

**HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS FROM THE SIXTY SECOND MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 2 DECEMBER 2021 ONLINE, ZOOM PLATFORM**

Chair's Opening Remarks and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence

McGhie summarised the Magnox Site Stakeholder Groups Chairs meeting on 5 November and Mrs Holmes reported on the online NDA Summit entitled 'Keeping the Conversation Going' on 26 November 2021.

Actions and Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the virtual meeting of 2 September 2021 were approved and an update on actions received.

NDA Report – Mr David Wallace

NDA's Net Zero Report will be issued early 2022. NDA Group supported participation at COP26. Mission Progress Report published on 4 November. Nuclear Waste Services, bringing together LLWR and RWM, launches on 31 January 2022. NDA will take on ownership of seven EDF AGR sites for decommissioning following defueling. Hunterston B is first site. NDA's new Director of Social Impact, Jamie Reed, has just started work. Dr Sam Harris is new Head of Government Affairs. Jonathan Jenkin has been seconded to BEIS for two years. Simon Napper from RWM replaces Mr Jenkin. The NDA Supply Chain Event, postponed from 2020, will be held on 3 February 2022 in Telford International Centre.

Scottish Government Update – Ms Diane Hamilton

Engagement with BEIS continues on development of draft policy framework for Command Paper 2919. Work is taking place on UK Radioactive Substances Common Framework, to create a common framework agreement regarding radioactive substances policy. Scottish Government is working with BEIS, Welsh Government and SEPA to consider options to implement an earlier commitment to allow certain sites to apply to be excluded from the Nuclear Third Party Liability regime. Next Scottish Nuclear Sites Stakeholder meeting will be held virtually on 18 January 2022 at 2.00 pm.

Hunterston B Station Reports

Hunterston B Report – Mr Paul Forrest

The station shut down of Reactor 3 at 12 noon on Friday 27 November, which signifies the last day of generation for R3. R4 will end generation early in January and most efforts are focussed on going through the station's People Plan. Redundancy consultations are complete. The 'Best Fit' process is taking place to match people with their aspirations. Priority is treating people with dignity and respect. Defueling is expected to commence around the end of March 2022, once pre-defueling requirements have been completed.

ONR Report – Mr Stuart Fannin

ONR activity is now focussed on defueling activity and supporting an inspection programme for defueling readiness. Mr Fannin explained the importance of the governance and oversight of the changes to be made to the plant to ensure that the nuclear safety of operating the plant remain paramount. All inspections in the period were graded green overall, with no formal action. Mr Fannin congratulated Team Hunterston B on its very strong performance over the past six months.

SEPA Report – Mr Keith Hammond

Three independent audits have been carried out on the cyber-attack, all with the conclusion that SEPA was not particularly susceptible but was unfortunate. Two inspections have been carried out since the last meeting, with no contraventions. Two events involving asbestos are being investigated. Radioactivity in Food in the Environment (RIFE) Report for 2020 has been published and is available on SEPA's website. The 'total dose' for Hunterston from all pathways and sources of radiation is 0.5% of the annual dose limit and similar to previous years.

Hunterston A Site Reports

Hunterston A Report – Mr Reuben Phillips (on behalf of Mr Mark Blackley)

No nuclear, conventional safety or first aid events. Some very low level contamination was found in Learning and Development Centre, which was below EASR contamination levels. HAW Team has met its SAWBR and WILWREP waste retrieval target of 46 tons retrieved. Target revised to 62 tons. A number of ONR and SEPA inspections have taken place and a Counter Terrorism Exercise to demonstrate out of hours arrangements. Removal of cradle rails at high level on the reactor buildings has been completed. In the SILWE plant, one 3m³ box has been grouted. Radiological Technician Trainees introduced due to difficulties in finding appropriate training partnership for apprenticeships.

ONR Report –

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

SEPA Report – Ms Melanie Hayes

A inspection of SAWBR waste package record took place on 4 October. SEPA had additional questions on a number of areas and will undertake a follow-up inspection. The site had made SEPA aware of an error in a spreadsheet recording the number of radionuclide fingerprints used to calculate radioactivity content of solid waste for Hunterston A, which was being over-reported by less than 0.2%.

There were a number of questions asked by members, the detail of which can be read in the full Minute of the meeting, available from the Secretariat.

Next Meeting – Thursday 3 March 2022 at 1.30 pm. Venue / meeting platform to be confirmed.

**HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
MINUTES OF SIXTY SECOND MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 2 DECEMBER 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
Mr Joe Struthers

Community Council Representatives

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

SEPA

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

North Ayrshire Council (NAC)

ONR

Mr Stuart Fannin (Hunterston B)

NDA

Mr David Wallace (Stakeholder Lead Scotland)

Scottish Government

Ms Diane Hamilton

In Attendance

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

Mr Peter Roche (Member of Public)
Mr Graham Buckley (Member of Public)

Apologies

Mr Mark Blackley (Site Closure Director, Hunterston A)
Ms Lesley Jeffrey (Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Team)
Mr Bill Kings (ONR, Hunterston A)
Ms Jane McGeorge (Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Team)
Mr Robin Turner (Agriculture Food and Rural Communities Directorate)

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 only.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks and Declarations of Interest

Mrs Holmes, Chair, welcomed everyone to the sixty second meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group online. There were no declarations of interest.
In particular, she welcomed new attendee, Mr Graham Buckley from West Kilbride Community

Council. She noted the apologies from Mr Robin Turner, Agriculture Food and Rural Communities Directorate, who is new to the role and has not yet attended a Site Stakeholder Group.

Mrs Holmes advised of a slight change to the running order of the agenda. Mr Wallace would present the NDA Update, followed by Ms Hamilton giving the Scottish Government update, before both of the site updates, to enable them to leave the meeting to attend other commitments.

2. Chair and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence Magnox SSG Chairs and Vice Chairs Meeting – 5 November 2021 NDA Summit Webinar – 26 November 2021

Mr McGhie summarised the Magnox Site Stakeholder Groups Chairs meeting on 5 November. Chairs from the different sites reported on welfare, safety, security and equality. The question of Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor (AGR) stations moving over to Magnox was asked, as was the shape of Magnox after defueling and Mr McGhie requested confirmation of this. The future of Dounreay was also discussed and the possible change of name for Magnox, on which updates would be appreciated. Mr John Grierson, in his role as Nuclear Operations Director gave site updates and talked about the grouting policy at Hunterston A, which Mr Phillips had covered in his update meeting with the Chair and Vice Chair the previous day. Skills, skills academies and apprenticeships was also discussed and the disappointment in being able to secure apprenticeships, both at Hunterston sites and across Scotland generally, which Scottish Government may be able to provide more information on. There was some discussion on the future Decommissioning Strategy for Hunterston site and the UK Government Nuclear Liabilities Fund and the question of accountability to the tax payer of that budget was asked. Social economic investment in the people and communities around the sites was raised and this will need to be further addressed in the future.

Mrs Holmes reported on the online NDA Summit entitled 'Keeping the Conversation Going'. She was initially disappointed that all questions had to be asked through the chat facility so it was not possible to see questions asked by others during the meeting (although this may have been a technical issue), but she was pleased that her questions were all asked and answered at the meeting and thanked Mr McNamara for facilitating this. There was an update on mission progress and a sharing of ideas and discussion on future direction of the NDA Group. Mrs Holmes commented on the inordinate number of new build items which were only partly relevant and distracted from the main purpose and issues, which were decommissioning and waste.

3. Actions and Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the Site Stakeholder Group meeting, held on 2 September 2021, virtually on the Zoom platform, were proposed for approval by Mr John Lamb and seconded by Mrs Rita Holmes.

Mrs Callander updated on actions:

- Action – Mr Hammond to check and advise if trade can only be done with UK Stations with regard to the UK Emissions Trading Scheme.

Mr Hammond had kindly provided a response by email which was circulated to members.

- Action – Ms Hamilton to take back Mrs Holmes' request for a presentation at the Scottish Sites meeting on the new Nuclear Support Hub.

Ms Hamilton had some technical difficulties and Mrs Callander read the response from Ms Hamilton:

Ms Hamilton had spoken with Captain Coffey at HMNB Clyde and they will not be able to organise anything for the Scottish Sites Stakeholder Group meeting but he would 'engage with the responsible organisation at HMNB Clyde to understand whether they would be able to support the request.' If this can be facilitated, it will take place at a Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group meeting, not a Scottish Sites Stakeholder meeting.

4. NDA Reports – Mr David Wallace

Mr Wallace thanked the Chair for moving him up the agenda. He thanked Mrs Holmes for her comments on the Summit Webinar, which he will feed back to the NDA. He was also disappointed in the Summit Webinar and was unable to participate due to technical limitations.

