



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
DUNGENESS A SITE AND B POWER STATION SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
HELD AT TRAINING ROOM 6 & 7 (ENTER VIA MAIN SECURITY RECEPTION) DUNGENESS B
POWER STATION, ROMNEY MARSH, TN29 9PX
THURSDAY 11 JULY 2024**

Attendance/Apologies list

In Attendance

Graham Finn
David Godfrey
Spencer Bashford
Louise Barton
Katherine Berry
Ian Cuthbert
Phil Fahey
Adam Feacey
Bill Hamilton
Pip Hatt (Via Teams)
Richard Highgate
Cllr Tony Hills
Themis Kantara
Gavin Lancaster
John McNamara
Matthew Pardo
Gabrielle Popp
Cath Pritchard
Abinand Rangarajan
Cllr Paul Redstone
Sally Thompson
Geoffrey Dore

Chair
Vice Chair
EDF
Lydd Airport Action Group/Resident
EDF
Site Director, Dungeness A
Environment Agency
Kent County Council
NRS
NDA
Kent County Council
Kent County Council
Environment Agency
Station Director, Dungeness B
Great British Nuclear
EDF
Resident
NRS
Baringa
East Sussex County Council
Environment Agency
Minute Taker

Apologies

Samantha Proctor
Andrew Bull
Michael Burgess
Peter Coe
Jason Crook
Jo Cowdrey
Cllr Alan Martin
Cllr Keith Glazier
Claire Bruce
Cllr Simon McGurk
Cllr Kim Rye
Cllr Jean Jones
Cllr Bob Jones
Kezia White

Principal Associate – Business Reliance, South East CSU
ONR Inspector, Dungeness A Site
Member of the public
New Romney Town Council
ONR Inspector, Dungeness B Site
Creative Folkestone/Dungeness Resident
Folkestone & Hythe District Council
East Sussex County Council
Local Resident
Rye and Winchelsea
Lydd Town Council
Lydd Town Council
Lydd Town Council
Environment Agency

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1. WELCOME

3845 The Chair (Graham Finn) opened the meeting. The fire alarm procedure was explained and the agenda outlined. It was noted that, as part of the review of SSGs, an observer was in attendance.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3846 Apologies were received as listed.

3. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

3847 It was confirmed that the Chair and Vice Chair would continue in their respective roles for a further year. It was also noted that an election would take place in 2025.

4. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

3848 The Chair recorded that he was a retired employee of EDF and was an independent advisor on the Hinkley Point C (HPC) Nuclear Safety Committee, Sizewell C (SZC) Nuclear Safety Committee and EDF Cyclife Nuclear Safety Committee.

5. AGREE CONSTITUTION

3849 The constitution was agreed for a further year.

6. APPROVE THE MINUTES

3850 Cllr Paul Redstone stated that he had attended the last SSG. Subject to amendments, the minutes of 15 February 2024 were formally approved.

7. MATTERS ARISING

3851 *Improve communications with local residents* – the Chair stated that he had met with Emma Reynolds and Lawrie Haynes, and a newsletter had been produced. The newsletter would be produced in between SSG meetings. Louise Barton suggested that newsletters be placed within the local Sainsburys. Gabrielle Popp said the newsletter needed to be pushed towards the local community. Cllr Tony Hills proposed that the newsletters be circulated to New Romney Council and Lydd Town Council. The action was closed.

Action: Gabrielle Popp to email Cath Pritchard with suggestions for potential areas to circulate the newsletter.

3852 *Ian Cuthbert to provide an update on the boiler down project* – to be provided during the Dungeness A report. The action was closed.

