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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
DUNGENESS A SITE AND B POWER STATION SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
TRAINING ROOM 6&7 (VISITOR CENTRE) DUNGENESS B POWER STATION, ROMNEY MARSH,
TN29 9PX
THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER 2024**

Attendance list

In Attendance

Graham Finn	Chair
David Godfrey	Vice Chair
Chris Burley	NDA
Alistair Findlay	NDA
Ian Cuthbert	NRS Site Director A Site
Kayleigh Ridley	NRS
Mark Cozens	NRS
Andrew Bull	ONR Inspector, Dungeness A Site
Kezia White	Environment Agency
Themis Kantara	Environment Agency
Mike Burgess	Resident
Mark Robinson	Dungeness Resident
Claire Bruce	Resident
Jo Cowdrey	Creative Folkestone/Dungeness Resident
Gavin Lancaster	Station Director, Dungeness B
Laura Cherry	EDF
Matthew Pardo	EDF
Mustafa Janach	EDF
Spencer Bashford	EDF Union Rep
Maddy Moreno	Minute Taker

Apologies

Bill Hamilton	NRS
Peter Coe	New Romney Town Council
Jason Crook	ONR Inspector Dungeness B
Cllr Tony Hills	Folkestone and Hythe District Council
Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Alan Martin	Folkestone and Hythe District Council
Fiona Naylor	Dungeness Resident
Cllr Simon McGurk	Rother District Council
Cllr Jean Jones	Lydd Town Council
Cllr Bob Jones	Lydd Town Council

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1. WELCOME

3917 The Chair (Graham Finn) opened the meeting. Gavin Lancaster outlined the fire alarm procedure. The Chair introduced Kayleigh Ridley, who was new in the communications department at NRS.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3918 A list of apologies had been provided to the Secretariat.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

3919 The meeting minutes from 11 July were approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING

3920 The action agreed at the last meeting for Gabrielle Popp to email Cath Pritchard in relation to the newsletter had been cleared.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

3921 The Chair noted that one piece of correspondence had been received and circulated since the last meeting around the nuclear waste service annual review.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

3922 The Chair reported that he had attended various meetings with chairs of other SSGs. He had engaged with Kayleigh Ridley about communication matters. Since the last meeting, there had been no funding requests for local projects. Remaining funds could be allocated for this purpose, and local community organisations requiring assistance were encouraged to submit their applications.

7. SAFETY, COMPLIANCE AND ENVIRONMENT

A. Dungeness A

3923 Ian Cuthbert stated that the infill design for the Turbine Hall was ongoing. Work would not likely start until the new year. It had been decided that infill material would be taken from Lydd quarry thus avoiding the need to use Hammonds Corner and Harden Road. The project would use four lorries a day, These would be used in a loop during the day, avoiding the need to block local roads. Should any delays be occurred, the vehicles will be marshalled on the site.

3924 A number of apprentices had been taken on by NRS & contract partners. NRS will commence recruitment for next summer's intake of apprentices during December.

3925 Emergency exercises had also taken place with the local ambulance services and the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.

3926 There was a large sustainability group at Dungeness. There had been an environmental day for contract staff and partners.

3927 Work for the STEM group was ongoing, and there had been engagement efforts with local schools.

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3928 A defibrillator had been purchased for the Dungeness Estate. This will be located at the Lifeboat Station for use of all on the Dungeness Estate.

3929 Site staff had been volunteering to support local communities and projects. There had been no request for voluntary assistance since the last meeting, and local charities should reach out for help as part of the neighbourly agreement.

3930 The site will start collecting donations for a local food bank, the food bank donations would be going to the Rye foodbank. A breast cancer support day (wear pink to work) had raised over £1,000.

3931 A new Stores building was being erected for the Boilers project. A new laboratory building is also being constructed. The buildings at the front of the reactor building are in the way of the boiler to be demolished and need to be demolished. The first of these will be demolished around December.

3932 The waste project programme is going well. The three new buildings were being occupied. It was hoped that all waste projects on the site would be completed in the next two years.

