



Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group

Venue: Canalside, Bridgwater

Friday 26th January 2024 commencing at 0930 hours.

Additional paperwork for this and previous meetings can be found on the website:
https://nrsssg.com/event/1410_1410/.

AGENDA

All reports & presentations will be circulated with Agenda 2 weeks before meeting, members are requested to submit questions before the meeting, this is to allow responses to be made on day, questions received during meeting may be responded to in writing after the meeting.

The chair has asked that presenters use their speaking time to highlight important points only, this is to allow time for Plenary Panel Session.

1. 09.30 Welcome from the Chair - Cllr Leigh Redman.
To include introductions of new staff.
2. 09:35 Apologies for absence.
3. 09.40 Open public Q&A session - Subject to Chairs discretion
4. 09.50 Minutes of the Meeting held 30th June 2023.
Accuracy & Matters arising – see separate sheet.
5. 09.55 Site Director's report – Hinkley Point A Site, Steve Booth
6. 10.10 Station Director's report - Hinkley Point B Station, Mike Davies
7. 10.25 NRS corporate report – Bill Hamilton
8. 10.35 Plenary Panel session:

AGR Transition, from generation to decommissioning.

Panel:- Kirandeep Basra-Steele (NRS) Mike Davies (EDF) Sohail Ashraf (NRS Future Missions)

Objective:- To explain the transition process of the AGR stations from EDF to NDA and NRS, and allow questions to the panel.

9. 11.20 The NDA, not in attendance-report submitted.
10. 11.30 Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) report Hinkley A&B - Paul Jenson & Steve Saunders
11. 11.45 Environment Agency Report Hinkley A&B - Alister Wintle
12. 12.00 Chair's report and to note items circulated between meetings.
13. 12:15 To note items circulated between meetings.
 - Gabion Wall Briefing
 - ONR – Hinkley A report (1st April – 30th June 2023)
 - ONR – Hinkley B report (1st April – 30th June 2023)
 - EA - Public consultation on two applications to change (vary) Hinkley Point C's construction site water discharge activity permits.
 - NDA – 2024-2027 Draft Business Plan
 - NRS – Recruitment plan
 - NRS – Rebranding email
 - NWS Announcement - Allerdale Community Partnership
 - NDA – Annual Reports and Accounts March 2023.
14. 12.20 Any other business

If you have any queries relating to the SSG meeting or wish to send any pre submitted questions, please use the following email address: Hinkley.ssg@magnoxsites.com

If you are sending a pre submitted question, please make it clear in your email which regulator the question is for, so we can ensure it is passed to the relevant team.

The next Hinkley Point SSG's meeting date Friday 28th June 2024.

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD AT THE CANALSIDE, BRIDGWATER ON FRIDAY 30 JUNE 2023

- Cllr Leigh Redman, Chair of the Group, welcomed all those present to the meeting. The Chair made reference to the reports circulated and asked that members make an effort to read these before the meeting sending questions if appropriate to ensure a full response at the meeting.
- Ms Basra-Steele reported on activities at the Hinkley Point A Site. She said that high standards of safety performance had been maintained but there had been an accident recently involving a tractor hitch which had resulted in an individual breaking a finger.
- Ms Basra-Steele said that good progress had been maintained with the installation and commissioning of waste processing facilities and the retrieval and processing of wastes.
- Mr Mike Davies reported on activities at the Hinkley Point B station. He said that high safety standards had been maintained and good progress was being made with the reduction of hazards on the station site as hazardous materials which had been needed during generation could now be removed from the site.
- Mr Davies reported on progress with the defueling of Reactor 4 and said that to date 95 of the 308 irradiated fuel assemblies within the reactor had been removed. A post generation outage of Reactor 3 had been completed recently.
- EDF and Magnox were working together to prepare for the transfer of B Station to Magnox when EDF had completed defueling of the reactors.
- Mr Bill Hamilton reported on Magnox corporate issues. He gave information on current thinking in relation to re-branding of the company which was likely to take place before the next meeting. He also spoke about a wish for the new branding to form part of a ‘big conversation’ to help understand and promote the activities of Magnox.
- Members received reports from the NDA, the Office for Nuclear Regulation, and the Environment Agency.
- Cllr Redman reported on his recent activities on behalf of the Group. It was agreed that the frequency of meetings of this Group should be changed from three per year to two per year. This would be kept under review and special meetings could be convened as necessary to deal with specific topics.

HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
Minutes of the meeting held at the Canalside, Bridgwater on 30 June 2023

PRESENT

Cllr L Redman (Chair)	-	Bridgwater Town Council
Ms K Basra-Steele	-	Site Director, Hinkley Point A
Mr M Davies	-	Station Director, Hinkley Point B

Elected Members

Cllr P Crossland	-	Fiddington Parish Council
Cllr H Davies	-	Somerset Council
Cllr Ms P Everett	-	Nether Stowey Parish Council
Cllr Ms S Goss	-	Stogursey Parish Council
Cllr K Hewson	-	Bawdrip Parish Council
Cllr M Hodson	-	Spaxton Parish Council
Mr A Jeffery	-	Bridgwater & W Somerset Green Party
Mr M Laver	-	West Hinkley Action Group
Cllr C Morgan	-	Stogursey Parish Council
Cllr Ms R Perrett	-	Otterhampton Parish Council
Cllr M Phillips	-	Wembdon Parish Council
Ms M Smith	-	West Somerset Green Forum

Co-opted Members

Mr M Brown (Vice Chairman)

Appointed Members

Mr S Napper	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr P Jenneson	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Mr S Saunders	-	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Dr P Mountford-Lister	-	Environment Agency
Mr A Wintle	-	Environment Agency
Mr P Stevens	-	Somerset Council
Ms E Maxwell	-	Somerset Council
Mr C Jones	-	Somerset Council
Mr J Burton	-	Somerset Council

EDF

Mr D Uminski
Mr D Stokes
Mr M Pardo
Mrs H Dyer
Mr G Pearn

Magnox

Mr B Hamilton
Mr M Bell

Mrs E Vaughan-Lewis

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr M J Davis

-

Secretary

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1 Cllr Redman welcomed all those present to this meeting of the Site Stakeholder Group for Hinkley Point A Site and Hinkley Point B Power Station.
- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Allen, Cllr B Eyley, Cllr M Rigby, Mr J Mason, Ms L Martin, Ms V Thomas, Mr B Nozad, Mr A Debenham, Ms N Dawson, Ms T Braithwaite and Mr A Davies.

OPEN PUBLIC Q&A SESSION

- 3 Cllr Redman invited questions from members of the public. No questions were raised.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a) Accuracy

- 4 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 24 February 2023 were approved as a correct record.

(b) Matters Arising

- 5 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A SITE

- 6 Ms Basra-Steele reported on activities at the A Site since the previous meeting, drawing particular attention to the following:
 - (i) Safety performance standards remained high but there had been one accident involving a tractor hitch which had resulted in a broken finger. This had followed a trend within Magnox for increased numbers of accidents involving injuries to hands.
 - (ii) Good progress had been made with actions following the receipt of an enforcement letter from ONR which related to events reported at the previous meeting regarding the use of protective equipment by contractor's personnel working within an asbestos enclosure. It was anticipated that these actions would be completed shortly.

- (iii) The Environment Agency had been informed of anomalies in arrangements for the maintenance of gaseous discharge monitoring equipment.
 - (iv) Good progress had been made with the installation and commissioning of waste processing facilities including commissioning of the modular intermediate level waste encapsulation plant and installation of settling tank retrieval equipment. Good progress had also been made with the retrieval of fuel element debris waste from the wet vaults. Proposals for the retrieval of FED waste from the dry vaults were currently awaiting approval. Asbestos remediation work has entered its final year, of the multi-year project.
- 7 Mr Jeffrey drew attention to what he had perceived to be deterioration of the gabion wall around the Site. Ms Basra-Steele said that the gabion wall formed part of a flood defence system and was not a seawall, and she described the work which was being done in this area. At the suggestion of Cllr Redman, she agreed to provide a note on the work on gabion wall flood defence for circulation to members.

STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B

- 8 Mr Davies reported on activities and performance at Hinkley Point B since the previous meeting of this Group, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) High standards of safety performance had been maintained. The individual injured as a result of the accident reported at the previous meeting had made a full recovery.
 - (ii) Hazard reduction work following the end of generation continued with the removal of hazardous materials from the site.
 - (iii) As at the date of this meeting, 95 of the 308 irradiated fuel assemblies within Reactor 4 had been removed.
 - (iv) A two-month long post generation outage of reactor 3 had been completed.
 - (v) Discussions were taking place with Magnox in preparation for the transfer of ownership of the station at the end of defueling. Staff were undertaking a series of visits to the Oldbury site in order to understand the Magnox approach to deconstruction.
 - (vi) The annual demonstration exercise of safety and security arrangements had been completed satisfactorily.

- 9 In reply to a question from Mr Jeffery about current requirements for cooling water, Mr Davies said that two CW pumps were now in service when during operation four pumps had been used. In reply to a further question from Mr Jeffery, at Cllr Redman's suggestion, Mr Davies undertook to provide information for members on the quantity of fish caught on the station's band screens and the arrangements for disposal of that fish.