NDA employees are largely still working from home, with a mix of home and office working, although with increased Covid numbers and latest guidelines, the preference is to work from home where possible. There has been a progressive return to more face-to-face engagement with small stakeholder groups. The first NDA Sustainability Report was published on 8 March. The NDA will issue its Net Zero Report early in the new year, which will highlight how the NDA intends to meet its net zero targets. The NDA Group supported participation at COP26, involving young people from the Young Generation Network in the process, which went down very well. The Mission Progress Report was published on 4 November. This demonstrates the progress made since 2005 and how much is still to be done over the next 120+ years. The new NDA Business Plan is being drafted. The new waste services decision, Nuclear Waste Services, which will bring together LLWR and RWM, is on target to launch on 31 January 2022, when the new Executive Team will take up their positions. The NDA has been directed by Government to take on ownership of seven EDF Advanced Gas Reactor (AGR) sites for decommissioning following defueling. Hunterston B is the first site and will start defueling in January 2022, for which a lot of preparation work is being done. NDA will be involved in transportation and storage of the spent fuel, going from Hunterston B to Sellafield. Nigel Houghton of Magnox Future Missions Team gave a presentation on AGRs at the Summit on 26 November and Mr Wallace welcomed views on this. RWM welcomes the formation of Theddlethorpe Working Group in Lincolnshire which is another Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) Working Group, outwith Cumbria. Mid-Copeland Community Partnership has been formed, which is the next stage from the Working Group and South Copeland in Cumbria is expected to form a Community Partnership early in the new year. The role previously held by Andrew van der Lem has been split into two posts. The NDA's new Director of Social Impact, Jamie Reed, has just started work. He started by fact-finding in Dounreay and will be introduced to Hunterston and Chapelcross sites and Stakeholder Groups in due course. Dr Sam Harris is the new Head of Government Affairs. Jonathan Jenkin has been seconded to BEIS for two years. Simon Napper from RWM replaces Mr Jenkin. The NDA Supply Chain Event, postponed from 2020, will be held on 3 February 2022 in Telford International Centre. A Scottish Supply Chain event was being held that day in Dunblane. In respect of the NDA's 'Keeping the Conversation Going' Summit, Mr Wallace welcomed any further feedback.

Members Question and Answer Session

Mrs Holmes noted the formation of Theddlethorpe Working Group and the intention of South Copeland to form a Community Partnership and asked how many areas in Cumbria are interested in hosting a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). Mr Wallace confirmed two areas have expressed an interest – Copeland and Allerdale.

Mrs Holmes made Mr Wallace aware of bad press in Private Eye regarding the appointment of Jamie Reed as Director of Social Impact, relating to the use of private emails to avoid having to disclose information when people submit Freedom of Information Requests, particularly in relation to Sellafield, and asked if the NDA had any comment to make on this. Mr Wallace confirmed that he and the NDA are aware of the information in Private Eye but were unable to comment as there is an industrial tribunal regarding this due to take place in January 2022. Mr Reed is also unable to comment until the appropriate time. It is unclear where the information came from and it appears to be gossip, speculation, rumour and innuendo, rather than 'news'. Mrs Holmes disagreed that it was 'rumour' as it appears to centre on emails from Mr Reed to people within and outwith Sellafield, regarding Sellafield, which have been made public and if this is genuine it is a concern. Mrs Holmes noted that Mr Reed is an ex MP in Copeland and was somewhat alarmed at his appointment as Director of Social Impact, as are others in the community. She asked who was responsible for appointing him to this role. Mr Wallace confirmed that NDA went through a recruitment process and the Director of Communication and Stakeholder Engagement, along with HR representatives, would have made the decision. Mr Wallace noted that this was being raised as an issue and will take this back to NDA. This was not mentioned at Dounreay Site Stakeholder Group but Mr Wallace took the concerns on board and will feed back as areas of concern.

Mrs Holmes asked that congratulations are passed on to Mr Jenkin on his secondment, which she saw as a gain for BEIS. Mr Jenkin, is much trusted by Site Stakeholder Groups and has been, along with Mr Hamilton, very supportive of Site Stakeholder Groups with communications.

5. Update from Scottish Government – Ms Diane Hamilton

Ms Hamilton will advise as soon as she hears anything back from Captain Coffey on a presentation. The Scottish Government continues to engage with BEIS on the development of the draft policy framework and the process for consultation with regard to Command Paper 2919. The development process is a significant piece of work and consultation is expected to begin in the new year. Scottish Government will keep the Site Stakeholder Group updated as work progresses. Work is also taking place, with the UK Government and other devolved administrations, on the UK Radioactive Substances Common Framework, to create a common framework agreement regarding radioactive substances policy. Mr Macdonald is working with BEIS, Welsh Government and SEPA to consider options to implement an earlier commitment to allow certain sites to apply to be excluded from the Nuclear Third Party Liability regime. This is not expected to affect nuclear sites in Scotland, but officials will need to consider who the competent authority will be that will make decisions on future applications. This work is expected to be implemented early in 2022. The next Scottish Nuclear Sites Stakeholder meeting will be held virtually on 18 January 2022 at 2.00 pm.

