



Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

AGENDA

Agenda for the SSG meeting to be held on Wednesday 13 March 2024

**Annan Athletic Football Club
Galabank
North Street
Annan
DG12 5DG**

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- | | | |
|-----------|------------------------|---|
| 1. | (10:00 – 10:02) | Chairman's welcome |
| 2. | (10:03 – 10:05) | Announcements and apologies (<i>including any Declarations of Interest</i>) |
| 3. | (10:06 – 10:08) | Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising |
| 4. | (10:09 – 10:29) | Chapelcross Site Director's Report (<i>including update on Magnox Socio-Economic Scheme</i>)- <i>Richard Murray, Chapelcross Site Director.</i> |
| 5. | (10:30 – 10:45) | NDA Update – <i>David Wallace, NDA</i> |
| 6. | (11:46 – 11:10) | NRS Update – <i>Bill Hamilton</i> |
| 7. | (11.11 – 11:35) | Other reports from SSG bodies - ONR, SEPA, Scottish Government |
| 8. | (11:36 – 11:38) | External Meetings and Invitations
21 st Feb via Teams - Technical Investigations of the Near-Surface Disposal of HAW from Sites in Scotland - SSG Chairs Presentation. |

SSG Chairs' Workshop in Manchester Hold the date – March 20th 2024.

9. **(11:39– 11:49)** **CX Project Update – *Helen Emberson, CX Programme Lead***
10. **(11:50 – 11:51)** **Any Other Business**
11. **(11:52 – 12:00)** **Public Forum**

Next Meeting - 10am, Wednesday 21 August 2024

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CHAPELCROSS STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
HELD AT DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ANNAN TOWN HALL, ANNAN
WEDNESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2023**

Attendance/Apologies list

Attendance

Cllr Archie Dryburgh MBE	Annandale East and Eskdale (Chair)
Cllr George Jamieson	Annandale South (Vice Chair)
Neil Carruthers	Royal Burgh of Annan Community Council
Peter Dreghorn	Restoring Annan's Waters
Helen Emberson	Dumfries & Galloway Council, CX Programme Lead
Cllr Sean Marshall	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Carol Midwood	Federation of Community Councils/Canonbie and District CC
Donna Mounce	SOSE
Jaime Nicholson	Dumfries & Galloway Council

Operators and Officers

Claire Aitken	NRS
Bill Hamilton	NRS
Andy Harper	NDA
Peter Hughes	ONR
Richard Murray	Site Director, Chapelcross
Jamie Reed	NDA
David Wallace	NDA
Geoffrey Dore	Minute Taker

In Attendance

Billy Currie	Dumfries & Galloway College
Oliver Mundell MSP	Member, Scottish Parliament

Apologies

Cllr Lynne Davis	Annandale North
Dianne Hamilton	Scottish Government
Colin Hargreaves	NRS
David Stone	SEPA
Cllr Stephen Thompson	Annandale North
Ian Winchester	

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1. CHAIR'S WELCOME

Cllr Archie Dryburgh welcomed the attendees to the Chapelcross SSG meeting.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES

It was noted that Sheila Adams, Jill Callander and Cllr Sean Marshall had retired from the Chapelcross SSG.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Lynne Davis, Dianne Hamilton, Colin Hargreaves, David Stone, Cllr Stephen Thompson and Ian Winchester.

Neil Carruthers confirmed that he is employed by NRS and was attending the meeting as a representative of the Royal Burgh of Annan Community Council.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

Peter Dreghorn clarified that Restoring Annan's Waters (RAW) did not fund the Eel Pass.

Actions Points from the Previous Meeting

Jamie Reed to be invited to the next Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group meeting. Complete.

Mr McNairn to email Mr Wallace and Sean Marshall background information on the land in question to enable further investigation to be done by NDA and its Land Agents. Complete.

Secretariat to arrange site visit for Site Stakeholder Group members wishing to attend. Ongoing.

4. CHAPELCROSS SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Richard Murray, (Site Director, Chapelcross)

Richard Murray reported that Magnox had rebranded as Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS).

