

**HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS FROM THE SIXTY THIRD MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 3 MARCH 2022 ONLINE, ZOOM PLATFORM**

Chair's Opening Remarks and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence

Mrs Holmes welcomed new community members - Mr Jamie Black, Largs CC and Mr John McHenery, Cumbrae CC. The Chair summarised Magnox SSG Chairs and Vice Chairs Meeting on 11 February 2022. She was concerned that there was not more Scottish SSG representation on the Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum (NuLEAF).

Actions and Approval of Previous Minutes

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

Hunterston B Report – Mr Joe Struthers, Ms Allison Adamson

The end of generation was an emotional day for the Station and tribute was paid to the staff team and contract partners. Reactor 3 is being prepared for defueling with some plant modifications. Fuel handling and Reactor case handling safety cases are being reviewed by ONR. The flask corridor is being upgraded. EDF was proud that 100% of employees who wished to remain on site had secured positions. 97% of staff had their aspirations met, either through redundancy or remaining on site. The process was subject to an independent review and fared well.

ONR Report – Mr Stuart Fannin

Mr Fannin formally recorded ONR's congratulations to HB team on the successful period of final operation, acting both safely and compliantly. The Station was now preparing for defueling. There were two inspections during the period: COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) and Licence Condition 7. There were two notable events during the period. One was a conventional health and safety event with an operative getting their hand trapped in a pressure test vessel. The second was administrative, with an anomaly in nuclear material accounting records. ONR's permission is needed to shut down the reactors permanently and safely and begin defueling and the safety cases for this are being considered.

SEPA Report – Mr Keith Hammond

The Radioactive Substances Regulation inspection took place on 18 February. The Station was compliant with some improvements required. The Station lost control of 1,000-1,500 litres of lightly contaminated oil (tritium). This was captured in the lagoon and did not enter the environment. SEPA is still investigating. In October 2021, a gasket containing asbestos was misconsigned when going to Cyclife. SEPA issued an Advisory letter was issued, the lowest form of enforcement. SEPA has published its Compliance Assessment Scheme results for 2019 on its website.

Hunterston A Reports – Mr Mark Blackley

Good progress is being made on the programme of work. Recent storms have not caused any significant damage. It is 11 months since the last Lost Time Accident on site. An ESSHQ review by Magnox Executive Team on 16 February was successful. The target for waste retrieval from SAWBR and WILWREP had been increased from 46 tons to 53 tons to 62 tons, with 70 tons anticipated by March. Welfare facilities are being improved. Walkways and floor gratings on reactors are being replaced. Learning and Development building is being demolished. Modifications are being made to the WILWREP plant to receive acids. A new pond sump and effluent treatment plant is being installed. An extensive recruitment campaign is underway, including four new trainees appointed.

ONR Report

The ONR report was circulated with the meeting papers. Mr Kings was not present at the meeting. Mrs Holmes noted that this would have been Mr Kings' last meeting as he is retiring at the end of April and offered her thanks and best wishes.

SEPA Report – Ms Melanie Hayes

Inspectors did a follow-up visit to inspect SILWE Records. Maintenance schedules were part of a joint inspection with ONR. There were no compliance issues but some procedural improvements suggested. A meeting on Best Practicable Means documentation to demonstrate compliance with Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR) was held. A number of variations to the site permit are likely over the coming year.

NDA Reports – Mr David Wallace

The NDA Stakeholder Summit will be on 7/8 September 2022 in Edinburgh. The National Audit Office report on the decommissioning of Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors (AGRs) was issued on 28 January 2022. The NDA has invested £0.5M in Kilwinning Campus. The NDA has beacon projects focussing on realising opportunities and solving challenges. The three key Beacon projects include Sustainability; Skills; and Social Value.

Update from Scottish Government – Ms Diane Hamilton, Mr Martin Macdonald

The focus of the Higher Activity Waste (HAW) Policy Review is the implementation of the 2011 policy and the Higher Activity Radioactive Waste strategy in 2016. A Technical Workstream will be undertaken with NDA to develop thinking around the 'near surface near site' concept and better understand the radioactive waste inventory in Scotland and consider the issues and challenges in the 2016 strategy.

Presentation on Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors (AGR) Decommissioning – Mr Alastair Walker, Ms Allison Adamson, Mr John McNamara

Combined presentation on AGR Decommissioning comprising Overview; the AGR Decommissioning Agreement; Roles and Responsibilities; Governance; Socio-Economics and Skills; EDF's Nuclear Decommissioning Mission; EDF's Defueling Programme; End of Generation Timescales; What is the Defueling Process: Hunterston B Defueling; Working With Our People. Context – The Future for Magnox; What the Revised AGR Decommissioning Arrangements Mean for Us and Our Next Steps; Our Approach; Strategic Alignment Between NDA, Magnox and EDF.