Members Question and Answer Session

Mrs Holmes noted that the Higher Activity Waste Policy review seems to be going on forever and asked if there is an intention to change the title from Higher Activity Waste to Intermediate Level Waste. Ms Hamilton's current understanding is that there will not be a change but she offered to check on this with Mr Macdonald. Mr Lamb added that he raised the fact that there is confusion over the difference between Intermediate Level Waste and Higher Activity Waste in Scotland with Mr Macdonald by email several weeks ago and considered that clarification was required in respect of a general-purpose title in any regulations. Mrs Holmes agreed that there has been confusion from the beginning by calling Intermediate Level Waste, Higher Activity Waste, which gets wearing trying to explain the difference, which could have been avoided by calling it ILW from the start.

On the Radioactive Substances Common Framework, Mr Lamb asked if this would be based on the existing contamination levels differentiation of radioactive substances or if the definition of the levels of the substances would change again. Ms Hamilton was unable to answer the question at the meeting but would take this back to colleagues and report back.

- Action – Ms Hamilton to report back on any changes to existing differentiation of contamination levels in the review of the Radioactive Substances Common Framework.

6. Hunterston B Station Reports

Hunterston B Report – Mr Paul Forrest

Mr Forrest started his report with the current plant status. Notable for the station is the shutdown of Reactor 3 at 12 noon on Friday 27 November, which signifies the last day of generation for Reactor 3. This was marked by a meal for staff in the canteen. Reactor 4 will end generation early in January and most efforts just now are focussed on going through the station's People Plan. Mr Forrest explained the two stages of consultation on redundancy – collective and individual – both of which are now complete. The 'Best Fit' process is now taking place to match people with their aspirations. Priority for the site is treating people with dignity and respect. Hunterston B Station has an outstanding record for safely producing electricity, but it is the people that make it a great plant. Looking to the future, next steps are pre-defueling outages to inspect plant, etc to meet legal requirements. Defueling is expected to commence around the end of March 2022, once pre-defueling requirements have been completed. Continuing to build on and strengthen existing good relationships with NDA and Magnox is a priority to ensure the seamless transfer of the Station from EDF to the Magnox estate.

ONR Report – Mr Stuart Fannin

The ONR report for July – September 2021 issued with the meeting papers was taken as read and had been largely now overtaken by events. Mr Fannin confirmed that Reactor 3 had ceased generation and Reactor 4 will shut down in early January. ONR activity is now focussed on defueling activity. ONR agreement is required for two defueling safety cases – shut down reactor case and fuel handling case. Once ONR has completed its assessments of the safety cases and agreed the safe shutdown of the reactor and configuration for defueling, it will issue a Licence Instrument which will allow the Station to carry on with its defueling programme. Other activity has been largely supporting an inspection programme for defueling readiness. Mr Fannin explained the importance of the governance and oversight of the changes to be made to the plant to ensure that the nuclear safety of operating the plant remain paramount and described the number of inspections which have been carried out during the period. Security inspections have also taken place on configuration management ensuring that systems are adequately isolated, and tanks drained down, etc, reducing hazards to workers. All inspections were graded green overall, with no formal action. Mr Fannin noted that the plant continues to be operated safely and compliantly and for Reactor 3's performance, he congratulated Team Hunterston B on its very strong performance over the past six months. Mrs Holmes echoed this congratulations and was pleased that the workforce was able to commemorate the end of generation of Reactor 3.

SEPA Report – Mr Keith Hammond

The report issued in advance of the meeting was taken as read. Mr Hammond highlighted points to note. In respect of the cyber attack in December 2020, three independent audits have been carried out, one by Police Scotland, all with the conclusion that SEPA was not particularly susceptible and systems were up to Government standard, but was unfortunate. SEPA has taken the bold move to publish as much information as possible to enable others to learn from the experience. With regard to Hunterston B, two inspections have been carried out since the last meeting in September and November, with no contraventions. SEPA officers are back on site more frequently. Two events involving asbestos are being investigated.