MAGNOX CORPORATE REPORT

- 10 Mr Hamilton reported on Magnox corporate issues. He drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) Referring to the trend in the number of accidents involving hand injuries within the company, he said he hoped that an advertising campaign using disruptive messaging would have positive results.
 - (ii) Re-branding of the company was necessary in view of the changes in the scope and scale of its activities. Mr Hamilton gave examples of names and logos which were currently being considered and said it was anticipated that the new name would be introduced before the next meeting of this Group.
 - (iii) Arrangements were being developed for a series of "conversations" with local communities to achieve an understanding of local views in relation to the future of Magnox sites after the completion of decommissioning. This dialogue would continue for some years; initially an independent consultancy would be asked to carry out some polling to gain a basis of understanding of public views.
 - (iv) Efforts were being made to ensure that all of the funding available for socio-economic projects was committed at an early stage this year.
- 11 In reply to a comment from Cllr Ms Goss, Mr Hamilton said that the choice of individuals to be involved in polling in relation to the future use of the Magnox sites would be a matter for the consultants to determine. In this the consultants would be independent of the company, but they were fully aware of the importance of seeking views which were truly representative of local communities. Ms Smith said that there should be a legal requirement in relation to returning sites to a particular state; Mr Hamilton said that this was not the case.

UPDATE FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY

- 13 Mr Napper provided an update on current activities within the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, drawing attention to the following:

- (i) A national stakeholder event would be held in Cumbria next year, but a series of regional events would take place this year.
 - (ii) NDA was involved with various overseas organisations in relation to learning from experience and adopting best practice.
 - (iii) NDA recognised that its socio-economic funding of particular projects tended to serve as a lead for other organisations to provide similar support.
 - (iv) Examples of innovation within the NDA's activities included increased use of robotics for handling radioactive materials and the use of drones for carrying out inspections on high buildings.
- 14 Mr Napper gave details of the various divisions within the NDA in response to a question from Mr Jeffery. Cllr Redman suggested that details could be circulated in a note to members.

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORT

- 15 Mr Jenneson and Mr Saunders reported on the ONR's inspection and regulatory activities. Reports from ONR inspectors had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Mr Jenneson and Mr Saunders drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) Mr Jenneson confirmed that adequate progress was being made with actions following from the issue of an enforcement letter to Hinkley Point A in relation to the use of protective equipment by a contractor's employees. He was confident that actions being taken would improve arrangements on future projects.
 - (ii) Mr Jenneson was satisfied with the way in which work on the Hinkley Point A gabion wall flood defences was being handled.
 - (iii) Potential changes in the programme of SSG meeting dates might mean that up to date reports from ONR were not available at the time of meetings. Reports were however available on the website.
 - (iv) Inspections undertaken by ONR inspectors on the sites had given satisfactory results.
 - (v) Emergency plans would be amended to reflect the fact that since the B Station reactors were now shut down there was no longer a requirement for Potassium Iodate tablets to be issued or taken.

- 16 Mr Stevens reported on actions being taken by Somerset Council in relation to the determination of the detailed emergency planning zone and the amendment of the off-site plan.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT

- 17 Mr Wintle and Dr Mountford-Lister reported on the Environment Agency's monitoring and regulatory activities in relation to Hinkley Point A Site and B Station. A report on those activities had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. It was noted that inspections had been carried out on both sites with no instances of non-compliance.

CHAIR'S REPORT

- 18 Cllr Redman reported on his activities as Chair of the group.
- 19 In relation to the national consultation on radioactive waste management, Cllr Redman and Mr Brown had considered whether a special meeting might be convened in order to give a response from this Group. It had been felt that there was insufficient response from members to make this worthwhile and Cllr Redman and Mr Brown had submitted individual responses.
- 20 Cllr Redman outlined proposals for changes in the format of these meetings, ensuring that papers were circulated well in advance of meetings, giving members the opportunity to raise by email questions which could then be answered at the meetings. He also intended to introduce an arrangement for a topic to be chosen for each meeting for general discussion. He proposed that the subject for the next meeting should be 'AGR Transition from generation to decommissioning.'
- 21 Cllr Redman proposed that the frequency of meetings of this Group should change from three per year to two per year, with meetings in January and June. In view of the general support for this proposal he agreed that the next meeting should be held in January 2024 with members having the opportunity to review the frequency of meetings. Mr Brown pointed out that it would remain the case that special meetings could be convened for discussion of particular topics if necessary.

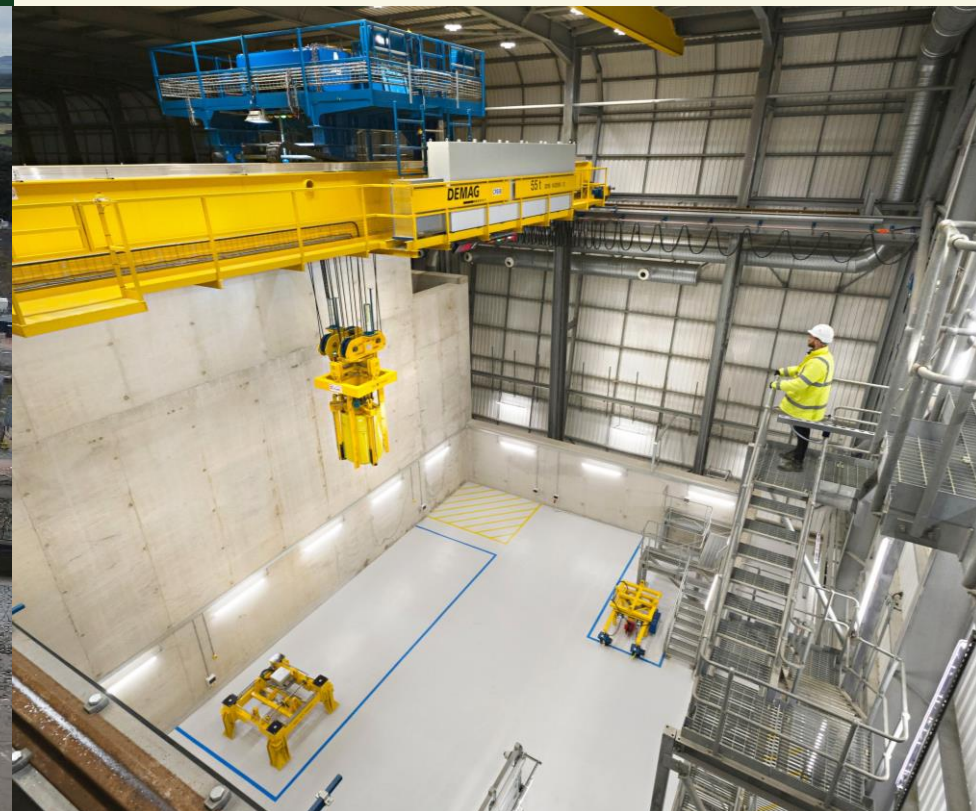
OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 22 Mr Stevens said that the calendar which gave local residents information on emergency arrangements at Hinkley Point would be issued in September

DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 23 It was noted that the date of the next meeting of this Group would be confirmed in due course.

Site Stakeholder Group



26/01/24

Hinkley Point A



NRS
Nuclear Restoration
Services

Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS)

We are responsible for the delivery of value for money decommissioning and restoration of nuclear sites, ensuring all our futures are safe, secure and sustainable.

Our focus areas:

- Deliver
- Transform
- Innovate
- Grow

For all our futures



A message to get behind



Successes & look ahead

Enduring Culture Programme

- Safe & Secure Induction Pilot complete
- Psychological Safety / Undertaking work training complete
- Phase 2, rolling programme tbd, incorporating output from Culture Pulse Survey

Hinkley School

- New cohort of apprentices, including cross-site A&B Maintenance Technicians; 2 apprentices appointed to staff

Delivery

- Fill House Retrievals installation completed
- Asbestos Remediation Project Boiler Houses R1B Stage 3 Clearance completed; Project completion summer 2024
- Pre-Conditioning Facility installation completed
- Fuel Element Debris retrieval target (9.5te) achieved
- Dry Vault Retrieval Project enablers progressing
- No planning applications to discuss

Areas for improvement

- TU Safety Rep resignations
- RIDDOR – Kitchen assistant – Burn to forearm
- ONR Enforcement Letter – Altrad operative found asleep
- EA RASCAR – CCS 3+4: Isokinetic sampler; Annual bulk (aqueous)

Safety, Security & Environment



Safety Performance:

- Days Away Case Rate = 0.29 (Burn to arm, Oct 2023) / Total Reportable Incident Rate = 0.58 (Broken index finger, Feb 2023)
- Key safety and compliance indicators typically green. Independent Site Inspector ratings for the site are either green or improved in reporting period in almost all areas
Audit and Inspections – no major findings, with improvement opportunities identified.
- Resignation of TU Safety Representatives has identified improvements in partnership working and employee engagement. Independent Culture Pulse Survey conducted, awaiting findings.

