



HUNTERSTON A

SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP REPORT

SITE DIRECTOR – MARK BLACKLEY

JUNE 2024

HUNTERSTON A
SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO THE SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
JUNE 2024

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 Conventional, Nuclear, Radiological, Environmental or Security issues over the reporting period.

On 15th May the site successfully demonstrated the implementation of our contingency arrangements to the Company Internal Assurance Team. The exercise involved a multi-agency response to a medical emergency, electric vehicle fire and potential spread of contamination.

The Site reached a significant milestone on 27th March when the Higher Activity Waste Operations team achieved bulk clearance of the fifth and final overground bunker holding solid Higher Activity operational waste. Since 2014, the operational team have packaged over 2100 tonnes of solid waste from 5 overground bunkers into 1209 3m³ stainless steel packages. The team will now concentrate on the activities required to reach Post Operational Clean Out status over the next 6 months.

WILWREP has been re-configured to start retrieving and encapsulating acid. Before these operations start work a re-assessment of the aerial discharge monitoring techniques and reporting arrangements is being carried out. Once agreed this will allow the passivation of the largest existing hazard at the Hunterston A site by recovering, neutralising, and encapsulating the acidic waste in a cement matrix within around 80 stainless steel 3m³ drums.

The CCP and Miscellaneous Delay Tanks are planned for decontamination. The project team have completed installation of the temporary ventilation system required for the works. The system has been commissioned and the programme of physical works will start soon.

It has been decided that we will process ILW packages in SILWE manually without the KUKA robots. It has been demonstrated that the radiation dose is much lower than anticipated when the plant was designed and hence the operations can be done safely. This will simplify the commissioning and allow the integrated testing to commence sooner, reduces the maintenance burden on the robots and mitigates the risk of future obsolescence.

Progress on the Reactor roof repairs have progressed well as the weather has improved. It is anticipated that the roof repairs will be completed by the end of June.

Plant and Structures have removed the redundant steel cradle rail system from the perimeter roof fascia of the Charge Machine Maintenance Building glazed tower structure.

Our Mental Health First Aid group recently organised activities to support the 2024 Mental Health Awareness week campaign. This coincided with the opening of a dedicated wellbeing cabin on site which will provide a quiet and private space with access to mental health and wellbeing materials for staff.

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

2 SAFETY OVERVIEW

2.1 Safety Review Performance

The Site Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) is 0.96 and the Days Away Case Rate (DACR) is 0.47. 7 months have passed since the last Lost Time Accident (LTA) and there have been 2 First Aid Cases (FAC's).

The FAC's resulted from an employee slipping/tripping on a stair tread as he was ascending the stairs, he miss-judged the step and stumbled injuring his knee. An ice pack was applied by a First Aider and the employee returned to work. Secondly an employee caught a finger on a door as it closed. The wound was cleaned and dressed by the First Aider, and he returned to work.

Risk assessment training workshops commenced during February, March and April. These workshops were delivered to Risk Assessors who undertake Risk Assessments for NRS work activities on Site. The focus of the workshops is to raise awareness of the poor risk assessments, identify problem areas and make improvements to ensure that Risk Assessors are providing suitable and Sufficient Risk Assessments for NRS work activities. The Risk Assessment training is being rolled out across all NRS sites.

Hazard Awareness and Risk Perception training session has been developed by Site. This training session will be delivered to all NRS staff that undertake physical work on plant/site and is expected that on completion of this training, Hazard Awareness and Risk Perception of our employees will be raised to a higher level. The training session will be engaging and practical similar to the Risk Assessment workshops.

The Event Review Team (ERT) continue to meet weekly to review the previous week's events (Q Pulses), ensuring they are suitably categorised, review specific First line initial investigations (Part 2's), review closed actions to ensure they are appropriately addressed and challenge where required. The ERT meeting is well supported on Site.

The site continues to demonstrate a strong reporting culture. We raise 100+ Q Pulse events monthly. All Q Pulses are discussed at the daily safety and compliance meeting to ensure the events is fully understood, identify if further actions are required and to place formal actions to deal with the event.

Target Zero campaigns continue with topic changing each month. March - Psychological Safety, April - Distractions and May – Personal Responsibilities. The specific topics are discussed daily at meetings, setting to work, pre and post job briefs.

