



**HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
MINUTES OF SIXTY EIGHTH MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 1 JUNE 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 Colin Hargreaves (Independent Site Inspector)
Mr Sean Marshall (Comms Manager / Secretariat)
Mr Alistair Walker (AGR Prog Development Manager)

EDF (Hunterston B)

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

Community Council Representatives

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

ONR

Mr Rowland Cook (Hunterston A)
Mr Peter Hughes (Hunterston A)
Mr Steve Saunders (Hunterston B)

North Ayrshire Council (NAC)

Cllr Eleanor Collier (North Coast)
Ms Lesley Jeffery (Civil Contingences Team)

SEPA

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

NDA

Mr David Wallace (Stakeholder Lead Scotland)

Scottish Government

Ms Diane Hamilton

Civil Nuclear Constabulary

Inspector Paul Gilmartin

NTS / DRS

Ms Angela Hoskins (Senior Business Manager)

In Attendance

Ms Sheila Adams (Minutes)
Mr Callum Corral (Press)

Mr Stewart Edmond (Member of Public)
Mr Douglas McCord (Member of Public)

Apologies

Mr Bill Hamilton (Comms and Stakeholder Relations Director, Magnox Ltd)
Cllr Alan Hill (North Coast)
Mr Stewart Mackenzie (Environmental Health, North Ayrshire Council)
Mr Scott McKenzie (Environmental Health, North Ayrshire Council)
Cllr Tom Marshall (North Coast)
Mr Joe Struthers (Hunterston B Station Director)

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks and Declarations of Interest

Ms Holmes, Chair, welcomed everyone to the sixty eighth meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group in the Waterside Hotel, West Kilbride. She specifically welcomed new ONR Inspectors – Mr Rowland Cook and Mr Peter Hughes for Hunterston A and Mr Steve Saunders for Hunterston B. She also welcomed Mr Tom Tremlett to give a presentation on the Hunterston B Decommissioning Plan and Ms Angela Hoskins of Nuclear Transport Services (NTS) / Direct Rail Services (DRS) who had been invited to the meeting. All present introduced themselves. Ms Allison Adamson was attending as Acting Station Director for Hunterston B in place of Mr Joe Struthers, along with Mr Andy Dalling, Transfer and Deconstruction Manager for Hunterston B.

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

2. Chair and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence.

The Chair summarised the meetings that she and Vice Chair had attended since the last Site Stakeholder Group meeting in March. These included the UK Chairs and Vice Chairs on 10 March and the monthly update from Hunterston A site on 29 March, as well as a Teams meeting of Site Stakeholder Group Chairs and officials of Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). There was a further UK Chairs and Vice Chairs zoom meeting to discuss the DESNZ input on 31 March and also an NDA / NGO Forum which Ms Holmes attended. On 19 April, Ms Holmes attended the NDA / NGO Forum in person in London. The Chief Inspector praised Hunterston B station as the best performing station in the EDF fleet and morale was high. The Chair reported these comments to the Hunterston B team, through the Station Director, at an update meeting on 25 April. The Chair attended the UK SSG Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting in London on 2 May, where the two main topics were rebranding of Magnox and 'The Big Conversation'. The monthly Hunterston A site update was on 10 May, with a further update on Teams on 31 May. There was a DESNZ consultation meeting on managing radioactive substances on 18 May on Teams. With regard to future meetings, the Chair will travel to London on 21 June for an NDA / Magnox meeting of UK Chairs and Vice Chairs.

Ms Holmes read part of a report that she had given to Fairlie Community Council. Hunterston B Station Director has intimated that there will be further consultation with local communities regarding plans for decommissioning of the site. This will happen in the next few weeks with public meetings in West Kilbride and Fairlie. Inspector Gilmartin, Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC) attended part of the meeting and apologised for his absence at the Site Stakeholder Group meeting in March as he was deployed on other business. He referred to the incident reported in the press and gave assurances that it had initiated improvements. Magnox as a company will, in the next three years, be dealing with decommissioning of Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors (AGRs) so the NDA sees this as necessitating a rebranding. It also feels that the rebranding needs to appeal more to younger people to help with expected shortages of a skilled workforce, as more stations enter decommissioning. SSG Chairs and Vice Chairs discussed the rebranding with Magnox executives in London on 2 May and were presented with some options, which had previously been consulted on with different focus groups. The word 'Restoration' was deemed inaccurate for use as, all agreed, that there is no chance that the sites will ever return to greenfield. 'Remediation' was deemed acceptable for use in any rebranding. There was some discussion regarding the Scottish Government's Higher Activity Waste policy, which allows for 'near surface' disposal but no site has been selected yet. Scottish sites will not accept defence waste but English and Welsh sites will have to take defence waste.

Mr McGhie added that the regular meetings with Hunterston A and B Management Teams are still taking place and are very helpful.

