



**HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
MINUTES OF SIXTY SEVENTH MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 2 MARCH 2023 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 Colin Hargreaves (Independent Site Inspector)
Mr Bill Hamilton (Comms and Stakeholder Relations Director)
Mr Sean Marshall (Magnox Communications)

EDF (Hunterston B)

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

Community Council Representatives

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

SEPA

Mr Keith Hammond

North Ayrshire Council (NAC)

Ms Lesley Jeffery (Civil Contingences Team)

ONR

Hunterston Estate

Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick

Scottish Government

NDA

Mr David Wallace (Stakeholder Lead Scotland)

NFU Scotland

In Attendance

Ms Sheila Adams (Minutes)
Ms Linda Grainey (Member of Public)

Mr Alan Holden (Member of Public)
Mr John Riddell (Member of Public)

Apologies

Mrs Jill Callander (Magnox, SSG Secretariat)
Mr Stuart Fannin (ONR)
Mr Paul Gilmartin (Civil Nuclear Constabulary)
Ms Diane Hamilton (Scottish Government)
Mr Craig Hatton (Chief Executive, North Ayrshire Council)
Cllr Alan Hill (North Coast)
Mr Stewart Mackenzie (Environmental Health, North Ayrshire Council)
Cllr Tom Marshall (North Coast)
Cllr Ian Murdoch (North Coast)

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks and Declarations of Interest

Ms Holmes, Chair, welcomed everyone to the sixty seventh meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group in the Waterside Hotel, West Kilbride. All present introduced themselves. Ms Holmes read the apologies as listed above. There were no declarations of interest.

2. Chair and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence

The Chair and Vice Chair attended the Zoom meeting of Site Stakeholder Group (SSG) Chairs and Vice Chairs on 9 December 2022. Discussions at that meeting included the NDA Draft Business Plan, newly formed NDA/NGO Forum, the new NDA/Magnox Site Stakeholder Group website and updates from each site.

Ms Holmes wrote to Craig Hatton, Chief Executive of North Ayrshire Council, as agreed at the December SSG meeting, regarding spent fuel flask transport and emergency plans. The Chair requested that a representative of the Civil Contingencies Team attend this meeting. With regard to this topic, the ONR Inspector for Hunterston had written to the Chair to clarify and enhance some comments he made (see Actions below). The Chair and Vice Chair responded on behalf of the SSG to the consultation on the NDA draft Business Plan, which was circulated to SSG members by the Secretariat.

Emails have been sent to SSG members by Scottish Government (Dan Couldridge), NDA (David Wallace) and SSG Secretariat (Cath Pritchard) alerting SSG members to the current consultation of proposals for a revised UK-wide Policy Framework for Nuclear Decommissioning and the Management of Radioactive Substances. Ms Holmes considered this to be an important consultation, meriting full consideration by all SSG members and a response. She asked Mr Hamilton if there were plans for any meetings or workshops to discuss the proposals or whether SSG members needed to read, meet and discuss the document to evaluate what the proposals could mean for Hunterston sites. Mr Hamilton advised that this is not a Magnox document but Magnox will assist if required. He suggested that Ms Holmes discuss this with other Chairs and Vice Chairs at their next meeting to get a view. Mr Wallace also offered the assistance of the NDA if required. Ms Holmes assumed that the Scottish Government's Higher Activity Waste Policy review relates to this and would like an update on this too. Mr Wallace advised that the revised Policy Framework relates to the UK Framework and although there is a link, it is not about Scottish Government policy but the UK Framework. Ms Holmes noted the deadline for responses to the consultation is 24 May 2023.

The Chair had emailed Fiona McCall of Hunterston B station regarding the Civil Nuclear Constabulary's (CNC) case of bullying which went to Court. Ms Holmes had been under the impression that this was a minor event but was wrong for not taking this more seriously as the victim had been awarded £40k+. The Chair had requested that CNC attended today's meeting to answer questions. Mr Gilmartin had sent apologies that he would be late in attending due to another meeting commitment but hoped to arrive later in the meeting (*Mr Gilmartin did not attend the meeting*).

