



## **HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

The Sixty Ninth Meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group will take place on  
Thursday 14 September 2023 at 1330 Hrs

Venue – The Waterside, Ardrossan Road, West Kilbride, KA23 9NG  
Light Refreshments will be served from 1245 prior to the meeting

### **AGENDA**

**13.30 Chairman's Opening Remarks and Declarations of Interest**

**13.35 Chair and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence**

**13.45 Actions and approval of previous Minutes**

**13.50 Hunterston B Site Reports**

Hunterston B Report – Joe Struthers

ONR Report – Steve Saunders

SEPA Report – Keith Hammond

***Members Question and Answer Session  
Public Forum***

**14.25 Hunterston A Site Reports**

Hunterston A Site Report – Mark Blackley

ONR Report – Peter Hughes

SEPA Report – Melanie Hayes

***Members Question and Answer Session  
Public Forum***

**15.00 Update from NDA**

David Wallace

**Update from Magnox**

Bill Hamilton

**Update from Scottish Government**

Diane Hamilton

***Members Question and Answer Session  
Public Forum***

**15.30 Any Other Business**

**Next Meeting Thursday 7 December 2023**

**HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP  
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS FROM THE SIXTY EIGHTH MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 1 JUNE 2023  
AT THE WATERSIDE HOTEL, ARDROSSAN ROAD, WEST KILBRIDE, KA23 9NG**

**Chair's Opening Remarks and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence**

The Chair summarised several meetings that she and the Vice Chair had attended, including monthly updates from Site Management Teams; UK Chairs and Vice Chairs meetings; meetings with DESNZ officials; NDA/NGO Forums. The Chair also read part of a report she had given to Fairlie Community Council.

**Actions and Approval of Previous Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of 2 March 2023 were approved and an update on actions received. Ms Angela Hoskins, NTS/DRS, was present to explain railway procedures for the transportation of flasks.

**Hunterston B Report – Ms Allison Adamson, Mr Andy Dalling**

Over two thirds (220 / 308) of spent fuel stringers has been safely removed from Reactor 3. Preparations are being made for Reactor 4 defueling starting in quarter 4 of this year. The Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) is still at 0. 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. A minor anomaly in the gaseous discharge report to SEPA in January, was quickly noticed, reported to SEPA and rectified prior to the February report. Informal Aspirational Conversations have been taking place. Mr Dalling summarised the site transition, working from defueling to deconstruction.

**ONR Report – Mr Steve Saunders**

Mr Saunders took over from Mr Stuart Fannin on 1st May. Priorities are targeted against safe operation of defueling and deconstruction. 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 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. 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.

**CNC Update – Inspector Paul Gilmartin**

Security on site remains a top priority. 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.

**Hunterston B Decommissioning Plan – Mr Tom Tremlett**

Eighty people had attended the consultation events in summer 2022, with 325 unique views online, from which 27 responses were received. Based on this, there would be a consultation event on 7 June in Fairlie Village Hall and one on 21 June in West Kilbride Village Hall. Feedback was categorised under the headings of Safestore; Waste; Transport; Employment; Programme. The site is currently on track for an Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report to be submitted to ONR for approval in November 2023.

**Hunterston A Reports – Mr Mark Blackley**

There were 2 conventional safety events. A fire broke out in a newly refurbished changing / showering facility. There were no radioactive materials in the facility and no injuries. Contingency arrangements worked very well. Separately, as part of 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 were undertaken. Two new apprenticeship offers have been verbally accepted. Magnox Chief Executive, Gwen Parry-Jones, is to become the Interim Chief Executive of Great British Nuclear (GBN). Rob Fletcher will become Interim CEO of Magnox.

**ONR Report – Mr Peter Hughes**

Mr Hughes took over from Mr Stuart Fannin on 1 April 2023. There were no issues identified during the inspection of the heating system. Mr Hughes confirmed that his attendance will also reduce, reflecting the reduced risk and hazard on site.

**SEPA Report – Ms Melanie Hayes**

SEPA has been investigating the gaseous ventilation system defects, for which a final warning letter was issued to Magnox in April. 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, on which the report was imminent. Seven full-time positions are available in SEPA, with the Radioactive Substances Unit working at reduced capacity.

**NDA Reports – Mr David Wallace**

A Scottish Stakeholder Summit will be held on 28 June in Glasgow. 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](mailto:andrew.harper@nda.gov.uk).

**Update from Scottish Government – Ms Diane Hamilton**

The date for Scottish Nuclear Sites meeting in August will be confirmed soon. 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. 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 EASR 2018).

There were many questions asked by members after each presentation, the detail of which can be read in the full Minute of the meeting, available from the Secretariat.

**Next Meeting – Thursday 14 September at 1.30 pm, in person at The Waterside Hotel, West Kilbride.**



**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](mailto: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.

# Site Stakeholder Group

Hunterston B Station Director's Report

**Period: May 2023 to July 2023**



## 1. Safety and Environment

### Station Industrial Safety Performance

Safety performance during the reporting period has been good and our Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) remains at 0.

There have been no medium or high potential events in the last quarter.

The failure of the carpark light assembly which was reported in the previous quarterly report has been thoroughly investigated and extent of condition checks have been carried out on all other similar structures on site. Corrective actions have been put in place to prevent reoccurrence.

Team monthly safety meetings continue to be a success with topics including working at height and human performance, these have generated good discussion.

Industrial safety engineers (ISEs) have been busy completing compliance evaluations on our codes of practice. Recent evaluations included reviews of the risk assessment process, asbestos management and manual handling. Minor opportunities for improvement have been identified and actioned.

Work to improve workplace transport safety continues and the independent consultant has now concluded the remaining report for the areas within the site boundary. Implementation of recommendations continue as appropriate.

## Radiological Protection

The radiation dose of each worker is assessed individually by an electronic personal dose meter. A computer database keeps records for each worker. Exposure is continuously monitored and ultimately compared with the levels specified in the Ionising Radiations Regulations (2017) which are the UK Health and Safety legislation that applies to work with radiation.

During the reporting period the Collective Radiation Exposure (CRE) was below plan (see table below). Collective doses are pre-planned for each year based on scheduled maintenance, outages and routine operations. A breakdown of dose received is shown below (along with a comparison of relevant dose statistics).

All work is fully reviewed and justified in order to ensure all doses received were ALARP (As Low As Reasonably Practicable). This involves justifying and optimising the dose, as well as remaining within those dose limits.

Differences between the actual and planned dose can be down to a range of factors including changes to the work programme, development of new techniques for carrying out work that will result in a lower dose and the deployment of new equipment. In this case, the reduced work programme resulted in the actual dose being lower than the predicted.

There were no reportable radiological protection events during this reporting period.

| Radiation Dose to workers (May 2022 – July 2023) |             |                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Planned collective dose                          | 5.9man.mSv  |                  |
| Actual collective dose                           | 4.6man.mSv  |                  |
|                                                  | Employee    | Contract Partner |
| Total Dose                                       | 4.18man.mSv | 0.42man.mSv      |
| Average individual dose                          | 0.013mSv    | 0.002mSv         |
| Highest individual dose                          | 0.452mSv    | 0.055mSv         |
| Individuals                                      | 320         | 209              |

| Chest X-ray | Transatlantic Flight | CT scan | Average UK annual dose to public | EDF Energy Dose Restriction Level | UK legal dose limit for radiation workers |
|-------------|----------------------|---------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 0.014mSv    | 0.08mSv              | 2.0mSv  | 2.6mSv                           | 10mSv                             | 20mSv                                     |



#### Explanatory notes:

- mSv: milliSieverts (SI unit of dose received by an individual)
- man.mSv: The collective dose for a group of workers (i.e. the total of the doses received by each member of a group).

