



Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

AGENDA

**Agenda for the SSG meeting to be held on Wednesday 19 April 2023
D&G Council Chambers, Annan Town Hall, Annan at 10am.**

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- 1. (10:00 – 10:02) Chairman's welcome**
 - 2. (10:03 – 10:05) Announcements and apologies (*including any Declarations of Interest*)**
 - 3. (10:06 – 10:08) Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising**
 - 4. (10:09 – 10:29) Chapelcross Site Closure Director's Report (*including update on Magnox Socio-Economic Scheme*)- *Richard Murray, Chapelcross Site Director.***
 - 5. (10:30 – 10:45) NDA Update – *David Wallace, NDA***
 - 6. (10:46 – 11:16) Other reports from SSG bodies - ONR, SEPA, Scottish Government**
 - 7. (11:17 – 11:24) External Meetings and Invitations
*Magnox SSG Chairs/Vice Chairs Meeting, Meeting with DEPNEZ regarding Current Policy Consultation***
 - 8. (11:25– 11:40) CX Project Update – *Helen Emberson, CX Programme Lead***
 - 9. (11:41 – 11:51) Any Other Business**
 - 10. (11:52 – 12:00) Public Forum**

Next Meeting, Wednesday 9 August 2023



Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 16 November 2022 at 10.00 am
D&G Council Chambers, Annan Town Hall, High Street, Annan, DG12 6AQ**

Present:

Mr Neil Carruthers (The Royal Burgh of Annan Community Council)
Cllr Archie Dryburgh MBE (representing Annandale East and Eskdale) (Chair)
Cllr Lynne Davis (representing Annandale North)
Mr Bill Hamilton (Magnox Communications and Stakeholder Relations)
Cllr George Jamieson (representing Annandale South) (Vice Chair)
Mr Oliver Mundell MSP
Ms Jaime Nicholson (D&G Council, Ward Officer Annandale South)
Mr Willie McNairn (2km Resident Representative)
Mr Richard Murray (Chapelcross Site Director)
Mr Ian Park (Magnox Trade Union Representative)
Mr David Wallace (NDA)

In Attendance:

Ms Sheila Adams (Minutes)

Apologies:

Mrs Jill Callander (SSG Secretariat)
Mr Rowland Cook (ONR)
Ms Helen Emberson (D&G Council, CX Programme Lead)
Ms Diane Hamilton (Scottish Government)
Cllr Sean Marshall (representing Annandale South)
Ms Carol Midwood (Federation of Community Councils / Canonbie and District CC)
Dr David Stone (SEPA)
Cllr Stephen Thompson (Annandale North)
Cllr Carlyne Wilson (Annandale North)

1. Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Dryburgh welcomed a small turnout to the meeting. He wished Mrs Callander all the best in feeling better soon and sent the condolences of the Site Stakeholder Group to Ms Hamilton for a recent bereavement.

2. Announcements and Apologies (including Declarations of Interest)

Cllr Dryburgh read out the Apologies as listed above.

Mr Carruthers confirmed that he is employed by Magnox Limited and was attending the meeting as a representative of the Royal Burgh of Annan Community Council.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the meeting of 3 August 2022 were approved as a true record and proposed as such by Mr Willie McNairn and seconded by Mr Ian Park.

Action points from the last meeting

- Secretariat to produce glossary of common nuclear acronyms for new members – carried forward.
- Secretariat to arrange site visit for Site Stakeholder Group members wishing to attend – this had been arranged but for various reason had had to be rescheduled and would now take place in the new year – carry forward.

4. Chapelcross Site Closure Report – Mr Richard Murray (including update on Magnox Socio-Economic Scheme)

Mr Murray gave an update under the headings of EHSS&Q Performance, Site News, Programme Overview and Socio-Economic Update.

In terms of safety, Mr Murray was pleased to report that the site had gone one year without a Lost Time Accident. The message that safety always comes first is being reinforced across the site and the Magnox estate. Mr Murray gave an update on the discharge sub limit exceedance at the Advanced Vacuum Drying Facility that had been reported to SEPA on 20 June that was reported at the last Site Stakeholder meeting. Internal investigations had taken place, as well as an investigation by SEPA. Mr Murray explained the circumstances resulting to the discharge was related to components that had previously been loaded into Reactor 2. The components were Reactivity Control Cartridges and had been used to control the reactivity of the reactor. The components were made of a stainless steel tube blanked at either end by a nose cone and lifting top. The tubes had to be cut to fit into the long term storage container. It appeared that when some components were loaded into the storage container the C14 gas had been trapped and when the containers were processed to ensure the contents were dry the gas was discharged. The components were originally filled with air at atmospheric pressure but due to being within the neutron flux of the reactor the nitrogen in the air turned to C14. Mr Murray again reassured members that there was no risk of harm to personnel or the environment and the discharge was well within the authorised discharge limit.