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

Next Meeting – Wednesday 1 June 2022 at 1.30 pm, in person at The Waterside Hotel, East Kilbride.



**HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
MINUTES OF SIXTY THIRD MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 3 MARCH 2022 AT 1.30 PM, ZOOM ONLINE PLATFORM**

Present

Magnox Ltd

Mr Mark Blackley (Site Director)
Mrs Jill Callander (SSG Secretariat)
Mr Bill Hamilton (Director of Communications)
Mr Alasdair Jackson (Project Manager)
Ms Mair Jones (Socio Economic Lead)
Mr Sean Marshall (Magnox Communications)
Ms Laura Miles
Mr Reuben Phillips (Waste Manager, Hunterston A)
Mr Alistair Walker (Programme Delivery Manager –
AGR Decommissioning)

Community Council Representatives

Mr Jamie Black (Largs CC)
Mrs Rita Holmes – SSG Chair (Fairlie CC)
Mr John Lamb (West Kilbride CC)
Mr John McHenery (Cumbrae CC)

North Ayrshire Council (NAC)

Cllr Robert Barr (Dalry and West Kilbride)
Ms Lesley Jeffery (Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Team)
Mr Stewart Mackenzie (Environmental Health)

NDA

Mr John McNamara (Head of Stakeholder Relations)
Mr David Wallace (Stakeholder Lead Scotland)

Hunterston Estate

Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick

In Attendance

Ms Sheila Adams (Minutes)
Dave McGeoch (Marick Communications)
Ms Helen Smith (Marick Communications)

Apologies

Ms Clare Bond (Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM))
Cllr Todd Ferguson (Dalry and West Kilbride)
Mr Bill Kings (ONR)
Mr William Jack (National Farmers Union Scotland)
Cllr Tom Marshall (North Coast and Cumbraes)
Mr Andy McDade (Trade Union Rep, Hunterston A)
Mr Ian Murdoch (Member of Public)

EDF (Hunterston B)

Ms Allison Adamson (Technical and Safety Mgr)
Ms Fiona McCall (External Comms Manager)
Mr Stuart McGhie - SSG Vice Chair
Mr Joe Struthers (Station Director)

SEPA

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

ONR

Mr Stuart Fannin (Hunterston B)
Mr Bill Kings (Hunterston A)

Scottish Government

Ms Diane Hamilton
Mr Martin Macdonald

Mr Frank Alexander (Member of Public)
Mr Arran Hewlett (Member of Public)
Mr Peter Roche (Member of Public)

Ms Smith, representing Marick Communications, gave a short presentation on housekeeping rules and guidance for getting the best out of the meeting on the Zoom platform and advised that the meeting was being recorded, for minute-taking purposes only.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks and Declarations of Interest

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

Mrs Holmes thanked Mr Ian Dippie from Largs Community Council and Mr Graham Wallace from Cumbrae Community Council for their input at meetings and attendance at meetings representing their respective Community Councils. She welcomed new representatives to their first meeting – Mr Jamie Black for Largs Community Council and Mr John McHenery for Cumbrae Community Council. Mr Black and Mr McHenery introduced themselves.

Mrs Holmes welcomed Mr Joe Struthers, Hunterston B Station Director and Ms Allison Adamson, Technical and Safety Manager at Hunterston B station, who was attending to support Mr Struthers, who may have to leave the meeting early, and to input to the last item – Presentation on AGR Decommissioning. She also welcomed Mr Martin Macdonald from Scottish Government to support Ms Diane Hamilton on any Higher Activity Waste questions raised. Cllr Jim McEleny of Inverclyde Council and Chair of Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCoRS) was also expected to join the meeting. Mrs Holmes also welcomed members of the public – Mr Arran Hewlett and Mr Frank Alexander. Mr Alexander introduced himself as a former Trade Union representative for both Hunterston A and B stations.

2. Chair and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence Magnox SSG Chairs and Vice Chairs Meeting – 11 February 2022

The Chair's report was issued by email to members in advance of the meeting and Mrs Holmes summarised this. The most significant event locally has been EDF's end of generation at Hunterston B. Mr Joe Struthers was welcomed as Station Director at Hunterston B as Mr Paul Forrest returns to Torness as Site Director. Monthly updates on decommissioning progress and socio economics have continued to take place with Hunterston A. The Chair and Vice Chair attended a site meeting to discuss plans for Kilwinning College North Ayrshire Future Skills Hub development. A visit to Lochshore Community Hub project at Glengarnock had to be cancelled due to adverse weather. The Chair and Vice Chair have attended three SSG Chairs and Vice Chairs meetings on zoom. Mrs Holmes was concerned about the limited membership and lack of Scottish representation on the Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum (NuLEAF). She and the Vice Chair are not invited to these meetings as they are not Local Authority Councillors or Officers. There is Scottish representation in the form of Cllr Dryburgh from Dumfries and Galloway Council and Chapelcross SSG Chair; Cllr Jim McEleny of SCCoRS and Cllr Alex Gallagher, North Ayrshire Council. She was disappointed not to have been informed of this meeting or updated by Cllr Gallagher. Mrs Holmes thanked Mr Bill Hamilton for providing the meeting slides but this did not compensate for not being present to hear the full discussion. She has since met with Cllr McEleny and Mr Phil Matthews, CEO of NuLEAF to voice her concerns. Mrs Holmes noted the Local Authority elections to be held in May 2022, which may result in new Elected Members for the area. The Chair found the Scottish Nuclear Sites meetings, hosted by Scottish Government Radwaste Team, to be positive in bringing together all Scottish civil and Ministry of Defence nuclear sites, stakeholders and regulators. Mrs Holmes hoped that the next Site Stakeholder Group meeting on 3 June 2022 would be in person.