### **Environmental Safety**

There have been no significant environmental events in the period May 2023 to July 2023.

Very low trace hydrocarbons have been detected at a field drain, linked to storm drains on site. Work is underway to install new abatement plant to protect the field drain discharge route. Mitigations have been deployed to absorb any hydrocarbons in the meantime to prevent any reaching the discharge point. All discharge quality standards continue to the met.

Work continues to record the leak rate of biodegradable insulation fluid from one of the station Transformer cables. If the rate increases to a point where a tracer can be detected, further investigation will be carried out. SEPA have been kept fully informed.

Radioactive gaseous and aqueous discharges arising from normal plant operations in defueling remain at levels well below those authorised by SEPA.

The programme of off-site environmental monitoring and radiation surveys in the district has continued throughout the period and demonstrates that the radiological discharges from the station have a negligible impact on the local environment. Reports are provided monthly and quarterly to SEPA, detailing the samples and results of analysis performed.

Work to process and package solid low level wastes has continued in the period as part of normal operations and consignments have been made to our regular partners.

### **Emergency Arrangements**

There have been no issues with the emergency arrangements during this reporting period. Hunterston B continues to work closely with fleet Emergency Preparedness Group as the lead defueling site.

During the reporting period we have completed a Counter Terrorism (CTX) demonstration exercise with oversight from the ONR (CNS). Hunterston provided an 'adequate' demonstration, with strong control room, security and CNC performance as well as good lockdown behaviours. We continue to work on embedding the learning and addressing identified areas for improvement from our previous demonstration exercises.

We have also completed our first shift exercise season of 2023 which has allowed our existing role holders and trainees to exercise their roles in defueling and conventional hazard based scenarios. This has helped to facilitate our role succession plan, with several role holders achieving authorisation over the last quarter.

The 2023 exercise plan contains a second exercise season which is due to commence August 2023. This will further increase the opportunity for training and authorisations.

As a company we continue to look to optimise our emergency arrangements in line with the risk profile of the station.



## 2. Defueling

Defueling activities at the site are progressing well and the focus is on completing the operational defueling campaign on Reactor 3 in a safe, reliable and efficient manner.

Reactor 3 now has 90% of the spent fuel stringers safely removed and the average time taken to remove each stringer continues to improve over the reporting period.

To date the station has achieved 100% adherence to the 2023 flasking plan with 76 flasks safely dispatched to Sellafield.

Within the reporting period there have been no issues of note.

Over the next period we expect to safely complete Reactor 3 defueling in September, complete a planned 4 week maintenance window of the Fuel Route equipment and then commence Reactor 4 defueling.



## 3. Transfer and Deconstruction

### Site Transition

Upon completion of defueling, we will seek to adjust our site arrangements to support deconstruction. This will mean a new safety case, emergency arrangements, security arrangements and organisational structure. As part of the early works we have carried out workshops on our emergency and security arrangements to determine the scope of the required changes. This early work will be used to produce scoping reports that will frame our work in these areas through the steps required to approve any change over the coming years.

### Asset Transfer

EDF and Magnox are working together to deliver the safest, most cost-effective solution for decommissioning the UK's Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor (AGR) fleet. This involves a seamless transfer of the site to Magnox after the completion of defueling by EDF. Magnox CEO Rob Fletcher and EDF MD Mark Hartley carried out a joint visit to Hunterston B on 27th July 2023, during which they gave a presentation and held a Q&A for staff. Following on from this, Magnox's Future Missions Director, Andrew Munro, gave a familiarisation

presentation on what it is like to work for Magnox, and the opportunities it brings of being the biggest nuclear employer in the UK.



Work continues to develop the scope of work required to enable Transfer in line with the Blueprint as previously communicated, with both Magnox and EDF being fully committed to working together to deliver seamless transfer of the site licence to Magnox.

A number of joint workshops have taken place over the period involving staff from Hunterston B as well as the wider EDF Nuclear Decommissioning team and the Magnox Future Missions team. These have included workshops on the environment to support permit applications; on Finance to establish a plan for transition and IT and data. EDF's Defueling and Decommissioning Security Lead also made a visit to the Magnox site at Oldbury to support future security planning.

### Deconstruction Delivery

Work continues to prepare for deconstruction, which will start following the completion of Defueling. Key focus areas are waste strategy, consents and permission (public consultation) and deplanting and demolition strategy. The overall decommissioning strategy remains 'Early Safestore'. A number of synergy groups have been setup at a working level between key EDF and Magnox subject matter experts. They have carried out a series of 'Learning from Experience' workshops to build Magnox learning and experience into the AGR deconstruction plans.

A second round of public consultation on the decommissioning plans for the site was completed on the 11th July 2023 ahead of formal Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning Regulations (EIADR) application to the ONR at the end of 2023. Feedback is being reviewed and will be issued in future communications.

**PEOPLE** *"Right people in the right place at the right time"*

## 4. People

Aspirational Conversations were completed in May allowing an opportunity for employees to share their thoughts providing an initial indicator of future career aspirations at this

stage. The feedback from the Aspirational Conversations has been collated, reviewed and analysed, and from this themes have been identified.

These themes have been shared with the Management Team and our Local Joint Committee (LJC) representatives. The themes are being used to work with Magnox to help inform our planning for transfer and deconstruction.

These initial Aspirational Conversations were non-binding meaning staff have the chance to change their mind at a future round; however, here is a high-level overview of some of the themes:

- 99% of conversations were completed. The remaining 1% will be completed on employees return from long term sick.
- 59% of HNB's preference is to transfer to Magnox and 17% do not yet know.
- The majority of people are not mobile but there are a number who would work at our Atlantic Quay office in Glasgow.
- It showed 72% would consider retraining opportunities.
- The conversations generated 74 questions with the top themes of transfer, T&C's and redundancy.

We introduced Mental Health First Aiders (MHFA) at the end of 2020 and recently asked for more volunteers to come forward. We now have 17 MHFAs across a variety of departments. The role of the MHFA is to signpost support to people that need it. MHFAs are trained with practical and interpersonal skills to support and recognise the signs of mental health. From gaining confidence to step in, reassure and support a person in distress to being a non-judgemental listener, the training equips volunteers with the knowledge to help someone work through their mental health.

The HR Team facilitated Leadership Forums in February and March this year. These were collaborative sessions and leaders were asked to share thoughts and ideas on any particular support and development that would be beneficial as the station moves towards transfer to Magnox. These sessions were extremely well attended and positive feedback was received on what support leaders feel they might need. The feedback would be considered and the next step would be to develop a Leadership Development Plan.

## 5. Contacts

For more information about anything in this report or other station issues, contact:

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Office for  
Nuclear Regulation

ONR Site Report

**EDF Energy – Hunterston B**



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# ONR Site Report

## EDF Energy - Hunterston B

Report for period: 1 April – 30 June 2023

Authored by: S Saunders, Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: M Webb, Delivery Lead Operating Reactors

Issue No.: 1

Publication Date: Aug-23

ONR Record Ref. No.: 2023/43517

## 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 Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lrc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group meetings where these reports are presented and 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. Date(s) of Inspection

The ONR site inspector and specialist inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 April – 30 June 2023:

16 - 18 May

1 June

The ONR site safeguards inspector made inspections on the following dates:

22 June

The ONR site security inspector made inspections on the following dates:

25 - 27 April

# 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, routine inspections of Hunterston B covered the following:

- Modification or experiment on existing plant

On the 16 May 2023, ONR inspectors carried out an inspection of the station management of the asset strategy and associated plant modifications following the move to defuelling operations.

The inspection sampled the safety assessments undertaken to rationalise the maintenance and management of plant systems throughout the phases of the last years of generation, defuelling and post-defuelling. Although the approach taken to implement the modification differs slightly from Hinkley Point B, it is still in accordance with the EDF Energy corporate processes required under Licence Condition 22 (modifications or experiment on existing plant).

