

**CHAPELCROSS SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS FROM THE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 AUGUST 2021 AT 10.00 ON ZOOM ONLINE PLATFORM**

Chairman's Welcome, Announcements and Apologies

Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the meeting of 19 May 2021 were approved. Two of the actions were discharged with two carried forward – Mr Hamilton to discuss with Magnox and NDA plans to support dissemination of information and timeline for recruitment to establish what can be done in the short and medium term; and Scottish Government/NDA to liaise to find a solution to requirement for training facilities in Scotland.

Chapelcross Site Closure Director's Report – Mr Mark Blackley

No recordable injuries this calendar year so far. Strong reporting culture and safety performance on site. Examples given of the types of events reported, as well as conventional events. Lateral flow testing being undertaken on site with approx. 90 volunteers/wk and others testing at home. Number of people on site will increase during August/September. Mr Richard Murray, new Site Closure Director, will start on 6 September. A review will take place in September of the six month trial of 4 day/working week. Various posts being recruited on Magnox Terms and Conditions. Off shift transition was implemented on 14 June. MAC Retrievals is in active commissioning, with four Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) packages in the store from the ponds.

NDA Report – Mr David Wallace

Mr Wallace to meet with Cllr Dryburgh and Cllr McClelland soon to discuss Scottish Strategy, Skills Agenda and recruitment. Low Level Waste (LLW) Repository Ltd became an NDA subsidiary from 12 July. Good progress is being made on Dounreay Hazard Reduction. The NDA's Annual Report and Accounts for 2021/22 has been published. Departmental review responses on the Magnox Inquiry have been submitted. The NDA Supply Chain Event in Telford on 3 February 2022 will be a massive event with around 1,700 visitors and 300 suppliers.

ONR Report – Mr Bill Kings

An inspection of Control of Radioactive Materials and Waste, looking at a consignment of low level waste, went well. Everything appears to have been well controlled so far in MAC retrievals. Chapelcross has made a good effort with removal of consignments of low level waste, despite the restrictions caused by Covid.

SEPA Report –

Mr Stone was unable to attend the meeting and no report was available.

Update from Scottish Government – Ms Diane Hamilton

Ms Hamilton will be involved in any meetings or discussions to try and resolve the ongoing training issue. There had been various changes to structure, with Michael Matheson MSP being appointed Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero Energy and Transport and Mairi McAllan MSP as Minister for Environment, Biodiversity and Land Reform.

STEP Fusion Programme Presentation – Ms Saranne Postans, UKAEA

Ms Postans explained what STEP (Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production) and Fusion are and the programme for this. Fifteen sites long listed for the location of STEP, including Chapelcross. Desktop assessments taking place over the summer. Detailed assessments will take place over winter, with recommendations being made to the Secretary of State in summer 2022, with a decision expected by the end of 2022.

External Meetings and Invitations – Cllr Archie Dryburgh

SSG Chairs/Vice Chairs Quarterly Meeting – 28 May 2021

Scottish Sites Meeting – 28 June 2021

With regard to proposed changes to SSG Secretariat, a way forward had been agreed, with the review delayed by 18 months – 2 years with no staffing changes before two years. The next Scottish Sites meeting will be held in December 2021.

CX Project Update –

Mr Fulton's contract is finished and a Programme Lead and Project Officer are to be appointed. A job evaluation process is being undertaken and Job Descriptions prepared. Once appointed, the new project staff will attend meetings to keep the Site Stakeholder Group updated.

Public Forum – no public in attendance.

Any Other Business – The eel and lamprey ladder at Milnby Weir has had to be redesigned to accommodate differing water levels. It is still hoped that this work will be done over the summer.

Questions and Observations

After each presentation, a number of questions were asked by members, which can be read with the responses, in the full Minutes of the meeting, available from the SSG Secretariat.

Next Meeting – Wednesday 24 November 2021 at 10.00 am in Annan Town Hall or virtually on Zoom platform.



Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 4 August 2021 at 10.00 am Zoom Online Platform

Present:

Mr Mark Blackley (Chapelcross Site Director)
Mr Christopher Barton (for David Mundell MP)
Cllr Archie Dryburgh (representing Annandale East and Eskdale) (Chair)
Mrs Tracey Finn (SSG Secretariat)
Mr Bill Hamilton (Magnox)
Ms Diane Hamilton (Scottish Government)
Mr Bill Kings (ONR)
Cllr Sean Marshall (representing Annandale South)
Cllr Henry McClelland (representing Annandale South) (Vice Chair)
Mr Willie McNair (2km Resident Representative)
Mr Ian Park (Chapelcross Union Representative)
Ms Saranne Postans (UKAEA)
Mr David Wallace (NDA, Stakeholder Lead Scotland)

In Attendance:

Ms Sheila Adams (Minutes)
Ms Chloe Bailey (Marick Communications)
Ms Ruth Corney (Marick Communications)

Apologies:

Mrs Jill Callander (SSG Secretariat)
Cllr Douglas Fairbairn (representing Annandale North)
Mr Richard Murray (Chapelcross Site Closure Director)
Mr David Stone (SEPA)
Cllr Ronnie Tait (representing Annandale North)
Mr Alex Thomson (Gretna and Rigg Community Council)
Cllr Stephen Thompson (representing Annandale North)
Mrs Joyce Wylie (Royal Burgh of Annan Community Council)

Ms Corney, representing Marick Communications, gave a short presentation on housekeeping rules and guidance for getting the best out of the meeting on the Zoom platform and advised that the meeting was being recorded for minute-taking purposes.

1. Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Dryburgh, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting, which he was attending from a gym in Cambuslang where he was supporting a disabled army veteran in a 12 hour sponsored hand cycle to raise funds for four Forces Charities, for which he shared the Just Giving link.

2. Announcements and Apologies (including Declarations of Interest)

Cllr Dryburgh read out the Apologies as listed above.

Cllr Dryburgh conveyed the best wishes of the Site Stakeholder Group to Mrs Callander, for a speedy recovery.

Cllr Marshall confirmed that he is employed by Magnox Limited and was attending the meeting as a Councillor, representing Annandale South.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the meeting of 19 May 2021 were approved as a true record and proposed as such by Mr Willie McNairn and seconded by Mr Ian Park.

Action points from the last meeting

1. Mr Hamilton to discuss with Magnox and NDA plans to support dissemination of information and timeline for recruitment to establish what can be done in the short and medium term – no update received – action carried forward.
2. Action – Cllr Dryburgh to discuss proposed reduction in Secretariat for Site Stakeholder Groups with Chair of Chairs and report back to the next meeting – Cllr Dryburgh will update on this later in the meeting in the Chair's Report.
3. Action – Mrs Callander to circulate the SEPA report to Site Stakeholder Group members – this had been circulated after the Site Stakeholder Group meeting - action discharged.
4. Action – Ms Hamilton to ask Scottish Government about the possibility of Chapelcross apprentices using training facilities at Sellafield. Ms Hamilton confirmed that the Scottish Government is not able to facilitate this but had discussed this with Mr Wallace, who will investigate through NDA training personnel and report back to a future meeting.

4. Chapelcross Site Closure Director's Report – Mr Mark Blackley *(including update on Magnox Socio-Economic Scheme)*

Mr Blackley provided an update under the headings of EHSS&Q Performance, Covid, Site News and Programme Update. There have been no recordable injuries on site during this calendar year so far. The site has a strong reporting culture and safety performance, with typically 28 events reported each week. Mr Blackley gave examples of the types of events reported, such as: items too close to security fence; number of defects on security assets; estimated CXPP and ISF discharges where printers failed, entry to ISB without a dosimeter being picked up. Examples of conventional events reported were non closing fire doors and scorched light fittings. An audit from Lloyds Register identified that a number of recommendations made on Legionella Risk Assessments had not been completed due to operational shutdown during the pandemic but these were now being addressed.

The site is continuing to operate within Scottish Government guidance. There has been a small number of positive cases but no workplace transmissions detected. Lateral flow testing is being undertaken on site with approx. 90 volunteers each week although more people are now testing at home. There is an average of 160 people on site (220 pre-Covid) with this number expected to increase during August and September.

It has been confirmed that the new Site Closure Director, Mr Richard Murray, will start on 6 September, when Mr Blackley goes to Hunterston A site as Site Closure Director. Mr Blackley and Mr Murray will have a handover during August.

The six month trial of a 4 day working week with compressed hours began in March. A review will take place in September to determine the effectiveness of the trial period.

Various posts are now being recruited on Magnox Terms and Conditions. This included four CXPP Production Technicians, three of whom have started, with one vacancy remaining. Due to the difficulty in recruiting Accredited Health Physicists and Waste Engineers, trainees are being recruited. Mr Blackley commented that it was good to see new people coming into the business.