The safety representatives (Magna & Contractor) continue to meet fortnightly and have recently attended the site HESAC meeting. The safety representatives have been attending the Risk Assessment training Workshops and will attend the Hazard Awareness / Risk Perception training sessions.

2.2 Emergency Arrangements

The site Accident, Emergency and Security Contingency Arrangements are tested frequently and remain suitable and sufficient. Since the start of the year the site has successfully delivered 9 live emergency exercises reflective of work being undertaken on site e.g. working at height rescue, acid reconfiguration, delay tanks entry. On Wednesday 15th May during exercise “North Laine” the site successfully demonstrated the implementation of our contingency arrangements to the Company Internal Assurance Team. The exercise involved a multi-agency response to a medical emergency, electric vehicle fire and potential spread of contamination which fully tested the site’s ability to respond to and manage the effects of a significant event on site on multiple fronts.

The site continues to enhance our contingency team resilience and have recently appointed an additional Duty Manager, Emergency Health Physicist and 3 new Nuclear Occupational First Aiders to the team who are currently undergoing training. We continue to maintain and build working relationships with our local and regional partners through the Emergency Planning Consultative Committee (EPCC) to share learning and keep up to date with new and emergency risks.

During a recent First Aid Needs Analysis the site proactively identified the need to replace existing Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) with new fully automatic devices and upskill key staff in the deployment and operation of potentially lifesaving equipment which further improves and enhances our Emergency Arrangements and response capability.

3 DECOMMISSIONING PROGRESS

3.1 SAWBR (Solid Active Waste Bunker Retrieval)

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 3M³ 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. The bulk waste recovery from the Bunker 1 has now been completed which is a significant milestone for Hunterston and NRS.

The SAWBR team have now developed a ‘Back out plan’ for the SAWB Bunkers this includes a detailed strategy for the processing of the identified orphan wastes, the Fuel debris items and the retrieval of the fine’s dusts. Back out works will commence now that bulk clearance has been achieved.

We have commenced the fines recovery operations within Bunker 2, replaced and successfully tested the new Brokk 1 umbilical cable as well as completing re-sequencing and testing of the Swabbing and Bolting Robot box top recovery swabbing routine.

During end of April, we successfully completed Routine Maintenance shutdown in the SAWBR facility.

**New replacement Umbilical Power Cable
attached onto Brokk 1 cable Reeling Drum in
Area 400**



Picture below 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)

WILWREP has been re-configured to start retrieving and encapsulating acid. Before these operations start work a re-assessment of the aerial discharge monitoring techniques and reporting arrangements is being carried out.

It is expected that WILWREP active commissioning will recommence during the summer. There will initially be a short period of plant re-familiarisation completed by the Operations team by transferring water, already in the buffer tank, to the drum in the canyon and back to the tank whilst further baselining of the ventilation system is undertaken. Successful completion of this will then be followed by retrieval, neutralisation/conditioning and encapsulation of the first active acid ILW 3m³ drum.

3.3 Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation (SILWE) Project

The SILWE facility exists purely to encapsulate the 3M³ packages containing the solid waste retrieved/recovered from Solid Active Waste Bunker Retrieval (SAWBR) with a grout mix. Once encapsulated, the packages will be in their disposable state.

A new Deed of Variation (DoV) with revised contractual arrangements, is in place with Balfour Beatty. It is progressing well, and Plan B (manual swabbing/plug removal/installation) is going through a series of trials in full consultation with The High Active Waste Operations Team.



Grouting trials underway

Recently an external team attended site to carry out a Human Factors Assessment.

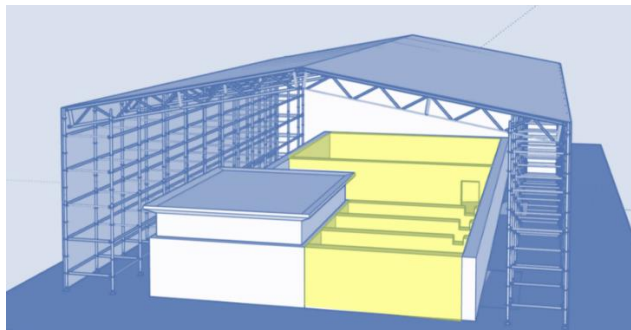
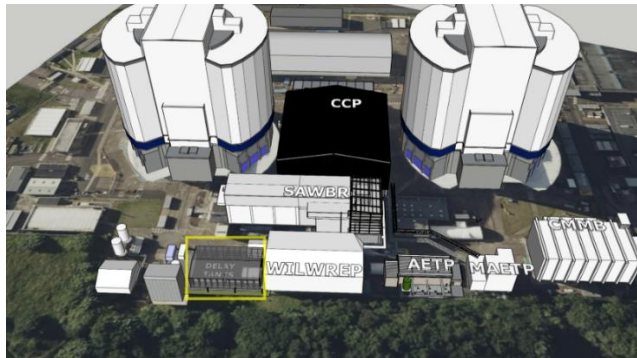
This is intended to bring into focus, any plant interfaces and related issues for resolution. One of the most important elements of human factors, involves the interface with the grout plant during grouting operations.

