



Site Stakeholder Group

HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

The Seventy Second of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group will take place on
Thursday 13 June 2024 at 1330 Hrs

**Venue – The Waterside, Ardrossan Road, West Kilbride,
KA23 9NG Light Refreshments will be served from 1245 prior
to the meeting**

AGENDA

13.30 Chairman's Opening Remarks and Declarations of Interest

13.35 Chair and Vice Chair Updates and Correspondence

13.45 Actions and approval of previous Minutes

13.50 Hunterston B Site Reports

Hunterston B Report – Joe Struthers

ONR Report – Steve Saunders

SEPA Report – Keith Hammond

Members Question and Answer Session Public Forum

14.25 Hunterston A Site Reports

Hunterston A Site Report – Mark Blackley

ONR Report – Peter Hughes

SEPA Report – Melanie Hayes

14.55 Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Team Update

Members Question and Answer Session Public Forum

15.00 Update from NDA

David Wallace

15.10 NRS Corporate Update - Introduction to Thinks Insight

Bill Hamilton

15.20 Update from Scottish Government

Diane Hamilton

Members Question and Answer Session Public Forum

15.30 Any Other Business

Next Meeting Thursday 5 September 2024

**HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS FROM THE MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 7 MARCH 2024
AT THE WATERSIDE HOTEL, ARDROSSAN ROAD, WEST KILBRIDE, KA23 9NG**

Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair reported on various meetings, including monthly updates with both Station Directors and the NRS socio-economic lead. The Chair highlighted the Scottish Government's presentation on its high-activity waste near-surface disposal policy, and also highlighted a new cross-party group on nuclear at the Scottish Parliament.

Actions and Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the 7 December meeting were approved. Ms Aitken would recirculate an email from Ms Hamilton regarding Scottish Government attitude surveys.

AGR Transfer Programme Update – Mr Sohail Ashraf

Mr Ashraf gave a presentation regarding NRS's 10-year strategy and focus on Scotland going forward. He was not able to make commitments regarding future use of the sites. The Government was purchasing land for Great British Nuclear to potentially plan new build at those sites.

Hunterston B Report – Mr Joe Struthers

Mr Struthers highlighted that defueling of reactor 3 had been completed but defueling of reactor 4 had run into difficulties. These had been dealt with successfully and learnings made for future issues. 50 of the 308 fuel channels had been removed allowing a return to peak flasking rates. The IDAR submission had been made, and engagement with the ONR was encouraged ahead of the 28 March deadline. There had been a slight increase in collective radiation exposure above plan, due to challenges with IFD fuel dismantling. An application had been submitted to SEPA to amend the discharge permit in light of reduced use of seawater for cooling after defueling.

SEPA Report – Mr Keith Hammond

Mr Hammond reported a minor issue with data returns, which were being monitored to ensure accuracy. A way forward had been agreed on the non-radioactive biodegradable leak from transformer 3. SEPA was consulting on levels of authorisation required in relation to wastewater and industrial activity regimes; this would run until 12 April and sit alongside the Scottish Government consultation on proposed amendments.

Hunterston A Report – Mr Mark Blackley

Mr Blackley reported that the site ventilation issues had been returned to compliance following a warning letter from, and inspection by, SEPA. Work had also been committed to regarding the bunker waste characterisation. 1,208 boxes had been retrieved from SAWBR, but the final box had been delayed due to a fault. A technical issue with the sampling system had delayed active commissioning of the WILWREP acid storage facility. Due to continuing issues with the Kuka robots, the feasibility of processing packages without them was being investigated.

SEPA Report – Ms Melanie Hayes

Ms Hayes reported that she had been onsite at Hunterston A to satisfy requirements of an information notice served regarding the ventilation system, which had returned to compliance. She had also undertaken a walkaround of the SILWE facility to support a variation application, with further information having been requested. There had been an issue with reporting of gaseous discharges, leading to an information notice being issued to Hunterston A and Chapel Cross. In regard to characterisation of bunker waste, further information was awaited from NRS, and SEPA would review the scoping document that had been produced.

Update from Magnox – Mr Bill Hamilton

Mr Hamilton reported that the rebranding of Magnox to NRS would take effect over the next few weeks, including changes to email addresses. A major piece of engagement had taken place regarding the future of the site, decommissioning strategy and end-state, which he would bring to the next SSG. A 10-year strategy was being developed to reflect changes, including the move away from care and maintenance to site-specific decommissioning strategies.

Questions were asked by members after each presentation, the detail of which can be read in the full Minute of the meeting, available from the Secretariat.

Next Meeting – Thursday 13 June 2024

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
HELD AT THE WATERSIDE HOTEL, ARDROSSAN ROAD, WEST KILBRIDE, KA23 9NG
THURSDAY 7 MARCH 2024**

Attendance/Apologies list

Attendance

Ms Rita Holmes	Fairlie CC (Chair)
Mr Stuart McGhie	EDF (Vice Chair)
Mr Jamie Woodburn	Largs CC
Mr John Lamb	West Kilbride CC

Operators and Officers

Ms Claire Aitken	Communication
Mr Mark Blackley	Magnox (Site Director, Hunterston A)
Ms Allison Adamson	Technical and Safety Manager, Hunterston B
Mr Richard Gibson	Magnox (Engineering and Infrastructure Manager)
Mr Colin Hargreaves	Magnox (Independent Site Inspector)
Mr Alistair Walker	Magnox (AGR Prog Development Manager)
Mr Joe Struthers	EDF (Station Director)
Mr Sohail Ashraf	AGR Transition Manager, NRS
Mr Keith Hammond	SEPA (Hunterston B)
Ms Melanie Hayes	SEPA (Hunterston A)
Mr Bill Hamilton	NDA
Cllr Eleanor Collier	North Ayrshire Council
Inspector Paul Gilmartin	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr Matthew Dent	Minute taker

In Attendance

Mr Alan Rich	Member of Public
Mr Frank Bowman	Member of Public

Apologies

Mr David Wallace	NDA (Stakeholder Lead Scotland)
Mr Steve Saunders	ONR (Hunterston B)
Mr Peter Hughes	ONR (Hunterston A)
Ms Aileen Craig	North Ayrshire Council
Ms Diane Hamilton	Scottish Government
Ms Lesley Jeffery	NAC (Civil Contingences Team)
Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick	Hunterston Estate
Cllr Tom Marshall	North Ayrshire Council

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1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair opened the meeting and invited attendees to introduce themselves. Apologies were noted from David Wallace, Steve Saunders, Peter Hughes, Aileen Craig, Diane Hamilton, Lesley Jeffery, Angus Cochran-Patrick and Cllr Tom Marshall.

The Chair noted sadness at the passing of Cllr Glover, who had been a regular attendee at past meetings.

Since the last meeting, the Chair and Vice Chair had had online meetings with station directors, as well as with the NRS socio-economic lead. All voting SSG members had been offered a chance to participate in the Scottish Government's presentation on its high-activity waste near-surface disposal policy. Three options had been presented for engineering disposal arrangements: a vertical silo, a tunnel, and a cabin arrangement. Only the Chapelcross site could accommodate the cabin arrangement. It had been suggested that a tunnel option could have access on land but extend below the sea. The four possible sites were Chapelcross, Dounreay, Hunterston, and eventually Torness. The suggested date for near-surface disposal was 2090.

On 19 and 20 March, there would be a meeting in Manchester of UK SSG chairs and vice-chairs to review the current UK SSGs. The SSGs had been set up almost 20 years ago and all functioned differently to each other. The Chair invited suggestions for the review of the SSGs.

A cross-party parliamentary group on nuclear had been set up with co-chairs Oliver Mundell MSP and Colin Smyth MSP, with Emma Harper MSP as deputy convener. It was anticipated that chairs and vice-chairs of the SSGs for the four Scottish sites would be members. The group was funded by the NDA. Bill Hamilton stated that he would be the NRS conduit for the group, and the group would regularly hear from senior people from NRS.

A response had been submitted to the NDA regarding the socio-economic strategy, which had been circulated to everybody. The EDF/ONR consultation on the future of Hunterston B had also been circulated. So far, the only thing the Chair had picked up on was the flowrate of cooling water.

No interests were declared. There had been no further correspondence.

2. ACTIONS AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

John Lamb noted there had been no communication from the Scottish Government regarding public engagement work. Claire Aitken noted that Diane Hamilton had talked about the attitude surveys, and a response had been provided which had been emailed out on 22 February. Claire Aitken would recirculate this at the end of the meeting.

3. AGR TRANSFER PROGRAMME UPDATE

Sohail Ashraf presented his update. NRS had a 10-year strategy that would be publicised in future and communicated to the SSG. This included four pillars, one of which was growth, concerning the AGR transfer. This specifically concerned Hunterston, but over the 10-year plan, it included all of the AGRs coming into NRS. In the future, 52% of NRS's organisation would be Scotland-based. The funding mechanism for the AGRs coming across was through the nuclear liabilities fund, which was purely for decommissioning of AGRs. NRS had a lot of experience of care and maintenance. Sohail Ashraf had previously been site director for Sizewell A and Bradwell, and that learning would be shared with colleagues at Hunterston B.

