

**DUNGENESS A SITE AND B POWER STATION
DUNGENESS SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING
HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM
THURSDAY 29TH JUNE 2021**

ATTENDANCE:

Mrs L Barton	-	Lydd Airport Action Group
Mr J Benn	-	Station Director, Dungeness B
Cllr M Burgess	-	Ashford Borough Council
Cllr P Coe	-	New Romney Town Council
Mr P Fahey	-	EA Inspector, Dungeness A
Mrs T Finn	-	SSG Secretariat
Cllr D Godfrey	-	Deputy Chairman
Mr B Hamilton	-	Magnox
Cllr C Hoggart	-	Rother District Council
Mr D Illsley	-	Romney Marsh Partnership
Mr J Jenkin	-	NDA
Cllr B Jones	-	Lydd Town Council
Mr S Kirsopp	-	ONR Inspector, Dungeness B
Mr R Lavender	-	Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce
Ms L Marsh	-	Romney Marsh Partnership
Mr J McNamara	-	NDA
Mr C Milne	-	For DNA Site Director
Mrs H Morris	-	Magnox Communications
Ms A Noyes	-	Dungeness Resident
Mr E Osondu	-	EA Inspector, Dungeness B
Mr M Pardo	-	Communications, EDF
Mrs S Postans	-	STEP project
Mrs K Ramsden	-	Magnox Communications
Mr J Rogers	-	ONR Inspector, Dungeness A
Cllr K Rye	-	Lydd Town Council
Mr J Royal-Simpson	-	Affinity Water
Col G Smythe	-	Independent Chairman
Mrs S Bowie-Wooler	-	Minute Taker

APOLOGIES:

Mr J Clifton	-	LJC Dungeness B
Mr I Cuthbert	-	Site Director, Dungeness A
Cllr T Hills	-	Kent County Council
Mr J Jenkin	-	NDA
Cllr A Rodriguez	-	New Romney Town Council

I INTRODUCTION

3796 Chairman opened the meeting and highlighted the recent announcements and changes that have taken place since the last meeting. Chairman apologised for cancelling the original meeting, which was due to take place 6 June 2021. The cancellation was due to the announcements made by EDF, which will be discussed further in today's meeting.

II APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3797 Apologies have been received from J Clifton – LJC Dungeness B, I Cuthbert – Site Director Dungeness A, Cllr T Hills – Kent County Council and Cllr A Rodriguez – Kent County Council.

III TO APPROVE THE MINUTES

3798 Minutes accepted as a true reflection

IV CORRESPONDENCE

3799 There has been a large amount of correspondence produced since the last meeting. Chairman has explained that the presentations have been published ahead of time via email. Chairman has asked if there is need to be redistributed if so requests to be made to Tracey Finn.

V MATTERS ARISING – GEORGE SMYTHE

3800 One matter arising, minute item 3781, which has been ongoing regarding end state and ownership. Jonathan Jenkins has been working on this, and the Chairman met with the NDA in the previous weeks to discuss this further. There is no firm answer, work is ongoing, and the SSG will be updated in due course.

VI COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS REGARDING DUNGENESS A SITE DIRECTORS REPORT – CHRIS MILNE, SITE INTEGRATION MANAGER.

3801 Chris Milne attended in place of Ian Cuthbert (Dungeness A, Site Director), delivered his presentation, and highlighted the following points.

Safety and Compliance

- The site has now exceeded 1,868 days since a lost-time accident occurred.
- Eight injuries required first aid; 70% of these were hand injuries.
- There are site-specific safety improvement plans to focus on conventional safety, and environmental awareness is ongoing. Good improvements are being made.
- A planning application strategy group has been established to coordinate planning applications and create a smoother working process with local planning authorities.

