



**HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
MINUTES OF SIXTY SIXTH MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER 2022 AT 1.30 PM
THE WATERSIDE HOTEL, ARDROSSAN ROAD, WEST KILBRIDE, KA23 9NG**

Present

Magnox Ltd

Mr Mark Blackley (Site Director, Hunterston A)
Mr Richard Gibson (Engineering and
Infrastructure Manager)
Mr Sean Marshall (Magnox Communications)

EDF (Hunterston B)

Ms Allison Adamson (Technical and Safety
Manager)
Mr Andy Dalling (Transfer and
Deconstruction Preparation Manager)
Ms Fiona McCall (External Comms)
Mr Stuart McGhie (SSG Vice Chair)

Community Council Representatives

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

SEPA

Mr Andrew Gallagher
Ms Melanie Hayes

North Ayrshire Council (NAC)

Cllr John Glover (Kilwinning)

ONR

Mr Stuart Fannin

Hunterston Estate

Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick

Scottish Government

Ms Diane Hamilton
Ms Laura Hogg

NFU Scotland

Mr William Jack

In Attendance

Ms Sheila Adams (Minutes)
Mr Graham Buckley (Member of Public)
Mr Alan Holden (Member of Public)

Apologies

Mrs Jill Callander (Magnox, SSG Secretariat)
Mr Bill Hamilton (Magnox, Communications and Stakeholder Relations Director)
Mr Keith Hammond (SEPA)
Ms Lesley Jeffery (Ayrshire Civil Contingences Team, North Ayrshire Council)
Cllr Tom Marshall (North Coast)
Mr Reuben Phillips (Waste Manager, Hunterston A)
Mr Joe Struthers (Station Director, Hunterston B)
Mr Alastair Walker (Magnox, Programme Delivery Manager)
Mr David Wallace (NDA, Stakeholder Lead Scotland)

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks and Declarations of Interest

Mrs Holmes, Chair, welcomed everyone to the sixty sixth meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group in the Waterside Hotel, West Kilbride. All present introduced themselves.

Mr Marshall read the apologies as listed above. There were no declarations of interest.

Mrs Holmes advised of a change to the running order of the agenda to allow Ms Hogg, Scottish Government, to present between the Hunterston B and Hunterston A reports, prior to another meeting commitment at 3.00 pm.

2. Chair and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence

The Chair and Vice Chair had received regular monthly updates from Mr Blackley at Hunterston A on progress and events since the September meeting. Mr Marshall had also updated on socio economics. The Chair and Vice Chair had attended two main meetings – the NDA's 'Keeping the Conversation Going' on 7/8 September and the annual Magnox SSG Chairs' and Vice Chairs' meeting on 2 November, which should have been in Manchester but was online due to train strikes. This was not quite the same as being in person but useful nevertheless. The NDA event in Edinburgh lived up to its title, with many conversations, panel discussions, stalls and mini presentations by talented people within the industry. The keynote speech was given by Mairi McAllan MSP and Mr Marshall's sister, a champion bagpiper, gave a dynamic musical welcome and address to the haggis. Mrs Holmes attended a third meeting, being the first meeting of the newly formed NDA / NGO Forum. The meeting was co-chaired by Paul Vallance, NDA Director of Communications and Stakeholder Relations and Mrs Holmes. Professor Andy Blowers described the meeting as disciplined, informative and respectful. Topics on the agenda included the AGR transition and the NDA and the Energy Security programme. Mr Blackley hosted a site tour and light lunch for SSG members able to attend. Mrs Holmes, Cllr Collier, Mr John McHenry and Mr Graham Buckley were shown round the site and visited the Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation (SILWE) Plant.

There were no questions on the Chair and Vice Chairs' report. Mrs Holmes added that the next SSG Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting would be on 9 December online.