Stuart McGhie noted that NRS would inherit a large landmass footprint and queried whether Sohail Ashraf saw any of these sites being used in the future for nuclear generation. Sohail Ashraf said this was not something he could answer, as it was a longer-term strategy. What would have to be looked at was the opportunity for repurposing. This could include nuclear generation or industrial use, but this had not been determined.

The Chair noted that the government had purchased Oldbury and Wylfa sites and queried whether this had anything to do with SMRs. Sohail Ashraf confirmed that this was the plan. The government had announced a multi-million pound scheme whereby it was buying land currently owned by Horizon, which had been due to build gigawatt reactors at Wylfa and near Oldbury. Great British Nuclear would be coming in to potentially plan new build at those sites, with engagement ongoing about other sites.

The Chair asked whether the new cross-party parliamentary group would discuss fusion and SMRs. Bill Hamilton stated that the initial focus would be on the 'here and now' and on decommissioning.

4. HUNTERSTON B SITE REPORTS

Hunterston B Site Report

Joe Struthers presented his report.

The defueling of reactor 3 had been completed to plan in September 2023, following which a five-week outage had taken place whilst plant upgrades and routine maintenance had been carried out. Reactor 4 defueling had started on 1 November with some difficulties in removing a non-fuel component. Around 35 days had been taken on this, for which defueling had been paused. This had been dealt with successfully, and a method had been developed to deal with future recurrences. One such recurrence had only taken five days to resolve. Another planned fuel outage had been completed through February, with 50 of the 308 fuel channels removed, allowing a return to peak flasking rates.

Organisation design was progressing for the people structure and the numbers of people onsite during deconstruction. A draft management of change paper had been prepared, working closely with NRS for the past year on an aligned position.

EDF had written to the Civil Nuclear Constabulary during the period to give notice of cessation of service once defueling was complete. Joe Struthers recognised the support provided by the CNC over the past 20 years, but protection would not be required once all nuclear fuel had been removed from the site.

On deconstruction delivery, the EIADR submission had been submitted in the period. Joe Struthers thanked the SSG, community councils and members of the public for their feedback and engagement through the two rounds of non-statutory consultation. He encouraged engagement with the ONR ahead of the 28 March deadline. All staff and contractors had been taken through the deconstruction plans.

In 2023, the total recorded injury rate for the year had been zero, but this was not taken for granted, so a safe start campaign had been undertaken to reinforce the fundamentals of safety. From a radiological protection perspective, there had been an increase slightly above plan in collective radiation exposure throughout the period due to the challenges with IFD fuel dismantling. From an environmental safety perspective, large volumes of seawater had been used as a tertiary cooling system in generation and defueling. Once all fuel was removed from the site, there was an opportunity to reduce the dependency, which reduced electrical power usage and maintenance resource significantly. An application had been submitted to SEPA to change the discharge permit.

Optimised emergency arrangements had been implemented with the first reactor now being fuel-free. These had been demonstrated recently through an externally assessed exercise.

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There had been staff sessions on TUPE transfer for those staff members who would transfer to NRS. A briefing on the legal position had been well received. An annual engagement survey had been conducted, and Hunterston B had the highest completion rate and best results, showing that people were happy, understood their roles and were confident in their futures.

ONR Report

There was no ONR inspector present, and no report had been submitted. The Chair noted that the ONR would only submit reports every six months.

SEPA Report

Keith Hammond presented his report.

There had been board changes at SEPA, with a new chair as well as five other new board members.

Keith Hammond had been onsite a number of times during the period. There had been a minor issue with some of the data returns, and this was being monitored to ensure accuracy. The non-radioactive biodegradable leak from transformer 3 was being worked on, and ways forward had been agreed.

SEPA was running a consultation on the levels of authorisation required with the changes to EASR, which would be bringing in regimes of wastewater and industrial activities. This consultation finished on 12 April and sat alongside the Scottish Government's consultation on the proposed amendments.

Questions & Answers

Jamie Woodburn noted that Larg Community Council had participated in the non-statutory consultation. However, the detail of the responses suggested the consultation was merely a tick box exercise. There was no evidence of EDF having made any changes as a result of feedback. There had been no consideration about future use of the site. The Chair asked whether Jamie Woodburn had been through all of the ONR consultation documents. Jamie Woodburn stated that he had not, but he had been through EDF's responses to the feedback. The Chair noted that the exercise carried out had been a high-level one, and EDF could not know what was going to happen in the future, especially because the site would be taken over by NRS.

Jamie Woodburn asked why a commitment had not been made for structures to be made less visible and blended in. The Chair asked whether funding was a constraint. Bill Hamilton explained that there was funding from the nuclear liabilities fund, which was ringfenced for Hunterston B, but this was not without limit. The Chair queried whether it was possible that NRS may decide to reduce heights. Bill Hamilton said this was possible. Sohail Ashraf said there would always be site-specific strategies in the background, incorporating transformation and innovation, and these would adapt and change with more information. It was not only about NRS, but there would be investments from the private sector and local government. Discussions were ongoing. Joe Struthers extended an invitation for Jamie Woodburn to come to the site for further conversations.

Stuart McGhie noted that the staff were happy but asked whether there had been any problems. Joe Struthers said the staff members were keen to know what the future held for them, and this would come following the consultation. There was an appetite for information and having Sohail Ashraf present to talk to the staff had been helpful to explain the NRS future.

John Lamb queried the correlation between the graphite bricks and the issues with defueling. Joe Struthers confirmed that there was not one. John Lamb queried whether the ground around Hunterston B on which EDF had an option was being transferred as well. Joe Struthers said one of the streams the transfer group was looking at this, and there was not yet a definitive position. The Chair asked whether John Lamb was surmising that EDF might hold onto the land. John Lamb said it would be transferred back to the estate.

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The Chair expressed a concern around the EASR permit variation concerning flow rate and tidal windows, as there was a big change in the volume of water with a lack of certainty around it. Keith Hammond said a report had been submitted as part of the application and was being assessed. This was not a straightforward question.

The Chair queried whether the EDF onsite internal regulator covered SEPA. Joe Struthers noted that the team covered all regulatory issues and talked to all external regulators.

The Chair queried whether the diesel generators onsite would need to remain through decommissioning. Joe Struthers noted that the current thinking was that they would not be needed after defueling.

5. HUNTERSTON A SITE REPORTS

Hunterston A Site Report

Mark Blackley presented his report.

There had been no significant new safety issues during the reporting period. In relation to the final warning letter from SEPA about site ventilation, Melanie Hayes had conducted an inspection of the improvements made, and the Site had returned to compliance. Work had been committed to on the bunker waste characterisation following a meeting with SEPA at the end of 2023. A scope document had been produced for this work.

1,208 boxes had been retrieved from SAWBR. Box 1,209 had been anticipated to be the final box, but this had been delayed due to a fault requiring repair. A back-out plan was being prepared for the bunkers to remove the remaining materials outside of the bulk industry.

It had been anticipated that the active commissioning of the WILWREP acid storage facility would have started, but a technical issue with the sampling system had led to a delay. The New Effluent Treatment Plant was planned for commissioning starting that month, as was decontamination of the delay tanks on site.

There were continuing issues with the Kuka robots, which had not been resolved. Feasibility was being investigated of processing packages without using the robots. This would require additional shielding to protect operators.

The transfer of all three electrical supplies onsite from an old substation to a new one had been completed. This had required an electrical outage over two weekends. Reactor roof repairs had been slowed by poor weather and was forecast for completion for the end of May/start of June.

ONR Report

There was no ONR inspector present, and no report had been submitted. The Chair noted that the ONR would only submit reports every six months.

SEPA Report

Melanie Hayes presented her report.

On 6 and 7 February, Melanie Hayes had been onsite to look at information provided to satisfy the requirements of the information notice served in relation to the ventilation system. Subject to some minor amendments to the reports prepared by the site, Melanie Hayes was content that the site had returned to compliance.

On 7 December, Melanie Hayes had attended a walkaround of the SILWE facility to support the variation application received. Further information had been required and subsequently requested.

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On discharge returns, in March 2023 there had been issues with reporting of gaseous discharges. Hunterston A and Chapel Cross had both been served with information notices in February 2024, to outline timelines for delivery of information.

The ESA permit variation for the SILWE facility had been received. Additionally, a variation application had been received for aqueous discharges, similar to at Hunterston B.

In terms of characterisation of bunker waste, since the December SSG further information was awaited from NRS. The scoping document had been produced and SEPA would review and make any comments.

