

Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group

Venue : The Canalside, Marsh Lane, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 6LQ

Friday 28 October 2022 commencing at 0930 hours

Additional paperwork for this and previous meetings can be found on the website:
<https://magnoxsocioeconomic.com/ssg.php?site=hinkley-point-a>

AGENDA

- | | | |
|-----|-------|--|
| 1. | 09.30 | Welcome from the Chair |
| 2. | 09:35 | Changes to membership and apologies for absence |
| 3. | 09.40 | Open public Q&A session - maximum 20 minutes |
| 4. | 10.00 | Minutes of the Meeting held 26 June 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accuracy• Matters arising – see separate sheet |
| 5. | 10.05 | Chair and vice chair election |
| 6. | 10.15 | Site Director's report – Hinkley Point A Site, Steve Booth |
| 7. | 10.40 | Magnox corporate report – Bill Hamilton |
| 8. | 10.50 | Station Director's report - Hinkley Point B Station, Des Uminski |
| 9. | 11.15 | HPB decommissioning consultation update – Tom Tremlett |
| 10. | 11.35 | Update from the NDA, Simon Napper |
| 11. | 11.45 | Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) report Hinkley A, Paul Jenneson |
| 12. | 11.55 | Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) report Hinkley B, Darren Knowles |
| 13. | 12.05 | Environment Agency Report Hinkley A, Tracy Braithwaite |
| 14. | 12.15 | Environment Agency Report Hinkley B, Victoria Thomas |
| 15. | 12.25 | Chairman's report |
| 16. | 12.35 | Membership review feedback |
| 17. | 12.45 | Any other business |

The next Hinkley Point SSG will be held on: Friday 24 February.

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD AT THE CANALSIDE, BRIDGWATER ON FRIDAY 24 JUNE 2022

- Cllr Mike Caswell, Chairman of the Group, welcomed all those present to the meeting.
- Mr Steve Booth reported on the Hinkley Point A Site. He said that a high standard of safety performance had been maintained and there had been no significant events. During the past year, targets had been met for the retrieval of radioactive wastes, the removal of residual traces of asbestos and the implementation of projects for managing future decommissioning work.
- Mr Mike Davies reported on performance of the Hinkley Point B station. He said that both reactors were currently on load but during the coming weeks would be shut down for the final time. During an operating lifetime of over 46 years the station had produced more than 310 terawatt hours making it the UK's most productive nuclear power station.
- Mr Davies said that high standards of safety had been maintained on the power station and there had been no significant safety or environmental events. The final shutdown of the reactors would be followed by a pre-defueling outage to carry out work which was essential to secure the safe and reliable defueling of the reactors. This outage would involve an additional 180 contractors' personnel working on the site for a period of 10 weeks.
- Members received reports from the NDA, the Office for Nuclear Regulation, and the Environment Agency.
- Vice Chairman Mr Mervyn Brown would be convening a meeting of a sub group of members to consider changes in the representation on this Group which were necessary to reflect the recent changes in local government in Somerset.

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at the Canalside, Bridgwater on 24 June 2022

PRESENT

Cllr M Caswell (Chairman)	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Mr S Booth	-	EHSS&Q Manager, Hinkley Point A
Mr M Davies	-	Station Director, Hinkley Point B

Elected Members

Mr R Birkenhead	-	Otterhampton Parish Council
Cllr H Davies	-	Somerset County Council
Mr A Debenham	-	Stop Hinkley
Cllr B Eyley	-	Kilve Parish Council
Cllr Ms S Goss	-	Stogursey Parish Council
Cllr W Hawley	-	Fiddington Parish Council
Cllr K Hewson	-	Bawdrip Parish Council
Cllr M Hodson	-	Spaxton Parish Council
Mr A Jeffery	-	Bridgwater & W Somerset Green Party
Mr M Phillips	-	Cannington Parish Council
Cllr L Redman	-	Bridgwater Town Council
Cllr J Roberts	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council
Ms M Smith	-	West Somerset Green Forum