3.4 Ponds Programme

CCP Delay Tanks

The CCP and Miscellaneous Delay Tanks are planned for decontamination. The project team have completed installation of the temporary ventilation system required for the

works. The system has been commissioned and the programme of physical works will start soon and will bring about hazard reduction on-site and improved future access to the redundant tanks.



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



Internal views of Delay tanks

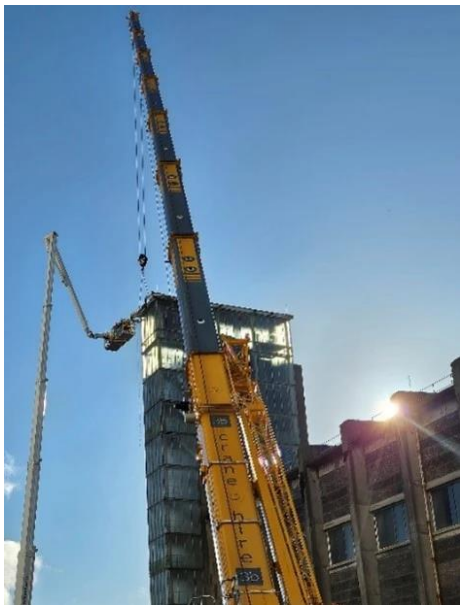
3.5 Plant & Structures

Plant and Structures have removed the redundant steel cradle rail system from the perimeter roof fascia of the Charge Machine Maintenance Building glazed tower structure.

The redundant system, which was in the past used to support a cradle for cleaning and maintaining the glazed facades, consisted of a steel 'I' beam bolted to the building fascia via a series of steel support brackets.

The cradle rail beam was successfully removed utilising a 70m Truck Mounted Access Platform and a 125-tonne mobile crane in tandem. In total 35 metres of rails, approximately 0.7 tonnes were removed and consigned to waste.

The next phase of work will consist of the replacement of the existing netting system which has been in place since 2001 and is showing evidence of deterioration.



PEOPLE

4.1 Site HR

We continue to progress the resourcing of various vacancies, with 20 vacancies currently in process. Posts include Environment Co-ordinator, Maintenance Technicians, System/Project Engineers, Project Manager and Senior Site Engineer. It continues to prove challenging to fill our Maintenance Technician vacancies along with a few others, due to extremely competitive market conditions at present.

We have recently launched the Employee engagement survey for 2024, which has been issued to all NRS employees. This provides an opportunity for employees to provide us with feedback on their experience of working at NRS at present, which allows the business to develop an action plan to address any identified areas of improvement. The

survey closes on 07th June so we will be collating feedback shortly after that in order to develop a plan for the coming year.

4.2 Occupational Health

Sickness levels continue to remain high comparative to the company target, however continued support from Line Management, Occupational Health and HR with long term sickness cases and pro-active management of cases is having a positive impact with a downward trend in the overall sickness levels over the period.

Our Mental Health First Aid group recently organised activities to support the 2024 Mental Health Awareness week campaign. This coincided with the opening of a dedicated wellbeing cabin on site which will provide a quiet and private space with access to mental health and wellbeing materials for staff. The topic for the campaign this year was "Movement for mental health" so the group provided employees with an abundance of material and information, and also arranged for external visitors to speak to staff on wellbeing activities in the local area. This included support from the Workplace Engagement Officer for North Ayrshire Council who spoke to staff about various initiatives including the cycle to work scheme.

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 second phase of road line markings which covers Site entrance and areas within the Radiological Controlled Area (RCA) is planned for completion during June.

