

**HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS FROM THE SIXTIETH MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 3 JUNE 2021 ONLINE, ZOOM PLATFORM**

Chair's Opening Remarks and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence

Mrs Holmes welcomed SEPA to the meeting after a six-month absence due to a cyber security attack. While virtual meetings on Zoom and Microsoft Teams have been invaluable in allowing meetings to be held remotely, Mrs Holmes urged the NDA to rethink any plans to hold virtual Site Stakeholder Group meetings as the norm. She updated on the SSG Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting on 26 May. An important agenda item was the proposal by Magnox to reduce the Secretariat support for Site Stakeholder Groups from two people to one. All Chairs and Vice Chairs stressed to Magnox that any reduction would be detrimental to the effective operation of SSGs. Mrs Holmes noted permission from ONR to restart Reactors 3 and 4 at Hunterston B.

Actions and Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the virtual meeting of 4 March 2021 were approved and actions discharged.

Hunterston B Station Reports

Hunterston B Report – Mr Paul Forrest

There are two changes to the Management Team - Allison Adamson is Technical Safety Manager and Yvonne Moreland is Finance Manager. Dr Roddy Angus has been promoted. Permission from ONR to restart Reactor 3 was received on 13 April, with it restarting on 23 April. Reactor 4 is expected to commence start-up on 5 June. Both outages were very successful with graphite cracks being at a comfortable level and well within expectations. The Station remains covid safe with thermographic cameras being installed and operational. The Fire and Rescue Service was called to site on two occasions – 10 and 18 May – due to electrical sparking and a small electrical fire. Negotiations with the Government, BEIS and the NDA are ongoing in respect of roles going forward, which is the decision of the Home Secretary.

ONR Report

A routine compliance inspection of Licence Condition 12 – Duly Authorised Persons – was graded green. The Annual Safety Review took place in January 2021. The strong achievement in getting two Reactors back to power was recognised. The focus of ONR is on defueling readiness. A Fuel Route Excellence Programme is ongoing. One event had been reported with regard to the technical specification operating rule requirement which protects the reactor from flooding, which is being investigated.

SEPA Report – Mr Keith Hammond (with Hunterston A report, on behalf of Ms Melanie Hayes)

He asked that members bear with SEPA as it gets to grips with new technology, following the cyber-attack. This is an ongoing criminal investigation. Information stolen was published on the dark web in January which should not be looked at. A site visit the previous week for an outside inspection on manholes showed progress being made. There were no events to report at Hunterston A site. The latest Radioactive Food in the Environment (RIFE) report is available on SEPA's website. Publication of The Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory will be delayed.

Hunterston A Site Reports

Hunterston A Report – Mr Reuben Phillips

The site is continuing to manage Covid, with 840 tests taken and no positive cases. The site had its first Lost Time Accident in 83 months, when an individual tripped on the kerb of a muddy path and fractured their ankle. Fuel found in Bunkers 1 and 2 in March was not unexpected. ONR conducted an annual review and inspections of Licence Conditions 19, 20, 21, 26. Since 6 April, there has been a new set of Accident and Emergency arrangements with reduced personnel on site overnight. The cladding project is on hold pending the review of Site Strategy. The SILWE plant will start active commissioning in late 2023. The Solid Active Waste Bunker Retrieval project has received its 1000th package. A short video was shown on 'what Magnox does'.

NDA Report – Mr John McNamara

The 2021 Stakeholder Summit will be held virtually. Dounreay is under NDA ownership since 1 April 2021. The new NDA Transport Company, Nuclear Transport Solutions, was launched on 30 April. NDA Strategy 4 was launched on 18 March. NDA Business Plan 2021-24 was published on 22 March 2021. First NDA Sustainability Report was published on 8 March 2021. The NDA Gender Pay Gap Report was published on 24 March. The Holliday Report on the Magnox Inquiry was published on 4 March. The NDA Supply Chain Event will be held in the International Centre, Telford, on 3 February 2022.