EHSS&Q Performance

There had been one accident since August. The individual had been signed off work, and an investigation had been conducted. Regarding the modular intermediate level waste (ILW) encapsulation plant, NRS had received a pollution prevent certificate from SEPA, allowing Chapelcross to operate the plant.

Targets

All cobalt MOSAICS had been removed from the pond. CXPP retrievals of ILW were progressing well. 20 of 52 drums had been completed. It was anticipated that the target would be met by the end of the year. Low-level waste dispatches from the site were continuing, with 10 of 14 complete. The cooling tower design remediation work had been completed. The aim was to start the inactive commission by March 2024. The asset care programme remained on target.

Recruitment

The site had recently recruited a Site Security Manager, a Deputy Site Security Officer and four trainee Health Physics Monitors. Chapelcross continued in its efforts to recruit two senior project engineers and production technicians.

CXPP Decommissioning

ILW retrievals were progressing well. The aim was to complete two to three cave entries per week. Work was taking place to enable the next phase of the decommissioning of the plant. The next phase would likely commence in Q2 2024.

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Pond Decommissioning

All MOSAIKS had been retrieved from the pond. The site will commence with post-operational cleanout work of the MOSAIK equipment to allow for installation of the zeolite handling equipment.

The modular active effluent treatment plant (MAETP) installation had been completed. The inactive commissioning close out was planned for early December 2023.

Cooling Towers Remediation

Cooling tower remediation work was ongoing with the strategy for remediation of the cooling areas. All material would be excavated, and the crush used for the backfill of the low-level waste repository vault. Planning permission documentation was currently being produced to allow for the removal of the crushed concrete. NRS was working closely with NWS.

Waste

Problematic waste was being shipped. Legacy half height containers had been opened, and the contents were being treated. Legacy waste was greatly reducing, and it was expected that the programme would be completed in Q1 2025.

Asset Care

Glazing replacement had commenced on the reactors. This was part of a five-year programme that included all four reactor buildings.

Socio Economic Update

There had been no new applications for funding. There was a fund available for funding local events. Peter Dreghorn queried the amount that could be secured in funding. Richard Murray agreed to circulate the web page that detailed the amount. Bill Hamilton said a Good Neighbourhood application allowed for funding of up to £2,000. Further applications could be made for larger amounts of money.

Cllr George Jamieson stated that many people were unaware of the funding. He asked how proactive NRS could be in ensuring that people who needed the funding received it. Richard Murray noted Cllr George Jamieson's comments.

Peter Dreghorn queried the predicted sea level rise around Chapelcross. Richard Murray responded that he was unaware.

Carol Midwood requested a copy of the presentation. It was confirmed that the presentation would be circulated with the meeting minutes.

Cllr George Jamieson noted that Chapelcross would commence with repairs and questioned if it should instead focus on decommissioning and readying the site for new projects. Richard Murray replied that Chapelcross would classify its projects into categories and would aim to remediate the higher hazard work first as this would ensure longer-term benefits. Chapelcross was spending money to ensure that it took care of some of the assets.

Cllr Archie Dryburgh asked if there was a succession plan in place. Richard Murray stated that there was a full succession plan. There was an issue whereby one part of the organisation had a one-month notice period. However, NRS had ensured that it had defence in depth in many of these areas. The new terms and conditions had a three-month notice period. The site would continue to manage this.

Cllr Sean Marshall asked how much of the training for the health physics monitors would take place on-site. Richard Murray responded that all training for the health physics monitors would take place on-site. It was an internal qualification.

Cllr Sean Marshall highlighted the cooling tower remediation project and queried the lorry routes. Richard Murray responded that this was unknown.

5. NDA UPDATE

A. David Wallace (NDA)

David Wallace explained that a virtual stakeholder summit was scheduled for 12 December. The annual government minister briefing had taken place with Màiri McAllan, the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition. Ms McAllan had expressed an interest in innovation and technology and ensuring linkage with the innovation hubs in Scotland. Contact had been made with Rosie Moore, who had requested more of an awareness of the NDA's scope of work. Ms McAllan was also keen that further dialogue took place with SEPA, and a meeting with SEPA was scheduled for 6 December.