Mr McGhie noted outstanding queries from the previous meeting and asked when the Site Stakeholder Group might have sight of the Hunterston B Station Closure Economic Report by North Ayrshire Council and receive a definition of 'near site, near surface'.

Mr McNamara clarified that EDF, Magnox, the NDA and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) had offered the same presentation given to NuLEAF to the Chair of Magnox Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting, who should be able to report back to other Site Stakeholder Group members. He confirmed that he was happy to do a collective update.

3. Actions and Approval of Previous Minutes

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

4. Hunterston B Station Reports

Hunterston B Report – Mr Joe Struthers, Ms Allison Adamson

Mr Struthers thanked the Chair for changing the agenda order to allow him to present first as he is on annual leave but felt it important to input to the meeting. He thanked the Chair for her kind words at the start of the meeting. Mr Struthers described the end of generation as the end of an era and an emotional day for the Station. It would be remiss of him not to pay tribute to the staff team and contract partners, who should be proud of an excellent performance. Reactor 3 is being prepared for defueling with a couple of plant modifications. Fuel handling and Reactor case handling safety cases are currently being reviewed by ONR. The flask corridor is being upgraded. EDF worked hard to support people through the transition from generation to defueling and was proud that 100% of employees who wished to remain on site had secured positions. 97% of staff had their aspirations met, either through redundancy or remaining on site, and 3% who requested redundancy were continuing on site for the timebeing. The process was subject to an independent review and fared well.

Mr Struthers left the meeting at 2.00 pm.

ONR Report – Mr Stuart Fannin

The ONR report for October - December 2021 issued with the meeting papers was taken as read. A key aspect for ONR was end of generation for Reactor 3 on 26 November 2021 and Reactor 4 on 7 January 2022. Mr Fannin formally recorded ONR's congratulations to Mr Struthers and his team on the successful period of final operation, acting both safely and compliantly. The Station had a very strong final period of performance. The Station was now preparing for defueling. There had been two inspections during the period: COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) – reducing hazardous substances and inventories; and Licence Condition 7 – looking at the robustness of the learning process and experiences from incidents on site. As the station will be configuring changes to plant it is very important to extract as much learning as possible from events to learn going forward. Two notable events were reported during the period. One was a conventional health and safety event with an operative getting their hand trapped in a pressure test vessel, which prompted the Licence Condition 7 inspection. The second reported event was administrative, with an anomaly in nuclear material accounting records. There was a discrepancy between the Nuclear Material Accountancy Records System and local records and this was being followed up by the ONR's Safeguards Inspector. Regulatory Permissioning in quarter 4 related to permission to declassify reactor pressure boundary once the station formally enters its defueling phase.

The Project Assessment Report is available to view on the ONR website. Mr Fannin confirmed that the Station needs ONR's permission to shut down the reactors permanently and safely and begin defueling and the safety cases for this are currently being considered although no significant showstoppers are expected.

SEPA Report – Mr Keith Hammond

The report issued in advance of the meeting was taken as read. Mr Hammond highlighted points to note. The Radioactive Substances Regulation inspection took place on 18 February. The Station was in compliance with a few improvements required. Under Environmental Events, the Station lost control of 1,000-1,500 litres of lightly contaminated oil (tritium). This was captured in the lagoon and did not enter the environment. SEPA is liaising regularly with the site and still investigating. In October 2021, a gasket containing asbestos was misconsigned when going to Cyclife. This should have been recorded in paperwork but as Cyclife is authorised to receive this type of waste and the Station has taken robust action since, an Advisory letter was issued, being the lowest form of enforcement. SEPA has published its Compliance Assessment Scheme results for 2019 on its website, having now recovered documents lost in the cyber-attack.