Scottish Government Update – Mr Martin Macdonald

Mr Michael Matheson MSP takes over from Roseanna Cunningham MSP as Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport. Daniel Couldridge introduced himself as Team Leader. Consultation will recommence in June on BEIS led Policy Review (Command Paper 2919). Consultation on the Scottish Higher Activity Waste Review (HAW) Policy Review is expected to commence in summer.

Any Other Business

None raised.

Next Meeting – Thursday 2 September at 1.30 pm. Venue / meeting platform to be confirmed.



**HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
MINUTES OF SIXTIETH MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 3 JUNE 2021 AT 1.30 PM, ZOOM ONLINE PLATFORM**

Present

Magnox Ltd

Mrs Jill Callander (SSG Secretariat)
Mr Bill Hamilton (Director of Communications)
Mr Sean Marshall (Magnox Communications)
Mr Reuben Phillips (Waste Manager, Hunterston A)

EDF (Hunterston B)

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

Community Council Representatives

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

SEPA

Mr Keith Hammond (Hunterston B)

North Ayrshire Council (NAC)

Cllr Robert Barr (Dalry and West Kilbride)
Ms Lesley Jeffrey (Ayrshire Civil Contingencies)
Mr Scott McKenzie (Environmental Health)

ONR

Mr Stuart Fannin (Hunterston B)

NDA

Mr John McNamara (Head of Stakeholder Engagement)

Scottish Government

Mr Daniel Couldridge
Mr David Gurney
Mr Martin Macdonald

In Attendance

Ms Sheila Adams (Minutes)
Ms Chloe Bailey (Marick Communications)
Ms Ruth Corney (Marick Communications)
Cllr Ian Murdoch (Member of Public)

Apologies

Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick (Hunterston Estate)
Cllr Todd Ferguson (Dalry and West Kilbride)
Ms Melanie Hayes (SEPA)

Mr Bill Kings (ONR)
Mr Andy McDade (Hunterston A)
Mr Alistair Walker (Hunterston A)

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.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks and Declarations of Interest

Mrs Holmes, Chair, welcomed everyone to the sixtieth meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group online. There were no declarations of interest.

Mrs Holmes gave a special welcome to Mr Daniel Couldridge and Mr Martin Macdonald from Scottish Government and Mr Ian Dippie from Largs Community Council (deputising for Margaret Wood, who has replaced Jack Murdoch). She also welcomed back SEPA to the meeting. Meeting dates for the remainder of 2021 are 2 September and 2 December.

2. Chair and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence

Mrs Holmes recalled the first Site Stakeholder Group meeting held in 2005, which was open to the public. Since then, communities have been able to get information about plans and ask questions of the site operators, regulators, the NDA and Scottish Radioactive Substances Team. Mrs Holmes thanked Scottish Government for hosting meetings of Scottish Civil Nuclear and MOD sites and looked forward to the next meeting on 29 June. Mrs Holmes welcomed SEPA to the meeting after a six-month absence due to a cyber security attack. The North Coast communities had missed SEPA's advice on various matters. Personal interaction from meetings had also been missed during the pandemic and while virtual meetings on Zoom and Microsoft Teams have been invaluable in allowing meetings to be held remotely, Mrs Holmes urged the NDA to rethink any plans to hold virtual Site Stakeholder Group meetings as the norm. Mrs Holmes updated on the SSG Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting on 26 May, which welcomed Mark Foy as the new Chief Executive of ONR and thanked outgoing Chief Executive, Adrienne Kelbie for her work and openness and transparency. An important agenda item was the proposal by Magnox to reduce the Secretariat support for Site Stakeholder Groups from two people to one. Aled Morris Jones Chair of SSG UK Forum, fully backed by the other Chairs and Vice Chairs, stressed to Magnox that any reduction would be detrimental to the effective operation of Site Stakeholder Groups and not favoured by SSGs. Chairs of all Site Stakeholder Groups gave updates on their sites. The Holliday Enquiry meeting for Chairs and Vice Chairs was very detailed and Stephen Holliday gave an excellent brief. A Review of Radioactive Liquid Discharges is being led by the Environment Agency and coastal communities are anxious to hear of any proposed changes. The waterway locally is a very important part of daily life and locals would welcome a consultation workshop on the review. Hunterston B station has undertaken to consult with local communities on any proposed new treatment and packaging facilities. Mrs Holmes noted the permission from ONR to restart Reactors 3 and 4 at Hunterston B and welcomed more information on learning from the examinations of the graphite core and whether findings were any different from Hinkley inspections. She would also like more information about improving resilience of the defueling route as the railway crane handling spent nuclear fuel flasks is closer to Fairlie than to the Power Station. She also requested clarification on Peel Ports facilitating access to its land for the road carrier that carries the spent fuel flask going to the railhead on Peel Ports land. Mr McGhie had nothing further to add to Mrs Holmes' report.

