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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
DUNGENESS A SITE AND B POWER STATION SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
HELD AT WELLNESS CENTRE (VISITOR CENTRE) DUNGENESS B POWER STATION, ROMNEY
MARSH, TN29 9PX
THURSDAY 15 February 2024**

Attendance/Apologies list

In Attendance

Graham Finn
David Godfrey
Cllr Peter Coe
Adam Feacey
Cllr Andy Meredith
Richard Parker-Harding
Cllr Tony Hills
Matt Sandwell
Riaz Ali
Louise Barton
Andrew Bull
Rebecca Cavanagh
Jason Crook
Ian Cuthbert
Phil Fahey
Hamish Findlay
Kate Griffiths
Bill Hamilton
Pip Hatt (Via Teams)
Themis Kantara
Gavin Lancaster
Matthew Pardo
Cath Pritchard
Kezia White
Geoffrey Dore
Claire Bruce
Mick Burgess
Gabrielle Popp
Louise Barton
Cllr Paul Redstone

Chair
Vice Chair
New Romney Town Council
Kent County Council
New Romney Town Council
Rother District Council
Kent County Council
Kent County Council
EDF
Lydd Airport Action Group
ONR Inspector, Dungeness A
EDF
ONR Inspector, Dungeness B
Site Director, Dungeness A
Environment Agency
Creative Folkestone
Environment Agency
NRS
NDA
Environment Agency
Station Director, Dungeness B
EDF
NRS
Environment Agency
Minute Taker
Resident
Resident
Resident
Resident
East Sussex County Council

Apologies

Samantha Proctor
Barrie Botley
Moir Stuart
Chris Milne
Cllr Alan Martin
Cllr Keith Glazer
Matt Gorvin

NHS
Kent Against a Radioactive Environment (KARE)
Kent Against a Radioactive Environment (KARE)
Site Integration Manager, NRS
Folkestone & Hythe District Council
East Sussex County Council
NRS

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1. WELCOME

3777 The Chair (Graham Finn) opened the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3778 Apologies were received as listed.

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES

3779 The minutes of 12 October 2023 were formally approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING

3780 *Programme delivery manager for the boiler down project for Dungeness A to attend the SSG* – Matt Gorvin had contracted Covid. Ian Cuthbert would provide a presentation in place of Matt Gorvin.

3781 *Improving communications with local residents* – The Chair reported that he had spoken to Emma Reynolds and Bill Hamilton, and all three parties had agreed to review this. Bill Hamilton stated that an update would be provided by Emma Reynolds the following week. The action remained open.

3782 *Sewage discharges* – Gavin Lancaster explained that Dungeness B was undergoing a commissioning phase for the installation of a new sewage treatment plant. The commissioning phase encompassed growing the microbes to undertake the self-digestion. Parallel to this, Dungeness B was tankering off sewage through the plant for local treatment. The challenge had concerned how Dungeness B assured itself that its sewage treatment plant did not inadvertently contribute to any raw sewage discharges from the site. The plant was a large unit, and the site had needed to be upgraded to manage [the 1,500 daily headcount](#).

At a previous meeting Dungeness B was asked if sewage discharges from the plant could be contributing to poor water quality locally. Gavin Lancaster explained that Dungeness B was undergoing a commissioning phase for the installation of a new sewage treatment plant. The new plant was a large unit, and the site had needed to be upgraded to manage the high headcount.

The commissioning phase encompassed growing the microbes to undertake the self-digestion. Parallel to this, Dungeness B was tankering off sewage through the plant for local treatment.

3783 There was no additional biofouling removal or recovery. The Environment Agency (EA) governed an extremely strict permitting process that the plant obeyed. The plant would not be put in service until the commissioning process had been fully completed and Dungeness B was content with the efficiency of the digestion process. There was no downstream, UV or additional breakdown.

3784 Cllr Tony Hills stated that, since the last meeting, the water quality at the top end of the east bay had declined. The EA had recommended no bathing at Littlestone and St Mary's Bay. Dymchurch was also in decline. Cllr Tony Hills expressed his unease regarding sea temperature rise. He would welcome any solution that would help to stop contamination.