3933 The site continues to transfer mosaics to Bradwell, but there had been delays due to issues with the crane at the Bradwell store, this in turn delays transporting any mosaics until the fault is rectified. The next mosaics would be sent up by rail as is normal practice.

3934 The ponds team had been working with some legacy material, and predominantly skips. Some waste from Bradwell had been cleared and sent off-site. Transfer pots had been taken into long-term storage and dealt with.

3935 In terms of site visits, there had been visits from the Chairman of NRS and various directors.

3936 There had been ongoing projects funded by the NDA. A vast array of different areas are being supported by the NDA and NRS. Information for assistance is available on the SSG webpage.

Questions & Answers

3937 Claire Bruce asked whether all of the infill would be coming from Lydd Quarry in the future. Ian Cuthbert confirmed this.

8. DUNGENESS B SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

3938 Gavin Lancaster outlined the programme for the next five years. The aim was to safely move the fuel out of the reactor, put it into the fuel flasks and transport it to the railhead to be dispatched. Capability was being built for three flasks per week until 2029. The group was considering how to make the operational plant smaller to reduce maintenance requirements. The team had managed to send 20 flasks off in recent weeks.

3939 It was reported that the team had concluded a major outage and the focus was now on investing in the plant and building the infrastructure. There were environmental challenges, and the team was working to replace glazing and invest in the offices and people facilities. Seven new apprentices had been taken on in 2024.

3940 In the regulator report, one of the issues identified had been around sewage treatment. The work to install and commission a new sewage plant was ongoing. During the commissioning phase, there had been a minor overflow of sewage in the transfer line. This had been contained onsite. The installation was being delayed to ensure that the system was working efficiently. It was critical to demonstrate the emergency arrangements and deal with any eventuality. The regulator had considered the way to deal with contamination, and transition into managing radioactive waste and contamination.

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3941 In terms of sponsorship, £3,000 had been committed, primarily through work with primary schools, country fairs and teams had started to work with EDF's corporate charity partner, the Alzheimer's Society.

3942 There had been some successful engagement with the emergency services. It was critical to maintain these important relationships.

Questions & Answers

3943 Matthew Pardo stated that the reduction of the size of the emergency zone around Dungeness B had not yet happened. There would be updates on this by the next meeting. Claire Bruce asked what was meant by the emergency zone. Matthew Pardo responded that there was a zone around each nuclear power station with detailed emergency plans. Kent County Council (KCC) wanted to reduce the zone to reflect the smaller risk. Claire Bruce asked how the engagement with the nuclear police would change as the power stations were defueled. Gavin Lancaster responded that, as the fuel was moved from site, the policing of the area would reduce.

3944 A participant asked whether KCC would tell residents how the policing of the area would change. Matthew Pardo responded that this was a KCC-owned issue.

9. REGULATORY UPDATE FOR DUNGENESS A

3945 Andrew Bull stated that he had attended the site in April to inspect the ponds skip work. It was important to ensure that this activity was controlled. An expert in radiological control had been present, and the planning had been rated as green. There had been a lack of detailed work instruction, so this aspect had been rated as amber. There had been an issue with controlling gaps. The site had then written instructions, and upon re-inspection, it had appeared that the work had been conducted properly.

3946 There had been an asset care inspection in May with colleagues from the EA that had considered bad weather mitigations. The inspection had been rated green. There had been an emergency exercise inspection in June. There would be a formal demonstration of the site's emergency arrangements in 2025.

3947 Andrew Bull said he had received an update on the Boiler site to consider asset care preparations ahead of the winter storm season. Significant progress had been made. Another inspection on commissioning had taken place on 23 October, and this had been rated green.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT – DUNGENESS A

3948 Themis Kantara stated that, in the beginning of July, there had been an inspection on the aqueous waste management. No areas of weakness or non-compliance had been identified. Information had been collected to demonstrate that the site had good management procedures and compliance with environmental permits. Areas of recommendation and observations will be followed up with the site. Discussions were ongoing to ensure that all permit environmental requirements were being met.

3949 A notification had been received from Dungeness A about some gaseous flow emitting from the wet waste transfer facility ventilation plant. The operator had since confirmed that there had been no environmental impact as a result of this. Further updates on this matter would be provided at the next SSG.