3. Actions and Approvals of previous Minutes

Mr Marshall updated on the Actions in the Minutes:

- Mr Hammond to arrange circulation of the SEPA report on the leak of radioactively contaminated oil through the Secretariat, if there are no sensitivity restrictions on doing so – the SEPA report had been circulated to Site Stakeholder Group members and the final warning letter had been included in meeting papers.
- Mr Struthers to include defueling statistics in his reports going forward – statistics were included in the Hunterston B report circulated with meeting papers.
- Mr Blackley to check and advise Site Stakeholder Group members if planning permission for weather envelope has expired – Mr Blackley confirmed that representatives of North Ayrshire Council had been on site in January 2022 to discuss this and hear about the potential change in care and maintenance strategy. They asked to be kept informed and Mr Blackley confirmed that the site is in regular dialogue with North Ayrshire Council, pending a decision by UK Government.
- Ms Hamilton to provide a response from Scottish Government to Mr Black's question – does the Scottish Government have a stated policy on Care and Maintenance and Continued Decommissioning?

Mr Marshall read the response from the Scottish Government:

'The Scottish Government is supportive of the NDA's plan for continuous decommissioning of sites in Scotland and set out in its Strategy IV and its Business Plan for 2022/23.'

- Ms Hamilton to provide a response from Scottish Government to Mr Black's further question - has Scottish Government given consideration to the use of Hunterston B site and what are the options?

Mr Marshall read the response from Scottish Government:

'As work to defuel / decommission Hunterston B in its very early stages, no decisions have been made regarding the use of the land that Hunterston B sits on. Consideration will be made as this work progresses, including engagement with stakeholders.'

The Minutes of the Site Stakeholder Group meeting, held on 1 September 2022, were proposed for approval by Mr Stuart McGhie and seconded by Mr Jamie Black.

4. Hunterston B Station Reports

Hunterston B Report – Ms Allison Adamson, Mr Andy Dalling

The report issued with the meeting papers was taken as read. Mr Dalling and Ms Adamson reported on behalf of Mr Struthers. Defueling activity is going to plan and is done in two halves, firstly being removed into the pond, then from the pond on to the train. 66 flasks of 350 have been dispatched to date. Statistics are included in the written report. Asset capability is being increased. Procedural changes have been made to plant and flasks have been tested. There were learning opportunities from two issues with the skip manipulator which is used to move fuel skips as part of the defueling process. The Transfer and Deconstruction Preparation is in the early stages with a plan in place involving three streams – site transition; transfer; deconstruction preparation. EDF is working together with Magnox and NDA on a transfer blueprint. Deconstruction preparation includes moving hazards off site to enter care and maintenance state (estimated to take 12 years) and waste characterisation.

Health and safety performance remains good with the Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) being maintained at 0 for 12 months. Safety engineers carry out regular compliance inspections. The site engaged with European Safety Week and was supported by the Occupational Health Team. Under radiological protection, the collective dose values remain low. There have been no significant events under environmental safety. With regard to the oil leak reported at the last meeting, the site continues to work with specialist contractors to try and locate the source of the oil leak using tracers as the leak is so small. There were no issues to report under emergency arrangements. A Counter Terrorism demonstration exercise was overseen by ONR (CNS) on site security arrangements, which was graded adequate. Arrangements for a level one safety exercise are underway, at which ONR will be on site. Work is progressing well to update off-site and on-site emergency plans in line with the agreement with the local authority.

Under people, a Transfer and Deconstruction Team has been established. The station was very pleased to help fundraise for a local cancer charity and a team from the site completed the Great Scottish Run for Ayrshire Cancer Support.

SEPA Report – Ms Melanie Hayes

The report issued with the meeting papers was taken as read. On behalf of Mr Hammond, Ms Hayes highlighted key points. New Chief Executive Officer, Nicole Paterson, is now in post. Weekly status updates are given on progress and priorities after the cyber-attack. The Compliance Assessment Scheme Registry is still not up and running. Formal weekly calls with the station continue, including Environmental Safety Group and corporate Generation Environment Management.

Routine meetings are held with EDF and others on strategic issues, defueling and decommissioning. An inspection took place on 25 October to close out actions on the radioactive oil loss event in February. No contraventions were identified. SEPA has been monitoring the station's actions to locate and repair the small non-radioactive leak from an oil-filled cable on site. There have been no other issues in respect of the regulations.

RIFE27 (Radioactivity in Food and the Environment) has been published for 2021 and is available on SEPA's website. The total dose for the representative person around Hunterston for 2021 (including A and B sites) was 0.006 millisieverts, which is well below the legal annual dose level of 1 millisievert.