Questions & Answers

The Chair queried whether the purpose of the re-characterisation was to look at what was in the bunker waste with a view to seeing if anything could have been disposed of in a near-surface facility. Melanie Hayes noted that the work was to understand what the actual contents was, as the characterisation to date was not adequate. Melanie Hayes was happy to send a formal response to any questions from the SSG. Mark Blackley outlined that it was expected to be in early 2025 that NRS could engage with SEPA regarding proposals for additional pieces of work to improve knowledge and understanding of package records. NRS' preferred option was still to encapsulate all five bunkers' waste. Melanie Hayes noted that SEPA had not been satisfied that the package records had enough information for people in the future to know what was in the packages. Cllr Eleanor Collier noted that the situation was not ideal.

The Chair queried whether there was a prospect of WILWREP being used by Hunterston B for treating acids. Mark Blackley stated that options were being looked at around facility sharing in the future.

The Chair queried how long the Kuka robot would be given. Mark Blackley anticipated a decision would have been made by the next SSG. A concept design had already been done regarding necessary shielding if the robot would not be used.

The Chair queried how bad the cooling pond roof was. Mark Blackley noted a two-year programme of work on the reactor roof had been ongoing and the intention had always been to move into the pond roof next. Funding was allocated for the coming financial year, and NRS would go out to the supply chain regarding methodology.

Melanie Hayes noted that at some point in 2024 a consultation pack on SILWE would be assembled with a certain amount of information regarding bunker re-characterisation. This would hopefully answer some questions.

6. UPDATE FROM NDA

David Wallace was not present but had submitted a report, which was taken as read.

7. UPDATE FROM MAGNOX

Bill Hamilton presented his report.

Magnox had rebranded as NRS and, over the next few weeks, this would be taking effect. Email addresses were also changing over, although the Magnox email addresses were being maintained for six months.

There had been a major piece of engagement around the future of the site, decommissioning strategy, and end-state, which Bill Hamilton would bring to the next SSG meeting.

A 10-year strategy was being developed under the impetus of the CEO, responding to changes over the last five years moving away from care and maintenance to site-specific decommissioning strategies. A community newsletter was being designed to go out to the community elaborating on the 10-year strategy.

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Questions & Answers

Stuart McGhie noted that the cross-party group at Holyrood had already been mentioned. He requested that the agenda and terms of reference be sent to himself and the Chair. Bill Hamilton noted that the terms of reference had not been fully worked up yet, but he would share what he had. SSG chairs and vice-chairs would be welcome to the meetings. Bill Hamilton would make sure invites and all available information were sent out.

8. UPDATE FROM SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Report

Diane Hamilton was not present but had submitted a report, which was taken as read.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

Next Meeting date: Thursday 13 June 2024.

Actions from Hunterston SSG Meetings

ACTIONS FOLLOWING SSG MEETING 07.03.24

ACTION	DETAIL	RESPONSE	STATUS	DATE
Bill Hamilton to present the outcomes of the engagement work	Following the major piece of engagement around the future of the site, decommissioning strategy and end-of-state, Bill Hamilton to present the results to a future meeting of the SSG		ONGOING	

Site Stakeholder Group

Hunterston B Station Director's Report
Period: February 2024 to April 2024

1. Defueling

Defueling on Reactor 4 paused as planned for approximately 3 weeks in mid-February to complete a fuel route outage where statutory compliance work was completed on the charge machine. The fuel route outage was completed safely to plan, allowing defueling operations to recommence.

Over the period Reactor 4 defueling has progressed with 86 channels now defueled. In the last report difficulties in removing a component called a “tie bar end fitting” from two of the fuel assemblies was discussed. This component is removed during the fuel strip process to allow the fuel elements to be separated and sent to the cooling pond.

During this period we have worked to complete the action plan put in place to manage any difficulties with removal of tie bar end fittings. As part of this action plan, revised mechanical tooling, procedures and a safety case have been put in place to allow the tie bar end fittings to be removed, if they are found to be difficult to remove within our routine process.

Since the action plan mitigation has been in place, one tie bar end fitting has been difficult to remove and was removed safely using our revised method. This was achieved in just a few hours, an improvement on the resolution time for the first two instances. Actions are still in progress to understand a technical cause, which will be used as learning for other stations as they head toward defueling.

In March, there was an unplanned opening of the valve which controls the Charge Machine’s CO2 supply. This caused the Charge Machine to pressurise before protections kicked into place as designed. The valve opening was caused by incorrect application of an override switch. The fuel in the charge machine was safely contained and cooled at all times and there were no safety consequences but a full investigation has been carried out to establish learning and prevent a repeat occurrence and additional training provided to operators.

Defueling on Reactor 4 will pause for approximately a month from mid-May for the final planned fuel route outage whilst essential statutory compliance work is completed on the charge machine.

2. Transfer and Deconstruction

Site Transition

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

In the last quarter we have:

- agreed the target organisational structure to be implemented at the site following FFV with internal and external regulators and communicated this to staff (see People Section for more detail)
- shared a draft security plan with the ONR
- agreed the strategy for designing new emergency arrangements
- specified the plant that will be removed from service at FFV

- made good progress with the Fault and Hazard schedule associated with the Post Defueling Safety Case.

Site Transfer to NRS

EDF and NRS are working together to deliver the safest, most cost-effective solution for decommissioning the UK's Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor (AGR) fleet.

A work break down structure and joint plan has been agreed and outlines the scope of work required to enable transfer by April 2026. Both NRS and EDF remain fully committed to working together to deliver seamless transfer of the site licence to NRS.

Deconstruction Delivery

Work continues to prepare for deconstruction, which will start following the completion of defueling. There are no key programmes that are the foundations of the Deconstruction Plan, Waste and Deplanting and Demolition. The overall decommissioning strategy remains 'Early Safestore'.

We continue to work closely with NRS to further develop our Deconstruction Plans, this close working arrangement has led to a significant update to the plan that is currently progressing through the change control process within EDF. The changes add more detail to the plans, refines the logic behind the plans and builds in Operational Experience from NRS.

Some highlights for the quarter in terms of delivery have been the completion of the installation of new incoming electrical supply fit for the full decommissioning lifecycle, approval of a new Site Waste Management Plan and the submission of an environmental permit variation to SEPA for review for an Alternative Active Effluent Discharge Line (AAEDL). Our EIADR submission remains with the ONR for review which, on approval, would allow the site to move into the delivery phase of Deconstruction (this will not be before FFV).

3. Safety and Environment

Station Industrial Safety Performance

In April, during the return to service of a diesel generator from planned maintenance a fault occurred on start-up that resulted in a rain deflector being ejected from the exhaust stack. No harm was caused to personnel or the plant, however it has been recognised that there was a potential to cause harm and therefore the event was categorised as an industrial safety high potential event. The diesel generator remains unavailable. The fault is being investigated to prevent a reoccurrence and to establish any learning from the event.

Safety performance during the reporting period has been good and our Total Recordable Injury Rate (TRIR) sits at 0.

Our contract partners carried out the safe removal of licenced asbestos from the 132kv substation following storm damage, due to high winds.

Quarter 1 compliance evaluations were completed ahead of schedule with the industrial safety engineers completing topics including electromagnetic fields, legionella and portable appliance testing (PAT). This helps ensure we maintain compliance in line with our ISO 45001 accreditation.

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

During April we rolled out a 'Spring into safety' campaign. This consisted of topics such as, working at height, asbestos, fire safety, human performance and time in field. Meet and greets provided staff with advice on DIY gardening activities and the risks and hazards present from sunburn and ticks. This campaign was a success and we will look to run another campaign in October 2024.

Radiological Protection

The radiation dose of each worker is assessed individually by an electronic personal dose meter. A computer database keeps records for each worker. Exposure is continuously, monitored and ultimately compared with the levels specified in the Ionising Radiations Regulations (2017) which are the UK Health and Safety legislation that applies to work with radiation.

During the reporting period the Collective Radiation Exposure (CRE) was below plan (see table below). Collective doses are pre-planned for each year based on scheduled maintenance, outages and routine operations. A breakdown of dose received is shown below (along with a comparison of relevant dose statistics).

All work is fully reviewed and justified in order to ensure all doses received were ALARP (As Low As Reasonably Practicable). This involves justifying and optimising the dose, as well as remaining within those dose limits.

Differences between the actual and planned dose can be down to a range of factors including changes to the work programme, development of new techniques for carrying out work that will result in a lower dose and the deployment of new equipment. In this case, emergent faults in the Irradiated Fuel Dismantling (IFD) Cell resulted in the actual dose being higher than predicted.

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

Radiation Dose to workers (February 2024 - April 2024)		
Planned collective dose	9.0man.mSv	
Actual collective dose	3.3man.mSv	
	Employee	Contract Partner
Total Dose	3.01man.mSv	0.32man.mSv
Average individual dose	0.010mSv	0.002mSv
Highest individual dose	0.241mSv	0.048mSv
Individuals	316	235

Chest X-ray	Transatlantic Flight	CT scan	Average UK annual dose to public	EDF Energy Dose Restriction Level	UK legal dose limit for radiation workers
0.014mSv	0.08mSv	2.0mSv	2.6mSv	10mSv	20mSv

Explanatory notes:

- mSv: milliSieverts (SI unit of dose received by an individual)
- man.mSv: The collective dose for a group of workers (i.e. the total of the doses received by each member of a group).

