

**HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS FROM THE FIFTY EIGHTH MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER 2020 ONLINE, ZOOM PLATFORM**

Chair's Opening Remarks and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence

The Chair thanked everyone for joining the online meeting. She reported on the virtual NDA Site Stakeholder Group Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting on 18 September 2020. She thanked Mr Walker and Mr Marshall for the monthly site and socio economics updates. She thanked the NDA for running an effective and inclusive consultation on Draft Strategy 4. Meeting dates for 2021 are: Thursday 4 March, Thursday 3 June, Thursday 2 September, Thursday 2 December.

Actions and Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the teleconference meeting of 3 September 2020 were approved.

Hunterston A Site Reports

Hunterston A Report – Mr Alastair Walker

The site's 'return to work' programme is complete, with facilities back to their pre-Covid status. Physical progress on site was minimal until mid-October 2020. The site's Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) and time without a Lost Time Incident has remained at zero for 76 months. Decommissioning work continues and the Plant and Structures Team is more dominant with programmes on site. The proposal to move to a 4-day/wk is with Magnox Executive for consideration. £25k was awarded to North Ayrshire Council to support food banks during the pandemic, with a number of people from site helping out in communities. On behalf of Mr Warner, Mr Walker reported that the NDA has endorsed the Magnox proposal to investigate the development of an alternative end state for the Hunterston A site.

ONR Report

Mr Kings was not present at the meeting.

SEPA Report – Ms Melanie Hayes

New Site Inspector from September 2020, Melanie Hayes, updated on the written report. SEPA continues to liaise with the site weekly and has carried out telephone-based inspections during the period.

NDA Report – Mr David Wallace and Mr John McNamara

Professor Francis Livens has been appointed to the NDA Board. Davide Stronati has been appointed Sustainability Director. The National Audit Office report on the termination of the Magnox contract was published on 9 September. Almost 80 comments were received on the Draft Strategy 4 consultation. An eight week consultation period from 8 December 2020 will take place on the NDA Draft Business Plan 2021-24. Discussions with stakeholders such as Ayrshire College and Peel Ports are taking place to determine socio-economic opportunities.

Update from Scottish Government – Mr Pat McAuley

Mr James Fox has been promoted and moved to a different Team. A virtual Scottish Sites meeting will take place on 7 December 2020. The BEIS Policy Review has restarted and the Scottish Higher Activity Waste Policy review is underway with a final document expected to be ready for consultation in early 2021. The ONR Joint Convention Report is awaiting ministerial approval.

Hunterston B Station Reports

Hunterston B Report – Mr Paul Forrest

Stringent policies are in place to ensure that Hunterston B is a Covid safe place to work. A safety incident on site involved a scaffolder working on the jetty who got hit in the face by a spanner coming loose from the nut, which required hospital treatment. Emergency planning exercises, suspended during Covid, have now resumed. Reactor 4 is now back on, as well as Reactor 3, and are operating normally. A second round of aspirational interviews have taken place with employees, with 100% take-up.

ONR Report – Mr Stuart Fannin

The basis of the decisions to allow Reactors 3 and 4 to return to power on 27 August and 24 September respectively are available on the ONR website. One event was reported to ONR during the return to service, which was efficiently and carefully managed by the Central Control Room. ONR has been examining the Station's preparation for defueling in the event that a further six month period of operation of Reactor 3 is not approved.

SEPA Report – Mr Keith Hammond

A warning letter was issued regarding an event in January 2020 involving radioactive debris in fuel transport flasks. There was no environmental impact. Radioactivity and Food in the Environment (RIFE19) was published in November and total doses in respect of discharges in the Hunterston area remains very low. There are various consultations on SEPA's website.

Any Other Business

The Friends of the Firth of Clyde intend submitting a formal request for membership of the SSG at the March 2021 meeting. A number of questions on the presentations were asked by members and members of the public and further detail on these can be found in the full Minutes of the meeting, available from the Secretariat.

Next Meeting – Thursday 4 March 2021, time and venue / meeting platform to be confirmed.