Ponds / Plant & Structures Programme Update

- Flask crane bale arm removal and de-ropeing, and associated waste processing have been completed in both ponds.
- The remaining drummed sludge is currently being transferred to storage tanks.
- Site Licence Condition, 35 milestone has been achieved for bulk asbestos removal.
- Following bulk asbestos removal, waste scaffold monitoring and processing were completed, and large amounts of equipment were transferred to other sites for re-use on other projects

- Enabling work in progress for removal of boilers and ancillary plant

Waste Operations

- First intermediate-level waste (ILW) residual resin MOSAIKS[®] filled and conditioned
- Nimonic[®] springs retrieved from MXD west splitter vault
- We have processed and disposed of:
 - 35m³ contaminated combustible/very low-level waste
 - 3.5 tonnes of contaminated metals
 - 106 tonnes of non-radiological waste

Waste Projects Programme update

- Project in progress to relocate ILW facilities to make way for boilers and ancillary plant removal project
- ILW sludge retrieval equipment and wet waste transfer facility commissioning are expected to complete this summer
- Transfer of residual resin from settling tank 3 to settling tank 4 completed
- Borderline wet waste contractor constructing retrieval and ancillary equipment

Asset care projects

£1.7 million allocated for asset management improvements this financial year. Since the last report, the following progress made:

- Reactor 2 building cladding repairs completed and additional reinforcement added
- Weather protection of boiler annexe structures commenced
- Removal of the redundant external ventilation ductwork from DAMAL complete
- Five redundant oil tanks were de-planted, decontaminated and shipped for recycling
- Refurbishment of Channel View office building commenced

Magnox Sustainability Strategy

Magnox is pursuing a sustainability strategy with five goals:

1. Governance – integrating sustainability into 'business as usual.'
2. Environment – reducing our carbon footprint and nurturing biodiversity
3. Supply chain – partnering with our supply chain to increase the positive impact
4. Employees – creating teams empowered and trained to contribute to our legacy
5. Community – engaging local stakeholders to build value in communities that outlast us

A site sustainability coordinator has been designated, and a group of volunteers established to pursue this strategy at Dungeness A.

Magnox Socio-economics – 2020/21 round-up

In 2020/21 Magnox Socio-economic Scheme gave £80,795 to support the Romney Marsh:

- Dungeness, Folkestone & Hythe District Council received £24,877 for Romney Marsh Hub as part of Magnox/NDA funding for covid-related support
- Four Good Neighbour applications received funding in 2020/21 – £3,918
- Small projects – £2,000
- Medium projects – £50,000

Additional NDA funding with the first tranche of £400,000 of £705,238 committed to supporting the Romney Marsh Business Hub development

- 3802 Chris Milne invited questions from the SSG:
Chairman informed the SSG that there would be further updates on Socio-Economic in the Chairman's report.

Mr D Illsley asked the following question, 'has Folkestone and Hythe District Council been approached for the site planning strategy group?' Chris Milne confirmed that they had written to the local planners and welcomed communicating with the local planning team. Mr D Illsley confirmed he would speak to the local planning team on Magnox's behalf.

Cllr D Godfrey offered additional support as a cabinet member.

VII COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS REGARDING DUNGENESS B's STATION DIRECTORS' REPORTS – JOHN BENN, STATION DIRECTOR

3803 John Benn thanked the SSG for facilitating the move of the meeting. John Benn delivered his report verbally and highlighted the following points:

Return to service:

- Despite significant investment into the station return to service, specific technical aspects were becoming more challenging as the site worked through the safety cases for return to service. The decision was made on 7 June, following extensive discussion across senior levels of the organisation, that it would be best for safety that the site should be defueled. The news and decision are disappointing, as EDF was hoping to defuel in 2028; Dungeness B is not as prepared as expected as the focus was on the return to service.
- Dungeness B is working very closely with other assets in the fleet who are currently undergoing this process. From the 1 July, the site will transfer into Region 1, alongside sites such as Hinckley and Hunterston, who will be defueling in 2022. There will not be any changes on-site, only for reporting.
- Thirty-seven staff briefings have taken place, the defueling will not start for 18 – 24 months, and the focus will be on hot pressurised defueling; this is different from other AGRs. Due to the safety case that will be put forward, the maintenance strategy may not change, which means that staffing levels will need to remain at a similar level. Current staffing structures are being worked on now, including for contractors. The whole process from the initial outlook would be around ten years, and our people are highly valuable, and we want to retain as many people as we can to retain these skillsets within the industry. We are not planning on any voluntary/mandatory redundancies; there will be natural succession planning through retirement etc-, and our staff focus remains the same.
- EDF will be the defueling operator, and when we reach fuel-free, this will be handed to NDA / Magnox; current predictions are this would be three decades worth of work. Nuclear safety is the highest priority and maintaining the professionalism that Dungeness has received praise for.