The next Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting is online on 10 March 2023. Ms Holmes invited members to let herself or Mr McGhie know if they wished any particular items to be raised at the meeting.

3. Actions and Approvals of previous Minutes

Mr Marshall detailed the following amendments to the Minutes of 1 December 2022:

Page 6, last sentence before Item 8, replace the word 'fuel' with 'fluid'. The sentence should read 'Ms Hayes asked if the fire resistant **fluid** was contaminated or clean.'

Page 7, paragraph 3:

Existing paragraph:

Mrs Holmes noted that higher activity waste at Hunterston is contained in flasks and drums in the Intermediate Level Waste store and encapsulated. Before the Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation (SILWE) plant existed, EnergySolutions decided to put cement in the waste in the drums. This was a research project called Graphite Pathfinder, which was held up for two years and came to nothing. Hunterston now has a very expensive encapsulation plant which is not yet commissioned, waiting for cement to be put into drums. There are approximately 150 drums in the store concreted in. If Scotland changes its policy, the drums would be suitable for GDF as they are but Scottish Government is now looking again at near site, near surface.

To be replaced with:

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. 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.

Mr Marshall advised that Responses to the five actions in the Minutes (below) were circulated to members as part of the Committee pack of papers and asked if everyone was happy with the responses received. There were no further queries raised on the actions or responses:

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

Response - Monthly Inspections are carried out by Pearson's Engineering Services who identify and plan maintenance and upkeep of the rail track. This is a Hunterston B cost as sole user (defined condition of the lease with Peel Port). Additional bi-annual inspections are carried out by Jacobs as independent verification. This is in accordance with a site specific Risk Assessment carried out by Pearson's and reviewed and agreed by station. The track is managed by Peel Port and costs are back charged to the station through the lease. Station review and approve the reports and work plans and request any additional work or inspections as required by either the annual report or arising concerns.

Action – Mr Dalling to advise Site Stakeholder Group members of the timeline for the next Hunterston B consultation exercise.

Response - The second round of consultation is expected to take place in late spring/early summer 2023. An indication of the findings from the first round will be shared before the second round takes place.

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.

Response - Fire Resistant Fluid (FRF) is a non-radioactive fluid used in turbine systems and is chemically treated to tolerate the elevated temperatures found in this equipment without combusting. Now the turbines are no longer operating there is no need for the FRF to stay at site and we have been working to drain the fluid and remove it.

The FRF was initially taken by a sub-contractor to Livingston. It was then transported to Kent for high temperatures incineration. The facility in Kent has an environmental permit in place to undertake such activities.

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?

Response - The Near Surface Disposal project that Scottish Government and the NDA are currently undertaking is to consider the technical issues involved in the delivery of Scottish Higher Activity Waste Policy. It might be helpful to explain that while there will be some broad scenarios considered, including around the Hunterston site as well as others, these are to inform our understanding of the technical issues and the project will not be making any decisions about future use of the Hunterston B site as per the previous answer.

Action – Chair, Rita Holmes, to write to North Ayrshire Council regarding Emergency Plan for fuel transportation.

Response – A copy of the letter sent was included in the meeting papers.

With the above amendments, the Minutes of the Site Stakeholder Group meeting, held on 1 December 2022, were proposed for approval by Mr John Lamb and seconded by Mr Stuart McGhie.

4. Hunterston B Station Reports

Hunterston B Report – Ms Allison Adamson, Mr Joe Struthers

The report issued with the meeting papers was taken as read. Mr Struthers advised that Ms Adamson would present the highlights of the report as Acting Station Director. Half of the spent fuel has been removed from Reactor 3. The data on flasks in the report reflects the strong performance, with no issues to report. The Transfer and Deconstruction Preparation is in the early stages of the framework, with EDF working with Magnox and the Future Missions team. All the current work is in the Strategy phase.