Environmental Safety

There have been no significant environmental events in the period February 2023 to April 2024.

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

Radioactive gaseous and aqueous discharges arising from normal plant operations in defueling remain at levels well below those authorised by SEPA.

The programme of off-site environmental monitoring and radiation surveys in the district has continued throughout the period and demonstrates that the radiological discharges from the station have a negligible impact on the local environment. Reports are provided monthly and quarterly to SEPA, detailing the samples and results of analysis performed.

Work to process and package solid low level wastes has continued in the period as part of normal operations and consignments have been made to our regular partners.

During the generating and defueling phases of the power station, Hunterston B uses a significant volume of sea water as a tertiary cooling water system. The radioactive discharge permits specify a large volume flowrate of water to make radioactive discharges to sea, which can only be achieved by the main Cooling Water (CW) system. Following the removal of all nuclear fuel from the site, there will be no justification for the continued use of the main CW system, which requires significant electrical power and maintenance resource. An application has been made to SEPA to change the discharge permit to remove the condition requiring the CW flowrate for effluent discharges. The application does not request a change to the permit limits. The site are awaiting feedback from SEPA regarding the progression of the application.

Emergency Arrangements

There have been no issues with the emergency arrangements during this reporting period. Hunterston B continues to work closely with fleet Emergency Preparedness Group as the lead defueling site and we continue to look to optimise our emergency arrangements in line with the risk profile of the station and as we move towards the point of transfer to Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS).

During the reporting period, we have completed a Level 1 demonstration exercise with oversight from the ONR and Hunterston B provided an adequate demonstration, which is

the best rating that can be achieved. We continue to work on embedding the learning and addressing identified areas/opportunities for improvement from this demonstration and the shift exercises.

We have also completed a 'Peer Assessed' exercise and the first exercise season of 2024, allowing each of the five shift teams and existing role holders and trainees to exercise their roles in defueling and conventional hazard based scenarios. The 2024 exercise plan also contains a further demonstration exercise later this year, as well as a second exercise season in the autumn. This will help to facilitate our ongoing role succession plan and will further increase the opportunity for training and authorisations later in the year.

4. People

EDF has been working closely with Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS), and our associated Trade Unions, to design and agree the deconstruction organisational structures for Hunterston B. The structure will be in place when the station transfers to NRS in 2026, approximately nine months after the station is fuel free verified (FFV).

In April, after consultation with the Trade Union Representatives and continual engagement with our internal and external regulators, Joe Struthers (Station Director), Andy Dalling (Transfer and Deconstruction Preparation Manager) and Kathleen Wyle (HR Manager) briefed the Deconstruction Structure to all employees. Staff were briefed at a number of face-to-face sessions, arranged to ensure shift colleagues could attend and a Teams session was put in place for those unable to come to site. This has been followed with a chance to submit questions to be answered in the Q&A available to all staff.

The new station organisational structure, which is expected to come into place sometime in 2026, shows 244 staff roles. While this is a reduction compared to the current headcount, there are a number of options open to staff. Over the coming months the station will be working hard to give people certainty by going through consultation and best fit.

The consultation process is similar to the one staff went through before the end of generation, as we prepared for defueling. While this process will be familiar to staff it may still be a period of uncertainty for some so the station will continue to do everything possible to support people.

More information will be available to staff in the coming months to make sure that everyone has what they need before going into consultation.

After the briefing of the Deconstruction Structure, the Occupational Health Team and Hunterston's Mental Health First Aiders (MHFA) were available to talk to people as they came onto site. The station is entering another period of change and this has the potential to cause stress and uncertainty. Talking to people in the morning was a reminder that they are not alone and there are different people available to talk to and support them.

This also aligned with Stress Awareness month and was a chance to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms and some suggestions of how to help reduce stress. There was also a reminder of the different ways people can be supported through the Occupational Health team, MHFA's, Employee Assistance Programme and the Wellbeing page.



5. Company Update

Torness power station maintenance boosts local business

A programme of work is underway at Torness power station bringing a boost to the East Lothian economy.

One of the station's two units (Unit 1) has been taken offline for a major maintenance programme called a statutory outage. This planned 10 week outage is like an MOT for the unit, allowing work to be carried out that cannot take place while the reactor is at power.

At its peak, around 800 additional workers will join the 750 strong site team to deliver this outage, supporting local business as they stay in the area's hotels, B&Bs and caravan parks and eat in restaurants.

During the outage workers will carry out more than 12,500 separate pieces of work – each carefully planned during the last two years of preparation. Some of the largest jobs include turbine rotor exchange, gas circulator exchanges and inspections, graphite core inspections and generator load switch replacement.

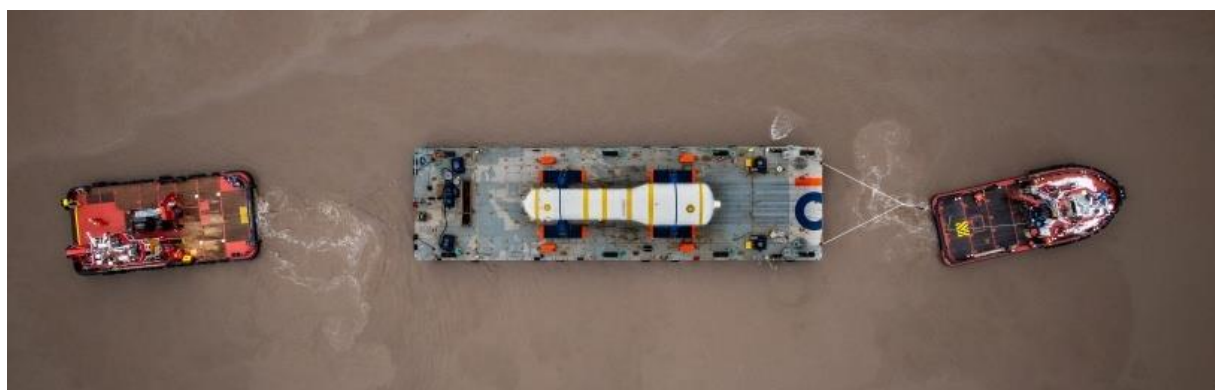
Station Director, Paul Forrest, said: "This £40m maintenance programme supports our ambition to make sure Torness remains a top performing station that can continue to support the UK's net zero goals.

"This will be the 25th statutory outage we have carried out at the station. We are very well practised at them and over the years, we have built great relationships with the extra workers who come and support us during the outages. These workers will be staying in local hotels and B&Bs, eating in the area's restaurants and using taxi firms. It is great that our investment in the power station can also benefit our local community."

EDF carries out a statutory outage on each of its reactors every three years. These are planned in advance with the National Grid to ensure that there is no impact on the national electricity

supply. The other reactor at Torness is due to continue operating normally throughout the period.

Hinkley Point C's heaviest delivery arrives



The first of Hinkley Point C's eight 520-tonne steam generators was delivered safely to the construction site after arriving by sea and road.

The 25m long steam generators will take heat from the nuclear reactors to create steam to power the world's largest turbines. The generator's arrival is in time for the fit out of the new power station, which will see the first nuclear reactor installed later this year. It was delivered in February last year.

The steam generator travelled the final four miles by road transporter after arriving from Avonmouth at Combwich Wharf on the River Parrett in Somerset.

Four will be placed in each reactor building, operating at an average temperature of 295°C for at least 60 years. Their design, manufacturing and testing took six years.

New Skills, Better Jobs: Report reveals positive impact of Hinkley Point C

- More than 8,000 people have been trained in Hinkley Point C's new Centres of Excellence
- Almost one third of those being trained today are from the most deprived areas of Britain
- 1,320 apprentices have been trained so far
- The area around Hinkley Point C has seen a 25% growth in younger people aged 25-39
- Productivity in the local town of Bridgwater is now 10% higher than surrounding towns

New figures published in Hinkley Point C's 2024 Socio-Economic Impact Report reveal the power of green investment to improve the lives and prospects of people and businesses locally, across Somerset and beyond. The full report and case studies be found [here](#).

The report shows that construction of the new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point C is helping thousands of people to get new skills and higher paid jobs. The project is boosting the local economy and helping it beat the national trend of low growth, poor productivity and limited social mobility.

6. **Contacts**

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

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Office for
Nuclear Regulation

ONR Site Report

EDF Energy – Hunterston B

ONR Site Report

EDF Energy - Hunterston B

Report for period: 1 December 2023 – 31 May 2024

Authored by: Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: Delivery Lead Operating Reactors

Issue No.: 1

Publication Date: June 2024

ONR Record Ref. No.: 2024/24937

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

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

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1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of Inspection

The ONR site inspector and specialist inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 December 2023 – 31 May 2024:

6 February

26 - 27 March

16 - 17, 23 - 24 April

30 May

The ONR site security inspector made inspections on the following dates:

9 - 10 January

2. Routine Matters

2.1. Inspections

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

- the conditions attached by ONR to the nuclear site licence granted under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65) (as amended);
- the Energy Act 2013
- the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HSWA74); and
- regulations made under HSWA74, for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99).