3. Actions and Approvals of previous Minutes

Mr Marshall referred to the actions and responses thereon which were circulated to Site Stakeholder Group members as part of the pack of meeting papers.

Mr Marshall gave Ms Jeffery the opportunity to give an update on the meeting that took place on 11 May. Ms Jeffery advised that information on rail assessment from end to end and secondary monitoring will be progressed as an Appendix of the Off Site Emergency Plan for Hunterston B. Ms Holmes asked the timescale for doing this. Ms Jeffery anticipated that the document would be produced by the end of summer 2023.

With regard to the action on Mr Wallace to ask DRS to draw up an explanation of procedures and/or attend a Site Stakeholder Group meeting to explain these, Ms Hoskins was present at the meeting to answer questions from members. The Chair invited Mr Black to raise his concerns.

Mr Black summarised the background to his questions at previous meetings, some of which had been addressed in the Minutes of previous meetings. He had been surprised that the railway line is used as some reports say that it is disused, which had led to his further questions. He asked if rail was a secure way of transporting flasks, without a police escort. He asked about the level of protection and how the risks are assessed and mitigated. Ms Hoskins clarified that these trains do not travel at the same speeds as normal trains. Category 3 services, such as those referred to, are all double-manned but not physically escorted. The path is agreed with Network Rail, following security and safety risk assessments at all calling points. The Control Centre knows the location of the train at any given time. Personnel are given the opportunity to speak regularly at calling points. The trains do not stop at calling points. Stoppage time is always kept to a minimum, depending on the length of the journey, but for Hunterston transportation there are no stops. For longer journeys, the train crew does stop but not at public stations and only for a minimal time period. There are means of communication within the cab and the two crew on board are at different ends of the train. Both have emergency activations. Every aspect of the journey is assessed, for example, for weather conditions. There are two locomotives each time – one operational and one contingency. The trains would never be at a stand for any period of time. Transport Plans are in place which the Regulators have had sight of. Mr Black asked about black spots for signal on the network. Ms Hoskins advised that although she did not know the technicalities, she was aware that there are different options within the cab and black spots in this area are minimal. Network Rail signallers are also aware of the routes and can check in. The crew have both radio communications and mobile phones. Mr Black asked if the timings were publicly available and why these would be published. Ms Hoskins replied that timings of services are not actively published but DRS has no control over real time trains. Additional security measures taken in this regard include changing the pattern and frequency often and managing this because of the sensitive nature. Mr Black asked how often disaster and emergency exercises are undertaken. Ms Hoskins responded that both desktop and physical exercises are carried out. Work is also done with partners and sites, with support from the Ministry of Defence and emergency services. Desktop exercises are done regularly, with other stakeholders invited, where possible. If anything is identified during these exercises, procedures are updated. Mr Saunders added that under the Carriage of Dangerous Goods Act, risk assessments are required but there is no requirement for an escort. DRS has to notify ONR within seven days. A timetable exists but actual times and dates are only issued on a 'need to know' basis. DRS is also required to undertake emergency demonstration exercises, which ONR will inspect.

The Minutes of the Site Stakeholder Group meeting, held on 2 March 2023, were proposed for approval by Mr Jamie Black and seconded by Mr John Lamb.

Meeting dates for the remainder of 2023 were confirmed as 14 September and 7 December.

4. Hunterston B Station Reports

Hunterston B Report – Ms Allison Adamson, Mr Andy Dalling

The report issued with the meeting papers was taken as read. Ms Adamson advised that defueling continues in an efficient manner with over two thirds (220 / 308) of spent fuel stringers safely removed from Reactor 3. Flasking is also progressing to schedule, with 50 of 123 dispatched safely to Sellafield. Reactor 3 defuelling programme is progressing to plan, with preparations being made for Reactor 4 defuelling, starting in quarter 4 of this year.

Safety performance remains strong, with the Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) still at 0. There is a continued focus on good safety communications. An independent contractor has carried out a review of the access road and car park. There was one incident involving a failed light fitting in the car park, which fell to the ground, but there was no injury or damage sustained and a thorough investigation is being carried out. All routine data under Radiological Protection is in the report. Environmental safety performance has been strong. There was a minor anomaly in the gaseous discharge report to SEPA in January, which was quickly noticed, reported to SEPA and rectified prior to the February report. There have been no issues or activations under Emergency Arrangements. The first session of the 2023 shift exercise season has been completed.

Under People, key activities in quarter one included Leaders Forums. Informal Aspirational Conversations have been taking place. The station is on plan, working through its 2022-23 programme. In Company news, Dr Mark Hartley has been appointed Managing Director for Generation. Updates on Heysham 1 and Hartlepool were given, with both sites forecast to generate zero carbon electricity for two years longer. Hinkley Point C has announced 30,000 new training places.