The latest Radioactivity in Food in the Environment (RIFE) Report for 2020 has been published and is available on SEPA's website. The 'total dose' for Hunterston from all pathways and sources of radiation is 0.5% of the annual dose limit and similar to previous years.

Members Question and Answer Session

Mr Roche asked Mr Forrest if he knows how long the defueling process is likely to take and if he knows how long the preparation for Care and Maintenance is expected to take. Mr Forrest replied that the defueling is expected to take around three years from commencement in late March 2022. As EDF will not be undertaking the decommissioning and deconstruction, he was unable to answer the second part of the question as this work will be undertaken by Magnox. With regard to the second part of the question, Mr Hamilton added that it is too early to say what will happen to AGRs and there is no longer a blanket Care and Maintenance programme for sites but site-specific strategies, which will be developed. Mr Fannin clarified that, from an ONR perspective, EDF is currently the licensee and the current baseline strategy is Care and Maintenance and applying a safe store is the current decommissioning planning assumption as per the agreement with the Liabilities Fund. ONR is engaging with the Nuclear Liabilities Fund, NDA, Magnox and EDF to work out the forward strategy but at the moment it is a Safe Store Strategy.

Mr Lamb noted that EDF and Magnox have agreed strategic planning assumptions for Hunterston B Intermediate Level Waste and asked about progress on reaching an agreement. Mr Forrest responded that both organisations have an outline agreement that Hunterston B will use Hunterston A's ILW store.

Mr Lamb asked if the detailed plans that B Station had previously for demolition and construction were progressing. Mr Forrest advised that that options are still being reviewed and the Station would not be in a position to submit detailed plans until into the new year but would keep the Site Stakeholder Group updated.

Mr Lamb asked if any progress had been made on offsite transportation of flasks to the loading crane on Peel Port rather than using the A78. Mr Forrest responded that the Station continues to use the A78, which is still the current route.

Mrs Holmes noted that Mr Forrest had intended to walk the route offered by Peel Ports and asked if this is what was referred to as the Flask Corridor. Mr Forrest clarified that the Flask Corridor is an internal corridor within the building. He will be walking the route and meeting with Peel Ports later in December.

Mr Lamb referred to the non-routine matter in the ONR report relating to the receipt of another package which arrived contaminated at Hunterston and was returned to Public Health England. He asked if this was the same as receiving contaminated material. Mr Fannin replied that this was a transport package transported from Public Health England (PHE) at Chilton, Oxfordshire, to Hunterston B in error. This was an error on PHE's part and should not have been sent to Hunterston. Hunterston was not responsible for the package but correctly packaged and returned it to PHE using correct transporting requirements.

Mr Lamb asked about hatches being left open while the Maintenance Team was replacing detection equipment. Mr Forrest clarified that the hatches are fire doors and have been closed.

Mrs Holmes recalled Mr Fannin saying at a previous meeting that the reconfiguration of waste and transportation from Hunterston B to Hunterston A's ILW store would be dependent upon a good safety case being made to ONR and asked if this had been approved. Mr Fannin advised that EDF, Magnox and NLF are still in the process of consulting ONR and SEPA. Discussions have

taken place with EDF and ONR is satisfied that there is sufficient capacity, but further questions have been asked before a decision can be made. Waste from Hunterston B could not be accepted into Hunterston A's ILW store until it had met the waste acceptance criteria which is subject to Magnox's existing safety case for that facility.

Mr Phillips added that he had not been involved in any technical discussions for the safety case for the store yet but was aware that there was sufficient capacity within the vault and certain types of container will be required for the crane to be able to lift them but, as far as he was aware, detailed discussion on acceptance criteria has not taken place yet.

Mrs Holmes asked about Ayrshire College providing training and development and asked who was leading on this. Mr Forrest replied that EDF continues to build a relationship with the College. EDF has the training requirements so would lead on this and the College is the service provider but a more collaborative relationship is the aim. Mr Wallace added that NDA is also involved and has invested £500k with Magnox in Kilwinning Campus. Discussions are taking place on how to support Hunterston A and B's requirements in terms of defueling and decommissioning skills. Mrs Holmes asked if Kilwinning Campus was more likely to provide basic electrical engineering skills rather than defueling because at this point in time, EDF/Hunterston B is the only one with expertise in defueling. She noted that it is some years ago since skills development was discussed with Mr Hamilton when he worked for the NDA. She noted that Mair Jones had advised that the £500k was still sitting in the account. Mr Wallace understands that building is due to start in January, when he will visit the College with Ms Jones. Mr Hamilton confirmed that he was first involved four years ago and emphasised that the delay in providing funding was not because of Magnox or NDA but a series of incidents. The College changed Principals, then the scope, size and design of the project changed which resulted in more questions due to the significant level of funding being provided, governance requirements, etc and then Covid hit. It has taken some time to come to fruition for all of these reasons but will be a fantastic facility for North Ayrshire.