Mr Murray was pleased to report no injuries in Quarter 2. Across the Magnox Company, there had been a significant number of hand injuries which has resulted in a programme of 'back to basics' human performance training, rolled out across the estate to all personnel. This reinforced the message, not to be complacent and to stop and think about everyday tasks and stop and put things right that are not as they should be. Mr Murray pointed out that it is not the more hazardous activities that typically cause injuries but the more mundane tasks.

Performance in the Mosaiks and ponds are where it should be. The site is on target to have 40 packages in the Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) store in this financial year. Legacy waste targets are also on track. Mr Murray described the work done under critical milestones, all of which are completed. This has been a positive year and it is important to keep focussed.

The age profile on site is still a concern with one third of the workforce being 58+. Recruitment exercises are ongoing and the site is supporting the local economy by bringing in new talent. All newly recruited employees live no more than 25 miles approximately from the site, which is good news for the site as local people tend to stay with the Company. Three new apprentices started in September and have completed six weeks at Bridgwater College. They have been allocated to different teams and the more experienced staff are enjoying training the apprentices.

The first active package has been retrieved from the CXPP and welded in the first intermediate level waste drum. This facility is unique in the UK. The personnel who operated the CXPP in the 1980's are now undertaking the decommissioning and this is regarded as a showcase project for Magnox. The aim for the project this financial year is to have thirty four packages into the Intermediate Level Waste store. This is a key part of the site's activity and is high hazard work, being done by a highly skilled workforce.

An update was given on the removal of waste from the site and the good progress being made and to establish a visual picture of this, drones were flown over the site earlier in the year and the images compared against Google Map images from four years ago.

As well as a large amount of decommissioning work, work is also being undertaken on asset care. A new water overlay system is being designed. Reactor voids have been sealed to protect the reactors from long term water ingress. Asbestos in the old electrical maintenance workshop has been stripped. This involves large enclosures and is very labour intensive. A multi-million pound contract has been let to remove the windows from the Reactors.

The Socio Economic Scheme is celebrating ten years, with £9million distributed across the Magnox estate, £450k of which has gone to projects in this area.

Mr Murray was pleased to see a noticeable difference in progress on the CX project.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Dryburgh welcomed the progress with recruitment of new staff, especially highly skilled jobs. He can remember human performance training and suggested reinforcing a circular timeframe of 18 months – two years. Mr Murray confirmed that this will be the responsibility of one of the roles currently being recruited. Cllr Dryburgh also considered that spatial awareness is an issue.

Cllr Dryburgh noted SEPA's lack of resources and asked if this was likely to affect the budget for the programme next year. Mr Murray responded that it is affecting the programme with delays of approximately one year. Another variation of licence condition is about to be submitted to SEPA, which may supersede the existing variation request. Mr Murray was reassured that SEPA was working with the best of intentions and the issues had not been foreseen. He advised that sub limits are being revisited and a Best Practicable Means assessment may be conducted rather than going back to SEPA. Mr Wallace echoed Mr Murray's comments and advised members that the NDA is talking to SEPA at corporate level. Cllr Dryburgh recalled a discussion at a Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCORS) meeting after the cyber-attack on SEPA, which encouraged all local authorities to try and help SEPA with records.

Mr Park was pleased to note that a good percentage of the new recruits are local but felt that from a trainee / apprentice perspective, progress had stalled on getting more. He reiterated comments from previous meetings that without sufficient recruitment now, there will be gaps due to the high age profile of the current workforce. Mr Murray advised that another four trainees are included in the Business Plan for 2023/24 and the site recognises the need for a rolling programme. Mr Park commented that another four is not enough. Mr Murray acknowledged this but noted that the site has to take cognisance of the number of people that it is able to train as a Company.

Cllr Jamieson stressed that it is crucial for the site to offer reassurance that the discharge limit was safe and below safety limits but there is still the risk of anxiety in the local community. He asked what Best Practicable Means means in real terms. If there is an issue,

he asked if this should be explained more widely to convince the public that there are no secrets.

Cllr Jamieson also noted that there is currently high employment, with all sectors looking for staff. He suggested that a change of attitude is required to sell this industry as progressive jobs. He urged Mr Murray to engage with the public without scaring them unnecessarily and to have a realistic plan to attract new people to the industry. Mr Murray explained 'Best Practicable Means' and gave an example of an appropriate balance. He also pointed out that a decommissioning station does not have the same hazards as an operating nuclear station. From a nuclear perspective, operation is now very low risk with the balance between nuclear and conventional safety risk having changed.

Mr Hamilton added that overall, business branding is not in the public domain. The business has changed in the last two years, with the Magnox estate doubling in size to include Dounreay, Hinkley Point B and Hunterston B stations. Magnox is trying to market itself differently, giving longevity of employment. Cllr Dryburgh considered the opposite to be the case for Chapelcross and suggested getting the press in to show where the site was, where it is now, where it is going and some of the issues. Mr Mundell MSP suggested contacting Border TV and Border Life and having a forward look at apprenticeships and employment. He noted limitations at Hunterston on training people up and Hunterston seeing people leaving for other stations. He wondered if there was scope for people to come from Hunterston to Chapelcross and suggested consideration of how to attract and retain staff. Mr Murray responded that recruitment is an industry wide issue. Posts are advertised nationally and a small number of people have come from EDF to Magnox. He noted that Hunterston B is still to defuel which will take a few years. Mr Mundell MSP added that people need to be made aware of future opportunities. Mr Wallace added that changes in the NDA to become One NDA will support the operational companies and make it easier for people to move around in the industry.

