



Site Stakeholder Group

HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

The Seventy Fourth Meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group will take place on Thursday 5 December 2024 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 – Richard Gibson

ONR Report – Peter Hughes

SEPA Report – Melanie Hayes

Members Question and Answer Session Public Forum

15.00 Update from NDA

David Wallace

15.10 NRS Corporate Update

Bill Hamilton

15.20 Update from Scottish Government

Diane Hamilton

Members Question and Answer Session Public Forum

15.30 Any Other Business

Next Meeting Thursday 6 March 2025

**HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS FROM THE MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2024
AT THE WATERSIDE HOTEL, ARDROSSAN ROAD, WEST KILBRIDE, KA23 9NG**

Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed the attendees.

Hunterston B Report – Mr Joe Struthers

Mr Struthers reported that, as of 5 September, 61% of the second reactor had been defueled, while 188 of 308 channels had been defueled. Enhancements had been implemented to assist the removal of tie bar end fittings. An NRS staff engagement session had taken place in June. A local fire alarm had been initiated in the Hunterston B district survey laboratory, and a successful counter-terrorism emergency exercise demonstration had taken place with internal and external regulators.

ONR Report – Mr Steve Saunders

Mr Saunders reported that the ONR continued to monitor the preparations for the transition and transfer. Hunterston B had completed a phase 1 counter-terrorism emergency exercise, demonstrating adequate site arrangements.

SEPA Report – Mr Keith Hammond

Mr Hammond reported that SEPA staff had attended the start-up meeting for the Hunterston habits survey on 24 June. SEPA continued to monitor the minor leak of non-radioactive biodegradable oil from an oil-filled cable.

Hunterston A Report – Mr Mark Blackley

Mr Blackley reported that there had been one reportable injury. The planned calibration of the WILWREP manual stack train (MST) had highlighted that the calibration period had expired. The calibration had been successfully undertaken and had confirmed that the MST was operating as expected.

The SAWBR team had been working to a 'back out plan' for the SAWB bunkers. The repairs had been implemented, and the site would now recommence hoovering the fines. WILWREP had been reconfigured to start retrieving and encapsulating acid. The site had entered the first stage of active commissioning. The proposed manual process for ILW packages in SILWE had recently passed design approval. The reactor 2 roof repairs were complete, and minor work concerning reactor 1 would be concluded by the end of September. The project to determine the best practical means (BPM) for dealing with the bunker waste was progressing well.

SEPA Report – Ms Melanie Hayes

Ms Hayes reported that SEPA had undertaken site inspections on 12 June and 13/14 August. Ms Hayes had reviewed the additional information regarding the site ventilation system defects and had informed the site that it was now compliant with the standard conditions. SEPA awaited information to close out the discharge returns notice.

The documentation for public consultation for the aqueous discharge variation application had been completed, and it was hoped that it would be published imminently. SEPA had been notified of a loss of refrigerant gas at Hunterston A on 18 July and 25 July.

Update from NDA – Mr David Wallace

Mr Wallace reported that Ed Miliband had been appointed as Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, while Lord Hunt Minister had been appointed as Minister of State. The second meeting of the Cross Party Group on Civil Nuclear Industry would take place on 11 September, and the SSG review was taking place. The NDA was in the process of recruiting for its third secondment into Scottish Government's radioactive waste substances team.

Update from NRS and Introduction to Thinks Insight – Mr Bill Hamilton

Mr Hamilton presented a video that demonstrated Thinks Insight's engagement with local communities.

Update from Scottish Government – Ms Diane Hamilton

Ms Hamilton reported that the Scottish site nuclear stakeholder group meeting had taken place on 14 August. The Scottish Government was reviewing the higher activity waste policy and the implementation strategy, and informed stakeholders were being invited to highlight aspects of the policy that required further clarity or development.

Questions were 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 5 December 2024



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
HELD AT THE WATERSIDE HOTEL, ARDROSSAN ROAD, WEST KILBRIDE, KA23 9NG
THURSDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2024**

Attendance/Apologies list

Attendance

Ms Rita Holmes	Fairlie CC (Chair)
Mr Stuart McGhie	EDF (Vice Chair)
Mr John Lamb	West Kilbride CC
Mr Stewart McKenzie	North Ayrshire Council

Operators and Officers

Mr Mark Blackley	NRS (Site Director, Hunterston A)
Mr Joe Struthers	EDF (Station Director)
Mr Daniel Smith	Plant Manager (Hunterston B)
Mr Richard Gibson	Engineering Manager (Hunterston A)
Ms Fiona McCall	Senior External Affairs Manager, EDF
Mr Keith Hammond	SEPA (Site Inspector, Hunterston B)
Ms Melanie Hayes	SEPA (Site Inspector, Hunterston A)
Ms Diane Hamilton	Scottish Government
Mr Bill Hamilton	External Affairs Director, NRS
Ms Cath Pritchard	NRS
Ms Mair Jones	NRS
Ms Claire Aitken	NRS
Mr Alastair Walker	NRS
Mr Colin Hargreaves	NRS Site Inspector
Mr David Wallace	NDA (Stakeholder Lead Scotland)
Mr Steve Saunders	ONR (Site Inspector, Hunterston B)
Mr Geoffrey Dore	Minute taker

In Attendance

Mr Alan Holden	Member of Public
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Apologies

Ms Aileen Craig	North Ayrshire Council
Mr Peter Hughes	ONR (Site Inspector, Hunterston A)
Ms Lesley Jeffery	Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Team (ACCT)
Cllr Tom Marshall	North Ayrshire Council
Mr John McHenery	Hunterston Estate
Mr Ian Murdoch	North Ayrshire Council
Mr Jamie Woodburn	Largs CC
Louise Kirk	North Ayrshire Council

1. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair opened the meeting and invited attendees to introduce themselves. Apologies were noted from Aileen Craig, Peter Hughes, Lesley Jeffery, Cllr Tom Marshall, John McHenry, Ian Murdoch and Jamie Woodburn.