John Benn invited questions from the SSG

3804 Louise Barton: Could you tell us about the long-term plan for the site? Is this still planned to be a nuclear site moving forward? Is EDF still considering modular stations as I have heard that the flood risk is too high? What is the current thinking around the viability?'
John Benn: EDF will take this through to fuel-free, the site will be transferred to the NDA and Magnox to decommission. As EDF, we plan to safely get this fuel-free and then it will be handed to the NDA. We cannot prescribe what will happen after the site has been declared fuel-free, as we will be stepping back.

Louise Barton: Is there a role for the site? There must be opinions from EDF and Government on how this moves forward?

John Benn: I can only speak for EDF, and we are currently constructing Hinkley point C and trying to move forward with Sizewell C, and large-scale sites are the main focus; there are no current plans to place SMRs on the site.

Chairman: This would be an NDA decision for end state and end state use, and we are awaiting the plans to be finalised. I appreciate what you are saying, but the dust will need to settle to marry up between both sites. This will be a joint working partnership between the two. Dungeness has not been earmarked for a C site currently, the NDA are a decommission organisation, and there are no new builds. This does not mean that there will not be a smaller reactor placed on the site; we have not been informed of any plans to take this forward.

John Benn clarified that all sea defences would be maintained by EDF for the next ten years, as it is their responsibility.

3805 Cllr D Godfrey: Will the flasks be removed as happened at Dungeness A?

John Benn: The fuel will be removed using the transport flasks; Dungeness B reactors are larger than most AGRs. There are 408 fuel channels in each reactor; other AGRs have 306, Dungeness has 20% more fuel to remove. There will be no change to the flasks and route; they will be going to Sellafield in a similar process to the change of fuel; the main difference will be that we will not be refuelling. Flasks will be removed from the site when we have defueled.

Cllr D Godfrey: We need to ensure that the NDA is aware of our concerns around defences of the area.

Chairman: I feel it is difficult to have a definition at this stage, although we are keen to have answers and a plan. There is no firm proposal to build upon the site.

John Benn: The NDA will need to pick this up, as, in Care and Maintenance, there will still need to be flood protection around the site to protect the reactor.

3806 Cllr Kim Rye: Am I able to come and visit the site to understand better the terminology and how it works?

John Benn: I will speak to the team and get this arranged for the whole SSG.

John McNamara: I am happy to acknowledge the concerns raised by the SSG today, there are different variables at play, and it will be a nuclear site for several years. The end state is based on community wishes, such as one site wishing to go back to greenfield, others such as Chapelcross would like this to be a business site, and others that would like to continue with the nuclear activity. It is based on community wishes and needs and government decisions. We are tasked by the Government, who decide and then we are tasked to communicate with communities and providers on how that is achieved. We are here to maximise cost-effectiveness for the taxpayer in conjunction with both Government and the local community.

Phil Fahey: There is a regulatory process called the GRR; we are interested in the end state as this will influence how waste is managed on-site during defueling and decommissioning. Both EDF and Magnox will need to create a Waste Management plan and a site-wide environmental safety case to optimise all waste disposal. We would be

looking at this. We expect EDF and Magnox to work together and stakeholder engagement to be appropriate to how the defueling and decommissioning proceeds.