Cllr Davis referred to Work Ready Days in schools and asked if Magnox had gone into schools to make the young people aware of the opportunities. Mr Murray replied that this had not happened yet but the site was planning to visit the Academies in the area (Annan and Lockerbie).

Mr Hamilton advised that Stacey Hatch has a new role as Head of Talent, Learning and Development for Magnox. He noted previous Magnox involvement in STEM. He acknowledged that there are lessons to be learned and more could be done at Chapelcross, with which Magnox will help. Magnox has seen 33 apprentices and 22 graduates across the Company in September which is a positive symbol of change. Mr Hamilton reminded members that Magnox has increased its sites from 12 to 20; increased its workforce from under 3,000 to over 6,000; and increased its budget from £500million to £1billion. He advised that the Magnox name will change and the way of going about strategic decommissioning is expected to change from the previous care and maintenance strategy. A response from the Government on this has not yet been received but he was hopeful that indicative dates would be announced in the NDA's Draft Business Plan in December 2022, which would see bespoke strategies for each site so that they are not wrapped up and left for decades, losing all the workforce. Mr Hamilton considered this to be a hugely exciting time to be in Magnox. The Communications Plan is ready for a double page spread to be done when the position is clarified.

Cllr Dryburgh recalled that Chapelcross used to deliver STEM sessions in schools. Cllr Jamieson referred to Skills Development Scotland and Developing the Young Workforce. There is also the My World of Work website and he suggested that Chapelcross engages with Skills Development Scotland and gets a presence on the website to explain the jobs to children and their parents and give Chapelcross exposure and options and offers.

Cllr Jamieson noted the difficulty of balancing safety and budgets. He considered this to be difficult to explain to people and asked how much is too much. Cllr Dryburgh noted that best practicable means and benchmarking is always there and this is business acumen all over,

although he agreed that a price could not be put on safety. He noted the importance of learning opportunities and getting everyone involved in providing solutions, doing whatever can be done to stop accidents happening in the first place.

Mr Park added that cost is only one consideration and there is also effort, time, risk and hazard. He was reassured that Magnox is addressing this and to see the 'bottom up' approach, with concerns being reported by staff. Mr Park urged caution in moving the workforce around the NDA as he speaks to all sites regularly and all sites have the same issues. Every site needs highly skilled employees and there is a need to build a local workforce in speed and number. Using a mobile workforce costs more. Mr Mundell MSP asked about timescales and urged caution as longer timescales are not necessarily bad. Although there is a wider perception that this is a waste of taxpayers' money, this is not the case as longer term jobs benefit the local economy.

5. NDA Update – Mr David Wallace

Mr Wallace advised of a new regime and new Government Ministers, with Grant Shapps being appointed as Cabinet Secretary for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Graham Stuart has been appointed Minister of State in BEIS.

The consultation period for the NDA Business Plan 2023-24 is imminent and will last eight weeks from the end of November. The Business Plan will be issued early in the new year, after the consultation period has ended and comments considered. The NDA Strategy 4 is out now and is a long term document. The Business Plan is short term over 3-4 years. NDA has updated its assessments of the economic impact of its activities. Three reports have been published on the Dounreay, Cumbria and Magnox sites, and are available on the NDA website. A wider impact assessment is being undertaken on a National Decommissioning Centre in Scotland, involving Dounreay, Hunterston and Chapelcross. The model is being discussed with the University of Aberdeen, which will inform the narrative. It is likely that the same model will be used in England and Wales after Scotland. The transfer of ownership of Hunterston B Station from EDF to NDA is progressing and after Hunterston is declared fuel-free, Magnox will begin the decommissioning process. Torness will end generation in 2028 and East Lothian Council has already began looking at socio economics. The NDA and Cwmni Eginio continue to work on the siting of a new nuclear development at Trawsfynydd, supporting new nuclear development in England and Wales. Great British Nuclear is to be set up by the Government.

Mr Wallace thanked all who attended the NDA Stakeholder Summit and thanked Cllr Dryburgh for his presentation. Mairi McAllan MSP gave the keynote address. A Stakeholder Survey is carried out simultaneously every three years and almost 850 responses are currently being considered. The survey was done through online questionnaires and telephone interviews and the results are expected soon. Categories surveyed included leadership, trust and reputation.