Site Stakeholder Group

HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MINUTES OF FIFTY EIGHTH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER 2020 AT 1.30 PM, ZOOM ONLINE PLATFORM

Present

Magnox Ltd

Mr Alastair Walker (Acting Site Director, Hunterston A)
Mrs Jill Callander (SSG Secretariat)
Mr Bill Hamilton (Director of Communications)
Mr Sean Marshall (Magnox Communications)
Mr Andy McDade (Trade Union Rep, Hunterston A)
Mr Reuben Phillips (Waste Manager, Hunterston A)

Community Council Representatives

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

North Ayrshire Council (NAC)

Mr Stuart Mackenzie (Environmental Health)
Cllr Robert Barr (Dalry and West Kilbride)
Cllr Todd Ferguson (Dalry and West Kilbride)
Cllr Alex Gallagher (North Coast and Cumbraes)
Cllr John Glover (Kilwinning)
Cllr Tom Marshall (North Coast & Cumbraes)
Ms Jane McGeorge (Ayrshire Civil Contingencies)
Mr Scott McKenzie (Environmental Health)

NDA

Mr John McNamara (Head of Stakeholder Engagement)
Mr David Wallace (Stakeholder Manager, Scotland)

In Attendance

Ms Sheila Adams (Minutes)
Ms Janine Claber (Marick Communications)

Apologies

Mr David Gurney (Scottish Government)
Mr Craig Hatton (Chief Executive, NAC)
Ms Lesley Jeffrey (Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Team)
Mr William Jack (NFU)
Mr Martin Kaarits (Skelmorlie Community Council)

EDF (Hunterston B)

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

Hunterston Estate

Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick

ONR

Mr Stuart Fannin (Hunterston B)

SEPA

Mr Keith Hammond (Hunterston B)
Ms Melanie Hayes (Hunterston A)
Mr David Stone (Hunterston A)

Scottish Government

Mr Pat McAuley

Ms Clare Baguley (Member of Public)
Cllr Ian Murdoch (Member of Public)

Mr Bill Kings (ONR)
Mr Ralston Ryder (Hunterston Estate)

Ms Claber, representing Marick Communications, gave a short presentation on housekeeping rules and guidance for getting the best out of the meeting on the Zoom platform.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks and Declarations of Interest

Mrs Holmes, Chair, welcomed everyone to the fifty eighth meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group and thanked everyone for joining the meeting online to enable a virtual meeting to be held. In particular she welcomed Mr Jack Murdoch, representing Largs Community Council in place of Mr Drew Cochrane who has stood down from Largs Community Council. There were no Declarations of Interest.

2. Chair and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence

Mrs Holmes reported that she and Mr McGhie had participated in the NDA Site Stakeholder Group Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting, virtually on 18 September 2020. Chief Executive, David Peattie, gave an update and introduced the new NDA Chairwoman, Dr Ros Rivaz. Adrian Simper updated on Draft Strategy 4 and Andrew Van der Lem gave a presentation on the Social Impact Strategy and Reactor Decommissioning. Mrs Holmes hoped to receive more information during the meeting on progress on compiling the waste inventory for Hunterston A and any new plans for the site. Hazel Blears has been appointed as the NDA's Social Value Specialist and the NDA has launched a year long partnership with the Young Generation Network, which aims to inspire and support young people in the nuclear industry. The Chair and Vice Chair have received monthly updates from Site Director, Alastair Walker, and updates on socio economics from Sean Marshall. Several online meetings have taken place since September; one on NDA Strategy 4; one on Integrated Waste Management; Scottish SSG Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting, where draft terms of reference for the national SSG Chairs / Vice Chairs Forum were discussed. Mrs Holmes thanked the NDA for running an effective and inclusive consultation on Draft Strategy 4 and thanked Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) for the interesting and informative workshop. Mr McGhie added his thanks and comments on the meetings. Both looked forward to the next Scottish Sites meeting on 7 December. Mrs Holmes noted that Mr James Fox will no longer attend Site Stakeholder Group meetings due to being in a new role and recorded her thanks for his input to meetings.

Mrs Holmes advised that Hunterston SSG meetings dates for 2021 are scheduled as:
Thursday 4 March; Thursday 3 June; Thursday 2 September; Thursday 2 December 2021.

3. Actions and Approval of Previous Minutes

There were two actions from the last meeting, which had both been discharged:
Mrs Callander had advised Skelmorlie Community Council of approval of its application to formally join Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group.

Mr McAuley had taken back the request to Scottish Government for a Scottish Nuclear Sites meeting to be held this year – a virtual meeting has been arranged for 7 December 2020.

The Minutes of the Site Stakeholder Group meeting, held on 3 September 2020 electronically on Zoom, were proposed for approval by Cllr Tom Marshall and seconded by Mr John Lamb.

4. Hunterston A Site Reports

Hunterston A Reports – Mr Alastair Walker

Mr Walker highlighted the key points from the report covering September – December 2020, issued with the meeting papers. The 'return to work' programme is complete, with facilities back to their pre-Covid status. Operations have resumed with tight Covid protocols in place.