Off shift transition was implemented on 14 June due to the significantly reduced hazard on site. Only Guardforce is on site during the silent hours. Miscellaneous Activated Components (MAC) Retrievals is in active commissioning, with four Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) packages in the store from the ponds. This is less than anticipated due to various unforeseen delays which Mr Blackley explained. It is hoped that one package per week will be stored going forward.

Mr Blackley showed photos of regulatory or safety related asset care. Installation of Reduced Pressure Zone Valves is complete. Emergency lighting installation is complete and five security gates have been refurbished. Photos were also shown demonstrating progress in the CXPP. Redundant CXPP Intermediate Level Waste flasks have been verified empty of waste with characterisation of flask internals. 500 litre drum transport and handling equipment is in active commissioning trials. Good progress is being made on the Modular Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation Plant (MILWEP) with final cables connected and power switched on to the Grout plant.

Mr Blackley had a poor internet connection which affected the quality of sound and made it difficult for members to hear some parts of his presentation.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Dryburgh was pleased to hear good news on the employment situation.

On recruitment, Mr Park asked how the recruitment is benefitting the local area and how many of the new employees are local rather than outside the Travel to Work area. Mr Blackley responded that the location of an applicant cannot be taken into consideration. He noted that the three Production Technicians are local, as is the Admin and Vetting Clerk. The Site Security Manager lives in Motherwell.

Cllr Marshall welcomed the removal of the recruitment embargo and referred to the situation with Trainee Health Monitors. He noted that the NDA had facilitated training through the National Skills Academy for Nuclear (NSAN) but there no longer appears to be a Scottish arm of this. The situation in Scotland is now that there needs to be a national solution for training opportunities. He noted that the site may not now go into Care and Maintenance and therefore recruiting new talent is essential. He noted the action from the previous meeting on the Scottish Government/NDA to solve the training hub or facility in Scotland and suggested that such a hub could be sited at Chapelcross as part of the development of the CX project. As there does not appear to be training providers to facilitate training, he suggested offering training at an active decommissioning site. Cllr Dryburgh commented that he used to train, assess and verify at SQA Level 3 and suggested that Dumfries and Galloway College could help with vocational training. He considered that there is not a huge difference in skills required for decommissioning and active sites and there is massive potential to use Dumfries and Galloway College SVQ templates across Scotland. Cllr Marshall remembered this work and proposed that the NDA and Scottish Government engage to find a solution for Scotland and see a proper training facility through to fruition. Mr Park agreed but urged caution as whatever is done in Scotland has to mirror what is being done in the rest of the UK to be compatible with Sellafield and other UK systems. He would not like to see people having to go through retraining at different sites and stressed the need for the same standard and compatibility across the UK. Cllr Marshall agreed that a Scottish hub of what is offered at NSAN in West Cumbria is required.

- Action – Cllr Dryburgh to discuss training opportunities with Mr Wallace (NDA), Ms Hamilton (Scottish Government) and Dumfries and Galloway College and report back to the next Site Stakeholder Group meeting.

5. NDA Update – Mr David Wallace

Mr Wallace will meet with Cllr Dryburgh and Cllr McClelland in the next two weeks to discuss Scottish Strategy, Skills Agenda and recruitment. The NDA now has more influence on how it does things and with 20% of decommissioning being in Scotland, Scotland has a new level of importance within the NDA estate. Socio economic impacts also need to be considered.

There will be a managed return to the office for NDA employees from 2 August, with a progressive return to more face to face external engagement. Low Level Waste (LLW) Repository Ltd became an NDA subsidiary from 12 July. The new Waste Division has a new Leadership Team. Good progress is being made on Dounreay Hazard Reduction. The NDA's Annual Report and Accounts for 2021/22 has been published and Mr Wallace showed some of the highlights of the year. Departmental review responses on the Magnox Inquiry have been submitted and recommendations have been recognised with changes being progressed. The NDA Supply Chain Event in Telford on 3 February 2022 will be a massive event with 1,700 visitors and 300 suppliers expected.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Marshall asked how the wider Site Stakeholder Group members can get involved with Scottish Strategy after the meeting with the Chair and Vice Chair. Mr Wallace advised that a team of four from the NDA will lead on this and he is happy to be advised on who should be involved. Cllr Marshall suggested that an online workshop would be useful for wider Stakeholder Group members who wish to be involved. Cllr Dryburgh added that a programme would be agreed after the first meeting. Cllr Dryburgh invited Mr Hamilton to comment. Mr Hamilton had nothing to add.