3785 Cllr Tony Hills voiced his disappointment that there was no sterilisation unit. Gavin Lancaster explained that this had been reviewed during the design stage. However, the digestion process could be very efficient in ensuring that Dungeness B remained within its permitted discharge. Gavin Lancaster added that he fully recognised the issues.

3786 Cllr Tony Hills reported that he had visited Southern Water's sewage works in Littlestone in December due to his concerns. Southern Water had been over pumping to sea for 460 hours. It had had tankers coming in from Winchelsea due to the need to discharge. Cllr Tony Hills added that he was working with Southern Water, the Internal Drainage Boards and the EA to obtain information regarding [surface](#) water management on the marsh. The quality was a concern.

Gavin Lancaster agreed to review this. Dungeness B did not have an over pumping capability. It was imperative for the site to undertake any action that could help maintain local beach quality.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

3787 The Chair noted the following correspondence had been received:

- Cllr Alan Martin request to add a standing agenda item on communications with local neighbours.
- The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Mission Progress Report 2023
- Nuclear Waste Services Annual Review
- NRS Recruitment Campaign
- NDA Draft Business Plan consultation 4th Dec 2023 to 29th Jan 2024
- NDA Social Impact and Communities Strategy Consultation
- Geological Disposal Facility (GDF), Nuclear Waste Services (NWS)

3788 The following Correspondence had been sent out to members:

- NDA social impact and communities' strategy consultation
- NRS recruitment campaign
- NDA draft business plan consultation, 4 December 2023 – 29 January 2024
- Geological Disposal Facility (GDF), Nuclear Waste Services (NWS)
- The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Mission Progress Report 2023
- Nuclear waste services Annual review

3789 The Chair highlighted the NDA socio-economic strategy document. He had been in correspondence with the author of the document, who had confirmed that there had been no change of strategy. Consequently, the Chair had responded on behalf of the SSG to confirm that it had no comments to submit in relation to the strategy document.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

3790 The Chair reported that he and the Vice Chair had attended a meeting with the NDA chairman and CEO in Manchester. The meeting had addressed the decommissioning of NRS's sites, including Dounreay. It had also addressed progress in relation to the long-term storing site for more active waste, transport and support of the Dungeness A boiler down project.

3791 The Chair and Vice Chair had also attended the SSG Chairs' workshop. The NDA had stated that the SSG format, which had been in situ for 20 years, would be reviewed. The NDA was currently writing terms of reference to review the current SSG format.

3792 The Chair had attended the Romney Marsh partnership.

3793 The Chair had also met with Emma Reynolds and Bill Hamilton to address improving communication with local residents.

3794 Funding requests had been received from Rye Scouts, Ruins of Hope All Saints Church and Caring All together on Romney Marsh (CARM), with all funding requests approved. Dungeness was also progressing a funding application from Day of Syn for its 60th anniversary.

7. DUNGENESS A SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Dungeness A

3795 Ian Cuthbert noted that Magnox had rebranded as Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS).

3796 The ONR had conducted an LC7 inspection. Dungeness A was developing its emergency preparedness improvement strategy, while there had been several fire system improvements across the site.

3797 There was much NRS/EDF engagement, with both parties working together to identify potential shared aqueous discharge routes. There was also improved engagement with the EA.

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There had been a holistic view of aqueous waste, and the site enhancement plan had been produced and would be shared at the next site visit.

3798 Ian Cuthbert explained that Dungeness A had an active sustainability group. On 5 February, the use of disposable take-away food containers has been discontinued. A new volunteering scheme was being promoted, whereby staff interested in volunteering to support the local community could find opportunities via the Neighbourly platform. Each volunteer was restricted to one week in the community.

3799 The Wet Waste Transfer Facility (WWTF) had filled 15 MOSAIK DCICs with resin from the 2009 pathfinder project. 135 MOSAIKs would be shipped to Bradwell for long-term storage. All residual resin that had been left in three Caesium Removal Unit (CRU) vessels had been retrieved and packaged in MOSAIK number 15 from the pathfinder project.

3800 The new wet waste facilities had been completed in less than 13 months. Internal work within the buildings continued. The waste operations team had completed all shipments for the financial year and was reviewing plans for the next financial year.