There has been strong performance under safety and the environment, with the Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) still at 0. Various safety campaigns have been delivered, including winter weather, return to work after holidays, mental health, etc. Feedback on the campaigns has been collected from staff. All routine data under Radiological Protection is in the report. There have been no issues or significant events. With regard to the small, low level oil leak reported at previous meetings, the site continues to work with specialist contractors and SEPA as it has been unable to 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 level one demonstration exercise overseen by ONR was graded adequate. Exercises are planned throughout 2023 comprising two exercise seasons to demonstrate operating arrangements to ONR.

Changes were made to emergency arrangements in January based on Hunterston B's move to defueling. Work is taking place with North Ayrshire Council to update on-site and off-site emergency plans. Andy Dalling in his new role as Transfer and Deconstruction Preparations Manager is carrying out recruitment which will allow for a seamless transfer. A supply of bedding items, purchased during the pandemic, have been handed over for to a homeless charity to use.

SEPA Report – Mr Keith Hammond

The report issued with the meeting papers was taken as read. Mr Hammond reported on a busy period. An inspection of radioactive waste transfers on 22 February found no contraventions. A number of recommendations were made on procedures.

Radioactive discharges were well within authorised limits. At a corporate level, SEPA's Scottish Flood Forecast Service is going live, available daily on SEPA's website.

ONR Report –

The ONR report for October - December 2022 issued with the meeting papers was taken as read. Mr Fannin had sent apologies as he was unable to attend the meeting. Ms Holmes read out an email from Mr Fannin to correct and enhance his previous statements made at the Site Steering Group meeting in December 2022, with the following text from the ONR Transport Specialist Inspector:

“EDF are required to produce a transport radiation risk assessment for the Type B Mk 2 AGR Fuel Transport Flask, which is used to transport fuel. This details the radionuclides released, and the type of release. EDF have produced this transport radiation risk assessment, and it concludes that there is the possibility for a radiation emergency (estimated effective radiation doses above 1mSv to any individual over a period of one year following a transport emergency) to occur in the event of an accident. Therefore, a transport emergency plan is required under The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations (CDG) 2009. It is worth noting that the effective radiation doses assume that shielding of the transport package is completely lost in the event causing the radiation emergency.

The production of these transport risk assessments and any subsequent transport emergency plan is the responsibility of the duty holder, rather than the Local Authority. However, CDG Schedule 2, part 1, Para 3(5)e requires the emergency plan to contain *‘the arrangements for providing early warning of the incident to the relevant local authority in which the radiation emergency has occurred, the type of information which should be contained in an initial warning and the arrangements of the provision of more detailed information as it becomes available.’*

EDF have a transport emergency plan which covers all EDF sites, and this is tested on a regular basis. ONR witnessed a test of the transport emergency plan at Torness in 2021, where it was given a rating of Green – No Formal Action. The link to the executive summary is here: [Compliance inspection Transport of Radioactive Materials \(Class 7 dangerous goods\) \(onr.org.uk\)](https://onr.org.uk/compliance-inspection-transport-of-radioactive-materials-class-7-dangerous-goods) ONR continues to monitor the testing of the Transport Emergency Plan and carries out periodic inspections of EDF's corporate transport emergency plan arrangements.

ONR has a useful document, available on the ONR website, called Five Steps to Transport Emergency Planning, which can be found at: [Five Steps to Transport Emergency Planning \(onr.org.uk\)](https://onr.org.uk/five-steps-to-transport-emergency-planning).

Should the Site Stakeholder Group require further information on the Transport Emergency Plan and transport radiation risk assessment, these inquiries should be made to EDF NGL as the duty holder in this case.”

Members Question and Answer Session

Mr Black noted that this is not within ONR's vires and found the clarification given above useful.

Ms Lesley Jeffery, read the following statement from North Ayrshire Council:

“The arrangements for the transportation for the spent fuel are covered by the Carriage of Dangerous Goods Act and RADSAFE, which is a scheme covering all the nuclear industry and some other users of radioactive materials, to provide a fast response, expert advice and support to the emergency services in the event of an incident involving the transport of radioactive materials.

