Policy at least every 10 years. As a result, preliminary work on planning for the review due in 2021 is now being taken forward. The policy team will ensure all interested parties in the Hunterston SSG are alerted once the review begins.

NDA Strategy IV

Engagement continues with the NDA on its fourth strategy which will be published in 2021. The policy team will continue to press for Scottish priorities to be reflected.

Scottish Government Resilience Division

Resilience division continues to work with all stakeholders to ensure REPP19 implementation. Resilience division maintains close liaison with the UK Government to ensure optimal joined up working across the nuclear resilience sector. The Scottish Government Nuclear Resilience Group continues to meet bi-annually, bringing together all the nuclear resilience stakeholders, including the blue-light services. to ensure a joined up approach to nuclear resilience in Scotland.

Question and Answer Session (Public Forum)

Mrs Holmes noted that North Ayrshire Council had submitted good propositions for transformational projects for socio economic funds. Mr Van Der Lem acknowledged that the Council is well placed to put forward a strong case for projects and good partnership working can deliver.

Mrs Holmes thanked David Gurney and Alan Hodberry from Scottish Government for attending the meeting, as well as Lesley Jeffrey from Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Team and Scott McKenzie, Senior Manager Protective Services, North Ayrshire Council.

7. Hunterston B Station Reports

Hunterston B Report – Mr Paul Forrest

The Hunterston B Station report, issued with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Forrest was previously Plant Manager at Torness and Plant Manager at Hunterston B Station, before being appointed Station Director in December 2019. The Station hopes to submit safety cases for Reactor 3 and Reactor 4 to ONR within the next month or so. The safety cases are currently undergoing an internal verification process. Reactor 4 ran continuously for four months with no issues.

Safety performance has been good with no Lost Time Accidents during the period. There was a small fire on site the previous day. A burning smell was noticed from a shredder van which had come on site, adjacent to the car park. There were no flames, just smouldering. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the Station's own Fire Team dealt with the fire by deluging with water. The Station was in receipt of a flask from Sellafield which contained debris in the bottom. The Station is in discussion with SEPA to address this and prevent a recurrence. A joint security and nuclear exercise took place as a learning exercise at the end of 2019. This involved interface with the Station's own staff and Commander of the Nuclear Police Force. Improvements as a result of the exercise will be demonstrated at another site in the near future.

Hunterston B Station raised £20k for breast cancer and is sponsoring Ayrshire Cancer Support. EDF has acquired a new Company, Pod Point, one of the largest electrical vehicle charging point companies in the UK.

ONR Report – Mr Stuart Fannin

The ONR report for the period October – December 2019 was taken as read. Mr Fannin reported that the ONR continues to apply a large amount of attention to the site and communications to stakeholders. In early February 2020, the ONR presented the latest position on Reactors 3 and 4 and REPPiR 2019 to North Ayrshire Council. The same presentation was given to the Chair, Vice Chair and Site Stakeholder Group members a week later. The ONR intends to continue being open and transparent on how it regulates the site. The ONR's primary purpose is to secure the safety of sites for the public.

All routine inspections carried out in the period were graded green. Mr Fannin congratulated Mr Forrest and the Station for taking on the very demanding scenario demonstrating annual emergency arrangements. This is the first time a level 1 safety and nuclear exercise has been carried out and Mr Fannin commended the site for this. The CNC and EDF had overall command control and revised arrangements learned from the exercise will be tested at Hartlepool in September.

An enforcement letter was issued in October 2019 (first stage of regulatory action) in respect of the Station failing to adequately account for and label radioactive sources, resulting in some sources not being subject to the required leak testing. This did not present a significant hazard to workers and the Station fully accepted and responded with a corrective Action Plan.

With regard to graphite cracking in Reactors 3 and 4, the position remains the same as last month and the Safety Case is awaited for Reactor 3. Reactor 4 is also offline and will follow Reactor 3's Safety Case. Project assessment reports will be published on the ONR website.

SEPA Report – Mr Keith Hammond

The written report from SEPA was taken as read. With regard to the debris found in the fuel flask received from Sellafield, SEPA believes that the debris constitutes radioactive waste which the Station is not authorised to receive and this is still being investigated. The result for Hunterston B in the 2018 Compliance Assessment Scheme Scores published is also excellent. The 2019 Scheme Scores have not yet been published but this is also excellent for Hunterston B.

SEPA participated in the International Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) Mission in October 2019, the final report on which will be available in the next few weeks. As advised by Mr Stone, RIFE24 was published in 2018 which shows the total dose for the critical group around Hunterston to be less than 1% of the annual dose limit of one millisievert.