No interests were declared.

2. CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR UPDATES AND CORRESPONDENCE

There was no update.

3. ACTIONS AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Joe Struthers to provide information regarding Hunterston B's plans for temporary or permanent asbestos storage on site at the next SSG. Joe Struthers reported that Hunterston B had compiled an asbestos register in 2014 that it regularly updated. Its approved asbestos coordinators were undertaking detailed surveys of the zones onsite, and this would be completed by the end of the year. The demolition fuel intrusive surveys had taken place for all buildings intended for demolition, and all had been clear from asbestos. Hunterston B utilised Altrad as its specialist asbestos contractor and Equans as its specialist waste contractor. Non-active asbestos had been disposed of via approved waste disposal routes. There were no plans to create asbestos storage on site.

David Wallace, Mark Blackley and Bill Hamilton to inform the NDA and NRS of the concerns highlighted by the SSG regarding the removal of the temporary cladding. It was confirmed that the action was closed. Mark Blackley explained that a sample of the weather barrier had been sent to a specialist paint contractor, who had tested various paint products on the weather barrier. The sample had been returned, and the site would assess whether it was viable to change the colour.

ACTION: Mark Blackley to provide an update on the weather barrier at the next SSG.

John Lamb proposed that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by the Chair. The minutes of the meeting of 13 June 2024 were approved as a true and accurate representation of the meeting.

4. HUNTERSTON B SITE REPORTS

Hunterston B Site Report

Joe Struthers presented his report.

The final fuel route outage for reactor 4 had been completed. Defueling continued, and as of 5 September 61% of the second reactor had been defueled, while 188 of 308 channels had been defueled.

Enhancements had been implemented to assist the removal of tie bar end fittings, and no further issues had arisen. An NRS staff engagement session had taken place in June and had been well supported by NRS.

A local fire alarm had been initiated in the in the Hunterston B district survey laboratory. A site fire team had been deployed and had confirmed a smell of burning, with a small amount of smoke detected. It had been identified that a component on a computer uninterruptable power supply had been overheating, causing the fire alarm to initiate. There had been no flames.

A counter-terrorism emergency exercise demonstration had taken place with internal and external regulators. The exercise had been successful, which the ONR had deemed as an adequate demonstration of the site's arrangements.

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The management team had been restructured. Collective and individual consultation had concluded, and the site was aspiring to match the aspirations of individuals to roles and the new structure. The process was likely to conclude by yearend.

ONR Report

Steve Saunders presented his report.

The ONR continued to monitor the preparations for the transition and transfer, particularly the proposed changes to the organisational structure. Hunterston B had completed a phase 1 counter-terrorism emergency exercise, demonstrating adequate site arrangements.

SEPA Report

Keith Hammond presented his report.

SEPA staff had attended the start-up meeting for the Hunterston habits survey on 24 June. The survey was being conducted by the University of Sterling. SEPA continued to monitor the minor leak of non-radioactive biodegradable oil from an oil-filled cable.

Questions & Answers

The Chair requested that Hunterston A and B schedule a walkaround to view the external buildings. Joe Struthers acknowledged this request.

ACTION: Hunterston A and B to schedule a walkaround to view the external buildings.

The Chair asked what currently took place within the district survey laboratory. Joe Struthers explained that the district survey laboratory was used to test and analyse samples to ensure that the site did not impact the wider community. The Chair asked if more items were regionally tested. Joe Struthers responded that he believed that less items were tested on site but agreed to check this.

ACTION: Joe Struthers to ascertain if more samples were tested regionally or on site.

The Chair noted that a fire alarm had been initiated after a component on a computer uninterruptable power supply had overheated and asked if the site had power supplies that could not be interrupted. Joe Struthers responded that components would have the capability to changeover to an alternative supply or a battery back-up. The Chair asked if this approach was only adopted in power stations and industrial sites or because the site would be constantly monitoring components. Joe Struthers replied that he would need to check this. Hunterston B did not want to have an interrupted power supply as many of its facilities were designed to allow for emergency responses.

The Chair highlighted the minimum aqueous discharge flow rate. Keith Hammond explained that a first round of consultation had taken place with the ONR, Food Standards Scotland (FSS) and Scottish ministers, and SEPA awaited a response from FSS. It was anticipated that the application would be determined by 1 August 2026. The Chair queried the dose rate. Keith Hammond responded that it was approximately 200 microsieverts and was extremely conservative. The legal dose rate was 1,000 microsieverts.

The Chair asked if SEPA would review the different radionuclides in the water. Keith Hammond confirmed that it would.

The Chair noted that Hunterston B would amalgamate its control and transfer deconstruction departments. Joe Struthers stated that the proposed process aligned with the agreed way forward.

John Lamb asked if environmental health had been updated on Hunterston B's proposed approach to asbestos storage. He also noted that asbestos disposal required significant security. Joe Struthers stated that the site had safely managed asbestos for several years. It

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had approved asbestos contractors and waste coordinators, and it complied with the regulations. Steve Saunders stated that the ONR was responsible for regulating the control of asbestos on site, and the ONR had conducted an inspection within the last year. It was likely that it would conduct a further inspection during the decommissioning phase.

John Lamb stated that there would likely be a significant amount of material during the decommissioning phase. Joe Struthers stated that the ongoing surveys were due to be concluded by the end of the year and would help inform the site of its asbestos volumes. It currently had a register, which was maintained.

5. HUNTERSTON A SITE REPORTS

Hunterston A Site Report

Mark Blackley presented his report.

