



DUNGENESS A SITE AND B POWER STATION
SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING

THURSDAY 15 February 2024

AT 1000 HRS, REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE FROM 0930 HRS

VENUE:

WELLNESS CENTRE (VISITOR CENTRE) DUNGENESS B POWER STATION, ROMNEY MARSH,
TN29 9PX.

- INTRODUCTION
- APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
- TO APPROVE THE MINUTES
- MATTERS ARISING
- CORRESPONDENCE
- CHAIRMANS REPORT
- DUNGENESS A's SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – IAN CUTHBERT/MATT GORVIN
- DUNGENESS B's SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – GAVIN LANCASTER,
STATION DIRECTOR
- ONR REPORT FOR DUNGENESS A – ANDREW BULL, ONR INSPECTOR
- ONR REPORT FOR DUNGENESS B – JASON CROOK, ONR INSPECTOR
- ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE FOR DUNGENESS A AND DUNGENESS B –
PHIL FAHEY, EA INSPECTOR, DUN A, KEZIA WHITE, EA INSPECTOR, DUN B
- NDA UPDATE
- NRS UPDATE – BILL HAMILTON, DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
- ANY OTHER BUSINESS
- DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 11th July 2024 AT 1000 HRS



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
DUNGENESS SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
HELD AT
LYDD GOLF COURSE
ON THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER 2023 at 10:00**

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr G Finn	–	<i>SSG Chair</i>
Mr D Godfrey	–	<i>SSG Vice Chair</i>
Mr G Lancaster	–	Site Director, Dungeness B
Mr M Pardo	–	Communication, EDF
Mr I Cuthbert	–	Magnox Site Director, Dungeness A
Ms S Challiss	–	Compliance Engineer, Magnox
Mr J Crook	–	Office for Nuclear Regulation Inspector, Dungeness B
Ms L Marsh	–	Folkestone & Hythe District and Kent County Council
Mr S Bashford	–	Union Staff Rep, Dungeness B
Mr P Fahey	–	Environment Agency Inspector, Dungeness A
Ms T Kantara	–	Environment Agency
Mr S McGurk	–	Rother District Council
Mr P Redstone	–	East Sussex County Council
Cllr T Hills	–	Kent County Council
Mr A Feacey	–	Kent County Council
Mr M Sandwell	–	Kent County Council
Ms L Barton	–	LAAG
Ms C Pritchard	–	Magnox

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Ms C Bruce	–	Resident
Ms G Popp	–	Resident
Mr M Burgess	–	Resident

1. INTRODUCTION & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3745 Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

3746 Apologies for absence were received from:

- Richard Lavender – Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce
- Ray Johnson – Charity, Business, Sport, Insurance Sector, Environmental, People & Wellbeing support
- Bill Hamilton – Director of External Affairs, Magnox
- Peter Coe – New Romney Town Council
- John Rogers – ONR A Site
- Andrew Bull – ONR A Site
- Tony Harwood – Kent County Council, Emergency Planning
- Kezia White – Environment Agency
- Simon Napper – NDA
- Jo Cowdrey – Creative Folkestone Visual Arts Programme
- Ken Obbard – Natural England

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3747 The minutes of the meeting of 22 June 2023 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3748 Chair stated that the programme delivery manager's video presentation on the boiler down project would take place at the next meeting.

ACTION: Programme delivery manager to attend the next SSG

3749 Ian Cuthbert stated that there was currently no formal method for residents to raise issues. Claire Bruce noted that a comprehensive approach to communication was needed. Many residents were unaware that the power station was being decommissioned, and there had been no confirmation of an impact assessment. Ian Cuthbert stated that an impact statement had been completed. Residents and councillors had also visited the site. Spencer Bashford noted that the ONR had produced an impact assessment report outlining the decommissioning process.

3750 Claire Bruce provided the names of three residents association representatives for SSG engagement. Gabrielle Popp stated that, rather than relying on a resident representative, information should be disseminated digitally. Chair noted that the schedule of meetings was publicly available on the SSG website, with all residents welcome to attend.

