



Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 19 May 2021 at 10.00 am Zoom Online Platform

Present:

Mrs Jill Callander (SSG Secretary)
Cllr Archie Dryburgh (representing Annandale East and Eskdale) (Chair)
Mr Mark Fulton (D&G Council, Strategic Project Lead, CX Project)
Mr Bill Hamilton (Magnox) (present until 11.00 am)
Ms Diane Hamilton (Scottish Government)
Mr Bill Kings (ONR)
Ms Melanie Hayes (SEPA)
Cllr Sean Marshall (representing Annandale South)
Mr Ewan McDonald (Chapelcross Deputy Site Director)
Cllr Henry McClelland (representing Annandale South) (Vice Chair)
Mr Willie McNairn (2km Resident Representative)
Mr Oliver Mundell MSP
Mr Richard Murray (Chapelcross incoming Site Director)
Mr Ian Park (Chapelcross Union Representative)

Mr David Stone (SEPA)
Cllr Stephen Thompson (representing Annandale North)
Mr David Wallace (NDA, Stakeholder Lead Scotland)

In Attendance:

Ms Sheila Adams (Minutes)
Ms Ruth Corney (Marick Communications)
Ms Helen Smith (Marick Communications)

Apologies:

Cllr Douglas Fairbairn (representing Annandale North)
Mr Alex Thomson (Gretna and Rigg Community Council)
Mrs Joyce Wylie (Royal Burgh of Annan Community Council)
Ms Saranne Postans (UKAEA)

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 and congratulated Oliver Mundell on his re-election as an MSP. In particular, he welcomed David Wallace from the NDA and Diane Hamilton from Scottish Government, who has replaced James Fox.

2. **Announcements and Apologies** (*including Declarations of Interest*)

Mrs Callander read out the Apologies as listed above.

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 11 December 2020 were approved as a true record and proposed as such by Mr Willie McNairn and seconded by Mr Mark Fulton.

Action points from the last meeting

1. Mr McAuley undertook to discuss with Mr Macdonald and provide a written response to the Site Stakeholder Group on the definition of 'near surface near site'. Mr McAuley undertook to consider continuous decommissioning for Chapelcross with Scottish Government colleagues and other relevant agencies.

Mr McAuley had been promoted to a different Department with Scottish Government but Diane Hamilton had provided a response from Mr MacDonald:

'Scottish Government welcomes the assurances by the NDA that there will be an engagement process with the Chapelcross site as it begins to implement its new site-specific approach to Magnox reactor decommissioning. Officials in our team will also be happy to facilitate or participate in dialogue between this group and the NDA to help all parties better understand site specific issues and consider any potential wider policy implications, including potential impacts on the economy and environment.

The 2011 Policy of higher activity waste in Scotland is not intended to specify in detail the technical requirements of a near surface facility. However, the policy does specify that near-surface for storage facilities means:

- Facilities located at the surface of the ground or at depths down to several tens of metres below the surface;
- Near-surface facilities may use the geology (rock structure) to provide an environmental safety function, but some may rely solely on engineered barriers; and
- Near-surface facilities may use existing structures if an acceptable safety case is made.

The 2016 Implementation Strategy also commits the Scottish Government to working with the NDA and other organisations to carry out more research into developing a generic near surface disposal concept. While this work is still at a relatively early stage, the Scottish Government will ensure there are opportunities for the Scottish Site Stakeholder Groups in Scotland to comment on any initial proposals regarding the scope and timing of this project.

The Scottish Government is also committed to reviewing, in consultation with the public, both our higher activity radioactive waste and implementation strategy at regular intervals.'

2. Mrs Callander to forward Mr Wilkie's questions to the ONR for response.
3. Mr Blackley to provide REPPiR 2019 assessment documentation to Mr Wilkie, if not protected and appropriate to do so.

Mr Blackley had liaised with Mr Wilkie after the meeting and Mr Wilkie's questions had been forwarded to the ONR, which the ONR had responded to.