3801 Several site visits had taken place. The next visit would take place on 21 February, and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and the chairs of the NDA and NRS would be in attendance.

3802 NRS was recruiting over 30 level 2-6 engineering and business apprentices to be a part of its mission to safely and sustainably clean-up the UK's earliest nuclear sites.

3803 Ian Cuthbert referred to the socio-economic scheme spend 2023-24. The £6,000 Good Neighbour allocation per site remained unchanged. £5,902 had been spent to date through the Dungeness A site.

3804 Ian Cuthbert highlighted the boilers down. A decision had been taken to remove the boilers. This would remove 33% of the site's footprint. Three tenders had been received and were being evaluated.

3805 New buildings had had to be built to help facilitate the demolition work. The proposed dates were indicative. The transport and recycling was not covered by the contract that was currently being tendered.

3806 A video was shown demonstrating the proposed Dungeness boiler removal project. Ian Cuthbert stated that the video provided an indication of the proposed project.

3807 Cllr Tony Hills welcomed the boiler down update. He was worried that 1,500 lorries would be travelling down his road to fill the void for the Goliath 2 crane. Ian Cuthbert said this was not within his remit. NRS would make every effort to use the railhead where possible. Cllr Tony Hills asked if there was a timeframe for when the materials would arrive. Ian Cuthbert responded that there was not. The infill was due to take place within the next financial year, and the design of the infill had commenced. He hoped to have a better understanding of the infill plans by the next SSG.

3808 Phil Fahey stated that the EA wanted visibility of the infill. While it would not request that NRS dig out what was already in there, it did not want there to be any environmental impact due to any additional material applied on top of the void. Cllr Tony Hills said, while he agreed with Phil Fahey's comments, there would be ground water level rises. How this would be worked into the system would be critical. Phil Fahey acknowledged the importance of this. The EA was working with NRS to produce a robust plan. The EA also expected NRS to initiate a proper stakeholder engagement plan.

3809 [Louise Barton](#) queried the proportion of the steel that would be recycled. Ian Cuthbert responded that the majority would be recycled. [Louise Barton](#) asked if a large proportion of the steel would be contaminated and not qualify for recycling. Ian Cuthbert said there would be small amounts of contaminated steel that would not qualify for recycling. Phil Fahey stated that every nuclear site had a duty to use a waste hierarchy. Any disposal route for waste had to be optimised. The EA wanted to integrate waste plans for the boiler down project, and it was in regular dialogue with NRS on this.

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3810 Claire Bruce asked if the demolition would be a 24-hour operation. Ian Cuthbert replied that he expected that there would be no noise from 13.00 on a Saturday until 08.00 on a Monday. There would also be no overnight demolishing.

3811 Gabrielle Popp suggested that a further update on the boiler down project be presented at the next SSG meeting the following week.

ACTION: Ian Cuthbert to provide a further update on the boiler down project at the next SSG meeting.

3812 Gabrielle Popp asked if Dungeness had discussed cycle lanes or a cycle to work day. Ian Cuthbert stated that the site had run a cycle to work scheme during November, but it had not discussed cycle routes or cycle lanes. Gavin Lancaster added that staff had lobbied to extend the cycle route. Cllr Tony Hills explained that he worked with Kent County Council on its cycle working group, and he would support any extension of the cycle route. He requested that he be copied into any cycling correspondence.

8. DUNGENESS B SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

3813 Gavin Lancaster reported that there had been a loss of offsite power on 5 November due to Storm Ciarán. The site had been offline for approximately nine hours. Dungeness B had experienced some storm water ingress into one of its store buildings, affecting electrical power. The site had attempted to dry out the panel with a 415 V localised heater, and due to a defect, one technician had received a minor electric shock. The ONR had issued the site with an improvement notice to significantly improve its testing, maintenance and deployment of 415 V electrical equipment. The notice had also been extended to all non-permanent electrical equipment. Dungeness B would provide a formal response to the ONR.

3814 The site remained keen to engage in new industry regarding site options for new nuclear. It was currently undertaking three major projects related to a post-generation maintenance outage, a fuel route outage, and updating all flask leak test equipment.

Gavin reported that EDF remained keen to engage with companies interested in utilising existing space around the station, for new nuclear development. However substantial works onsite, meant that this engagement was presently paused.