There have been five positive Covid cases of employees with a number of people self-isolating. Learning is taking place from other sites with welfare accommodation and contingency arrangements in place, should these be needed. The flu vaccination campaign on Site achieved a 70% take-up rate.

Mr Walker was pleased with safety and environmental performance. The site has now gone 76 months without a Lost Time Incident and the Total Recordable Incident Rate remains at zero. There have been focussed Target Zero campaigns. Physical progress on site has been minimal up until mid-October 2020 when the site was back up and running. Decommissioning work now continues and the Wet Intermediate Level Waste Retrieval Encapsulation Plant (WILWREP) is operational, with a few modifications to be made to the plant. Contractors, Balfour Beatty, are back on site working on the Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation (SILWE) project. The Plant and Structures Team has been more dominant with programmes on site.

In terms of Human Resources, the proposal to move to a 4-day working week is with the Magnox Executive for consideration. Under Socio Economics, a number of people from the site have been helping out in communities during the pandemic. £25k was also awarded to North Ayrshire Council to support food banks.

On behalf of Mr Ian Warner, Mr Walker read the following update:

'Further to the previous briefing, I can confirm NDA has endorsed the Magnox proposal to investigate the development of an alternative end state for the Hunterston A site. Such an end state would consider the potential for the on-site disposal of some suitable low level radioactive wastes. I must emphasise that no decisions have been taken regarding any on-site disposal beyond exploring the potential, and any proposals would be subject to stakeholder engagement and obtaining any necessary permissions. The End State Manager (Ian Warner) will be attending the next Site Stakeholder Group meeting to provide a more detailed update.'

Question and Answer Session

Cllr Gallagher asked if the site had been contacted by the NHS or Scottish Government regarding helping with onsite vaccinations for the virus campaign. Mr Walker confirmed that there had not yet been any contact from external organisations.

Mr Lamb asked why it would be another two years before active commissioning of the Encapsulation Plant. Mr Walker advised that the main reason is due to a planned nine month delay because of Covid. Difficulties have been encountered with the plant and equipment and this needs to be addressed and timescales and schedules revised.

With regard to the cladding contract being let in the first quarter of 2021, Mr Lamb asked if works are to be done before or after the cladding. Mr Walker responded that work will be done before and the Plant and Structures Team is currently working up specifications and tenders.

Mrs Holmes noted that Care and Maintenance is now scheduled for 2030 and asked if it was likely to slip back further. Mr Walker replied that the forecast end date at the moment is October 2030 but a re-estimation of the baseline is required. He added that work on new site strategies will influence what is done, when it is done and how it is done.

Mrs Holmes asked if the Waste Inventory had been completed and when it would be available to look at. Mr Walker advised that work is ongoing in parallel with site strategies. Mrs Holmes further asked when Strategy 4 was likely to be rolled out to all sites and new strategies produced. Mr Walker responded that he was unable to confirm a date at the present time as there are working level and higher level strategies and the higher levels are currently being addressed.

Referring to Page 5 of the HNA report, Mrs Holmes asked for an explanation of the sacrificial paddle used to achieve an immobilised waste form. Mr Walker explained the process of tools being used to mobilise resin in the tank, which is retrieved into a drum before being packaged up.

Mrs Holmes asked if there are defects with the SILWE plant and if it would be working. Mr Walker confirmed that it will be an operational plant. The issues are primarily technical and relate to KUKA robots.

From the Monthly Updates, Mrs Holmes noted that there were two notifiable events. Mr Walker confirmed that there was one reportable incident between September and December, concerning the site's Miscellaneous Cartridge Filtration Plant. A piece of kit was in operation whilst the annual Environmental Maintenance Schedule activity was suspended. This should have been checked before being brought into service. The site liaised with SEPA and took steps to prevent a recurrence. There was no risk to the environment. Mrs Holmes asked for an explanation of the different codings. Mr Walker responded that there are various levels of categorisation and a prescriptive process to follow which determines how incidents are managed and reported.

Mrs Holmes was pleased to hear news of the move to Magnox Ltd for some agency or contractor workers. Mr Walker advised that the site is heavily dependent on agency workers and contractors (70-80 of 200). Positions are being identified to allow the employment of staff, which is a Company-wide initiative. New terms and conditions have now been formally agreed with the Trade Unions so sites can now recruit positions. Mr McDade added that the Unions have been pressing for new terms and conditions for some time. Some people have been on agency conditions for 9-10 years and it has been a long hard struggle to get terms and conditions agreed so he would like to see people employed soon.