Mr Dalling summarised the site transition, working from defueling to deconstruction. An organisation capable of delivering deconstruction is being designed, with asset transfers to NDA and Magnox Ltd. An application for site licence will be required and on site engagement with the Strategy, when the station is fuel-free.

ONR Report – Mr Steve Saunders

The ONR report for January-March 2023 issued with the meeting papers was taken as read. Mr Saunders had taken over from Mr Stuart Fannin on 1st May and is also ONR Inspector responsible for Hinkley Point. Dungeness is also starting defueling. Priorities for the defueling stations are targeted against safe operation of defueling and deconstruction. As HNB is the lead AGR station to undergo defueling, improvements are often found and implemented and therefore several pieces of advice were given to the station during a management of the assets inspection to ensure that the rationale for these improvements is appropriately recorded to assist future stations as they move into defueling. Mr Saunders notified that he proposes producing reports six monthly rather than quarterly as quarterly reports would be very thin. He will also commit to attending two Site Stakeholder Group meetings annually, which reflects the reduced hazard on site.

SEPA Report – Mr Keith Hammond

The report issued with the meeting papers was taken as read. Mr Hammond had been on site on 17 May, following up on the inspection on 19 April, focusing on the production of the monthly gaseous discharge return after the error in January's report. Mr Hammond confirmed that no contraventions were found. The small non-radioactive leak detected in a field drain on the northwest corner of the site is coming from a transformer and being monitored by the site and entered on a Quality Management Plan. A mat has been put down and the site will continue to monitor until this is fixed next year. The site has been busy this year removing CS firefighting foam from site, which is now banned. The notice period for removal of this substance was very short and a lot of companies have been caught out. The site did not meet the deadline for removal, but this is not surprising and it did put in a lot of work to attempt to do so.

This is not radioactive material but its removal does reduce the hazard on site.

Civil Nuclear Constabulary Update – Inspector Paul Gilmartin

Inspector Gilmartin gave a verbal update. Security on site remains a top priority and CNC will remain on sites until it is appropriate to leave. A Cessation Plan is normally 18 months. CNC is looking at its officer resources and future planning. Training, response levels or commitment to training have not been relaxed. A staged withdrawal will take place, reflecting the reduced hazards on site. CNC has linked with Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue and Scottish Ambulance Service post Covid. Integrated organisational responses are being provided on and off site. CNC Officers have been deployed across the UK, attending Queen Elizabeth II's funeral and King Charles III's coronation.

Members Question and Answer Session

Mr Lamb noted Hunterston B station's progress on defueling, removing two thirds of fuel stringers from Reactor 3, dispatching 47 flasks safely to Sellafield and defueling 200 fuel channels. He asked how many stringers are still on site not yet sent.

Ms Adamson responded that fuel is removed from the Reactors to the ponds and into flasks to be dispatched from site. Disparity in the numbers is due to reporting the channels defueled since defuelling starting last year and flask numbers for the current calendar year.

Mr Lamb asked about the availability of flasks for Hunterston given that other stations have also started defueling. Mr Saunders confirmed that Sellafield has flasks and understands that 9 per week have been committed. While there may be a problem in capacity going forward, there is not currently and Sellafield colleagues are aware of this and are taking steps to address. Mr Saunders added that this is a contractual issue between EDF and Sellafield but ONR will do what it can to support. There is a facility at Sellafield to refurbish. Mr Cook added that he had spent time in transport and inspected this facility, which is maintained to aircraft maintenance standards and there is no way to fault the maintenance. He agreed that the number of flasks available is limited but is being given attention and there are some flasks in storage being refurbished. Currently there are enough flasks to go round. Defuelling will be managed to fit the availability of flasks, with work being done according to the resources available. Ms McCall added that Heysham 1 and Hartlepool have now extended generation by two further years which should reduce the need for flasks at the same time as Hunterston B and Hinkley Point B

Mr Lamb asked about low-flying aircraft over the Hunterston area within the Aircraft Exclusion Zone. Mr Dalling responded that he was not aware of this and it would have been reported by the station if appropriate as the embargo is still in place.

Ms Holmes noted the extension given to Heysham 1 and Hartlepool to 2027 (from 2014 originally) and asked about graphite core cracking. She asked if Hunterston B is continuing to look at the state of the channels and if ONR is assessing the likelihood of what happened at Hunterston B in relation to Heysham and Hartlepool. Mr Saunders responded that the safety concern with graphite cracking is the ability of the control rods to be inserted in an emergency at Hunterston B, the reactors are shutdown and the control rods inserted. For operating reactors such as Heysham and Hartlepool EDF must provide an additional safety case to demonstrate that the reactors can continue to operate safely and be shutdown in an emergency if required. These safety cases are reviewed by ONR specialists. A site will only be allowed to continue operation if the ONR inspectors are satisfied with the safety case. Ms Holmes asked if permission will be granted for operation until 2027 or if this will be reviewed. Mr Saunders clarified that a safety case is subject to continual review. The stations have justified the safety case for two years and it will be for the stations to decide beyond that, with a new safety case required. Mr Cook added that specialists' teams use the information provided by stations on inspections but also use extensive research.