The scheme involves notification systems, mobilisation of technical support and expert advice and, once the incident is under control, full clean-up and other remediation work at the scene by the consignment owner. It should be noted that since the RADSAFE came into effect in 1999 there has been about once incident per year, **none of them involved the release of any radioactive materials.**

Should an incident occur, the driver of the vehicle has responsibilities under RADSAFE which includes calling 999 and contacting RADSAFE for assistance. The driver will keep people away wherever possible and try to erect a temporary barrier around the affected area (this will likely need the assistance of the Police). There was a test of the RADSAFE arrangements for Hunterston B carried out at the Scottish Fire and Rescue centre at Cambuslang in November 2018.

The local authority does not have a role in RADSAFE as such but part of these arrangements are that they would be contacted **if the package sealing is impaired.** EDF, as the owner of the consignment, would provide a remediation plan which will assist the local authority to lead on the recovery. The recent exercise programme for Hunterston included a scenario in which a flask was compromised on one of the roads in the area.

Any response to this would include multi-agency partners, particularly Scottish Water and Scottish Environment Protection Agency. North Ayrshire Council would establish and chair the Recovery Working Group and use the relevant parts of the Off Site Emergency Plan and their own Civil Contingencies Response and Recovery Plan to start the recovery process. This will include establishing the Scientific and Technical Advice Cell and the Media Advice Cell so that the public are informed of what has happened (if required) and any action that they should take. There will also be different sub groups set up, for example, Care for People and Community Engagement.

Notwithstanding the above, following the request for further information from the Site Stakeholder Group, Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Team have recognised that the Off Site Emergency Plan would benefit from an additional Appendix, outlining exactly what each agency would do in the event of a RADSAFE incident in Ayrshire. We will work with colleagues in Cumbria (for Sellafield) to develop this in the next few months and include it in the plans for both Hunterston B and Sellafield.”

Ms Holmes was pleased to note the positive steps being taken and the timeframe of the next few months for doing so.

In respect of Mr Fannin's statement, Ms Holmes asked what would be released from Hunterston B. Ms Adamson was unable to answer this at the meeting and undertook to provide further information.

Action – Ms Adamson to provide further information on what would be released from Hunterston B.

Mr Lamb asked at which point emergency arrangements become current arrangements and if this is now or after defueling. Ms Adamson advised that there is a set of emergency arrangements in place now. The updated emergency arrangements change the size of the Detailed Planning Zone (DEPZ) and removes the requirement for stable iodine tablets. Mr Struthers added that the change in emergency arrangements recognises the reduction in hazard in the station going from generating to defueling, which is now more than 100 days. A similar process of change will be undertaken again in the future.

Mr Lamb asked how much oil is being leaked. Ms Adamson responded that the quantity is so small that it is difficult to detect the source of the leak as there is insufficient for the tracer to detect. Mr Lamb further asked how much oil is leaking and for how long it had been leaking.



Action – Mr Struthers reiterated that there had been no change to the leak and undertook to provide further information on this.

As a former plant engineer on site, Member of the Public A added that this was likely to be a few litres every month which was enough for the level in the reservoir to drop. Mr Struthers confirmed that the leak had not changed but is not visible on the route of the long underground cable. The station is continuing to engage with specialist contractors.

On rail safety, Mr Black referred to the train crash in Greece the previous day and to the Carmont and Grayrigg rail disasters and asked if end to end assessment of rail safety is suitably covered and if secondary monitoring takes place.

Action – Ms Jeffery undertook to provide a response to Mr Black's questions on rail assessment from end to end and secondary monitoring and to consider including this in the Appendix of the Off Site Emergency Plan.