Cllr Gallagher referred to the changing conditions for end-of-life waste and asked what the previous situation was and what has changed. Mr Walker clarified that the Site Stakeholder Group was informed at the September meeting of a Strategy Change paper in which the NDA was recommending potential different end states to the current baseline, which has now been approved by the NDA. [ACTION - Mr Ian Warner, End State Manager for Magnox Ltd, to be requested to attend the next meeting to provide a further update.](#) A member of the public intended asking the same question and Mr Walker added that there will be a number of workshops on end-state but further clarity will be provided in March. [ACTION – AW to give a detailed report at the March SSG Meeting with regard to end of life waste.](#)

Mrs Holmes noted that it had taken 18 months to fill 164 boxes for storage in the Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) store and asked why it had taken so long. Mr Walker explained the downturn in production from the earlier bunkers. The material in bunker 1 requires a slower retrieval process and fuel detection system introduced, which takes more time. This involves going through the waste with a fine-tooth comb and the process is expected to be slower and take longer. Bunkers 2 – 5 contained graphite. Bunker 1 is predominantly fuel element debris requiring identification of and separating out of small components, all in accordance with protocols and safety cases. Mr Phillips added that fuel element debris needs to be checked to ensure there are no fuel fragments.

Mrs Holmes asked about decommissioning of the effluent plants. Mr Walker explained the standard decommissioning process.

Socio Economics Update

Mr Sean Marshall updated on Socio Economics:

Garnock Visitor and Community Hub, Lochshore - £500k NDA direct funding has been approved for 2020/21 but this has not yet been publicised.

Millport Town Hall – the request for £330,000 was presented to the NDA panel and is awaiting presentation at the Magnox Executive on 16 December.

North Ayrshire Future Skills Hub (£500K Award) – No funding has been released yet and there have been project delays due to Covid but it is ramping up now. The desktop feasibility study was carried out in June 2020 and a revised timetable is expected soon. The completion date is expected to be December 2021.

ONR Report

Mr Kings was not present at the meeting.

SEPA Report – Ms Melanie Hayes

Mr Stone advised that Melanie Hayes, the new site inspector, would speak to the report. Ms Hayes became Site Inspector for Hunterston in September 2020. SEPA continues to liaise with Magnox weekly. Covid contingency plans from Hunterston A were submitted to SEPA in October advising that the site had started to return to operations. Monthly discharge returns are being submitted. SEPA is liaising with the site on telephone-based inspections and review of BPMM documentation.

Questions and Answer Session

Mr Lamb asked ONR for confirmation of whether the recommendations of the revised REPIR regulations were adopted. Mr Fannin replied that REPIR regulations were adopted in May 2019 with an implementation period till September 2020 for certain aspects. There was a need for review of the off-site plan for Hunterston A site where the site has an Outline Planning Zone of 1km and does not require a Detailed Emergency Planning Zone. Mrs Holmes noted that Jane McGeorge had left the meeting but believed that the Local Authority was due to consider the plans on 16 December. **ACTION - Mr McKenzie undertook to find out and pass on any other relevant information.** Cllr Gallagher added that a decision was delayed due to Covid and a final decision has not been made yet. Mr Fannin clarified that this relates to the Outline Planning Zone at Hunterston A site and different arrangements are required for Hunterston B, which still has to have the detail of its revised Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) agreed. Mrs Holmes asked if it was known if the DEPZ would remain at the current 2.4km or if this was likely to change. Mr Fannin responded that this decision is entirely that of the local authority and was unable to comment further. ONR's role is in looking at the adequacy of the implementation of the regulations. Member of the Public, Cllr Murdoch, confirmed that he had been told that the decision on the DEPZ had been postponed due to Covid and would be considered by North Ayrshire Councillors at a meeting in December 2020.

Ms Hayes added that, while not directly related to Hunterston, SEPA had issued its Covid Impacts Habits Survey which would be sent to 7,000 randomly selected addresses around nuclear licensed sites in Scotland. The surveys look into components of individuals diet and what food comes from the local area and where people are spending their outdoor leisure time. The results of the survey will help SEPA determine where its environmental monitoring programmes should seek to gather samples or measurements. Anyone who does not receive a survey directly but who wishes to provide information should contact SEPA at rsenquiries@sepa.org.uk and request an electronic survey. Mrs Holmes had noticed a big increase in the number of people using the small beach at Fairlie during lockdown.