Members Question and Answer Session

Mr Lamb asked if there had been any agreement on the availability of four flasks per day for defueling and asked if Sellafield will have the required flasks available. Ms Adamson replied that it will start with 2 flasks per week, not four per day. Mr Lamb asked how this would affect defueling. Ms Adamson responded that the rate of defueling will be managed through pond capabilities and timing and rate will be controlled. Mr Fannin added that his role is End of Generation Workstream Lead. As part of this role, ONR inspectors will look at the number of flasks needed as a whole. ONR is aware of the throughput and will work with EDF to increase capacity of the flasks. He added that Hunterston is the pilot scheme, in which the regulators are very interested and will be monitoring.

Mr Lamb asked if Hunterston B has agreement in place with Hunterston A site regarding an Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) store. Ms Adamson advised that agreement is not formally in place and options are still being worked through.

Mr McGhie commended the Station for having no compulsory redundancies and asked how many people left through voluntary redundancy and how many will remain on site. Ms Adamson did not have the figures in front of her but undertook to provide these. Mr Fannin added that staff numbers are subject to regulatory oversight. This is still under discussion and there is an Intervention Plan in place to address this. [ACTION – Ms Adamson to report numbers back to the group](#)

Mr McHenery was pleased to note that the tritium had been caught and asked if monitoring took place. Mr Hammond confirmed that the oil was captured within the lagoon and most was accounted for along the line and manholes. SEPA's routine annual monitoring system - Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) report - looks at this and the Station has its own environmental monitoring programme. No sampling was taken from the Firth of Clyde as this would have been diluted but this will be monitored. Mr McHenery asked if it would be monitored for tritium, which Mr Hammond confirmed to be the case.

Mr Black was concerned that 1500 litres of oil had been released uncontrolled. This should not have happened and he asked for more detail on how it did happen. Mr Hammond appreciated members' concerns and undertook to report the outcome of investigations to future meetings.

Mrs Holmes asked what is involved in the permanent isolation of control rods. Ms Adamson explained that once rods are inserted into the reactor for the last time, a process is followed to ensure that they cannot be inadvertently removed. Mrs Holmes asked how long the isolation and draining down of the pressure vessel cooling system would take. Ms Adamson responded that this would take a number of weeks to complete.

Mrs Holmes asked Mr Fannin for more information on COMAH regulations and details of the hazards and substances to be removed in months or years. Mr Fannin replied that there is an Inventory / schedule of regulated hazardous substances, such as sulphuric acid, methane, etc. Once the station enters defueling, these substances are not required in such high quantities. He added that it is quite right to reduce both the nuclear and COSH and COMAH hazards going forward as this is no longer required so reduces the inventory in a safe way.

Mrs Holmes noted that nitrogen is held as a backup safety system for the reactors and asked Mr Fannin if this will still be required on site. Mr Fannin responded that the nitrogen plant will be isolated as it is not needed as a secondary shutdown or back-up system.

Mrs Holmes noted that, in the past, flasks from Fairlie Station had contaminated soil under the crane and asked if this was routinely monitored at Peel Ports. Ms Adamson was not able to respond to this question. [ACTION – Ms Adamson to report back](#)

Mrs Holmes asked if there was a reduction in risk in having the electrical supply interrupted. Ms Adamson replied that a grid connection will still be needed as the Station enters defueling. Mr Fannin agreed that there is less of a risk.

Mrs Holmes added the congratulations of the Site Stakeholder Group, the communities and herself to the Station on achieving such a high percentage of employee aspirations.

With regard to Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations (REPPiR), Mrs Holmes noted it had been requested that Fairlie and Cumbrae communities were included in the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) but this did not happen. Looking at North Ayrshire Council's Emergency Plans, she noted that most of it had been redacted and the Community Council had submitted a request to the Information Commissioner. She asked if anyone wished to comment on this or wait for a response from the Information Commissioner. Mr Fannin clarified that under REPPiR, the Station and the Local Authority have to prepare onsite and offsite Emergency Plans. A Hazard Evaluation and Consequence Assessment Report, produced as a result of the Station changing from operation to defueling, gives recommendations on the size of the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone. EDF is re-evaluating the Hazard Evaluation and Consequence Assessment Report. The report is not yet available and ONR is monitoring the development of the process. When the report is agreed, it will be issued to the Local Authority to decide on the DEPZ. Mr Fannin explained that it can be appropriate to stop the issue of potassium iodate tablets when the risk is no longer there. Mrs Holmes pointed out that there is so much redaction in the information available that it is difficult to know where to get full information. Ms Jeffery confirmed that North Ayrshire Council is dealing with the Information Commissioner and she was unable to comment further until a response has been received from the Information Commissioner.

Mrs Holmes had not realised that the oil was in a lagoon and asked Mr Hammond what a lagoon is. Mr Hammond explained that the lagoon is open-air and is on the other side of the road as the site is entered. It is a more engineered structure than previously, for surface water. A skimmer on top removes oil from water (from vehicles for example). The lagoon had fulfilled its purpose by containing the oil leak. Mrs Holmes asked the timeframe for the leak. Mr Hammond advised that early indications suggested that this occurred over a couple of days.