Significant Events:

- Hot water burn to forearm of Kitchen Assistant leading to a RIDDOR as over 7 days absence
- Operative found asleep whilst carrying out role of 'outside guardian', as required by fire risk assessment
- Radioactivity identified within sludge removed from site demineralised water tank and subsequent discharge

Regulatory issues

Open actions:

- ONR Enforcement Letter: CDM 2015 Compliance shortfalls, Operative found asleep
- ONR Level 4: LC11 shortfalls in site communication equipment
- ONR-CNSS: Categorisation and classification of SySSCs
- EA CCS C3 and C4s: Isokinetic Sampler – weaknesses in maintenance arrangements

Closed during period:

- ONR Enforcement Letter [LC26] – issue closed
- ONR Fire inspection – all actions closed
- EA CCS4s: Annual Bulk (aqueous discharge) laboratory error requiring re-analysis – all actions closed
- EA formal request for information: radioactivity identified within sludge removed from site demineralised water tank and subsequent discharge – responded, awaiting RASCAR
- Exercise EXCALIBUR: 'adequate' observed security exercise, including participation from Police, Ambulance and CBRN
- Vulnerability Assessment and Site Security Plan – issued



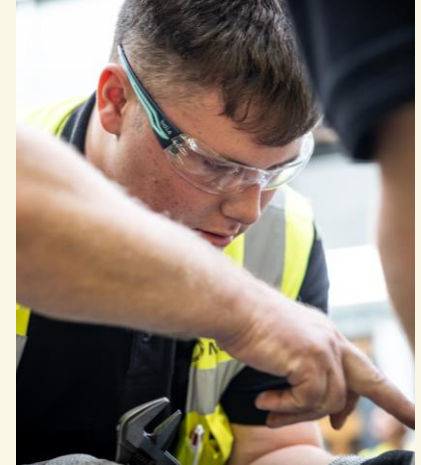
People

- **Recruitment and Retention**

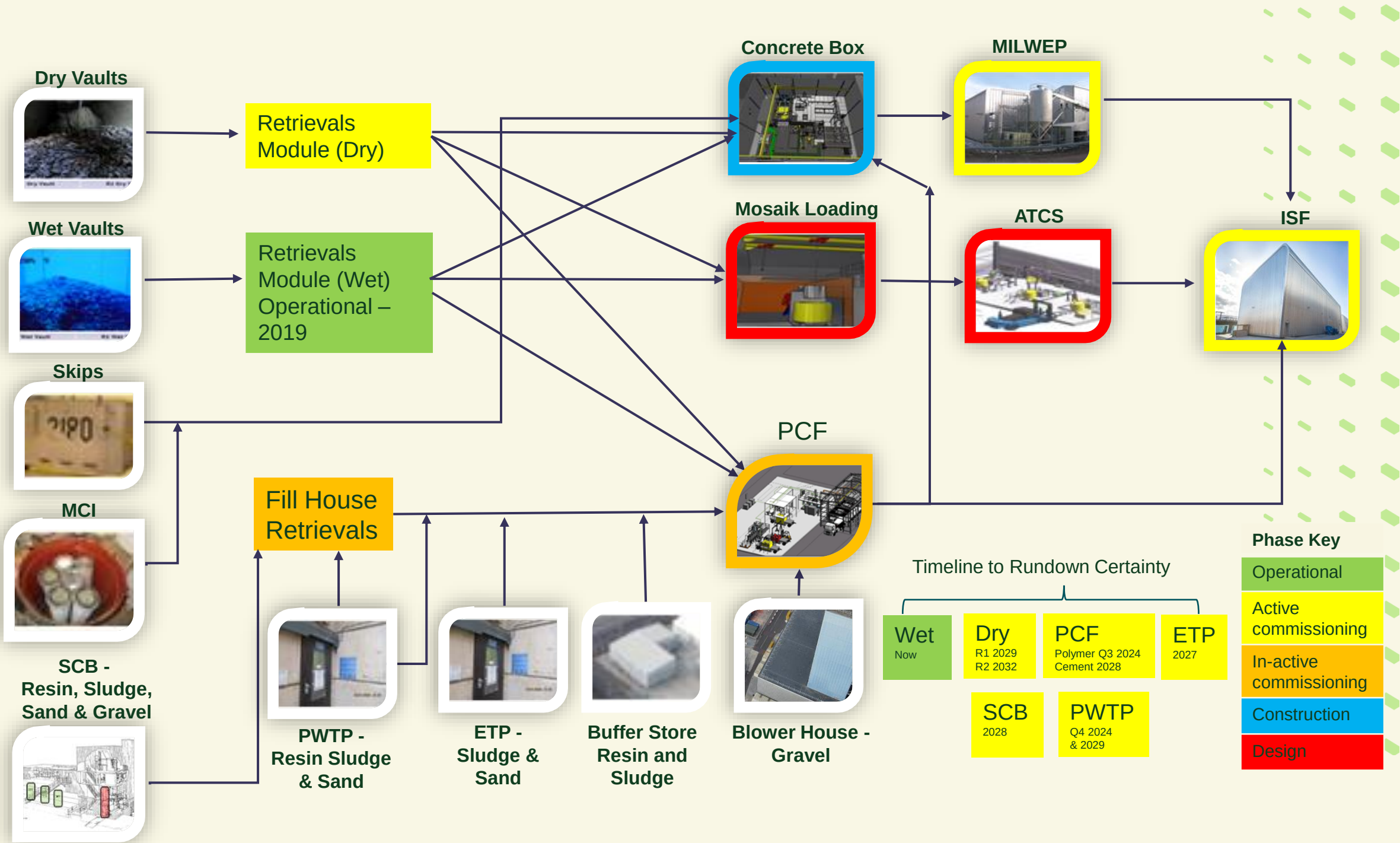
- 'Hinkley A School' continuing to invest in existing staff and local community to address local and national skills shortages
- 13 locally recruited operators and radiological protection technician trainees in post and learning new skills
- 6 locally recruited engineer grade trainees in post with development plans
- Supporting national skills shortage, by training radiological protection technicians for other NRS Sites

- **Apprentices & STEM:**

- New cohort of apprentices started in September, including HPA/B maintenance tech roles
- Total number of apprentices now 14, with new levels of apprentices in position
- 2 MOET graduates settling into their new staff positions



Hinkley A Intermediate Level Waste Journey



Hinkley Targets 2024/25

People Plan

Enduring culture programme

Fill House Retrievals:
Ready to commence
active commissioning

Pre-Conditioning
Facility:
Complete installation

Asbestos
Remediation:
R1B Stage 3
Clearance,
Clear 7000m²

Dry Vault Retrieval:
Full Business Case
submitted to BEIS

Fuel Element Debris:
ILW Retrieval 9.5Te

Fire system:
Replace obsolete
detection system (part
1)

Dry Vault Enablers:
ADF & Skip store
decabbling

MAETP:
Ready to commence
active commissioning

Lower Activity Waste:
8 shipments / 6m³
legacy waste

- Site C&M entry date moved to November 2040.
- Critical path through Dry Vaults, with all waste projects as sub-critical activities
- Commercially significant activities associated with Dry Vault Enablers



NRS soc-ec funding remains at

£1,020,035 annually

£956,179 has been committed

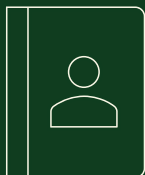
£72,000 Good Neighbour allocated with

£34,641 remaining

£2,850 left - Hinkley A Good Neighbour funding

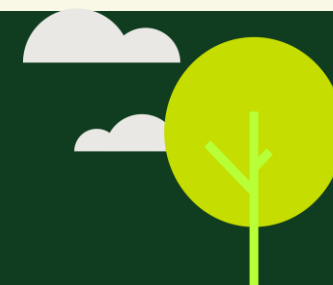
6 Hinkley A funding requests totalling:

£51,900



For further information please contact:

- Good Neighbour applications for Hinkley A email: sharon.fry@magnoxsites.com
- Applications over £2,000: email: Haf.e.morris@magnoxsites.com



2023 Site Charity: £27,600 raised for St Margaret's Hospice Care





Hinkley A applications 2023-24:



Middlezoy Rovers



Wembdon FC



For further information go to: [NRS working with our communities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nrs-working-with-our-communities)

- Middlezoy Rovers FC **£1,500** - towards safety fencing
- Wembdon FC **£800** – Kit for under 7's team
- Seed Sedgemoor **£850** – purchase of reusable festoon lighting for the event
- Somerset Education Business Partnership (EBP) £48,750
- Several other projects currently in process



Any questions?



Hinkley Point B Site Stakeholder Group Report 26 January 2024

Mike Davies, Hinkley Point B Station Director

1. Station issues



Welcome to the EDF Hinkley Point B SSG report. As ever it's a pleasure to share what is happening at the station with the community, whose input we value so much.

We are making good progress with defueling, and at the timing of writing this report, we had defueled 62% of reactor 4. A total of 193 irradiated fuel assemblies (IFA) out of 308 have been removed from the reactor, and all vacant fuel channels have been loaded with plug units (the top section of a fuel stringer without the fuel elements attached). We have just started a five-week long defueling outage where we are undertaking planned maintenance activities to the fuelling machine and related fuel route plant. We plan to finish removing the fuel in reactor 4 during April / May of this year, and then our focus will turn to defueling reactor 3. Hinkley Point B is due to transfer to Nuclear Restoration Services (formerly Magnox) in 2026 for long term decommissioning.