5. NDA Reports – Mr David Wallace, Mr John McNamara

The NDA is making good progress throughout the estate on restarting of operations. Differences in



guidelines in Scotland, England and Wales have had to be addressed.

The majority of corporate staff are still working from home. Non-executive Director, Professor Francis Livens, has been appointed to the NDA Board. A new Sustainability Director, Davide Stronati, has also been appointed and will undertake some engagement with stakeholders. The National Audit Office Report on the termination of the Magnox contract was published on 9 September. Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) has announced the formation of the first Working Group in Copeland, West Cumbria to look at geological disposal which will open discussions about the potential siting of a Geological Disposal Facility in Copeland. Almost 80 comments have been received to the consultation on Draft Strategy 4. Under Magnox Reactor Decommissioning, each site is being assessed individually and engagement will take place over the next 12 months. There will be an eight-week consultation period on the Draft Business Plan 2021-24 which will be published on 8 December. Mr Wallace thanked Mr Marshall for the update on socio economics. The Loch Shore project is particularly exciting. Discussions with other stakeholders such as Ayrshire College and Peel Ports are taking place to determine other socio-economic opportunities.

Question and Answer Session

Mrs Holmes was concerned to hear about discussions with Peel Ports. While the communities are well aware of the opportunities that could come from decommissioning of waste and making Hunterston an area for importing waste from elsewhere, they are also concerned about the detrimental environmental impact and would like to be kept informed of discussions. Mr Wallace confirmed that there had been no discussion on waste, but talks on opportunities and the supply chain in terms of decommissioning. Mr Wallace undertook to keep the Site Stakeholder Group informed. Mrs Holmes noted that this had not happened so far with Peel Ports, which has a different ethos to the NDA in terms of community liaison.

Member of the Public, Cllr Murdoch, asked about the synergy between the sites and proposals being considered by the NDA and Peel Ports. Mr Wallace responded that no specifics had been discussed and it was a general discussion relating to the wider industrial strategy around Loch Shore, Hunterston Parc and Campuses. He assured members that there had been no agreement or firm proposals to work together but the NDA was reaching out to establish any common approaches. Cllr Murdoch welcomed job creation and investment opportunities but was concerned about what the projects may be. At a full Council meeting he had raised the 'Hunterston Parc Marine Yard Project Plan' dated 15 December 2018, which states that the construction of a formal gate system for the dry dock, together with an extension to the existing jetty, will position Hunterston at the forefront of oil and gas decommissioning activity and open up opportunities for civilian and military surface and submarine vessel decommissioning. Mr Wallace noted the concerns of the Site Stakeholder Group and undertook to continue discussions offline to be aware of and understand any concerns.

Cllr Gallagher was delighted to see the investment in socio economics but reiterated the concerns raised by Mrs Holmes and Cllr Murdoch on Peel Ports. He stressed that any military or 'dirty' decommissioning would not fit with the Local Development Plan or wishes of local people in North Ayrshire.

Mr Lamb referred to the Public Accounts Committee Report published the previous week which referred to the Holliday Enquiry Report which has not yet been published and he asked if there was an expected publication date. Neither Mr Wallace nor Mr McNamara had received notification of a publication date but would advise the Site Stakeholder Group when more information is available. Mr Lamb noted that a lot of the recommendations in the Public Accounts Committee Report are also in the Magnox Inquiry Report so there will be some crossover between the two documents. Mr McNamara advised that the NDA was disappointed with some of the comments in the Public

Accounts Committee Report regarding safety.

Mr Lamb referred to the NDA's charter of being open and transparent. Conversely, Peel Ports as a commercial enterprise does not have the same level of openness and the NDA should be aware of this. Mr Wallace appreciated the feedback from members of the Site Stakeholder Group and assured members that there are no plans proposed. Cllr Marshall chairs the Planning Committee of North Ayrshire Council and suggested looking at the Minute of the Meeting of March 2018 which gives a prescriptive list of what Peel Ports can do, rather than media speculation.

Cllr Glover was unable to hear what was said by Mr Marshall and Mr Wallace regarding Kilwinning College and asked them to repeat what was said about apprenticeships. Mr Wallace confirmed that £500k had been awarded to Kilwinning Campus. Mr Wallace has been discussing with Mr Breen of the College how the NDA and College can work together more closely, looking at building a relationship and work together going forward, looking at future skills agenda. Mr Marshall clarified that £500k has been awarded but the funding not released yet as the project has been delayed due to Covid. A desktop feasibility study was carried out in June 2020 and a revised timetable for the build is expected, with a provisional completion date of December 2021.