Hunterston B is the first Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor (AGR) station to undergo defuelling and therefore several pieces of advice were given to the station during this inspection to ensure that the lessons learnt are appropriately recorded to assist future stations as they move into defuelling.

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](http://www.onr.org.uk/intervention-records) on our website [www.onr.org.uk](http://www.onr.org.uk).

Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk).

## 2.2. Other Work

The ONR site inspector attended the site stakeholder group meeting held on 1 June 2023.

## 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.

There were no such matters or events of significance during the period.

## 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 LIs, Enforcement Notices or Enforcement letters were issued during this period.

**Table 1: Licence Instruments and Enforcement Notices Issued by ONR during this period.**

| Date | Type | Ref. No. | Description |
|------|------|----------|-------------|
|      |      |          |             |
|      |      |          |             |
|      |      |          |             |
|      |      |          |             |

Reports detailing the above regulatory decisions can be found on the ONR website at <http://www.onr.org.uk/pars/>.

## 5. News from ONR

For the latest news and information from ONR, please read and subscribe to our regular email newsletter 'ONR News' at [www.onr.org.uk/onrnews](http://www.onr.org.uk/onrnews).

## 6. Contacts

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## Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

### SEPA Update- Hunterston B

14 September 2023

#### **Regulation**

##### **Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR)- radioactive substances**

We have continued telephone communication with the station throughout the period, including formal weekly call-downs with the station's Environmental Safety Group and corporate Generation Environment Management as well as monthly updates from the EDF internal regulator on site. We have also attended routine meetings with corporate EDF, Magnox, ONR and EA on strategic issues, including defueling, transfer and decommissioning.

#### **Site Inspection**

We have visited the station twice since the last SSG meeting. On 20 July 2023, SEPA carried out an inspection focusing on the transition to Magnox and deconstruction projects including the Operational Waste Processing Facility, Decommissioning Waste Processing Facility and Active Effluent Discharge Line as well as maintenance of environment critical plant. No contraventions were identified, but it was recommended that the station keeps a close eye on the provision of its Radioactive Waste Adviser body and that the Radiochemistry Laboratory needed investment to improve the lighting.

The station was visited again on 23 August 2023 in order to close out a number of actions outstanding from the oil loss event in February 2022 and to follow up on a number of items that couldn't be accommodated in the previous inspection due to time constraints, including the proposed variation application for changes to the Active Effluent Discharge Line. No contraventions were identified.

##### **Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC)**

We continue monitoring the station's actions to locate and repair the small non-radioactive leak from an oil-filled cable onsite. Otherwise, there have been no issues relating to the station's PPC permit for its non-radioactive emissions from the emergency diesel generators, auxiliary boilers and waste oil burner since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

##### **Control of Major Accidents and Hazards (COMAH)**

There have been no issues related to COMAH since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

##### **Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR)**

There have been no other issues relating to the stations' non-radioactive liquid discharges to the water environment since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

##### **UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)**

There have been no issues relating to the ETS since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

### **Environmental Events**

There were no reportable incidents, complaints or non-compliance events affecting SEPA's interests at either site known to have occurred since the last meeting of the SSG at the time of writing this report.

### **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. 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 Hunterston B. 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. RIFE 27 reports that the total dose for the representative person (most exposed) around the Hunterston site, which includes both Hunterston A and Hunterston B, for 2021 was 0.006 millisieverts, which is well below the legal annual dose limit of 1 millisievert as set out in paragraph 26, Schedule 8 of EASR18.

### **Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (SPRI)**

The Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (SPRI) is a publicly accessible electronic database of releases of pollutants to all environmental media and transfers of non-radioactive waste. We intend that, as far as practicable, SPRI be the principle means by which information on Scottish pollutant releases and non-radioactive waste transfers is collected and made public. Wherever possible, such information will be collected and presented by this one system. The data for 2021, including that from Hunterston A and B, have been published and are available on SEPA's website under "*Environment/Environmental data/SPRI*".

Mr Keith Hammond

Radioactive Substances Specialist/*Speisealach Stuthan Reidio-beo*

24/08/2023



**HUNTERSTON A**

**SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP REPORT**

**SITE DIRECTOR – MARK BLACKLEY**

**SEPTEMBER 2023**

**HUNTERSTON A**  
**SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO THE SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**  
**SEPTEMBER 2023**

**Hunterston A continues to address the nuclear liabilities at Hunterston A in a safe, secure manner with care for the environment.**

**1 SITE DIRECTOR OVERVIEW**

There were no significant new Nuclear, Radiological, Environmental or Security issues over the reporting period.

Whilst undertaking grounds maintenance work an operative was struck, by the petrol hedge trimmer, that he was using causing an injury to his left upper leg. On attending A&E his wounds were assessed and required 13 stitches to close the wound. The injured person was fit to return to work the following day.

Several monomix pumps were used to pump sludge from the pond to the pond purge sump. These operations were completed about 2017. A high radiation dose rate was identified around that time from within one of the pumps. All other ILW has now been removed from the Pond and the Programme are now dealing with this monomix pump. As part of this we have carried out a gamma spec on the pump this week and have confirmed that the high dose rate is from a fragment of fuel rather than from MAC. Optioneering has started to determine how best to deal with this.

Magnox has submitted a Permit Variation Request to SEPA to enable the grouting of waste packages in SILWE. Discussions will take place between SEPA, ONR and Magnox to resolve concerns about the characterisation done on bunker waste.

The site successfully demonstrated the Accident and Emergency Contingency Arrangements to the Magnox Assurance team via Exercise '*PlayFair*'. We provided two emergency scheme members from EDF with a familiarisation visit looking at our emergency arrangements and how they are managed on site.

Progress from June to August was limited due to some plant reliability issues and availability of resource to operate the plant, coupled with a reduced rate of processing due to the limited quantity of remaining waste. This has led to a reduced number of packages exported to the ILW Store over the quarter than expected and subsequent reforecast of Bulk clearance date. To date, the SAWBR team have safely exported a cumulative total of **297** 3M<sup>3</sup> boxes from Bunker 1 to the ILW Store equating to 175.6 Tonnes of Bunker 1 waste. **1189** 3M<sup>3</sup> boxes have been exported from SAWBR (all 5 bunkers) and it is forecast that the bulk retrieval of waste from Bunker 1 will be completed in October/November 2023.

Good progress has been achieved in WILWREP and the Operations team have cleared the residual sludge from Tank 3. Residual sludge recoveries and waste sorting is underway in Tank 2.

The project team working on the Acid Reconfiguration in WILWREP have achieved the first milestone of starting inactive commissioning.

The SILWE Project continue with preparations for a complete re-run of the robot system performance demonstrations. This is expected to be completed by October 2023 followed by commencement of Phase 2 Commissioning in November 2023.

The Reactor Roof Repair project has made good progress over the summer months. The handrail installation is now 100% complete. The Contractor has carried out 50% of Sarnabar repairs and coated 25% of the final Sikalastic paint onto the Reactor Roofs.

The new Willie Mackie Skills Hub at the Kilwinning Campus, North Ayrshire College will open its doors officially on 21 September 2023. Magnox invested **£499,999** in the new multi-functional building which will provide state of the art training facilities to new students and apprentices.

The Neighbourly portal has been introduced at Trawsfynydd, Berkeley and Hunterston. It formalises the process of identifying, promoting, monitoring & reporting volunteering opportunities for Magnox employees to support charity work. Two Teams are supporting local charities in September.

Our two new apprentices, one Electrical and one Mechanical Maintenance Technician, have now joined us and have commenced their college course at Ayrshire College. We have also offered a permanent role to one of our graduate placement students and will be providing placements to a further five graduates within Engineering and EHSS&Q in the coming months. In addition, our two Radiation Protection Monitor Trainees are now fully qualified.