Following our first public consultation on the decommissioning strategy in autumn 2022, we have been undertaking a series of studies to provide greater clarity on different elements of the decommissioning proposals to enable further information to be available at a second consultation. This consultation will run for about six weeks in the spring, include two public consultation drop-in events, an online virtual exhibition and numerous methods for providing feedback on the proposals. Following this, EDF will examine all feedback to consider whether changes to the decommissioning proposals may be necessary and aim for submission of our application for consent to decommission Hinkley Point B under the Nuclear Reactor (Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning) Regulations in late summer 2024. This delay still provides plenty of time for consent to be granted to commence decommissioning by the ONR, prior to the start of decommissioning on the site following the completion of defueling.

Collaborative work with Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) is ongoing across decommissioning planning at Hinkley Point B, with particular focus on decommissioning waste facilities. It is anticipated that any planning applications required for waste facilities would not come forward until 2025 at the earliest.

In November, the station received an assessment from the Environment Agency (EA) relating to future project proposals for a Decommissioning Waste Processing Facility (DWPF). The findings and actions, focused on demonstration of Best Available Techniques (BAT), and training and consultation with Station Radioactive Waste Advisors (RWA). The station has worked closely with the EA Site Inspector and has completed the first two actions, with the remaining two being on target for their deadlines in early 2024. The learning from this assessment is being embedded across other decommissioning projects, as the station develops its detailed plans for the decommissioning stages following defueling.

2. Safety issues

We measure our safety performance against top tier indicators, and I am pleased to report it is now over 17 years since we experienced a nuclear reportable event. This safety performance is comparable to some of the best performing nuclear power plants in the world, and we will ensure we maintain this focus and these high standards as we continue our defueling journey.

Our industrial safety performance continues to be one of the best in the EDF fleet. In the past four years, there has been one lost time incident to a *Team Hinkley* member, and even though this is still one too many, we do everything we can to ensure that people leave work at the end of the working day in the same state as they arrived. We set ourselves very high safety standards, and we are also aware of the dangers complacency brings, so we are regularly reminding and reinforcing safety expectations with our staff. Since the last SSG meeting, there have been three first aid injuries - two of a minor nature, and one involving an individual who needed offsite treatment after sustaining a hand injury from a chisel. After being treated at hospital, the individual was discharged and returned to work.

In terms of environmental safety, it is now over two years since our last top tier reportable environment event.

As part of EDF's Zero Harm Week back in October, Hinkley Point B organised and arranged a 'Safety Day' at the site. The event focused on the themes of conventional safety, fire safety, road safety, and health and wellbeing, and proved very popular with both staff and contract partners.

Last February we reported that during an internal evaluation of fire safety in 2022, we identified some gaps in our charge hall area regarding fire detection and alarms, which did not meet the compliance standards. Following the discovery of this anomaly, we undertook a comprehensive assessment with a team of independent specialists, and started to implement a programme of improvement works to rectify this position. I am pleased to confirm all of this work has now been successfully completed.

Since our June meeting, there have been two ambulances called to the site for individuals who have been taken ill at the workplace. I am pleased to report both have made full recoveries and have since returned to work. Avon & Somerset Police and Devon & Somerset Fire Service have not attended the site during the period.

3. Station Visits

In September, I had the pleasure of welcoming Andy Munro, Future Missions Director for Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) and Kirandeep Basra-Steele, Hinkley Point A's Closure Director to the site. After meeting with members of the Station Executive Team, Andy and Kirandeep took part in a site tour, before holding a special question and answer session with line managers in the station canteen.

Simone Rossi, EDF's Chief Executive Officer and Mark Hartley, Managing Director for EDF Nuclear Operations also visited the power station in September. Simone and Mark were given an update on our defueling progress, before meeting with *Team Hinkley* members who have been involved with site initiatives and projects. In a separate visit in the same month, Theo Leggett, one of the BBC's most high profile journalists, visited Hinkley Point B. Theo saw at first hand the defueling work we are carrying out, and recorded interviews with staff for

television and radio broadcast. I also welcomed Anthony Mangnall, MP for Devon and Totnes, to the site during the reporting period, as part of a mission to find out more about nuclear power.

Over 300 persons attended two special 'family days' we held in the autumn at the power station. Following a tour of the site, family members enjoyed the refreshments on offer and a game of *Ping Pong Pants*. There was also an opportunity to see at first hand one of our fire appliances, some of our CNC vehicles and equipment, and one of our fuel flask transporters. This was the second consecutive year we had opened our doors to our families, and it always fills me with a sense of pride to do so.

4. Environmental Update

Our hazard reduction programme has continued and at the end of 2023, we removed Hydrazine and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) fire foams from the site. The removal of Hydrazine is a key milestone for the station, as we continually work towards becoming a non-COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations) site.

As per the normal company process, all events of environmental interest are recorded and trended to determine the potential for continually improving our operational activities. This includes actions from Environment Agency (EA) inspections and reports that have occurred since the last SSG.

In May 2023, we identified a numerical anomaly in an annual report, which we reported to the EA as soon as it was discovered. We subsequently completed a full root cause investigation to prevent potential reoccurrence, and the investigation concluded latent errors in a database and human factors within the review process were contributory causes. These gaps have now been addressed.

5. Emergency Arrangements

On 22 June, the station successfully demonstrated its Level 1 exercise (*BLACK*). This was a combined security and safety exercise in collaboration with the Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC), and observed by both nuclear safety and security regulators. As always with these types of exercises, some learning opportunities were identified, and the exercise was deemed an 'adequate' demonstration of our emergency arrangements with a number of positive aspects highlighted.

Additionally, the station also successfully tested the EDF plan for incidents involving transport materials offsite on 20 September. Again good learning was achieved by both station staff and the supporting emergency services, and the testing of transport arrangements will figure more prominently in future station exercises.

Both on-site and off-site emergency plans were reissued on 22 November, following Somerset Council's redetermination of the DEPZ (Detailed Emergency Planning Zone). As outlined in my last report back in June, the DEPZ has changed and is now redefined as a Public Information Zone (PIZ). The zone has reduced to 800m around the Hinkley Point B site. Future changes will be determined in line with the regulations and the risk extent at the time due to operational activities (e.g., Hinkley Point B completing defueling, Hinkley Point C commissioning activities and the arrival of fuel). There is no clear timeline for these changes; however, discussions are ongoing between the relevant parties and the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR).

Planning for the 2024 exercise season is well underway, with all five-shift exercises planned to be completed by mid-March. Our Level 1 demonstration will take place on 18 July and our counter terrorism (CT) demonstration on 24 April. A Level 2 exercise demonstrating our off-site arrangements will take place on 10 September.

6. Defueling Statistics

- 66 spent fuel flasks were dispatched to Sellafield (100 were dispatched in total throughout 2023)
- Between 3 June 2023 and 31 December 2023, 116 irradiated fuel assemblies (IFAs) have been removed from reactor 4. At the time of writing, in total 193 IFAs (62%) out of 308 have been removed from reactor 4

7. Staff

- 453 EDF employees
- 26 agency staff
- 200 full-time contract staff

8. Company News

Hunterston B achieves key defueling milestone

Back in September colleagues at our sister station, Hunterston B, achieved a key milestone – the completion of defueling its first reactor (reactor 3). This milestone, which was achieved in 16 months, on time and on budget, also marks the first of a kind for our AGR fleet.

Dungeness B commenced defueling in May

Last year defueling started at Dungeness B, in an exciting new chapter for the Kent power station. This was a key milestone in the company's Nuclear Decommissioning programme.

9. Community News

Sponsorship and Donations

EDF continues to support local charities and organisations. Since the last meeting, local beneficiaries have included:

- > Bridgwater Flower Show (a donation to cover venue hire costs)
- > Macmillan Cancer Support (a donation towards staff fundraising activities)
- > Bridgwater Area Cycling Campaign (a donation towards safety equipment)
- > Bridgwater & Albion RFC Youth Section (a donation to purchase training kits for the U13 youth team)

We also continue to print the following monthly community newsletters: Stogursey News, The Stockland Gatepost, and Fiddington News.

In the past 15 years, Hinkley Point B's Sponsorship and Donations Committee has supported over 400 requests from local charities and community groups.

Charities, community and non-for profit groups who wish to apply for support from Hinkley Point B's Sponsorship and Donations groups should contact Dave Stokes at dave.stokes@edf-energy.com

Charity Partnership

EDF's four-year charity partnership with Prostate Cancer UK (PCUK) ended at the end of December, and even though we are still waiting for the exact final figures to be confirmed, I am pleased to report station staff and contract partners have raised well over £50,000 for the popular charity. This money has been raised through a variety of fundraising activities, including sponsored events, wing walks, cake sales, sweepstakes, head shaves, raffles, marathons, family day events, to name just a few. At the end of November, EDF collectively had raised £823,189 since the charity partnership first began back in January 2020, including £200,000 of match funding.