All three actions were discharged. Cllr Marshall noted outstanding two actions from previous meetings to be taken forward:

1. An update on the eel and lamprey ladder at Milnby Weir.
2. Further information to be provided from Ms Kelly Anderson, NDA, on how transformation of the site would be achieved.

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

Cllr Dryburgh welcomed Mr Ewan McDonald, presenting on behalf of Mr Mark Blackley.

Mr McDonald provided an update under the headings of EHSS&Q Performance, Covid, Site News, Programme Update and Socio Economics. There have been no recordable injuries since the last meeting. There have been several events, including a number of defects on security assets; a radioactive item (prohibited item) being taken on to the south site; conventional near misses; a number of leaks on F-Gas systems; contaminated ground in the waste compound; burst pipe in the Ponds; defects found during inspections. There has been a focus across the Magnox estate at a wider level to ensure conventional safety performance.

The site is continuing to operate within Covid guidelines. There has been a small number of positive cases but no workplace transmissions detected. Lateral flow testing is being undertaken on site. There is an average of 160 people on site (220 pre-Covid) and it is anticipated that the workforce will gradually return to site from June.

New Site Director, Mr Richard Murray, is expected to start in August / September 2021.

A four-day working week with compressed hours is being trialled and is going well so far. There are currently 154 employees, 18 Agency Supply Workers, 3 Contractor Supply Workers and 60 Contractors. Seven people have retired since 1 January 2021, with another three retirements pending. A recruitment programme is underway.

Off shift transition is now being implemented due to the significantly reduced hazard on site. Miscellaneous Activated Components (MAC) Retrievals is in active commissioning, with the first Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) package in the store. Very low level waste asbestos has been shipped as well as bowlers, flask bogies and flask vats. The site is 25% way through the dispatch of legacy waste. Polythene has been removed from wood and sleepers on the pond hardstanding, which will be cleared and recovered. Under asset care, photos were shown of the iodine filter pipework removal, east RPZ valves installation, a new generator and emergency lighting installation. Under CXPP, ILW flasks are being verified as being empty of waste and flasks characterised. Installation of the Modular Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation Plant (MILWEP) is going well. Intermediate Level Waste will be grouted into 6m³ concrete boxes.

The socio economics budget for 2020/21 was £1,020,035, of which £1,019,389 was committed. Magnox provided £300k towards Covid support programmes, of which Chapelcross distributed £25k and supported a range of activities in the local area. Locally, the socio economic budget has supported Canonbie Tennis Courts with £5,250 and Raydale Community Hub with £9,950.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Dryburgh welcomed Mr Murray to the meeting.

Mr Fulton thanked Mr McDonald for the good presentation, well delivered with the right amount of detail, which gives confidence.

Cllr Dryburgh receives monthly updates from the Site Director but asked more about the defects on security assets. Mr McDonald was unable to provide specific details but advised that various events triggered reporting levels to the Regulator and mitigation is in place. Operations do not take place on the south site but it is licensed. A contractor brought in a radioactive source, with no intention to use but it was detected in the van when leaving the site. This was reported to the Regulator and investigated as there should be robust procedures in place.

Mr Hamilton referred to the Magnox initiative to provide each site with £25k emergency funding from the Magnox Socio Economic Fund in response to Covid. Hundreds of hours of volunteer time were also committed for work in the communities. Chapelcross had a hugely successful operation which was used as a basis across the NDA estate. Magnox and Chapelcross should be very proud of the way it supported the community through the pandemic.

Cllr Marshall commended everyone on site for getting the first ILW package into the store. He welcomed the embargo being lifted on external recruitment and welcomed the transfer of agency staff to become employees. The Business Gateway is promoting the Annan DG12 Grant Scheme and Cllr Marshall thanked Magnox for agreeing to extend this due to Covid.