The importance of Scotland had also been highlighted during discussions with Ms McAllan. The NDA had a secondment into the Scottish Government, exemplifying good working partnerships. There was now a Scottish Government/NRS exchange. Martin McDonald, from the radioactive waste team, was now working with colleagues in NRS. Over the next five to 10 years, 50% of NRS activity would be in Scotland.

The Nuclear Industry Association (NIA) was scheduled to host an event in Scottish Parliament on 29 November to promote the new nuclear agenda in Scotland. The NDA had announced a UK supply chain event that would be held in Telford on 27 June. The NDA would also publish a report in early 2024 that would detail the economic impact of the NDA in Scotland. The report would be produced through the National Decommissioning Centre in Aberdeen and the University of Aberdeen.

An MPs dinner would take place in London the following week. David Wallace noted that Richard Murray had also met Gillian Keegan, the Secretary of State for Education, during a visit to London.

Cllr Sean Marshall noted that it had been stated that, over the next five years, 50% of NRS's decommissioning activity would be undertaken in Scotland. He said he imagined that the bulk of this work would take place in Dounreay, though Chapelcross and Hunterston A had capacity to undertake decommissioning activity. Cllr Sean Marshall asked if this had been factored in to the 50%. David Wallace responded that the amount of additional work over the next five to 10 years had been factored in to the 50%, plus the AGRs. There was plenty of activity.

David Wallace reported that six hectares of land had been transferred to South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE), as part of the Chapelcross project, for development.

6. NDA Socio Economic Update

A. Jamie Reed (NDA Director of Socio Economics)

Jamie Reed explained that NDA spent nearly £4 billion a year across its UK sites. Approximately £2 billion of this figure was spent across a supply chain constituting 5,000 separate companies. The footprint touched 75% of all Westminster parliamentary constituencies. 17,000 people were employed across the 17 sites. Every job directly supported would support a further three jobs in the community.

The NDA's principle statutory driver was to ensure due regard for the economic and environmental wellbeing of the communities where it undertook work. The NDA also had to abide by the Social Value Act. Despite this legislation, any procurement would be constrained by public contract regulations.

The NDA worked extremely closely with NRS on its socio-economic programme and would co-create the schemes. Over the last four years, the NDA had invested close to £50 million in direct socio-economic funding across the UK. This approach had helped drive a significant and permanent sustainable change around site communities.

The NDA had adopted a twin-tracked approach towards its socio-economic work through its awarding of grants and the implementation of a BAU approach. Spend was determined by

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independently produced economic impact assessments. The three areas of greatest dependency were Caithness & North Sutherland, Northwest Wales and West Cumbria.

The NDA had engaged in three projects in the areas of dependency, one of which was the Morlais tidal energy project in Northwest Wales. The NDA and NRS had invested over £1 million in a tidal energy scheme. The investment had leveraged over £48 million in funding from the Welsh government. This would create a 240-megawatt tidal energy project and up to 200 jobs. Regarding Cleator Moor, the NDA had entered into a strategic planning agreement with the local authority over a three-and-a-half year period, worth £14 million. £7 million had been spent on an industrial solutions hub at a near-derelict industrial park. The £7 million had leveraged £22.5 million of town deal funding and £20 million-plus of levelling up funding. The project aimed to create 700 jobs.

The NDA had invested £3 million in Sutherland Spaceport. Consequently, the UK Space Agency would invest £2.5 million. A private sector provider, alongside Highlands and Islands Enterprise, would invest approximately £30 million. It was anticipated that the project would help create 700 jobs. The project could also unlock green space and green aviation fuel.