Ms Holmes noted that it is not Network Rail but Direct Rail Services (DRS) train that transported spent nuclear fuel. She is aware that there is security on the spent fuel flask movements and thought it unlikely that a specific answer would be received because of the security around spent fuel. Mr Black pointed out that road movements are known but not rail movements. Ms Holmes reminded members that the Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC) are always on site, with a 5km jurisdiction, and she would like to think that they are extra vigilant when spent fuel is being transported. Mr Black would like to receive answers to the questions being asked. While not knowing the detail, Mr Hamilton advised that the answers are there. He clarified that DRS is a wholly owned subsidiary of the NDA, with major depots around the country and specially trained drivers. He suggested that a representative of DRS is invited to a Site Stakeholder Group meeting to explain the procedures.

Action – Mr Wallace undertook to ask DRS to draw up an explanation of procedures and/or attend a Site Stakeholder Group meeting to explain these.

Mr Black asked if there was a planned completion date for the defueling and deplanting. Mr Struthers confirmed that it will take 12 years to get to safe store with deplanting and strategy progressing in parallel. Defueling helps move forward with the transfer and the plan is progressing well with Magnox.

Mr Black asked how smaller companies could get involved and if there was a route in the supply chain for smaller companies to get work in non-radioactive deconstruction. Mr Hamilton advised that there is information available on the Magnox website or alternatively, to contact him directly and he would put enquirers in touch with the Procurement team. Mr Hamilton gave the example of Trawsfynydd as lead site, where there was a major procurement exercise for reducing the size of the reactors. Magnox works closely with the Government and there has been a series of supply chain events. More will happen over time as sites get closer to major procurement. Ms Jeffery referred to North Ayrshire Council's involvement in community wealth building. Mr Wallace added that tier one supply chain companies sub-contract to smaller local companies. There are 470 Scottish supply chain companies working in Scotland. The NDA holds a Scottish Supply Chain event annually.

Action – Mr Wallace to liaise with NDA colleagues and pass on information on the next Scottish Supply Chain event to Site Steering Group members.

Ms Holmes congratulated the station on the defueling work done to date and also all the work on the site transition. She asked if the blueprint would be shared with Site Steering Group members or be available publicly and when this might be. Mr Struthers replied that he is keen to get enough information to share with Site Stakeholder Group members but was unable to provide a timescale and would update as and when he could. Mr Hamilton added that EDF is working with the Magnox Future Missions Team on the Plan and the blueprint informs what needs to be done, with the detail to come after.

Ms Holmes asked if there would be consultation to give the public a view on the actions. Ms McCall responded that the blueprint is a Programme document which sets out an agreed vision and work is underway to establish how to get there. The blueprint is an internal document looking at people, process and plant, as this is a huge project with many strands. It covers things like IT systems and what plant will need to be removed. She advised that a second round of consultation on the decommissioning programme was likely later in the year. Mr Struthers undertook to keep updating reports and provide presentations, as and when appropriate.

Public Forum

Member of the Public B was concerned at information provided by previous management of the station on keyway root cracks which were reported as a few when there were hundreds. They were also concerned that the Local Resilience Team seemed not to know that Cumbrae is not on the mainland. They referred to the counter terrorism exercise overseen by ONR being 'adequate' and thought that excellent, good, satisfactory etc would be more helpful. They were disappointed with Scottish Government's description of 'near site' which they believed to mean 'on site'. They suggested that the Scottish Government talks about Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) not Higher Activity Waste (HAW). They asked about spent fuel rods and why they are at Hunterston A and not Sellafield when they are decayed. Member of the Public B asked that it be formally recorded that it is not good enough to have assumptions and asked that Chairs of Site Stakeholder Group meetings seek to progress that Local Authorities are contacted about any events and all accidents and not just safety and security issues.

5. Hunterston A Site Reports

Hunterston A Report – Mr Mark Blackley

The report issued with meeting papers was taken as read. Mr Blackley was pleased to see the NDA's draft Business Plan, issued for consultation in December 2022, which gives timescales for sites. Site specific strategies are being developed and timeframes depend on opportunities and constraints, with Hunterston A's date being changed to 2050s. This reflects the uncertainties of decommissioning but is a step forward.