Mr Murray gave some background, from him starting as an apprentice in 1987 to holding various corporate roles over the last four years and managing a £115m budget. He has a wealth of experience and looked forward to taking the site forward and working with the Site Stakeholder Group.

Mr Park was pleased to hear of the recruitment exercise and asked how this was being communicated to the local community. He asked how young people can develop themselves to be suitable for specific jobs in the industry. He noted that there is a national shortage of nuclear skills and thought that this should start in schools. He considered it to be a Site Stakeholder Group responsibility to promote what it does to educational establishments. If people are not aware of what is required, they may not apply for such jobs, or have the necessary skills to be able to apply. Mr McDonald responded that there is not currently interaction with schools. Cllr Dryburgh asked about the role of the National Skills Academy for Nuclear (NSAN) in Scotland. Mr Hamilton reminded members of the presentation on this given by Jacq Longrigg. He suggested that now that recruitment is off hold, this is an appropriate time to address this and suggested taking offline to do some research. The Site Stakeholder Group could develop outreach work as part of a socio economic project.

- [Action – 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.](#)

5. NDA Update – Mr David Wallace

Cllr Dryburgh welcomed Mr Wallace to the meeting and passed his condolences to his family. Mr Wallace reported that the NDA has been working with national organisations – Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise, Local Authorities, etc. The NDA recognises that it has a big role to play in socio economics, growth opportunities, sustainable jobs, links with academia and will be fully involved. In terms of Covid 19, the NDA has considered face to face engagement with stakeholders. The 2021 Stakeholder Summit will be held virtually. The NDA has experienced very low rates of Covid and more staff are expected to return to the office from 21 June. Dounreay has been under NDA ownership since 1 April 2021. Mark Rouse was appointed Managing Director of Dounreay on 1 April. This will bring sites closer together with a Group Leadership Team. The new NDA Transport Company, Nuclear Transport Solutions, was launched on 30 April. The NDA's Strategy 4 was launched on 18 March. Mr Wallace thanked everyone who contributed feedback, with there being 80 responses received, more than ever before. The NDA's Business Plan 2021-24 was published on 22 March 2021, after 16 consultation responses. The first NDA Sustainability Report was published on 8 March 2021.

The NDA was pleased to be recognised by the National Audit Office as an example of good practice following the publication of its most recent Annual Report and Accounts. The NDA Gender Pay Gap Report was published on 24 March.

The Holliday Report on the Magnox Inquiry was published on 4 March and a number of recommendations have been taken on board to strengthen the NDA's position. The NDA's formal response to the Inquiry Report will be published later in the year. In respect of Geological Disposal Facility (GDF), two Working Groups have been set up in Copeland and Allerdale in Cumbria, although this does not guarantee that it will be sited in Cumbria.

The NDA Supply Chain Event will be held in the International Centre, Telford, on 3 February 2022, with the Supply Chain Awards Ceremony being held the same day. Following the recent Scottish Government elections, the First Minister is appointing her Cabinet which will impact upon the NDA. Adrian Simper has taken on a joint role as Chief Scientific Officer with NDA and Chief Nuclear Adviser with BEIS. Interim Director of Strategy is Clive Nixon. Tony Meggs is the new Chair of Sellafield.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Thompson asked what steps are being taken to address the increase in the Gender Pay Gap. Mr Wallace responded that this was not yet known but he would keep the Site Stakeholder Group updated with progress. This is a good opportunity for One NDA with the different groups being closer aligned.

Mr Park referred to the Geological Disposal Facility which has been talked about for some time and asked how the Scottish Government's 'near surface near site' approach affected Chapelcross. Mr Wallace confirmed that the NDA is talking with Scottish Government and awaiting the Scottish Government's consultation on the review of the Higher Activity Waste policy to be launched. This should have been in February but is expected in the next few weeks. This should also consider the socio economic impact, skills, jobs, etc.