I was fortunate to be invited to a special company end of charity partnership event with PCUK in London in September. We were joined by charity ambassador and TV presenter and adventurer, Rob Bell, who spoke about his family's experience when his dad was diagnosed with prostate cancer and how vital our fundraising has been to promoting the awareness of the disease. This was echoed by Prostate Cancer UK's Director of Communications, Ali Day, who said, in no uncertain terms, that our fundraising has helped to bring about change including MRI scans which are now part of every man's prostate cancer diagnosis journey and a future screening programme. I am very proud of the contribution both Hinkley Point B and EDF has made to Prostate Cancer UK.

As one charity partnership ends another begins, and at the start of January EDF launched a new three-year collaboration with The Alzheimer's Society. The charity is committed to ending the devastation caused by dementia, providing help and hope to those living with the condition, and here at Hinkley Point B, we can't wait for the fundraising to begin.

In the last 13 years, staff and contract partners at Hinkley Point B have raised over an incredible £190,000 for company charity partners and local charities through fundraising activities. Again, this is something I am extremely proud of.

Working with Bridgwater Photographic Society

With help from a local community group, a new commemorative book has been published which details in pictures Hinkley Point B's journey from end of generation to defueling. Photographers from the Bridgwater Photographic Society captured some of the most memorable moments as the reactors were shutdown for the final time, and followed the station for the first 12 months of defueling. Their work has been showcased in a special 96-page book containing over 220 photographs. All *Team Hinkley* members have received a hard copy of the book, and a selection of the images can be viewed from <https://www.edfenergy.com/energy/power-stations/hinkley-point-b#slideshow>.

This concludes my report and operational update for the period, and I hope it provides a useful overview of what has been happening at Hinkley Point B over the last six months. Please do let me know if you have any questions.



Mike Davies



Update for Hinkley SSG

NDA Stakeholder Engagement

January 2024



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NDA Stakeholder Update

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

- As part of our ongoing commitment to create meaningful engagement with our stakeholders, we recently held our virtual stakeholder summit '**Creating meaningful conversations**'. More than 160 delegates joined the event in December 2023 and initial feedback has been positive. The event covered the progress we are making in delivering our mission, and our wider contributions with regard to sustainability, social value, and skills.
- We are busy planning our next **regional stakeholder roadshow**, which will be held in north Wales before the end of March 2024, with the date to be confirmed. The roadshow will focus on innovation and follow the successful format of events in Cumbria and Glasgow which took place in partnership with universities in the regions.
- Our next in person **stakeholder conference** will be held later this year. We are still looking to fix both the venue in Cumbria and date in September and will keep you informed of our progress.
- The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero has now published its **Civil Nuclear Roadmap**. The roadmap includes information and commitments relevant to our mission.
- Following its consultation in 2023, the **Government's new UK policy** on the sustainable and effective management of radioactive substances and nuclear decommissioning will be published later this spring.
- Our latest NDA 2023 **Mission Progress Report** (MPR) was published in November. It shows how we're progressing delivery of the NDA mission and what's still left to do, providing a baseline against which future progress can be tracked. It should be seen in context with the other NDA documents we issue, and it forms part of our commitment to openness and transparency.
- Parliamentary Members of the **Public Accounts Committee**, along with the National Audit Office, visited Sellafield in October. We welcomed the opportunity to open our doors to the body responsible for holding government to account for value for money, allowing us to demonstrate the progress we are making and share some of the challenges we face.
- Our updated **Social Impact and Communities Strategy** is out for consultation until February 12. The strategy is updated every three years and updated where



necessary. The last one was published as the pandemic took hold and much has changed since then.

- The second year of our **NDA group graduate programme** has opened, with the number of opportunities doubling to 120 across a diverse range of professional disciplines. The programme complements our support to the industry to build a long-term and sustainable pipeline of skills.
- Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) has begun aerial surveys and studies to evaluate potential sites suitable to host a **Geological Disposal Facility** (GDF), to permanently dispose of the UK's higher activity waste. Three communities are in the siting process, with one down-selection decision already taken.
- NWS worked with the Nuclear Industry Association to take members of the All Parliamentary Party Group on Nuclear Energy to visit the **Finnish Geological Disposal Facility** (GDF) ONKALO, currently under construction. This helped bring this vital project to life and shined a light on the progress we are making at home.
- Her Royal Highness **The Princess Royal** visited Nuclear Transport Solutions' home port in Barrow-in-Furness to explore one of Pacific Nuclear Transport Limited's (PNTL) specialist nuclear vessels, and a Direct Rail Services (DRS) locomotive.

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



Nuclear
Decommissioning
Authority



Office for
Nuclear Regulation

ONR Site Report

Magnox Ltd – Hinkley Point A

ONR Site Report

Magnox Ltd - Hinkley Point A

Report for period: 1 July – 30 September 2023

Authored by: Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: DFW Delivery Lead

Issue No.: 1

Publication Date: October-23

ONR Record Ref. No.: 2023/51151

Foreword

This report is issued as part of the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)'s commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the above site available to the public. Reports are distributed to members for the Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lrc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Hinkley Point 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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- 5. News from ONR 8
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1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of Inspection

The ONR site inspector carried out inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 July to 30 September 2023:

- 25 September 2023

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 Magnox Ltd Hinkley Point A covered the following:

- management of operations including control and supervision
- incidents on the site
- conventional (non-nuclear) health and safety

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 on the ONR website www.onr.org.uk.

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

2.2. Other Work

The site inspector held regular meetings with the Site Director and weekly keep-in-touch meetings with the operational staff on site. At these meetings they discussed regulatory issues, site incidents, future permissioning and progress with significant decommissioning milestone delivery.

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.

An incident was brought to the attention of the ONR Nominated Site Inspector on the 5 September 2023 involving an Altrad Ltd contractor found asleep by the Magnox Ltd Site Engineer the previous day. The contractor was undergoing fire watching responsibilities for other contractors working in the asbestos enclosures in Reactor Building 1B. Following the recent Enforcement taken by ONR on similar events at Hinkley Point A, ONR is conducting preliminary enquiries.

4. Regulatory Activity

ONR may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, ONR issues regulatory documents, which either permit an activity or require some form of action to be taken; these are usually collectively termed 'Licence Instruments' (LIs) but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an Enforcement Notice.

- No LIs, Enforcement Notices were issued during this period.

5. News from ONR

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

6. Contacts

Office for Nuclear Regulation
Redgrave Court
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email: Contact@onr.gov.uk

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ONR Site Report

Magnox Ltd – Hinkley Point A

ONR Site Report

Magnox Ltd - Hinkley Point A

Report for period: 1 October – 31 December 2023

Authored by: P Jenneson, Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: I Phillips, DFW Delivery Lead

Issue No.: 1

Publication Date: January 2024

ONR Record Ref. No.: 2024/216

Foreword

This report is issued as part of the Office for Nuclear Regulation's (ONR) commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the above site available to the public. Reports are distributed to members for the Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/ilc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Hinkley Point 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 carried out inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 October to 31 December 2023:

- 15 November 2023
- 21 December 2023

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 Magnox Ltd Hinkley Point A covered the following:

- plant construction and/or commissioning;
- radioactive waste management;
- decommissioning;
- periodic safety review;
- conventional (non-nuclear) health and safety; and
- security.

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

The site inspector held regular meetings with the Site Director and weekly keep-in-touch meetings with the operational staff on site. At these meetings they discussed regulatory issues, site incidents, future permissioning and progress with significant decommissioning milestone delivery.

3. Non-Routine Matters

Licensees are required to have arrangements in place 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.

An incident involving a worker in the Magnox Ltd Hinkley Point A staff canteen was reported to ONR on the 8 November 2023 via the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 notification process. The incident is being followed-up by ONR's conventional health and safety specialist inspectors.

An incident was reported to ONR on the 28 November 2023 regarding the functionality of the site radio system which could be compromised resulting in an inability to communicate during an emergency. The site is reviewing its arrangements and the ONR site inspector is tracking progress.

4. Regulatory Activity

ONR may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, ONR issues regulatory documents, which either permit an activity or require some form of action to be taken; these are usually collectively termed 'Licence Instruments' (LIs) but can take other forms. Inspectors may also take a range of enforcement actions, including issuing an Enforcement Notice.

- No LIs, Enforcement Notices were issued during this period.

However, an incident was brought to the attention of the ONR nominated site inspector on the 5 September 2023 involving an Altrad Ltd contractor found asleep, whilst conducting fire watch duties in the reactor building, by the Magnox Ltd Site Engineer which resulted in the issuing of Enforcement Letters to Magnox Ltd and its contractor Altrad Ltd. Altrad Ltd will also be asked to attend a holding-to-account meeting with ONR to ensure there are no future reoccurrences.

Commented [JS1]: Where and what were they supposed to be doing?

5. News from ONR

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

6. Contacts

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Nuclear Regulation

ONR Site Report

EDF Energy – Hinkley Point B

ONR Site Report

EDF Energy - Hinkley Point B

Report for period: 1 July – 31 December 2023

Authored by: S Saunders, Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: M Webb, Delivery Lead Operating Reactors

Issue No.: 1

Publication Date: Jan-24

ONR Record Ref. No.: 2023/64951

Foreword

This report is issued as part of ONR's commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the above site available to the public. Reports are distributed to members for the Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lrc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group meetings where these reports are presented and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR.