6. Other reports from SSG Bodies – ONR, SEPA, Scottish Government

ONR – Mr Bill Kings

Mr Kings highlighted key points from the report. An inspection of Control of Radioactive Materials and Waste, looking at a consignment of low level waste, went well. With regard to the MAC retrievals, mentioned in Mr Blackley's presentation, Mr Kings released the hold point in March and everything appears to have been well controlled so far. Conversations will be held on site in the next couple of weeks, prior to the site going into operations, to reflect on how things went on commissioning. Mr Kings also released the hold point on operational off shift transition, which seems to have gone well so far, with all arrangements working as they should. Mr Kings noted that Chapelcross has made a good effort with consignments of low level waste, despite the restrictions caused by Covid, and ONR was pleased to see this as getting rid of low level waste was one of the things that ONR wished to see progress on, prior to lockdown.

SEPA –

Mr Stone apologised for being unable to attend the meeting as he had just returned from leave and had IT issues.

Scottish Government – Ms Diane Hamilton

Cllr Dryburgh thanked Ms Hamilton for sending her report in advance of the meeting. Ms Hamilton confirmed that she was happy to be involved in any meetings or discussions to try and resolve the ongoing training issue. There had been various changes to structure, with Michael Matheson MSP being appointed Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero Energy and Transport and Mairi McAllan MSP as Minister for Environment, Biodiversity and Land Reform. Dan Couldridge took up his position as Team Leader on 26 May 2021.

Ms Hamilton referred to the review of the Scottish Higher Activity Waste Policy which had been further delayed due to staff changes within the Department as well as management and Cabinet changes. Other work areas had taken priority but the Scottish Government is conscious that this is a key work area and it will be taken forward as soon as possible, with updates being provided to the Site Stakeholder Groups as soon as they are available. The next meeting for the Joint Convention Report has been delayed to June 2022.

Questions and Observations

There were no questions for ONR or Scottish Government.

Due to the meeting running ahead of time and Ms Postans not yet being present, the running order of the agenda was changed.

8. External Meetings and Invitations –

SSG Chairs / Vice Chairs Quarterly Meeting – 28 May 2021 Scottish Sites Meeting – 28 June 2021

Further to the action from the last meeting, Cllr Dryburgh confirmed that he had raised the proposed changes to the Site Stakeholder Group Secretariat with the Chair of Chairs. A way forward had been agreed, with the review delayed by 18 months – 2 years. Mr Hamilton confirmed that there would be no review for 18 months with no impact on staffing before two years. He added that the review would be a positive one as Magnox would have more communities to be responsible for. Cllr Dryburgh noted that Hunterston A, operated by Magnox, and Hunterston B, operated by EDF, share a Site Stakeholder Group and asked if this was also the position at Torness. Mr Hamilton advised that EDF run community engagement at Torness but it does not have the same format of Site Stakeholder Group and this will need to be addressed in the future.

An update on the Scottish Sites meeting was included in the Scottish Government report. The next meeting will be held in December 2021 and is likely to be virtual but will be confirmed nearer the time.

Cllr McClelland left the meeting between 10.39 – 10.50.

9. CX Project Update

Cllr Dryburgh asked Cllr Marshall who was dealing with the CX project since the end of Mr Fulton's contract. Cllr Marshall confirmed that Steve Rogers, Dumfries and Galloway Council, had been contacted in this regard but no response had been received. Mr Wallace sits on the Board and provided a verbal update. Mr Fulton's contract is finished and a Programme Lead and Project Officer are to be appointed. Board members and partners are currently doing some of the work while a job evaluation process is being undertaken and Job Descriptions prepared. Once appointed, the new project staff will attend meetings to keep the Site Stakeholder Group updated. The UKAEA had asked a number of questions of the NDA, which had been responded to. The CX Project Board meets next week and Mr Wallace will provide an update following the meeting. Going forward, he expects the project to gain momentum.

- **Action – Cllr Dryburgh asked that the Secretariat send a letter of thanks to Mark Fulton for his work on the project.**

Questions and Observations

Mr Park noted that a lot of work had been done to get the CX project up and running and asked if the planned infrastructure works would still go ahead. Cllr Dryburgh responded that Dumfries and Galloway Council had approved a budget for this and was talking to the NDA.