There had been one reportable injury, where a radiological monitor had bumped their head in C3 conditions and had sustained a minor cut. The monitor had not initially returned to work following the incident but had since resumed work and was fully fit.

During the planned calibration of the WILWREP manual stack train (MST), it had emerged that the calibration period had expired. The planned calibration had been successfully undertaken and had confirmed that the MST was operating as expected with no drift from the previous calibration.

The SAWBR team had been working to a 'back out plan' for the SAWB bunkers, with the aim of achieving post operational clean out status. Recovery of the fine dusts had been slower than anticipated, and Brokk 1 had experienced several unrelated faults. However, the repairs had been implemented, and the site would now recommence hoovering the fines.

WILWREP had been reconfigured to start retrieving and encapsulating acid. The site had entered the first stage of active commissioning, and it had filled the first drum. The drum was being monitored for gaseous discharge before it would be exported from the facility.

It was noted that it had been previously reported that Hunterston A would process ILW packages in SILWE manually without the KUKA robots. This package of work had recently passed design approval, with the focus now shifting towards the procurement, manufacturing and installation of the operator shielding platform.

The reactor 2 roof repairs were complete, and it was expected that minor work concerning reactor 1 would be concluded by the end of September. The project to determine the best practical means (BPM) for dealing with the bunker waste was progressing well. Phase 1 of the project was proceeding, and its output would be provided to SEPA and the ONR for comment once completed.

ONR Report

Peter Hughes was not present.

SEPA Report

Melanie Hayes presented her report.

SEPA had undertaken site inspections on 12 June and 13/14 August, and the site had demonstrated compliance with all the conditions that it had been assessed against.

Melanie Hayes had reviewed the additional information regarding the site ventilation system defects and had informed the site that it was now compliant with the standard conditions.

SEPA awaited information to close out the discharge returns notice. The outlined actions would be delivered during 2024 as per the dates provided by NRS.

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Melanie Hayes reported on the aqueous discharge variation application. Following the last meeting, FSS had requested that its review period be extended by two months. FSS had recently provided its response to state that it was content there would not be a significant change to the risks from consumption of food. The documentation for the public consultation had been completed and it was hoped that it would be published imminently. It was also anticipated that the consultation period would last between six and eight weeks.

SEPA had been notified of a loss of refrigerant gas at Hunterston A on 18 July and 25 July. The site was liaising with the SEPA's F gas specialist with regards to these losses.

Questions & Answers

John Lamb highlighted the additions made for the manual refilling of the bunker waste and asked if there was a timescale for commencing encapsulation of the boxes. Mark Blackley responded that this would likely occur by spring 2026 and added that it might align with the permit variation approval.

John Lamb said he assumed that there would be a characterisation of the store's content. Mark Blackley stated that the permit variation only pertained to bunker 1 waste. The 300 boxes in bunker 1 would first be encapsulated. The work to identify waste for bunkers 2 to 5 would require an amendment of variation to the BPM. The site was working through this project to demonstrate the BPM. It was likely that it would take another four years before the site would require a permit variation to encapsulate the waste from bunkers 2 to 5.

The Chair stated that she and Stuart McGhie were interested in the best practical means that would be selected for characterisation of the waste for the bunkers. It had taken 10 years to empty the bunkers, and it appeared that it would take another 10 years to encapsulate the boxes in the encapsulation plant. Mark Blackley said, subject to all permissions being in place, it would take two years to start work and six years to encapsulate all 1,200-plus boxes. Melanie Hayes said SEPA would need to consider whether to provide permission for bunkers 2 to 5 to be encapsulated.

The Chair noted that there had been an indication that all boxes would be encapsulated in concrete. Melanie Hayes said this remained a possibility. The Chair stated that she had assumed that the NDA had already determined that concreted stainless-steel boxes, with ILW, would be suitable for any geological disposal facility. Melanie Hayes explained that any facility would need to demonstrate a waste acceptance criteria regardless of it being a geological facility or near site, near surface. Steve Saunders added that the disposal facilities were based upon a certain format of waste. Melanie Hayes stated that it was extremely important that the bunker 1 waste was encapsulated. It was also hoped that a compromise would be identified for bunkers 2 to 5.

John Lamb asked how the weather barrier was progressing. Mark Blackley explained that the site had recently completed a demolition survey for the area immediately within the barrier. It did not intend to install metal cladding to replace the current weather barrier. However, it had acknowledged concerns raised and was reviewing alternative options. There was an intention to retain the weather barrier beyond its intended lifetime, and there would need to be some proactive maintenance.

The Chair asked if a decision had been made regarding parts of the fuel rod that remained in one of the vaults[?]. Melanie Hayes responded that NRS would need to decide if it would classify it as waste or fuel. Should it be classified as waste it would fall under the remit of SEPA. Mark Blackley stated that the site had completed an assessment and was reviewing the report. It had recognised that the fuel could not remain within the bunker. The current proposal encompassed storing the fuel in a 3 cubic-metre box and transferring it to a store, which would not foreclose any future options for the fuel.

Stuart McGhie asked if the fuel would be classified as waste if it had been stored within the reactor. Mark Blackley explained that Scotland's higher-activity radioactive waste policy stated

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that radiated fuel could not be classified as waste. The radiation levels were lower than some of the waste streams that had already been encapsulated.

Steve Saunders stated that, should it be classed as fuel, it would need to be monitored. Mark Blackley confirmed that Hunterston A monitored the fuel. Colin Hargreaves explained that NRS had undertaken an assessment on this, and the site's documentation process had been in place.

The Chair noted that Mark Blackley was attending his last SSG and commended his welcoming nature on site. John Lamb presented Mark Blackley with a medal, and the attendees afforded Mark Blackley a round of applause.