There have been no radiological or security issues. Mr Blackley had highlighted defects in the ventilation systems at the last meeting. Following an inspection by SEPA, the site received a warning letter and a further warning letter has been received in respect of air conditioning systems. A six month F-gas leak test had been arranged but was delayed due to the contractor being ill, which took the site over the six month limit by the time it was undertaken. No defects were found but the site will undertake checks earlier in future to allow for circumstances like this in future. Repairs have been undertaken to the vent extraction system of the Low Level Waste (LLW) processing facility prior to being returned to service. A drain line from the stack was connected directly to a local storm down drainpipe. The drain line has been cut and a pipe fitted. It is likely that this was the original design from 20+ years ago but this is being investigated.

The site has received a joint statement from regulators, SEPA and ONR, on the grouting of bunker

waste. This states that 'SEPA will advise Magnox that, if it wishes to proceed with submitting an application to vary its permit to authorise gaseous discharges from the SILWE stack, that it does so for the purposes of encapsulation of the waste from Bunker 1 only'. SEPA wants to assess the characterisation that was done for the Bunker waste before it makes any decision about grouting of waste from Bunkers 2 – 5. This joint Regulatory Statement is welcomed by Magnox since it gives clarity on a way forward with this issue.

Accident and emergency contingency arrangements were demonstrated to ONR in December and graded 'adequate', which is standard ONR terminology.

Under Solid Active Waste Bunker Retrieval (SAWBR) delivery, 281 boxes have been exported from bunker 1 to the ILW store, bringing the total to 1,174. The site had anticipated that Bunker 1 would have been emptied by now but there was more waste than anticipated and some technical issues. The expected completion date is now March-April 2023. The Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation (SILWE) plant has experienced robot issues, which the contractor is addressing. The reactor roof project has recommenced and roof repairs are expected to be completed by October. The site's two 11kv transformers are being replaced. Work on North Ayrshire's Future Skills Hub at Kilwinning Campus which received NDA / Magnox Socio Economic funding is progressing well and expected to be completed by September.

SEPA Report –

The report from SEPA, included in the meeting papers, was taken as read. Ms Hayes was not present at the meeting and Mr Hammond offered to take back any questions.

ONR Report –

The ONR report for October - December 2022 issued with the meeting papers was taken as read. Mr Fannin had sent apologies as he was unable to attend the meeting.

Members Question and Answer Session and Public Forum

Member of the Public C has been a resident of Fairlie for 50 years and learned during the recent consultation that the reactor building at Hunterston B station should never be covered by cladding such as that on Hunterston A site. They considered the cladding to be an eyesore and the public was told by Magnox in 2017 that this would be temporary. Permission for the cladding was granted by North Ayrshire Council and Elected Members chose grey as the colour in 2017. In 2018, Member of the Public C received a letter from Mr John Grierson assuring him that Magnox acknowledged the concerns of local residents and was keen to identify a suitable solution. In February 2020, the Member of the Public received a letter saying that an acceptable solution was being implemented. It is now 2023 and the position remains the same. They came to the meeting in person to ask Magnox when the blot on the Clyde's landscape would be removed. Mr Blackley advised that he had provided a response at the last meeting on the latest position with the cladding. 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 on the potential change in strategy, away from care and maintenance. This is now in the NDA's draft Business Plan and the Decommissioning Programmes Team has started the optioneering process to replace the temporary weather barrier with something more suitable for the timeframe. Mr Blackley undertook to update Site Steering Group members and Member of the Public C personally. Member of the Public C asked if there was any prospect of this being addressed in the near future. Mr Blackley was unable to respond to this as it depends on the results of the optioneering. Ms Holmes added that there would be no point in having a permanent barrier if it will be deconstructed.