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1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of Inspection

The ONR site inspector and specialist inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 July – 31 December 2023:

1 – 3 August

12 – October

19 – 20 September

ONR transport inspectors made inspections on the following dates:-

20 – September

ONR site security inspectors made inspections on the following dates:-

26 – 27 September

22 – 23 November

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 to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, routine inspections of Hinkley Point B covered the following:

- Higher activity radioactive waste
- Emergency arrangements
- Fuel route.

Higher Activity Radioactive Waste

On the 1 and 2 of August 2023, ONR inspectors observed an Environment Agency inspection of Higher Activity radioactive Waste (HAW) at Hinkley Point B. HAW is defined as that currently planned for deep geological disposal, and on the advanced gas cooled reactor sites this includes some low level waste and intermediate level waste. The Environment Agencies are the UK regulators for disposal of waste, and so management of radwaste on nuclear sites is of interest to all regulators.

No immediate concerns were identified by ONR in the management of HAW in accordance with the nuclear site licence. However, advice was provided for consideration as plans for deconstruction and transfer to Nuclear Restoration Services develop. The areas of advice covers; waste arrangements, record retention, regulatory engagement and maintenance of existing waste facilities.

Emergency Arrangements

As part of the optimisation of the emergency arrangements on site the station has also reviewed the safety case documents and identified the associated fault sequences relevant to a defueling station. These have then been used to identify an appropriate exercise matrix for future years training. ONR inspectors reviewed the exercise matrix on site on the 12 October 2023 and judged that it met the legal requirement for compliance with LC11 - emergency arrangements.

Fuel Route

On 19-20 September 2023, ONR inspectors undertook a system based inspection of the fuel route to judge the adequacy of the implementation of the safety case for the Hinkley Point B fuel route.

This intervention sampled the training records of a number of fuel route operators, the adherence to the written operating instructions and identified limits and conditions as well as the maintenance of the key safety mechanisms.

From the areas sampled ONR judged that Hinkley Point B had adequately implemented the off-load depressurised defueling safety case for the fuel route. A number of minor shortfalls were identified during the inspection relating to record keeping and plant condition. These were accepted and addressed by the station promptly and followed up by the ONR site inspector.

Transport

On the 20 September 2023, the site inspector and ONR specialist transport inspectors observed a demonstration of EDFs response to a transport incident local to the Hinkley Point B site.

The EDF emergency response to a transport incident is managed by their corporate centre in Gloucester with support provided by the nearest nuclear site. The purpose of this exercise was to test the EDF corporate response and, because of the defined location, that of Hinkley Point B.

Overall, ONR judged that the exercise met the legal requirements but, as with all exercises a number of learning points were identified. The learning points relevant to Hinkley Point B related to familiarity of the station's role in a transport incident. This will be taken forward as part of the station emergency exercise training.

Security

During this period ONR security inspectors carried out an inspection of the examination, inspection, maintenance and testing of the site security systems. ONR judged that the inspection met the legal requirements with no significant shortfalls identified.

ONR security inspectors also carried out an inspection of the adequacy of the security arrangements during fuel movements. No significant shortfalls were identified.

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 on our website www.onr.org.uk.

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

2.2. Other Work

The ONR site inspector attended the site stakeholder group meetings held on 24 February 2023 and 30 June 2023.

3. Non-Routine Matters

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. ONR inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

In January 2023 ONR became aware of a lack of manual fire alarm call points and automatic detection in the Charge Hall at Hinkley Point B (HPB). This issue had been identified by the station a number of years previously but had not been acted upon. When this omission was realised the station put in place interim arrangements whilst a long term solution was designed.

ONR specialist inspectors carried out an inspection of the change hall and judged that this shortfall was a contravention of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Consequently ONR issued an enforcement letter requiring the station to provide the charge hall with appropriate fire detectors and alarms.

A suitable fire detection and alarm system has now been designed and implemented within the Hinkley Point B charge hall restoring legal compliance and addressing the requirements of the 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' (LIs) but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an enforcement notice.

- The following LIs, enforcement notices and enforcement letters have been issued during the period:

LI 573 – Approval of the Hinkley Point B Nuclear Power Station Defueling Emergency Plan

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

Date	Type	Ref. No.	Description
09/11/23	Licence Instrument	LI 573	Approval of the Hinkley Point B Nuclear Power Station Defueling Emergency Plan

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

5. News from ONR

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

6. Contacts

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website: www.onr.org.uk
email: Contact@onr.gov.uk

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Environment Agency report to the Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group.

January 2024

Introduction

This report covers the Environment Agency's regulation of the Hinkley Point A & B nuclear sites and related issues for the period June to December 2023.

Radioactive substances regulation

We regulate radioactive waste disposals to the environment. We do this through environmental permits that contain limits and conditions aimed at minimising wastes and protecting the environment. We also check compliance with these permits by making regular inspections at Hinkley Point A & B.

Regulatory compliance interactions are recorded in Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Reports (RASCARs). These summarise the type of work we have undertaken, describe any non-compliance or observations and good practice, and include actions or recommendations from our findings. They are public register records and can be provided on request (please see the 'further information' section at the end of this document to find out how to request public register records-in the link below).

We maintain regular contact with the sites between visits to the sites.

Hinkley Point A

Environmental Awareness and Sustainability Leadership Inspection

In June we completed an Environmental Awareness and Sustainability Leadership inspection. This was a planned inspection of Magnox Ltd.'s environmental and sustainability leadership at Hinkley Point A, and how these aspects of environmental management are applied within the workforce, contractors, and supply chain. It included an examination of the arrangements supporting the implementation of the Magnox Sustainability Strategy, associated management system documents and interviews with members of staff. There were no non-compliances identified in this inspection. There was clear evidence from the staff interviewed that there is a passion

Customer service line

03708 506 506

Floodline

03459 88 11 88

Incident hotline

0800 80 70 60

to promote and implement sustainability within activities at Hinkley Point A. We provided advice and guidance, including identifying opportunities to promote and discuss sustainability, reviewing engagement with the workforce and communicating sustainability performance within and outside the organisation.

Ventilation system and isokinetic samplers

In September we completed an inspection focusing on the maintenance of the isokinetic sampling for gaseous waste. The inspection was based on an event reported by Magnox to the Environment Agency. Magnox reported that the arrangements to ensure Isokinetic samplers were appropriately maintained and operated were not being followed.

A new ventilation system was being installed and a member of Magnox staff questioned the maintenance schedule requirements for the sampling equipment. A visual inspection programme of the sampling equipment was completed by the operator to verify the condition of the equipment. A Root Cause Investigation was completed by Magnox and a report submitted to the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency undertook an inspection that included an investigation of the management system, maintenance schedule and a walkdown of the ventilation systems where isokinetic systems were present.

Three non-compliances were identified as part of this inspection, including several actions required to be completed to bring the site back into compliance. The non-compliances focused on the management system and maintenance procedures. At the time of the inspection there was no evidence that the isokinetic samplers were damaged or that the gaseous emissions data has been affected. The gaseous discharges are within permitted limits. The majority of gaseous emissions also benefit from the use of High Efficiency Particulate Absorbing Filters (HEPA) installed before the sampling point. The Gaseous Waste inspection completed in January 2023 demonstrated that the HEPA filters are maintained at a suitable frequency. A visual review of the ventilation system around the sampling points demonstrated that the system was in an adequate condition.

Radioactivity identified within sludge removed from site demineralised water tank event

Hinkley Point A informed the Environment Agency on the 31st August 2023 of a discharge of potentially contaminated demineralised water via the sites storm water drains. During a planned maintenance procedure to improve water quality in the demineralised water system, the Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) Demineralised Water

Customer service line

03708 506 506

Floodline

03459 88 11 88

Incident hotline

0800 80 70 60

tank had been emptied, with the contents discharged via the storm water drains, in advance of measurements being undertaken to confirm the nature of the wastes.

After the demineralised water had been discharged, samples of sludge that had been discovered in the tank indicated the presence of radioactive contaminants. The storm water drains are an authorised discharge route, listed as W2 in permit EPR/ZP3639SL. HPA completed a Team Based Fact Find (TBFF) Investigation and a Root Cause Investigation. Additional information was requested by the Environment Agency through an Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 Regulation 61 (1) Notice Requiring Information. Hinkley Point A complied with the terms of the Notice.

The discharge was within permitted limits. We have provided advice and guidance and are in the process of determining any non-compliances. We are currently considering whether any further assessment is required, and we will provide and update at a future SSG meeting.

An Aqueous Waste Inspection is planned for January 2024. This inspection theme was already in the work plan for this year but will now incorporate a review of the event and lessons learned.

Hinkley Point B

We continue to hold routine meetings with the Environmental Safety Group (ESG), station management and Independent Nuclear Assurance (INA), in addition to relevant external bodies such as the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). These routine interactions allow us to remain informed of any relevant activities and events at the site of regulatory interest during the defueling period.