6. AYRSHIRE CIVIL CONTINGENCIES TEAM UPDATE

There was no update.

7. UPDATE FROM NDA

David Wallace presented his report.

Following the recent general election, Ed Miliband had been appointed as Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, while Lord Hunt Minister had been appointed as Minister of State at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. Lord Hunt would attend the stakeholder summit in a virtual capacity, while local MPs had been invited onto site.

The second meeting of the Cross Party Group on Civil Nuclear Industry would take place on 11 September. The session would address skills and would also be attended by Ayrshire College and Dumfries & Galloway College. The third meeting on 17 December would cover the waste policy, and the agenda was being devised.

The SSG review was taking place, and the results would be announced at the stakeholder summit.

The NDA was in the process of recruiting for its third secondment into Scottish Government's radioactive waste substances team. The secondment would last 18 months.

The sustainability report had been circulated.

8. NRS CORPORATE UPDATE – INTRODUCTION TO THINKS INSIGHT

Bill Hamilton explained that NRS, with the support of the NDA, had moved away from a care and maintenance approach to site-specific decommissioning strategies. NRS would develop its conversations with the wider communities, and it had commissioned Thinks Insight to undertake a polling exercise.

A video was shown demonstrating Thinks Insight's engagement with local communities.

There would be a further programme of engagement over the next 12 months, including engagement with the Hunterston community. Bill Hamilton expressed hope that NRS would succeed in creating a stronger bond with local communities and include them within the discussion.

Questions & Answers

The Chair suggested that the public would highlight safety, security, jobs and the environment as areas of focus. Bill Hamilton stated that NRS would build upon this. The conversation would then need to progress to address potential proposals for Hunterston. The Chair stated that it would be beneficial for NRS to better inform the public to allow it to form its own opinions. She also added that nuclear technology did not appear to be covered in schools. Bill Hamilton said that NRS had a specialist team which engaged with schools and attempted to influence

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the curriculum. Engagement was also taking place with college students to encourage them to select STEM subjects.

Melanie Hayes requested access to the video. Claire Aitken confirmed that she would upload the video onto the SSG website.

The Chair noted that there would be a meeting of the NGO/NDA forum on 9 September. The NGOs were requesting money for citizens science projects, and she asked if NRS/NDA could link this to its programme to inform the community. Bill Hamilton responded that NRS's programmes of work were subject to a spending review. It aimed to next engage with Wylfa, Olbury and Chapelcross and implement mobile exhibitions. It also planned to hold a stakeholder day.

9. UPDATE FROM SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Diane Hamilton presented her report.

The Scottish site nuclear stakeholder group meeting had taken place virtually on 14 August. The Scottish Government was reviewing the higher activity waste policy and the implementation strategy. While consultation would take place in 2025, informed stakeholders were being invited to provide their views by 30 September and highlight aspects of the policy that required further clarity or development.

Questions & Answers

The Chair asked if the policy would include amendments to the requirements for near surface. Diane Hamilton responded that everything within the policy would be reviewed, including near site, near surface.

John Lamb asked if the current draft policy was available for review. Diane Hamilton replied that the policy and strategy was on the website. She agreed to circulate a link to John Lamb.

ACTION: Diane Hamilton to circulate a link to the draft higher activity waste policy to John Lamb.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting.

Next Meeting date: Thursday 5 December 2024.

Site Stakeholder Group

Hunterston B Station Director's Report
Period: August 2024 to October 2024

1. Defueling

Defueling on Reactor 4 has continued well since the last reporting period, with no significant delays and R4 is now ~85% defueled. With the defueling process progressing well the station has commenced plant inspections to support our journey towards declaring the station fuel free in June 2025.

The action plan mitigations have since been completed, including the revised tooling and as a result we have had no further difficulties with tie bar end fittings.

2. Transfer and Deconstruction

Site Transition

Upon completion of defueling, we will seek to adjust our site arrangements to transition the site to deconstruction. This will mean a new safety case, emergency arrangements, security arrangements and organisational structure. Work is progressing well to design and justify these arrangements so they can be implemented at fuel free verification (FFV).

In the last quarter we have:

- progressed development of the Post Defueling Safety Case with the two key reference documents now approved and verified. A review of the plan has been conducted and we are on plan for our approval date of July 2025 (which includes time for ONR review)
- completed independent review of best fit staff outcomes with National Joint Council on the Deconstruction Organisation
- progressed authoring of the justifications (Engineering Change) to remove plant from service following Fuel Free Verification.

Site Transfer to NRS

EDF and NRS 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 NRS after the completion of defueling by EDF. EDF are setting up training facilities on site, so our staff can be trained on NRS systems and processes prior to transfer. Both NRS and EDF remain fully committed to working together to deliver seamless transfer of the site licence to NRS.

Deconstruction Delivery

Work continues to prepare for deconstruction, which will start following the completion of defueling. There are two key programmes that are the foundations of the Deconstruction Plan; Waste and Demolition. The overall decommissioning strategy remains 'Early Safestore'.

Some highlights for the quarter in terms of delivery have been the completion of some key enabling works (new facility cabins fitted out, detail design work commenced) for the new Deconstruction Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) which is a refurb of an existing building, and is planned for completion early 2026. The old Fish Farm (adjacent to the site entrance) has been cleared internally and will be deconstructed early next year.

3. Safety and Environment

Station Industrial Safety Performance

Over the last three months the station has experienced no significant safety events and maintained a strong industrial safety performance overall throughout the year.

Safety performance during the reporting period remains on plan, Total Recordable Injury Rate (TRIR) sits at 0.

Our working groups continue to meet regularly and drive improvements across a wide variety of topics, which include: working at height, DSEAR, asbestos, building fabric, and confined space.