3815 Dungeness B had commenced an intervention programme and was also optimising its future de-risking fuelling programme. The aim was to remove all technical uncertainty in the plant. Dungeness B would adopt a detailed programmatic approach to simplify the process for defueling the reactors. All of this would be underpinned by the workforce.

3816 The site had employed 40 new operators and 25 new maintenance technicians. The maintenance apprenticeship programme continued.

3817 Dungeness B aimed to dispatch 20 fuel flasks during 2024. Dungeness B was also reviewing its collaboration with Ian Cuthbert's team and how the plant could provide value to the taxpayer.

3818 Cllr Tony Hills stated that he was extremely concerned about the future of staff. It was hoped that small modular reactors (SMRs) would help provide a future for staff. Cllr Tony Hills also highlighted the shingle. Gavin Lancaster said Dungeness B had been working hard on retention and adherence to speed limits. Suppliers had been asked to retain minimal disruption. The shingle had been relatively stable, but Dungeness B was attempting to build as much resilience as possible and complete the current batch within the next six weeks. The surveys had been completed. Dungeness B was also contemplating options for the medium to long-term strategy for the shingle bank. Gavin Lancaster stated that he recognised the importance of this for the local area. Cllr Tony Hills offered to help in this area.

Cllr Tony Hills stated that he was hopeful that development of small modular reactors (SMRs) at Dungeness would help provide a long term future for B station staff.

NEW POINT: Cllr Tony Hills also highlighted issues around shingle movements on the Estate. Gavin Lancaster said Dungeness B had been working hard on ensuring contractors kept to Estate speed limits. They had also been asked to ensure minimal disruption to residents. Over winter 2023/24 the shingle had been relatively stable, but work was ongoing to build as much resilience as possible. Dungeness B was also contemplating options for the medium to long-term strategy for management of shingle. Gavin Lancaster stated that he recognised the importance of this for the local area. Cllr Tony Hills offered to help in this area.

3819 Claire Bruce highlighted the shingle and stated that the curb stones along the concrete road had been destroyed or misplaced/broken and not replaced. This presented a danger. Claire Bruce also noted that the shingle had spilled onto the main road. Rebecca Cavanagh agreed to review the curb stones and shingle spillage and provide an update to Gavin Lancaster.

ACTION: Rebecca Cavanagh to review the curb stones and shingle spillage and provide an update to Gavin Lancaster.

3820 Gabrielle Popp asked if there was a threshold that determined whether the site would be compromised by flooding. Cllr Tony Hills explained that, due to the shingle island, Romney Marsh, Littlestone and New Romney would be impacted by flooding rather than the site. Erosion presented the main challenge.

9. ONR REPORT FOR DUNGENESS A

3821 Andrew Bull reported that he had conducted an inspection with regards to LC7 and LC11. Both inspections had been targeted and rated as green. Engagement had taken place with various individuals on site regarding waste projects and the boiler down project. Andrew Bull had also attended the site to review asset care. The engagement had been positive, and the site had plans in place to make improvements in this area. Andrew Bull would continue to review the improvements in the coming months.

10. ONR REPORT FOR DUNGENESS B

3822 Jason Crook said the ONR had maintained a sustained regulatory focus on Dungeness B since the last SSG. The ONR had reviewed asset management plans, winter readiness and management of change. An LC7 intervention had been conducted in January and rated as green. The ONR had commenced its planning phase for 2025.

3823 Jason Crook reported on the main cooling water pump 22 crush event. The ONR had concluded its investigation into the event and had decided to issue a further enforcement letter to secure additional improvements.

3824 Regarding Storm Ciarán, Dungeness B's safety systems had operated as intended. The 415 V portable heater event had been significant. Dungeness B was engaging with the ONR to secure improvements.

3825 Jason Crook highlighted an event in August, where an un-energised cable had been inadvertently cut. While there had been no injuries, and the event had not met the ONR's formal investigation criteria, the ONR had issued an enforcement letter to EDF and an on-site contractor in line with the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations.