3950 The EA had been reviewing the monthly discharges for the gaseous and aqueous flows from the site. In the summer, some activity concentration levels for 'other radionuclides' reported for June had been higher than those of previous months. This had been queried with the site. The levels were still below the discharge limits and the quarterly notification levels. The site had confirmed that the samples needed to be sent to an offsite laboratory, resulting in the increased levels. Discussions were continuing with the site, and the EA would monitor the ongoing information as it became available. The next inspection was scheduled for the following week and will focus on central projects and intelligent customer capability.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT – DUNGENESS B

3951 Kezia White stated that a routine inspection on the combustion activity permit at Dungeness B had taken place in July. There had been no instances of non-compliance. The events in relation to the sewage treatment overflow were being investigated. On environmental monitoring, no issues in relation to aqueous discharges had been identified.

10. NDA UPDATE

3952 Alistair Findlay stated that, on 23 October, the NDA had received the NAO (National Audit Office) report. The NDA believed that some of the recommendations were fair and useful, and they would start to be implemented. A Public Accounts Committee session related to the report was expected to take place around February.

3953 The new government's big commitment was on energy decarbonisation by 2030, and it had shown interest in nuclear. There had been ministerial engagements on the nuclear sites.

3954 The upcoming budget and year-end business plan would help to understand the upcoming issues further.

3955 In terms of board updates, there had been a change of Chair for the Nuclear Waste Services. There was also a new NDA board member, Harriet Kemp.

3956 There had been an NDA stakeholder summit in Manchester to hear from different stakeholders, which had gone well.

3957 There was an ongoing independent review into the stakeholder groups. It was hoped that a stakeholder survey would be distributed before year-end.

3958 There was a statutory requirement for an NDA strategy refresh every five years. The next refresh was due in 2026. The NDA would be consulting on this, and in the next SSG, there would be opportunities for stakeholders to provide feedback.

3959 The annual report had been published. Some findings on cybersecurity had been disappointing, and this reflected the failure to work with the ONR, however there had been no breach or threat not dealt with.

Questions & Answers

3960 Gavin Lancaster noted that information had been shared in terms of the cybersecurity issue.

3961 The Vice Chair (David Godfrey) stated that, from 2028 onwards, when the B site was defueled, there could be the onsite storage of materials.

3962 The Vice Chair said there had been discussions about accelerated decommissioning in some sites and engagement with local planning authorities on this. He hoped that information on this from the NRA would be shared as soon as possible. There had been a lot of talk about life after decommissioning and SMRs. New MPs in Ashford and Folkestone had shown support for possibility of SMRs, but this issue still remained low on the priority list for the government and NRA. Micro-SMRs were possible, but these discussions were in the early stages.

3963 Alistair Findlay stated that the search for SMR sites had been focused on currently licensed sites. The government supported a more open, criteria-based site approach. There was greater opportunity to consider other sites that had not been looked at in the past.

11. EDF Update

3964 Laura Cherry stated that, in terms of the shingle recycling operation, planning permission for the current work expired in October 2026. Due to the protected nature of Dungeness, there was a lot of planning work involved in this. It was proposed to extend the

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shingle recycling operations by another 15 years. Discussions had started with KCC, and conversations with Natural England would begin shortly to prepare a planning application to extend the life of the permission up to 2041. This extension would provide protection for the power station in the defueling and early stage decommissioning period.

3965 The plan was to continue the shingle operations for a period of 15 years. Work had already been undertaken in terms of baseline monitoring. A scoping request would be submitted to KCC and would then be issued to stakeholders and statutory advisors. It was hoped that a planning application would be submitted to KCC in Spring /Summer 2025. There would most likely be a 12-month determination period, and there would be an opportunity for wider stakeholders to get involved in the process.

12. AOB

A. Romney Marsh partnership coordinator

3966 The Vice Chair stated that there had been some funding to support the new Romney Marsh partnership coordinator, and work was ongoing to recruit this individual.

B. Closing

3967 There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 11.06.

Date of next meeting: February 2025 (Dungeness B Power Station).