Co-opted Members

Mr M Brown (Vice Chairman)

Appointed Members

Mr S Napper	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr D Knowles	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Ms T Braithwaite	-	Environment Agency
Mr P Stevens	-	Somerset County Council
Ms L Martin	-	Somerset County Council
Mr J Burton	-	Somerset West and Taunton Council
Mr A Smith	-	Sedgemoor District Council

EDF Energy

Mr D Hanmer

Magnox

Mr B Hamilton

Mr R Dew

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr J Freeman	
Mr M J Davis	- Secretary

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1 Cllr Caswell welcomed all those present to this meeting of the Site Stakeholder Group for Hinkley Point A Site and Hinkley Point B Power Station.
- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Ms V Thomas, Cllr Ms A Reed, Mr M Short, Ms J Manley, Mr I Liddell-Grainger MP, Cllr Ms R Perrett, Mr D Stokes, Ms G Coombs, Cllr S Moffatt and Mr P Jenneson.
- 3 It was noted that Mr D Hanmer was attending as a representative of union members at Hinkley Point B.
- 4 It was noted that there were sufficient members present to constitute a quorum for this meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a) Accuracy

- 5 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 25 February 2022 were approved as a correct record subject to the incorporation of the following amendments:

Ms L Martin to be included in the list of appointed representatives present at the meeting.

In the first line of para 18 delete the words “from Cllr Birkenhead”

(b) Matters Arising

- 6 There were no matters arising which would not be addressed in later presentations.

SITE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A SITE

- 7 Mr Booth reported on activities at the A Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
 - (i) There had been no significant accidents or incidents on the Site since the previous meeting.
 - (ii) Recycled plastic picnic benches, sourced locally, and manufactured from materials collected from the Hinkley sites were being installed on the Site to provide outside areas for staff to sit,
 - (iii) The Site was currently recruiting six apprentices. Seven existing apprentices were completing their training during the current term.

- (iv) Last year's targets for the processing of 14 tonnes of fuel element debris, remediating 13,000 square metres of asbestos and installing the waste encapsulation plant had been met. Removal of residual traces of asbestos had completely remediated one boiler house. The major programme of removal of asbestos was due for completion during 2023.
 - (v) Inactive commissioning of the waste encapsulation plant would be completed this year and the first package of radioactive waste was due to be processed in 2023.
 - (vi) Systems were being designed for the retrieval of fuel element debris stored in air in vaults on the Site.
 - (vii) The Site continued to support local causes with its socio-economic support scheme. Members were invited to contact the Site if they were aware of any causes which were potentially worthy of support.
- 8 In reply to a question from Mr Jeffery, Mr Booth said that the bulk of the sorting of fuel element debris was achieved by use of an eddy current separator. In response to a comment from Mr Debenham, Mr Booth said that the Site's efforts to improve sustainability included various socio-economic aspects such as providing local employment opportunities together with actions to reduce the use of resources and energy consumption. Ms Braithwaite confirmed that sustainability aspects were included in best available techniques assessments.
- 9 In response to a comment from Mr Jeffery, Mr Booth described work which was required on sea defences. Mr Burton said that planning consent aspects were expected to be resolved during the coming month.
- 10 In reply to Mr Debenham, Mr Booth said that consideration was being given to potential opportunities for rationalising the storage of wastes from the A and B Sites.