More details on some of these highlights are within the appropriate sections of this report.

## 2 SAFETY OVERVIEW

### 2.1 Safety Review Performance

Eight months have passed since the Lost Time Accident (LTA). The Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) & Day Away Case Rate (DACR) is 0.93. During this reporting period, there has been two First Aid Case injuries on site. Both events required the site to send responders to provide First aid.

One of the injuries was quite minor in nature, being a very small cut to the head (5 mm) and the individual was not aware of the cut until he was alerted by one of his work colleagues. The wound was cleaned, covered, and the injured person returned to normal duties.

The second Injury happened to a contractor on site. Whilst undertaking grounds maintenance work, specifically cutting back bushes within an external compound, the operative was struck by the petrol hedge trimmer he was using causing an injury to his left upper leg. The Injured person was provided first aid and advised to attend A&E. On attending A&E his wounds were assessed and required 13 stitches to close the wound. As a result of this medical treatment the First Aid Case was re categorised as a Medical Treatment Case (MTC) raising the TRIR from 0.45 to 0.93. The injured person was fit to return to work the following day.

Target Zero campaigns continue to be rolled out. The topics were; *Asbestos* in June, *Cyber Security* in July and *Psychological Safety* in August. The Target Zero campaigns are proactive in raising awareness and help to enhance safety, health, Security, and the environment. These campaigns are delivered at all Magnox sites to a program.

The sites reporting culture remains healthy and consistent in relation to numbers of reports received each month. Hunterston A Site receive high numbers of Q pulses compared with the other Magnox sites.

The Site Event review team continue to meet weekly to screen events, investigations and trending and make challenge or change where required.

The safety representatives (Magnox & Contractor) meet fortnightly and have recently attended the site HESAC meeting and Contractor's safety forum.

The safety representatives continue to support the site program of housekeeping tours and ensure a safety representative attends the housekeeping inspections.

Whilst Covid 19 positive cases are starting to rise the site is not experiencing any significant impact on day to day running of the site.



## 2.2 Emergency Arrangements

The site Accident and Emergency Contingency Arrangements are tested frequently and remain suitable and sufficient.

The Site Emergency Preparedness Officer ensures that all of the sites emergency scheme members are tested frequently so that the arrangements remain in a ready state.

The site successfully demonstrated the Accident and Emergency Contingency Arrangements to the Magnox Assurance team via Exercise '*PlayFair*'. The exercise scenario was an electrician received an injury from Arc flash whilst undertaking live electrical working within a Contamination Controlled Area of WILWREP. The injuries were burns to face resulting in eye lids being fused together and burns to hand. The Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) including the emergency services call centre all participated in this exercise.

The Site will be demonstrating a security exercise to the Magnox internal assurance team in October 2023. A challenging scenario has been prepared and agreed and preparations are in hand.

The site has selected nine new individuals to undertake training and join the site Contingency Team. It is expected that this training will commence in September this year. The initial training will include rescue and casualty management from height and areas of restricted access and Nuclear Occupational First Aid training later in the year. Once training is completed new members will be introduced to the Site Contingency Team.

During August the sites Accident and Emergency Arrangements were inspected against the requirements of Site Licence Condition 11. The inspection was undertaken by the Site Independent Inspector. Feedback received was positive with no major findings raised.

The site continues to engage with external emergency services and have offered to provide familiarisation tours of the site. We are awaiting dates from Scottish Fire & Rescue to come to site for familiarisation tours.

We continue to build relationships with the EDF emergency Preparedness Officer and provided two emergency scheme members from EDF with a familiarisation visit looking at our emergency arrangements and how they are managed on site. This was well received by the EDF Emergency Preparedness Officer and her colleague.

We continue to attend the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee (EPCC) and the Ayrshire Civil Contingency Team meeting. We will continue to attend these to improve joint learning opportunities with the regional emergency planning community.

### 3 DECOMMISSIONING PROGRESS

#### 3.1 Solid Active Waste Bunker Retrieval (SAWBR) Project

*The SAWBR facility was constructed to recover solid HAW (Higher Activity Waste) from within the site's five HAW bunkers. This is achieved by using remotely operated vehicles (ROV's) to fill hoppers that are then tipped into RWM (Radioactive Waste Management Ltd) approved 3M<sup>3</sup> stainless steel boxes. The initial breakthrough into Bunker 5 was achieved in March 2014 and Bunkers 5, 4, 3 and 2 have been sequentially emptied to date.*

Progress from June to August was limited due to some plant reliability issues and availability of resource to operate the plant, coupled with a reduced rate of processing due to the limited quantity of remaining waste. This has led to a reduced number of packages exported to the ILW Store over the quarter than expected and subsequent reforecast of Bulk clearance date.

To date, the SAWBR team have safely exported a cumulative total of **297** 3M<sup>3</sup> boxes from Bunker 1 to the ILW Store equating to 175.6 Tonnes of Bunker 1 waste.

**1189** 3M<sup>3</sup> boxes have been exported from SAWBR (all 5 bunkers) and it is forecast that the bulk retrieval of waste from Bunker 1 will be completed in October/November 2023 - which will be a significant milestone for the site.

The plant had a routine planned, maintenance outage which commenced on Monday 31 July which has now been completed and the facilities have returned back into service.

**Picture opposite of Bunker Waste Recovery Operations showing fuel assy/skip guide and part of the De-splitter machine.**



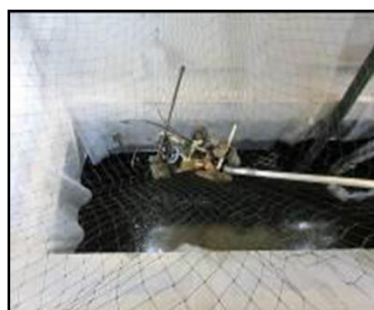
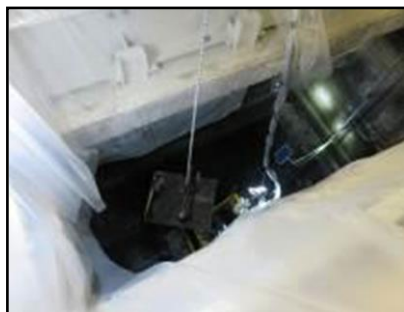
#### 3.2 Wet Intermediate Level Waste Retrieval & Encapsulation Plant (WILWREP)

*The WILWREP facility was designed and constructed to recover and encapsulate Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) sludges, resins and acids stored in site tanks. Having completed the first stage of bulk sludge recoveries the plant was being reconfigured to retrieve and encapsulate radioactive Nitric acid before being paused in Summer 2022 due to other site priorities.*

Good progress has been achieved with the Dumper Bot ( a small remote control vehicle used to corral the material to a single area) being used to great effect over the last month. The Operations team have cleared the residual sludge from SRT3 and the Dumper Bot has been moved to SRT2 where residual sludge recoveries and waste sorting is underway.

The operations team have used supernatant from SRT1 to wash down the corners of SRT3 and are preparing to remove this liquid with the diaphragm pump which should see SRT3 declared empty within the next few weeks.

***The pictures below show a sludge skip being hoisted clear of the Dumper Bot, being emptied over SRT1's catchment net and the solid waste separated with the net.***



### WILWREP Acid Reconfiguration

The DAR 5.1 review has been completed and signed by the appropriate design authorities. This allows the team to carry out single item operations on the ASF pumps and motorised valves and will see the acid transfer lines hydrostatically tested. Towns water will then be used to pump from the ASF to the WILWREP and onwards from the WILWREP to the 3M<sup>3</sup> drum in the canyon. This will be our stop point to await DAR 5.2 approval to commence active commissioning.

