

Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group

Venue : Canalside, Bridgwater

Friday 25 February commencing at 0930 hours

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

AGENDA

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| 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 29 October 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accuracy• Matters arising – see separate sheet |
| 5. | 10.05 | Site Director's report – Hinkley Point A Site, Steve Booth |
| 6. | 10.25 | Station Director's report - Hinkley Point B Station, Mike Davies |
| 7. | 10.45 | Update from the NDA, Simon Napper |
| 8. | 10.55 | Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) report Hinkley A, Simon Morgan |
| 9. | 11.05 | Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) report Hinkley B, Darren Knowles |
| 10. | 11.15 | Environment Agency Report Hinkley A, Tracy Braithwaite |
| 11. | 11.25 | Environment Agency Report Hinkley B, Victoria Thomas |
| 13. | 11.35 | Bridgwater Tidal Barrier update - EA |
| 14. | 11.55 | Chairman's report |
| 15. | 12.00 | Any other business |

The next Hinkley Point SSG's will be held on: Friday 24 June 2022.

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD AT STOGURSEY VICTORY HALL ON FRIDAY 29 OCTOBER 2021

- Noting that this would be the last meeting of this Group before the forthcoming retirement of Mr Peter Evans, Hinkley Point B Station Director, Cllr Caswell expressed members thanks and appreciation for the support given to this Group by Mr Evans and the frank and helpful way in which he had provided information.
- Mr Evans reported on the station's continued high level of safety performance. He pointed out however that in August the station's first reportable environmental event for over 12 years had occurred when, following a fire on a generator transformer, an estimated 10 litres of oil had been released from the site. It was understood that the oil would have evaporated within hours and that there would have been no significant impact on the environment, but the event was taken very seriously.
- Mr. Evans said that with Reactor 3 off load the opportunity had been taken to bring forward the planned graphite inspection work. Thirty-one fuel channels had been inspected and the results had been within expectations. The Reactor had returned to service on 25 October for what was expected to be its final period of operation. Reactor 4 was to be shut down on 12 November for planned graphite inspection work.
- Mr Mike Davies reported on further progress with preparations for defuelling the reactors following the cessation of generation.
- Ms Kirandeep Basra-Steele, attending a meeting of this Group for the first time since her appointment as Site Director for Hinkley Point A, reported that there had been no significant events on the Site since the previous meeting. She said that robust measures remained in place as precautions against the spread of coronavirus and there had been no evidence of any spread of virus on the Site.
- Ms Basra-Steele reviewed progress with the various programmes of decommissioning work on the Site. She described an arrangement which had been established for the consolidation of deliveries to the Site by a single local supplier which resulted in fewer delivery vehicles travelling to the Site and simplified unloading arrangements.
- Members received reports from the NDA and the Environment Agency.
- Recommendations for changes in the representation of various bodies in the membership of this Group which had been proposed by a subgroup of members were approved.

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held at Stogursey Victory Hall on Friday 29 October 2021

PRESENT

Cllr M Caswell (Chairman)	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Ms K Basra-Steele	-	Site Director, Hinkley Point A
Mr P Evans	-	Station Director, Hinkley Point B

Elected Members

Cllr R Birkenhead	-	Otterhampton Parish Council
Cllr Ms A Bown	-	Somerset County Council
Cllr M Facey	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr Ms S Goss	-	Stogursey Parish Council
Cllr W Hawley	-	Fiddington Parish Council
Cllr K Hewson	-	Bawdrip Parish Council
Mr A Jeffery	-	Bridgwater & W Somerset Green Party
Cllr M Phillips	-	Cannington Parish Council
Cllr Ms A Reed	-	Wembdon Parish Council
Cllr M Reid	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council
Ms M Smith	-	Forum 21

Co-opted Members

Mr M Brown (Vice Chairman)

Appointed Members

Mr S Napper	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Ms T Braithwaite	-	Environment Agency
Mr R Davies	-	Somerset County Council
Mr P Stevens	-	Somerset County Council
Mr R Kilroy	-	Somerset County Council
Mr D Bamsey	-	Sedgemoor District Council
Mr J Burton	-	Somerset West and Taunton Council