Mr McHenery asked what happened to the oil removed by the skimmers. Mr Hammond replied that this is being stored on site in the Low Level Waste (LLW) facility. Mr McHenery asked where it would be transferred to. Mr Hammond clarified that the best practicable means for this has still to be determined. Mr McHenery was concerned that a decision had not yet been made. Mr Hammond responded that this is a relatively common and contained occurrence and the oil has been secured to allow time to make decisions.

Mr Black asked about the methods of detritiating the solution and where this would be done. Mr Hammond advised there is no way to remove tritium and the oil would normally be sent to an authorised facility for incineration.

Public Forum

Mr Roche was pleased to note that most of the 480 employees continued to be employed but asked what had happened to the 250 contractors. Ms Adamson responded that the Station continues to work closely with contractors. She was not able to give specific numbers at the meeting but undertook to bring a more detailed report to the next meeting. [Action – Ms Adamson to report back](#)

Mrs Holmes thanked Ms Fiona McCall for her email regarding noise monitoring. Mrs Holmes thanked Hunterston B Station, ONR and SEPA for their reports and answering members' questions.

5. Hunterston A Site Reports

Hunterston A Reports – Mr Mark Blackley

The Hunterston A report was circulated with the meeting papers. Mr Blackley confirmed that Hunterston A continues to make good progress on the programme of work to Care and Maintenance. With regard to Covid and the Omicron variant, proactive measures have been taken, e.g. increasing social distancing, lateral flow testing at home, use of masks etc. Numbers on site have been low and it is likely that measures will be relaxed during March/April. Recent storms have not caused any significant damage on site. It is now 11 months since the last Lost Time Accident on site. An EHSS&Q review by Magnox Executive Team on 16 February was successful, with positive feedback and no significant concerns. The target for waste retrieval from Solid Active Waste Bunker Retrieval (SAWBR) and Wet Intermediate Level Waste Retrieval and Encapsulation Plant (WILWREP) had been increased from 46 tons to 53 tons to 62 tons. It is anticipated that 70 tons will be reached by the end of the financial year, which is a truly exceptional achievement. Welfare facilities are being improved - kitchens, tea bars and toilets. Walkways and floor gratings on reactors are being replaced. The Learning and Development building is being demolished. Modifications are being made to the WILWREP plant to receive acids. A new Pond Purge Sump sludge retrieval plant and effluent treatment plant are being installed. An extensive recruitment campaign is underway. Mr Blackley was pleased to report that for the first time in years, trainees are being recruited and four offers had been made and accepted. Mr Blackley shared a very short video of apprentices.

ONR Report

The ONR report was circulated with the meeting papers. Mr Kings sent apologies that he had had to leave the meeting due to technical issues but invited any questions to be sent on. Mrs Holmes noted that this would have been Mr Kings' last meeting as he is retiring at the end of April. She asked that the thanks of the Site Stakeholder Group and best wishes for an enjoyable retirement are passed to Mr Kings. [Action – Secretariat to write to Mr Kings conveying the thanks and best wishes of the Site Stakeholder Group.](#)

SEPA Report – Ms Melanie Hayes

SEPA's report on Hunterston A was circulated with the meeting papers. Monthly meetings continue with the site on Microsoft Teams. Corporate liaison meetings with Magnox are ongoing. Ms Hayes and Mr Fearn, Corporate Inspector, visited the site to inspect Solid Intermediate Level Waste Package Records, which was a follow-up from October. A presentation was requested on the totality of package records being retained on site. This was provided, with more follow-up to be done. Maintenance schedules were inspected earlier in the week during a joint inspection with ONR. There were no compliance issues but some procedural improvements could be made. An additional meeting was held on Best Practicable Means documentation to demonstrate compliance with Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR). A number of variations to the site permit are likely over the coming year. No compliance issues or environmental issues have been reported to SEPA.

Members Question and Answer Session

Referring to the Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation (SILWE) project, Mr Lamb asked if the site is going ahead with grouting operations on the first box. Mr Blackley responded that this had been done and simulated as there was no radioactive material in place. Mr Lamb was concerned that the boxes have been in the store for 5-7 years and the material in the boxes will have settled considerably and asked if this makes a significant difference to the process. Mr Phillips responded that there will be some settling but the grouting process should still penetrate to the bottom of the box and Magnox has corporately been seeking advice from Radioactive Waste Management Ltd. There are no concerns and processes will be in place to test the success during the active commissioning process.

Mr Lamb asked about reactor remedial repairs due to water damage. He was concerned about salt contamination on steel corroding it away. Mr Blackley advised of a comprehensive Civil Inspection programme. It is not unusual for steelwork of this age to be degraded and it has been identified early. Mr Lamb referred to windows being corroded and steel degrading for 25 years and hoped that this would be made safe. Mr Blackley confirmed that this is the purpose of the Civil Inspection programme and that £150k had been authorised for the inspection programme.