3. Actions and Approval of Previous Minutes

Action from the last meeting:

Mr McAuley to provide structure chart and contact details for Radioactive Substances Team to the Site Stakeholder Group Secretariat – Diane Hamilton had provided this information which had been circulated to Site Stakeholder Group members – action discharged.

The Minutes of the Site Stakeholder Group meeting, held on 4 March 2021, virtually on the Zoom platform, were proposed for approval by Mr John Lamb and seconded by Mr Stuart McGhie.

4. Hunterston B Station Reports

Hunterston B Report – Mr Paul Forrest

The EDF report issued with the meeting papers was taken as read. Mr Forrest advised of two changes to the Management Team. Allison Adamson is the new Technical Safety Manager and Yvonne Moreland has been appointed Finance Manager. Dr Roddy Angus has been promoted and the Station wishes him all the best. Permission from ONR to restart Reactor 3 was received on 13 April, with it restarting on 23 April, following a period of graphite inspection. Reactor 4 is expected to commence start-up on 5 June. Both outages were very successful with graphite cracks being at a comfortable level and well within expectations. The projected end date for R3 is November 2021, with R4 being January 2022. Mr Forrest confirmed that both Reactors will be off no later than 7 January 2022, irrespective of whether or not they have reached operating limits.

The Station remains covid safe with thermographic cameras being installed and operational. Social distancing measures have been put in place to create a safe working environment. There are no plans to cease these arrangements until advice is received from Scottish Government. Covid levels remain very low, with five employees self-isolating, two because they were in contact with others and three because they are in the vulnerable category.

The Fire and Rescue Service was called to site on two occasions – 10 and 18 May – due to electrical sparking and a small electrical fire.

Negotiations with the Government, BEIS and the NDA are ongoing in respect of roles going forward, which will be the decision of the Home Secretary. More information on this will be distributed when available. No decisions have been made on new facilities, which will be consulted on in a covid safe manner. A Feasibility Study is underway in respect of sharing Hunterston A site's Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) store.

ONR Report – Mr Stuart Fannin

The ONR report issued with the meeting papers was taken as read. Mr Fannin summarised key points. Covid restrictions continue but ONR spends one week/month on site, closely looking at preparations for defueling. Routine compliance inspections have taken place. An inspection of Licence Condition 12 – Duly Authorised Persons – was graded green and it was pleasing to see that the site continues to apply strong levels of oversight of Duly Authorised Persons. The Annual Safety Review in January 2021 was an opportunity for reflection on performance during 2020 and looking for areas of improvement. Mr Fannin recognised the strong achievement in getting two Reactors back to power. The focus of ONR is on defueling readiness and it hopes to see the high standard of operation of reactors transferred to staff engagement and operation of fuel route. A Fuel Route Excellence Programme is ongoing. One event had been reported with regard to the technical specification operating rule requirement which protects the reactor from flooding, which is being investigated.