Mr Park asked where and why the plans to reduce support for the Site Stakeholder Group Secretariat had come from. He noted that Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group receives excellent support from the current Secretariat. Mr Wallace was not familiar with the results of the Magnox restructuring, the proposals or the rationale behind the context. Mr Hamilton had left the meeting so could not comment. Cllr Dryburgh as Chair was very concerned that the Site Stakeholder Group had not been involved in any discussion and stressed the importance of good communication. He undertook to speak to the Chair of Chairs and bring more information to the next meeting. In the meantime, he considered that Magnox should pause any proposals in this regard until further discussions with Site Stakeholder Groups has taken place. Mr Wallace agreed that there should be consultation and communication and will take the concerns back to the NDA. Mr Park recorded his strong objection to any reduction in Secretariat support. Cllr McClelland reiterated and supported Cllr Dryburgh's and Mr Park's concerns and pointed out that with Chapelcross about to go through its most important change in history, coupled with the Borderlands Deal, communications should be strengthened not reduced.

- **Action – Cllr Dryburgh to discuss proposed reduction in Secretariat for Site Stakeholder Groups with Chair of Chairs and report back to the next meeting.**

With regard to NDA's Strategy 4, Cllr Marshall noted that Chapelcross SSG is always proactive in responding to consultations, with a Sub Group formed to collate a response. The main point to come out was that the Site Stakeholder Group is keen to support development of the site through Borderlands and not going into Care and Maintenance. He asked Mr Wallace if the NDA was any further ahead with timelines on decisions for each of the sites. Mr Wallace replied that the NDA is initially looking at a timeframe of 12-18 months but consultation is required. There are no definite timescales yet but it is high on the NDA's agenda and he will feed back when more information is available.

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

ONR – Mr Bill Kings

Mr Kings highlighted key points from the report. ONR was on site in August, September, October and December looking at Covid arrangements. These were generally very good with small improvements suggested being made straight away. A focussed control inspection on the new MILWEP plant found good control with small improvements suggested and taken on board. The ONR is satisfied that MAC retrievals from the Ponds are well controlled. In spite of Covid restrictions, the site is making good progress with retrieval of legacy waste, particularly removal of metal. Permissioning for off shift transitioning is expected in the next two weeks after a contingency exercise on 20 May 2021.

SEPA – Mr David Stone

Mr Stone apologised for the lateness of the SEPA report, due to the ongoing repercussions of the cyber attack. Recovery is ongoing and more information is available on SEPA's website. The attack remains a crime investigation. Covid restrictions have not allowed for onsite visits since the beginning of lockdown although there has always been the option to attend for accidents or incidents if required. Weekly remote meetings have taken place with phone calls and reports done by telephone. The first inspections have been planned for June. SEPA was made aware early on about the mains leak and is confident that there was no radiological activity. The latest Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) report is available on SEPA's website. The result for Chapelcross is 0.07 mcv which is down on the previous year.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Dryburgh had raised at the COSLA meeting what could be done to help and support SEPA.

Mr Fulton noted that the CX project is developing a good relationship with the SEPA team and it is good news that SEPA is aligned with CX proposals.

Mrs Callander had not yet circulated the SEPA report, which had been received that morning, but would circulate after the meeting.

➤ [Action – Mrs Callander to circulate the SEPA report to Site Stakeholder Group members.](#)

Scottish Government – Ms Diane Hamilton

Ms Hamilton had started her job at the end of February, taking over from James Fox. Coming from the Work and Pensions Team, she has a lot to learn. She advised of other changes in the Team, with Daniel Couldridge taking over from Pat McAuley as Team Leader. It is hoped to get the Scottish Higher Activity Waste Policy review out for consultation by the end of June. It is hoped that this will also be discussed at the Scottish Nuclear Sites meeting at the end of June, for which invites will be sent.

Questions and Observations

Mr Park pointed out that Chapelcross' geographical position put it at a disadvantage for apprentices and asked about the possibility of cross-border training at the good training facilities just over the border in Sellafield. Ms Hamilton undertook to take this back to Scottish Government and get a response for the Scottish Sites meeting.