The NDA, in partnership with NRS, had invested £500,000 in the Beyond Chapelcross Project. All actions were facilitated by a local socio and economic impact strategy. The new strategy would be published on 29 November. The 2022/23 socio economic spend report was expected to be released on 1 December. Jamie Reed said he was of the view that the land available around Chapelcross could make the community the blue riband socio economic project in the NDA stake.

Cllr George Jamieson suggested that the agenda be known as 'socio economic and environmental'. He also proposed a partnership. He was slightly impatient, as Chapelcross was a site that could have long-term impact. Jamie Reed said the agenda could be referred to as 'socio economic and environmental', but if the terminology were to be diluted, it would mean losing sight of the need to move in a determined way to attend to the economic needs of the area. Cllr Sean Marshall said that, for transformation projects, there were four streams, one of which was environmental projects.

7. NRS UPDATE

A. Bill Hamilton (NRS)

Bill Hamilton reported that Magnox had rebranded as NRS. The rebranding was not a change of sign but a sign of change. Rob Fletcher had been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer on a permanent basis and had requested that NRS prepare a 10-year strategy. The strategy would focus on the NRS workforce. NRS was an organisation that had an extremely bright future.

Bill Hamilton explained that NRS had initiated polling processes in its communities. It had begun by polling individuals at all sites, via an independent polling company. 50% of the individuals interviewed had been young people. There had been working groups for young people and for adults. The individuals had been asked about the future of the NRS sites and their local communities. NRS had completed polling for 2,500 individuals, and the topline results had been fascinating, with safety identified as the primary priority. All respondents had expressed an interest in the environment, jobs, the economy and green energy. Bill Hamilton agreed to provide a detailed presentation at the next SSG. The next stage of the polling exercise was to expand it to a larger audience. NRS needed to consider the right strategy for the decommissioning of its sites and how it would leave the site for future generations.

Cllr Sean Marshall stated that public perception was important. While he disagreed with Magnox now becoming NRS, there would be much focus on Dounreay and EDF. The Chapelcross SSG was mainly interested in Chapelcross. Though Chapelcross had attained good progress, it could have achieved additional development if not for funding limitations. Cllr Sean Marshall said, as NRS entered a new phase, he did not want the decommissioning

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sites to be overlooked. Chapelcross wanted to attain real progress and secure an increase in funding. Bill Hamilton welcomed Cllr Sean Marshall's comments.

Cllr George Jamieson stated that outcomes should be based on knowledge. Nuclear could be part of green energy. Young individuals were interested in the environment and in green energy. He hoped that the polling report was informative and objective. Bill Hamilton responded that it would be. Thinks Insight & Strategy were highly regarded and were completely independent from NRS. The independent information would be used to initiate further dialogue.

ACTION: Consultation subgroup to meet to respond to the consultation.

ACTION: Bill Hamilton to present results from the polling exercise at the next SSG.

8. OTHER REPORTS FROM SSG BODIES

ONR

Peter Hughes reported that he had held a safety inspection on 7 and 8 August, focusing on low-level waste and the decrease in legacy stocks. A security inspection had been conducted on 20 July. No other work had taken place during the period.

Cllr Sean Marshall queried the staffing levels at ONR. Peter Hughes responded that there was approximately 650 people working for ONR, with the inspectorate capacity at 400. This had been static for the last 12 to 18 months. ONR was currently undertaking effectiveness reviews due to an increase in generic design assessments (GDA) for the small modular reactors. There was no reduction in inspecting at any sites.

Cllr Sean Marshall requested an update on the application for the arial discharge increase for the Advanced Vacuum Drying System (AVDS) stack. Richard Murray said it was expected to be visible within the next month.

SOSE

Donna Mounce reported that SOSE had initiated several surveys. Any work undertaken on site would be complementary to the Chapelcross project. Donna Mounce agreed to provide an update in due course.

Oliver Mundell MSP asked why the project had not been made public. Donna Mounce responded that SOSE intended to go public. It was likely that there would be an announcement in early 2024. Cllr George Jamieson suggested that Donna Mounce write a paper that explained the involvement of Borderlands and SOSE. Donna Mounce agreed to.