Higher Activity Waste Inspection

In August 2023 we undertook an inspection at the station on Higher Activity Wastes (HAW). HAW includes radioactive wastes that exceed the activity boundary for Low Level Waste (LLW) but can include Low Level Waste where there is no disposal route. For a full definition refer to the UK Radioactive Waste Inventory website¹.

This inspection included the site inspector and a specialist in HAW from the EA's Nuclear Waste Assessment Team (NWAT). The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) also joined as observers.

¹ [What are the main waste categories? | UK Radioactive Waste Inventory \(UKRWI\)](https://www.ukrwi.gov.uk/what-are-the-main-waste-categories/)
([nda.gov.uk](https://www.ukrwi.gov.uk/))

Whilst we found some areas of good practice on the inspection, we found that there were a number of areas where the operator's characterisation of the wastes and plans for recovery, treatment, and final disposal of some of the HAW streams were underdeveloped. Of particular concern were the arrangements for carbonaceous debris waste streams at the bottom of the nuclear fuel storage pond. Delays in retrievals of this waste stream could have a knock-on effect on the Post Operational Clean Out (POCO) of the pond. We have therefore set a number of regulatory actions and will track progress through our routine regulatory interactions. We had an initial review of these regulatory actions in December and were told that preparatory work had been undertaken to ensure contracts were in place to enable further characterisation of HAW.

Conventional Waste Inspection

In October 2023 we undertook an inspection on conventional waste management at Hinkley Point B, with the site inspector and a waste specialist from the Wessex area team. As part of this inspection we reviewed compliance with current waste legalisation and also looked ahead at plans for site clearance and decommissioning, when much larger volumes of waste will be created. We also viewed the old contractor compound which is planned to be cleared of infrastructure to potentially make room for new facilities to assist with decommissioning of the station. As the first major demolition at the station we have requested to see a copy of the Waste Management Plan (WMP) for the project when available.

We also placed some additional actions on the station to make further improvements to their arrangements for conventional waste management, which included improving signage in the waste storage compound and improvements to the way consignment notes are completed. A recommendation was also made for the use of a weigh bridge to ensure the accurate accounting of waste leaving the site. We also provided some advice and guidance on new arrangements for the disposal of cabling, which has recently changed and the requirements for a waste exemption for the treatment of waste (size-reduction of rubble) in the future.

Exiting the COMAH regime

Since June we have been in regular engagement with both the operator and the ONR regarding plans to exit the Lower Tier regime under the Control of Major Accident Hazards 2015 (COMAH). Under this regime the station has to be registered for some of its chemical holdings and have a plan in place to prevent a major accident or pollution incident. Since the station stopped generating, they have demonstrated that they no longer require the use of certain significant chemicals such as Hydrazine. They have made planned disposals of the chemicals from the station and are planning to

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de-notify the competent authorities (ONR/EA) in the near future. We plan to visit the site after denotification with the ONR to ensure all the relevant chemicals have been removed from the site and disposed of. We will also review arrangements for chemical spills and pollution prevention with any remaining chemical inventory. This will be a significant step in hazard reduction at the station.

Events and enforcement

Hinkley point A

Since June 2023 there have been 5 breaches of the Hinkley Point A permit for two separate inspections. The non-compliances are listed below in the order the events have occurred.

Ventilation system and isokinetic samplers

In September inspection focusing on the maintenance of the isokinetic sampling for gaseous waste identified three non-compliances. The Environment Agency identified the root cause of the non-compliances as an assumption by different teams that the other team had the responsibility for the maintenance of the isokinetic sampling heads. This is a breach of condition 1.1.1 (a) which requires that the operator will manage and operate activities in accordance with a written management system. A management system is in place which identifies responsible roles, procedures and activities but these were not followed. This was scored a CCS 3. This is a non-compliance with the potential for a minor impact on human health or the environment.

Additional non-compliances were identified as the operator was not able to demonstrate suitable maintenance had been completed on the sampling heads since their installation. This is a breach of condition 2.3.5 which requires that the operator to check the effectiveness of technical devices for protecting the environment and the population. The lack of records was a breach of condition 1.1.2 which require the operator to have records. Both breaches of permit were scored as CCS 4. This is a non-compliance with no potential for impact on human health or the environment.

Actions associated with these non-compliances included requirements to update the maintenance schedule and associated management system documentation, clarify ownership of the isokinetic heads, and review of similar equipment including Pitot tubes. Hinkley Point A have demonstrated they were working on these actions, and they will be reviewed in 2024.

Annual Extended Analysis of Bulk Liquid Effluent sample 2022 results

On June 12th 2023 Hinkley Point A notified the Environment Agency that the Annual Extended Analysis of Bulk Liquid Effluent sample 2022 results would not be submitted by the 30th June 2023, the permitted submission date. The reason for the late submission was identified as a laboratory error. The Annual Bulk Liquid Effluent Sample results was originally completed on time but a due diligence review of the data by the Hinkley Point A staff identified a laboratory error requiring the sample to be re-analysed. The time taken to re-analyses the sample would mean that the data would not be available by the permitted submission date.

The sample results provided were within the permitted annual limits and included the analysis for the required radionuclides and groups of radionuclides. The late submission of the information is a breach of condition 4.2.2 and CEAR requirement 4.2.2 which requires the Annual Extended Analysis of Bulk Liquid Effluent Sample to be submitted six months after the end of each calendar year. This was scored as a CCS 4.

After the submission of the results the Environment Agency identified a volume error. This was resolved by Hinkley Point A but was scored against condition 1.1.1 (a) management condition which requires the operator to have a suitable management system. The Hinkley Point A management system had failed to identify an error in the data submitted following the initial quality assessment. This was scored as a CCS 4.

Two actions to review quality checking procedures and the cause of initial failing by the contracted laboratory have been completed by the operator.

Hinkley Point B

Since May 2023 there have been 5 breaches of the Hinkley Point B permit CB3735DT for two separate events. The non-compliances are listed below in the order the events have occurred.

Annual Soil Sample Error

At the end of May 2023 we were contacted by EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd (EDF) regarding an error on an annual statutory soil sample return from 2022, which forms part of the requirements of the Hinkley Point B Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP).

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We undertook a compliance assessment and found that there had been 2 minor breaches of the permit CB3735DT, which were categorised as level 4 (CCS4), which means that there was a breach of permit but no harm to the environment as a result. The breaches were for the following conditions 1.1.1 (a) and 1.1.1 (b), which relate to not having a management system and competent persons in place to ensure compliance with the permit. We set an action and a recommendation to make further improvements and to help prevent a re-occurrence. The station also undertook their own investigation and had already made several improvements to prevent a re-occurrence prior to our regulatory review. In addition the operator re-submitted the corrected soil sample returns promptly after the notification of the error.

Decommissioning Waste Processing Facility, DWPF

In September 2023 we raised concerns about plans for a Decommissioning Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) at Hinkley Point B. This facility is planned to replace the current solid radioactive waste facility and to reprocess the higher volumes of solid radioactive wastes that will be produced from the initial site clearance phase as part of the planned decommissioning of the station.

Our concerns were raised around a lack of regulatory engagement of the plans for the new radioactive waste facility and the application of the Best Available Techniques (BAT), which is a requirement of the station permit. The use of BAT should be from concept design right through the lifecycle of the facility to ensure that design decisions are optimised to minimise both the volume and radioactivity of any radioactive discharges produced from the facility and any potential solid radioactive waste at the end of its life.

One of our key concerns arose from a functional specification for the new waste facility that was due to be put out to a contract design tender process. The functional specification contained plans and an outline design for an aqueous discharge route that did not appear to be optimised and in accordance with use of BAT. The operator was unable to provide us with sufficient evidence that BAT had been applied to plans for the new waste store.

We therefore undertook a full regulatory assessment of the events surrounding plans for the new radioactive waste store and found that there has been three breaches of permit CB3735CT for the conditions listed overleaf. All of these breaches have been categorised as level 3 (CCS3) in accordance with our guidance and the fact there is a potential for an impact on the environment.

C.1.1.1 (a)- *The operator was found to have inadequately implemented their management system procedure on use of Best Available Techniques (BAT) by not undertaking a strategic BAT assessment at the earliest opportunity.*

C.1.1.1 (b)- *It was found that the operator did not have sufficient and competent staff to ensure compliance with their permit.*

C.1.1.5 - *It was found that the operator did not adequately consult with a Radioactive Waste Advisor (RWA) on ensuring compliance with their permit.*

We also believe that had the functional specification for the new radioactive waste store been sent out for contract tender, that the operator would have entered further non-compliance relating to permit conditions on BAT due to an intent to proceed with designs for aqueous discharge routes that had not been demonstrated as BAT.

We remain in enforcement mode and have set some regulatory actions to bring the operator back into compliance. These actions involve writing to the Environment Agency to demonstrate how BAT will be applied to the design process for the new waste store including any hold points that will require sign off by a station RWA, resubmitting a revised functional specification for the new waste store, further training for project staff and a new template in the management system to demonstrate RWA advice given to these large-scale projects that will have an effect on future radioactive discharges from the station.