ONR Report – Mr Stuart Fannin

The ONR report for July-September 2022 issued with the meeting papers was taken as read. Mr Fannin updated on a number of inspections on site, the principal purpose of which is defueling safely. An inspection took place on LC10 Training to ensure appropriate training of new staff. LC25 Safeguards was also the subject of an inspection on records for fuel management, which is important for fuel free verification. An LC22 Modification or Experiment on Existing Plant inspection was done to ensure that there is a programme in place to ensure that plant no longer required is properly controlled and isolated. A number of inspectors undertook the above inspections and all were satisfied and entirely happy that the station is meeting these licence conditions. Processes from Hunterston B are to be applied at Hinkley Point B.

Mr Fannin explained a number of events with the pond manipulator crane. When the pond crane was lifting the skip, it was lifting beyond the position that it was meant to go to. This caused minor impacts with adjacent plant. Increased utilisation of the pond crane has led to extra wear on the limit switches. The station responded appropriately and robustly.

Mr Fannin and a colleague carried out an inspection of LC35 arrangements for governance of the decommissioning planning. Decommissioning plans are being developed and arrangements on site are robust with ONR satisfied with the management. There was however non-compliance with governance and oversight and as it is fundamental that this is properly implemented, an enforcement letter was issued to EDF Corporate Centre, not Hunterston B station. ONR will work with Corporate Centre to ensure adequate implementation going forward.

Members Question and Answer Session

Ms Hogg asked if the 66 flasks have been dispatched during the calendar year or financial year. Mr Dalling confirmed that this was during the calendar year.

Mr McGhie asked if EDF would be allowed to sell the deconstructed plant or if this would become NDA property. Mr Dalling advised that the plant is not currently in use and it might be transferred to other sites but there is not that much of it. Serious deplanting will not happen for another 3.5 years as it is mostly preparation work currently being done.

Mr Lamb asked about EDF's involvement in the shielding of the Peel Ports loading facility. Mr Dalling advised EDF is supporting Peel Ports with visual screening of the rail head with a fence. Mr Lamb asked if Peel Ports could refuse access to the loading facility. Mr Dalling confirmed that this could potentially be the case but aesthetic arrangements are being undertaken to make it look better and support continued access through to completion of defueling.

Mr Black asked who is responsible for the railway line between the main line and the transfer station. Mr Dalling confirmed that this is Peel Ports' responsibility. Mr Black asked how often this line is inspected. Mr Fannin clarified that this is not within ONR's vires.

Mr Black asked what would happen if a flask became stuck on the line or came off the line and suggested that Network Rail should also be on the Site Stakeholder Group. Mr Fannin suggested that this was a question for the Office for Rail Regulation as it not within ONR's remit.

- [Action – Mr Dalling to feed this concern back to Peel Ports and make further enquiries regarding the integrity of rail line for flask movements. .](#)

Mrs Holmes added that whilst improbable, there was more risk with the increased transportation of flasks which was a concern for locals. She had been asking for years what the impacts and effects of a breached flask would be and over what distance. Mr Fannin clarified that there is a safety case for the flasks and the flasks are incredibly robust and it would be extremely unlikely that they would be breached but should this be the case, emergency plans would be put in place over a 50m exclusion zone. Mrs Holmes asked where such plans could be accessed as any request for information normally sees most information blocked out. Mr Fannin responded that contingency arrangements are the responsibility of the local authority. Mrs Holmes asked what would be released if flasks were breached and if it would be liquid spillage or airborne. Mr Fannin replied that the potential for airborne is very low. He was unable to speak for the local authority and suggested that Mrs Holmes ask the question of North Ayrshire Council if required. Mr Black was surprised to hear that the railway line was in use as he had previously read that it was disused. He would like a response to the above questions.

- [Action – Chair, Rita Holmes to write to North Ayrshire Council regarding Emergency Plan for fuel transportation.](#)

Mr Lamb asked for clarification that there would be no risk if the pond manipulator crane did not stop. Mr Fannin clarified that the crane is 20ft down in the pond and moves extremely slowly so the worst impact would be a minor collision. Mr Dalling added that the operator was watching and looking at other controls and there was no risk as the operator intervened.

Mr Black asked again about readiness for power outages and if diesel tanks are ready. Mr Dalling confirmed that the station takes this seriously and there are diesel tanks ready in the case of power outages.