ACTION: SOSE to write a paper explaining the involvement of Borderlands and SOSE.

Cllr Sean Marshall stated that the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed by NDA, SOSE and Dumfries & Galloway Council had concerned an area of land for potential development of Chapelcross. The current project was a separate negotiation between SOSE and NDA which would remove the piece of land from the Borderlands project. Donna Mounce confirmed that this was correct.

Dumfries & Galloway College

Billy Currie reported that Dumfries & Galloway College had focused on green skills. Work had also taken place on the Borderlands project, and the college had identified several ideas. Jamie Reed said there was phenomenal potential. He noted that David Wallace had a paper that detailed the value of the sector to the Scottish economy and suggested that David Wallace circulate this to the college.

Jamie Reed explained that, in January, UK ministers intend to announce a major nuclear skills initiative. Cllr Sean Marshall said the SSG had raised this issue with the Scottish government. There was an issue in Scotland with regards to a nuclear skills academy. Although there had been an attempt to attract people into the area, there were not enough businesses in the region

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to sustain such a drive. Something had to be formed in Scotland. Jamie Reed said people would follow the work.

Oliver Mundell MSP noted that the UK-wide skills taskforce for nuclear would apply to Scotland and proposed that the SSG write to the minister to flag the skills academy and the potential of Dumfries & Galloway College. Cllr Archie Dryburgh welcomed this suggestion.

ACTION: The SSG to write to the minister to flag the skills academy and the potential of Dumfries & Galloway College.

Cllr George Jamieson stated that the SSG needed to review the potential impacts beyond the science. There was a huge opportunity. Jamie Reed said the taskforce would first look at nuclear skills before reviewing the broader skills required for nuclear development.

9. EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND INVITATIONS

Cllr Archie Dryburgh noted that the NRS SSG Chair and Vice Chair meeting had taken place the previous week. A note would be circulated.

10. CX PROJECT UPDATE

Helen Emberson said the NDA had been reviewing the strategic part of the land. Dumfries & Galloway Council had appointed an organisation to take all market interest and plot the optimal adjacencies onto the land and plot the utility requirements and site servicing needs. This would create a specification that would be provided to Borderlands.

The NDA had undertaken work to market the site. The NDA had also reviewed the commercial aspects. Having reviewed this, it had undertaken some approaches. There would be a clear approach for engagement with commercial interests on site. There was much optimism.

Engagement had taken place with the Scottish government. Some key decisions were emerging from the UK government, including the blending of hydrogen into the gas network. It was also anticipated that, by 2026, the UK government would take strategic decisions on the role of hydrogen in heat decarbonisation. Helen Emberson noted that there were hydrogen trials in Fife, and the results would be released in due course.

Scottish Development International had assisted Chapelcross in producing an extended reality film for the development framework. It was anticipated that this would be ready by January. and Helen Emberson agreed to present the film at the next SSG. There would be engagement with the SSG throughout this process.

Cllr Archie Dryburgh said the project had been ongoing for up to 12 years. He was sure that there had been a plan to zone the site. Helen Emberson responded that there had been a change in interests. Cllr Archie Dryburgh said there were too many partners involved. There was a myriad of issues that the local authority had to consider. Over the last 10 years, very little progress had been attained on site.

Cllr Sean Marshall stated that the SSG wanted to ensure that the safe decommissioning of the Chapelcross site continued.

Cllr Sean Marshall noted that there had been conditional funding of £15.3 million. However, the Chapelcross project had amounted to £20.8 million. There had been an original thought that there would be a spend of £26 million, with £30 million spent externally, mainly on the B722. He asked if this plan remained. Cllr Sean Marshall also asked if there were plans to improve the E203, C43 and C44 roads. Helen Emberson said any plans to improve these roads would be driven by money.

Peter Dreghorn requested that Chapelcross explore other ways of providing water for the manufacturing of hydrogen. Helen Emberson said this had been included in the brief. Chapelcross was aware of RAW's interest. If an abstraction licence was required, it would explore this.