ACTION: SSG to post SSG website on local websites.

3751 Phil Fahey stated that operators were obliged to have stakeholder engagement in relation to the end state of the sites. Matthew Pardo stated that EDF regularly communicated with residents and dealt with complaints. Ian Cuthbert stated that, in the event of large crane work being conducted, a stage might be installed for residents to observe the work.

ACTION: Ian Cuthbert to speak to Magnox communications team about improving communication with residents.

- 3752 Chair reported that Bill Hamilton had informed him that there was no money available for the maintenance of roads or a new roundabout at Hammond's Corner. Tony Hills stated that he did not accept that there was no money available. It was important to look holistically at the impact on the community.
- 3753 Chair noted that Cllr Alan Martin's application for the signs needed to be resubmitted. Cllr Alan Martin would be asked to resubmit the application directly to Bill Hamilton.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- 3754 Chair noted the following correspondence received:
- Department of Energy Briefing on the decommissioning and Waste Policy Consultation.
 - Note from NDA stating Rob Fletcher's appointment as Magnox CEO.
 - Note from NDA on announcement from Nuclear waste services regarding Allerdale Community Partnership.
 - NDA's Annual Report and Accounts.
 - NDA's Summer 2023 update.
 - Cllr Paul Redstone appointed to the Dungeness A & B Power Stations. The Local Community Liaison Council membership, received from East Sussex County Council.
 - A request from Cllr Alan Martin to add a standing agenda item relating to Resident Engagement and communication during the next phase of decommissioning to future meetings.
- 3755 Chair noted the following correspondence sent out:
- Department of Energy Briefing on the decommissioning and waste policy consultation.
 - NDA's summer 2023 update.
 - NDA's Annual Report and accounts.
 - NDA's note on announcement from Nuclear waste services regarding Allerdale Community Partnership.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 3756 Chair reported that he had attended a meeting arranged by EDF (UK) at Dungeness B about engaging new councillors on developments at the Dungeness B site.
- 3757 Chair had attended meetings with the chairs of other SSGs to discuss consistency.
- 3758 Chair and Vice Chair were due to meet the NDA executive in Manchester on Monday 16 October.
- 3759 Chair reported that he had attended the Romney Marsh partnership meeting.

6. DUNGENESS A'S CLOSURE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 3760 Ian Cuthbert reported that there had been no accident reports or first aid events of note. The ONR had carried out a review of safety and traffic management, with a rating of adequate and green. A routine safety demonstration exercise had also been conducted. As of 9 October, the new ONR inspector is Andrew Bull. A conventional health and safety expert had also been assigned to provide oversight of the boiler demolition programme.
- 3761 There was increased engagement between the A and B sites to share learning and experience. Staff have been involved with different activities on world sustainability week. Magnox are looking to engage with the local community and schools to increase interest in working for the nuclear industry, and work experience students we welcomed to site in the summer and nine apprentices have been taken on this year. A rebranding of Magnox was due to take place on 31 October.
- 3762 The work on the new buildings on site for the Wet Waste project is ahead of target. The second building has been signed over on 11 October and should finish in November. The site is also working on a project to change some of the waste streams. All legacy waste would be removed within two years.
- 3763 Magnox is providing just over £1 million of funding for socioeconomic projects, with each site provided with £6,000. Applications of more than £2,000 had to go through the Magnox board. Magnox was looking to fund staff to do volunteering work in local communities; this had been trialled at some sites and would soon be opened to Dungeness. Linda Marsh asked how to apply for apprenticeships or work experience. Ian Cuthbert stated that he could pass any applications to staff. Linda Marsh noted that Magnox should be represented at the Year 3 event at the Marsh Academy in March to which schools and communities would be invited.
- 3764 Tony Hills asked when the decommission of the station was due to conclude. Ian Cuthbert stated that the removal of the boilers was due to finish in 2032. Once the boiler project was completed, decommissioning might continue until the ground was taken down to the beach in the 2050s. The NDA had expressed an interest in removing legacy power stations no further information at this point. Phil Fahey noted that there was a link to the guidance on the requirements for release from radioactive substances regulation (GRR) in the Environment Agency report.