VII COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS ON ONR REPORT FOR DUNGENESS A – JOHN ROGERS, ONR INSPECTOR

3807 John Rogers delivered his presentation verbally and highlighted the following points:

- Dungeness A and B are both nuclear-licenced sites, and if the government/future owner of the site would like to become delicensed, we have done this previously. To do so, a licensee has to meet the no danger criterion under the Nuclear Installations Act. In the last 10 – 15 years, the ONR has worked internationally to define a rigid legal definition of what no danger would look like. This can be done; we revoked a licence in recent years. There is a proposed change to the Nuclear Installations Act, which is in the pipeline. This should make it slightly easier once defueling and decommissioning have been completed. As the sites are licenced, they can be used for other means such as hydrogen or an SMR.
- Licence conditions 32 & 34 inspections have been carried out; this was a joint inspection with the Environment Agency. Inspection concerning waste management and compliance to licence conditions. The inspection went well, and this was green-rated; however, feedback was that the Low-Level Waste Management needs to be improved as the plant ages. The site accepted this.
- Pond skips have now been removed and are safely stored to be transferred to a waste disposal unit. Magnox, for technical reasons, feel that this material needs to be sampled further, and discussions are taking place between ONR and Magnox. The first sampling plan presented was not acceptable, and the operator's dosage would have been high.
- Since the last report, the Magnox Site Annual Review of Safety meeting, was held, it was positive and tremendous progress had been made. More than 50% of wet ILW has now been removed from the site, and this was a piece of ongoing work.
- Bulk Asbestos Removal agreed that the site had met the LC35 milestone.

John invited questions from the SSG

3808 Chairman: With the latest news, will there be any change of thought on how you manage the long-term future with B station going into decommissioning. Will there be a joined-up working plan?

John Rogers: That would be a decision for the NDA; relicensing can be done. When I was at the site for the Annual Safety Review, we were discussing joined-up working, and it would be beneficial for EDF to take on the learning from Magnox. We would very much encourage this.

IX COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS ON ONR REPORT FOR DUNGENESS B –STEPHEN KIRSOPP, ONR INSPECTOR

3809 Stephen delivered his report verbally and highlighted the following:

- Licence condition 7 (incidents on site), Licence condition 17 (management systems) and Licence condition 28 (examination maintenance inspection testing). Two Licence condition 7 and 17 inspections were carried out; a specialist human factors inspector carried these out. These were reactive inspections to look at the stations reporting incidents and how the management systems handle these incidents. Routine inspection carried out to look at the quality assurance of Licence condition 17. Both inspections were rated green.

- Recent inspections include Level 1 emergency exercise demonstration to ONR, this was successful, and a good performance was rated. Level 1 security exercise was carried out and ranked green.
- Looking forward, ONR is undertaking a system-based inspection to cover internal and external hazards such as flooding. Even though the station is going into defueling, this will still need to be looked after.

Stephen invited questions from the SSG
None were asked

X COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATES – PHIL FAHEY, EA INSPECTOR, DUNGENESS A AND EDDIE OSONDU EA INSPECTOR, DUNGENESS B

3810 Phil Fahey delivered a presentation and highlighted the following points:

Headlines Dungeness A

- Waste: Several issues are being dealt with at Dungeness A; these will continue as decommissioning progresses as the site is not generating power and only waste product. Focus with the ONR on strategy on boiler project, as a percentage of the waste will be radioactive. Both EA and ONR are interested in the plan for this project and how this will be managed.
- Aqueous waste: Conversations regarding aqueous waste, modular active effluent treatment plant and the turbine hall void; all teams are still working through these issues.
- Knowledge of Environmental Awareness is improving; the work taking place as part of Magnox's recently implemented project will help improve environmental impact.

3811 Phil invited questions from the SSG

Chairman: When you mentioned the storage of materials on-site, is this temporary before it is taken off-site or will a structure need to be built?

Phil Fahey: The site does already have storage facilities; some of these are looking tired and may need work to ensure that they serve their purpose going forward. Further works may be required, as some materials will need to be stored before being disposed of. The EA want to understand what that means and how will the environment be protected during this period. There are many changes at site, and the approach is to look at the whole picture for waste management.

Chris Milne: we are not looking to store waste for the long term. This is only temporary, and waste materials are being sent to other sites for permanent storage.