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 11 Mr Davies reported on activities and performance at the power station since the previous meeting of this Group, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) Both reactors were currently on load but would be shutting down for the final time during the coming weeks. Reactor 4 would be shut down at 10:00 am on 6 July and Reactor 3 would follow at 10:00am on 1 August.
 - (ii) The station had maintained its very high standards of safety performance. It was now more than 15 years since the last nuclear reportable event, over

- 6 years since the station's last lost time accident involving a member of staff and 2½ years since the last such accident involving a contract partner.
- (iii) There had been no significant environmental events since the previous meeting. The pinhole leak in a reheater reported previously to this meeting had been monitored and its condition was unchanged; it would be blanked off following depressurisation of the reactor. The loss of water from the cooling pond to the active effluent treatment plant reported at the previous meeting had been caused by a sample valve being inadvertently left open; this valve and other similar valves were being replaced by ones which were less likely to be left open.
 - (iv) Scheduled maintenance work on a whole-body radiation monitor had been inadvertently missed.
 - (v) The dates for final shutdown of the reactors had been deferred due to unplanned outages caused by the effect of storms on grid system equipment. Two further unplanned outages had occurred on Reactor 3 caused by a fault in control fluid hoses on the turbine.
 - (vi) Hinkley Point B, with a total output in excess of 310 terawatt hours was the most productive nuclear power station in the UK. In recent weeks there had been speculation in the press that the final date for shutdown might be deferred in order to reduce the impact of increases in fossil fuel prices. This was not realistically possible due to the volume of work which would be necessary to justify such action.
 - (vii) Actions were being taken to meet as far as possible the aspirations of individual members of staff in relation to employment following the reactor shutdown.
 - (viii) The shutdown of Reactor 4 would be followed by a pre-defueling outage. This was expected to last 10 weeks and would involve 180 contract personnel.
 - (ix) Due to the timing of the reactor shutdowns, a decision had been taken to defer until the autumn the demonstration exercise of the emergency arrangements which had been planned for early July.
 - (x) The station continued to provide support for local charities and organisations and had raised over £38,000 for Prostate Cancer UK.
 - (xi) SSG members were invited to visit B Station on 22 July. Details would be circulated shortly.

12 Mr Phillips asked whether a reactor would be restarted if it had an unplanned outage between now and the planned shutdown date. Mr Davies said that it would

- depend on when such an event took place, but the scheduled shutdown dates would not be deferred further.
- 13 Mr Debenham asked whether the French owners of EDF had been involved in decisions about the closure dates. Mr Davies said that the Site Licence for the station was held independently by EDF in the UK and he was the agent of the licensee. Decisions on closure dates had been taken by those with responsibilities under the Site Licence and were based upon safety case and engineering considerations relating to the ability to shut down safely in the event of an extreme external event.
- 14 In response to a further question from Mr Debenham on possible changes in security arrangements following the end of generation at the station, Mr Davies said that potentially some hazards would reduce as fuel was removed from the site but security, together with nuclear safety, would continue to have the highest priority.
- 15 Cllr Hawley asked about changes in arrangements for the management of change following concerns raised by the ONR. Mr Davies said that it was recognised that changes were needed in the arrangements which had been in place for many years of steady state operation. Hunterston B was taking the lead in developing new management of change arrangements for all sites; it was expected that the new arrangements would be approved by the end of the current year.
- 16 Cllr Redman suggested that it would be helpful for members to have a display of key dates for the decommissioning of the B station. Cllr Caswell said it would be helpful if this included key milestones from the operational life of the plant. Mr Davies said that this could be provided. He said that current plans were that Reactor 4 would be fuel free at the end of 2023 and that the site as a whole would be fuel free by the end of 2025.
- 17 Ms Smith drew attention to the need for discussions with councils if business rates would no longer be payable when the station was not producing electricity. No information on this issue was available at the meeting.
- 18 Mr Birkenhead asked whether the final shutdown would be celebrated by some form of shutdown ceremony. Mr Davies said he proposed to have a balanced approach. Staff would quite properly want to celebrate the station's achievements, but the shutdown operations would be managed as normal by the staff in the control room and no one else would be in there at that time.
- 19 In response to a question from Mr Jeffery on the arrangements for the despatch of fuel from the site during defueling, Mr Davies said that the number of flasks leaving the site would increase from one or two per week to three or four per week but the number of train movements from the railhead would probably not change as the trains could take more than one fuel flask.