Mr Wallace noted that SCCORS has not been active for the last 2-3 years and it would be good to see it become more active. The NDA will support SCCORS at a meeting the following week. The annual Ministers briefing will take place in February. This involves the Chief Executive and Chair of NDA meeting the Minister of Environment in Scotland. This will be widened to include the Just Transition Minister and Economic Development Minister, not just the Radioactive Substances team.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Dryburgh thought that the NDA Stakeholder Summit was very good, although somewhat saddened by the passing of HRH Queen Elizabeth II on the second day. Cllr Dryburgh again noted that 20% of nuclear decommissioning jobs are in Scotland and Scotland needs to up its game.

Mr Park commented that decommissioning has an end point. He noted that Chapelcross is one of the most unique sites in terms of its position and physical size. He considered that no progress had been made in looking at reusing the acreage at Chapelcross and the Site Stakeholder Group should use its influence to urge the Scottish Government to consider using Chapelcross for nuclear or renewables.

Mr Hamilton did not give a formal presentation but gave a verbal report. He confirmed that all civil decommissioning civil nuclear power generating reactors will be transferred to Magnox in the next ten years for decommissioning with Torness ending generation in 2028. STEM, training and jobs will be a big opportunity, under the one banner of the new Magnox. Mr Hamilton saw this as an enormous opportunity for training establishments, hubs, etc, moving from an aspiration to reality within the next 2-3 years. Mr Hamilton advised that there would be a briefing for Site Stakeholder Group Chairs in advance of the publication of the NDA Business Plan, after the 8 week consultation period. The new website for Site Stakeholder Groups is an online tool for meeting papers etc. The website address will be promoted within communities to widen engagement. Oldbury and Berkeley are trialling the establishment of a Young Peoples Forum on WhatsApp. If the online forum works, young people will be invited to come to meetings. It is hoped that this will be rolled out across the whole Magnox fleet in the next year.

6. Other reports from SSG Bodies – ONR, SEPA, Scottish Government

ONR –

The ONR report was circulated with the meeting papers and taken as read. Mr Cook was not present at the meeting.

SEPA –

The SEPA report was circulated with the meeting papers and taken as read. Dr Stone was not present at the meeting.

Scottish Government –

The Scottish Government report was circulated with the meeting papers and taken as read. Ms Hamilton was not present at the meeting.

7. External Meetings and Invitations –

Cllr Dyrburgh advised that the Site Stakeholder Groups Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting had been held online due to train strikes. A further SSG Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting would be held to sign off the new Site Stakeholder Groups website.

On the NDA Stakeholder Summit in September, Cllr Dryburgh was surprised and pleased to see so many people in attendance. Mr Wallace advised that the next face to face Summit would be in West Cumbria or it may be regional or held every two years in person. Cllr Dryburgh considered that it was good to have all the Site Stakeholder Group Chairs together and to make political circles aware of STEM, recruitment issues, etc, to enable early discussions on how to take this forward. Mr Wallace added that the NDA programme is being taken forward in the community.

8. CX Project Update – Mr Richard Murray

On behalf of Ms Emberson, Mr Murray gave a verbal report and will arrange for a written report to be circulated by email. There was a noticeable difference at the last CX Project meeting from the last 12 months. It is good that the project is discussing the release of land to other parties with BEIS. There were three different parties last week looking at land on site and one viewing the following week. These are digital, solar and hydrogen interests. The site

has now been recognised by the Scottish Government as a regional hydrogen hub which is positive news.

The Shadow Board which has been working to date is looking to start a full Board in the next few months. The pace has definitely picked up with the full-time Project Manager in post. Mr Wallace added that Joanna Campbell, Principal of Dumfries and Galloway College, had accepted a position on the Board.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Dryburgh was pleased to hear this positive news and noted that central to this would be a training facility on site, which is a massive opportunity for Chapelcross.

9. Any Other Business

There were no other items of business raised.

10. Public Forum

There were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

11. Next Meeting – Wednesday 19 April 2023

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 April 2023.

Cllr Dryburgh thanked those present for the presentations, questions and challenges.

Cllr Dryburgh wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and closed the meeting at 11.14 am.

**CHAPELCROSS SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS FROM THE MEETING
WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 10.00 AM IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, ANNAN**

Chairman's Welcome, Announcements and Apologies

Cllr Dyrburgh welcomed everyone to the meeting and read out the apologies. There were no announcements.

Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the meeting of 3 August 2022 were approved. The site visit for members had had to be postponed for various reasons and would be rescheduled in the new year.

Chapelcross Site Closure Director's Report – Mr Richard Murray

Mr Murray updated on investigations into the exceeding of the **sub limit** of discharge of the gaseous 'all other radionuclides excluding tritium', associated with AVDS operation. There were no injuries in quarter 2. Human performance training is being rolled out across the estate due to a significant number of hand injuries. Performance in the mosaics and ponds and legacy waste targets are on track. Forty packages will be in the Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) store in this financial year. Recruitment is ongoing. All newly recruited employees live no more than 25 miles approx. from site. Three new apprentices started in September and have completed training at Bridgwater College. Drones were flown over the site earlier in the year and a significant difference can be seen between this filming and Google images from four years ago. The design phase for skip retrieval work is in the supply chain. Mr Murray described work being undertaken on asset care. The Socio Economic Scheme is celebrating ten years, with £9million distributed across the Magnox estate, £450k of which has gone to projects in this area.