Mr Lamb asked if the contamination in the Learning and Development Centre building demolition was identified and cleared. Mr Blackley responded that this was out of scope material, with low level activity. The building has been knocked down and the area enclosed and remediation will be determined afterwards.

Referring to SAWBR, Mr Lamb asked if any more fuel element finds had been made. Mr Blackley replied that this was not the case.

With regard to ponds Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) retrieval and SAWBR, Mr Lamb asked if there were new transport flasks for transporting ILW from the pond buildings to bunkers. Mr Blackley explained the process of the solid intermediate level waste route, with the flasks safely transferring waste from ponds to bunkers then retrieved into three cubic metre boxes.

Mrs Holmes asked about the current NDA Decommissioning Strategy of completion of Care and Maintenance in 2030 and when there would be more detail on plans and the timetable. Mr Hamilton explained that the current plan is Care and Maintenance but there is a big change proposed for the ten Magnox Reactor Stations, which will move away from Care and Maintenance to a bespoke strategy for each site, through a rolling programme of decommissioning.

This change requires funding to be made available from the UK Government to BEIS to NDA to

Magnox. Discussions are taking place now, with a key meeting in April when it is hoped that BEIS officials will approve the Rolling Programme and funding. On the assumption that BEIS approve the rolling programme and funding required, which should contain dates, this will then be a Treasury decision with Government Minister / Secretary of State approval expected in late May / early summer. The finer detail is still to be worked out but major milestones are expected in the summer. Mr Blackley added that this is challenging but a good opportunity, with good employment opportunities.

Mr Black was concerned that a Strategy has still not been agreed at this stage, despite having known the position for decades. Mr Hamilton reiterated that the current strategy of Care and Maintenance (for Hunterston A) has been the strategy for decades. This would see the site taken back and fences put up until several decades later when new people would come back and finish off the job. The proposed new strategy has yet to be agreed so the site is still working to the existing strategy of Care and Maintenance. Mr Blackley reiterated the current strategy of retrieving the waste into secure packages, grouting them in stores, knocking down buildings, leaving just five storage buildings on site by 2030 and coming back 60 years later to demolish. The proposed new strategy, if approved, would remove the 60-year gap.

Mrs Holmes referred to a discussion with Hunterston A site with regard to an induction process for new members. It was agreed that this should be delayed until June in case there are new Local Authority member representatives after the elections. Mr McHenery agreed that induction training would be useful. [ACTION – Jill Callander to arrange for a new members induction following the elections in May for any new SSG members.](#)

Mr McHenery referred to Mr Blackley's description of five buildings on site in 2030 and materials stored for hundreds of years and asked when completion of the site-specific strategies is likely. Mr Blackley advised that under the current strategy, materials can be stored for 300 years. He added that the Reactors and ponds facilities would be dismantled.

Mrs Holmes congratulated Mr Blackley and his team on the positive feedback from Magnox Executive Team on the EHSS&Q review and also congratulated the site on the new apprenticeships. Mrs Holmes asked if there was potential vulnerability of standards due to having new employees and asked if there were any areas of concern in respect of fire safety. Mr Blackley advised that there is a maintenance programme and a general overview of all arrangements with specific inspections of reactors and SILWE.

Mrs Holmes pleased to hear of the upgrading of welfare facilities and asked if these would also accommodate Hunterston B employees. Mr Blackley replied that it could be 3-4 years before the two sites come together and it is still to be decided on which facilities will be shared. Mr Hamilton added that the upgrading of welfare facilities is being done across the Magnox estate. Oldbury Technical Centre has been closed. Magnox's Bristol Hub and the Horizon offices at Wylfa are all being refurbished for 'smarter working', making them fit for a 21st century modern office working environment.

Mrs Holmes commented that she would like to see the five redundant vaults removed and would like to see this included in the strategy. Mrs Holmes asked about the sludge in the pond purge sump encapsulation plant going to a different location. Mr Blackley replied a new encapsulation plant is being built to capture the sludge / concrete slurry in the pond purge sump. This is mixed with grout into a canister then into a waste package then stored. This is similar to other sludge retrievals on site but using a different location and equipment.

Mrs Holmes asked how the dumper bot will fit into the WILWREP inner tent. Mr Blackley explained that this would be lowered into the tank and can pick up sludge and solid objects and separate for retrieval. This is a new innovative piece of equipment that has been designed.

Mrs Holmes asked what the west stop harbour workshop is. Mr Blackley advised that this is an area within the pond facility.

Mrs Holmes asked if the new effluent and treatment plant would be above or below ground. Mr Blackley confirmed that this would be above ground.