6. Update from Scottish Government – Mr Pat McAuley

Mrs Holmes invited Mr McAuley to give an update in particular on what is happening between the NDA, Peel Ports, the Ministry of Defence and the Scottish Government.

Mr McAuley confirmed that James Fox had moved on and this post is currently vacant. Any enquiries in the interim can be directed to Mr McAuley or Martin Macdonald. A virtual Scottish Sites Stakeholder meeting will take place on 7 December at 2pm on the WebEx platform as a trial. Members will be consulted on the frequency and timing of meetings. The BEIS Policy Review has restarted and the Site Stakeholder Group will be updated with developments. The Higher Activity Waste Policy review is underway and a final document is expected to be ready for consultation in January / February 2021. Mr Macdonald is responding to the NDA's Draft Strategy 4 and analysing responses to the consultation. Regional focus groups have been raised by the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group and NDA and the Scottish Government is conscious of the sensitivities around these and will get involved in discussion although it does not have a formal role. The ONR Joint Convention Report is still awaiting ministerial approval.

Question and Answer Session

Mr Lamb was involved in the original Scottish Higher Activity Waste policy and on the original strategy implementation group and asked if it was possible to have input to the Scottish Higher Activity Waste Policy Review at this stage. Mr McAuley welcomed feedback and encouraged Mr Lamb to forward his details to Mr Macdonald. Mr Lamb confirmed that Mr Macdonald already has these and he will make contact with Mr Macdonald.

Cllr Gallagher reported that himself and the Chief Executive of North Ayrshire Council wrote to the Scottish Government Minister following the announcement of the final closure date for Hunterston B regarding the possibility of setting up a task force to address what will happen on site and on the peninsula during and after the closure period but had not received a response. Mr McAuley advised that he was aware of this but another team is leading on it as it is outwith his portfolio. Mr McAuley's team will be more involved once the site is actually closed and defueled as it deals with the environmental impacts.

Mrs Holmes referred to an NDA Strategy 4 meeting, where it was mentioned that the Scottish Government had said it had discussed near surface disposal of graphite and the Scottish

Government had said it was not going to be first to implement it here and asked if Mr McAuley could comment on this. Mr McAuley was not aware of any detailed discussion or proposals on near surface disposal and Scottish Government policy on this is clear. Any proposals of this nature would require detailed discussion with the NDA, SEPA and ministerial approval.

7. Hunterston B Station Reports

Hunterston B Report – Mr Paul Forrest

Mr Forrest reported on a safety incident on site with a scaffolder working on the jetty who got hit in the face by a spanner coming loose from the nut. Hospital attendance for treatment was required. Lessons learned are being discussed with the scaffolding company. Stringent policies are in place to ensure that Hunterston B is a Covid safe place to work, with the two main tools being social distancing and hand washing facilities. Mask wearing is now mandatory when not at a workstation.

All emergency planning exercises were suspended during Covid but these have resumed to maintain training, socially distanced. In terms of the aqueous discharge line, there was a leak in the primary containment, which was quickly found and fixed. The secondary containment was intact and not affected. As stated at the last meeting, end of generation is expected in January 2022. Reactor 4 is now back on, as well as Reactor 3 operating normally, with both units generating 540mw currently. The second round of aspirational conversations have taken place, with 100% take-up. One policy, which has now been enacted, enables the transfer of people to a station with a longer lifespan, the most popular option being Torness as it is closest. Financial assistance is another policy, allowing people to relocate. One or two people are considering Hinkley Point C in Somerset, which offers a secure career option but is much further away.

ONR Report – Mr Stuart Fannin

Mr Fannin highlighted key points from the Quarter 3 reports, July – September 2020. Reactor 3 was successfully returned to power on 27 August and ONR has published the basis of its decision on its website. Reactor 4 was returned to service on 24 September and project assessment reports pertaining to that are also on ONR's website. Both reactors have operated safely since restarting, with Reactor 3 being half way through its agreed six month operating period. Mr Fannin noted that it is testament to how hard the Station has worked to prepare the plant to bring it into as good a state as possible to return to service. Only one event was reported during the return to service which related to an operator working on the start and standby feed pump and inadvertently took action which was outwith the agreed operating instruction, activating the reverse flow protection resulting in a loss of feed to Reactor 3. This was efficiently and carefully managed by the Central Control Room team who managed to catch the transient and prevent a trip. Other than this, both Reactors have been working safely and compliantly since returning to service, which is testament to the efforts of the Station. ONR has continued to engage with the Station and EDF Corporate Team to examine the safety case, which was formally submitted on 2 December, for a further period of operation of six months. ONR will now formally start to assess to determine whether a further six month period of operation will be agreed. As this is not guaranteed and as a contingency, ONR has also been examining the preparation that the Station has carried out to prepare for defueling in the first and second quarter of 2021.