Inspections will become more frequent, on a rolling programme.

Mr Black challenged ONR's intention to reduce its reporting to six monthly and argued that as all the work being done by the station now is new, the same level of scrutiny should continue. Due to experience of Hunterston A's assets and plant showing deterioration, he did not think it appropriate that scrutiny is reduced. Mr Saunders explained that ONR is a risk based organisation with more attention given to the sites of highest risk. It is also a sampling organisation and where the risk in stations has reduced significantly, the time has to be used appropriately. Ms Holmes could see both sides of this point. She noted that the Chair and Vice Chair receive monthly reports from the sites. SEPA attends the quarterly Site Stakeholder meetings but SEPA's involvement will increase as the waste increases. She noted also the additional ONR time input given to Hunterston B due to the keyway root cracking. As a compromise, Mr Saunders offered to come to the next meeting to see what there was to report, noting that he covers both Hunterston B and Hinkley Point B Stations. Mr Black did not find this acceptable as the risk had changed and the stations have different working practices. He pointed out that everyone has their own role and he would not like to see an incident several years down the line which could have been avoided if the regulator had not been trying to save money. Ms Holmes agreed with the importance of receiving reports on the previous period and updates thereon at the meetings. Mr Saunders assured members that if he had any concerns, he would be on site and attend Site Stakeholder Group meetings. Mr McGhie noted the expectation that Site Directors give monthly updates and report verbally to the Chair and Vice Chair on specific events. Mr Saunders clarified that day to day compliance requires less frequency but he would attend immediately if required. He pointed out that the Health and Safety Executive visits some of their site every seven years and it is no longer appropriate for ONR to visit a lower hazard site monthly. Mr Hargreaves added that he does inspections weekly, monthly and quarterly, reporting to Magnox and ONR. Mr Cook added that decommissioning has been being done at Magnox sites for some time, with Bradwell being in care and maintenance. Once the fuel is removed, the nuclear risk is dramatically removed and contained. Magnox has embarked on a series of projects to remediate waste. These are well established projects with good understanding of risks. Nuclear risks are continually reducing but conventional risks remain. The ONR's Decommissioning Fuel and Waste section is being reviewed. Inspections are being timed to coincide with big milestones and projects. It is wasted effort to turn up frequently at sites when nothing has happened. Mr Saunders referred to the failed floodlight fitting in the car park. This was reported to ONR immediately and ONR was satisfied that it was dealt with properly and checked that other sites had been advised. Ms Holmes noted that when a change of date is required for a Site Stakeholder Group meeting, she asks the Secretariat to check that the Site Directors and regulators can make the revised date as sometimes things are flagged up or updates given at meetings that are not on the reports. While it would be the preference to have the regulators attend the meetings quarterly, she appreciated that they had other commitments. Mr Saunders added that Sellafield is a high hazard site but only has ONR attendance at Site Stakeholder Group meetings twice per year.

Ms Holmes asked Inspector Gilmartin if there had been a consultation on the 'leasing out' of CNC officers to commercial enterprises as she believed that there was a paper going through the House of Lords to make CNC employees a national asset. Inspector Gilmartin clarified that CNC had a policing role and would not be 'leased out' to private enterprises. He added that CNC will expand into other areas and have a change of remit and is continuing to recruit.

Hunterston B Decommissioning Plan – Mr Tom Tremlett

Mr Tremlett gave a presentation on Hunterston B's Decommissioning Forthcoming Consultation from 31 May to 11 July. He recapped on the first consultation last summer 2022, outlining the Decommissioning Plan. Eighty people had attended the events and there were 325 unique views online, from which there was not a huge amount of feedback (27 responses).

Based on attendance at previous consultations, there would be a consultation event on 7 June in Fairlie Village Hall and one on 21 June in West Kilbride Village Hall. Feedback from the first consultation round was categorised under the headings of Safestore; Waste; Transport; Employment; Programme. Mr Tremlett gave a brief update on Safestore; Radioactive Waste Management; Transport and Environmental Impact Assessment.

Outlined that there was community support for re-utilising capacity at the HNA ILW Store, and that there was some concerns of the impact of decommissioning traffic on the local highway network as all materials are expected to be travelling by road. There was further consultation feedback received citing concern about a skills gap to complete decommissioning and the impact of a reduction of staff on-site on the local economy.