3812 Eddie Osondu delivered his presentation for Dungeness B

Eddie delivered his presentation verbally and highlighted the following points:

- In February, we conducted a liquid radioactive waste inspection to assess the active effluent discharge authorisation process, appointment of individuals who can authorise disposals of radioactive waste, and the condition of the Active Effluent Treatment Plant (AETP). We did not identify any permit non-compliance. The discharge authorisation process appeared to be robust. Appointment of individuals who can authorise disposals of radioactive waste followed company procedures. However, there was no record to demonstrate that they were completing the continuous training and development required by the company technical standards. Therefore, we recommended the station create and maintain continuous training records for those appointed to authorise disposals of radioactive waste. There were adequate leak management arrangements in the AETP with an active investment plan to remediate plant defects.
- In March, we carried out a combined combustion plant and F-Gas compliance inspection. The combustion plant inspection focused on hazardous waste management arrangements

and staff competency. We did not identify any permit non-compliance. . In terms of F Gas, the Government brought in a ban in 2020 on some types of F Gas. The assessment was to ensure that the station was fully aware of its responsibilities. We did not identify any breach of the F-Gas Regulations. The station was fully aware of its responsibilities and there was no gap in the F-Gas Register. There is an ongoing project to identify suitable alternatives to replace banned F-Gases.

- In June, we inspected environmental culture and leadership at the station. We assessed the environmental awareness of selected EDF staff, continuous environmental improvement, and environmental oversight by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). We did not identify any permit non-compliance. The staff we interviewed demonstrated adequate environmental awareness. The station's 2021 Environmental Improvement Plan contained proposals for continuous environmental improvement. SLT showed positive environmental oversight and we challenged them to continue reinforcing the environmental safety message.
- Following the announcement that Dungeness B is moving to defueling, we have received assurances that there will be no changes to the investment plan for this year.

Eddie invited questions from the SSG
No questions were asked

XI NDA UPDATE – JOHN MCNAMARA, NDA

John delivered his presentation and highlighted the following points:

3813 Covid-19 Update

- The NDA continues to respond to the impacts of the Covid Pandemic
- The expectation that more staff will return to office from 21 June will be subject to the next stage in the Government's roadmap.
- Low rates of Covid-19 infection across the NDA group
- Considerations are being made when face-to-face engagement with stakeholders will resume, intention to hold 2021 Stakeholder Summit virtually.

3814 Dounreay

- Dounreay transferred to NDA ownership as of 1 April 2021
- A further step in creating a new NDA group of operating companies
- This will lead to greater collaboration between NDA operating companies and improved focus on delivering the NDA mission
- Mark Rouse has been appointed as Managing Director as of 1 April 2021

3815 Nuclear Transport Solutions

- New NDA group transport company launched on 30 April
- It brings together all transport businesses into a single organisation – Direct Rail Services, International Nuclear Services and Pacific Nuclear Transport Ltd
- NTS Chair, Wanda Goldwag, appointed on 18 May

3816 NDA Strategy 4

- NDA Strategy 4 was published on 18 March following Ministerial approval
- Draft Strategy published for 12-week public consultation from 17 August – 8 November
- 71 responses to the consultation including more than 1000 individual comments – most feedback ever
- Stakeholder response document published alongside strategy

3817 NDA Business Plan 2021 - 2024

- Published on 22 March

- Consultation from December to February
 - Sets out key activities and progress across the NDA group for the next three financial years in line with Spending Review settlement
 - 16 consultation responses – summary included upfront in Business Plan
- 3818 NDA Sustainability Report
- First NDA Sustainability Report published on 8 March
 - Investing in people, communities and protecting the environment for long-term future use
 - Identifies key opportunities and projects to improve sustainability across the NDA group
- 3819 Annual Report & Accounts
- Recognised as an example of best practice in the public sector by the National Audit Office (NAO)
 - 'Mission Progress' section highlighted as a way of presenting complex information in an accessible format
 - An important vehicle for communicating progress to stakeholders
- 3820 Holiday Report
- Report on Magnox Inquiry published on 4 March
 - NDA is now a much stronger organisation, operating under a very different model
 - We have already acted on Mr Holliday's interim recommendations made in 2017
 - We welcome Mr Holliday's recommendations and will publish our formal response later this year
- 3821 GDF Working Groups
- Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) has welcomed the formation of the first two working groups in Copeland and Allerdale
 - Important steps in the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) programme
 - Working groups will begin local discussions and fact-finding about potentially siting a GDF in Copeland and Allerdale
 - Does not guarantee that a GDF will be sited in Cumbria or preclude other communities from establishing working groups
- 3822 NDA Departmental Review
- BEIS conducted a Departmental Review of the NDA
 - It's part of regular scrutiny reviews of Government arms-length agencies
 - The review replaces Tailored Reviews and looks at governance, performance and value for money
 - Generally, the review is complimentary of NDA, says the Authority is carrying out its mission and follows guidelines set down as part of the energy act
 - The Departmental Review also applauds the NDA for its work with communities
 - There are criticisms too. The NDA intends to feedback on findings from the review in due course
 - The entire study can be found here:
[Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: departmental review - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/612222/nuclear-decommissioning-authority-departmental-review-2019.pdf)
- 3823 Government announcement on AGRs
- UK Government (BEIS) announced improved agreement on eventual decommissioning of EDF Energy's fleet of seven Advanced Gas Reactors