Mrs Holmes asked Mr Forrest how the shutdown works. Mr Forrest advised that all control rods go into the core at the same time and it takes approx. one second to shut the reactor down and around 4.5 seconds for all of the control rods to fully insert. Mrs Holmes asked if this was the same process that happened when there were automatic safety shutdowns. Mr Forrest confirmed that the process is the same, whether manual or automatic. Mrs Holmes further asked how long it was envisaged that the safety case for the defueling would take. Mr Forrest was unable to answer this and would wait until the safety case was approved by ONR before commencing defueling. Mr Fannin echoed Mr Forrest's comments that Reactor 3 was safely shut down. The safety case is to make sure that the control rods are in and cannot come out again. There are some issues with a defueling fault sequence with regard to a fuel plug unit which is subject to further assessment so it is likely to be into the new year before agreement to commence defueling is approved but Mr Fannin reiterated that the reactor was safely shut down. Mrs Holmes asked if it is a straightforward job to secure the fuel plug unit. Mr Fannin explained that it was more of an academic exercise to demonstrate that the fuel plug unit will be safely returned to the reactor and will not fall into the reactor during defueling. He assured members that ONR is as keen as everyone for the process of getting fuel out of the reactors to start.

Mrs Holmes referred to Licence Condition 22 and the modifications required and imagined this would be a complex job. Mr Fannin advised that modifications are required for the plant to be put into its defueling configuration. This refers to things like isolating control rods, draining down the pressure vessel cooling water system, certain protections on retrieval machine, enhancements to controls on interlocks on flask handling cranes, etc. These things will happen during the first quarter of 2022.

7. Hunterston A Site Reports

Hunterston A Reports – Mr Reuben Phillips

The Hunterston A Site Report for the period distributed with the meeting papers was taken as read. Mr Phillips highlighted key points on behalf of Mr Blackley, who was on leave. Hunterston A site is still waiting for its Site-Specific Strategy and how it changes from the Care and Maintenance date in the existing plan. Covid numbers on site remain low and some precautions have been relaxed, such as the one-way system and on-site testing, due to people being able to test at home, but this can be reinstated if required in future. There have been no nuclear or conventional safety events. Some very low level contamination was found in the Learning and Development Centre on the south side of the site. This was below the contamination levels of the Environment Authorisation Scotland Regulations so not technically regarded as radioactive material. This has however been isolated to allow the building to be taken down. The Higher Activity Waste Team has met its targets of bringing waste down to Solid Active Waste Bunker Retrieval (SAWBR) and Wet Intermediate Level Waste Retrieval and Encapsulation Plant (WILWREP) with 46 tons of waste retrieved. The target has now been revised to 62 tons. There have been a number of ONR and SEPA inspections during the period and a Counter Terrorism Exercise to demonstrate out of hours arrangements. Under recruitment, a number of vacancies have been filled but there is still a large number to fill. Off-shift transition arrangements are still going well. There have been no first aid events. Under the Plant and Structures Programme, the removal of cradle rails at high level on the reactor buildings has been completed. Painting of exposed steelwork from the removal of the rails is being completed. WILWREP has been reconfigured for acid recovery encapsulation. A remotely operated dumper truck will go into the tanks shortly to retrieve the last small amount of sludge in tanks. In terms of the Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation (SILWE) plant, one 3m³ box has been grouted. This is non radioactive waste and a full sized box to test the grouting system, which is a big milestone for the facility. The six-month review of the four-day working week has concluded and permission from the Executive to approve this as a more permanent arrangement is awaited. Radiological Technician Apprenticeships are now being called Radiological Technician Trainees due to the difficulties in finding an appropriate training partnership for apprenticeships. Since the last meeting, David Peattie, CEO of NDA, Gwen Parry-Jones, CEO of Magnox, and Lawrie Haynes, Chair of Magnox, have visited the site. The site also hosted a meeting of SEPA, NDA, Magnox, Scottish Government and Dounreay.

Members Question and Answer Session

Mr Lamb asked how easy it would be to grout the boxes with radioactive waste with the waste having settled over a number of years and asked if the grout penetrated the box or just capped the box. Mr Phillips explained that the settling of the waste should not be a problem as the grout penetrates the whole of the box, with the appropriate density and fluidity that it gets into all the spaces and a mesh at the top of the box stops any material floating up so the whole of the box is grouted, with a clean layer of capping grout on top.