Information from the consultation documents was shared highlighting further studies into the Safestore had showed minimal difference in visibility between a full height and reduced height Safestore where the glass portion (the 'chargehall') was removed. It was shared that full height would be retained as the worst case and basis for assessment in the EIA for decommissioning as it is not possible at this stage to confirm whether reduced height is practicable. It was also shared that EDF cannot commit to the colour of final cladding, but that it is likely to be of aluminium in make-up, and would be subject to planning permission when the time comes which provides additional opportunity for public comment.

Under waste management, the Low Level Waste buildings on site would be refurbished and two more smaller buildings would be required, for which planning permission will be required. A new arrangement will be needed for treating active effluent discharge. One option is to install a pipe at the outfall tunnel. This is subject to further optioneering and technical feasibility. On-site disposal of low level waste is not currently part of the Decommissioning Plan as this would not be required until final site clearance. Permits would be required and there would be further engagement with communities and stakeholders should this position change.

A HGV movements profile was shared which highlighted that the worst case for the Environmental Impact Assessment was for an additional 25 HGV movements a day on average. This would not have a significant effect on transport, noise or air quality. Additional environmental information is included in the Environmental Impact Assessment section of the Consultation Document which is available on the virtual exhibition and at events. An Environmental Management Plan will be produced as part of the EIADR submission later this year and will be updated annually. The site is currently on track for the Environmental Impact Assessment to be submitted to ONR for approval in November 2023.

Members Question and Answer Session

Mr McGhie was confused as to why it was EDF's Decommissioning Plan for Hunterston B. He asked why this was the case and why Magnox is not preparing the Decommissioning Plan. Mr Tremlett responded that to comply with Licence Condition 35, the site needs a Decommissioning Plan. EDF has been discussing the Plan with Magnox and assessing worst case scenarios. Should the Plan change in the future, a variation to the decommissioning consent can be submitted to ONR. Mr McGhie asked if the public consultation should not refer to a joint EDF / NDA / Magnox Hunterston B Decommissioning Plan to avoid confusion for the public. Mr Saunders clarified that the responsibility in law lies with the site licence holder, which is currently EDF. Mr Black did not think that this was acceptable as no evidence had been seen of the companies working well together and one company could not be expected to implement another company's strategy. Cllr Collier thought that Magnox should be present at the consultation events and this was a missed opportunity. Mr Tremlett confirmed that Mr Alistair Walker would be present at the consultation events for Magnox. Mr Walker clarified that EDF has to produce the Decommissioning Plan as current site licence holder. This will be subject to rigorous procedures over 3 years, 2 years and one year. Magnox is not able to direct EDF as it is not yet the site licence holder, but Magnox is providing operational expertise to EDF. Magnox will accept the output of the Plans at the point of

transfer. Mr Saunders reiterated that the Plan has to start with whoever is legally responsible at that time. Mr Dalling confirmed that EDF is working hand in glove with Magnox and the benefit of Magnox experiences is helping to refine the Plans but it is EDF's responsibility to produce the Plan.

Mr Tremlett added that operational experience from Magnox is the reason for some of the decisions made in the Plan. Mr Cook added that it is logical for EDF to do the defueling. When defueling is complete and the risk is reduced, Magnox can begin the deconstruction phase, on which it has previous experience. Mr Tremlett added that EDF obtaining the consent before transfer gives Magnox the best opportunity to hit the ground running when the site does transfer so there is no delay to decommissioning whilst the consent is sought. Mr Cook advised that he had had sight of the decommissioning proposals and had not seen anything to suggest that it would not work. Mr McGhie referred to his original point and asked that it be made clear in the consultations that the Plan is EDF's responsibility but it is working with Magnox. Mr Tremlett advised that this was included in the first round of consultations.

Ms Holmes asked if EDF had applied to the local authority for consent to use Hunterston A's waste facilities. Mr Tremlett responded that an application had not yet been submitted as it was still to be determined who would be most appropriate to apply for permission. Ms Holmes asked why there was a delay with this. Mr Dalling replied that EDF did not yet know what would be needed.

Ms Holmes noted that categorisation of waste will be better and there will be less waste than from Hunterston A and asked at what point it will be categorised. Mr Saunders replied that there are other matters to be resolved before planning permission can be applied for. Ms Hayes clarified that permission for the waste categorisation will be required from SEPA, not the local authority.

Ms Holmes pointed out that there are a lot of unknowns but communities like detail and asked when there will be details. Mr Tremlett advised that the driver of the consultations is the Environmental Impact Assessment. Operational waste being processed on site is not vital in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment consent. There is not much detail on operational processes yet as optioneering and Best Practical Means is still being done. Mr Tremlett reiterated that details are not available at this time and the consultation focuses on conventional environmental impacts.