➤ [Action – Ms Hamilton to ask Scottish Government about the possibility of Chapelcross apprentices using training facilities at Sellafield.](#)

7. STEP Fusion Programme Presentation

Postponed to a future meeting.

8. External Meetings and Invitations –

NDA Chairs and Vice Chairs Magnox Inquiry Meeting – 1 April 2021

Cllr Dryburgh reported that this meeting had given Chairs and Vice Chairs the opportunity to meet and question on the outcomes of the Holliday Report. It was agreed that most of the recommendations have been taken on board by the NDA. The NDA would move forward with its One NDA badge. Communication of the Report and responses is important and gives the potential to input to the NDA.

Cllr Thompson left the meeting at 11.30 pm.

9. CX Project – Mr Mark Fulton

Mr Fulton showed slides to complement the written report circulated with meeting papers. The £20.9M Growth Deal to support the unlocking of the site was approved on 18 March 2021. £7.8M is being provided by UK Government, £7.5M from Scottish Government and £5.6M from Dumfries and Galloway Council. The CX Memorandum of Understanding had been updated to reflect changes driven by the DGC mandate and approved SOBC such as: its purpose, partner roles, interests, contributions, Partnership structure, membership i.e. South of Scotland Enterprise (SoSE) joining, Scottish Enterprise support via SoSE and Magnox has now been included. The MoU will be signed at a senior level by CX Partners and its efficacy will be formally reviewed on an agreed frequency. The new Chief Executive Officer of SoSE is Jane Morrison-Ross who is a supporter of the project. Mr Fulton thanked Mr Wallace and the NDA for the Grant paid. Mr Fulton ran through current priorities and timeframes. Encouraging progress has been made since the last Site Stakeholder Group meeting. However, focussed delivery of current priorities is urgently required within the next quarter.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Marshall was encouraged that Magnox is included in the Memorandum of Understanding with the NDA. He noted that there is some speculation on what will go on the site and asked that this information is shared with the Site Stakeholder Group when confirmed. Expectations have been raised in the past about potential Lockerbie / Ecclefechan Data Centres. A programme of engagement is required for near neighbours and local communities. Cllr Marshall asked how the CX project will engage with the Solar Farm proposals at Jockstown. Mr Fulton responded that Management Case in the Business Case and referred to in the report stipulate a requirement fit for purpose stakeholder engagement in the next stage (OBC) The detail agreed within the CX MoU is driven by his requirement. The Solar Farm is north of the site and should be complementary, adding value to the overall CX proposal. The Memorandum of Understanding is in the public domain and the NDA and Magnox should cascade information to site employees etc.

Cllr McClelland left the meeting at 11.45 am.

Mr Wallace commented that the NDA has a meeting with Magnox the following day and thanked Mr Fulton for this significant work done and for keeping him up to date.

Mr Park suggested that one of the best ways to communicate locally is through the workforce. This would also help the workforce to feel included. He suggested that information is passed to workers through the Communication Team **before** it goes in the press. Mr Fulton agreed with this and will endeavour to update the project website. Mr Fulton suggested that Mr Park phone him outwith the meeting. (post meeting note- a positive dialogue has been established between Mr Park and Mark Fulton)

Cllr Dryburgh noted that the CX project audience is much wider than just the Chapelcross area. Mr Fulton suggested that individuals can position themselves as 'champions' of the project. Mr Wallace added that the Board needs to consider the resources and structure.

Cllr Marshall pointed out that Mr McDonald is the lead contact at Chapelcross. There will be more momentum as the project builds. There has to be a link to the site to ensure that everything goes smoothly and it is important to have that process in place.

10. Any Other Business

There were no other items of business raised.

11. Public Forum

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

11. Next Meeting – Wednesday 4 August 2021

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 4 August 2021.

Cllr Dryburgh closed the meeting at 11.53 am.