Mr Black referred to the findings of the inspection of LC35 and the disconnect between the site and EDF Corporate Centre which he found worrying. He noted that the relationships between other parties have to work and it is concerning if there is disconnect within the same organisation. Mr Fannin explained that collaborative working between Magnox, NDA and EDF on one site is novel as usually there is one licensee. This arrangement makes it more complicated which is the reason that Mr Fannin is ONR Site Inspector for both Hunterston A and B sites, to work out how collaborative working can be achieved. Mr Fannin assured members that he speaks to all parties concerned to ensure absolute clarity on who the licensee is and all other parties are aware of their responsibilities. Mr Dalling added that Hunterston B site and EDF Corporate were not misaligned.

Mr Black asked if there should be a specific update on collaboration going forward. Mr Fannin replied that this will be alluded to in future ONR reports for Hunterston B station.

Mr Black asked when there will be an output from Hunterston B's consultation exercise. Mr Dalling responded that feedback is being gathered, which will be submitted to ONR formally in quarter 3. Mr Dalling was unsure of the timescale for the next consultation but undertook to find out.

- [Action – Mr Dalling to advise Site Stakeholder Group members of the timeline for the next Hunterston B consultation exercise.](#)

Mrs Holmes asked for more information on the removal of 10,000 litres of fire resistant fluid from site. Mr Dalling responded that this related to lubricating oil from the hydraulics of a turbine. As this is in a now redundant system, the turbine was drained down to remove the oil. The station has been proactive in removing this to reduce the inventory and reduce the minimal hazard posed to staff, the public and the environment. This was dealt with off-site by a specialist contractor. Mrs Holmes asked where fluid went and how it is dealt with. Mr Dalling was unable to answer this at the meeting and undertook to report back.

- **Action – Mr Dalling to advise Site Stakeholder Group members of where the fire resistant fluid from the turbine hydraulics goes to and how it is dealt with.**

Mrs Holmes asked about the compliance evaluations on lead and compressed gas cylinders. Ms Adamson responded that this was picked up routinely while working through a programme of routine suite of compliance evaluations.

Mrs Holmes asked more about the tritium oil leak. Ms Adamson clarified that the oil leak referred to in the meeting papers is different to that discussed at the last meeting and refers to a small leak of non-radioactive biodegradable oil, the source of which is still trying to be located, with the assistance of specialist contractors. Mr Holden asked for assurances that there is no potential for a repeat of the tritium oil leak. Ms Adamson confirmed that agreed actions have been completed and the station is satisfied that this event will not recur.

Mrs Holmes asked if the waste oil burner referred to in the SEPA report had ever been used. Ms Hayes was not familiar with this but Mr Dalling confirmed that it is unlikely that this will ever be used.

Ms Hayes asked if the fire resistant fluid was contaminated or clean. Mr Dalling replied that this was clean.

8. Update from Scottish Government – Ms Diane Hamilton, Ms Laura Hogg

The Scottish Government report, circulated with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Ms Hamilton invited questions on the report. There were no questions from members.

Ms Hogg proceeded with her presentation on the Scottish Higher Activity Waste Programme of Work and the direction of travel. Ms Hogg reminded members that the Scottish Government Higher Activity Waste Strategy was approved in 2016. A programme of work was developed with work streams for delivery. A series of assumptions were made on the Near Surface Disposal project and 'near site' was not clearly defined. This is now assumed to be taken literally to mean current licensed sites and 2km adjacent to these sites. This will affect Dounreay, Chapelcross, Hunterston and Torness. Ms Hogg clarified that this review will not make decisions but determine what the strategic project could look like. This is likely to be a multi-year or even multi decade project, with the final strategy being decided in July 2023.

Ms Hogg confirmed that she will end her secondment at Scottish Government and revert back to the NDA in January 2023 but she will remain the NDA's lead on this and Martin Macdonald will be Scottish Government lead.

Members Question and Answer Session

Mr McGhie asked if planning permission would be required to extend the 'near site' area to 2km adjacent to sites. Ms Hogg responded that potentially this would mean licensing and planning permission. Mr McGhie asked why the area was not kept within the ringfence of the licensed nuclear sites.

Ms Hogg responded that some of the sites are exceptionally small and the reality is that a facility would not fit within some of the licensed site areas. Mr McGhie asked if sites had been discussed. Ms Hogg replied that all four sites mentioned above are being considered.