Mrs Holmes asked for more information on the employee engagement survey and access for training needs. Mr Blackley responded that this was an online survey intended to seek views to build up a picture and identify areas for improvements, such as facilities, training, development, etc. Magnox and Hunterston rate highly in surveys but there is always room for improvement.

Mrs Holmes believed that the Civil Nuclear Constabulary was thinking about diversifying into private firms to work. She understood that jobs are difficult to recruit and retain as they are shift work and repetitive. Nobody from the Civil Nuclear Constabulary was present to comment on this.

Mrs Holmes asked Ms Hayes if the package records which eventually go to the storage facility in Thurso will be an ongoing process or will go as one complete package at the end. Ms Hayes could not answer on the detail but noted the importance of correct records being stored for the lifetime of the waste. Mr Hamilton clarified that the national storage facility is in Wick, not Thurso.

Public Forum

Mr Roche asked if the report on the Business Case for each site would be made public, including dates. He also asked if staff will be expected to move from one site to another if it is on a rolling programme. Mr Hamilton responded the Business Cases themselves would not be made public but information regarding dates etc will be public. He reassured members that the NDA and Magnox will be proactive in talking to stakeholders and will embrace the opportunity to tell the story of the future.

6. NDA Reports – Mr David Wallace

Mr Wallace updated on the NDA position with Covid measurements. An invite / placeholder for the NDA Stakeholder Summit will be issued soon. This will be on 7/8 September 2022 in Edinburgh, possibly in the Sheraton Hotel, as was intended before Covid. The National Audit Office report on the decommissioning of Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors (AGRs) was issued on 28 January 2022, looking at the agreement between BEIS, EDF, NDA and Magnox. The NDA's Chief Executive attended the Public Accounts meeting on 7 February 2022. The report makes interesting reading and explores the Value for Money approach. Nuclear Waste Services Ltd was launched on 31 January 2022. Mr Wallace was pleased to hear the discussion on skills and thought it was timely to see Mr Blackley's video on apprenticeships. The NDA has invested £0.5M in Kilwinning Campus and he thanked the Chair and Vice Chair for attending the meeting there. The NDA has beacon projects focussing on realising opportunities and solving challenges. The three key Beacon projects include Sustainability; Skills; and Social Value. Mr Wallace referred to the question by the Vice Chair on North Ayrshire Council's Economic Report and undertook to chase this up with North Ayrshire Council. [Action – Mr Wallace to chase up Hunterston B Station Closure Economic Report being produced by North Ayrshire Council.](#)

7. Update from Scottish Government – Ms Diane Hamilton, Mr Martin Macdonald

The report issued with meeting papers was taken as read. The focus of the Higher Activity Waste (HAW) Policy Review is the implementation of the 2011 policy and the Higher Activity Radioactive Waste strategy in 2016. Firstly, a Technical Workstream will be undertaken with NDA to develop thinking around the 'near surface near site' concept and better understand the radioactive waste inventory in Scotland and consider the issues and challenges in the 2016 strategy. Ms Hamilton undertook to continue to engage with members of the Site Stakeholder Group collectively. Mr Martin Macdonald was also on the call to answer any questions specific to the HAW Report.

Members Question and Answer Session

Mrs Holmes referred to 'near site, near surface' disposal and had been told by an Ecologist that Hunterston A is not suitable for 'near site, near surface'. She stressed that the Site Stakeholder Group wishes to be engaged and involved in discussions. Mr Macdonald assured members that, as plans develop, Scottish Government will develop a robust stakeholder engagement plan, focussing on the needs of the community, and could also arrange specific workshops for the area.

Mrs Holmes thanked Scottish Government for responding to the questions sent in on the Policy and Strategy. Mr Macdonald invited members to make contact by email with any other questions.

8. Presentation on Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors (AGR) Decommissioning – Mr Alastair Walker, Ms Allison Adamson, Mr John McNamara

Mr Walker, Magnox; Ms Adamson, EDF Hunterston B and Mr McNamara (NDA) gave a combined presentation on AGR Decommissioning. Mr McNamara summarised the Overview; The AGR Decommissioning Agreement; Roles and Responsibilities; Governance; Socio-Economics and Skills. Ms Adamson covered EDF's Nuclear Decommissioning Mission; EDF's Defueling Programme; End of Generation Timescales; What is the Defueling Process: Hunterston B Defueling; Working With Our People. Mr Walker finished the presentation by discussing: Context – The Future for Magnox; What the Revised AGR Decommissioning Arrangements Mean for Us and Our Next Steps; Our Approach; Strategic Alignment Between NDA, Magnox and EDF.

Members Question and Answer Session

Mrs Holmes was interested in reconfiguration within the store for taking Hunterston B station waste and will be interested to hear more about this in due course.