UPDATE FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 20 Mr Napper provided an update on current activities within the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) NDA offices were now open following the pandemic, but staff were likely to continue to adopt a mix of home and office working where appropriate.
 - (ii) NDA had published its sustainability strategy.
 - (iii) Reprocessing of Magnox fuel at Sellafield would come to an end in July, having been started in 1964. The facilities would then enter a new phase of clean out and decommissioning. Some 55,000 tonnes of spent fuel had been re processed - more than half of the total volume of fuel reprocessed in the world.
 - (iv) During the previous week a fourth Community Partnership had been established at Theddlethorpe in Lincolnshire to allow further consideration to be given to the possible siting of a geological disposal facility.
 - (v) Marine geophysical surveys were to be carried out off the coast of Cumbria during the coming months to provide information on local geological conditions.
 - (vi) NDA was working with a company which had been established to develop proposals for a small modular reactor at Trawsfynydd.
 - (vii) A stakeholder event was to be held in Edinburgh on 7/8 September.
- 21 In response to questions on future decommissioning plans, Mr Hamilton said that current plans were based upon a quiescent period of “care and maintenance” before final site clearance. Consideration had been given to the possibility of shortening the overall work programme and a new plan was currently with government for consideration. Mr Hamilton hoped that the necessary approval would allow this new strategy to be discussed at the next meeting.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORT

- 22 Mr Knowles reported on the ONR’s inspection and regulatory activities in relation to Hinkley Point A Site and B Station. Reports on those activities had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. He drew particular attention to the following:

- (i) In due course, as a consequence of the transfer of ownership, Hinkley Point B would have to be relicensed to Magnox.
- (ii) It was recognised that the need for improvement in management of change arrangements was an issue for the company as a whole and not just Hinkley Point B. The focus of work on the necessary improvements was with Hunterston B.
- (iii) The pre-defueling outage for Reactor 4 would include work to allow implementation of safety case requirements for defueling operations.
- (iv) The unplanned outages of Reactor 3, reported earlier by Mr Davies, had been due to the failure of control fluid hoses on the turbine. These hoses were not part of a safety system, but the failures had drawn attention to the potential effects of repeat minor failures.
- (v) Mr Knowles had not yet received a report from the station on the whole-body monitor maintenance referred to by Mr Davies. Mr Knowles said it was questionable whether it was appropriate for this item to be included on the maintenance schedule but said that if it was included, then maintenance schedule requirements had to be observed.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT

23 Ms Braithwaite reported on the Environment Agency's monitoring and regulatory activities in relation to Hinkley Point A Site and B Station. A report on those activities had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Particular attention was drawn to the following:

- (i) Agency inspectors maintained good dialogue with the sites and had series of regular meetings.
- (ii) Inspections of Low Level Waste management systems at Hinkley Point A and on preparations for defueling and long-term asset care at Hinkley Point B had not identified any issues of non-compliance.
- (iii) The Agency had been consulted regarding a planning application for an additional concrete batching plant on A Site. It was recognised that this plant was required to package waste in accordance with Best Available Techniques.
- (iv) Advice had been given to A Site on regulatory requirements associated with works on gabion wall sea defences.

- (v) The report on radioactivity in food and the environment for 2021 which was to be published by the EA and the Food Standards Agency in October would be available online but was not being printed. Support would be given to any members who were not able to access it online.
- 24 In reply to a question from Cllr Hewson, Ms Braithwaite explained the classifications of Low Level Waste, Very Low Level Waste and out of scope waste. She suggested that it might be helpful in future reports to include a glossary of such terms.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 25 A report from Cllr Caswell as chairman of the Group had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. He reviewed the meetings which he and Mr Brown had attended and would be attending on behalf of the Group.
- 26 Cllr Caswell said that Mr Brown would be re-convening the subgroup which had previously reviewed aspects of the membership of this Group. The subgroup would be asked to consider and propose changes in representation which would be appropriate following the local government changes in Somerset. It was intended that recommendations for any changes would be brought to the next meeting of this Group for consideration.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 27 Ms Smith referred to discussions at earlier meetings of this Group on the intention to seek greater involvement of young people in its work. Mr Hamilton described two initiatives which it was hoped would increase the involvement of young people. The first was a new website focussed on SSGs which was intended to be attractive to young persons and the second was a youth forum which was being considered with Berkeley and Oldbury.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 28 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on Friday 28 October 2022.