EDF Energy

Mr M Davies
Mr J Mason
Mr M Pardo

Magnox

Ms G Coombs

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr M J Davis	-	Secretary
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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. He expressed a particular welcome to Ms Kirandeep Basra-Steele, who was attending for the first time since taking up her appointment as A Site Director, and to Mr Simon Napper, who was attending for the first time as representative of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.
- 2 Noting that this would be the last meeting of this group before the forthcoming retirement of Mr Peter Evans, Cllr Caswell expressed members' appreciation and thanks for the excellent working relationship which Mr Evans had had with this Group and the open and frank way in which he had always provided information. He conveyed members' best wishes for Mr Evans' retirement.
- 3 It was noted also that this would be the last meeting of this Group before the retirement of Mr Russell Davies. Cllr Caswell thanked Mr Davies for his contribution to the work of the Group.
- 4 Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Morgan, Ms L Martin, Cllr B Eyley, Mr M Laver, Mr D Stokes, Cllr G Richardson, Cllr L Redman, Mr M Short, Cllr Mrs L Whetlor, Mr A Debenham and Mr M Hodson.
- 5 It was noted that there were sufficient members present to constitute a quorum for this meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a) Accuracy

- 6 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held via Zoom on 25 June 2021 were approved as a correct record subject to the following amendments:
 - (i) In the list of persons present Cllr Ms A Bown should be shown as representing Somerset County Council.
 - (ii) In paragraph 15(ii) the reference to Sedgemoor District Council should be replaced by Somerset West and Taunton Council

(b) Matters Arising

Integrated Waste Management Programme (para 16 refers)

- 7 Mrs Smith said that during discussion at the previous meeting on the integrated waste management programme, she had asked Ms Gallery-Strong whether recent

predictions of rising sea levels were taken into account in relation to risks associated with the storage of wastes on sites and the issue had not been addressed. [Later in the meeting Ms Braithwaite said that the strategic assessments undertaken by the NDA in preparation of its integrated waste management plan did not specifically include the potential effects relating to flooding caused by climate change. She said that potential concerns such as flooding were taken into account when the strategic plan / plant was implemented at local level. She confirmed that the effects of flooding, including from of climate change, were taken into account in the implementation of strategic plans at Hinkley Point A. Regulatory aspects of sea defences on the Site were the responsibility of ONR and the risk of flooding in adjacent areas were regulated by the Environment Agency as a statutory consultee to the planning process.]

SSG Engagement with Young People (Para 22 refers)

- 8 Cllr Caswell referred to the point raised at the previous meeting by Cllr Ms Goss that the Group might seek further opportunities for engagement with young people. He said that he had discussed this matter briefly with Cllr Redman, who had made helpful suggestions, and he had undertaken to talk again with him on this subject. Cllr Caswell apologised for not having done so but would pursue this in due course.

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 9 Mr Evans reported on activities and performance at the power station since the previous meeting of this Group, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) High standards of safety performance had been maintained at the station. It was now 15 years since the last nuclear reportable event, 5 years since the station's last lost time accident to a member of staff and one year since the last lost time accident to a contract partner.
 - (ii) On 19 August, following a fire on a generator transformer, there had been the first reportable environmental event in over 12 years when an estimated 10 litres of transformer oil had been released from the site.
 - (iii) There had been seven minor first aid injuries at the site since the previous meeting.
 - (iv) Lloyds Register Quality Assurance auditors had completed their surveillance of the station's systems and had confirmed continued certification against ISO management standards.
 - (v) Leakage of carbon dioxide from a boiler reheater pinhole leak into boiler water was being monitored. The leakage was within the permitted

discharge level, but the issue would be discussed with the Environment Agency if the level of the leakage increased.

- (vi) A contractor had been dismissed from further work on the station site following a report of poor driving standards and an inappropriate response when the matter had been raised with them.
 - (vii) The Unit had been operating at full load on 19 August when Generator Transformer 7 had suffered an internal electrical fault. Reactor 3 had shut down automatically and safely. The installed fire protection system had operated within 10 seconds of the fault and extinguished the fire. Most of the large volume of insulating oil and water from firefighting had been contained on site but an estimated 10 litres of oil had been released off site. It was thought that the oil would have evaporated within hours and not caused damage to the environment. The transformer had been repaired and all similar units inspected to prevent any recurrence of the fault.
 - (viii) With Reactor 3 offload the opportunity had been taken to bring forward the planned graphite inspection outage. Thirty-one channels had been inspected and results had been within expectations. Reactor 3 had been returned to service on 25 October to start its final period of six months operation. Reactor 4 was to be shut down on 12 November for graphite inspection work.
 - (ix) There were 485 employees on the B station site, 10 apprentices, 200 contractors and 18 agency staff.
- 10 Cllr Ms Goss expressed Stogursey Parish Council's appreciation of the efforts made by the station to keep them informed of issues affecting the station, including this recent fire.
- 11 In reply to a question from Cllr Birkenhead, Mr Evans said that the reactor could operate with a section of reheater isolated, but with a consequential loss in power output.