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Peter Dreghorn requested that the Milnby Weir be added as an agenda item for the March meeting. Cllr Sean Marshall noted that the removal of Milnby Weir had been previously discussed. The SSG supported the Milnby Weir remaining. It had also been included in the consultation response sent to the NDA. Cllr Archie Dryburgh added that the SSG had responded that the Milnby Weir would remain.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business.

12. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no comments.

Next Meeting date: Wednesday 13 March 2024.

Actions from Chapelcross SSG Meetings

ACTIONS FOLLOWING SSG MEETING 29.11.23

ACTION	DETAIL	STATUS	DATE
Secretariat to arrange site visit for Site Stakeholder Group members wishing to attend – previous attempts to arrange had to be postponed. A visit will be arranged for summer, likely August, on which details will be forwarded nearer the time.	Site visit arranged for SSG members on 28 February 2024. Unfortunately this had to be postponed. Another date will be arranged in due course.	Ongoing	
SSG consultation sub-group meeting to be arranged in response to draft NDA socio-economic plan	Meeting of the sub-group has been arranged for 05.02.21	Complete	05.02.24
Bill Hamilton to present the results from the polling exercise at the next meeting of the SSG	Bill to be invited to present the results at the March meeting of SSF	Ongoing	
SOSE to write a description explaining the involvement of Borderlands and SOSE in the CX Project	Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal is a partnership of local authorities- Dumfries and Galloway, Scottish Borders, Northumberland County, Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Councils, (formerly Cumbria County Council and Carlisle City Council). Together they signed a growth deal in 2020 with the Scottish and UK Governments to secure up to £452m invested in the Borderlands region over 10years. The Deal takes a thematic approach to investment and further information can be found on its website https://www.borderlandsgrowth.com/ Part of the investment in Dumfries and Galloway was to aid the redevelopment of the CX site. £15.3m from the Deal with both SG and UKG investing in the project and an additional £5.5m from DGC. Helen Emberson is the Lead Officer for this work. To take the proposals forward for the site redevelopment SOSE, DGC and NDA have formed a partnership and signed a Memorandum of Understanding as to how they would work together for the benefit of the CX project. SOSE is not a partner within the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal. However, it does provide support in the form of expertise and financial support to some projects on a case by case basis and leads on one or two.	Complete	05.03.24
The SSG to write to the Minister to flag the skills academy and the need to invest in the	Response:	Complete	04.03.24

development of nuclear skills and the opportunity with Dumfries and Galloway College.	The SSG will send a letter to the Minister at the appropriate time if necessary. Meanwhile the SSG will work with the college, NDA and NRS to develop training proposals for local people to support their entry in the nuclear industry.		
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COMPLETED ACTIONS:

ACTION	RESPONSE	STATUS	DATE
Invite to be extended to Jamie Reed, NDA Director of Socio Economics, to the next Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group meeting.	Jamie Reed attended SSG Meeting on 29.11.23	Complete	29.11.23
Mr McNairn to email Mr Wallace and Sean Marshall background information on the land in question to enable further investigation to be done by NDA and its Land Agents.	<i>Mr McNairn has provided the information and ongoing discussions with NDA are taking place.</i>	Complete	29.11.23
Secretariat to produce glossary of common nuclear acronyms for new members.	Glossary circulated to SSG Members	Complete	09.08.23
Carol Midwood requested a copy of the Site Director's presentation from the November meeting.	Copy of the presentation and minutes added to the website and emailed to all SSG members	Complete	08.01.2024