MJD
28 June 2022

Matters Arising for Hinkley Point SSG, October 22

Min 7 (iv) How is the Asbestos and FED removal progressing?

Min 9 Has the planning permission for the Sea Wall progressed?

Min 10 How are the discussions progressing with the consolidation of waste from A and B progressing?

Min 11 (I) How did the final shut down go, was there any problems?

Min 11 (v) What caused the unplanned outages?

Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

Site Report for

Magnox Ltd Hinkley Point A

Report for period 1 April – 30 June 2022

Foreword

This report is issued as part of ONR's commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the above site available to the public. Reports are distributed to members for the Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lhc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group meetings where these reports are presented and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR.

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1. Inspections

1.1. Dates of Inspection

ONR Inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 April to 30 June 2022:

- 21 April 2022
- May 2022
- June 2022

2. Routine Matters

2.1. Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with:

- the conditions attached by ONR to the nuclear site licence granted under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65) (as amended);
- the Energy Act 2013
- the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HSWA74); and
- regulations made under HSWA74, for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99).

The inspections entail monitoring the licensee's actions on the site in relation to incidents, operations, maintenance, projects, modifications, safety case changes and any other matters that may affect safety. The licensee is required to make and implement adequate arrangements under the conditions attached to the licence in order to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, routine inspections of Magnox Ltd Hinkley Point A covered the following:

- management of operations including control and supervision;
- staff training, qualifications and experience;
- radioactive waste management;
- decommissioning;
- organisational changes;
- conventional (non-nuclear) health and safety.

Members of the public, who would like further information on ONR's inspection activities during the reporting period, can view site Intervention Reports at www.onr.org.uk/intervention-records on our website www.onr.org.uk. Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email contact@onr.gov.uk.

2.2. Other Work

The site inspector held regular meetings with the Site Director and weekly keep-in-touch meetings with the operational staff on site to discuss regulatory issues, site incidents, future permissioning and progress with significant decommissioning milestone delivery.

The regulatory issues relating to the planning and controlling of sub-contractor work at Hinkley Point A, for both Magnox Ltd and Hertel (UK) Ltd, a subsidiary of the Altrad Group, were closed following assessment of revised arrangements to prevent reoccurrence.

The site inspector held a periodic meeting with safety representatives, to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety and welfare at work.

3. Non-Routine Matters

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. ONR inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

There were no such matters or events of significance during the period.

4. Regulatory Activity

ONR may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, ONR issues regulatory documents, which either permit an activity or require some form of action to be taken; these are usually collectively termed 'Licence Instruments' (LIs) but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an Enforcement Notice.

- No LIs, Enforcement Notices or Enforcement letters were issued during this period.

5. News from ONR

For the latest news and information from the Office for Nuclear Regulation, please read and subscribe to our regular email newsletter 'ONR News' at

www.onr.org.uk/onrnews

6. Contacts

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Environment Agency report to the Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group.

October 2022

Introduction

This report covers the Environment Agency's regulation of the Hinkley Point A & B nuclear sites and related issues for the period June 2022 to October 2022.

Coronavirus: Nuclear site regulation operational update

We continue to keep the incidence of Coronavirus under review to ensure we can continue to maintain regulatory activities at Hinkley Point A & B.