### **3.3 Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation (SILWE) Project**

*The SILWE facility exists purely to encapsulate the 3M<sup>3</sup> packages containing the solid waste retrieved/recovered from SAWBR with a grout mix. It is expected to take up to three years to encapsulate approximately 1500 stainless steel packages. Once encapsulated, the packages will be in their disposable state.*

The SILWE Project continue with preparations for the commencement of Phase 2 Commissioning in November 2023. Following this phase of the project, plant operations will be managed via the SILWE control room.

Kuka continues with preparations for a complete re-run of the robot system performance demonstrations. This is expected to be completed by October 2023.



The project plan is to transition into Phase 3 (Inactive Commissioning) in October 2024, with active commissioning forecast to commence in August 2025.

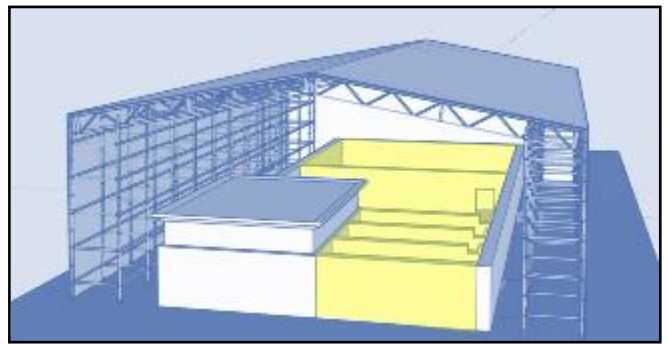
### 3.4 Ponds Programme

#### Cartridge Cooling Pond (CCP) Delay Tanks

*The CCP and Miscellaneous Delay Tanks formed part of the site's legacy Active Effluent Treatment Facility and received treated effluent from previously decommissioned effluent treatment plants. The tanks stored treated effluent whilst awaiting planned discharges to sea. Currently the tanks are isolated from historical inlets from the Pond Water Treatment Plant and Active Effluent Treatment plant. They are also de-watered and de-sludged and there is a live project within the pond programme to decontaminate the tanks.*

The tanks are planned for decontamination in the coming months with the project team having already made good progress in the following areas:

- *Radiological surveys conducted to confirm levels of contamination and inform optioneering/BPM*
- *F-224 Options Assessment requirements prepared and approved.*
- *F-226 Options Assessment prepared and under SME review.*
- *DPAF Part 1 presented to the committee, Part 2 being prepared for issue.*
- *Magnox Technical Centre subject matter experts engaged on temporary ventilation design requirements.*



**3D Model showing location and configuration of delay tanks (highlighted in yellow)**

**Internal views of Delay Tanks (opposite)**





### New Effluent Treatment Plant (NEffTP)

*There are a number of miscellaneous effluent streams which are still generated on-site (e.g. C3 shower water, chemistry lab sinks, changeroom wash hand basins etc). These effluent streams make use of the sites active drains network, miscellaneous receiving tanks and associated processing plant which are planned for decommissioning.*

*The New Effluent Treatment Plant (NEffTP) project shall design, manufacture, install and commission a new processing plant to treat misc. effluent. NEffTP will facilitate the eventual diversion of current miscellaneous effluent streams away from the active drains and misc. receiving system by providing an alternative means of processing miscellaneous active effluent. This will in turn create redundancy in the existing drainage network, plant and tanks and therefore unlock and enable future Pond Programme decommissioning projects.*

The plant is planned for Active Commissioning in the coming months with the project team having already made good progress in the following areas:

- Design, manufacture and onsite installation within the Low Level Waste Transfer Facility is complete.
- Inactive commissioning complete.
- All Plant Operating Instructions and Work Instructions written.
- Operator familiarisation training has been delivered.
- Effluent characterisation complete and system BPM justifications at an advanced stage.



***New Effluent Treatment plant within the Low-Level Waste Transfer Facility.***

### 3.5 Hunterston Reactor Project / Plant & Structures

#### Reactor Roof Remedial Works

The Reactor Roof Repair project has made good progress over the summer months. The handrail installation is now 100% complete. The Contractor has carried out 50% of Sarnabar repairs and coated 25% of the final Sikalastic paint onto the Reactor Roofs. Once the works are complete the Contractor will provide a 10year guarantee for the Sikaslastic roof repair product.



A 70m extending MEWP arrived on site in August with a second MEWP due to arrive in September to carry out the fascia repair works. These works are to ensure the vertical face of the reactor buildings is sealed with the new roof coating to prevent water ingress at the edge of the roof area. Despite the challenges of weather, the Contractor remains on track to complete the scope in December 2023.

#### De-planting Steam Raising Units

The project team are preparing to remove redundant services and re-route existing services in preparation for de-planting in the Steam Raising Unit (SRUs) Halls. This work to prepare this area will eventually allow access for contractors to carry out de-planting. The project is required to complete a study of waste characterisation by taking samples from all pipework systems in the SRU halls before starting de-plant works. Currently the characterisation is complete in R2 and on-going in R1. So far **124** cores of a total of **174** have been taken from primary systems.



## **4 PEOPLE**

### **4.1 Site HR**

Progress continues with the onboarding of candidates that have been recruited against our 2023 Business Plan, with a review currently underway to determine the roles that require to be filled in the remainder of the year. We currently have 21 roles in progress at various stages of the resourcing process from advertising and interview to offer stage. In the period from June to August we have had nine appointments to vacancies, three of which were internal promotions. In addition, our two new apprentices, one Electrical and one Mechanical Maintenance Technician, have now joined us and are currently undergoing induction. They will commence their college course at Ayrshire College week commencing 29 August 2023. We have also offered a permanent role to one of our graduate placement students and will be providing placements to a further five graduates within Engineering and EHSS&Q in the coming months.

We have recently communicated the high level results from our employee engagement survey and an action plan has been issued by the Site Director. There are currently a number of HR initiatives in progress across the business which will be implemented at a local level at the appropriate time. These include a launch of a new competency framework to support succession, talent management and the performance review process. There is also a company wide review of broad roles (post profiles) being undertaken which will ensure that the technical aspects of our roles are reviewed, updated and in line with current requirements.

### **4.2 Occupational Health**

Our sickness levels have continued to reduce over recent months, although these do continue to remain higher than the Company average as a result of multiple long term sickness cases. We continue to support employees through case management support from Line Management, Occupational Health and HR to enable them to successfully return to work. The Company, with support from the Hunterston Mental Health First Aiders and Wellbeing Group members, is currently promoting the support provisions which are available to staff to help them manage their mental and physical wellbeing.

The group also continues to promote health and wellbeing initiatives, including further monthly webinars. Recent webinars have been on the subjects of "Self Care" and "Transforming Habits" whilst there are upcoming webinars scheduled on the subjects of "Managing Mindset" and "Suicide Awareness". Line Managers who have not already attended training are also being encouraged to complete mental health awareness training.



## 5 ASSET MANAGEMENT

To enable safe operation, we proactively review our systems, processes and facilities via our Systems Engineering Department. This enables us to look at future investment requirements to maintain a safe operational status.

The Temporary RCA Shower and welfare facilities required to replace the fire damaged facility have been successfully installed and are operational.

Following the difficulties experienced earlier this year with a previous sub-contractor to supply safety information with relation to planned improvements to line markings, a new sub-contractor has been engaged and this work is planned to commence in the coming weeks.

Specifications for the replacement RCA shower facility are currently being produced in conjunction with Engineering, these specifications will then follow the procurement process to engage suitable contractors. Similarly the specification for the removal of the fire damaged facility which is beyond economical repair is also entering the procurement process.

Discussions are progressing with contractors to provide a suitable sealing product on the Cartridge Cooling Pond roof to further mitigate potential water ingress issues.