The inspections entail monitoring the licensee's actions on the site in relation to incidents, operations, maintenance, projects, modifications, safety case changes and any other matters that may affect safety. The licensee is required to make and implement adequate arrangements under the conditions attached to the licence in order to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

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

- Management of Change

- Emergency Arrangements
- Decommissioning

Management of Change

On 6 February 2024, ONR inspectors attended site to discuss the station proposals for the Hunterston B overarching Management of Organisational Change (MOC) proposal for introduction of the deconstruction organisation at the site. This precedes planned transfer of the site to ownership by Nuclear Restoration Services. The overarching MOC does not enact any change itself but provides the basis for development of a series of department-by-department enacting MOCs.

ONR provided comments on these draft documents and will review the final overarching MOC to inform the ONR regulatory footprint for the enacting MOCs which will follow.

Emergency Arrangements

On 27 March 2024, ONR inspectors evaluated a demonstration of the station emergency arrangements. The emergency exercise was judged to be an adequate and effective challenge to the emergency response arrangements required under Licence Condition 11. As with all exercises, some learning opportunities were identified – in this case crime scene management, where there has been a potential fatality and on-site medical treatment of contaminated casualties.

Decommissioning

On 30 May 2024, ONR inspectors carried out a joint inspection of the Hunterston decommissioning plan with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). The purpose of the inspection was to review the adequacy of Hunterston B's planning for decommissioning specifically the site specific decommissioning plan.

The inspection focussed on the station's strategy for decommissioning and planning for de-planting activities to allow entry to care and maintenance. Overall ONR judged that the station had suitable arrangements in place for the decommissioning of the site and implementation of the decommissioning programmes.

We reviewed the key stages of the plan including the active area risk based de-planting and non-active areas managed retreat to demolition as well as the proposed end states. ONR judged that the Hunterston B site specific decommissioning plan meets the requirements of Licence Condition 35 – Commissioning. Implementation of the decommissioning plan will be monitored through future ONR interventions.

Nuclear Reactors (Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning Regulations) (EIADR)

The Nuclear Reactors (Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning) Regulations, 1999, as amended (EIADR) is a legal instrument that requires the environmental impact of decommissioning nuclear power stations and other nuclear

reactors to be considered in detail before consent for the decommissioning project to commence can be granted. To obtain consent, the dutyholder submits an environmental statement to ONR which presents a detailed environmental impact assessment for the proposed decommissioning project and any features of the project or measures envisaged to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset, any likely significant adverse effects on the environment. Further information can be found [here](#).

On 1 December 2023, EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd submitted to ONR its Application for Consent to decommission the Hunterston B site under EIADR. Since then, ONR has conducted a three-month consultation with the relevant consultation bodies, which includes SEPA, the local highway and planning authorities, together with the public and any other interested parties. ONR is now considering the application and the consultation responses and is expecting to issue a consent decision in early July. The decision will be documented in a Project Assessment Report and the consultees will be informed when this document is available on ONR's website.

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.

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.

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

Date	Type	Ref. No.	Description

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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Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

SEPA Update- Hunterston B

13 June 2024

Regulation

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

We have continued communication with the station throughout the period, including formal weekly call-downs with the station's Environmental Safety Group and corporate Generation Environment Management as well as monthly updates from the EDF internal regulator on site. We have also attended routine meetings with corporate EDF, Nuclear Restoration Services (formerly Magnox), ONR and EA on strategic issues, including defueling, transfer and decommissioning.

Site Inspection

We have visited the station once since the last SSG meeting. On 23 and 24 April 2024, SEPA attended the site to follow up the corrective actions undertaken with regard the two errors noted in the station's data returns in the end of 2023 and to receive an update on the projects associated with the Active Effluent Discharge Line. The station had made good progress with the corrective actions and no new contraventions were identified. The station's Annual Review of Safety meeting was also attended during the inspection.

At the time of writing, it is intended that the station will be inspected again on 30 May 2024 in conjunction with ONR staff with a focus on the station's Site Specific Decommissioning Plan

EASR Permit Variation

The station applied to SEPA on 31 January 2024 to vary its EASR permit to remove the minimum aqueous discharge flow rate (7m³/s) and tidal window requirements (one hour after high tide to one hour before low tide) whilst keeping the same discharge point. SEPA has requested further information from the station, including a short-term release dose assessment to a swimmer during a discharge. The information is to be provided by the end of May 2024.

Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC)

SEPA continues to monitor the minor leak of non-radioactive biodegradable oil from an oil-filled cable which services a transformer on site to ensure it is having no significant environmental impact. Otherwise, there have been no issues relating to the station's PPC permit for its non-radioactive emissions from the emergency diesel generators, auxiliary boilers and waste oil burner since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

Control of Major Accidents and Hazards (COMAH)

There have been no issues relating to the station's COMAH requirements since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR)

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

Fluorinated Greenhouse Gas Emissions (F-Gas)

There have been no other issues relating to the station's F-Gas usage since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)

There have been no issues relating to the ETS since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

Environmental Events

There were no reportable incidents, complaints or non-compliance events affecting SEPA's interests at the station known to have occurred since the last meeting of the SSG at the time of drafting this report.

Habits Survey

In order to undertake dose assessments for RIFE as well as other purposes, we need to collect data on public habits to gain an understanding of how members of the public may be exposed to radioactivity. We undertake surveys around each of Scotland's nuclear licensed sites every five years. Researchers interview local residents, food retailers, fishing managers and farmers, observe habits at particular locations, such as beaches, and take measurements of radioactivity.

The next survey of the combined Hunterston site is scheduled to be undertaken by the University of Stirling this summer.

Radioactivity in Food & the Environment (RIFE)

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

The latest edition (RIFE 28) covering 2022 has been published and can be obtained from SEPA's website along with previous year's reports. RIFE 28 reports that the total dose for the representative person (most exposed) around the Hunterston site, which includes both Hunterston A and Hunterston B, for 2022 was less than 0.005 millisieverts, which is well below the legal annual dose limit of one millisievert as set out in paragraph 26, Schedule 8 of EASR18.

Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (SPRI)

The Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (SPRI) is a publicly accessible electronic database of releases of pollutants to all environmental media and transfers of non-radioactive waste. We intend that, as far as practicable, SPRI be the principle means by which information on Scottish pollutant releases and non-radioactive waste transfers is collected and made public. Wherever possible, such information will be collected and presented by this one system. The data for 2022, including that from Hunterston A and B, have been published and are available on SEPA's website under "*Environment/Environmental data/SPRI*".

Mr Keith Hammond

Radioactive Substances Specialist/*Speisealach Stuthan Reidio-beo*

24/05/2024



HUNTERSTON A

SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP REPORT

SITE DIRECTOR – MARK BLACKLEY

JUNE 2024

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

Hunterston A continues to address the nuclear liabilities at Hunterston A in a safe, secure manner with care for the environment.

1 SITE DIRECTOR OVERVIEW

There were no significant new Conventional, Nuclear, Radiological, Environmental or Security issues over the reporting period.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2 SAFETY OVERVIEW

2.1 Safety Review Performance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.2 Emergency Arrangements

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

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

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

3 DECOMMISSIONING PROGRESS

3.1 SAWBR (Solid Active Waste Bunker Retrieval)

The SAWBR facility was constructed to recover solid HAW (Higher Activity Waste) from within the site’s five HAW bunkers. This is achieved by using remotely operated vehicles (ROV’s) to fill hoppers that are then tipped into RWM (Radioactive Waste Management Ltd) approved 3M³ stainless steel boxes. The initial breakthrough into Bunker 5 was achieved in March 2014 and Bunkers 5, 4, 3 and 2 have been sequentially emptied to date. The bulk waste recovery from the Bunker 1 has now been completed which is a significant milestone for Hunterston and NRS.

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

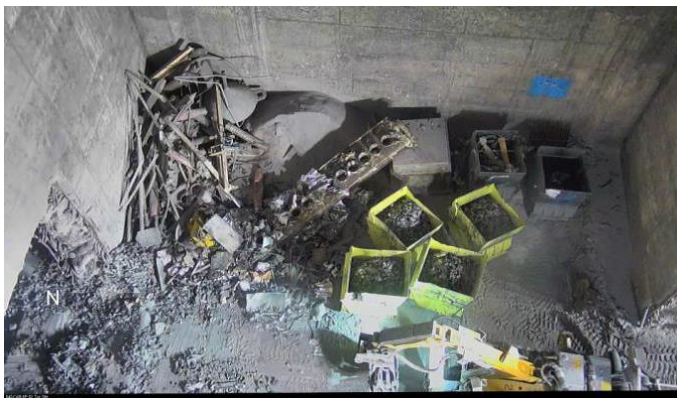
We have commenced the fines recovery operations within Bunker 2, replaced and successfully tested the new Brokk 1 umbilical cable as well as completing re-sequencing and testing of the Swabbing and Bolting Robot box top recovery swabbing routine.