Radioactive substances regulation

We regulate radioactive waste disposals to the environment. We do this through environmental permits that contain limits and conditions aimed at minimising wastes and protecting the environment. We also check compliance with these permits by making regular inspections at Hinkley Point A & B.

Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Reports (RASCAR) detailing our inspections and any non-compliances found, are available on the Public Register ([i](#)).

We maintain regular contact with the sites between visits to the sites.

Hinkley Point A

In August we carried out an inspection of the management system arrangements and Best Available Techniques (BAT) assessment for Magnox's environmental monitoring programme. Further information from Magnox's Site Support Office is required to complete the inspection but no non-compliances were identified at the HPA site.

In August and September, we attended the Annual Review of Safety Security and Environment (ARoSSE) and a level 4 waste meeting. We were advised that whilst environmental roles are currently fully resourced that there is concern about the ability to maintain appropriate capacity (skills) in future and the potential need for additional recruitment in the medium to longer term.

Customer service line

03708 506 506

Floodline

03459 88 11 88

Incident hotline

0800 80 70 60

Magnox also shared their plans to ensure skills are retained at the site as decommissioning continues. Recent recruitment actions have resulted in the addition of an environmental co-ordinator and a waste co-ordinator to the Hinkley Point team. At the AROSSE, in conjunction with the ONR, we set out our expectations for using information and metrics gathered at the site to inform future decisions and how this can be used as the basis of future review meetings.

We have also attended a monthly waste meeting and used the opportunity to undertake an update and overview of Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) projects. This allowed us to introduce our new Nuclear Waste Assessor to Hinkley Point A as the previous assessor retired this year.

Hinkley Point B

We continue to hold routine meetings with the Environmental Safety Group (ESG), station management and Independent Nuclear Assurance (INA), in addition to relevant external bodies such as the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). These routine interactions allow us to remain informed of any relevant activities and events at the site of regulatory interest, as the station enters its new life cycle phase of defueling.

On the 22nd-24th of August we conducted a defueling inspection, in conjunction with the ONR. This inspection looked at a range of issues on preparations for the defueling period including discharges, monitoring, sampling and a review of pond chemistry and arrangements for increased fuel movement through the pond for defueling with ONR specialist chemistry inspectors.

Overall, we found that there were good arrangements in place for the management of discharges and pond chemistry into the defueling period, with no non-compliances identified. We gave the station two actions -one of which was to update obsolescent controllers on the gaseous sampling trolleys to ensure the long-term reliability of sampling equipment. This was something that the station was already planning to undertake but we have formalised so we can track progress. The other action was to confirm how flow rate through stacks are checked when plant modifications have been carried out. We did note that there were several key documents being reviewed such as the pond water chemistry standard and a boiler feed water review. We have formally requested key documents being reviewed are supplied to us so we can be assured of continued compliance at the station. These will be reviewed and checked as part of our routine regulatory engagements.

The next inspection is planned for the 27th of October and will focus on the management of solid radioactive waste, as the station enters a new phase of its life cycle. We will review compliance with the current permit, particularly looking to ensure that the Best Available Techniques (BAT) are used to minimise both the volume and radioactivity of solid radioactive wastes generated by the station. We will also review how the station is planning to dispose of more challenging solid wastes generated during the operation of the power station, as listed on the problematic waste inventory and what wastes may remain beyond Fuel Free Verification (FFV) and handover of the station from EDF to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).

Events and enforcement

Hinkley point A

Between 2019 and 2021 Hinkley Point A advised us of a number of events relating to errors made in both the external laboratory and the laboratory at Hinkley Point A. We have completed our enforcement response to these events. We concluded there was 1 CCS4 non-compliance related to the need to ensure that staff receive training and are competent to undertake laboratory work, and 2 CCS3 non-compliances for failing to provide information and records relating to disposals of radioactive waste in an accurate and timely manner. CCS3 and CCS4 non-compliances are considered 'minor' non-compliances – with either a low or a negligible associated environmental impact.