Progress of this year's work packs has commenced and a portfolio of work packs for 2024/25 and 2025/26 are being developed.

## 6 RADIOLOGICAL SAFETY

*Explanatory note: The maximum permissible dose to a radiation worker in the UK is 20mSv (milliSieverts) in a calendar year. The average annual radiation dose to the UK population from all sources is 2.6mSv. Collective dose is usually measured in man.milliSieverts. For example, if ten people were each to receive 0.1milliSieverts during a particular task, then the collective dose for the task would be 10 people x 0.1mSv each = 1 man.milliSievert.*

Doses for the calendar year 2023, to the end of July, are as follows:

- Approximately 227 employees and visitors received a total collective dose of 5.826 man.mSv between them
- Approximately 302 contractors received a total collective dose of 4.525 man.mSv between them
- The highest individual dose received by an employee was 0.404 mSv
- The highest individual dose received by a contractor was 0.598 mSv

The majority of dose accrued in 2023 has been from a combination of the pond decommissioning project and other site projects. All doses in these projects have been prior assessed, planned and are tracked throughout the project duration to ensure that no limits are exceeded and that doses are kept as low as reasonably practicable.

## 7 ENVIRONMENT

### 7.1 Radioactive Discharges (July 2022-June 2023)

#### Solid

Low Level Waste (LLW) disposals to the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) continue. 32.35 m<sup>3</sup> of LLW and VLLW with a total activity of 0.42 GBq was disposed of during the twelve-month period from July 2022-June 2023. There is no limit on the volume or radioactivity content of LLW and VLLW being disposed of under the site EA(S)R Permit. The main contribution to these waste consignments was decommissioned plant, equipment, and materials generated during decommissioning operations.

#### Liquid

The main sources of liquid radioactive discharges during the period July 2022-June 2023 were liquors generated through wet waste recovery and encapsulation processes and routine waste water arisings from the site active drain system.

| Radionuclide or Group of Radionuclides                                      | Annual Limit | Activity discharged (July 2022-June 2023) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Tritium                                                                     | 30 GBq       | 0.006 GBq                                 |
| Caesium-137                                                                 | 160 GBq      | 0.043 GBq                                 |
| Plutonium-241                                                               | 2 GBq        | 0.000 GBq                                 |
| All alpha emitting radionuclides not specifically listed taken together     | 2 GBq        | 0.003 GBq                                 |
| All non-alpha emitting radionuclides not specifically listed taken together | 60 GBq       | 0.037 GBq                                 |

#### Gaseous

The main contributions to gaseous radioactive discharges were ventilation systems operating in contamination controlled areas and reactor vessel 'breathing'.

| Authorised Outlet, Group of Outlets or other discharge route | Radionuclide or Group of Radionuclides      | Annual Limit | Activity discharged (July 2022-June 2023) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------|
| All authorised outlets taken together.                       | Tritium                                     | 100 MBq      | 0.3 MBq                                   |
|                                                              | All other radionuclides (excluding tritium) | 3 MBq        | 0.322 MBq                                 |
| Discharges made as a consequence of reactor breathing        | Tritium                                     | 3000 MBq     | 405.61 MBq                                |
|                                                              | Carbon-14                                   | 200 MBq      | 52.33 MBq                                 |

## 7.2 Non-radiological Environmental update (July 2022-June 2023)

Treated sewage effluent from the plant is not currently being independently assessed by SEPA. Results from an independent off-site laboratory analysis verify that the sewage treatment works reed beds continue to work efficiently to maintain good quality effluent in compliance with the sites CAR discharge licence.

Monitoring and trending of data for resources such as water, electricity and fuel continues to determine where use can be minimised, in line with the site Environmental Management System. Over the period July 2022-June 2023, the site used 17.82 Terra Joules (Tj) of energy; 17.07 Tj attributed to electricity consumption and 0.75 Tj attributed to fuel use in site vehicles, equipment, and generators. In the same 12-month period the site water consumption was 5,669m<sup>3</sup>. The site continues to report carbon equivalent emissions data as per the new company process.

Waste disposal and recycling is recorded in the company unified dashboard. Over the period July 2022-June 2023, a total of 231.80 tonnes of waste was collected for consignment from site (170.30 tonnes for re-use, recycling, recovery, or composting, 60 tonnes sewage waste and 0.5 tonnes for disposal to landfill). This gives a recycling rate of approximately 74%.

## 7.3 Environmental Events (April 2023-August 2023)

There were no significant events at Hunterston A between 27th April 2023 and 6th August 2023.

## 8 SOCIO-ECONOMIC / STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

The new Willie Mackie Skills Hub at the Kilwinning Campus, North Ayrshire College will open its doors officially on 21 September 2023.

Magnox invested **£499,999** in the new multi-functional building which will provide state of the art training facilities to new students and apprentices.

Magnox funding objectives remain the same

*Feel free to contact Sean Marshall or Mair Jones to discuss any potential applications (details on the above website)*

For further information please go to :

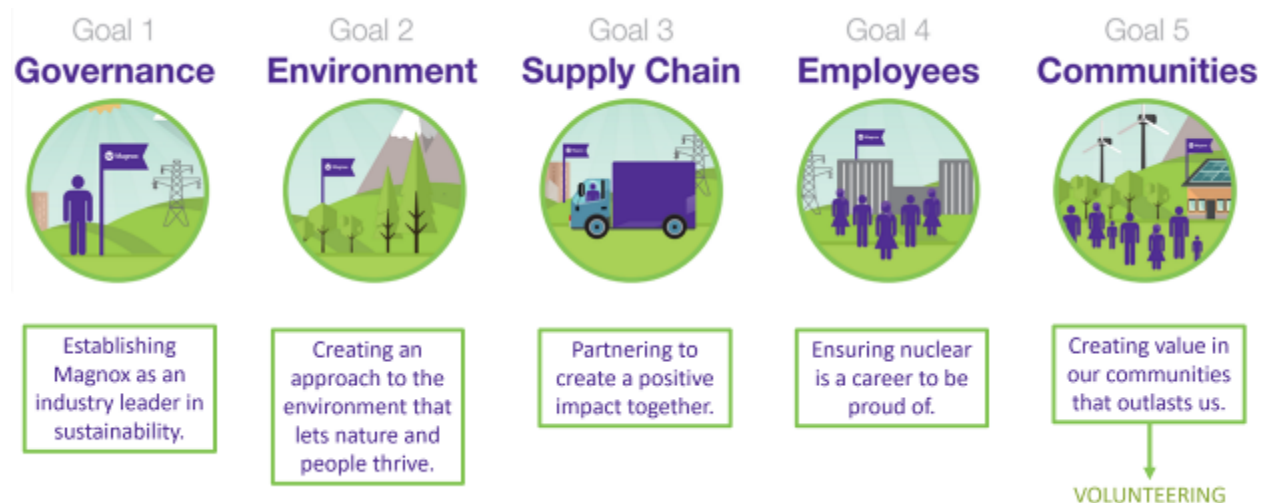
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/magnox-working-with-our-communities>



## 9 SUSTAINABILITY

### 9.1 Sustainability Strategy

Magnox's sustainability strategy centres around five goals: governance, environment, supply chain, employees, and communities. Goal 5 recognises Magnox's responsibility to deliver value to its communities and this goal aims to strengthen local engagement, invest in local community assets and share our expertise.



## 9.2 Volunteering Portal

A key target under Goal 5 is the introduction of a trial of the 'Neighbourly portal' at Hunterston, Trawsfynydd and Berkeley. It formalises the process of identifying, promoting, monitoring & reporting volunteering opportunities for employees. Key benefits include:

- Targeting activities to organisations that share our values and bring **benefits to our communities**
- Improving employee **skills and wellbeing**
- Supporting **equality and diversity** by providing skilled support to groups from marginalised communities
- Building stakeholder confidence



*Magnox staff from Berkeley and the Hub support a local good cause to Berkeley on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023.*

The Neighbourly portal will be rolled out to all sites over the next 12 months.