HINKLEY POINT B DEFUELLING PLANS

- 12 Mr Davies provided an update on preparations which were being made for defuelling of the station's reactors after final shutdown. He said that there were four plant modifications required to enable defuelling to proceed at an appropriate rate; two of the modifications which could be completed in advance had already been carried out; others would take place after the reactors were shut down. Mr Davies said that technical work on the revision of safety cases was proceeding

satisfactorily, and the necessary proposals would be submitted to the ONR shortly.

- 13 Mr Davies said that consultations with individual members of staff on their aspirations for the future was commencing. During January all members of staff would have interviews with their line manager.
- 14 Mr Davies reminded members that defuelling would produce some 400 flasks of fuel to be despatched from site and it was planned to increase the despatch rate from approximately 1 per week to 3 per week to complete the work in about three years. Mr Bamsey drew attention to the need to inform local residents of this increased traffic at the Bridgwater railhead. In response to a question from Cllr Birkenhead, Mr Davies said it was anticipated that Sellafield would be able to accept flasks at this enhanced despatch rate and that appropriate priority would be given to dealing with despatches from Hinkley Point B and Hunterston B.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A SITE

- 15 Ms Basra-Steele reported on activities at the A Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
 - (i) Robust arrangements remained in place on the Site as precautions against the spread of coronavirus. There had been no evidence of transmission of the virus on the site.
 - (ii) High standards of safety performance had been maintained and there had been no significant incidents on the Site since the previous meeting.
 - (iii) An arrangement had been introduced for deliveries to the Site to be consolidated by a local supplier and brought to the Site, thereby reducing the number of journeys to the site by delivery lorries and simplifying unloading arrangements.
 - (iv) Some 30 m³ of the total 749 m³ of fuel element debris had been retrieved from the waste vaults to date. The target for retrievals of this waste during the current year was 14 tonnes. The retrieval rate would increase when it was possible to remove waste from all vaults concurrently.
 - (v) There was a continuing major programme of work to remove residual asbestos from plant and equipment. The target for the current year was 13,000 m².
 - (vi) Facilities for conditioning waste by encapsulation within drums were being manufactured off site and would be brought to Site for commissioning later this year.

- (vii) Commissioning and staff training in the operation of the Interim Storage Facility was continuing.
- 16 In response to a question from Cllr Phillips, Ms Basra-Steele said that the eddy current separating device for the removal of springs from the fuel element debris waste was working well and the operators were becoming more practised in the sorting process.
- 17 In response to a question from Cllr Hawley, Ms Basra-Steele said that fuel element debris retrievals to date had been from the R1 and R2 wet faults. Plant enhancements to allow retrievals from all wet and dry vaults at the same time would enable the required retrieval rate to be achieved.
- 18 Cllr Birkenhead said he would like to see the A station control room preserved as part of the Station's industrial heritage. Ms Coombs said that this had been considered previously.

UPDATE FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 19 Mr Napper pointed out that he had been appointed to replace Mr Jonathan Jenkin who was being seconded to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. He provided an update on current activities within the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, drawing particular attention to the following:
 - (i) NDA staff were continuing to work largely from home. A managed return to office working was taking place but some working from home was likely to continue in the future where it proved to be an efficient arrangement.
 - (ii) The NDA had published its Annual Report and Accounts and a sustainability report.
 - (iii) Government and NDA had published their responses to the recommendations of the Magnox inquiry and departmental review. Many of the recommendations had already been addressed within the NDA's new organisational arrangements.
 - (iv) Following consultation, the NDA had published its strategy document.
 - (v) Implementation of the new Group Leadership structure within NDA was continuing. Dounreay had been transferred to NDA ownership. A new Nuclear Waste Services division was being formed to combine the various waste organisations within a single executive team.
 - (vi) The working groups established in Cumbria to discuss the possibility of establishing a geological disposal facility for radioactive waste had

identified search areas. Copeland had decided to move into a community partnership arrangement. A new working group had been established in Theddlethorpe, Lincolnshire.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT

20 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 had held a series of regular meetings with site personnel for discussions on environmental impacts.
- (ii) The Agency was reviewing a Best Available Techniques assessment provided by Hinkley Point A relating to arrangements for the management of fuel element debris retrieval.
- (iii) An inspection had found good levels of environmental awareness amongst Hinkley Point A staff. A recommendation had been made for further improvements.
- (iv) The Agency would be commenting on proposals to establish a preconditioning facility for the packaging of intermediate level wastes on A Site.
- (v) Discharges of radioactivity from A Site and B Station were well within permitted limits.
- (vi) Discharges from the minor reheater leak on Hinkley Point B Reactor 4 were being monitored. Agreement had been reached with the Station on actions to be taken if the level of this leakage increased.
- (vii) Consideration was being given to the appropriate enforcement action in relation to the fire on the Hinkley Point B generator transformer.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORT

21 ONR inspectors had been unable to attend this meeting. Reports on their inspection activities had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Members undertook to contact the Sites if they had any questions arising from these reports.

MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

22 Mr Brown confirmed the recommendations of the subgroup following its review of the membership of the Group as outlined at the previous meeting:

- (i) Membership should be withdrawn from:

Pawlett, Chilton Trinity and Over Stowey Parish Councils;

English Nature and the Country Landowners Association; and

Mendip District Council
 - (ii) Following the merger of West Somerset and Taunton Deane District Councils, each of which had been represented by two members, Somerset West and Taunton Council should be invited to nominate only two representatives.
- 23 Cllr Caswell thanked the subgroup for its work in carrying out this review. He pointed out that it might be necessary for the subgroup to meet again when the anticipated organisational changes in local government became known. In reply to a question from Cllr Ms Reed, Mr. Brown confirmed that the organisations affected had been informed of the intended changes in representation.
- 24 Members agreed unanimously to approve the recommendations of the subgroup for changes in representation on this Group as set out in paragraph 22 above.

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 thanked members for their participation in discussion at this meeting.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 26 No business.

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 27 It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on Friday 25 February 2022.

MJD
2 November 2021

Matters Arising – Hinkley Point A SSG – 25 February 2022

- Min 8 Engagement with young people.
- Min 9 (v) Leakage of C02 from a pinhole, has this been rectified
- Min 9 (vii) Has the clean-up following the fire been completed and what is now the status
- Min 15 (iv) How is the FED (Fuel Element Debris) retrieval going and what is the amount to date

Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

Site Report for Hinkley Point A

Report for period 1 October–31 December 2021

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 and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR.

Table of Contents

1. Inspections	3
2. Routine Matters	4
3. Non-Routine Matters.....	6
4. Regulatory Activity	7
5. News from ONR.....	8
6. Contacts	8

1. Inspections

1.1. Dates of Inspection

ONR site inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 October–31 December 2021:

20 & 21 October

23 November

16 December

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 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 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 Hinkley Point A covered the following:

- emergency preparedness;
- incidents on the site;
- security.

During the reporting period, ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements to be satisfactory in the areas inspected. Where improvements have been identified, the licensee has made a commitment to address those issues, and ONR inspectors will closely monitor progress during future site inspections. Where necessary, ONR will take formal regulatory enforcement action to ensure that appropriate remedial measures are implemented to reasonably practicable timescales. 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

On 20 & 21 October 2021, ONR inspectors conducted an ageing management inspection of Hinkley Point A site as part of the Chief Nuclear Inspector's (CNI) themed inspection of the management of ageing assets across the UK's nuclear industry. The inspection was informed by a prior self-assessment carried out by the licensee. The CNI themed inspection is intended to seek assurance that sustainable

programmes are implemented for the management of ageing assets against four themes: monitoring of ageing; organisational capability; obsolescence; and ongoing investment. The implementation of ageing management arrangements for both safety and security were inspected. ONR concluded that the licensee's arrangements for ageing management had been adequately implemented and good examples of ongoing efforts to improve ageing management were provided. ONR judged from the evidence sampled that the licensee is effectively monitoring ageing and managing obsolescence at its HPA site.

An ONR inspector met with the site safety representatives on 21 October 2021, to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety and welfare at work.

On 29 October 2021 an ONR inspector attended the Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group meeting.

ONR inspectors met with the licensee and nuclear regulators from the Environment Agency on 29 November 2021 to discuss matters relating to the HPA site's Interim Storage Facility.