An action plan has been agreed with Magnox which will include the reporting of an audit of the external laboratory by October 31 2022.

Hinkley Point B

Pond Water Loss Update

In our last report we gave an update on our review of an event earlier in the year where during a routine sample of the pond water, a valve was inadvertently left open, resulting in a small loss of pond water to the Active Effluent Treatment Plant (AETP). This resulted in elevated radioactivity in the aqueous discharge to the Environment but remained below station action levels.

We recorded two non-compliances against the station's radioactive substances environmental permit for this event. We also placed some actions on the station one of which included assessing the potential to fit engineered control measures to prevent or warn of a valve being left open.

Customer service line

03708 506 506

Floodline

03459 88 11 88

Incident hotline

0800 80 70 60

When we visited the station in August, we saw the newly fitted 'spring-back' mechanisms fitted for key valves in the Active Effluent Treatment Plant (AETP) relating to the ponds. This will significantly decrease the risk of this event re-occurring. The station is preparing a learning brief about the event and the new valves for other stations in the fleet to learn from.

Quarterly Notification Level (QNL) exceedance.

We received early indication from the station after the blowdown on Reactor 4 in early July that the QNL for gaseous C-14 would likely be exceeded on the blow down of R3, prior to the formal notification. We were formally notified by Hinkley Point B Power Station on the 5th of August 2022, that the Quarterly Notification Level (QNL) for gaseous Carbon-14 had been exceeded following the blowdown of Reactor 3 (R3), as part its final shutdown at the End of Generation (EoG).

The QNL is a pre-determined level of radioactivity over a 3-month period defined in the permit, which we essentially use as a 'hold point' to ensure we are formally notified of any significant short-term changes in operation and to review whether the Best Available Techniques (BAT) were being applied during operation of the reactor to ensure the radioactivity and volume of discharge were minimised.

Exceeding the QNL is not a breach of a legal annual permit limit, however we require operators to notify us and send a written submission under condition 4.3.8 of the station's environmental permit outlining how they applied the Best Available Techniques to minimise the discharge.

We have reviewed the written submission supplied to us as required under the permit. From the information supplied we believe that the station has applied the Best Available Techniques (BAT) during their operations associated with the reactor blow-down. We have not identified any non-compliances with the station's environmental permit.

The exceedance of the QNL for C-14 is likely attributable to higher C-14 in the aging reactor core and the length of time since the last full reactor blowdown. The station is at 47.6% of their annual limit for gaseous C-14, but this is expected to decrease now the reactors have shutdown. We will continue to monitor the discharges as part of our regulation of defueling preparations and as part of our routine regulation under the station permit.

Discharge reports

The operators at Hinkley Point A and B are required to report liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment to us on a regular basis. We assess these to check compliance with the site permits. The site discharge reports, and our assessments are placed on the public register.

Hinkley Point A

The liquid and gaseous discharges from Hinkley Point A were below any notification levels and within permitted limits. However, following a recent inspection of the environmental monitoring programme, we will be seeking improvements to how Hinkley Point A use radionuclide concentrations from their environmental data to characterise trends.

Hinkley Point B

The liquid and gaseous discharges from Hinkley Point B were within permitted limits. We received notification from the station that the QNL was exceeded for gaseous Carbon-14, as detailed earlier in the report.

Environmental impact

Nuclear sites are required to carry out a rigorous environmental monitoring programme (EMP) that requires the operator to monitor and assess the impact of their discharges on the environment.

Additionally, the Environment Agencies and Food Standards Agency carry out independent environmental monitoring around nuclear sites. The results of this work are published in our annual Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) report (ii). We will continue to follow Government guidelines with Safe Systems of Work in place, with the with regards to our monitoring of the environment and foodstuffs. The 2020 Rife report has now been published here: [Radioactivity in Food and the Environment, 2020 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/91424/rife-2020-report.pdf) and the 2021 report is in preparation.