The site transport working group has been meeting fortnightly and continue with transport upgrades. The next phase of works will resurface the area from the main roundabout to the staff car park and is due to commence in November. A recent benchmarking trip to Hunterston A highlighted many good practices on how we can further improve on traffic management.

The industrial safety team led a small project to enhance the main turnstile and security reception areas. New digital communications screens and notice boards have been erected to help reinforce key safety messages. In October the Safety team supported by Occupational Health utilised this area to launch the Zero Harm Safety Week. This was an opportunity to proactively raise awareness around safety at a time of year when we typically see a rise in incidents. It was also opportunity to launch our refreshed Life Saving Rules and Simple Actions for all staff. There were some fun games and prizes throughout the week, that kept everyone engaged. Local communications on the key insights have been issued.

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, emergent faults in the Irradiated Fuel Dismantling (IFD) Cell resulted in the actual dose being higher than predicted.

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

Radiation Dose to workers (August 2024 - October 2024)		
Planned collective dose	6.0man.mSv	
Actual collective dose	4.9man.mSv	
	Employee	Contract Partner
Total Dose	4.56man.mSv	0.37man.mSv
Average individual dose	0.015mSv	0.002mSv
Highest individual dose	0.641mSv	0.137mSv
Individuals	296	171

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 August 2024 to October 2024.

The site continues to record the leak rate of biodegradable insulation fluid from one of the station electricity supply Transformer cables. If the rate increases to a point where a tracer can be detected, further investigation will be carried out. So far, the leak rate has been too low to effectively use a tracer. SEPA has 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

As the lead defueling station, Hunterston B continues to work closely with the fleet Emergency Preparedness Group as the station looks to optimise our emergency arrangements in line with the risk profile of a defueling site. HNB have recently conducted a

number of desktop exercise and workshop days to trial a set of draft arrangements, these proved to be excellent learning opportunities and have also helped shape the arrangements going forward.

During the period we have completed our second exercise season across five shifts. The additional exercises this year have helped the station train and authorise an additional 15 first aiders across the site and helped boost other roles within our emergency plan.

4. People

There are some changes taking place to the management team. Station Director, Joe Struthers, and Technical and Safety Support Manager (TSSM), Scott Cooley have been successful in securing corporate roles. David Lappin, formally the Transition and Transfer Programme Manager, has taken over as TSSM and a recruitment process is underway for the Station Director's role.

Formal aspirational consultation concluded on Sunday 18th August. This stage of the consultation process required line managers to have a 1-1 conversation and gave employees the chance to share their career aspirations. The next stage of the consultation process which was completed throughout September and October, was for the Management and HR team to complete the best fit selection process. This allows the population of the deconstruction structure to take place with the company will endeavouring to meet the aspirations of employees. When this is completed, this will allow the Independent Review to be completed in November which is carried out by two trade union representative members of the NJC, an independent senior representative from within Nuclear Operations and the Employee Relations Lead for Nuclear to ensure the agreed processes and principles have been followed.

There is the ongoing opportunity for all employees to ask questions which are fed into a live Q&A document allowing everyone to view answers. Understanding this can be a time of change and uncertainty, employees have been reminded of the wellbeing support available.

National Inclusion week took place between the 23rd to 29th September. The theme for this year's National Inclusion Week was 'Impact Matters'. For



EDF, this resonates with our commitment 'We do right by each other', creating an inclusive environment where everyone feels welcome. We took the opportunity to officially launch our slogan here at Hunterston of 'I Can Be Me @HNB' - we want everyone to be able to bring their authentic self to work.



The Conscious Inclusion Champions, supported by Joe Struthers, raised awareness throughout the week from greeting everyone on the way in and sharing the mugs, lanyards and pens with the new slogan. There was also a quiz to take part in as well as the chance to get a selfie. A Diversity and Inclusion session took place in the canteen, which was open to all for people to learn more about what we mean when we say Diversity and Inclusion. In this session there were some meaningful conversations and this was another step in the continued learning on such an important subject.

It was World Mental Health Day on Thursday 10th October and the Mental Health First Aiders organised a 2.5km walk from Hunterston B to the jetty and back. This had a good turnout and promoted more regular movement as one of the important things people can do to help protect their mental health. It also raised awareness of Hunterston's Mental Health First Aiders.



5. Company Update

New documentary shines a light behind the scenes of Heysham 2



Heysham 2 power station is the focal point of “Inside Nuclear”, a new documentary providing an access-all-areas peek into nuclear power generation.

Produced by plant operator, EDF, and hosted by engineer and Channel 5 TV presenter Rob Bell, the documentary offers an in-depth tour of the impressive facility on the Lancashire coast.

As he delves into the intricate processes of nuclear energy generation, Rob explores areas of plant rarely seen by members of the public, meeting skilled engineers along the way and even standing on top of a nuclear reactor.

Throughout the 30-minute film, Rob explores the station's advanced engineering, commitment to safety and its vital role in providing the UK with zero carbon electricity.

Rob Bell said: "I'm very lucky with the places I get to visit and explore in my job. I came away from Heysham 2 power station having learnt lots of interesting things about the engineering, economics and practicalities of its operation.

"Everyone I met was very gracious with their time and candid about their work, they were happy to let us tell the story, and I'm delighted with the result."

New figures show nuclear industry now supports 3,500 jobs in Bristol

New figures show that the nuclear industry now supports 3,500 jobs in Bristol, as the sector expands to support new nuclear construction.

Businesses that have grown to support Hinkley Point C in Somerset are now poised to benefit from proposed developments at Berkeley and Oldbury in Gloucestershire. The projects are needed to give Britain energy security with reliable low carbon electricity, working with wind and solar, to help Britain move away from imported fossil fuels.