Cllr Marshall added that a Strategic Business Case had been put to both Governments and over £20m had been sanctioned for infrastructure improvements.

Cllrs Dryburgh, McClelland and Marshall all agreed that a long-term project such as this needs long-term employees, employed by Dumfries and Galloway Council for continuity. Mr Fulton's positive impact and input to the project was noted. Cllr Marshall welcomed Chapelcross being one of the first projects to be sanctioned in the Borderlands Initiative and recognised the commitment from the NDA, South of Scotland Enterprise, Dumfries and Galloway Council and the Site Stakeholder Group.

Ms Postans joined the meeting at 11.05 am.

7. STEP Fusion Programme Presentation – Ms Saranne Postans, UKAEA

Cllr Dryburgh welcomed Ms Postans, Communications Manager from the UK Atomic Energy Authority, to the meeting. Ms Postans summarised her background and talked through slides to give an overview of what STEP (Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production) and Fusion are about. The benefits of Fusion – a low carbon energy source for the future - were listed, which included: carbon free; safe; low land use; reliable base load; low, manageable waste; virtually limitless fuel. The UK is a world leader in the most promising fusion technologies with research capabilities across the technical challenges of fusion. UKAEA operates the Joint European Torus (JET), the world's largest tokamak and Europe's flagship experiment at Culham in Oxfordshire. It also operates the UK's first spherical tokamak. The UK is uniquely placed to lead future commercialisation of this technology. STEP's mission is to 'deliver a UK prototype fusion energy plant, targeting 2040, and a path to commercial viability of fusion'. Ms Postans explained the three phases of STEP: Phase 1 – develop concept design (to 2024); Phase 2 – detailed engineering designs, permissions, pre-construction works (to 2032); Phase 3 – manufacturing and construction (around 2040). The timeline for the decision on the siting of STEP was explained. Site nominations ran from December 2020 to March 2021. A desktop assessment of the 15 sites long listed will take place over the summer. Detailed assessments will take place over winter, with recommendations being made to the Secretary of State in summer 2022, with a decision expected by the end of 2022.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Dryburgh was pleased to see Chapelcross on the long list.

Cllr Marshall noted that the nomination for Chapelcross site was made through South of Scotland Enterprise (SoSE) and asked if SoSE is the lead agency or if it is the CX Project Steering Group. Ms Postans confirmed that South of Scotland Enterprise is the point of contact.

Mr Blackley confirmed that the site visit for Chapelcross was scheduled for two weeks ago but had to be rescheduled as a member of the assessment team was isolating.

Mr Park asked about employee engagement. Ms Postans responded that the next phase of assessments over autumn and winter will involve stakeholder and community engagement.

Cllr Dryburgh noted discussions regarding the proposed regulator and that SEPA is a potential regulator but discussions had also taken place with ONR. Ms Postans advised that no decision has yet been made but a report by the Regulatory Horizons has recommended that Fusion is regulated the same way as Culham, which is Environment Agency / SEPA.

Cllr McClelland asked Ms Hamilton if there was any indication or early steer from the Scottish Government on Fusion Plant.

Ms Hamilton responded that there is no steer at the present time but Ministers will be updating the Energy Strategy and it will be considered then. Cllr McClelland reiterated that every opportunity should be given to address full support for Chapelcross from the Site Stakeholder Group, community and Scottish Government.

- Action – Cllr Dryburgh to write to the appropriate Scottish Government Minister advising that Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group fully supports the STEP Fusion Programme.

Ms Postans left the meeting at 11.25 am.

10. Any Other Business

Cllr Dryburgh asked if there was an update on the eel and lamprey ladder at Milnby Weir. Mr Blackley advised that an initial scoping survey had been done a few months ago. The Company doing the detailed design had measured the height when the river was high but now that it is low, the ladder is not suitable for all water levels. An alternative design for the ladders is being produced, in consultation with SEPA. It is still hoped that the work can be done during the summer. Cllr Marshall noted that the Site Stakeholder Group supports the installation of the eel and lamprey ladder. River Annan Fisheries Board had requested removal of the weir but it would be necessary to establish if this would have a detrimental impact on Chapelcross site and any future development. Mr Wallace undertook to raise this at the CX Project Board meeting next week.

11. Public Forum

There were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

11. Next Meeting – Wednesday 24 November 2021

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 24 November 2021, which Cllr Dryburgh hoped would be face to face.

Cllr Dryburgh thanked all presenters and members for their input and closed the meeting at 11.28 am.