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

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



Picture below of Bunker Waste Recovery Operations showing fuel assy/skip guide and part of the De-splitter machine.



3.2 Wet Intermediate Level Waste Retrieval & Encapsulation Plant (WILWREP)

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

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

3.3 Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation (SILWE) Project

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

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



Grouting trials underway

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

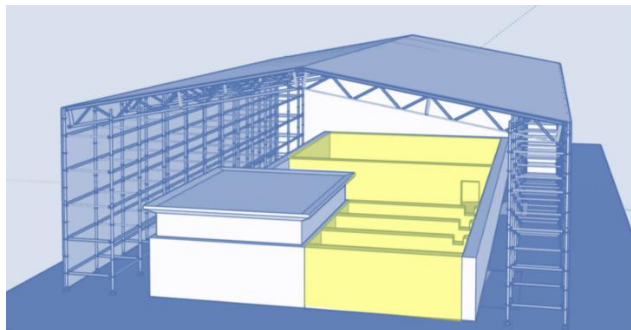
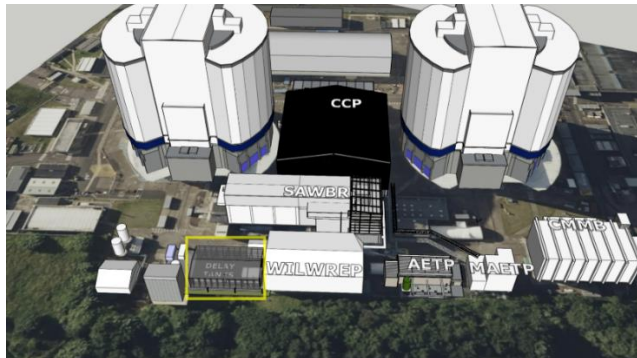
This is intended to bring into focus, any plant interfaces and related issues for resolution. One of the most important elements of human factors, involves the interface with the grout plant during grouting operations.

3.4 Ponds Programme

CCP Delay Tanks

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

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



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



Internal views of Delay tanks

3.5 Plant & Structures

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

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

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

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



PEOPLE

4.1 Site HR

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

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

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

4.2 Occupational Health

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

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

5 ASSET MANAGEMENT

To enable safe operation, we proactively review our systems, processes and facilities via our Systems Engineering Department. This enables us to look at future investment requirements to maintain a safe operational status.

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

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

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

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

A portfolio of work packs for 2025/26 and 2026/27 is being developed.

6 RADIOLOGICAL SAFETY

Explanatory note: The maximum permissible dose to a radiation worker in the UK is 20mSv (milliSieverts) in a calendar year. The average annual radiation dose to the UK population from all sources is 2.6mSv. Collective dose is usually measured in man.milliSieverts. For example, if ten people were each to receive 0.1milliSieverts during a particular task, then the collective dose for the task would be 10 people x 0.1mSv each = 1 man.milliSievert.

Doses for the calendar year 2024, to the end of April, are as follows:

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

The majority of dose accrued in 2024 has been from a combination of the pond decommissioning project and other site projects. All doses in these projects have been prior assessed, planned and are tracked throughout the project duration to ensure that no limits are exceeded and that doses are kept as low as reasonably practicable.

7 ENVIRONMENT

7.1 Radioactive Discharges (April 2023 - March 2024)

Solid

Low Level Waste (LLW) disposals to the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) continue. 27.01 m³ of LLW and VLLW with a total activity of 0.07 GBq was disposed of during the twelve-month period from April 2023 - March 2024. There is no limit on the volume or radioactivity content of LLW and VLLW being disposed of under the site EA(S)R Permit. The main contribution to these waste consignments was decommissioned plant, equipment, and materials generated during decommissioning operations.

Liquid

The main sources of liquid radioactive discharges during the period April 2023 - March 2024 were liquors generated through wet waste recovery and encapsulation processes and routine waste water arisings from the site active drain system.

Radionuclide or Group of Radionuclides	Annual Limit	Activity discharged (April 2023 - March 2024)
Tritium	30 GBq	0.005 GBq
Caesium-137	160 GBq	0.044 GBq
Plutonium-241	2 GBq	0.000 GBq
All alpha emitting radionuclides not specifically listed taken together	2 GBq	0.001 GBq
All non-alpha emitting radionuclides not specifically listed taken together	60 GBq	0.038 GBq

Gaseous

The main contributions to gaseous radioactive discharges were ventilation systems operating in contamination controlled areas and reactor vessel 'breathing'.

Authorised Outlet, Group of Outlets or other discharge route	Radionuclide or Group of Radionuclides	Annual Limit	Activity discharged (April 2023 - March 2024)
All authorised outlets taken together.	Tritium	100 MBq	0.3 MBq
	All other radionuclides (excluding tritium)	3 MBq	0.231 MBq
Discharges made as a consequence of reactor breathing	Tritium	3000 MBq	380.51 MBq
	Carbon-14	200 MBq	58.30 MBq

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

Treated sewage effluent from the plant is currently being independently assessed by SEPA on a quarterly basis. Results from an independent off-site laboratory analysis verify

that the sewage treatment works reed beds continue to work efficiently to maintain good quality effluent in compliance with the sites CAR discharge licence.

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

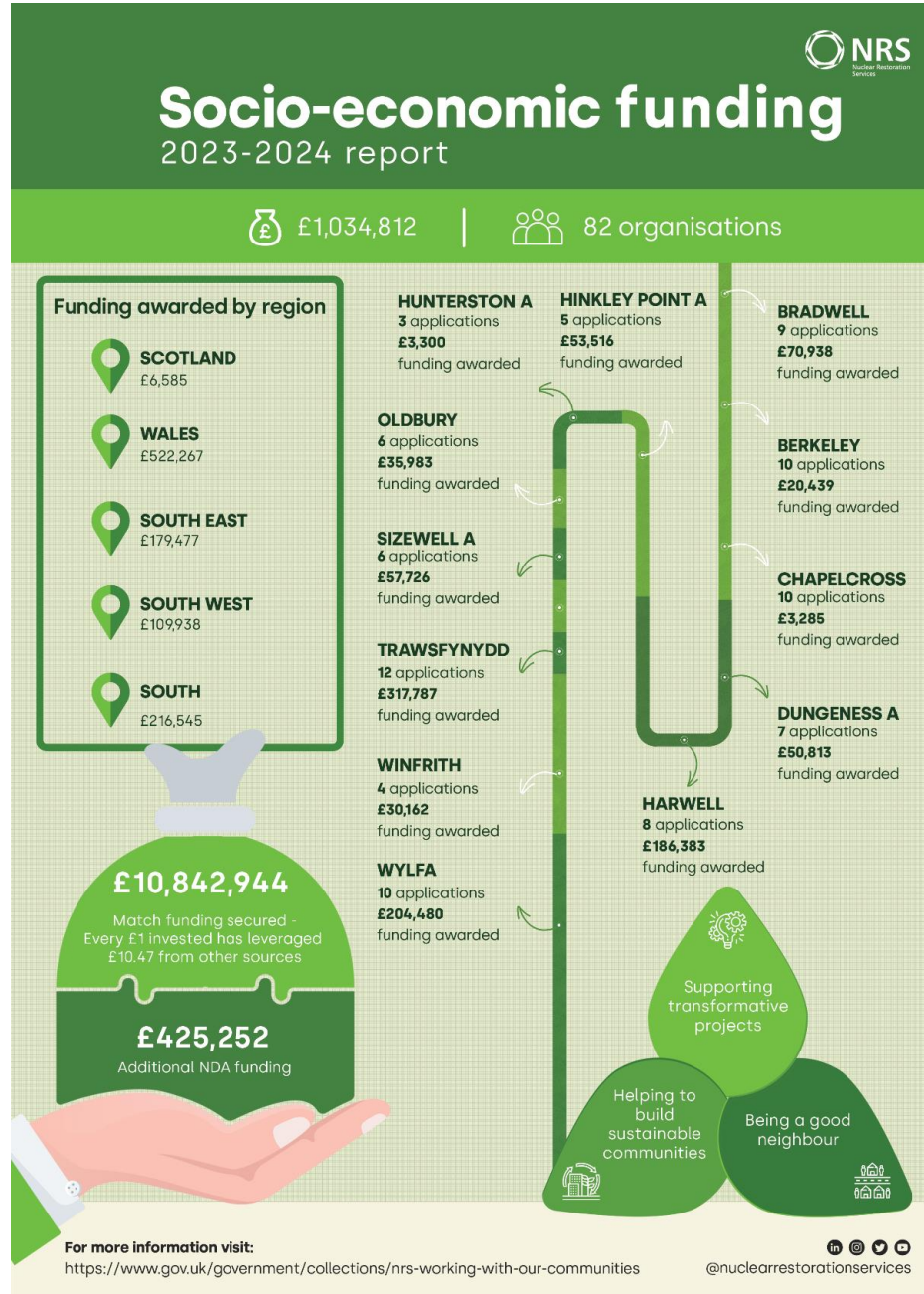
7.3 Environmental Events

There were no significant events over the reporting period.