SEPA Report – Mr Keith Hammond

A joint report had been prepared for Hunterston A and B and Mr Hammond reported on behalf of Ms Hayes. He asked that members bear with SEPA as it gets to grips with new technology, following the cyber-attack. This is an ongoing criminal investigation. Information stolen was published on the dark web in January and Mr Hammond urged members not to look for or download this in case of cyber infection. Mr Hammond had been able to visit Hunterston B site the previous week for an outside inspection on manholes and was pleased to see the progress being made. He assured members that weekly telephone calls had been made to sites even though there were no emails. There were no events to report at Hunterston A site. The latest Radioactive Food in the Environment (RIFE) report is available on SEPA's website. Publication of The Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory will be delayed.

Members Question and Answer Session

Mr McGhie noted the current staff numbers of 491 employees and approx. 250 contractors. He asked Mr Forrest if he knew what numbers would be required once the site is defueling. Mr Forrest responded that he had briefed all staff last year and again 5-6 weeks ago on the structure and numbers, which were projected to be 368 employees and 75% of existing contractors. Consultations with the three main contractors had begun.

Mr Lamb referred to the Fire Services response and asked if the fires were as a result of equipment being past its intended lifespan. Mr Forrest advised that there were two electrical faults, which was unusual and a coincidence that they were close together. One was mechanical – a collapsed bearing - and the other was an insulation breakdown. Both had been overhauled in the last five years.

Mr Lamb asked if the site had received permission from North Ayrshire Council for the redundant buildings on site. Mr Forrest advised that a series of portacabins are being delivered. Turbine contractors are no longer required and are half way through being removed from site. Two stores in very good condition have been removed and repositioned in Heysham. Mr Lamb asked if this would free up the ground for decommissioning. Mr Forrest confirmed that a decision has not yet been made but EDF is committed to consulting and is investigating presenting proposals by way of a 'virtual Town Hall'.

Mrs Holmes asked about the pros and cons of using Hunterston A's ILW store and believed it would be another two months before a decision was made. Mr Forrest was unable to confirm when he would receive the Government's decision. This decision links into the earlier question on buildings and who builds what. Mrs Holmes noted that if Hunterston A's ILW store is used it does not necessarily mean there will be less buildings on site but was keen to hear the decision. Mrs Holmes had many other questions but recognised that it is too early to ask as the answers are as yet unknown.

Mrs Holmes asked the status of the manholes. Mr Forrest confirmed that these have been fully repaired and the work is complete.

Public Forum

Cllr Murdoch, member of public, noted the lack of Elected Members present at the meeting.

5. Hunterston A Site Reports

Hunterston A Reports – Mr Reuben Phillips

The Hunterston A Site Report distributed with the meeting papers was taken as read. Mr Phillips stood in for Site Director, Mr Alistair Walker, who was unable to be present. The site is continuing to manage Covid, with 840 tests taken and no positive cases. Unfortunately, the site had its first Lost Time Accident in 83 months, when an individual tripped on the kerb of a muddy path and fractured their ankle, although they are now back to work.

Fuel found in Bunkers 1 and 2 in March was not unexpected. Safety cases are being handled and the site is going through optioneering processes and engaging with Regulators. The ONR conducted an annual review and inspections of Licence Conditions 19, 20, 21, 26. Since 6 April, there has been a new set of Accident and Emergency arrangements with reduced personnel on site overnight.

Site safety performance is good and the Target Zero initiative continues. There have been no significant environmental or radiological issues and emergency preparedness continues. Cradle rails will be removed in June. The cladding project is on hold pending the review of Site Strategy. The Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation (SILWE) plant will start active commissioning in late 2023. The Solid Active Waste Bunker Retrieval project has received its 1000th package. Bunker 1 is 50% complete and a planned maintenance outage has been completed. Wet Intermediate Level Waste Retrieval and Encapsulation Plant (WILWREP) continues with the retrieval of sludge from Retention Tank 3. This is proving challenging but 148 drums have been exported to the Intermediate Level Waste store to date. Removal of a pond sump lattice frame has been completed. Staff are trialling a 4 day/wk with condensed hours for six months and Magnox is carrying out a recruitment exercise. Mr Phillips showed a short video on 'what Magnox does'.