- AGRs are situated at Hinkley, Hunterston, Dungeness, Heysham, Torness and Hartlepool and will come across to NDA on a rolling programme out to 2030, once defueled by EDF Energy
- The deal was negotiated between BEIS and EDF Energy. It will not affect UK energy supplies, and BEIS estimates £1bn saving to UK taxpayer now arrangements are streamlined
- The AGRs will sit within the Magnox subsidiary when transferred
- NDA will work closely with EDF Energy leading up to the transfer
- The move has been welcomed by the NDA and illustrates trust in NDA to carry out this nationally important work

3824 John invited questions from the SSG

3825 Chairman: On the GDF slide, three organisations are currently looking at the GDF; when will you filter down and decide who will be a part of this?

John McNamara: It does not need to be a local authority; any community can come forward and be part of the working group. This has only happened so far in Cumbria, and there are potential sites that would not be in Cumbria. Announcements are due to be made, a working group is initial interest, and local authorities will need to be involved in the following stages. Communities can opt-out at any stage, then there would be a technical inspection which will gauge whether the site is suitable.

Chairman: At our meeting on 11 June, we discussed the end state use of Dungeness, the difficulty of local people with those four elements, and who will go into continuous care and maintenance. It is challenging to have a vision and say what we want there as we do not seem to be able to move forward and identify the end state. This curtails how we will move forward, as the site may remain an SSSI. Could we gain some clarification on this?

John McNamara: It is a hugely complex question to answer; they will all be licenced nuclear sites and protected from flooding etc. Nuclear safety will be the overriding importance; you are correct that decommissioning can be sped up at some locations. We need to consider all options, such as what is left behind; it is difficult to answer and will be done in collaboration with the regular and the local community. The more of the site we can clear, the more of the site available for the local community.

3826 Louise Barton: The local community, I guess, would be supportive of a replacement nuclear station; it is a brownfield site, and further encroaching on the SSSI would cause a considerable backlash; I would argue that it is very important not to discuss using the SSSI and the emphasis should be on building on the brownfield site such as the modular reactor. Would it be possible, once completely decommissioned, to have modular stations on that site?

John McNamara: It is not my place to say, you need to speak to an expert on SMRs. There has been a long-held view in Trawsfynydd that they would like to keep nuclear facilities, supply chain and employment etc., in the local community. They are looking to speak to the Welsh Government and then the UK Government to build SMRs on the existing land.

Bill Hamilton clarified the timescales of decommissioning. The sites that have been mentioned have land available now, which Dungeness A and B do not have. Currently, the NDA and Magnox strategy is around care and maintenance, which takes the site down to the reactor and comes back to work on the site many years in the future. If the Government accepts the business case currently being drafted, Dungeness could be selected as a site where decommissioning could occur earlier. Trawsfynydd is a test site we will learn from for future sites and strengthen the business case. This site is still 20 – 30 years outside of this, and Dungeness would be further away.

XII PRESENTATION BY UKAEA–UPDATE ON FUSION / STEP PROJECT–SARANNE POSTANS

3827 Saranne Postans from UK Atomic Energy Authority delivered the following presentation on the Fusion / STEP (Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production project to offer information on the upcoming projects.