Ms Holmes referred to an outflow tunnel for the discharge pipe, which is to be close to land and not far out to sea, such as at Hinkley Point C. Decommissioning will take place over a long period and there could be radioactive discharges into the Clyde, which communities are interested in. Mr Saunders responded that this is part of the regulator's role. The station is required to provide detail of the Best Practical Means but cannot provide this level of detail at this stage. The role of the regulator is to ensure that the final decision is the right thing to do with it. Permit variations can be issued in due course. Mr Tremlett advised that the existing tides are the main reason for dispersal. Ms Hayes added that variations of the permits for aqueous discharge will be required for Hunterston A and B. Ms Holmes asked when this would be. Mr Hammond replied that this would be towards the end of 2023 / beginning of 2024, when modelling exercises are done. He advised that discharges are vertical. Ms Holmes asked if construction work would be required. Mr Tremlett confirmed that this would be the case and would be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment.

Public Forum

There were no questions or observations from the public.

The Chair paused the meeting at 3.25pm for a short comfort break.

5. Hunterston A Site Reports

Hunterston A Report – Mr Mark Blackley

The report issued with meeting papers was taken as read.

Mr Blackley referred to two conventional safety events in March/April. Just after midnight on 15 March, a fire broke out in a newly refurbished changing / showering facility. There were no radioactive materials in the facility and there were no injuries. The contingency arrangements worked very well. The facility is still out of service and is currently being assessed by the Contractors and Magnox Insurers, both of whom have sent fire investigators to assess. This has caused significant difficulties on site with plant work having to be reduced and temporary changing rooms installed. The second safety incident was on 5 April and related to repairs on the roofs of reactor buildings. Membrane was removed, exposing holes. Rain and heavy winds stopped work being progressed, which led to a large ingress of water on Reactor 1 building, near to an electrical supply. Power supplies were isolated and shut down until remedial works could be undertaken. Subsequent repairs have allowed supplies to be reenergised and the site has recovered from this situation.

With regard to the defects on the ventilation system, which was reported to and investigated by SEPA, the site has received a final warning letter from SEPA. The site does not believe that the defects have caused any harm to people or the environment but it has received warning letters as it is in breach of the permit conditions. The site had been making good progress, which has since been hampered by the fire, with a number of weeks being lost. Works have just restarted and are expected to be completed in July. 3.8 tonnes of waste have been retrieved from bunker one since April, with a similar amount still to be completed.

Good progress has been made in reconfiguring the Wet Intermediate Level Waste Retrieval and Encapsulation Plant (WILWREP) to retrieve and encapsulate radioactive nitric acid. Permission for inactive commissioning is anticipated in July 2023. Issues with the Kuka robots on the Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation (SILWE) plant have been addressed and improvements made. Good progress is being made on the reactor roof repair project. Primer and a first coat has been applied to the west roof on reactor 1. Two 11kv transformers have been replaced on reactors 1 and 2 after 25 years' service.

£572.5k was distributed through the Magnox Socio Economic Scheme during 2022/23, of which £53.5k was allocated to North Ayrshire. Mr Blackley was pleased to highlight progress with recruitment. Two new apprenticeship offers have been verbally accepted and are expected to start in autumn. Magnox Chief Executive, Gwen Parry-Jones, is to become the Interim Chief Executive of Great British Nuclear (GBN). Rob Fletcher will take over the role of Interim Chief Executive of Magnox.

ONR Report – Mr Peter Hughes

The ONR report issued with the meeting papers was taken as read. Mr Hughes introduced himself as nominated Site Inspector for Hunterston A, who took over from Mr Stuart Fannin on 1 April 2023. ONR was informed of the fire in the shower block facility and awaits the final report of the investigation. ONR's Fire Inspector has been involved in discussions, asking about actions taken since the fire. There has been no formal enforcement during the period. In line with Mr Saunders' notification of reduced attendance on site and at Site Stakeholder Group meetings, Mr Hughes confirmed that his attendance will also reduce, reflecting the reduced risk and hazard on site.

SEPA Report – Ms Melanie Hayes

The report from SEPA, included in the meeting papers, was taken as read. Ms Hayes advised that SEPA has been investigating the gaseous ventilation system defects, for which a final warning

letter was issued to Magnox in April for non-compliance with the Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR). A site inspection of the monthly gaseous discharge returns took place on 28 March. The errors reported relate specifically to time periods and do not affect the levels. The same issues have arisen at Chapelcross and SEPA is still considering the findings. With regard to characterisation of Intermediate Level bunker waste, a specialist contractor was commissioned in December 2022 to review the model and associated work undertaken by Magnox with regards to the characterisation of the Solid Active Waste Bunker (SAWB) waste. The report was expected later that week and would be shared with Magnox in the first instance.

Seven full-time positions are available in SEPA, with the Radioactive Substances Unit working at reduced capacity. There are also two Policy Officer positions vacant.