Mr Black referred to his question at the last meeting on Scottish Government's consideration on the use of Hunterston B site and the options and suggested that the answer given above contradicts what Ms Hogg has reported on. Ms Hogg clarified that the work currently being undertaken involves a strategic level study of the land. There is physically insufficient space at Hunterston for a disposal facility. Mr Black did not understand why the Scottish Government is looking at a Higher Activity Waste Strategy when the Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor (AGR) fleet is winding down. Mr Hogg advised that the policy in the UK is different to Scotland, where it is a devolved matter. Decades ago, all waste would have gone to a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). In 2011, Scotland withdrew from GDF and made 'near surface, near site' its policy. Scotland is part of the Low Level Waste (LLW) repositories but has a different Higher Activity Waste (HAW) policy. The strategy will determine how the Higher Activity Waste policy will be implemented.

Ms Holmes noted that the Higher Activity Waste (HAW) at Hunterston A is in stainless steel drums and boxes in the Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) store and is unencapsulated, apart from 150 drums for liquid waste, which have been encapsulated. EnergySolutions Graphite Pathfinder project led to delays in the Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation (SILWE) Plant being constructed. So there is solid ILW in boxes, in the ILW store, which require "grouting" to meet criteria for the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). NB Scottish Government Policy is for near site, near surface disposal. The waste from Bunker 1 contains Fuel Element Debris (FED), which is unsuitable for near surface disposal. Currently, Scottish Government is reviewing its HAW Policy, looking at near surface disposal for Hunterston ILW from Bunkers 2-5, instead of storage. SEPA and ONR are considering the quality categorisation of this waste. Ms Hayes advised that SEPA needs to be assured that waste has been properly characterised. An independent contractor will make a decision on whether the waste has been properly characterised. A permit variation request can now be made for gaseous outlet on the SILWE plant. While waste from Bunker 1 will be allowed to be encapsulated, a decision will not be made on bunkers 2-5 until an independent piece of work has been carried out. In order to provide the information required for the permit to be granted, this information is required. SEPA and ONR need to know that Magnox is confident of what is in bunkers 2-5.

Mr Fannin added that a letter has been processed by ONR and was being sent to Mr Blackley, Hunterston A Site Director that day. This will be the subject of future discussion at Site Stakeholder Group meetings. Mr Blackley added that Magnox needs to submit a permit variation for the discharge stack at SILWE. It is estimated that this process will take two years. The estimated date for bunker one packages is 2025. Ms Hayes agreed that it is likely to take two years for a permit to be granted as a public consultation exercise would likely be required, which is a lengthy process.

Mrs Holmes noted that Chapelcross and Dounreay are large sites whereas Hunterston is very small. The geology within the 2km area would also have to be looked at. She recalls being told by geologists years ago that Hunterston is totally unsuitable for near site, near surface disposal. Ms Hogg advised that as the process develops, there will be multi years of consideration by geophysicists etc.

Mr Black asked if there would be one facility per site, i.e. four facilities. Ms Hogg emphasised that no decisions have been made and this is the assumption made for this project alone.

Mr McGhie noted that this decision was devolved to Scotland and Scottish Government had changed from the UK's GDF policy to near site, near surface. This would involve four sites in Scotland at four times the cost. The UK as a whole would have one deep repository, which Scotland may have at some point in the future. He could not understand the politics or sense in incurring so much cost and thought that there should be one agreed solution. Mrs Holmes noted that even the GDF is decades away and England and Wales will also need interim storage. Ms Hogg replied that there was significant work involved in Scottish Government's decision in 2007 and this is still the policy in Scotland. Wales is now also looking at near surface, near site. Mr Marshall added that all Site Stakeholder Groups were fully involved in the process in 2007. The consensus then was that Scotland would look after its own waste and each site keep their own and sites did not want waste from elsewhere.

Mr Black asked what land is earmarked in the Hunterston area as there is sea on one side and cliff on the other. Ms Hogg clarified that it will be from the middle of the licensed site and 2km out from there. Mr Black asked what the budget was. Ms Hogg replied that the Near Site project has a budget of £300k for 12 months. Mr Black asked the whole cost of the Higher Activity Waste policy. Ms Hogg replied that not all work streams have been developed yet and work streams have to be developed before they can be costed.