NDA Report – Mr David Wallace

Consultation period for the NDA Business Plan 2023-24 will last eight weeks from end November. The approved Business Plan will be issued in the new year. NDA has updated its assessments of the economic impact of its activities with three reports published on Dounreay, Cumbria and Magnox sites, available on the NDA website. A wider impact assessment is being undertaken on a National Decommissioning Centre in Scotland, involving Dounreay, Hunterston and Chapelcross. Transfer of ownership of Hunterston B Station from EDF to NDA is progressing. Torness will end generation in 2028. The NDA and Cwmni Eginio continue to work on the siting of a new nuclear development at Trawsfynydd. Mr Wallace thanked all who attended the NDA Stakeholder Summit. A stakeholder survey was done through online questionnaires and telephone interviews on leadership, trust and reputation and 850 responses are being considered. Ministers briefing will take place in February.

ONR Report –

The ONR report was circulated with meeting papers. Mr Cook was not present at the meeting.

SEPA Report –

The SEPA report was circulated with meeting papers. Dr Stone was not present at the meeting.

Update from Scottish Government –

The Scottish Government Report was included in meeting papers. Ms Hamilton was not present at the meeting.

CX Project Update – Mr Richard Murray

Mr Murray gave a verbal report on behalf of Ms Emberson and was pleased to see noticeable progress. Solar, digital and hydrogen interests have viewed the site. Joanna Campbell, D&G College Principal has joined the Board.

Magnox Update – Mr Bill Hamilton

The SSG website will be launched soon. A Young Peoples Forum on WhatsApp is being trialled.

External Meetings and Invitations – Cllr Archie Dryburgh

The Magnox SSG Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting had been held online due to train strikes. Cllr Dryburgh was pleased to see so many attending the NDA Stakeholder Summit.

Public Forum – no public in attendance.

Any Other Business – no other items of business raised.

Questions and Observations

After each presentation, a number of questions were asked by members, which can be read with the responses, in the full Minutes of the meeting, available from the SSG Secretariat.

Next Meeting – Wednesday 19 April 2023 at 10.00 am in Annan Town Hall.

CHAPELCROSS SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

RESPONSE ON THE DRAFT NDA BUSINESS PLAN 2023-26

The consultation document is well presented, easily understood and the strategic themes are clear over the coming few years.

We continue to support One NDA and the commitment of all parts of the business to work together and to allow this we welcome the completion of the final move a group (subsidiary) operating model last year.

The five key themes are important to ensure that the business moves forward and importantly is that the Site Stakeholder Group are engaged and involved to ensure local community buy in which is identified in the critical enablers section theme through **investing in communities** and **public and stakeholder engagement**.

It is important for Chapelcross Site that the NDA continue to work with Dumfries & Galloway Council, South of Scotland Enterprise and other key partners on the Chapelcross Project as part of the Borderlands Growth Deal funded by the Scottish and UK Governments that has the potential to leave a positive economic legacy a the Chapelcross site.

Whilst the Chapelcross SSG support the location of appropriate energy businesses and other interested businesses including green and carbon reduction industries to the parts of the licensed and unlicensed site at Chapelcross, it is important that the safe decommissioning of the Chapelcross Nuclear Site is not affected by the new developments on the site. No new development should adversely affect the decommissioning mission as that is paramount. Also, it is important that the businesses that do locate to the Chapelcross site have public support from the surrounding communities and we would not want to see any controversial businesses locate on the site that cause considerable concerns from the local community. The Chapelcross SSG also suggest that the northern end of the site should be handed over to the CX Project in a timely manner and funding be provided from the NDA so that this area can be de-licensed, etc. Also, we would support retaining the Milnbie Caul Weir at Annan River due to the development of the Chapelcross Site, as some of the potential businesses may require a water supply for operational reasons.

The Chapelcross SSG have also voiced strongly at SSG Meetings and Scottish Nuclear Sites Meetings over several years to the NDA and Scottish Government as part of the Chapelcross Project to look at the possibility of locating a Scottish Training Hub of the NDA National Nuclear Skills Academy based in West Cumbria, on available land for development at the Chapelcross site. Whilst there is a demand for decommissioning and nuclear skills in Scotland there is a shortage of training providers, set against an ongoing recruitment of new people into the nuclear industry and an ageing workforce profile across the nuclear estate. We also have the current situation where new Chapelcross apprentices are having to travel to Bridgwater in south England as part of their apprenticeship due to their being a lack of suitable nuclear apprentice training facilities in Scotland. NDA should work with Scottish Government, Skills Development Scotland and other relevant organisations to provide nuclear and decommissioning training providers and facilities in Scotland.

The Site Stakeholder Group and local community strongly support the case for continuous reactor decommissioning at the Chapelcross Site and support recent moves towards this. This will have a positive economic impact as well as a positive environmental impact.