8 SOCIO-ECONOMIC / STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

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

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



8.2 Hunterston A Good Neighbour level

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



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

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

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

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

9 SUSTAINABILITY

9.1 Sustainability Strategy

NRS's sustainability strategy centres around five goals: governance, environment, supply chain, employees, and communities. Goal 5 recognises NRS's responsibility to deliver value to its communities and this goal aims to strengthen local engagement, invest in local community assets and share our expertise.



9.2 Volunteering Portal

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

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

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

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

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

10 SITE VISITS AND KEY DATES

Hunterston A Site continues to attract the right kind of interest through our good safety and business performance. Below is a selection of visitors / key dates during the period.

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

SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
Hunterston 'A'
June 2024

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



Office for
Nuclear Regulation

ONR Site Report

Nuclear Restoration Services – Hunterston A

ONR Site Report

Nuclear Restoration Services - Hunterston A

Report for period: 1 January – 31 March 2024

Authored by: Nominated Site Inspector

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

Issue No.: 1

Publication Date: April 2024

ONR Record Ref. No.: 2024/15965

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

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

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1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of Inspection

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

11-12 March 2024

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

20 February 2024

2. Routine matters

2.1. Inspections

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

- the conditions attached by ONR to the nuclear site licence granted under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65) (as amended)
- the Energy Act 2013
- the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (HSWA74)
- regulations made under HSWA74, for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99)

The inspections entail monitoring the licensee's actions on the site in relation to incidents, operations, maintenance, projects, modifications, safety case changes and any other matters that may affect safety. The licensee is required to make and implement adequate arrangements under the conditions attached to the licence in order to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, routine inspections of Hunterston A covered the following:

- radioactive waste management
- security (information 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.

During the inspection I also held meetings on the following topics:

- follow-up work related to previous difficulties
- topical plant matters (including modifications)
- topical safety management matters
- topical compliance matters

2.2. Other work

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

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

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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Merseyside
L20 7HS
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Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

SEPA Update- Hunterston A

13 June 2024

Regulation

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

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

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

No site visits have been undertaken since the last SSG meeting. Updates to ongoing situations are in bold.

SEPA Site Inspection 6-7th February 2024

SEPA issued NRS Hunterston A with an Information Notice in June 2023, which requested timelines for certain information be provided to SEPA by 10th August 2023 with regards to the site ventilation system defects. NRS responded in August 2023 with dates for the provision of the requested information, all of which was received by SEPA by the dates provided in response to the Information Notice.

The purpose of this site inspection was to discuss the information provided by NRS and whether the site had returned to compliance with the conditions of EASR which they were found to have breached.

Subject to some minor amendments to the reports prepared by Hunterston A, SEPA is content that based on the information provided, and the visual inspection of a selection of the ventilation systems where corrective work was undertaken, the site has returned to compliance with the breached EASR standard conditions with respect to the ventilation system defects.

SEPA Site Inspection 7th December 2023 – update May 2024

A walk down of the SILWE facility was undertaken in order to support the variation application that was received by SEPA last year. SEPA requires further information in order to support the permit variation application and has requested this information from the site.

Update: At time of preparing report SEPA are awaiting information, due end of May 2024.

SEPA Site Inspection 28th March 2023 – update May 2024

SEPA undertook an inspection of the process employed by Hunterston A to submit the monthly gaseous discharge returns. The inspection focused specifically on the process for sample receipt in the labs and monthly reporting of the gaseous ‘any other radionuclides’ on the permit, i.e., the particulate alpha and beta.

During the inspections SEPA found that Hunterston A are not reporting the monthly gaseous ‘all other radionuclides’ as per the requirements of Schedule 2: Data Return Requirements of the Environmental Authorisation (Scotland) Regulations 2018.

The site was therefore deemed to be non-compliant with a number of standard conditions of the site EASR permit.

In July SEPA wrote to the site requesting timelines for a return to compliance as well as confirmation of the status of the data provided in previously submitted data returns. The site provided a response on 10th August, and SEPA is in the process of considering the programme supplied by the site and will respond in due course.

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

Update – SEPA are awaiting information to close out the Notice, these will be delivered during 2024 as per the dates provided by NRS.

Permit Variation Application – update May 2024

SEPA received an EASR permit variation application from NRS HNA on Monday 21st August 2023. This application is primarily for the operation of the SILWE plant, which requires a permit variation in order to include the SILWE gaseous discharge stack within the site permit. In addition, the permit variation requests an increase to the site gaseous discharge limits due to the operation of this new facility as well as other imminent work on the site. Note that SEPA will consider the encapsulation of bunker 1 wastes only at this time due to the ongoing discussions around the appropriateness of the characterisation of the bunker wastes. The timely encapsulation of bunker 1 wastes is deemed necessary by ONR, and is outlined in the Joint Statement provided to NRS HNA by ONR and SEPA last year.

Update – Ongoing. Public Consultation will be published later this year.

Review of Characterisation of ILW Bunker Waste – update May 2024

SEPA received an optioneering report from NRS on 28th March 2022 entitled “Review of Options for Managing Waste from The Hunterston A Solid Active Waste Bunkers Given its Status at May 2021 WD/REP/0032/21”.

Having initially reviewed the information sent, SEPA considered there needed to be a review of the underpinning characterisation work and whether this is sufficient to underpin the optioneering decisions.

SEPA procured a specialist contractor to review the model and associated work undertaken by NRS with regards to the characterisation of the SAWB waste. The review commenced in December 2022 and SEPA received a final version of the report in June, which was shared with ONR prior to being sent to NRS shortly afterwards.

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

Update NRS provided SEPA with a high level scoping document which highlighted work areas required to ensure that an adequate demonstration of BPM is provided for the decisions regarding further characterisation of the bunker wastes. SEPA look forward to receiving the output of each of the stages outlined within the scoping document.

Non-Rad Regulation

There has been one issue reported to SEPA relating to non-rad regulation, with regards to minor leaks of F-Gas from refrigerant systems, since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

During a fault investigation it was identified that one of the air conditioning units associated with the sites administrative building had lost all of the refrigerant gas within the system. The investigation identified the loss of 33.9 Kg of R410A gas. This equates to a loss of 70.78 Te CO2 equivalent. The F-Gas Specialist at SEPA has been made aware of the leak of F-Gas.

Environmental Events

EASR

There were no reportable incidents or non-compliance events affecting SEPA's interests at Hunterston A known to have occurred since the last meeting of the SSG at the time of writing this report.

Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC)

There were no reportable incidents, complaints or non-compliance events affecting SEPA's interests at Hunterston A known to have occurred since the last meeting of the SSG at the time of writing this report.

Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR)

There were no reportable incidents, complaints or non-compliance events affecting SEPA's interests at Hunterston A known to have occurred since the last meeting of the SSG at the time of writing this report.

Radioactivity in Food & the Environment (RIFE)

RIFE is a collaborative report on work carried out by SEPA, the other UK environment agencies, Food Standards Scotland and Food Standards Agency on the radiological monitoring of food and the environment. The RIFE reports aim to provide an in-depth assessment of radioactivity in food and the environment in the UK and the public's exposure to radiation, including in the vicinity of Hunterston A. 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 been published and can be obtained from SEPA's website along with previous year's reports. RIFE 28 reports that the total dose for the representative person (most exposed) around the Hunterston site, which includes both Hunterston A and Hunterston B, for 2022 was less than 0.005 millisieverts, which is well below the legal annual dose limit of one millisievert as set out in paragraph 26, Schedule 8 of EASR18.

Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (SPRI)

The Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (SPRI) is a publicly accessible electronic database of releases of pollutants to all environmental media and transfers of non-radioactive waste. We intend that, as far as practicable, SPRI be the principle means by which information on Scottish pollutant releases and non-radioactive waste transfers is collected and made public. Wherever possible, such information will be collected and presented by this one system. The data for 2022, including that from Hunterston A and B, have been published and are available on SEPA's website under "Environment/Environmental data/SPRI".