Are you aware of any local charities that Magnox could assist through our volunteer programme? Go to <https://www.neighbourly.com/> and join Neighbourly for free.

## 9.3 Hunterston

Volunteering - Several volunteering opportunities for Magnox staff located near Hunterston are now on the Neighbourly platform and participation is actively being encouraged. A number of staff have shown interest and are planning to sign up. In addition to the new platform, there are also several people that have been active volunteers in the locality for a wide variety of good causes for many years.

Sustainable food containers - Hunterston A is participating in a trial which introduces the use of re-usable take-away food containers in the site canteen. The aim is to reduce waste and replace current Vegware takeaway containers which are single use and can end up in landfill. The trial is a collaborate venture between Gather and Gather, Mitie and Magnox and is due to go-live Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

## 10 SITE VISITS AND KEY DATES

Hunterston A Site continues to attract the right kind of interest through our good safety and business performance. Below is a selection of visitors / key dates during the period.

| DATE                          | EVENT / VISIT                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 14 June             | Mens Health Webinar presentation by Mark Ormrod MBE                                                                                                                       |
| Thursday 15 June              | EDF Personnel - ILW visit                                                                                                                                                 |
| Wednesday 28 June             | Dr Andy Munro, Magnox Future Missions Director / Rob Fletcher, Magnox Acting CEO / Paul Morton, EDF Decommissioning Director visit                                        |
| Wednesday 5 / Thursday 6 July | Jon Bew / Emma Bridgewater – Reactor Building Weather Protection Options                                                                                                  |
| Monday 10 - Wednesday 12 July | SILWE Review – David Rushton Programme Manager & Team                                                                                                                     |
| Tuesday 18 – Thursday 20 July | EAM Transformation Programme - Dave Clark Head of EAM Transformation Programme                                                                                            |
| Thursday 27 July              | Hunterston Decommissioning Update by Site Director, Mark Blackley to Hunterston SSG Chair, Rita Holmes and SSG Vice Chair Stuart McGhie. <i>(Microsoft Teams Meeting)</i> |
| Wednesday 9 August            | Cross Site Meeting with Hunterston B                                                                                                                                      |
| Wednesday 9 August            | Site Joint Council – John Grierson Nuclear Operations Director, Dave Whitnall & Gary Swift - Senior Full time TU Reps                                                     |
| Tuesday 15 August             | Group Integrated Decommissioning Project – Dave French Pathfinder Lead, Lucy Wilson, Assistant Programme Manager                                                          |
| Monday 21 / Tuesday 22 August | Ross McAllister – Magnox Programme Delivery Director                                                                                                                      |
| Wednesday 30 August           | Hunterston Decommissioning Update by Site Director, Mark Blackley to Hunterston SSG Chair, Rita Holmes and SSG Vice Chair Stuart McGhie. <i>(Microsoft Teams Meeting)</i> |





Office for  
Nuclear Regulation

ONR Site Report

# Hunterston A

## ONR Site Report

# Hunterston A

Report for period: 1 April – 30 June 2023

Authored by: P Hughes, Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: I Phillips, Delivery Lead Decommissioning, Fuel, and Waste

Issue No.: 1

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## 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 Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lrc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group meetings where these reports are presented and 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. Date(s) of Inspection

The ONR site inspector and specialist inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 April – 30 June 2023:

30 May 2023

The ONR site security inspector inspected the site on the following date:

No inspections this period

# 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);
- 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 Fire (Scotland) Act 2005;
- The Nuclear Industries Security Regulations (NISR) 2003; and
- The Nuclear Safeguards (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (NSR19).

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, routine inspections of (Hunterston A) covered the following:

- Wet Intermediate Level Waste Recovery and Encapsulation Plant (WILWREP) Active Commissioning.

WILWREP Active Commissioning – On 30 May 2023 the site inspector carried out an inspection of the proposed WILWREP active commissioning operations. The focus was on the operator training and the control and supervision of operations. There has been a delay to the commencement of active commissioning. However, ONR was satisfied that the project is basing the training and control and supervision on similar operations utilising experienced team members. Consequently ONR was satisfied with the arrangements..

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](http://www.onr.org.uk/intervention-records). Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk).

#### Other Work

The site inspector held a periodic meeting with safety representatives, to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety and welfare at work.

### 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.

There were no non-routine matters or events of particular note during this period.

## 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 LIs, enforcement notices or enforcement letters were issued during this period.



## 5. News from ONR

For the latest news and information from ONR, please read and subscribe to our regular email newsletter 'ONR News' at [www.onr.org.uk/onrnews](http://www.onr.org.uk/onrnews).

## 6. Contacts

Office for Nuclear Regulation  
Redgrave Court  
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## Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

### SEPA Update- Hunterston A

14<sup>th</sup> September 2023

#### **Regulation**

#### **Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR)- radioactive substances**

Telephone communication with the site continued throughout the period since the last SSG in June, including formal monthly staying in touch telephone calls. Routine teleconferences with Hunterston A on local issues, and the corporate Magnox Ltd team on strategic issues have also continued as before.

Site visits continue in order to ensure compliance with the site permit.

#### **SEPA Site Inspection 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023**

SEPA completed an inspection of the bunker waste package records that had been initially started in December 2021. SEPA will consider the findings of the inspection and send an Inspection summary report to the site in due course.

#### **SEPA Site Visit 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023**

SEPA visited the site on the morning of the last Hunterston SSG to discuss the forthcoming site permit variation application.

#### **SEPA Site Inspection 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – update August 2023**

SEPA undertook an inspection of the process employed by Hunterston A to submit the monthly gaseous discharge returns. The inspection focused specifically on the process for sample receipt in the labs and monthly reporting of the gaseous ‘any other radionuclides’ on the permit, i.e., the particulate alpha and beta.

During the inspections SEPA found that Hunterston A are not reporting the monthly gaseous ‘all other radionuclides’ as per the requirements of Schedule 2: Data Return Requirements of the Environmental Authorisation (Scotland) Regulations 2018.

The site was therefore deemed to be non-compliant with a number of standard conditions of the site EASR permit.

In July SEPA wrote to the site requesting timelines for a return to compliance as well as confirmation of the status of the data provided in previously submitted data returns. The site

provided a response on 10<sup>th</sup> August, and SEPA is in the process of considering the programme supplied by the site and will respond in due course.

#### SEPA Site Inspection 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 – update August 2023

Upon finding the holes within the ventilation ductwork in the Low-Level Waste Processing Facility on the site in October, along with SEPA recommendations at the site inspection in October, Magnox began a scope of work to undertake visual inspections of the gaseous containment systems. SEPA was subsequently made aware of a number of defects associated with these systems and visited site as part of an investigation on 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

In April 2023 SEPA issued Magnox with a Final Warning Letter outlining a number of non-compliances with the Hunterston A site EASR permit associated with the findings of the investigation into the gaseous ventilation system defects.

In June 2023 Magnox HNA were issued with an Information Notice requesting timelines for site to provide further evidence of the programme of work that Magnox is undertaking to ensure that the gaseous discharge systems are compliant with the conditions of the site EASR permit.

SEPA received a response from Magnox HNA on 10<sup>th</sup> August which gives timelines for the provision of the requested information. SEPA is currently reviewing the timelines given and will respond to the site in due course.