SEPA Report – Mr Keith Hammond

The written report from SEPA was taken as read. A warning letter was issued in relation to an event involving radioactive debris in fuel transport flasks. This was notified to SEPA in January 2020 and investigated and there is no environmental impact. EDF has made application to regularise the situation but in terms of enforcement and following policy, a warning letter was issued. SEPA has been very busy with meetings in the autumn. SEPA is meeting with Station staff and carefully monitoring the event reported by the Station in relation to the aqueous discharge line.

There are many SEPA consultations but three in particular impinge upon the site: proposed revision to standard conditions for radioactive substances activities; charging scheme, primarily to rectify shortfalls in non-nuclear charging scheme; guidance on the use of variable monitoring penalties. The next edition of RIFE25 (Radioactivity in Food and the Environment 2019) was published in November, where the total dose in respect of discharges remains very low and much the same as the previous year for the Hunterston area.

Question and Answer Session

Mr Lamb referred to defueling and decommissioning where Heysham has increased transport from two flasks to four flasks under item 2 of the report and asked Mr Forrest if this is being considered in the decommissioning of Hunterston B Station in terms of timescale. Mr Forrest confirmed that Heysham 2 site is larger and can accommodate more flasks at a single time. Mr Forrest confirmed that this is being considered for Hunterston B, looking at enhancing capability. Mr Lamb asked if this would have a knock-on effect on the timescale for defueling. Mr Forrest confirmed that the defueling programme is cognisant of the ability to dispatch flasks. Mr Lamb asked about the availability of flasks from Sellafield. Mr Forrest did not see this as being an issue as there is enough flasks in the UK but there could be a logistics issue in terms of where the flasks go and who needs them but this should not be a determining factor.

Under item 4 of the report, Mr Lamb asked about the reduced generation in October for refuelling, when there was a significant dip in power locally from the grid and wondered if this was related to the reduced generation at Hunterston B. Mr Forrest clarified that the dip in the grid was related to a fault in a transformer in a converter station in North Wales and was not related to Hunterston.

Mr McGhie referred to the aspirational interviews and potential for moving staff to other Stations and asked if there was likely to be a gap in job positions for defueling. Mr Forrest was unable to answer the question at the current time but should be able to answer this early in 2021 as a proposal for a staff structure moving into defueling is being prepared, which requires ONR approval for a management of change licence condition. Mr Forrest would not wish to issue a draft proposal at this stage and hopes to be in a position to have a discussion on this early in 2021.

Mrs Holmes referred to the safety cases for Reactor 3 and Reactor 4 and was surprised that a second safety case had been submitted for Reactor 3 and asked if checking of the core is being done again. Mr Forrest confirmed that extensive inspection of the cores is being done at the end of the first six month operational period in March / April 2021. An Inspection Strategy has been proposed with ONR which Mr Forrest believed had been agreed. Mrs Holmes referred to the current established damage tolerance level of 1,331, and asked if there will be a prediction of what is expected to be seen when it is next checked and further asked if this would be a determining factor in ONR's decision making process. Mr Fannin confirmed that a safety case has been submitted which has a prediction of where the core state will be in March / April and where it will be after the six months proposed operating period, which will require to be calibrated by a graphite inspection outage when the reactors come offline. Agreement for any further operating period would not be issued until the results of the inspection have been assessed and considered against the safety case. Mr Fannin stressed that agreement is not a given and that contingency arrangements are prepared and in place to enable progression to defueling, should agreement for a further operating period not be forthcoming. Mrs Holmes asked what the prediction is in the safety case and what was expected to be positive or negative in the outcome for restarting. Mr Forrest did not have that information to hand but EDF does have upper and lower prediction levels which have been shared with ONR as regulator, with routes for assessment depending on what is found in the inspections. Mr Forrest added that the key aspect again will be the ability to demonstrate that a significant seismic event can be withstood with all control rods entering the core

with margins.