3826 Jason Crook stated that the ONR was engaging in Dungeness B's improvement plan.

3827 Gavin Lancaster referred to the main cooling water pump 22 crush event and stated that an outcome was expected imminently.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE FOR DUNGENESS A AND DUNGENESS B

A. Dungeness A

3828 Phil Fahey explained that the EA was involved in many of the projects currently being undertaken on site. The EA awaited the operator's proposals for the holistic view of aqueous waste. The EA expected to receive the submission within the next few weeks.

3829 An enhancement plan had been introduced to address the non-compliance events. The boilers down project had been assigned its own sustainability programme. NRS had introduced a climate change assessment group, of which the EA was involved. The EA would also welcome the inclusion of Dungeness in the climate change assessment group. The EA was actively involved on site, and its involvement would increase as the decommissioning process commenced.

3830 The latest Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) report had been published. Both sites had submitted their Environmental Monitoring returns to the EA, in line with requirements of the environmental permits. The EA had reviewed the environmental monitoring returns for the quarters covered by this report and had not identified any unusual trends.

3831 Cllr Tony Hills highlighted ground water as a future problem. The ground water had to be controlled and returned to the sea as swiftly as possible. Phil Fahey said the EA took ground water very seriously.

B. Dungeness B

3832 Kezia White reported that she had conducted a solid radioactive waste management inspection and the annual review of safety in the environment during November. The inspection had not highlighted any non-compliance events.

3833 There was nothing to report on permits. The discharge reports had been reviewed. The EA was commencing its programme for its site environmental reports.

12. NDA UPDATE

3834 Pip Hatt reported that the virtual stakeholder summit had taken place in December, and the initial feedback had been positive. The next stakeholder summit would take place in person, with the exact date dependant on the timing of the general election.

3835 A regional roadshow was scheduled for 12 March at Bangor University, Wales.

3836 The NDA would assess the contribution, and achievements, of the SSG. An initial workshop with the SSG chairs was scheduled for March.

3837 The consultation on the socio-economic strategy had closed. There would be a revised strategy in due course that the NDA was happy to present to the SSG. All consultation responses would be made public.

3838 The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero had published its civil nuclear roadmap. NWS had recently announced the formation of a new Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) Working Group in South Holderness, East Riding of Yorkshire.

3839 Pip Hatt noted that concerns had been expressed regarding the boiler down project, with the concerns mainly being related to transport. The proposed solution remained in the development phase, and the tenders continued to be assessed. As part of this, the Dungeness site would be seeking solutions for the management or transportation of any loads to site. Should planning permission be required for this scope of work, Dungeness would progress the proper legal requirements.

13. NRS UPDATE

3838 Bill Hamilton noted that, since the last meeting, Magnox had rebranded as NRS. NRS would imminently publish its 10-year strategy.

3839 NRS had been undertaking polling work in its communities. An independent polling agency had been assigned the project and had approached individuals randomly, though there had been a bias towards young people. Bill Hamilton agreed to provide a presentation on the results for Dungeness at the next SSG.

ACTION: Bill Hamilton to present the results of the independent polling agency at the next SSG.

3840 Cllr Tony Hills stated that Dungeness did not have roads that could manage industrial loads. He hoped that the roads would be protected. Bill Hamilton stated that there might be an

opportunity to address this through the planning, though it did not fall under NRS's remit. However, should NRS be asked to ensure that Dungeness had roads that could manage industrial loads, it would observe this request. Ian Cuthbert added that the current planning permission related to the infill. At commencement of the boiler down project, planning permission would need to be sought.

14. AOB

A. Proposed Grand Parade Road Closures

3841 Cllr Tony Hills explained that Kent County Council roadworks had stated that some of the proposed road closures for Grand Parade had been opposed. SGN wanted to close the roads for 17 weeks to lay a new gas main. Cllr Tony Hills was due to meet with SGN the following week and would request that emergency services access be retained. Ian Cuthbert requested that he and Gavin Lancaster be kept updated on this.

3842 Claire Bruce requested an updated out-of-hours contact list. [Ian Cuthbert agreed to provide one.](#)

[**ACTION: Ian Cuthbert to provide residents with an updated out-of-hours contact list.**](#)

B. Great British Nuclear

3843 The Chair stated that Great British Nuclear would attend the next meeting.

C. Closing

3844 There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 11 July 2024 (Dungeness B Power Station), at 10.00