ONR Report

The ONR report was circulated with the meeting papers. Mr Kings was not present at the meeting.

SEPA Report

Mr Hammond had covered Hunterston A site in his report on Hunterston B.

Members Questions and Answer Session

Mrs Holmes thanked Mr Phillips for showing the video and acknowledged that it is easy to forget how long things take. She noted her appreciation of the work being done at both sites.

Mr Lamb referred to the sentence in the ONR report 'part of the safety case for emptying Bunker 1 allows for handling up to 50kg of fuel elements / fragments and then packaging to go to the Site Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) store' and asked how long it is since the safety case for Bunker 1 was put together. Mr Phillips confirmed that permission for this was received through the Retrieval Plant. Retrieval is 50% complete in Bunker 1, where it would be expected to find fuel, but nothing like that level has been found. Mr Lamb noted that fuel is classified as an asset rather than waste and asked if it should not go to the ILW store as it will have a higher radioactivity element than the store is designed to take. Mr Phillips clarified that the ILW store is designed to hold small fragments of fuel, which can go into the store. Options are still being assessed. It is only an asset if it can be reused. If not viable to reuse, it becomes a form of waste and Hunterston A is in contact with Sellafield. Mr Lamb asked if the two fuel rods discovered in the ponds would go to Sellafield. Mr Phillips responded that there is a finite period of time and set criteria for processing at Sellafield. The site is engaging with Scottish Government, SEPA and ONR. Mrs Holmes noted that it could take up to two years for a decision. Mr McGhie added that discussion has to take place before a decision can be made.

Mrs Holmes noted that 40 Radiological Technician posts are on hold because there are not the people to train them. Mr Phillips clarified that there are 40 vacancies in total to fill but there are not 40 Health Physics Monitor posts. Apprenticeship schemes south of the border are liaising with educational establishments but this is not yet set up in Scotland. Mrs Holmes thought that Magnox was trying to facilitate this through Kilwinning College. Mr Phillips advised that different routes are being looked at for providing this.

5. NDA Report – Mr John McNamara

Mr McNamara presented the NDA report with slides, on behalf of Mr David Wallace. Covid rates across the NDA group are low and the NDA is considering more face-to-face engagement with stakeholders. It is expected that more staff will return to offices from 21 June, with offices at 50-60% capacity. At the Site Stakeholder Group Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting, it was clear that some SSG's would welcome face-to-face meetings whilst others prefer a mixed or blended approach.



It is up to the Site Stakeholder Groups to decide individually what is best for them and the NDA is open-minded and flexible but is considering one public face-to-face AGM, with other meetings held virtually. The NDA Stakeholder Event is likely to be held virtually in July 2021 but this is to be confirmed. 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.

Dounreay became a fully owned subsidiary of NDA on 1 April 2021, with Mark Rouse appointed Managing Director of Dounreay on 1 April. The new NDA Transport Company, Nuclear Transport Solutions, was launched on 30 April. The NDA's Strategy 4 was launched on 18 March. The NDA's Business Plan 2021-24 was published on 22 March 2021. 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. This shows a small decrease on the previous year but there are not enough women in higher paid roles and the NDA is addressing this. The Holliday Report on the Magnox Inquiry was published on 4 March and more information on this will be brought to a future meeting. 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. It is hoped to move to the next stage of the process, a Community Partnership, by the end of the year.

Mr McNamara explained that ONR had accepted a challenge from the NGO Forum to see if Site Stakeholder Groups and Secretariat could be reviewed in any way. This was passed to the Safety Directors Forum but the NDA and Site Stakeholder Group Forum were not appraised before the review started. The NDA will look at the work being done but this is difficult as the reviews are the business of the Site Stakeholder Groups themselves. The NDA has published guidelines, formed by BEIS, and will review these guidelines for Site Stakeholder Groups. Pre-election period guidelines will be clarified to leave it up to individual Site Stakeholder Groups on whether to hold meetings. Some feedback from Strategy 4 suggests that engagement with wider groups is desirable.