Mr Blackley clarified that the existing barrier will have to be replaced somehow. He confirmed that Magnox will consult again on colour, at the appropriate time. Member of the Public C was concerned that the grey colour had been selected in 2017 and five years later, nothing has happened. Mr Hamilton added that Magnox is working under the NDA. The NDA has changed the strategy and therefore grey plates are no longer appropriate. This is not because nothing has happened, but because something has happened, by way of a change in strategy. He understood the frustration of local residents and it is unfortunate that Hunterston cladding has been caught up in the change of strategy, however the reactor buildings will be gone quicker with the new strategy than it would have been in the original strategy.

He asked residents to bear with Magnox and assured them that the Company would do what it could to resolve the colour. Mr Lamb noted that he asked at the September Site Stakeholder Group meeting if the planning permission had expired. He asked if it had been renewed and, if not, if the planning process would have to be gone through again. Mr Blackley responded that the site has been in contact with North Ayrshire Council planners and will keep them informed when there is clarity on the way forward.

Mr Lamb asked if there would be partial delamination on the reactor roof remedial work. Mr Blackley advised that the covering is coming apart from the framework and it is not a case of simple recoating but reconnecting the framework with the roof membrane. Mr Lamb asked what material this was and was informed that it is fabric. Mr Lamb asked if this was weather or age related. Mr Blackley considered that it was most likely weather related as fixings are also corroded.

Mr McHenery noted that there are so many variables on what can be done and when, and asked if the optioneering is looking at different scenarios. Mr Blackley clarified that optioneering is looking at a forward programme of work and access required to buildings. The option chosen will have to facilitate decommissioning. He added that even if the optioneering does decide on membrane, the existing one will have to be replaced. He added that it is regularly inspected and is in good condition. Mr McHenery asked if it would be removed at the end of its predicted manufacture life. Mr Blackley replied that it would depend on degradation and not just an expiry date.

Mr Black was confused about the NDA's Business Plan and felt that it did not demonstrate a clear way forward. Mr Hamilton responded that it is very clear. The NDA has a strategy document. Previously the strategy was for care and maintenance, which means walking away for half a century. A change in strategy has been announced in the latest draft NDA Business Plan, on which work on the practical implementation has been going on for two years. The NDA wants to implement a new strategy, which is the establishment of a continuous programme of decommissioning. The range of dates for this for all sites is in the draft Business Plan. Before the launch of the draft Strategy in December 2022, no meaningful dates could have been given. It is now known that Hunterston will work towards full decommissioning in the 2050 decade. He noted that Hunterston SSG's Chair has lobbied for years for Hunterston to be at the front of the queue. Mr Hamilton confirmed that Hunterston is at the front, behind Trawsfynydd (the lead and learn site) which will be fully decommissioned in the 2040 decade. He stressed that there are many complex, multi-faceted decisions to be made on skills, staff and finances and he understood that this is complex and frustrating but considered that the position had moved forward a lot, perhaps to the detriment of the cladding, but there was now a site specific strategy in place. Mr Black disagreed that the Business Plan gave dates clearly in the document and could not see any mention of optioneering in the key activities. He was concerned that this would just keep rolling forward and the site would be in the same position in another three years. Mr Black did not think that there were enough assurances. Ms Holmes noted that this is high hazard, dangerous work. She had every faith in Hunterston A and B stations and in Magnox and the NDA.

Mr Wallace added that the NDA's Strategy 4 is long-term, 2030-2050. The Business Plan covers the next 3-4 years. The NDA's Chief Executive Officer has asked the same questions. There are a lot of unknowns and challenges. A programme of continuous decommissioning could be expensive but is logical so as not to lose vital skills. It is also important for communities, the skills agenda and the supply chain and will eventually save money. It also has to be site specific. There is a commitment to NDA Strategy 4 in the Rolling Programme for Government.

On the skills agenda, Mr McGhie commented that he and the Chair attends monthly meetings with Mr Blackley, which are open, honest and informative. Recruitment has been ongoing and two new apprentices have started. He asked if Hunterston B station should be looking at taking on apprentices now and if EDF and Magnox could look at apprenticeships at Hunterston B. Mr Struthers confirmed that EDF is working with Magnox to look at taking on apprentices at Hunterston and Hinkley.