Why fusion and why fusion in the UK?

- Fusion is the carbon-free and safe option; it has low land use and results in low, manageable waste on-site and is virtually limitless fuel to generate power across the UK. This supports the Net 2050 initiative.
- The UK has a thriving private-sector fusion industry, and the UKAEA operates the Joint European Torus (JET), the world's largest tokamak and Europe's flagship experiment. The UKAEA also operates the UK's first spherical tokamak, which has recently undergone a £55m upgrade.
- The climate emergency is very high in the public consciousness, and the ITER will produce 500mw from 50mw input. Over £1.8bn has been invested in under 40 start-ups. The main aim is to ensure that you can create more energy than you can put in.

Why is it different now?

- The main criticism around fusion is the time it has taken. There has been significant research, technological advances, and considerable investment that STEP is working to achieve commercial viability in 2040.

What is STEP?

- Phase 1 (2020 – 2024) - Develop concept design, £222m of government funding has been awarded for achieving this.
- Phase 2 (2024 – 2032)- A detailed engineering design, permissions and consents, and pre-construction work.
- Phase 3 (2032 – 2040) - Manufacturing and construction, targeted operations around 2040.

A STEP to delivering a fusion

- The STEP site will have global visibility; it will form a centre of an ecosystem, ultimately supporting the socio-economic development of the chosen area. This will also be a vital part of achieving the global net-zero challenge.

Areas of consideration of STEP:

- Site nominations took place from Dec 2020 to March 2021; 15 sites have been longlisted, and throughout the summer, technical assessments will take place to decide which sites will be shortlisted. Recommendations will then be made to the Secretary of State in summer 2022, and the final decision will be made by the end of 2022. This is for the site selection process and does not include any formal planning applications or any of the permissions needed.

3828 Saranne invited questions from the SSG

Chairman: Thank you for delivering the presentation; on the application process, were sites selected or advertised?

Saranne: This was advertised using various methods, and we engaged with sites that expressed an interest.

XIII SOCIO-ECONOMIC UPDATE–GEORGE SMYTHE, SSG CHAIRMAN

3829 Haf Morris is preparing a broad report, including all Magnox Socio-Economic activities. Magnox is more than happy to support the local community in the application process and urged all to apply for the available funds.

Some technical difficulties took place, and K Ramsden lost connection to the meeting.

In the local district news, there were two positive articles about Magnox and NDA Socio-Economic support within the local community.

XIV CHAIRS UPDATE–GEORGE SMYTHE, SSG CHAIRMAN

3830 The Chairman delivered his update and confirmed that the Chairs of the SSGs have met on several occasions. This included a meeting with the new Chair of the NDA. The NDA delivered a full brief on the new subdivisions which are currently being developed.

3831 The Chairman discussed the long-term future of the SSGs; the Chairs have formed a subgroup and will be presenting to the NDA and Magnox. There is a need to get younger people to participate in the SSG. The Romney Marsh Partnership has discussed involving sixth formers to try and get interest with the younger demographic to ensure a continuity of the work currently being done. The Chairman invited comments from Bill Hamilton regarding the long-term future and has confirmed that the SSGs will remain in place; the discussion is around the future style of the meetings in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. A short questionnaire will be sent to SSG participants to gain feedback on the remote meetings to understand the views across all SSGs across the country. This will then feed into how the facilitation of the SSGs is taken forward.

XV ANY OTHER BUSINESS

3832 The Chairman raised that on paper, the group is large, some participants receive meeting documentation, and there are several groups/representatives we have not seen attend meetings for a period of time. The Chairman will write to these groups and see if they are still interested and want to attend. This will allow the SSG to have a clear idea of who is active within the SSG, and this is not to curtail attendance but to ensure that the participants are engaged and interested in the SSG goals.

John McNamara stated that the general guidelines of the SSG would be reviewed later on in the year. There is a challenge within Strategy 4: we engage with the more challenging to reach groups. We would support any opportunities to support the SSG in doing so and encourage people to get involved, not just through the SSG.

3833 Chairman thanked the SSG for their attendance.

XVI DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, 24 November at 10am