Initial specifications for the replacement shower facility have been prepared and are now progressing through the procurement process. Similarly, the specification for the removal of the fire damaged facility which is beyond economical repair is progressing through the initial procurement process.

The Site is now going direct to market for a suitable solution to repair the Pond roof. This work is currently being progressed through the Plant & Structures Programme with support from Asset Management team.

Further Welfare upgrades across the site are planned again for the next financial year, again the site is going direct to market using local contractors to progress these improvements.

A portfolio of work packs for 2025/26 and 2026/27 is 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 2024, to the end of April, are as follows:

- Approximately 182 employees and visitors received a total collective dose of 2.098 man.mSv between them.
- Approximately 239 contractors received a total collective dose of 1.503 man.mSv between them.
- The highest individual dose received by an employee was 0.221 mSv.
- The highest individual dose received by a contractor was 0.162 mSv.

The majority of dose accrued in 2024 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 (April 2023 - March 2024)

Solid

Low Level Waste (LLW) disposals to the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) continue. 27.01 m³ of LLW and VLLW with a total activity of 0.07 GBq was disposed of during the twelve-month period from April 2023 - March 2024. 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 April 2023 - March 2024 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 (April 2023 - March 2024)
Tritium	30 GBq	0.005 GBq
Caesium-137	160 GBq	0.044 GBq
Plutonium-241	2 GBq	0.000 GBq
All alpha emitting radionuclides not specifically listed taken together	2 GBq	0.001 GBq
All non-alpha emitting radionuclides not specifically listed taken together	60 GBq	0.038 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 (April 2023 - March 2024)
All authorised outlets taken together.	Tritium	100 MBq	0.3 MBq
	All other radionuclides (excluding tritium)	3 MBq	0.231 MBq
Discharges made as a consequence of reactor breathing	Tritium	3000 MBq	380.51 MBq
	Carbon-14	200 MBq	58.30 MBq

7.2 Non-radiological Environmental update (April 2023 - March 2024)

Treated sewage effluent from the plant is currently being independently assessed by SEPA on a quarterly basis. 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.

Waste disposal and recycling is recorded in the company unified dashboard. Over the period April 2023 - March 2024, a total of 59.74 tonnes of waste was collected for consignment from site (58.25 tonnes for re-use, recycling, recovery, or composting, 0 tonnes sewage waste and 1.49 tonnes for disposal to landfill). This gives a recycling rate of approximately 97.5%.