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.

Matters and events of particular note during the period were:

On 1 December 2021, the licensee notified ONR about anomalous background radiation readings from a gamma detector forming part of a safety system associated with waste retrieval operations. The licensee advised ONR that relevant waste retrievals had been suspended pending investigation of the faulty equipment and its replacement, and that additional reassurance monitoring was being introduced. Within the reporting period ONR began to gather information on the significance of the incident and the licensee's response.

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.

Reports detailing the above regulatory decisions can be found on the ONR website at <http://www.onr.org.uk/pars/>.

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.

February 2022

Introduction

This report covers the Environment Agency's regulation of the Hinkley Point A & B nuclear sites and related issues for the period November 2021 to February 2022.

Coronavirus: Nuclear site regulation operational update

We have continued to maintain regulatory activities at Hinkley Point A & B including in-person site visits as well as using remote working arrangements where practicable and effective. The sites continue to operate a hybrid system for their workforces of operational presence and homeworking.

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 ⁽¹⁾.

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

Hinkley Point A

We continue to hold routine meetings with the Head of Radiological Protection and Environment, the internal regulator and the Site Director. This allows us to remain informed of any relevant activities and events at the site of regulatory interest and to ensure the site responds appropriately to any environmental or regulatory concerns that might arise. We also hold separate meetings with the office of nuclear regulation to discuss and share both concerns and good practice that have been identified during inspections.

In November 2021 we carried out an inspection on asset management at Hinkley Point A. No non compliances were identified. Recognising that the NDA is developing its guidance on the management of assets at nuclear sites we found that HPA had made significant progress in the development of its asset management framework, including the

development of an asset management database and procedures for management of assets on site. This is an improvement on the previous inspection. The asset management database (AMD), annual Plant Health Committee meetings and their asset management investment plan show how assets are prioritised on a risk basis, how the risk is reviewed and managed and how critical assets are identified and included in the site investment plan. We have made recommendations to the site to ensure that all assets are included on the asset management database, however we were pleased to hear about the continuing development planned in this area.

Hinkley Point B

We continue to hold routine meetings with the Environmental Safety Group (ESG), station management, 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, which is particularly important with the End of Generation (EoG) approaching in July 2022.

In the previous report we informed you of a minor leak on reactor 4 re-heater that had initially developed when the reactor was returned to service in February 2021. This has resulted in the leakage of reactor gas to the secondary circuit causing slightly elevated discharges of radionuclides through the permitted minor discharge route.

We have been monitoring the situation closely and agreed that the station would need to apply for a permit variation to increase their minor route gaseous discharge limit from 2% to 4% of the total permit limit, if these discharges reached 70% of the original 2% limit. The station informed us in December 2021, that minor gaseous discharges had now reached this level and they applied for a permit variation on the 14th of December 2021. It should be noted that increasing the minor discharge gaseous limit will not increase the overall annual gaseous discharge limits set in the permit. We are currently reviewing the application for the minor permit variation, including supplementary documents supplied such as the Best Available Techniques (BAT) assessment.

As part of their permit variation application, the station also requested the addition of a new waste route for Very Low Level Radioactive Waste (VLLW) to specialist landfill sites. This will allow the station to dispose of concrete rubble arising from preparatory work in the flask bay in advance of defueling. Additional arisings of VLLW wastes that could also be disposed of via this route are expected to increase, as the station ends generation. This is an established waste route that is already used by other nuclear sites and at the receiving site, disposals are covered by their own environmental permit.

At the end of January, we undertook two inspections. The first focused on radioactive discharges to ensure the Best Available Techniques (BAT) are being applied. During this inspection there was a particular focus on how the discharges will change as the station

enters defueling and if any changes to monitoring equipment, operation, or arrangements will be required to maintain compliance with the permit.

The second inspection was on asset management, with the focus on defueling to determine the funding and process for investment in assets, with the expected change in management company for the HPB site.

We are still writing up our findings for the inspections above and will report back in the next stakeholder report.

We are planning our next inspection in conjunction with ONR in April to look at the Control of Major Accident Hazards (CoMAH) regime, again with a focus on defueling and whether the station will be able to remove some of the chemicals held as part of the CoMAH regime, at the point of EoG, to ensure effective hazard reduction at the station.