7. DUNGENESS B STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 3765 Gavin Lancaster reported a leak from a tank of hydrazine, which had subsequently been discharged. An impact assessment had been conducted. The site had worked closely with the EA and the ONR to ensure that appropriate standards were maintained.
- 3766 The removal of new fuel assemblies had been completed. The removal of irradiated or spent fuel was due to commence, marking the start of a two-year campaign to defuel reactor 21. Work was underway to modify the flask haul for purposes of efficiency. Additional workforce would be mobilised in early Q1. There were concerns about staff retention, so building a robust employment pool remained a critical objective. 31 new staff had joined in the last two months. The transition from an operating station to a defueling station would impact staff morale, so a culture scope survey would take place over the next two weeks. The 2024 apprentice recruitment campaign was currently underway.

- 3767 A surprising amount of shingle had been lost due to rough seas during the summer, so assessments were underway. Regarding the shutting down of sewage treatment, bacterial culture was currently being grown to enable the treatment plant to work effectively. Removing low-level waste was key to minimising the environmental footprint at the site.
- 3768 Next year was likely to be busy, with a 180-day nominal outage to inspect tanks and vessels. The defueling phase would continue until 2028-29. Decommissioning of the reactor components was expected to occur at the end of the century. EDF's ultimate objective was to turn the site into a shingle site in 2119. Minister Andrew Bowie had visited the site. Some information-sharing was also taking place with a company called MoltexFLEX, based in Warrington.
- 3769 Tony Hills noted that extreme weather could cause problems in relation to the shingle frontage. Gavin Lancaster stated that the impact of storm surges had been modelled in early September. There was awareness of the available options and planning restrictions, and the council would be kept involved in discussions. Tony Hills stated that he would support refurbishing the shingle bund, but it was important to ensure the bund was solid enough to withstand impacts caused by accelerated tidal activity and longshore drift.
- 3770 Gavin Lancaster stated that an extreme ambient temperature assessment had been conducted. Flooding risk and extreme rainfall impact were also being looked at.

8. ONR REPORT FOR DUNGENESS B

- 3771 Jason Crook reported that a number of inspections had been conducted, with positive results. Some improvements were required regarding records and associated documentation processes. An annual review of safety would be conducted in November, with ONR inspectors looking at the station's performance. Appropriate arrangements for winter would also be looked at towards the end of the year. An investigation was still ongoing into the crush injury of a worker on site. A senior level decision-maker would determine the action required.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE FOR DUNGENESS A AND DUNGENESS B

- 3772 Phil Fahey reported that, following some minor environmental events, the site team at Dungeness A had presented a project plan to improve compliance and reduce environmental events happening at site. Tony Hills noted that climate change projections were getting progressively worse. Warming sea temperatures could result in hurricanes. Phil Fahey agreed that climate change was a concerning issue. In 2022, there had been two red events: the heatwave and Storm Eunice.

Therefore, further impacts of climate change including red weather alerts and events should be planned for by the site Operators.

10. NDA UPDATE

- 3773 Simon Napper had provided an update in writing.

11. PROPOSED CHANGE TO SOCIOECONOMIC SUPPORT AREA

3774 Chair explained that the NDA was due to begin a review of the socioeconomic strategy. A formal consultation would begin before Christmas, with SSGs invited to provide comments.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

3775 Tony Hills noted an ongoing issue relating to sea water quality.

ACTION: Gavin Lancaster to investigate the environmental impact of sewage discharges from the Dungeness site.

3776 Chair thanked all present for their attendance. There being no further business, the meeting was closed.



Dungeness Site Stakeholder Group – EDF report

February 2024

Station Director's Message – February 2024

At each of the last SSG meetings of 2023 I reported the steady progress we have made, as a site, on our defueling journey. We always knew this mission would take time and be more complex than many of the other UK nuclear sites.