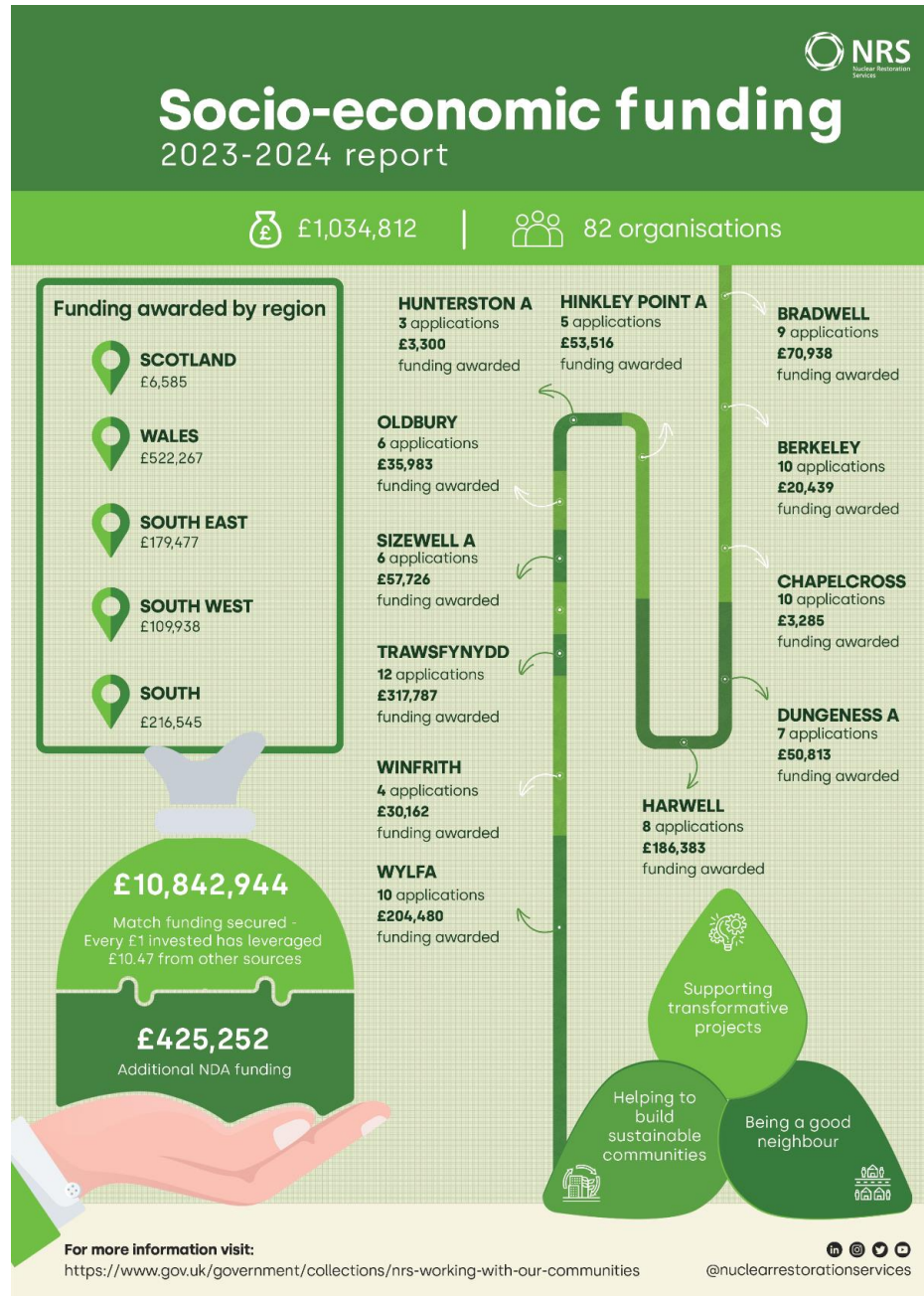
7.3 Environmental Events

There were no significant events over the reporting period.

8 SOCIO-ECONOMIC / STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

8.1 Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) socio-economic scheme update

In 2023/24, a total of £1,034,812 supported the communities around our sites, with an additional £425,252 from the NDA.



8.2 Hunterston A Good Neighbour level

£1,000 was awarded to West Kilbride Colts Football Club for the 'mini kickers' juniors to purchase a new NRS branded training kit and equipment for the 25 members.



£1,500 to Vertex towards funding their Showcraft pilot youth scheme for workshops within the arts sector at the Barony Centre.

£800 received by West Kilbride Environmental Group for the 'growing soup' project. Funding allowed them to purchase materials for 20 sessions demonstrating to youngsters in the area how to grow, harvest and cook with their produce.

NRS funding objectives remain the same, for more detail please visit:

NRS working with our communities - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

9 SUSTAINABILITY

9.1 Sustainability Strategy

NRS's sustainability strategy centres around five goals: governance, environment, supply chain, employees, and communities. Goal 5 recognises NRS'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

After a successful soft launch with 3 Sites including Hunterston A, NRS has established a new Volunteering Standard. The Standard describes how to find opportunities to volunteer in local communities and how to request paid time off for volunteering activities.

Our company agreement states “The company may at its discretion grant additional paid leave of up to one week, and additional unpaid leave, to enable employees to undertake voluntary work in the local community”.

So far Hunterston A staff have supported 3 different good causes through Neighbourly with all Volunteers finding the experience rewarding:

- Douglas Park Project Committee
- Ayrshire Cancer Support Centre Kilmarnock
- Glenfield Nursing Home

Further opportunities for volunteering are being promoted to staff as well as encouraging local charities and organisations to register with Neighbourly.

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
11/12 March	ONR Inspection – Peter Hughes (Nominated Site Inspector) & Cameron Mackenzie (Nuclear Graduate).

SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
Hunterston 'A'
June 2024

18 th March	Leadership Academy Cohort visit HNA
28 th March	Contractors Safety Forum
7/8 May	Caron Weaver Asset Management & Improvement Director & team
15 th May	Demonstration Exercise HNA to NRS Site Inspectors
20 th May	Leadership Academy Cohort visit HNA
11/12 June	ONR/SEPA Inspection
11 June	Sohail Ashraf - AGR Transition Director Laura Miles/Alastair Walker – Programme Delivery Managers