NDA Update for CPX SSG

March 2024



Contents

1.0 NDA Stakeholder Update March 2024



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 on sustainability, social value, and skills.
- We are busy planning our next **Regional Stakeholder Roadshow**, which will be held in north Wales on 12 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 to 2050** alongside consultations on its **Approach to siting new nuclear power stations beyond 2025** and **Alternative routes to market for new nuclear projects**. 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 being finalised as a result of a recent consultation exercise. 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.
- At the end of last year, the Scottish Parliament Standards Committee gave approval to the establishment of a **Cross Party Group** on Nuclear Decommissioning. The CPG will be co-chaired by Oliver Mundell MSP (Conservative) and Colin Smyth MSP (Labour) MSP, and the Deputy Convenor will be Emma Harper MSP (SNP). The first meeting will be on March 27th in the Scottish Parliament. See link for further details:
[Civil Nuclear Industry | Scottish Parliament Website](#)
- Scottish Government engaged stakeholders on its **NSD Technical Report** on 21st February. The report has been developed as a technical options paper which will inform any future decisions on SG Waste Policy going forward.
- 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, following one down-selection decision taken last year. A fourth community has joined the process in January – South Holderness.
- 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 in this country.
- 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

Nuclear Restoration Services – Chapelcross

ONR Site Report

Nuclear Restoration Services - Chapelcross

Report for period: 1 October – 31 December 2023

Approved by:, Delivery Lead Decommissioning, Fuel, and Waste

Issue No.: 1

Publication Date: Jan-24

ONR Record Ref. No.: 2024/109

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

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

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1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of Inspection

The ONR site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 October – 31 December 2023:

- 27 November 2023

The ONR site security inspector inspected the site on the following date:

- 16 November 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 Chapelcross covered the following:

- incidents on the site
- quality assurance and records
- security (Security Guard Services)

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

Throughout this reporting period, ONR's nominated site safety inspector has held regular telephone meetings with Chapelcross leadership team representatives to maintain situational awareness of matters related to nuclear safety. No significant issues were highlighted to ONR.

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.

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

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Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

SEPA Update- Chapelcross

13th March 2024

Regulation

Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR)- Radioactive Substances

Following on from the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated restrictions, telephone communication with the site has continued including formal monthly staying in touch telephone calls. Routine teleconferences with the Chapelcross site and the corporate Magnox Ltd team on strategic issues have also continued as before.

SEPA has not undertaken any regulatory inspections since the last Stakeholder Group meeting. However, two inspections are planned before the end of the financial year.

The site's application for variation to the sub-limit for the discharge of the gaseous 'all other radionuclides excluding tritium' associated with the operation of the Advanced Vacuum Drying Facility (AVDS) given in their EASR (2018) permit is nearing completion.

The site has recently applied for a further variation to their EASR permit. This application relates to an increase in the site limit for the discharge of gaseous radionuclides excluding tritium. SEPA is determining this application. Given that it relates to an increase in a site limit SEPA will be undertaking a public consultation on the application.

SEPA are also engaging with the site on a number of issues to support the ongoing decommissioning of the site. This includes discussions on the optimisation of gaseous discharges arising from waste management operations in the site's ponds building

Non-Rad Regulation

There have been no environmental issues relating to non-radioactive regulation since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

SEPA have engaged with the site to discuss the ongoing management of high pH groundwater generated on the site due to the presence of crushed concrete arising from the cooling tower demolition. This includes the regulation of the discharge of the water from site and the potential to dispose of the concrete from the site.

Environmental Events

There have been no environmental events reported to SEPA by the Chapelcross site.

Radioactivity in Food & the Environment (RIFE)

RIFE is a collaborative report on work carried out by SEPA, the other UK environment agencies, Food Standards Scotland and Food Standards Agency on the radiological monitoring of food and the environment in the UK. The RIFE reports aim to provide an in-depth assessment of radioactivity in food and the environment in the UK and the public's exposure to radiation, including in the vicinity of the Chapelcross site. The RIFE report incorporates the results from the analysis of a wide range of samples and key information on local habits to demonstrate both that food remains safe and that the public's exposure to ionising radiation is within legal limits.

The latest edition (RIFE 28) covering 2022 has just been published and can be obtained from SEPA's website along with previous year's reports at [Reports | Scottish Environment Protection Agency \(SEPA\)](#) .