#### Permit Variation Application

SEPA received an EASR permit variation application from Magnox HNA on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023. This application is primarily for the operation of the SILWE plant, which requires a permit variation in order to include the SILWE gaseous discharge stack within the site permit. In addition, the permit variation requests an increase to the site gaseous discharge limits due to the operation of this new facility as well as other imminent work on the site. Note that SEPA will consider the encapsulation of bunker 1 wastes only at this time due to the ongoing discussions around the appropriateness of the characterisation of the bunker wastes. The timely encapsulation of bunker 1 wastes is deemed necessary by ONR, and is outlined in the Joint Statement provided to Magnox HNA by ONR and SEPA last year.

#### Review of Characterisation of ILW Bunker Waste

SEPA received an optioneering report from Magnox on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 entitled “Review of Options for Managing Waste from The Hunterston A Solid Active Waste Bunkers Given its Status at May 2021 WD/REP/0032/21”.

Having initially reviewed the information sent, SEPA considered there needed to be a review of the underpinning characterisation work and whether this is sufficient to underpin the optioneering decisions.

SEPA procured a specialist contractor to review the model and associated work undertaken by Magnox with regards to the characterisation of the SAWB waste. The review commenced in December 2022 and is now complete. SEPA received a final version of the report in June, which was shared with ONR prior to being sent to Magnox shortly afterwards.

SEPA will discuss the findings of the report with Magnox in due course.

### **Non-Rad Regulation**

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

### **Environmental Events**

#### **Notification 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

Magnox notified SEPA on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 to inform that the monthly data return detailing radioactive gaseous discharges for March 2023 contained incomplete information for one ventilation system. Having investigated further Magnox discovered that there have been 2 further instances of the site having provided incomplete information within the gaseous discharge returns. As the issues around the production of the monthly discharge returns and associated non-compliances are part of an ongoing investigation by SEPA, these notifications will be included within that process.

#### **Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC)**

There were no reportable incidents, complaints or non-compliance events affecting SEPA's interests at Hunterston A known to have occurred since the last meeting of the SSG at the time of writing this report.

#### **Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR)**

There were no reportable incidents, complaints or non-compliance events affecting SEPA's interests at Hunterston A known to have occurred since the last meeting of the SSG at the time of writing this report.

### **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. 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 Hunterston A. 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. RIFE 27 reports that the total dose for the representative person (most exposed) around the Hunterston site, which includes both Hunterston A and Hunterston B, for 2021 was 0.006 millisieverts, which is well below the legal annual dose limit of 1 millisievert as set out in paragraph 26, Schedule 8 of EASR19.

### **Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (SPRI)**

The Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (SPRI) is a publicly accessible electronic database of releases of pollutants to all environmental media and transfers of non-radioactive waste. We intend that, as far as practicable, SPRI be the principle means by which information on Scottish pollutant releases and non-radioactive waste transfers is collected and made public. Wherever possible, such information will be collected and presented by this one system. The data for 2021, including that from Hunterston A and B, have been published and are available on SEPA's website under "Environment/Environmental data/SPRI".

### **Cyber-Attack**

SEPA continue to update our service status on a weekly basis so that we're clear on what those we work with can expect and how we'll prioritise progress.

Melanie Hayes  
Radioactive Substances Specialist  
August 2023

## **NDA Update**

### **Hunterston SSG – September 2023**

#### UK Government

- Great British Nuclear launched. CEO is former Magnox CEO Gwenn Parry-Jones.
- First priority to identify preferred options for SMRs.
- NDA will support where requested, however, GBN will be first port of call on new nuclear matters rather than NDA.

#### NDA/Scottish Government

- New NDA secondment into Radioactive Waste Substances Team agreed.
- Oli Smith, currently working with the Magnox Waste Team, will commence August 2023.
- Follows successful initial secondment during 2022.
- Secondment will provide technical input and expertise into policy development on radioactive waste and build wider strategic relationships between NDA and Scottish Government.
- NSD Scotland project continues to progress as per SG update.

#### Regional Stakeholder events

- Regional Innovation Roadshows held during June 2023 in Glasgow and West Cumbria.
- Over 200 stakeholders attended both.
- Glasgow event hosted by University of Strathclyde and attended by stakeholders such as Scottish Government, Regulators (ONR and SEPA), Academia, SSG members, supply chain, and students from various Universities around the country.
- Chance to highlight how NDA is using Innovation and Technology to meet decommissioning challenges.
- CPX featured heavily with presentation by Richard Murray, Site Director, on 'Re-use, Re-purposing, Supporting Regeneration' and local MSP Oliver Mundell MSP featuring in panel session at close of day.
- Next Innovation Roadshow will be at Bangor University in January 2024, with expected date for Virtual Summit November 2023.

#### The Global Dimension

- Decommissioning of nuclear facilities is not just a UK challenge. Most industrialised countries have a nuclear legacy and working together is a vital part of tackling the issue.
- Leaders from the US, Canada and France – together with NDA – recently committed to continuing their long-standing collaboration of clean-up of nuclear legacy sites. The sharing of best practice and technical development has been taking place over three decades.
- The UK is currently hosting a tri-lateral between UK, US and Canada, working on further collaboration between the parties.

### Funding the Future

- Construction has begun at Sutherland Spaceport in Scotland, making this the first vertical launch spaceport to be built on the UK mainland
- NDA is one of a number of bodies supporting the Spaceport, which is near Dounreay.
- The development will support around 250 new employment opportunities in the Highlands and Islands over the coming years, including 40 jobs in Sutherland and Caithness.

### NDA Annual Report and Accounts

- To be published after UK Parliamentary recess (September 2023)

### NDA Socio-Economic Refresh

- NDA Socio-Economic Team will be contacting SSGs imminently to consult on refresh of current NDA Socio-Economic Strategy.
- Contact for information is: [andrew.harper@nda.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.harper@nda.gov.uk)

### SCCORS – (Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances)

- Gives factual advice to Scottish Local Authorities on radiation and radioactive waste matters.
- Inactive recently due to workloads relating to COVID.
- Meeting held last December confirmed Cllr Michelle Campbell as Chair for further year with Renfrewshire Council as secretariat.
- NDA meeting with Chair 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023 to discuss way forward after further meeting delays.

### NDA Chair

- Dr Ros Rivaz stands down as NDA Chair at end of August 2023.
- New Interim Chair will be Chris Train, current NDA Non-Executive Director, who will commence role on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2023.

**ENDS**

**David Wallace – NDA Stakeholder and Government Relations Lead, Scotland**



## **SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATE TO HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP – 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

### **SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING POLICY TEAM**

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

The consultation for a revised UK policy framework closed on 24 May and received over 300 responses. Scottish Government is now working with the UK Government and other devolved administrations to consider the responses to the consultation and develop the revised framework document. We will provide further information as this work develops.

#### Scottish Government Higher Activity Waste Policy

We are continuing to work with the NDA on the initial technical research project around Scottish near surface disposal concepts to consider how elements of the Scottish policy might be taken forward - as per previous updates provided to SSG's. We are aiming to be able to share further information regarding the outputs of this work later in the year.

We are also looking to do some work on wider public attitudes to radioactive waste management to deliver on a commitment made in the 2016 Implementation Strategy. This is intended to compliment the engagement we already do with a range of stakeholders in the sector to inform our work moving forward and will likely take the form of a short survey for the general public.

#### Annual NDA meeting with Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition

The annual meeting between the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition, the NDA Chair and NDA CEO, as set out in the NDA Framework document, will take place in October 2023. This will cover a number of issues including progress across the three NDA sites in Scotland as well as the expanding NDA mission in Scotland with the future transfers of Hunterston B and Torness for decommissioning.

#### New Member of the Team

SG and NDA have been working together to consider how best to build on Laura Hogg's successful secondment from the NDA to the SG team last year. We now have a new secondee, Oli Smith, from Magnox Ltd . He joined the team on 21<sup>st</sup> August and will be with us for the next 12 months.

**Diane Hamilton**  
**Scottish Government**