A new "Bristol, nuclear city" jobs map has been published showing the extent of the jobs in dozens of businesses involved in engineering, manufacturing, logistics, training and research. Across the South-West, 27,000 jobs are now supported by nuclear – three times more than in 2014.

6. Contacts

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

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For the future of our environment

Hunterston Site Stakeholders Group

SEPA Update- Hunterston B

December 2024

If you would like this document in an accessible format, such as large print, audio recording or braille, please contact SEPA by emailing equalities@sepa.org.uk

Regulation

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

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

We have visited the station once since the last SSG meeting. On 23 October 2024, SEPA attended the site to inspect the improved spreadsheet and process for making SEPA data returns, monitor progress on the refurbishment of the Active Effluent Discharge Line from the Active Effluent Treatment Plant to the siphon seal pit and to receive an update on the station's Transition and Deconstruction projects. No contraventions were identified.

The station applied to SEPA on 31 January 2024 to vary its EASR permit to remove the minimum aqueous discharge flow rate (7m³/s) and tidal window requirements (one hour after high tide to one hour before low tide) whilst keeping the same discharge point. We requested further information from the station, including a short-term release dose assessment to a swimmer during a discharge, which has been provided, and the application has been Duly Made. The application has been sent to Scottish Ministers, Office for Nuclear Regulation and Food Standards Scotland for comment. The application is expected to be determined by 1 August 2026.

Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC)

SEPA continues to monitor the minor leak of non-radioactive biodegradable oil from an oil-filled cable which services a transformer on site to ensure it is having no significant environmental impact. 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 relating to the station's COMAH requirements since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR)

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

Fluorinated Greenhouse Gas Emissions (F-Gas)

There have been no other issues relating to the station's F-Gas usage 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 the station known to have occurred since the last meeting of the SSG at the time of drafting 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 29) covering 2023 has been published and can be obtained from SEPA's website along with previous year's reports. RIFE 29 reports that the total dose for the representative person (most exposed) around the Hunterston site, which includes both Hunterston A and Hunterston B, for 2023 was less than 0.013 millisieverts, which is well below the legal annual dose limit of one 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 2023, 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

14/11/2024



Office for
Nuclear Regulation

ONR Site Report

Nuclear Restoration Services – Hunterston A

ONR Site Report

Nuclear Restoration Services – Hunterston A

Report for period: 1 July–30 September 2024

Authored by: Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: Head of Regulation Decommissioning, Fuel, and Waste

Issue no.: 1

Publication date: October 2024

ONR record ref. no.: 2024/45470

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 of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (www.onr.org.uk/ilc).

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 made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 July 2024–30 September 2024:

- 28–29 August 2024

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 A covered the following:

- Management of operations including control and supervision;
- Staff training, qualifications and experience; and
- Modifications to plant, equipment and safety cases.

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.

Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email contact@onr.gov.uk.

2.2. Other work

Throughout this reporting period, ONR's nominated site safety inspector has held regular telephone meetings with Hunterston A leadership team representatives to maintain situational awareness of matters related to nuclear safety.

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.

During this period, they also held meetings with site representatives to discuss:

- Progress on addressing ongoing regulatory issues;
- Progress on the Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation (SILWE) project;
- Progress on ongoing site investigations; and
- Hunterston A's decommissioning programme.

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.

Matters and events of note during the period were as follows.

- An event has been reported under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) notifying ONR of a worker receiving a cut to their head. ONR remains informed on the site's investigation into this matter.
- During an inspection, it was noted that a contractor (Hugh L S McConnell Ltd) was undertaking work on the reactor roof requiring the application of roof coating system containing substances which can cause occupational asthma. It was determined by the site safety inspector that the contractor was failing in its duties to protect its employees from the substances resulting in an enforcement letter.

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, but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an enforcement notice.

The following licence instruments, enforcement notices and enforcement letters have been issued during the period:

- An enforcement letter has been issued to Hugh L S McConnell Ltd following shortfalls to the respiratory protection of employees. The contractor has complied with the enforcement letter and ONR considers the matter addressed.

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/news/newsletter.

6. Contacts

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Hunterston Site

Stakeholders Group

SEPA Update

Hunterston A

If you would like this document in an accessible format, such as large print, audio recording or braille, please contact SEPA by emailing equalities@sepa.org.uk

Regulation

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

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

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

Site Inspections

One site visit has been undertaken since the last SSG meeting. Updates to ongoing situations are in bold.

SEPA Site Inspection 23-24 October 2024

SEPA attended site to undertake an inspection which primarily focussed on the Wet ILW Retrieval and Encapsulation Plant (WILWREP) with regards to the sampling system put in place to assess potential gaseous discharges during the encapsulation of the acid waste which is currently being retrieved. In addition an inspection was undertaken of site gaseous sampling systems with regards to assessing whether the site is isokinetically sampling. Isokinetic sampling is the widely used industry method of collecting representative samples of particulate matter and gases from the stack. It ensures that the velocity of the sampled gas is the same as the stack gas velocity.

SEPA did not find any non-compliances whilst undertaking the inspections however, requested the site provide some additional information.

SEPA Site Inspection 28th March 2023 – update December 2024

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 10th August, and SEPA is in the process of considering the programme supplied by the site and will respond in due course.

The site has been served with an Information Notice to ensure that the timelines provided by the site to address these matters are adhered to. These timelines are for the provision of information SEPA believes is necessary to ensure current and future compliance at the site.

Update – SEPA have varied the Information Notice originally issued to NRS Hunterston A in January of this year following NRS failure to meet a deadline for provision of information specified within the notice. The variation extends the deadline from 31st October to 28th of November for item 2b and 2c of the Notice only, all other outstanding deadlines remain unaltered.