Dr David Stone

Radioactive Substances Specialist

29 02 2024

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATE TO CHAPELCROSS SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP – 13TH MARCH 2024

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING POLICY TEAM

Four Nations Policy Consultation on UK Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning Policy Framework

Scottish Government are continuing to work with the UK Government and other devolved administrations on the publication of the revised framework document. The aim is for this to be published sometime in March. We will send out a link to published framework once it is available.

Public Attitudes to Radioactive Waste Management Survey

The 'Public Attitudes to Radioactive Waste Management' survey was conducted between the 8th and 11th of January 2024. 2160 responses were received. The results are due to be published in the Spring. We will advise the SSG when the results are available.

This wider public engagement work was undertaken to understand societal attitudes towards radioactive waste management, delivering on a research and development commitment made in the 2016 Implementation Strategy. This work complements specific engagement undertaken by the Scottish Government with stakeholders in the sector, including the communities around Scotland's nuclear sites and will inform implementation of the SG Higher Activity Radioactive Waste (HAW) Policy and any future review.

The Environmental Authorisation (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR 2018) updates

The Environmental Authorisation (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR 2018) are being amended to bring together all the permissioning arrangements for SEPA's four main regulatory regimes (Water, Waste, Radioactive Substances and Pollution Prevention and Control) into an integrated structure and under a single standardised procedure.

The Scottish Government is working with SEPA on proposed amendments to the Regulations. The public consultation for the amendments was released in December and it contains some minor amendments to the Rad Subs framework. Alongside bringing together the regulatory regimes, there are some clarifications to the Regulations in relation to radioactive substance activities but no significant changes.

The consultation closes on 31st of March 2024 and can be found at;

[Scottish Government consultations - Citizen Space](#)

Technical Investigations of the Near-Surface Disposal of HAW from Sites in Scotland
- SSG Presentation

The project to consider technical factors around the implementation of near surface disposal concepts in Scotland has now concluded. A presentation for SSG members on the outputs from the technical work conducted jointly between NDA and SG on Near Surface Disposal took place virtually on the 21st of February. This presentation was arranged to keep SSG members informed of the outputs of this work and to provide an opportunity for any questions, as part of our ongoing engagement.

Diane Hamilton

Scottish Government

Chapelcross Programme Update Report to Site Stakeholder Group

Date	22/02/2024	Stage	Outline Business Case
Progress this period			
Summary The Chapelcross programme is focussed on developing the site into a high quality, green energy-focussed regional employment centre acting as a transformational project within the region. Conditional funding of £15.3m has been given from the Borderlands Growth Deal towards the project. Together with funding of £5.5m, committed by Dumfries and Galloway Council, the capital investment will be used to unlock the site for development through servicing and road improvements to access the site. Work is underway to develop the Outline Business Case (OBC), starting now with a Strategic Development Framework that will provide a blueprint for the site. Strategic Development Framework The purpose of the development framework is to achieve a site layout, transport assessment and service requirements as an input to the OBC for Borderlands. Ironside Farrar are appointed as consultants from 30th October and information provision and site familiarisation is now complete. Engagement with utility providers is live and site layout is developing. The study is forecast to complete late spring 2024 and will trigger a number of areas of subsequent work in services and roads design. SOSE and CX South Purchase of Zone 3 (6.46 Ha) was successfully concluded in November 2023. SoSE are undertaking ground investigations, engagement with utility providers and will develop options for delivery in the upcoming months. Scottish Government – Regional Hydrogen Hub Chapelcross is included in the Scottish Government Hydrogen Action Plan as a regional hub. Commercial Arrangements Avison Young continue to market the site and field enquiries. Work is ongoing with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to develop the arrangements for commercial land release that will achieve the programme objectives. Scottish Development International A film has been developed to showcase the site and region to an international audience with the aim of attracting overseas investment. The film will be showcased w/c 11th March.			
Activities Planned for Next Reporting Period			
- Strategic Development Framework - initial site layout work will conclude and technical studies will commence - Site marketing remains live; SDI film will be spotlighted w/c 11th March - NDA is developing an approach to release the land for development.			