With regard to the Magnox reorganisation and proposed changes to Site Stakeholder Group Secretariat, there has been a lack of engagement with NDA from Magnox on this but NDA will meet with Site Stakeholder Group Chairs the following week. The proposal has been put on hold for two years. The NDA understands that Site Stakeholder Groups are labour intensive and gave an underlying commitment to adequately resource the Groups. Mr McNamara recorded the appreciation of the NDA of the work done by the Secretariat.

6. Update from Scottish Government – Mr Martin Macdonald, Mr Daniel Couldridge

As Diane Hamilton was on leave, Mr Macdonald gave a brief update, following on from the report circulated. This included the changes to Scottish Government Ministers and portfolios, following the May elections. Mr Michael Matheson MSP takes over from Roseanna Cunningham MSP as Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport. The Radioactive Substances Team will explore opportunities for Mr Matheson to meet with Site Stakeholder Groups. Mr Dan Couldridge introduced himself as Team Leader. He had started in post the previous week and looked forward to getting involved with Site Stakeholder Groups.

Consultation will recommence this month on BEIS led Policy Review (Command Paper 2919). Consultation on the Scottish Higher Activity Waste Review (HAW) Policy Review is expected to commence in summer. There should not be any major surprises in the review, which will consolidate documents and reinforce policies. The review will be high level and maintain the near surface, near site policy. The end of generation and defueling and decommissioning at Hunterston B site raises a number of issues. Queries have been received from stakeholders with regard to

socio economics.

Colleagues are working with North Ayrshire Council to establish a Task Force to take this forward. The Scottish Government is involved in discussions with EDF and the NDA regarding decommissioning roles in the future. Scottish Ministers have responsibility and can designate the NDA to do the decommissioning. Initial meetings have taken place with BEIS.

Members Question and Answer Session

Mrs Holmes asked about the Scottish Strategy mentioned at a meeting by Dounreay and asked what this is and if it is needed when the NDA supports the strategy in Scotland and socio economics. Mr Macdonald responded that there is a role for the Scottish Government working with Site Stakeholder Groups to address issues in years ahead. Feedback from Site Stakeholder Groups is welcomed and a workshop could be arranged if this would be of interest. Mrs Holmes thought that the NDA would be bound to fit in with Scottish Government Policy of near site, near surface and suggested that Hunterston is unsuitable for near site, near surface. She noted that there were many unanswered questions despite the Policy being in place for some time. Mr Macdonald acknowledged concerns about the length of time taken but reassured members that work is being done in the background and this is a multi-decade piece of work. Preparatory work is being undertaken to develop a generic understanding and illustrated timeline. Mr Macdonald took concerns on board and will consider how best to communicate timescales and scope of work to the communities involved. Mrs Holmes still found it difficult to believe that after all this time it had still not been decided what is suitable for near surface, near site disposal. Mr Phillips replied that discussions are taking place regarding the criteria for waste but there is not a waste criteria strategy in place at the moment.

Mr McNamara noted the comment regarding the NDA fitting in with the Scottish Government's policy. He advised that there is a workstream in the NDA which could lead to new Scottish strategy on how it works in Scotland. The original challenge from the Scottish Government to the NDA was to find an integrated way of operating to meet the needs of Scotland. This is not a fait accompli and there will be consultation on a way of the NDA operating in Scotland to take more account of the needs and integration into wider strategy.

7. Any Other Business

There were no other items of business raised.

8. Next Meeting – Thursday 2 September 2021

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 2 September 2021, probably virtually.

Mrs Holmes thanked everyone for attending the meeting and brought it to a close at 3.15 pm.