The Site Stakeholder Group have increasing and continuing concerns that the ongoing NDA budget allocation amounts to the Magnox part of the NDA Estate is not enough and whilst acknowledging the much larger amounts allocated in particular to high hazard waste sites such as Sellafield and Dounreay, we would like to see a fairer share of the overall Government funding the NDA receive going to Magnox to allow further progress on decommissioning. We ask NDA to review this as proposals for 2023/24 still means that Sellafield get over 50% of the overall budget. Magnox Sites have an excellent record on decommissioning their sites and this is evident by the decommissioning progress being made across the estate. However, as time goes on, the site assets are suffering degradation, not only at Chapelcross, but across the Magnox estate and buildings that could be demolished now cannot be funded, requiring many of these to be upgraded or repaired to keep them safe – this is not a good use of the public purse.

We continue to welcome the socio economic support to the local communities around Chapelcross but there are some concerns that the Magnox Socio Economic Scheme which operated efficiently in the past has been replaced by a more convoluted NDA estate wide socio economic scheme which has had a detrimental effect on the number of local applications and consequent funding allocated within the local communities.

The open and transparent communications which NDA continue to demonstrate is commendable and appreciated to ensure the continued support and trust of the local community and stakeholders. We wish this to continue going forward.

CPX SSG

NDA – Update Report

April 19th 2023

UK Government

- Whole team of civil servants concerned with nuclear in BEIS have moved into the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)
- Secretary of State is Grant Shapps, who was head of BEIS
- Andrew Bowie MP for West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine appointed Minister for Nuclear.
- Perm Secs Clive Maxwell (previously in BEIS) and Jeremy Pocklington (previously DCMS but before that DECC)

Stakeholder Survey

- NDA commissions an independent organisation to survey stakeholders every two years
- 800 people took part, 200 more than the last survey. Mix of key stakeholders and those on our mailing list to receive updates electronically.
- Key indicators all up since last time – trust, transparency and openness.
- We also asked people where we could improve: one of the key findings was that they wanted to know more about mission delivery and how we solve technical challenges, so we will address that.

Stakeholder Summit

- After the event in Edinburgh last September, NDA has decided that the next in-person Stakeholder Summit will be held in Cumbria in 2024.
- There will be an online, virtual Summit this year, probably in October.
- During the year, though, we will be holding a series of in-person, regional meetings for stakeholders. It is planned these will be linked to universities with a nuclear science department, so that we can showcase the links between NDA, research and innovation.
- **Two dates now confirmed** – 8th June Cumbria and 28th June Glasgow at University of Strathclyde (Technology and Innovation Centre).

Dounreay joins with Magnox

- Final step to create a simpler, stronger NDA Group.
- Simpler Group structure and governance arrangements.
- Closer working on common goals and challenges.

Group Financial Officer

- Mel Zuydam leaving NDA to join Acteon (Marine Services) Group as Group CFO.
- Recruitment process started.

NDA and New Nuclear

- Government have set up Great British Nuclear as part of recent budget announcement.
- Gwen Parry-Jones OBE appointed first Interim CEO from May 1st 2023.
- In the meantime, we are being approached by a number of developers and technology providers about the availability of land on our sites.
- We are providing publicly available information on an open and transparent basis to enquirers.
- In Wales, we are continuing to support Cwmni Egino, in line with the Memorandum of Understanding between Energy Department NDA and Cwmni Egino.

Decommissioning and Waste Management Consultation

- New Government consultation on decommissioning and waste management published.
- The last one was published in 1995. This will update, consolidate and introduce new options.
- Has been agreed by Energy Department, Scottish Government and Welsh Government: the 1995 paper was issued before devolution. Waste management is a devolved power.
- Will be a full 12-week consultation.
- Consultation was held March 29th for SSG Chairs and VCs.

NDA Graduate Scheme

- The challenge of ensuring NDA and its operating companies have sufficient highly-skilled and motivated personnel over several generations as it fulfils its mission is one of its priorities.
- In January, NDA launched a new group-wide graduate programme to help ensure a continued flow of young people into the business.
- Applications are now open for roles in around 20 different professional disciplines at various locations in all corners of the UK.

- The new programme, supported by NDA subsidiary Enerigus, will offer three placements in different parts of the group. It will operate alongside the graduate schemes run by other operating companies.
- To find out more about the scheme, graduates can visit [the NDA group graduate programme website](#)

Responding to mission challenges

- A robot designed with help from Dounreay to safely inspect hazardous environments is in Time Magazine's top 200 innovations of 2022.
- The robot, known as Lyra, has been used to inspect ventilation ducts and feedback radiological information. Human access to this area is currently impossible due to the size of the duct and radiological risks.
- Specialist nuclear divers carrying out vital clean-up and decommissioning work in Sellafield's oldest legacy storage pond.
- The last time a human entered Sellafield's Pile Fuel Storage Pond (PFSP) was in 1958, when records show a maintenance operator and health physics monitor carried out a dive into the newly constructed pond to repair a broken winch.
- At least that was true until December 2022 when Josh Everett, a diver from the specialist U.S nuclear diving team Underwater Construction Corporation Ltd, became the first person in over 60 years to descend the ladder and set to work in one of the most unique workplaces in the world.