Mr Black reiterated that he considered the response to his question at the last meeting to be inaccurate and asked if Scottish Government would reconsider its response. Ms Hogg will take this back to Scottish Government.

- Action - Ms Hogg to consider if another response is to be provided to Mr Blacks question from Scottish Government - has Scottish Government given consideration to the use of Hunterston B site and what are the options?

Ms Hayes advised that Magnox has a person at strategic level looking at graphite.

6. Update from Magnox -

Mr Hamilton was not present at the meeting and no report had been provided.

7. Update from NDA –

The NDA report circulated with the meeting papers was taken as read. Mr Wallace was not present at the meeting. Any questions for the NDA can be fed back through the Secretariat.

Members Question and Answer Session

Mr Black felt that the Site Stakeholder Group needed to push and ask Ministers and policymakers what the strategy is for Hunterston A and B. This will take years to pursue after a decision is made. Mrs Holmes replied that the NDA would have reported if a response had been received from BEIS. Mr Fannin reminded members that the current Magnox strategy for Hunterston A is decommissioning, which is currently under review. There is a different mechanism and different funding for Hunterston B, with EDF having a Safe Store Strategy. A strategy is currently being developed for a Safe Store Envelope. When Hunterston B comes under NDA ownership, this strategy will continue, unless a revised strategy is agreed.

The Chair paused the meeting at 3.00 pm for a 10 minute comfort break. The meeting resumed at 3.10 pm.

5. Hunterston A Site Reports

Hunterston A Reports – Mr Mark Blackley

The Hunterston A report issued with the meeting papers was taken as read. Mr Blackley introduced Mr Richard Gibson, Engineering and Infrastructure Manager, and deputy for the Site Director. Under Safety Performance, unfortunately there had been a significant hand injury on site caused by a moving container of water on a pallet truck. This was a reportable event under RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) and the person injured was still off work. An independent senior manager is investigating. Across Magnox, there has been a spate of hand injuries and a safety campaign and enhanced observation has been undertaken across the estate.

A site security exercise was successfully demonstrated to regulators. The site hosted a positive visit from senior safety representatives from each Magnox site and executives of Magnox (HESAC). There were no significant nuclear, radiological safety or security issues during the reporting period. Environmental safety performance was disappointing. Holes in ventilation stacks had been reported previously. An inspection did not find any more holes in stacks but there were a number of defects internally in ducts, for which a programme is in place to repair them.

The site continues to retrieve waste from bunker one with 161 tons/waste or 1,161 boxes retrieved at the time of the report from all five bunkers. Subject to approval of permit variation, bunker one waste will be able to be encapsulated. The robot on the SILWE facility still has issues. A magnet screen has been retrieved from the pond, which is a significant piece of intermediate level waste to be removed from the pond. Magnox and EDF continue to work collaboratively and a number of workshops have been held.

The focus on resources continues in an attempt to reduce the vulnerability of the site and strengthen resources. There have been six new starts and 16 positions recruited. Over £1,000 was raised for charity during a McMillan Coffee Morning. There has been no decision or forward announcements in respect of the care and maintenance / rolling programme of decommissioning but the NDA is due to publish its Business Plan imminently and Mr Blackley looked forward to clarity on this.

SEPA Report – Mrs Melanie Hayes

A written report had been issued with the meeting papers and was taken as read. Ms Hayes confirmed that communications continue between corporate Magnox and the site on local and strategic issues. A site visit in October concentrated on an inspection of arrangements for maintenance of equipment, further to the warning letter in March regarding the gaseous discharge stack and systems. Findings from the site visit are still being considered. While on site, SEPA was informed of a number of issues with ventilation systems and notified of holes in ventilation ducts. An inspection of potential non-compliance actions took place and an inspection of all gaseous systems and potential non-compliance with Hunterston A's site permits. SEPA is still considering the findings.

ONR Report – Mr Stuart Fannin

The ONR report for July-September 2022 issued with the meeting papers was taken as read. Mr Fannin reported on one systems based inspection of the Wet Intermediate Level Waste Retrieval and Encapsulation Plant (WILWREP). The plant has been built to modern standards and ONR was looking at the implementation of the safety case, focussing on LC34 maintenance, training, adequacy of containment etc. This resulted in a green rating, with ONR satisfied at its findings.