One of our great learnings of recent months has been around flexibility. Dungeness B continues to throw up unexpected engineering and maintenance challenges - but the flexible approach we have developed means that if such issues arise we can quickly adapt existing work plans and patterns so that some of our teams are focussed on resolving issues while others take on other works. This flexibility will be key over the coming months as we take on two major outages and an improvement project. Despite emerging challenges we continue to make solid progress and, as I report below, we are undertaking works that will set us in good stead for the future.

Updates

Onsite works

- As of the middle of January we have removed 46 fuel assemblies from reactor 21.
- In early January we started work on our fuel route optimisation project. Because of the way Dungeness was designed the way we at Dungeness move flasks of used fuel out of the station, has never been as efficient as some of the other nuclear sites.
- When we remove fuel from the reactor it is placed in what we call skips, in our cooling ponds. When the fuel is sufficiently cool the skips are moved into flasks which are taken out of the ponds and moved onto our fuelling corridor where they are prepared for transfer to Sellafield.
- To improve our flasking operations we are now undertaking substantial improvement works in the area where we process these flasks.
- The plan is to entirely remove the old flask hall and replace it with a new improved platform design that allows us to process two flasks at the same time.
- While completing this project we intend to upgrade key equipment, including two new sets of Flask Leak Test Equipment.
- Completing these modifications will improve our flask processing capability and help us ensure we are in a position to meet the station's defueling targets, with an average defueling rate of three flask dispatches from site per week. The improvement project will be one of the biggest pieces of work onsite in several years.
- In mid-January we started the statutory outage on reactor 22. Every four years we are required to complete a statutory outage on each of the

reactors and now R22's is due. This work will run through to August and will involve us undertaking works to prepare the reactor for defueling.

- It may also involve us looking at certain systems connected to the reactor, which were vital for power generation, and determining if we can cut these parts of the system out. This may be possible as our focus is now on defueling at lower temperatures than generation requires.
- It will also involve hundreds of contractors coming to site to help us complete the work over the coming months. This will also mean a positive impact locally as the contractors will live in the area for duration of their part of the works and spend money locally.
- In late February we also undertake a fuel route outage. Preparations continue for this work, which we anticipate will take until June, to complete.

Decommissioning preparations

- Although we are still several years away from moving into full decommissioning our plans continue to progress.
- In recent months the site has collaborated with the EDF Nuclear Decommissioning team and Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) to begin to understand our future plans for our people. This work is still in the very early stages but is fundamental for all of our teams to understand what Dungeness' future requirements will be so we can work towards a clear, shared goal.
- In December Andy Munro, the Future Missions Director at NRS came to site and met our Leadership Club. During his time with us Andy laid out what NRS does as a business and looked ahead to the future working relationship. The teams who met Andy fed back that having that clarity from someone already on the NRS side of nuclear operations was helpful.

Staff update

- Over recent months we have started to focus more on the STEM (Science, Technology, Maths & Engineering) work we can deliver. Internally we are recruiting volunteers to restart our outreach to local schools and businesses. We expect to do considerably more of this work through 2024 and in the coming months we attend a careers event at Pfizer and we will soon also provide early careers advice to pupils at Homewood School in Tenterden.

Environmental events

- There have been no top tier environmental safety events since the last meeting.

Safety

- In early November 2023 Storm Ciaran hit Dungeness Point. During the storm, beach shingle was propelled at ground floor windows, causing damage around the area. In the early hours of November 2 the storm cut the station's connection to the electricity grid so an emergency response team was established at site and at the company's Gloucester technical HQ. Over the years Dungeness B has practised this, loss of power, scenario many times. Teams resorted to landline phones and used existing protocols to manage without power, which was restored just a few hours later.
- On November 5, and during clean-up operations from the storm, an electrical technician was exposed to an electric shock during work to repair electrical boards damaged by water ingress. As a precaution he was taken to hospital for treatment and was back at work soon afterwards. As Station Director I spoke with all teams following the event. An investigation was held and further mitigations put in place to prevent future events.