In terms of SAWBR, Mr Lamb asked how much is still in Bunker 1. Mr Phillips replied that it is difficult to put an exact figure on this, but it is significantly less than 50%. More challenges are expected as it gets further down.

Mr Lamb referred to the items found in Sludge Tank 3 of WILWREP and asked if items were found in Tanks 1 and 2. Mr Phillips confirmed that this was the case and debris was expected. Tank three is furthest progressed so is the emptiest and tank one still has the most sludge in it.

In respect of the Ponds Programme and delay tank valve chamber foam filling, Mr Lamb assumed

this would deteriorate over time and asked if there was any guarantee on how long the filling would last. Mr Phillips responded that this is not a permanent solution, but a holding position to minimise the water that would come into that pit, and the foam will come out a later date. That is why it is foam rather than cement.

Mr Roche referred to the report talking about the current work programme lasting till 2030 but in the previous strategy it seemed to be to 2022 so he wondered what works are being carried out between 2022 – 2030. He asked if this would be work previously classified as reactor dismantling. Mr Phillips explained that the site had been communicating 2030 for some time and the scope is the same but some jobs such as SAWBR and WILWREP are taking longer. The Care and Maintenance entry date is October 2030.

Mrs Holmes referred to the two local Radiological Technician Trainees being taken on and asked if this is because they cannot be called apprentices as they are not on an apprenticeship programme. Mr Phillips confirmed that two Production Technicians had been taken on for the SILWE plant who will operate the kit. The Radiological Technician Trainees are being trained through a Magnox internal process as it has not been possible to find appropriate partnerships to deliver traditional apprenticeships. Mrs Holmes asked if the two Production Technicians were showing other people how to use the plant or if they were learning themselves and if they are learning themselves, who is instructing them on how it is to be used. Mr Phillips advised that they are being employed on the grouting part of the SILWE project, which is a Magnox subset of the SILWE plant. A team of engineers was working on this plant but were doing some of the operations activities, which is not the best use of their time, and because it will go on for some time, operatives were brought in who will be trained by the Magnox engineers on commissioning activity and will then dovetail with waste operations. They will be kept on through the operations and into the commissioning phase. Mr Hamilton added that the difficulties with apprenticeships is not specific to Hunterston and has also been raised at Chapelcross and it appears to be easier in England and Wales to reach out to local Colleges and have the infrastructure to create apprenticeships. This appears to be a problem in Scotland and is being recognised and addressed as a live issue by senior personnel in NDA and Magnox. Mrs Holmes thanked Mr Phillips for finding a way to fill this gap and hoped that work could be done by NDA and Magnox soon to progress the training issues. She will also take this up with Scottish Government at the next Scottish Sites meeting in January 2022.

Mrs Holmes noted that active commissioning is scheduled to commence in the fourth quarter of 2023 by which time all the boxes will be in the Hunterston ILW store and may then have to come out of the ILW store to be grouted, if this happens. Mrs Holmes noted that it is the preference of the Site Stakeholder Group that this happens, not least because of the £50m cost of an encapsulation plant. Mrs Holmes sympathised with those working in waste and decommissioning as it is a very time consuming and complex process which has to be done safely. She asked if anyone representing Magnox or NDA knew if the waste already in the ILW store was going to be encapsulated or not. From a site perspective, Mr Phillips advised that the site is working through justification with SEPA and is working through a series of documents arguing for the use of the encapsulation plant when it comes to that stage. Boxes will still be being produced in 2023 which will require encapsulation but will not come from SAWBR as this will be finished. It will be a long process to bring the boxes in the ILW store out to grout them and Mr Phillips explained the process and steps in the journey of hazard reduction. Mrs Holmes would be interested to learn more about the positives and negatives of grouting and not grouting. Mr Wallace advised that NDA is in discussion with Scottish Government through James McKinney, Chief Strategist, and will speak to him and perhaps invite him to the next meeting to talk through some of the issues and challenges.

Mrs Holmes asked about the robustness and reliability of the machinery that transfers within the ILW store and how easy it is to maintain. For example, the crane that puts the boxes in place in

the store will be used for more boxes than originally planned.

Mr Phillips confirmed that the whole building has a 100-year design life. The facility has been designed and constructed so that maintenance can be done as safely as possible in low hazard areas and packages will not be moved around much.

Ms McCall left the meeting at 2.55 pm.