Members Question and Answer Session

Ms Holmes asked how soon Site Stakeholder Group members will see the report from the specialist contractor. Ms Hayes replied that this is for Magnox to decide as this is a Magnox owned document, not SEPA. Any shortfalls or recommendations in the report will be for Magnox to determine. Mr Blackley added that Magnox may not openly issue the report but he will brief the Chair and Vice Chair at their monthly update meetings.

Mr Lamb asked if there had been any more fuel fragments found in Bunker 1. Mr Blackley confirmed that no further fuel fragments had been found. Mr Lamb asked how the site would get rid of the ones already found. Mr Blackley advised that the site is working through optioneering and will engage with regulators and other stakeholders at the appropriate time. A difference of opinion in the preferred means of disposal is anticipated.

Mr Lamb asked if there had been any progress on cladding of the reactor buildings. Mr Blackley confirmed that there had been no progress with cladding since the last meeting and the site is still working on formulating this through the Life-time Plan.

Mr Lamb referred to optioneering and recharacterisation of waste from the bunkers and asked if there was a time constraint on existing permissions. Ms Hayes clarified that it had not yet been determined if the waste has to be recharacterised. Should this be found to be the case, it will be for Magnox, ONR and SEPA to determine if anything else can be done. With regard to the joint statement from regulators, SEPA and ONR, on the grouting of bunker waste, Mr Blackley clarified that Bunker 1 continues to be encapsulated and the necessary applications will be made. Ms Hayes advised that this would be the subject of public consultation. Mr Lamb asked if current characterisation includes graphite to be grouted and if there is a change to the status of graphite overall, would it have an effect on the treatment. Mr Blackley replied that it is necessary to see the conclusion and recommendations of the report first before the site can consider any changes. Mr Blackley undertook to keep stakeholders and regulators fully informed. Ms Hayes added that the hold on Bunkers 2 – 5 would be lifted if appropriate and there would be no further delays.

Ms Holmes noted that paddles had to be used for reconfiguring WILWREP for liquid waste and asked if problems were envisaged. Mr Blackley clarified that this just related to a different consistency / recipe for concrete.

Ms Holmes asked what is meant by DAR5.1, referred to in achieving the first milestone of the WILWREP Acid Reconfiguration. Mr Blackley clarified that this means Design Authority Review, which is an internal process.

Ms Holmes asked if the fire in the shower facility would result in a better facility for the site. Mr Blackley responded that two temporary facilities had been hired in. It was anticipated that the

facility would be written off and the subject of an insurance payment. Any new facility was most likely to be a portacabin in a different location.

Ms Holmes considered that liaising with external services to familiarise them with the site was a good idea. Mr Blackley reported that the response from the Fire Service was exceptional, with five tenders in attendance within 17 minutes. The guards on site did an excellent job, with members of the Contingency Team all living more than 17 minutes away. This was the site's most challenging silent hours emergency.

Ms Holmes asked more about shaving off the surface of the cooling ponds for cleaning of tanks. Mr Blackley responded that this is much less abrasive and vacuuming and cleaning are done by hand, as the outcome of the Best Practical Means (BPM) process. Ms Holmes asked about elevated dose rates identified. Mr Blackley advised that these are high as more materials come from the bottom of the pond. Sludge and other debris comes through the pump and the site is working out what to do with it. These are intermediate level waste levels and the site needs to work out whether to take the pump apart or work with it in its entirety. Ms Holmes asked where the 24 core samples were from. Mr Blackley advised that this was metal samples of pipeworks.

Public Forum

Member of the Public A asked why it was only the towns local to Hunterston that were being given the presentation on Hunterston B's Decommissioning Plan. Mr Tremlett responded that following talks with Planning Officers, Largs, Millport, West Kilbride and Fairlie were included in the first consultation as the correct locations to target. Due to the lack of footfall during the first consultation, it was decided to reduce the second round to the two towns closest to the site. Member of the Public A suggested that people might not attend because they do not know about it. Mr Tremlett advised that advertisements in local newspapers about the consultations covered the Saltcoats and Ardrossan area and that social media (facebook and LinkedIn) targeted location campaigns were reaching people as far south as Ayr.

6. Update from NDA – Mr David Wallace

The NDA report circulated with the meeting papers was taken as read. The full day Stakeholder event on 28 June in University of Strathclyde's Technology and Innovation Centre in Glasgow, has arisen from the results of a survey and people wanting to know more about mission progress, innovation and technology. The NDA is being supported by academia. Invites have been sent to Chairs and Vice Chairs but anyone else wishing to attend should contact Mr Wallace. Capacity at the event is 150 and an invite may be sent to Hunterston and Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group members through the Secretariat.

The NDA is refreshing its Socio-Economic Impact Strategy, on which there will be a period of public consultation before finalising and publishing. Mr Andrew Harper is leading on this and will be in touch with Site Stakeholder Groups in the next few weeks or can be contacted at andrew.harper@nda.gov.uk.