Question and Answer Session (Public Forum)

Mr Cochrane asked Mr Forrest if the projected date for restarting of Reactors 3 and 4 was still April and if he expected both Reactors to be operating this year. Mr Forrest responded that the safety case has still to be completed. The most difficult part is the shaker table demonstrating seismic events as it takes time to build up a picture of trends. Mr Forrest hoped that the Station would be in a position to submit the safety case within the next few months.

On behalf of Cllr Marshall, Mrs Callander read the following question:

“ONR stated to elected members that they were satisfied that EDF has given “primacy to worker and public safety”. Can EDF assure us that the operation of the station is as safe as it has been over the last decade and provide some examples of the work they have carried out to ensure a high level of safety? “

Mr Forrest reassured members that EDF continues to invest in plant and safety. Nuclear safety is EDF’s overriding priority and our goal is to achieve zero harm to our workers and to the public. We have a strong safety culture on site. We start every day with a daily safety message which puts safety in everyone’s mind before they start their work. Every January we run the “Safe Start” campaign which aims to focus minds following the festive break. It has been more than 600 days since our last staff Lost Time Incident. Our workforce continues to feedback positively each year and in our recent employee engagement survey 96% of respondents said that their line manager is committed to preventing health and safety risks. We have also invested heavily in our site. Every three years we carry out a statutory outage on each of our reactors and conventional plant. We spend approximately £20m on each of these outages with the aim being to improve the safety and reliability of our equipment. Over the past 10 years we have also invested heavily in other major projects. We have built a new nitrogen plant to provide secondary shutdown and hold-down capability for both reactors and, in 2019, we commissioned a new CO₂ plant to support our primary cooling capability. We’ve continued to invest in our facilities and have refurbished many of our offices and workshops and recently resurfaced the access road to the station.

Statutory outages are a £20M investment. Examples of other investments are £30M CO₂ plant and £40M nitrogen plant. Learnings are followed with corrective actions.

Cllr Marshall’s second question, asked by Mrs Callander, was:

To what extent does EDF subscribe to the statement by Donald Urquhart, (deputy chief inspector ONR) that ONR are “here to protect society and not to promote nuclear”. Can you give an example where EDF have acted to promote protection rather than generation?

Mr Forrest replied that at Hunterston, and across the fleet, we have rigorous operating rules. We encourage our operators to take positive control of the power station and to act with safety in mind at all times. There have been occasions in the past where conservative decisions have been taken which have delayed the start-up of reactors until issues have been thoroughly investigated and resolved. In 2018 we carried out the most extensive graphite inspections programme ever to better understand the condition of the core. The loss of generation since then has been significant but our nuclear safety values mean that we will always take time to understand an issue and develop a robust safety case which we are confident demonstrates safe operation before seeking return to service. He reassured members that safety comes before generation.

On behalf of Cllr Ferguson, Mrs Callander raised the question

“Why EDF have suggested that the DPEZ which NAC adopt is a reduction in distance from that which has previously been associated with the Hunterston site, especially at a period when Hunterston B is entering end of life stage”.

It was noted that the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) is devolved to the Local Authority and then they ask what minimum EDF would advise. Mr Fannin responded that this question had been answered at the previous session with representatives of North Ayrshire Council. He added that the only change is in the responsibility lying with the Local Authority instead of the ONR but nothing has changed in terms of safety statements.

Mr Van Der Lem left the meeting at 3.03 pm.

Mrs Holmes was concerned about the safety case parameters of Reactors 3 and 4. She noted that the original safety case allowed for 350 Operational Allowance (OA) which was increased to 700 and the Currently Established Damage Tolerance Level (CETDL) was 700 CETDL which was increased to 1,331 CETDL and asked if it was expected that the new safety case would have new levels of OA and CETDL. Mr Fannin was unable to respond to this question without seeing the evidence in the safety case. He added that this is not just dialogue but has to take the form of demonstrable evidence. Mrs Holmes referred to previous criticisms of EDF where the predictions for Reactor 3 were incorrect. Following the closure and inspection of Reactor 4 in December 2019, she asked if inspections tally with predictions. Mr Fannin responded that there is not yet agreement on the core state and although Reactor 4 was broadly consistent with Reactor 3, this is currently academic as it cannot be determined without the detailed safety case. Mrs Holmes asked if there was a formula between Operational Allowance and Currently Established Damage Tolerance Level. Mr Fannin replied that this could be double but there is no point in speculating at this stage. Mrs Holmes asked Mr Forrest if a report would be received on the results of Reactor 4. Mr Forrest advised that results are broadly in line with expectations and more information will be available at the next meeting.

Mrs Holmes asked for more information on the ‘lack of sensitivity’ regarding industrial safety events. Mr Fannin replied that this refers to low level slips and trips and falls across the EDF fleet there appears to be tolerance towards injuries to workers. Improvements are required to meet the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) safety culture and EDF is taking positive action.