Events and enforcement

Hinkley point A

We have reviewed the report submitted to us with the findings of Magnox's investigation into leaking waste drums. We have concluded that this event constituted 3 non-compliances with the conditions of their environmental permit. We are satisfied that there was not any significant associated environmental impact, and we classified the non-compliances as 'minor' non-compliances in accordance with our compliance classification scheme (CCS). We have also concluded that a warning letter should be issued to Magnox, in line with our enforcement policy. In addition, we have provided on-going regulatory advice and guidance to Magnox and we have placed regulatory actions on Magnox, in addition to the action they have already identified and carried out to prevent a repeat event.

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 Hinkley point A. When we have received Magnox's audit report we will determine whether any further enforcement response is required. We are satisfied that Hinkley point A have addressed the immediate concerns raised in their investigation reports and actions put in place appear to have been effective. This matter will be subject to a further inspection in July 2021.

Hinkley Point B

Release of oil to the Beach following Transformer Fire

On the 19th of August 2021, Hinkley Point B informed us that there had been a fire in a transformer. Fire suppression actions led to the station discharging oil and fire water to the beach. We attended the site on several occasions to investigate the cause and monitor the

subsequent environmental clean-up, including the approval of some of the remedial plant to re-route the site water discharge.

After a review of the all the evidence in the case, Hinkley Point B were served a warning letter by the local Wessex Area Team for a breach of their Water Discharge Permit (Consent 101266). In addition to this warning letter, the site also received a re-charge invoice for the EA resource involved in the investigation and recovery of the incident.

The station have undertaken a full investigation into the incident, and how the drainage system became overwhelmed, leading to the discharge of oil. This investigation sets several actions to make improvements and to prevent a future occurrence. These actions include having a fire water management plan, improving maintenance of stand-by equipment, and looking at whether the volume of fire water can be reduced. We have also asked Hinkley Point B to look at fitting alarms to the blind sump on site, to provide a real time indication of the drainage system becoming overwhelmed. We will follow up on the remedial actions as part of our routine regulation.

Pond Water Loss

In January we were informed by the station that during a routine sample of the pond water, a valve was inadvertently left open, which resulted in a loss of 3m³ of pond water to the Active Effluent Treatment Plant (AETP). This resulted in increased radioactivity in the discharge to the Environment- although it is noted the discharge was below any station actions levels. We are currently undertaking a compliance assessment and will report back our findings in the next stakeholder report. The station are undertaking a human factors assessment alongside our compliance review to determine how such errors could be reduced in future.

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.

Hinkley Point B

The liquid and gaseous discharges from Hinkley Point B were below any notification levels and within permitted limits.

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 (2). 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://publishing.service.gov.uk) and the 2021 report is in preparation.

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 ⁽³⁾ of the 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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¹ <https://www.gov.uk/access-the-public-register-for-environmental-information>

² <https://www.gov.uk/monitoring-radioactivity>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-regulation-in-the-environment-agency>

Chairman's Report

Hinkley Point SSG meeting 25 February 2022.

This is our second 'Face to Face' meeting since the Covid pandemic and we are back at the Canalside. A venue I personally like.

As you will all know we are facing Elections in May for the New Somerset Council. Some of you will be actively seeking election, some not. Can I respectfully remind all that this SSG is totally independent and free from political posturing. It is a free and open to ALL and all are able (and frequently do) ask questions on the A and B sites.

I sincerely hope the acoustics are better than the last venue. From the reports I received some struggled like me to hear anything. The IT also let us down considerably.

Mervyn and I have had a face-to-face meeting with the Station Manager of A site. Who, may I say, is doing an excellent job in progressing the decommissioning of A Site. More apprentices and vacancies seem to be the order of the day. Unfortunately, Kirandeep Basra-Steele cannot be with us on the day but we will receive a full report.

I have a meeting scheduled with the, new, Site Director of 'B' site Mr Mike Davis before the SSG and he will be presenting his report. I am assured that Mike is in the same mould as his predecessor and as always be extremely open and honest. No doubt you are already aware that 'B' site will cease generation this year, R4 shortly and R3 in July. Then de-fuelling for about 5 years before active decommissioning starts.

I have a meeting scheduled at the End of February, early March with the Head of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) in London. I do not as yet have any details. I also have attended various Zoom meetings with fellow Magnox Chairs and Vice Chairs and with NuLeAF (Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum)

I will be looking forward to seeing you all at our meeting on the 25 February at the Canalside. I believe bacon buns etc will be available prior to the meeting.

Mike