Melanie Hayes
Radioactive Substances Specialist, May 2024



NDA Update for Hunterston SSG

June 2024



Contents

1.0 NDA Stakeholder Update June 2024

NDA Stakeholder Update

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

Board updates

- The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero appointed **Peter Hill CBE** as Chair of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) from 1 June 2024. He succeeds Chris Train OBE who has been interim Chair since September 2023.
- Peter has wide experience in executive, non-executive and chair roles across a number of FTSE listed companies and in government. He is currently chair of Keller Group plc and has also previously been a non-executive director of UK Trade and Investment, the Royal Air Force and an agency of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.
- **Chris Train OBE** has been appointed as Chair of Sellafield Ltd. He will take on the role of Sellafield Chair on 1 July 2024 succeeding the Interim Chair, Lawrie Haynes CBE. On commencing his role of Sellafield Chair, Chris will step down from the NDA Board. Lawrie will continue in his current role as Chair of NDA subsidiary Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS).
- Adrienne Kelbie CBE, Chair of Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) board has announced that she will be stepping down in Summer 2024. We will be launching an open recruitment process shortly to appoint her successor.

Outreach activities Q1 2024

- We held our latest **Regional Stakeholder Roadshow**, in north Wales on 12 March 2024 at Bangor University. The roadshow provided an opportunity to celebrate the wealth of nuclear expertise in Wales, as well as engage with local students on the NDA's mission and showcase how academic partnerships and collaborations are enabling safe, secure, and sustainable decommissioning. The event followed the successful format from Cumbria and Glasgow which took place in partnership with universities in the regions.
- The first meeting of a **Cross Party Group** on Nuclear Decommissioning was held at the Scottish Parliament on March 27th following its establishment by the Standards Committee at the end of last year. The CPG is co-chaired by Oliver Mundell MSP (Conservative) and Colin Smyth MSP (Labour) MSP, and the Deputy Convenor is Emma Harper MSP (SNP). See link for further details: [Civil Nuclear Industry | Scottish Parliament Website](#)
- NRS and the NDA hosted a **visit to Dungeness A and B** with the DESNZ Second Permanent Secretary, Clive Maxwell. There was an opportunity to view the scale of the boilers removal project at Dungeness A, and the work ongoing at the B site to remove the fuel following early shutdown of the reactors which will ultimately be transferred to the NDA for final decommissioning.

Engagement priorities for 2024

- Following the useful workshop in Manchester with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Site Stakeholder Groups, we will be looking to shortly circulate a draft scope for an **SSG review**. As previously trailed this exercise will provide an opportunity to reflect on the successes of the stakeholder voice in the local community over the last 20 years and consider how best to address some of the challenges that face us as we think about the future.
- In response to previous feedback we are holding this year's annual **SSG Chairs and Vice-Chairs event on 8/9 July** and for the first time it will reflect a group wide approach involving the NDA and NRS Chief Executives and Chairs, and other OpCo Chief Executives. We hope this combined event will provide an opportunity for a richer discussion.
- Our next in person **Stakeholder Conference** will be held on **17/18 September** in Manchester. We will be working with a range of stakeholders to draft the content and agenda to ensure we create an event that reflects your requirements and will keep you informed of progress.
- We will also be issuing our **biannual stakeholder survey** and are currently in the process of designing that. More details will be available later in the year.
- Preparation is underway for **Strategy V** which we expect to publish in March 2026. Our strategy document is published every 5 years and describes our high-level approach to delivering our mission. Within that we identify a number of critical enablers essential to the successful delivery of our mission including public and stakeholder engagement. We will engage early with stakeholders during the development of the document and its subsequent consultation.

Publications and policy updates

- DESNZ 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.
- In February Scottish Government engaged stakeholders on its **NSD Technical Report**. The report has been developed as a technical options paper which will inform any future decisions on SG Waste Policy going forward.
- In April we published our **Business Plan 2024-2027** which sets out key activities and the progress expected across all our sites during the next 3 years, in line with funding allocated by DESNZ.
- Our updated **Social Impact and Communities Strategy** has also been published. 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. [NDA launches its new Social Impact and Communities Strategy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/social-impact-and-communities)

- Following its consultation in 2023, the **Government's new UK policy** on the sustainable and effective management of radioactive substances and nuclear is expected to be published in mid-May 2024.

Mission delivery

- A collaboration between NRS, NTS and NWS has achieved a significant milestone by transporting the final waste from the Treated Radwaste Store (TRS) in Winfrith to the LLWR for disposal. The completion of this project ahead of schedule means that the need for **waste storage at Winfrith** which closed in 1990 has been removed, leaving the site ready for decommissioning.
- NDA and NRS have underlined their commitment to Government to, where possible, safely accelerate **land release at Harwell** site to maximise the economic impact of decommissioning. We have identified clear areas of strategic importance and will work together with the Harwell Campus joint venture on developing options for those areas. We are at early stages and still progressing the current release of plots, aiming to have a broader plan for land release this autumn.
- After four years of leading the Dounreay site as Managing Director, **Mark Rouse** is taking on a key role to support Government in delivering on its nuclear ambitions. **John Grierson**, Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) Sites Nuclear Operations Director will serve as Acting Managing Director for Dounreay for six months while a permanent managing director is recruited. Ross McAllister will be acting NRS Sites Nuclear Operations Director during this period.
- NRS is in the process of updating its **lifetime plan** for Dounreay which identifies a route map to reach the site's interim end state – the point at which all redundant facilities will have been cleared and the resultant radioactive waste can be stored safely at the site. The new plan prioritises the early completion of work to dismantle the fast reactors and empty two waste disposal and storage facilities. Work will continue in the most complex part of the site, Fuel Cycle Area with the aim of finding new and innovative approaches that will benefit decommissioning at other sites, and especially at Sellafield. More detail is expected in the coming months.
- The **NAO value for money study** into whether Sellafield and the NDA are taking a sustainable approach to decommissioning, leading to permanent hazard reduction has now commenced. Following the first visit of the NAO team and PAC members to Sellafield in October we hosted a further site visit at the end of April. We expect the study to report in October.
- At the end of May Sellafield is hosted a visit by the Permanent Secretaries at DESNZ. This included an opportunity to see and appreciate the scale of

operations and complexities involved in decommissioning these high hazard facilities.

- **Hunterston A** has completed a major NRS milestone with over 2,000 tonnes of solid radioactive waste – the equivalent weight of 153 Big Ben bells – retrieved and safely stored. Hunterston A holds the largest inventory of solid Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) across all the NRS sites and this equates to over 85% of the ILW inventory now retrieved. The remaining 15% are residual sludges from the spent fuel storage ponds and acids. These are in the process of being recovered and treated. This waste consists of contaminated metallic components, debris removed from spent fuel elements and 30,000 fuel element graphite sleeves from when the site was generating low carbon electricity between 1964 and 1999.
- We continue to support the wider skills agenda and as part of that commitment announced an extension to our partnership with the **Young Generation Network** (YGN) to 2025. We are working together to maximise learning opportunities for NDA group staff, increase awareness of joining the Nuclear Institute, and support early careers within the nuclear industry.
- **Destination Nuclear** has been launched in the UK to attract and recruit people into the civil and defence nuclear sectors. The nuclear workforce will need to double over the next 20 years, which will support around 80,000 additional jobs across the country. The campaign will target those considering a career change with transferrable skills, as well as supporting a commitment to apprenticeships and graduate schemes and increasing opportunities for PhD students.
- 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. We held our first ever large-scale graduate recruitment event in Manchester earlier this month.
- All public bodies are required to create a **Nature Recovery Plan** and to fulfil this requirement the NDA is due to undertake an assessment of all its land holdings to look at opportunities for biodiversity net gain enhancements which could compensate for developments elsewhere. Tenants will be contacted over the coming months as the ecological surveyors work across each area.

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



Nuclear
Decommissioning
Authority

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATE TO HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP – 13TH JUNE 2024

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING POLICY TEAM

Revised UK Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning Policy Framework

The revised UK policy framework was published on the 18 May 2024 and replaces Command Paper 2919, Review of Radioactive Waste Management Policy: Final Conclusions published in 1995 and a number of other documents. It updates, clarifies and consolidates a number of policies into a UK-wide policy framework. It sets out clearly those policies that are pursued jointly by the UK Government and Devolved Administrations and any separate policies that apply in any one nation. The revised policy framework and response to the consultation exercise can be found at the following link;

[Managing radioactive substances and nuclear decommissioning - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/managing-radioactive-substances-and-nuclear-decommissioning)

Scottish Government Ministerial Changes

Following the appointment of the new First Minister and Scottish Government Cabinet in early May, Mairi McAllan MSP's overall portfolio has changed. She is now Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy, however, radioactive substances/nuclear decommissioning remains within her portfolio.

Public Attitudes to Radioactive Waste Management Survey

The results of the 'Public Attitudes to Radioactive Waste Management' survey are being prepared for publication. I will advise the SSG once the results are available.

Scottish Nuclear Sites Stakeholder Group Meeting (SSSG)

We are in the process of organising the next SSSG meeting for later this year. We are considering the best way to co-ordinate this with other meetings planned for around this time, including the Cross Party Group meeting at the Scottish Parliament planned for September. We will be in touch with members to discuss dates in the near future. The SSSG will likely be held at Victoria Quay in Edinburgh, with a hybrid option. If you would like to attend the SSSG and are not currently on the distribution list, please contact me via email and I will add you to the list.

Diane Hamilton
Scottish Government