Dungeness' nuclear future

- There continues to be external interest in Dungeness as a site for new nuclear and late last year the subject of nuclear new build was discussed at Folkestone and Hythe District Council. As has long been the case, if any developer or council wishes to discuss the potential for any kind of new nuclear at Dungeness EDF is happy to enter into talks.

Gavin Lancaster

Station Director

Feb 2024



Office for
Nuclear Regulation

ONR Site Report

Magnox Ltd – Dungeness A

ONR Site Report

Magnox Ltd - Dungeness A

Report for period: 1 October – 31 December 2023

Authored by: ONR Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: ONR Superintending Inspector – SDFW Division

Issue No.: 1

Publication Date: Jan-24

ONR Record Ref. No.: 2024/361

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 Dungeness Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

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

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1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of Inspection

No formal inspections were carried out during this period.

2. Routine Matters

2.1. Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with:

- the conditions attached by ONR to the nuclear site licence granted under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65) (as amended);
- the Energy Act 2013
- the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HSWA74); 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 Dungeness A covered the following:

- No inspections were undertaken

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 site inspector attended site to undertake the handover arrangements with the previous site inspector, to meet with various members of the site team, and to receive updates on various projects.

3. Non-Routine Matters

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

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

4. Regulatory Activity

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

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

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
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Merton Road
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Office for
Nuclear Regulation

ONR Site Report

EDF Energy – Dungeness B

ONR Site Report

EDF Energy - Dungeness B

Report for period: 01 October – 31 December 2023

Authored by: J Crook, Principal Inspector

Approved by: M Webb, Superintending Inspector

Issue No.: 1

Publication Date: Jan-24

ONR Record Ref. No.: 2024/2707

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 Dungeness site stakeholder group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lrc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Dungeness 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/or other inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period 01 October – 31 December 2023:

17 October

8 – 9 November

30 November

14 December

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 Dungeness B covered the following:

- examination, maintenance, inspection and testing;
- organisational changes; 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 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 site inspector attended the Dungeness site stakeholder group in October, to give an overview of ONR's regulatory activities and provide an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions related to ONR's work.

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

The site inspector met regularly with the site-based Independent Nuclear Assurance (INA) team to ensure the internal regulator function remains effective and verifying information provided by the station.

During this reporting period the site inspector undertook a number of intelligence gathering activities and plant visits including engagement with members of the site's senior leadership team.

3. Non-Routine Matters

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

There were no significant matters to report during the period.

4. Regulatory Activity

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

- One enforcement letter was issued during the period.

Date	Type	Ref. No.	Description
06/12/23	Enforcement Letter	ONR-EL-23-031	EDF Energy enforcement letter in relation to Main CW pump 22 crush event – follow-on enforcement

ONR's investigation into the previously reported main cooling water pump 22 crush event has identified that further improvements are required, and this has resulted in ONR issuing an enforcement letter to EDF Energy. There were no consequences to the public or the environment as a result of the incident which occurred in June 2022 which resulted in a contractor sustaining injuries to their foot.

This enforcement letter requires EDF Energy to implement improvements in relation to field supervision, procedure use & adherence, outage engineer role & training profile and review of contractor risk assessments.

ONR regulatory processes continue and so cannot publicly discuss any further details at this stage.

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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Environment Agency Report to the Dungeness Site Stakeholder Group

15 February 2024

Introduction

This report covers our regulation of Dungeness A and B Sites and related environmental matters for the period mid-September to January 2024.

The Environment Agency's priority is to protect people and the environment. We have set out how we will do this across the many areas we regulate, and on which we provide advice and guidance. For example, flood defence, flood warning, environmental sampling, permitting, angling and fisheries, waterways management and billing. Please see our page on GOV.UK (www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency).

Radioactive Substances Regulation

We regulate radioactive waste disposals through environmental permits that contain limits and conditions aimed at minimising wastes and protecting the environment. We check compliance with the permit by undertaking regular inspections. These are recorded on Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Reports (RASCARs) which detail our inspections and any non-compliance(s) found.