Following the successful secondment of Laura Hogg to Scottish Government, objectives are being set for a new secondment position for 12-18 months. A suitable person is being identified and the possibility of an NDA / Scottish Government exchange is also being considered. The NDA's Chair and Chief Executive's annual briefing to Cabinet Secretary, Mairi McAllan MSP, will take place on 14 June, outlining progress over the last 12 months.

Members Question and Answer Session

Mr Black noted exciting developments in other areas, such as Spaceport, Dounreay and Small Modular Reactors (SMR) and asked where Hunterston fits in and what is being proposed for Hunterston. Mr Wallace replied that there is a Hunterston A Strategic Group and NDA has been investing in socio economic activity in the area, such as £1/2 million in new Ayrshire College campus at Kilwinning and £1/2 million for Loch Shore Park. An event is being arranged at Ayrshire College on 28 June 2023. The NDA is very conscious and aware of the upskilling and socio economics required in the area. Part of the refresh of the Socio-Economic Impact Strategy will be to speak to stakeholders and find out what more needs to be done and where. There has been socio-economic investment at Dounreay and Torness and there is more activity in Scotland than anywhere else in the UK but more partnership working is required, including working more closely with Scottish Government. Mr Marshall added that the NDA has a history of working with Magnox and Hunterston with £1 million invested a few years ago on the Youth Employment Scheme, Ardrossan Harbour Offices and Marine Biological Station on Millport, which were key projects.

7. Update from Magnox –

Mr Hamilton was not present at the meeting.

8. Update from Scottish Government – Ms Diane Hamilton

The Scottish Government's report was included in the meeting papers and taken as read. Ms Hamilton had visited the site with Mr Martin Macdonald at the end of March and thanked the site for hosting this visit, which she had found very interesting and impressive. Ms Hamilton confirmed that Mairi McAllan MSP had been promoted to Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Just Transition.

A poll is taking place to arrange a suitable date for the next Scottish Nuclear Sites meeting, at the end of August, the date for which will be confirmed within the next week. Anyone who wishes to attend this meeting should contact Ms Hamilton directly.

Scottish Government will provide an update on the Near Surface Disposal project at the next meeting.

With regard to the discussion on defence waste mentioned by the Chair during her update, Ms Hamilton confirmed the 2011 Scottish Higher Activity Waste policy does not apply to radioactive waste from those defence establishments which are not subject to regulation under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 (now the Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR)).

Members Question and Answer Session

Ms Holmes noted the invitation to attend the Scottish Nuclear Sites meeting but had been advised in the past that this was restricted to 25 people. Ms Hamilton was not aware that this was the case and expected the meeting to be hybrid which would allow for greater attendance numbers.

Mr Black referred to a previously ambiguous response from Scottish Government on technology. He advised that from a discussion at a Largs Community Council meeting, his view was that people in this area support nuclear and the Scottish Government position is not credible. He referred to social media activity from Hinkley Point C and suggested that Scottish Government representatives go and see what is available at Hinkley. He suggested that a referendum be held in North Ayrshire to get views, which is not political. Mr Black asked that the message is taken back to Scottish Government that to achieve just transition and net zero, technology is required and it is not acceptable not to have the conversation. Ms Hamilton advised Mr Black to feed back his concerns through the formal consultations. Ms Holmes believed that people from Hinkley Point C



were outraged by the environmental effects there and it is decommissioning waste that is now being talked about, not nuclear regeneration.

Ms Holmes added that nuclear regeneration is being held up by the Government's siting policy and a lack of suitable sites. Coastal sites will be eroded so are not suitable, which only leaves greenfield sites.

Mr Marshall clarified that the role of the Site Stakeholder Group is to monitor the decommissioning of sites. If there are opposing views on Scottish Government policy, members should email the Scottish Government directly. For the Site Stakeholder Group to take any action, all voting members would have to agree to take forward. Mr Black replied that he was raising the point, as a Community Councillor, to the Scottish Government. Ms Hamilton advised that she personally is unable to take forward and advised Mr Black to raise his concerns with his local MSP or with Mairi McAllan MSP, as a Community Councillor.

Public Forum

Member of the Public A noted that staffing numbers are reducing at Hunterston B site and asked if the current staffing level will be the permanent staffing level on the two sites. Mr Dalling responded that this was not yet known for Hunterston B as the organisational design was still being worked through and it was hoped that the site would be in a position to communicate this by the end of the year. Mr Saunders agreed that this is work in progress, still being worked through to determine a suitable number of sufficiently qualified staff are on site to ensure safe operation.

9. Any Other Business

There were no other items of business raised.

10. Next Meeting – Thursday 14 September 2023

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 14 September 2023.

The Chair brought the meeting to a close at 4.28 pm.