Mr Marshall suggested that the Site Stakeholder Group feeds back to the NDA that there should be an explanation of why the dates have changed for someone reading the Business Plan. Mr Hamilton replied that there is some explanation in the Business Plan of the different factors taken into account and a table of all dates with text.

Ms Holmes asked if there had been any decision from SEPA on the fuel debris rods. Mr Blackley explained that 1¹/₃ fuel element have very low radiation levels. This is lower than some things in the bunkers but is uranium so there is ongoing discussion on the treatment and there has not yet been a conclusion. The options are to keep in a safe store at Hunterston or in a safe store at Sellafield.

6. Update from NDA – Mr David Wallace

The NDA report circulated with the meeting papers was taken as read. Mr Wallace updated on key points. The UK Government has confirmed a number of new appointments. Grant Shapps is Secretary of State for Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). Graham Stuart was previously Minister for NDA Group, this is now Scottish MP, Andrew Bowie. Ministers have been appointed for Energy Consumers / Affordability / Energy Efficiency / Green Finance. Mr Wallace thanked everyone who responded to the consultation on the draft NDA Business Plan. Mr Wallace had been asked what will be in the revised Business Plan and undertook to feed back on this.

[Action - Mr Wallace to feed back on the revisions to be included in NDA Business Plan.](#)

With regard to the Chair's request for support on the current consultation of proposals for a revised UK-wide Policy Framework for Nuclear Decommissioning and the Management of Radioactive Substances, Mr Wallace undertook to provide support off-line if required.

The NDA is keen to focus on the things that it is not getting right through its Stakeholder Survey and Summit. It is looking at holding regional events, not just national. The Scottish event will be held on 28 June in University of Strathclyde's Technology and Innovation Centre in Glasgow. An event in West Cumbria will be on 8 June and similar events will be held in Bangor and Bristol. Regional events will be face-to-face, with the UK national summit held online.

The secondment of Laura Hogg to the Scottish Government ended in December but discussions are taking place for another one year secondment. A suitable person has been identified but approval is awaited. The NDA found the secondment process very valuable and is keen to do this. Ms Hogg is back within the NDA but still has strong working links with Scottish Government.

7. Update from Magnox – Mr Bill Hamilton

Mr Hamilton reported that the new Site Stakeholder Group website had been launched that week. The website will contain a calendar of events, meeting dates and meeting papers, biographies of



Chairs and Vice-Chairs, etc and questions can also be asked via the website. This is a way of widening engagement, particularly with young people, and being more inclusive in communities.

Magnox is changing quite dramatically, with Dounreay joining the Magnox estate at the end of March. As previously advised, 12 sites will become 20+, 3,000 staff will become over 6,000 and the £500million budget will increase to £1billion+. The Magnox name will change and a new brand will be launched in October. Stakeholders and Site Stakeholder Groups will be sounded out in advance of this. Magnox has just agreed with North Ayrshire Council a contribution of £16,600 from an NDA-wide programme of emergency support to communities to ease the cost of living crisis, through the Fairer Food Network.

8. Update from Scottish Government –

The Scottish Government's report was included in the meeting papers and taken as read. Ms Hamilton was not present at the meeting.

Members Question and Answer Session and Public Forum

Member of the Public B referred to the UK Government's Public Accounts Committee and was outraged at spiralling costs. They noted concerns of the public regarding safety if costs have to be reduced. They referred to an article in the media on Chernobyl where dismantling was pushed from the inside. They were encouraged by the acceleration of technology and more assured that it is not just about saving money.

9. Any Other Business

Member of the Public B registered their concern that there were no North Ayrshire Councillors present at the meeting which they regarded as disrespectful. The Chair clarified that the Site Stakeholder meeting clashed with a Council budget meeting.

10. Next Meeting – Thursday 1 June 2023

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 1 June 2023. Meeting dates for the remainder of 2023 are Thursday 14 September and Thursday 7 December 2023.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and brought it to a close at 3.18 pm.