Site Regulation

Dungeness A

On 11th and 12th October 2023, we visited Dungeness A to discuss various decommissioning projects especially issues relating to the GRR (Management of radioactive waste from decommissioning of nuclear sites: Guidance on Requirements for Release from Radioactive Substances Regulation, (<https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/365893/2018-07-17-grr-publication-v1-0.pdf>) and climate change and the way it will affect Dungeness A. We also visited site on 28th November for a further catch up on decommissioning projects.

We are in regular contact, several times during the month with Senior Managers at Dungeness A to ensure that we are kept up to date with the progress on decommissioning, regulatory actions and recommendations and any emerging issues at the site. We were informed by the Operator that from 1st October 2023, Magnox had changed its name to Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS). We have been told by the Operator that this is not a legal entity change and any required permit changes will be determined by the NRG Corporate Inspector.

Inspections

During our October 2023 inspection, we discussed with the Operator the GRR with the Operator and that the required waste management plan and site wide environment safety case which was due to be completed by the required date of end of 2023. We received the documents in early January 2024. Although the Operator had indicated previously that the

documents were to be “interim” documents pending further decisions on decommissioning at site we felt that more detail could have been provided on the future strategy for waste and environmental safety at site. We are finalising our feedback, and we will be working with the Operator on the next iteration once further decisions on the future of decommissioning at Dungeness A past the boilers down project are made. We are hoping such decisions are made in early to mid-2024.

As part of our October visit, we questioned the Operator on their approach to climate change assessment. Following the damage the site suffered during storm Eunice and some further minor damage suffered during storm Ciaran we are keen to ensure that Dungeness A is at the forefront of climate change awareness due to their exposed situation and are prepared for any issues. We want them to be aware of any assessments that need to be considered. We will ensure that we discuss these subjects and the issues around them at our interventions going forward.

Environmental awareness and reduction in environmental incidents

The Operator is finalising an environmental enhancement strategy to reduce environmental events at site following several non-compliances reported previously to the SSG. We will be checking to see the success of the initiative going forward.

Aqueous waste

We are awaiting the Operator’s proposals for the holistic view of aqueous waste as outlined in previous reports to the SSG. We will be reviewing this submission which we expect in the next few weeks.

Pond end state best available techniques assessment

In December 2023 we received a BAT assessment for the ponds end statement. We had several comments on this relating to asset management of the plant for the ponds and how this will be achieved for the proposals outlined. We also commented that all radioactive wastes had not been covered in the assessment. We have asked the Operator to produce a further iteration of this document.

Asset management and engineering

On 18th October we had a six-monthly meeting with the Head of Engineering to discuss their improvement strategy for environmental asset management at site. The Engineering Manager is making good progress with the improvement plan which aims to improve asset management at site. We will continue to support this initiative. We take a close interest with asset management issues at site and how the Operator manages the site infrastructure. This is to ensure environmental events and permit non-compliances are minimised.

Dungeness B

We have weekly calls with Environmental Safety Group at DNB to ensure we are kept up to date with the site activities and maintain effective communication with the site. These are currently providing us with up-to-date information on the sites progress with defueling.

Inspections

On the 22 November 2023 we conducted an inspection focussing on Solid Radioactive Waste Management at Dungeness B. The inspection focussed on characterisation, storage, requirements and conditions for disposal of wastes and segregation of wastes. The inspection found no non-compliances. The inspection also allowed the incoming nuclear regulatory an overview of the solid radioactive waste management activities and ensure the site was managing the solid radioactive waste streams in line with the Environment Agency's expectation and permit conditions.

Events and Enforcement

Dungeness A

Nothing to report.

Dungeness B

Nothing to report.

Annual Review of Safety and Environment

We attended the Annual Review of Safety and Environment (ARoSE) on the 29 November 2023 at DNB. We had a station walkdown and a face-to-face meeting to hear from various departments on their achievements/challenges and plans for next year. There have been obvious efforts to focus on the maintenance of the key areas of site. The Environmental Safety Group resources are being increased to ensure they can meet the future work demands from the increased production of waste at the site.