We have completed our review of the Best Available Techniques (BAT) assessment for the HPB's Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP). This was an action we placed on the station in their Site Environment Review (SER) to review the EMP for discharges anticipated during defueling and against our best practice guidance for environmental monitoring [764 11 Environmental radiological monitoring \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/91424/rife-2020-report.pdf).

Customer service line

03708 506 506

Floodline

03459 88 11 88

Incident hotline

0800 80 70 60

We consider that given the reduction in discharges of the majority of radionuclides following the End of Generation (EoG), the proposed changes are reasonable and still follow recommendations and good practice in our guidance.

We have placed some actions and recommendations on the station before the changes are implemented particularly to implement a 'hold point' to ensure that the measured discharges at EoG align with those calculated in the EMP BAT on which the proposed changes are based.

EIADR consultation

ONR are currently consulting on a pre-application opinion under the Nuclear Reactors (Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning) Regulations (EIADR) from EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd (EDF Energy) for their proposed decommissioning project at Hinkley Point B power station.

To support this request, EDF Energy has submitted a scoping report to the ONR that provides a high-level description of the decommissioning project and describes the scope of the environmental impact assessment that will be carried out for the future application for consent under EIADR.

The Environment Agency is a statutory consultee to the ONR consultation. We will respond to the consultation in line with our regulatory vires.

Further information

Further information on our role in regulating the use of radioactive substances and related activities on nuclear licensed sites can be found on the Environment Agency section ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ of the GOV.UK website.

GOV.UK website.

The Environment Agency's Lead Regulator for the Hinkley Point A site is Tracy Braithwaite. The Environment Agency's Lead Regulator for the Hinkley Point B site is Victoria Thomas.

Tracy and Victoria are Senior Nuclear Regulators and part of the national Nuclear Regulation Group (South) which is based at the Environment Agency's Wallingford office in Oxfordshire.

The EA's Nuclear Regulators undertake environmental regulation of radioactive substances on nuclear licensed sites in southern England. They work closely with the local Environment Agency teams in those areas as well as external bodies such as the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

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ⁱ <https://www.gov.uk/access-the-public-register-for-environmental-information>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.gov.uk/monitoring-radioactivity>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-regulation-in-the-environment-agency>

Chairman's Report

Hinkley Point SSG meeting October 2022.

When I started on the SSG or, as it was then, LCLC (Local Council Liaison Committee, back in 1996. We had 2 stations A and B with dialogue and public meetings regarding 'C' at Cannington all run by British Energy. How things have changed! Both A and B were operational, and the idea of 'C' was scrapped in subsequent years by the government of the day. I can clearly remember A being refuelled and ready to go when it was shut down overnight, never to start again. On the 6th of July 'B' site reactor 4 followed on the 1st of August by Reactor 3 were finally shut down.

Because we are a very diverse organisation some will applaud the fact that the two stations are no-longer generating others will not and this is the great strength of our SSG. We can ALL express our views and pass on to our communities the answers and facts were are given. Open and honest debate must always be at the forefront of out intendant deliberations.

Since the June SSG, Mervyn your Vice Chair and I have been busy and the year ahead is looking very much the same. Since June we were in Manchester for the Chairs forum on the 4th and 5th of July. Plus various Teams Hinkley monitoring groups meetings in July and August. In September from the 6th to the 9th inclusive we were both at the Nuclear Summit in Edinburgh, Mervyn will give a report on this at the meeting, I was required to stay on the Thursday for a visit organised by the NuLeAF, Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum to Rosyth dockyard to see the new way of Decommissioning our ageing nuclear fleet. The Chair of NuLeAf Cllr David Moore myself as Vice Chair and a member of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities were on the visit. I am happy to report and answer any questions at our meeting.

The dialogue continues with both station Directors and long may it continue.

Unfortunately, we will be losing Gemma, she has a new position within Magnox. I am sure you will agree with me she will be very sadly missed and hard to replace.

Mike