We also wrote to the station director re-iterating our concerns about the non-compliances and further concerns on wider environmental legislation.

We have received a positive response so far from the operator on our enforcement and currently remain in advice and guidance due to operators' wiliness to engage and return to compliance. If however we feel that the issues are not being resolved, we will not hesitate to implement further enforcement measures.

Discharge reports

The operators at Hinkley Point A and B are required to report liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment to us on a regular basis. We assess these to check compliance with the site permits. The site discharge reports, and our assessments are placed on the public register.

Hinkley Point A

The effluent and gaseous discharges from Hinkley Point A were below notification levels and permitted limits. The Environmental Monitoring Programme data was

submitted within the required timescales and the review identified no results or trends of concern.

Hinkley Point B

The liquid and gaseous discharges from Hinkley Point B were below any notification levels and within permitted limits. At the end of May we were notified of an error in an annual soil sample for 2022- the corrected results were re-submitted in the June statutory returns to the Environment Agency. For further details see the '**Events and Enforcement**' Section.

Environmental impact

Nuclear sites are required to carry out a rigorous environmental monitoring programme (EMP) that requires the operator to monitor and assess the impact of their discharges on the environment.

Additionally, the Environment Agencies and Food Standards Agency carry out independent environmental monitoring around nuclear sites. The results of this work are published in our annual Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) report (1). We will continue to follow Government guidelines with Safe Systems of Work in place, with the with regards to our monitoring of the environment and foodstuffs.

The 2022 RIFE report has now been published here: [RIFE 28, Radioactivity in food and the environment, 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rife-28-radioactivity-in-food-and-the-environment-2022) (www.gov.uk) and the 2023 report is in preparation.

During 2023 the Environment Agency undertook a review of our Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP) in the Hinkley area, which we undertake via our contractor to assess the impacts of radioactivity on the local environment.

The review was undertaken to ensure our monitoring program remains optimised to the life cycle of the stations, following the end of generation at Hinkley Point B and decommissioning projects at Hinkley Point A. We also reviewed our arrangements for when we will include any additional monitoring for new pathways as a result of Hinkley Point C and determined that this will take place in our next review in 3 years' time before the new station starts generating.

Following our review we made some minor changes to our monitoring program at Hinkley, which includes adding additional seaweed sampling to observe and identify any effects on radioactive aqueous discharges from increased movement and activities in the nuclear fuel storage pond at HPB. We have also removed the

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requirement to monitor S-35 in seawater following the fact it has predominantly decayed away following the end of generation and has not been positively identified for the last few sample rounds. These changes will take effect from 1st January 2024.

Further information

Further information on our role in regulating the use of radioactive substances and related activities on nuclear licensed sites can be found on the Environment Agency section ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ of the GOV.UK website.

GOV.UK website.

The Environment Agency's Lead Regulator for the Hinkley Point A site is Adam Davis, supported by Alister Wintle. The Environment Agency's Lead Regulator for the Hinkley Point B site is Victoria Thomas.

Adam and Victoria are Senior Nuclear Regulators. Alister is a Developing Nuclear Regulator based in the Wessex Area. They are all part of the national Nuclear Regulation Group (South) which is based at the Environment Agency's Wallingford office in Oxfordshire.

The EA's Nuclear Regulators undertake environmental regulation of radioactive substances on nuclear licensed sites in southern England. They work closely with the local Environment Agency teams in those areas as well as external bodies such as the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

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ⁱ <https://www.gov.uk/monitoring-radioactivity>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-regulation-in-the-environment-agency>

Hinkley SSG Chairs report, January 2023.

I have attend a number of meetings along with the vice chair, both virtual and in person, mainly National SSG chairs meeting & NRS related the topics covered included:- Magnox rebranding and stakeholder engagement.

A&B station visits

The vice chair and I felt it important to ensure that we maintain our station knowledge between meetings, we took an opportunity to attend both stations speaking directly to site directors and staff, we used our visit to A station as an opportunity to publish a press release (Press release below).

Magnox rebranding.

You will be aware that Magnox Ltd has changed its brand and from 31st October 2023 will be known as Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS). The vice chair and I were involved in a number of sessions that discussed this, the change in name helps focus on the future by investing in NRG workforce, assets, communities, sites, and surrounding landscapes to ensure they leave a sustainable nuclear legacy. While the brand may be changing, their focus on safely decommissioning nuclear sites remains the same.

SSG review.

There is likely to be a review of SSG's, as we approach our 20th anniversary, NRG are proposing a review, how we operate and interact with our communities. The Vice chair and I will keep you updated and please take this as notice of a possibility of a smaller working group or email questionnaire between meetings.

SSG meetings.

I hope that the new schedule and meeting format is acceptable to you, the plenary sessions will allow us to understand specific areas and drill down in to these, I know that vice chair and I would welcome feedback from our first session.

Receiving the reports and presentations early allows review and questions to be submitted and this will allow officers to research and respond formally, responding and highlighting just important points during their presentations. I would welcome thoughts and feedback on the new format, along with any topics that members or officer may wish us to consider for future meetings.

SSG membership.

Between meetings I used the opportunity to try and update our contact lists, I worked with our administration support to check and confirm emails, adding parish clerks or council emails to our circulation list. I would welcome feedback as I hope you all received the papers in a timely manner. I wanted to remind you that other members of your groups or organisations are welcome to join us at our meetings.

I thank you for your participation and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Leigh Redman and Mervyn Brown
Hinkley SSG chair and Vice Chair.

Chair & Vice chair of Hinkley SSG visit Hinkley point A station.

Hinkley Point A (HPA) welcomed members of the local Site Stakeholders Group (SSG) to site November 2023. Chair Leigh Redman and Vice Chair Mervyn Brown enjoyed a tour of the site, visiting the Gabion Wall, HPA School and the interim storage facility (ISF). Site Director, Kirandeep Basra-Steele also gave a presentation to the visitors to provide an update on the new brand, Nuclear Regeneration Services (NRS) - the new name for the Magnox fleet of reactors.

Kiran said: "It was a pleasure to welcome Leigh and Mervyn to site. It provided an excellent opportunity to update them, as our link to the local community, on the key focus areas for HPA. We welcome the chance to hear feedback from the local people and find ways to work together during the next stages of our growing business. I would like to thank all staff that were involved in making the visit a success."

Following the visit, Cllr Leigh Redman said "As chair of the Hinkley Site Stakeholders Group (SSG), it was a real pleasure to go to site; to be able to see the work being done across the site was great, it will help us update the SSG."

"Seeing a near final interim storage facility (ISF) was impressive; being some of the last people inside before the skips go in will be a memory for the future."

"The Hinkley School reinforced my belief that there is a chance for a long career on site, ceasing generation was the end of one phase and this is the start of the next phase. The work HPA are doing to support new apprentices and re-training staff is going to benefit local communities and, the more we can do to promote this, the more it will help build and support the workforce."

"With Hinkley Point B (HPB) defueling and one day being part of the new Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS), the process of bringing together A&B stations helps demonstrate the focus on the future - by investing in workforce, assets, communities, sites, and surrounding landscapes."

The SSG is a standing forum for communications between the Nuclear Decommissioning agency (NDA), Operators, Environmental Agency (EA) & Office for Nuclear regulation (ONR).

Cllr Redman commented "As Chair, I want our meetings to be open to all, and all are welcome. We have members from local councils, objectors, and individuals. Our meetings are 6 monthly, it is in the interests of the operators, the regulators, and

not least the host community itself to aim for an inclusive approach to scrutinising the work of the nuclear industry, and its regulators."

Background:- Various types of radioactive waste are generated throughout a nuclear power station's operational and decommissioning life. Even though over 99% of the radioactivity leaves the site when the spent nuclear fuel is removed, some intermediate level radioactive waste (ILW) remains and needs to be stored safely on site until a geological disposal facility becomes available in the UK. A major part of an NRS (new name for Magnox) site's decommissioning and hazard reduction programme involves retrieving this waste, stabilising it and placing it into a protective package (like concrete skip) that is suitable for this type of 'interim' storage.

The innovative design of the building cuts down the need for maintenance and reduces the amount of hands-on control needed to provide a safe and secure environment for the waste containers for up to 150 years. The distinctive steel-framed building design has curved outer surfaces and is designed to shed rainwater without the need for gutters, dramatically reducing the potential for leaks, even in the worst weather conditions. The store's design also incorporates thick concrete internal 'shield walls' to provide additional levels of radiation shielding.

The pictures below show the visitors inside of the storage facility, the concrete skips (before use), the crane, skip harness and size of the storage space.

Media contact:- Sharon Fry, NRS Socio-Economic and Communications Lead - South West. Mobile: 07709719111 - Sharon.Fry@magnoxsites.com

SSG website <https://nrsssg.com/>

SSG email hinkley.ssg@magnoxsites.com

NDA website <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/nuclear-decommissioning-authority/about>

Integrated Decommissioning and Waste Management Strategy 2022

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1147271/Magnox_Integrated_Waste_Strategy_2022.pdf

Magnox Ltd has changed its brand and from 31st October 2023 will be known as Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-nuclear-company-rebrands-as-nuclear-restoration-services>