Mr Fannin commented on the interaction with regulators from the last presentation. ONR recognises the benefits of working collaboratively with EDF and Magnox. With respect to the decision made to the use of Hunterston A and Hinkley Point's ILW stores, he considered that the regulators have not been sufficiently engaged in the process to date. It is recognised that this is new work which has not been done before in terms of governance and there needs to be more engagement with the regulators where strategic decisions are being made and the regulators are kept fully aware as there needs to be absolute clarity at all times who is responsible for a particular activity. Mr Fannin made a plea that where Senior Strategic Committee is required that there is further effort to improve dialogue and engagement with the regulators, both ONR and the Environment Agency. Mr Fannin recognised that there have been improvements made in this regard but more are needed to ensure that the regulators are fully sighted and can influence the direction of travel of this work.

Mr Hamilton and Mr Blackley left the meeting at 4.00 pm.

Mrs Holmes was concerned to hear Mr Fannin's comments. Mr Walker undertook to take back Mr Fannin's concerns. He noted that this is a change in strategic planning assumption and will ensure going forward that engagement is made more widely with stakeholders and regulators.

Public Forum

Mr Roche asked why Dungeness is third on the list and not first, when it closed first. He noted that it was estimated to take ten years to defuel, which is longer than Hunterston. As an aside, he also noted that the Nuclear Liabilities Fund website is currently not working.

Ms Adamson responded to Mr Roche's initial question. Hunterston B has been aware of likely end dates for end generation and end defueling for some time and has been preparing for this for a number of years. Dungeness did not have the same time for planning in advance. Safety cases are being prepared now. Mrs Holmes believed that Hunterston is in a better and fit state to go ahead than Dungeness. Mr Black considered this to be a politician's response and thought that issues and conditions around the Station are more likely to be the reason than lack of planning and preparation. Ms McCall confirmed that it is a combination of the two, with Dungeness having bigger reactors and a different fuel route arrangement so would always have taken longer to defuel.

Mr Black asked how the Site Stakeholder Group and public can ensure that decisions made are for the best and have confidence that they will work. Mr McNamara referred to the Governance slide and stressed that a huge amount of work has been put in to provide a framework of the right people for the transition. The emphasis is on governance between the three key parties who will work collaboratively. Mr Wallace urged Mr Black to look at the National Audit Office's website where the Report is published. Some of the issues being raised are included in that report. Mr Wallace suggested that members read that report and come back with any further questions. The report is entitled 'Decommissioning of AGR Power Stations'. Mrs Holmes was confident that the ONR and SEPA have good officers who will hold people to account.

Mr Alexander was aware from the media of the NDA and Magnox's excellent socio economics in the area. He considered publicity on EDF involvement to be missing and asked if an EDF Socio Economic Scheme existed or how it will contribute to community efforts. Ms McCall responded that each EDF site has a Discretionary Fund, with applications made to sites and determined on a case-by-case basis. She added that part of the work being done is to see how to align EDF's corporate responsibility to NDA and Magnox going forward but there will be no immediate change. Mr Alexander pointed out that Magnox and NDA's socio-economic activity and support for community efforts is well-known and publicised where EDF funds seem to be kept secret, with no apparent publicity or transparency. He asked how people apply, where they apply to, and what level of amounts are distributed, none of which appears to be commonly known. He suggested that EDF should be publicising this information and encouraging people to apply. Ms McCall thanked Mr Alexander for his feedback and will look into it. Mrs Holmes thought that EDF had produced reports of socio-economic activity in the past. Mr McGhie was aware that there used to be some local groups requesting funding but he had now retired and did not know the current situation. Mr Alexander thought some people knew about the funding previously or through work but it was not common knowledge.

Mrs Holmes suggested that voting members had a zoom meeting before the next formal Site Stakeholder Group meeting. Mr Black would prefer such meetings to be in the evening. Mrs Holmes reminded members of the structure of the Site Stakeholder Group, being: five Local Authority representatives; five Community Council representatives; one Trade Union representative from each site; National Farmers Union Scotland and Hunterston Estate.

Mr McNamara left the meeting at 4.15 pm.

- Action – Secretariat to set up Zoom meeting for Site Stakeholder Group voting members in the near future.

8. Any Other Business

There were no other items of business raised.

9. Next Meeting – Wednesday 1 June 2022

Mr Lamb noted the typo on the Agenda, giving the next meeting as Thursday 1 June, when 1 June is a Wednesday. Mrs Callander apologised for this error and confirmed that the meeting would be held one day earlier than normal due to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations on Thursday 2 June.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as **Wednesday 1 June 2022**, face to face at **The Waterside Hotel, West Kilbride**, unless Covid restrictions at the time determine otherwise.

Mrs Holmes thanked everyone for taking part in the online meeting and hoped to see everyone at the next meeting. Cllr Barr commented that he would have to be re-elected first at the local authority elections in May and noted that he had been attending meetings for 17 years.

The Chair brought the meeting to a close at 4.18 pm.