ONR Report

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

SEPA Report – Ms Melanie Hayes

SEPA's report on Hunterston A was circulated with the meeting papers. Ms Hayes focussed on points not already covered by Mr Hammond. She reported that SEPA staff are still working full-time from home and this was not expected to change before April 2022. There had been a few site visits since the last meeting. Ms Hayes explained an inspection of the SAWBR waste package records which took place on 4 October. SEPA had additional questions on a number of areas and will undertake a follow-up inspection on 14 December. Ms Hayes apologised for there being half a sentence in the Events section of the written report. The site had made SEPA aware of an error in a spreadsheet recording the number of radionuclide fingerprints used to calculate radioactivity content of solid waste for Hunterston A, which was being over-reported by less than 0.2%. Further meetings and discussions with the site have confirmed that the figures have been corrected. SEPA had been made aware of the two fuel finds. The process for considering options for any fuel recovered from the bunker remains an ongoing process by Magnox who continues to engage with key stakeholders. There were no reportable incidents or events on site.

Members Questions and Answer Session

Mrs Holmes asked if there was anything else to know about spent fuel rods at Hunterston A. Ms Hayes advised that SEPA is awaiting further documentation from the site to ensure that the waste has been appropriately characterised before it would be grouted.

Mrs Holmes referred to the over-reporting of radionuclide fingerprints by less than 0.2% and asked of what significance this was. Ms Hayes confirmed that this was not significant and was down to a decimal place error in the spreadsheet. The site had discovered the error and made SEPA aware of it. SEPA's only concern was making sure that the site updated and corrected the error, which had been done. SEPA's Registry is not yet back online following the cyber-attack. Mrs Holmes asked if the over-reporting meant that the site had reported that more waste had been disposed of than was actually the case. Ms Hayes clarified that the over-reporting referred to activity, not volume, so there was less activity.

8. Any Other Business

Mrs Holmes was concerned to note that there were no North Ayrshire Councillors present at the meeting and only one at the last meeting. She was particularly concerned that not only were they not present, but no apologies had been received. She noted that there may be a change in elected members following the elections in May 2022 and this may change the representation of North Ayrshire Council on the Site Stakeholder Group.

Action – Mrs Callander to email to establish if there have been any changes in representation as there has been no attendance or apologies from North Ayrshire Councillors.



Mrs Holmes noted that Skelmorlie Community Council had requested membership and been admitted to the Site Stakeholder Group but had not attended a meeting since being admitted.

Action – Mrs Callander to email Skelmorlie Community Council to check their position.

Mrs Holmes noted that the representative of National Farmers Union Scotland had not been present at the last few meetings.

Action – Mrs Callander to email National Farmers Union Scotland to check their position.

Mr Graeme Wallace advised that elections to Cumbrae Community Council which should have taken place in October 2020 were postponed to 2021 due to Covid. Initially there was only one nomination. There had now been five, which was enough to establish the Community Council. Mr Graeme Wallace was no longer on the Community Council and did not know at this stage who the representative would be. He asked if the representative on the Site Stakeholder Group has to be someone from the Community Council or if someone can be co-opted on. Mrs Holmes thought that the member had to be a Community Council member and asked Mr Dippie if this was the case when he represented Largs Community Council at a meeting. Mr Dippie confirmed that he had only attended one Site Stakeholder Group meeting previously, in spring 2021, when he was a Community Council member. Mr Graeme Wallace undertook to advise on the position after Cumbrae Community Council had had its first meeting. Mr Marshall clarified that the current Constitution allows for five representatives from North Ayrshire Council, which currently represents ward areas. He noted the boundary change which will make the wards larger and noted that it is for North Ayrshire Council to select their members. There is also scope however to review and make amendments to the Constitution, if required. Mrs Holmes noted that focussing on the north coast would exclude Kilwinning, which is currently represented and has socio economic activity through the College. She thought that Councillors volunteer to sit on the Site Stakeholder Group, which is voted on by elected members, rather than being appointed by North Ayrshire Council. She suggested that it would be appropriate for NDA to discuss membership of the Site Stakeholder Group with North Ayrshire Council.

Action – Mr David Wallace will contact the Chief Executive of North Ayrshire Council to establish the position on membership of the Site Stakeholder Group.

9. Next Meeting – Thursday 3 March 2022

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 3 March 2022**.

Mrs Holmes thanked everyone for attending the online meeting and hoped to see everyone at the next meeting. She wished everyone the compliments of the season and brought the meeting to a close at 3.14 pm.