Permit Variation Applications

Aqueous Discharge Variation Application

NRS applied to SEPA on 28 February 2024 to vary its EASR permit to remove the minimum aqueous discharge flow rate (7m³ /s) and tidal window requirements (one hour after high tide to one hour before low tide) whilst keeping the same discharge point. The further information requested from the station, including a short-term release dose assessment to a swimmer during a discharge, was provided in June 2024, and the application has been deemed Duly Made. The application is expected to be determined by 1 August 2026.

Update - The application was sent to Scottish Ministers, Office for Nuclear Regulation and Food Standards Scotland for comment, and all have come back with no comments. It is planned that the application will go to public consultation early in 2025.

SILWE Discharge/ Site gaseous discharge increase variation application – **update December 2024**

SEPA received an EASR permit variation application from NRS HNA on Monday 21st 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 NRS HNA by ONR and SEPA last year.

Update – Ongoing. Public Consultation now on Citizen Space – and will end on Friday 20th December 2024. Link for consultation is: <https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/radioactive-substances-unit/hunterston-a-variation-application>

Other EASR Regulatory Topics

Regulatory Notice

SEPA served NRS Hunterston A with a Regulatory Notice on 12th November 2024 requiring it to immediately cease use of the onsite laboratory for the purposes of demonstrating compliance with the site EASR permit. SEPA took this decision following the review of NRS internal investigation into shortcomings at the laboratory regarding acceptance into service and use of equipment, failure to follow or have in place adequate processes and procedures to achieve compliance and potential shortfalls in staff training. NRS have taken steps to put in place alternative laboratory arrangements to underpin its demonstration of compliance with the site permit whilst the Regulatory Notice is in effect.

Review of Characterisation of ILW Bunker Waste – **update December 2024**

SEPA received an optioneering report from NRS on 28th 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 NRS with regards to the characterisation of the SAWB waste. The review commenced in December 2022 and SEPA received a final version of the report in June, which was shared with ONR prior to being sent to NRS shortly afterwards.

SEPA, ONR and NRS had a joint meeting to discuss the findings of the report and a way forward on 15th November 2023.

NRS provided SEPA with a high-level scoping document which highlighted work areas required to ensure that an adequate demonstration of BPM is provided for the decisions regarding further characterisation of the bunker wastes.

Update: SEPA received a report outlining Assay Options for Solid Active Waste Bunker Boxes and responded with comments to NRS with regards to this work. SEPA await further engagement in due course.

Other Regulatory Topics

Habits Survey

The Hunterston Habits Survey continues. The survey is being undertaken by the University of Stirling.

Fluorinated Greenhouse Gas Emissions (F-Gas)

No events reported over the period.

Environmental Events

No events were reported over the period.

Radioactivity and Food in 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 29) covering 2023 has been published and can be obtained from SEPA's website along with previous year's reports. RiFE 29 reports that the total dose for

the representative person (most exposed) around the Hunterston site, which includes both Hunterston A and Hunterston B, for 2023 was 0.013 millisieverts, which is well below the legal annual dose limit of one 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 2022, including that from Hunterston A and B, have been published and are available on SEPA's website under "Environment/Environmental data/SPRI".

Melanie Hayes

Radioactive Substances Specialist,

November 2024



NDA Update for Hunterston SSG

December 2024



Contents

1.0 NDA Stakeholder Update December 2024



NDA Stakeholder Update

Please find below a brief update on main points of interest since the last meeting.

Government Update

As previously advised Sir Keir Starmer as the new UK Prime Minister, appointed the Rt Hon Ed Miliband as the Secretary of State for Energy and Net Zero, with his team of Rt Hon Lord Hunt OBE as Minister of State for Energy and Net Zero, Sarah Jones MP as Minister of State for Industry, Kerry McCarty MP as Parliamentary Under Secretary for Climate, Miatta Fahnbulleh MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Energy Consumers and Michael Shanks MP as Parliamentary Under Secretary for Energy.

As part of the running of government the selection of representation for select committees has been underway alongside familiarisation visits for key Ministers and officials into their appointment areas.

Key appointments include local Sellafield MP Josh MacAlister, as Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Nuclear with David Mundell, MP for the area covering Chapelcross, as Vice Chair. The Energy and Net Zero Committee (ESNZ) has also made appointments which include site MPs Josh MacAlister and Julie Minns and there are three MPs with NDA sites located in their constituencies sitting in the Public Accounts (PAC) and ESNZ.

Board updates

Harriet Kemp recently (30th August) joined the NDA board. She has extensive background and experience in HR matters and remuneration matters including working at Compass Plc, Novartis and Pepsi.

Outreach activities

Following a site visit to Sellafield by the new **Energy Minister Lord Hunt** he recorded a short video about his visit which can be watched on the Sellafield Ltd Facebook page.

Engagement priorities for 2024

- We recently held our Stakeholder Conference on September 17/18 in Manchester. We'd like to thank all those that attended and engaged and if you haven't already would encourage you to provide us with feedback via Slido. In due course we'll be putting up videos from the event so check out the NDA linked In page. During the event David Peattie announced that the NDA would be investing an extra £5m over the next five years to support around 20 PhDs. This builds on the current annual spend of £45m in early careers, including apprenticeships, graduates and PhDs.