Outwith the reporting period, the notifiable event involving a significant injury is serious. ONR has instructed a preliminary enquiry by the Health and Safety Inspectorate on the extent of the injury and early findings. This is still ongoing and ONR will decide on any future ONR action after the health and safety investigation has concluded. Mr Fannin noted that Magnox has taken robust and early corrective actions. ONR took part in some of the SEPA investigations into the gaseous discharge stacks and ONR fully supports SEPA and its early conclusions. Mr Fannin will work with Ms Hayes to ensure that appropriate actions are progressed.

Members Question and Answer Session

Mrs Holmes noted that an email on Future Missions had been received from the NDA earlier that day.

Mr Black noted that ONR invited the Health and Safety Executive to Hunterston A following the significant hand injury and asked if North Ayrshire Council also had a responsibility. Mr Fannin clarified that ONR's purposes include conventional health and safety and ONR's standards are identical to that of Health and Safety Executive and the same standards on a licensed site.

Mr Black asked if there was corrosion all over the site as this appears to be in every report and the sites appears to be battling against the tide. Mr Blackley responded that the plant is old and degraded with age and environmental conditions. Asset degradation is common and work is also currently being done on reactor roofs and steelwork. Mr Black further asked if there was sufficient investment to prevent serious degradation in ten years. Mr Blackley confirmed that there is a programme of maintenance and significant investment to combat asset degradation.

Mr Lamb asked for an update on levels in Compound 7 as a result of increased rainfall between September and November. Mr Blackley responded that this is regularly monitored and no issues had been reported.

Mrs Holmes asked if the hand injury was a result of equipment failure. Mr Blackley clarified that this equipment had been fully tested in July and the injury was not attributable to equipment fault. The results of the investigations are awaited.

Mrs Holmes asked how successful the camera is in the Miscellaneous Receiving Tanks (MRTs). Mr Blackley replied that cameras can access and provide surveys and reports which confirm that there are no radiological conditions in the tanks any more.

Mrs Holmes referred to excavations and is aware how jam-packed everything is on site. From speaking to people on site from years ago, when conditions were more lax, she asked if anyone has an overall view of the site and what lies underneath the concrete. Mr Blackley responded that there are records of what has been built and demolished which are the baseline, but these are not treated as 100% accurate and radiological protection measures are taken when demolishing as a precaution.

Mrs Holmes asked if containment after the problem with the ducts is a big job and if it is underground. Ms Hayes replied that most liquid containment systems – tanks and bunds – are above ground but some tanks and pipework is below ground. SEPA is awaiting a response from the site on how it satisfies itself of integrity and that adequate containment has been provided.

A high percentage of gaseous containment can be seen in ductwork and stacks. The site is virtually inspecting all gaseous containment and notifying SEPA of the results. There will be a programme of maintenance and repair. The point of EASR is to ensure that there are no

implications on the environment or people.

Mrs Holmes asked how a decision on the treatment of spent fuel will progress. Mr Blackley advised that Hunterston B will be defueled at the point of transfer and optioneering was taking place for the fuel found in Hunterston A Bunkers and no decision had yet been made and this was expected in the first quarter of 2023.

9. Any Other Business

Mr Black raised a point of order and noted that Cllr Todd Ferguson had advised North Ayrshire Council that he had resigned from the Site Stakeholder Group but had not advised the Site Stakeholder Group. He considered that it would have been courteous to notify the Site Stakeholder Group before North Ayrshire Council. Mr Marshall noted that there had been correspondence between the Secretariat and North Ayrshire Council.

Mr Black has been involved with Locality Partnership work in Largs and noted that North Ayrshire is the fifth most deprived area in Scotland, with an employment and energy crisis. He asked if the Scottish Government would reconsider its non-nuclear policy. Ms Hamilton responded that Scottish Government is moving towards renewables and renewable energy.

Mrs Holmes was pleased to see Cllr Glover at the meeting. Cllr Glover pointed out that he has some difficulty in hearing. He noted that the devolved Scottish administration is totally opposed to nuclear and he considered that windfarms cost too much.

10. Next Meeting – Thursday 2 March 2023

The meeting dates for 2023 had been scheduled for:

Thursday 2 March

Thursday 1 June

Thursday 7 September – changed to Thursday 14 September due to availability of venue

Thursday 7 December

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and brought it to a close at 3.38 pm.