Mr Cochrane asked Mr Fannin if he had sat through meetings where every single crack is assessed as not all cracks will be significant. Mr Fannin replied that keyway root cracks are the more significant cracks. Mrs Holmes noted that a piece of graphite sits inside the keyway, joining the bricks together and noted that EDF overestimated the mechanical properties. Mr Fannin responded that EDF had discovered and promptly reported this. Relevant models were rerun to

find the significance which was not significant enough to challenge. Mr Fannin reiterated the commitment given by Steve Harrison to fully assess the safety case. Mrs Holmes asked for more information on the debris found in the fuel flask from Sellafield. Mr Fannin explained that it is very dusty environment and there is the potential for some debris to enter the flask when transporting. Mr Hammond added that EDF reported the situation when it came to light and it appears to have gone on for some time. The Station is working with SEPA to bring it back into compliance. He added that there is no mechanism for the debris to affect the public and therefore is academic but is outwith the scope of the permit.

Mr Lamb referred to the EDF's 2 km DEPZ recommendation to North Ayrshire Council, which would include part of the proposed Peel Park Industrial Site which employs 300-500 people and asked if this had been taken into account. Ms Jeffrey confirmed that it had been taken into account. Mr Lamb asked if the DEPZ had taken into account the A78 should this be affected as this was the main route used by traffic. Ms Jeffrey responded that this would be considered as part of the strategic plans. A traffic control point would be set up as soon as possible should a situation arise.

Mrs Holmes referred to REPPiR 2019 and the DEPZ radius and the desire of local communities for more information and a wider distribution of stable iodine. She asked if this is within the Scottish Government's remit or if it is over-ruled by the UK Government. Ms Jeffrey advised that the distribution of stable iodine is only supported within the 2km zone. She added that this would be fully explained by a Public Health representative at the full Council meeting on 25 March. Mrs Holmes considered that the information currently available tells the public nothing. Ms Jeffrey replied that the new Plan will provide better information for all and will be available on the website. She added that there is no need for the DEPZ to be extended through REPPiR, the Local Authority can only make decisions based on REPPiR requirements and she was unable to share more detailed information on the DEPZ until this is formalised. Mrs Holmes considered that the Council had no authority and was very limited in what it could do in setting the Outline Planning Zone (OPZ). Ms Jeffrey responded that science does not support the distribution of stable iodine outwith 2km and the Local Authority is bound by the Regulations of this country.

A lady in the public gallery referred to the ONR Assessment Report and stated that people want assurances that the cracks which are opening further and multiply cracked bricks are not impacting the structure. She referred to a conference hosted by the International Atomic Agency where graphite specialists could predict the onset of keyway root cracking 7-10 years ahead and degradation of structure and integrity of core. She referred to major safety concerns in France for over 40 years and top specialists considering this a safety issue and asked why the ONR is not taking it seriously. Mr Fannin read out the response given by ONR's Deputy Chief Inspector, Donald Urquhart, to North Ayrshire Council on 3 February, and by Steve Harrison, Head of Operational Facilities Assessment, to Site Stakeholder Group members on 10 February 2020:

'Key Principles Underpinning how we regulate

1. ONR exists to **protect society** by securing safe nuclear operations.
2. Our regulatory decisions are made entirely **independently** (without fear or favour).
3. Our decisions are conservative, technically and **factually based**.
4. We apply high and **accepted** national and international **safety standards**.
5. We supplement our expertise with that of academic institutions, GTAC etc.
6. Our decisions are subject to multiple levels of peer review.
7. Our decisions are **published** along with the basis on which we have made them.
8. By so doing, we are **open, transparent** and **accountable**.

This ensures that – if safe, the reactors can operate **but** if they are not demonstrably safe, they will not!



Mr Fannin offered to answer any specific questions through corporate communication channels.

8. Any Other Business

Mrs Callander advised that an application had been received from Skelmorlie Community Council to formally join the Site Stakeholder Group. As the meeting was not quorate, it was not possible to decide on this and a response would be sent following the next meeting in June.

Mrs Holmes advised that Mr Hugh McGhee, North Ayrshire Council Environmental Health, had now retired and thanked Mr McGhee for his many years of input to the Site Stakeholder Group. Mr Scott McKenzie advised that recruitment was currently underway and either himself or the new person appointed will attend future meetings.

9. Next Meeting – Thursday 4 June 2020

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 4 June 2020, at 1.00pm for 1.30pm, at the Waterside Hotel, Ardrossan Road, West Kilbride, KA23 9NG.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending, particularly those who had travelled some distance, and closed the meeting at 3.43 pm.