Environmental Permitting

Dungeness A

We are expecting an application from the Operator for a minor variation to the radioactive substances permit. This will be to add various gaseous waste disposal routes for new facilities being built at site. These facilities will assist in further decommissioning of the site around the "boilers' down" project. There will be no increase in permit limits. As required by our procedures we will advertise the application on our web site for consultation when it is sent to us. We will keep the SSG informed of the application and where to view it. We expect a decision about new facilities to be made in April 2024.

Dungeness B

Nothing to report.

Discharge Reports

Both sites are required to report to us liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment monthly. Liquid and gaseous discharges from both Dungeness sites remain within the limits set by the Environmental Permits.

Dungeness A

Dungeness A has submitted the monthly gaseous and liquid waste discharge returns required to be reported to us. We have reviewed the discharge returns covering the period of this report and did not identify any unusual or unexplained trends. We continue to monitor all discharge reports.

The Operator reported that there was to be a delay in the 2022 annual bulk samples being submitted to us due to an incorrect volume being written on a sample label. The Operator picked up the error in their verification procedures which meant that the sample analysis needed to be repeated. We have now received and assessed the results which showed nothing that warranted further investigation.

Dungeness B

Dungeness B has submitted gaseous and liquid waste discharge returns in line with requirements of the environmental permit. We have reviewed the discharge returns covering the period of this report and did not identify any unusual trends. We continue to monitor all discharge reports.

Environmental Monitoring

The Operators carry out monitoring of various environmental samples at periodic intervals and report the information to us. Dungeness B staff conduct the work on behalf of both sites. The programmes for the two sites are slightly different to reflect the radionuclides that are being discharged, the historical discharges and the operational activities taking place at each site.

Dungeness A and Dungeness B

Both sites submitted the Environmental Monitoring returns required to us in line with requirements of the environmental permits. We reviewed the environmental monitoring returns for the quarters covered by this report and did not identify any unusual trends.

RIFE 28

Our latest Radioactivity in food and the environment (RIFE) report has now been published and can be found here [Radioactivity in food and the environment \(RIFE\) report -](#)

[GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk). The report is published each year by environmental regulators and food standards agencies. This report brings together all the results of monitoring of radioactivity in food and the environment by the RIFE partners (Environment Agency, Food Standards Agency, Food Standards Scotland, Natural Resources Wales, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency).

This is the 28th edition of RIFE containing information on radiation exposures (doses) to the public and radioactivity levels in the environment during 2022. It covers radioactivity near to nuclear fuel production and reprocessing sites, research establishments, nuclear power stations, defence establishments, radiochemical production, industrial and landfill sites, and non– nuclear sectors. It also reports on regional monitoring away from these sites, which provides a check on background radiation levels.

The report showed that ‘Total Dose’ for the representative person from radioactivity in the environment at Dungeness was 0.011mSv in 2022, similar to that from 2021(0.012mSv). These values are well below any dose limit to the member of the public. For comparison, a typical dental X ray gives a dose of 0.005mSv.

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 of the GOV.UK website (www.gov.uk/topic/environmental-management/nuclear-regulation)

The Environment Agency's Lead Regulator for the Dungeness A site is Phil Fahey. The Environment Agency's Lead Regulator for the Dungeness B site is Kezia White.

Phil and Kezia are Nuclear Regulators and part of the Nuclear Regulation Group South (NRG South) based at the Environment Agency's Wallingford office in Oxfordshire.

NRG South 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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Update for Dungeness SSG

NDA Stakeholder Engagement



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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 on 12th March 2024. 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 and the date 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 2023. 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 2023. 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) recently announced the formation of a **new Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) Working Group** in South Holderness, East Riding of Yorkshire. NWS is engaged with three other communities across England about what hosting a GDF could mean for them: two in Cumbria, Mid Copeland and South Copeland, and one in Lincolnshire around Theddlethorpe.
- 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 feedback through the secretariat.



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