- As mentioned in previous updates, our independent review into the SSGs is underway. This exercise will provide an opportunity to reflect on the successes of the stakeholder voice in the local community over the last 20 years. It will also allow us to consider how best to address some of the challenges that face us as we think about the future. Our Chairs and Vice-Chairs played a role in helping to draft the scope of the review and they received a short progress update at the SSG Chairs and Vice-Chairs meeting mentioned above.
- We are in the process of developing and designed our next broad **stakeholder survey**. More details will be available in due course.
- As you will be aware preparation is underway for **Strategy V** which we expect to publish in March 2026. Our strategy document is published every 5 years and describes our high-level approach to delivering our mission. Within that we identify several critical enablers essential to the successful delivery of our mission including public and stakeholder engagement. The NDA attended a recent Enablers meeting with West Cumbria stakeholders as part of our engagement process.
- The latest **CPG** took place in the **Scottish Parliament** with the main topic being 'Skills'. Actions included Vice-Convenor (SNP) to introduce motion into Chamber regarding skills gaps. Skills Development Scotland to consider work plan that pulls various activities together. NDA and DESNZ to report back on progress of Scottish Skills Hub. DESNZ to re-visit 'Destination Nuclear' campaign to re-consider where 'decommissioning' is positioned. **Next CPG meeting December 17th** – topic 'Radioactive Waste – dealing with the legacy'.
- We are working closely with the Nuclear Industries Association (NIA) to establish a **Cross-Party Group on the Civil Nuclear Industry in the Welsh Parliament**. The aim is to have first meeting in November 2024.

Publications, public service and policy updates

- We have now published our **Annual Report** which has also been laid in Parliament. The Annual Report sets out the progress made against our mission, from safely decommissioning existing sites to preparing to take responsibility for more, while managing radioactive waste for our existing programme and new nuclear
- The previous Government and devolved administrations published an updated policy for nuclear decommissioning and managing radioactive substances, including radioactive waste. Publication follows consultation undertaken last year on the proposals. [Read details of the policy here.](#)
- The policy included an expectation that the NDA should explore with stakeholders the potential for optimising the LLW Repository to take suitable, less hazardous intermediate level waste. Engagement with the local community and relevant stakeholders will be an important part of this work, alongside further technical evaluation. If appropriate, the project would proceed to creation of a final business case and seek necessary approvals. Nuclear Waste



Services will be working with relevant key stakeholders, including the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group, to inform its thinking

- As previously advised we expect the Scottish Government to start its review into its policy for higher activity radioactive waste (HAW). The policy framework is set out in a 2011 Policy and the 2016 Implementation Strategy. The anticipated timeline is: Commence review – late 2024, hold a public consultation – early 2025, issue a revised Policy document – late 2025.
- The new nuclear industry skills “roadmap” has been launched aimed at attracting and retaining the sector’s workforce of the future. The National Nuclear Strategic Plan for Skills (Skills Plan) is based on sector collaboration, investment in training, leadership development and improving diversity. The NDA is a signatory to the charter, which was signed at Westminster, that underpins the goal to double the number of new apprenticeships by 2026 and recruit 40,000 new jobs by 2030.
- The **NAO value for money study** into whether Sellafield and the NDA are taking a sustainable approach to decommissioning, leading to permanent hazard reduction has now been published and can be found via the following link [Decommissioning Sellafield: managing risks from the nuclear legacy - NAO report](#). The PAC is likely to consider the NAO report sometime before April.
- We have recently published our **Nuclear Heritage Strategy**. The NDA are tasked with decommissioning the UK’s legacy nuclear sites, sites and facilities which have been at the heart of delivering nuclear benefits for the UK, including national defence programmes and supplying safe, low-carbon power, for decades. The heritage strategy enables the NDA group to identify and preserve the tangible and intangible assets, objects, and memories of the nuclear industry, the people who worked in it, and the communities that supported it.
- NDA has published its **Socio Economic Report for 2023/24**, detailing a record investment in projects across the UK - [NDA group investing in our communities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Mission delivery

- The NDA recently launched its brand-new, specialised cyber facility to accelerate collaboration and innovation across nuclear operators and the supply chain, enhancing the collective ability to successfully defend against cyber threats. The Group Cyberspace Collaboration Centre (GCCC) provides a space for experts in cyber, digital and security to come together and share knowledge and learning on how best to defend against evolving threats. The centre is a multi-functional space for collaborating, brainstorming, workshops, talks, learning and tutorials, cyber exercising, incident management and more. It aims to encourage our cyber, digital and security experts to think and work differently, with our shared future foremost in mind.



- Future plans for our Chapelcross site in Dumfries and Galloway were unveiled in August, with a long-term vision to develop the site into a Green Energy Hub: [Chapelcross Masterplan - CX Project](#)
- NWS and the NDA have established an innovative partnership for the enhanced management of asbestos waste, awarding two contracts to establish the **Asbestos Innovation Partnership**. This partnership will work with the NDA group and the supply chain, to test and develop new solutions to treat asbestos waste, helping to deliver efficiencies and enable more effective waste management.
- A collaboration between NRS, NTS and NWS has achieved a significant milestone by transporting the final waste from the Treated Radwaste Store (TRS) in Winfrith to the LLWR for disposal. The completion of this project ahead of schedule means that the need for **waste storage at Winfrith** which closed in 1990 has been removed, leaving the site ready for decommissioning.
- NDA and NRS have underlined their commitment to Government to, where possible, safely accelerate **land release at Harwell** site to maximise the economic impact of decommissioning. We have identified clear areas of strategic importance and will work together with the Harwell Campus joint venture on developing options for those areas. We are at early stages and still progressing the current release of plots, aiming to have a broader plan for land release this autumn.
- The hearing for the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) charges against Sellafield Ltd under the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 took place on 20 June at Westminster Magistrates Court in London. Sellafield Ltd entered a guilty plea to all charges. The sentence was pronounced on 2nd October with a fine of £332,500.00 being imposed.

Thank you for taking the time to read our update. If you have any questions, please feed-back through the Secretariat.



Nuclear
Decommissioning
Authority