Draft Business Plan

- CPX SSG feedback received by NDA.
- Feedback being considered.
- Subject to approval by the UK and Scottish Governments, final version will be published Mid April 2023.

NDA/Scottish Government Secondment

- Ended December 2022.
- New secondment currently being considered for 2023.

ENDS

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NDA Stakeholder Lead - Scotland



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

Site Report for Chapelcross

Report for period 1 October 2022 – 31 December 2022

Foreword

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

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

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1. Inspections

1.1. Dates of Inspection

ONR's inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the period 1 June 2022 – 30 September 2022

- 5 to 7 December 2022

2. Routine Matters

2.1. Inspections

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

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

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

In this period, a routine inspection was carried out at site on 5 to 7 December, focussed on the new Medium Active Effluent Treatment Plant (MAETP) and an emergency exercise.

The MAETP plant was inspected jointly with SEPA on 6h December 2022. The MAETP is a dual-purpose effluent treatment plant consisting of two 5000 gallon storage tanks and three modified ISO type containers which house the connecting headers and cross over pipework, a filtration module and an ion exchange unit respectively. The unit is sited at the North West of the ponds building in line with the discharge pipeline. It is designed to batch process 5,000 gallon bowsers of water and then discharge the treated water via the existing pipeline.

ONR was satisfied that the design of the units conforms to industry good practice and that the safety systems were adequate for their requirements.

Emergency exercise Goldcrest was undertaken on the 7 December with a scenario involving an accident during a bowser operation at the MAETP with a spill of 500 gallons of pond water. ONR was satisfied that appropriate command and control was exercised during the incident and a good demonstration of emergency response was delivered by the response team.

ONR undertook a walkdown of reactor building 2 and reviewed the condition of the plant. The visit took in the pile cap and several of the floors down to ground level. There was no evidence of excessive rusting and there was little evidence of wildlife ingress. Most of the plant and equipment remains in-situ and is in good condition.

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

Throughout this reporting period, ONR's nominated site safety inspector has held regular telephone meetings with Chapelcross leadership team representatives to maintain situational awareness of matters related to nuclear safety. No significant issues were highlighted to ONR.

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.

The site is awaiting the environmental permit variation to allow pond decommissioning work to re-start following the unplanned release of C14 from the AVDS stack. This is a matter for SEPA and is not under ONR control.

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 formal enforcement or permissioning was undertaken during this period.

5. News from ONR

For the latest news and information from the Office for Nuclear Regulation, please read and subscribe to our regular email newsletter 'ONR News' at www.onr.org.uk/onrnews

6. Contacts

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Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

SEPA Update- Chapelcross

19th April 2023

Regulation

Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR)- Radioactive Substances

Following on from the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated restrictions, telephone communication with the site has continued including formal monthly staying in touch telephone calls. Routine teleconferences with the Chapelcross site and the corporate Magnox Ltd team on strategic issues have also continued as before.

SEPA undertook a regulatory inspection of the site's arrangement to maintain their active gaseous ventilation systems in February 2023. This included the visual inspection of the systems associated with a number of the site's facilities; the CXPP, B141, radiochemistry labs and a reactor building. Due to access issues at the time of the inspection, a limited area of the ventilation system associated with building B141 remains to be inspected on SEPA's return to site. The inspection found that the Chapelcross site has a management system in place to ensure the timely maintenance of ventilation systems associated with the authorised discharge of gaseous radioactive waste. This is complemented by routine engineering walkdowns of the ventilation systems to monitor their physical state and initiate maintenance where necessary. Furthermore, to address health and safety and access issues associated with inspecting stack systems at height, the site is planning to introduce inspection by drone.

SEPA undertook an inspection in March 2023 of the Chapelcross sites arrangements for sending samples of radioactive waste off site for laboratory analysis. This looked at the transport of samples taken both for routine analysis in support of compliance and samples taken to support the characterisation of wastes for the purposes of planning decommissioning and waste management strategies. SEPA found that the site had robust procedures and there were no issues with the samples of paperwork viewed as part of the inspection.

The site has applied for a variation to the sub-limit for the discharge of the gaseous 'all other radionuclides excluding tritium' associated with the operation of the Advanced Vacuum Drying Facility (AVDS) given in their EASR (2018) permit. This follows from the site notifying SEPA

in June 2022 that they had determined that there had been an exceedance of the sub-limit. SEPA is determining this application and will keep the Site Stakeholder Group informed of the progress.

Non-Rad Regulation

There have been no issues relating to non-rad regulation since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

Environmental Events

There have been no environmental events reported to SEPA by the Chapelcross site.