3853 *Review the curb stones and shingle spillage* – completed. Surveillance had been increased. The action closed,

3854 *Ian Cuthbert to provide residents with an updated out-of-hours contact list* – The action closed.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

3855 The Chair noted that the following correspondence had been received:

- The NDA Social Impact and Communications Strategy

- NDA Business Plan.
- Government's consultation on managing radioactive substances and decommissioning

3856 The following correspondence had been sent out to members:

- The NDA Social Impact and Communications Strategy
- NDA Business Plan 2024 - 2027
- Government's consultation on managing radioactive substances and decommissioning
- Community news letter

9. GREAT BRITISH NUCLEAR UPDATE

3858 John McNamara explained that Great British Nuclear (GBN) had been formed in 2023 as an arm's length body that would take forward new nuclear development on behalf of the Government. The aim was for GBN to be a strategic authority and set up development companies that would run projects at the sites. Its three objectives were to deliver new nuclear, enable the industry to deliver new nuclear, and advise the Government on new nuclear.

3859 GBN would focus on four key thrusts. Its main two priorities had been to ensure competition for the best SMR designs for the UK and to acquire sites. Westinghouse, GE Hitachi, Holtec, NuScale and Rolls-Royce had submitted tenders for SMR designs, while EDF had not submitted a tender and had decided to reconfigure its SMR designs. The tenders would be evaluated, and the vendors would be reduced to three or four. Two designs would be developed as fleets at two different locations.

3860 In conjunction, GBN had reviewed sites in EN-6 and had identified Wylfa, Oldbury-on-Severn, Moorside, Hartlepool, Heysham and Bradwell. The intention was for GBN to build two different SMRs at two different sites, with both sites beginning construction with government backing, but with the intent to secure private finance as projects develop. GBN had purchased land from Hitachi at both Wylfa and Oldbury-on-Severn. Since March, GBN had been working closely with the communities in Ynys Môn/Anglesey and Oldbury.

3861 GBN was still in early discussion with the new Government about its approach to net zero. It was noted that Ed Miliband, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, understood nuclear, and GBN would need to engage with the Government. It was clear that Labour wanted GBN to continue prioritising the SMR competition, and this meant that GBN may need to purchase further sites. The Government had stated that it was supportive of HPC, SZC and SMRs, via GBN, but it had not mentioned Wylfa. GBN awaited clarity.

3862 GBN would also focus on future gigawatt development, advanced nuclear reactors and continuing to address the recommendations within the Bowen Report. Currently, GBN had addressed eight of the 25 recommendations.

Questions & Answers

3863 The Chair asked how Dungeness could remain engaged with the process. John McNamara responded that the community should continue to engage and to communicate that it supported new nuclear development. He explained that the two technologies would be matched to the two sites, and GBN would form a development company that would take forward the DCO process. He also anticipated that the issue of sites with less land could be considered in future phases.

3864 John McNamara explained that EN-7, the next policy statement, would become more community and consent based. Dungeness would be able to input into this consultation regarding where new nuclear would be sited in the future. This would also cover the potential for small reactors to be placed in industry.

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3865 Cllr Paul Redstone asked if the tender process included decommissioning SMRs. John McNamara responded that it did cover this, as well as social value. He added that SMRs were currently being described by the vendors but that there needed to be an interpretation of the full impact of the SMRs through construction to decommissioning.

3866 David Godfrey asked how long it would take before the SMRs would be implemented. John McNamara responded that, should GBN have the technologies and sites in place by Q1 2025, there was enough time to complete the DCO by 2029. The Secretary of State could then make a decision for construction to begin. It was hoped that construction could commence in 2030 and SMR power to the grid take place by 2035.

3867 David Godfrey noted that Dungeness B would come under the control of the NDA following its defueling. He asked if, at this stage, GBN could purchase the land from Dungeness B or land from EDF. John McNamara responded that both options were possible. He suggested that the community continue to engage on their support to bring SMRs to Dungeness.

3868 David Godfrey asked how GBN would align with Great British Energy (GBE). John McNamara stated that this is still being discussed, but that GBN would work alongside GBE. GBE aimed to ensure decarbonisation of the grid by 2030 and was promoting onshore renewables. It was possible that GBN would be rebranded. The Government remained committed to reaching net zero by 2050.

3869 Sally Thompson noted that GBN was purchasing sites ahead of its decision to down-select designs. She asked how GBN would ensure in its site select and down-select decisions that the environmental protection and safety case was front and centre in the design decision. John McNamara responded that GBN was adhering to the current EN6 designation. The designation allowed for new build to take place at any of the proposed sites, with environmental protection and safety considerations in mind.