Mrs Holmes asked about the modifications to the charge machine, referred to on page 5 of the ONR report, and asked how it activated itself, why it activated and why the problem was not foreseen. Mr Fannin explained the modification and how the process works. Protection and preventative systems are in place but the design and modification should only happen at the reactor and not in other areas of the process. Protection measures were still in place in areas where it should not have worked. ONR has a meeting on site the following week to investigate further to understand the basis of the findings and corrective actions although the modification as installed did not result in adverse or loss of safety but was a protection measure that continued to work where it should not have worked.

Mrs Holmes asked ONR about the reference in the report to the power cycle and control cubicle. Mr Fannin explained the process and how the maintenance technician inspecting the control panel did not follow the operating instructions and scope of work pre-job brief and restarted the power unit, which initiated the reverse flow protection on the start and standby pump to be enacted which reduced the flow to the boilers and caused the transient. Mrs Holmes commended the quick actions of the Control Team to remedy this. Mr Fannin stressed that this was testament to the training done to prepare themselves for returning units to power and commended the strong performance by the Control Team.

Mrs Holmes was asked by someone from West Kilbride about a drone taking photographs and land clearance. Mr Forrest was not aware of any drone footage or land clearance and although drones are used for roof inspections, this would normally take place in summer to avoid high winds and adverse weather conditions.

Mrs Holmes asked about future plans for treatment and packaging facilities. Mr Forrest responded that it is too early to share this information and it is intended to be the subject of an outline planning application in quarter one of 2021. [ACTION - Mr Forrest agreed to update the SSG members on this in the next Site Stakeholder Group meeting report.](#)

8. Any Other Business

SSG Membership Request from The Friends of the Firth of Clyde

Mr Lamb considered that this request should only be discussed by the voting members. Having read the Constitution of The Friends of the Firth of Clyde, Mr Cochran-Patrick did not consider it appropriate for the organisation to become voting members. Mrs Callander advised that Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group's Constitution allows for any constituted group who is interested in things that are happening at either Hunterston A or B site can apply for membership. Unless someone could provide a specific reason for rejecting the request, Mrs Callander saw no reason for not allowing the organisation to become a member. The organisation has undertaken to have a named member attending meetings on its behalf and asked that this is considered at the March meeting. Member of the public, Clare Baguley, is a member of The Friends of the Firth of Clyde, and asked that consideration is given to an application to the March meeting. Mr Marshall reiterated the Constitution and NDA Good Practice Guidelines and advised of a recent Magnox NDA Forum meeting where this was debated at length regarding encouraging wider stakeholders and forums to become members of Site Stakeholder Groups. Cllr Gallagher thought that the discussion should be restricted to members only but had no objection to The Friends group joining except that he believed that the Group had closed or limited membership as he was unable to join them or access the website or Facebook page. Ms Baguley did not recognise that this was the case and suggested discussing further offline.

Member of the public, Cllr Murdoch, understood that the Site Stakeholder Group was created to



create links with and keep the general public informed and believed that the electronic Zoom meetings would be available to view on the website. Cllr Murdoch has twice had to ask to attend meetings and asked why the video of the meetings will not be published online and what the Site Stakeholder Group meeting will do to encourage more members of the public to take part in these meetings. Cllr Murdoch asked if he would have to lodge a Freedom of Information request just to see the recording of the meeting. Mrs Callander confirmed that the first meeting was recorded and it was hoped that this would be able to be published but due to complex General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) no recordings of SSG Meetings will be put in the public domain. Recordings are used only for the purposes of preparing the Minutes of the meeting and thereafter deleted. With regard to people joining the meeting, names are requested to keep track of number of attendees. A link to meeting details and contact details for the Site Stakeholder Group Secretariat is publicly available on the website, whereby any member of the public can get in touch to gain access to the meeting. Cllr Murdoch was concerned that North Ayrshire Council record and publish meetings if this is not permissible under Data Protection Regulations and will investigate this further. Ms Claber added that the issue refers to permission from individuals concerned to both record and share the recorded information. Mr McNamara had nothing specific to add to this discussion but confirmed that the NDA, based on stakeholder feedback, is looking for ways to connect to the wider community, and will share and discuss this at the next Site Stakeholder Group meeting. Mrs Callander added that virtual meetings are still very new to Site Stakeholder Groups and virtual platforms are still being developed and are an excellent way to allow meetings to happen in these unprecedented times. Mrs Callander welcomed feedback and suggestions on how to improve meetings.

Cllr Gallagher proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair.

9. Next Meeting – Thursday 4 March 2021

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 4 March 2021.

The Chair thanked everyone for their participation, which was appreciated, and formally closed the meeting.