Radioactivity in Food & the Environment (RIFE)

RIFE is a collaborative report on work carried out by SEPA, the other UK environment agencies, Food Standards Scotland and Food Standards Agency on the radiological monitoring of food and the environment in the UK. The RIFE reports aim to provide an in-depth assessment of radioactivity in food and the environment in the UK and the public's exposure to radiation, including in the vicinity of the Chapelcross site. The RIFE report incorporates the results from the analysis of a wide range of samples and key information on local habits to demonstrate both that food remains safe and that the public's exposure to ionising radiation is within legal limits.

The latest edition (RIFE 27) covering 2021 has been published and can be obtained from SEPA's website along with previous year's reports [Reports | Scottish Environment Protection Agency \(SEPA\)](#).

Dr David Stone

Radioactive Substances Specialist

06 04 2023

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATE TO CHAPELCROSS SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP – 19TH APRIL 2023

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING POLICY TEAM

Four Nations Policy Consultation on UK Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning Policy Framework

Scottish Government is part of joint four nations work to develop a new and updated UK wide policy framework for nuclear decommissioning and managing radioactive substances. This framework update clarifies and consolidates a number of policies into a single UK-wide policy framework, whilst respecting the different policy positions that exist particularly for radioactive waste management across the separate administrations. The consultation is now open to written responses until 24 May.

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/managing-radioactive-substances-and-nuclear-decommissioning

<https://beisgovuk.citizenspace.com/energy-security/radioactive-substances-nuclear-decommissioning>

UK Energy Bill

Mr Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport, attended the Scottish Parliament's Net Zero Committee on 24 January to give evidence regarding the Scottish Government's legislative consent memorandum for the UK Energy Bill (which includes consent for some provisions related to nuclear sites which touch on devolved issues). There were no issues raised regarding any of the nuclear site related provisions. Further information can be found on the Scottish Parliament website;

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/legislative-consent-memorandums/energy-bill>

Annual NDA meeting with Minister for Environment and Land Reform

The Scottish Government is working with the NDA to arrange the annual meeting between the Minister for Environment and Land Reform, the NDA Chair and NDA CEO as set out in the NDA Framework document. This will be to discuss NDA matters including progress across the three NDA sites in Scotland. Depending on diary availability the meeting should take place this Spring.

Draft Energy and Just Transition Plan Consultation

The draft Energy and Just Transition Plan Consultation opened in January. If any SSG members wish to submit their views, please do so on the consultation web page, links below. The consultation is open until 22nd of May.

[Supporting documents - Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/supporting-documents/draft-energy-strategy-and-just-transition-plan-consultation)

[Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan consultation - Scottish Government - Citizen Space](https://www.gov.scot/citizen-space/draft-energy-strategy-and-just-transition-plan-consultation)

Scottish Government

Chapelcross Programme

Status Report

Date	March 2023	Stage	Outline Business Case
Progress this period			
Summary The Chapelcross programme is focussed on developing the site into a high quality, green energy-focussed regional employment centre acting as a transformational project within the region. Conditional funding of £15.3m has been given from the Borderlands Growth Deal towards the project. Together with funding of £5.5m, committed by Dumfries and Galloway Council, the capital investment will be used to unlock the site for development through servicing and road improvements to access the site. Work is underway to develop the Outline Business Case due for submission in March 2024, starting now with the commissioning of a Strategic Development Framework that will provide a blueprint for the site. Land Holdings The 210+ hectare site is wholly owned by NDA Properties Limited and is part leased to site operators, Magnox Ltd. 96Ha of the site currently remain a nuclear licenced site and are in the process of being decommissioned with around 60ha of land available for development now. Site Enquiries There is significant live interest in the site from a range of market sectors such as digital, battery storage, hydrogen production by companies of varying size and scale. Avison Young are actively marketing the site on behalf of the partners; the link to the brochure is attached: https://www.avisonyoung.co.uk/properties/-/property/detail-112992 Some larger developers have expressed an interest in the site; there is an opportunity for the land holder to seek a Joint Venture development partner at the appropriate juncture to deliver the desired outcomes. Discussions are live within the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority as to the optimal commercial and operational arrangement to release the land for development. South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) is investigating the purchase of part of the Chapelcross South site to service and unlock the land as business space. Regional Hydrogen Hub Scottish Government has included Chapelcross as a regional hydrogen hub site within its strategy documents. The programme team are building a network of contacts and understanding of hydrogen development at a national and regional level through membership of the Scottish Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association and dialogue with enquirers. National Development 17 Scottish Government has also included Chapelcross as a national development site within its planning framework. The programme team are liaising with Scottish Futures Trust to compile baseline information currently. Scottish Development International A script has been drafted to showcase the site and region to an international audience for development. Provided funding can be secured for financial year 23/24, filming will take place over the summer for subsequent use by Scottish Government in attracting overseas investment.			

**Strategic Development Framework**

A Strategic Development Framework (SDF) will be tendered which builds on the work completed to date by the various studies and informed by the Strategic Outline Case which is focussed on Green Energy generation, storage, transportation and the symbiotic industries that can bring high value jobs to the site.

Activities Planned for Next Reporting Period

- Strategic Development Framework tender will be issued to market
- Marketing will remain live
- NDA will develop an approach to release the land for development.