3870 Sally Thompson summarised that site selection was agnostic of design. John McNamara stated that there was some leeway. GBN had assessed the two Hitachi sites having been aware that a negotiated deal was possible. GBN would match the technology to the particular sites.

3871 Louise Barton asked if the previous government had aimed to fund the large reactor. John McNamara responded that the previous government, and current government, supported the final investment decision (FID) for SZC. The previous government had also said it intended for there to be another gigawatt station once SZC had reached FID, but this had not been clarified with the new government.

3872 Louise Barton asked if additional land would need to be purchased outside of the existing footprint. The Chair responded that it would not need to be.

3873 Cllr Tony Hills stated that Kent County Council (KCC) was extremely supportive of Dungeness.

10. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

3874 The Chair reported that he and the Vice Chair had attended the NRS Chairs' and Vice Chairs' meeting, with NDA CEO and group CEOs. The meeting had been extremely transparent.

3875 The Chair had met with Lawrie Haynes and Emma Reynolds to discuss the newsletter. The Chair and Vice Chair had attended the SSG review meeting.

3876 Funding had been provided to New Romney, Lydd Club Day and Day of Syn.

11. DUNGENESS A SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Dungeness A

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3877 Ian Cuthbert reported that there had been only one work-related first aid incident within the last six months. The EA/ONR had conducted a joint inspection, and the EA had provided positive feedback on sustainability and climate change. Dungeness A had launched a Nuvia apprenticeship scheme to train Health Physics monitors. A successful out-of-hours security REDE ONR-CNSS exercise had been held in March, and the witnessed safety exercise had been completed on 19 June. The new fire alarm system had been fully installed ahead of schedule.

3878 The new volunteering scheme had been extremely successful. It was noted that Lydd had requested help with its cricket club, but the work would take six months. Consequently, Ian Cuthbert had suggested that Lydd submit a grant application.

3879 Regarding the waste project, the site's solid ILW packaging facility was progressing out of the manufacturing stage. All resin held on site had been recovered, and the site would now address other wastes.

3880 The three new buildings to house ILW storage and processing facilities were nearing an operational state. It was anticipated that the buildings would be handed over to the waste operations team later in the month.

3881 136 MOSAIKs had been transferred to Bradwell by rail, and a further IP2 MOSIAK would be transferred within the next month. Active commissioning had commenced, with waste being retrieved into a TYPE VI DCIC (Ductile Cast Iron Container).

3882 Ian Cuthbert reported on the boiler removal project. Dungeness A was assessing three tenders and was also in discussions with the contractors regarding mutual agreement incentives. It was anticipated that the electrical and mechanical isolations would commence later in the year and would take 12 months to complete. The turbine hall infill contract would be awarded in August. Hammonds Corner and Harden Road would not be used as part of the route. Subject to agreement with the EA, infill material would come from the local quarry at Lydd. Robin Hood Lane would be utilised.

3883 Further demolition of the building to the south of the reactor was planned for December. No work would take place over weekends. The sewage plant would also be demolished.

3884 There had been several site visits, including from BEIS. The full £1.02 million NRS socio economic fund had been allocated for 2023/24.

Questions & Answers

3885 The Chair noted that the sewage plant was situated close to residents and asked how residents would be informed of its demolition. Ian Cuthbert responded that the site would attempt to provide ample notice to residents. However, the demolition date would be influenced by the completion of the clean-out. No demolition would take place over the Christmas period. The demolition work and infill of the turbine hall would likely start in December.

3886 Cllr Tony Hills voiced support for obtaining the waste material without damaging the quarry area. He also noted that some of the roads for the proposed route were in a poor condition, which might affect planning.

3887 Ian Cuthbert reported that some peregrine falcons had been nesting by reactor 1, and the mother had been killed over the past weekend. Two chicks remained on top of the reactor, and the father was feeding them. The site had been in contact with the local rep and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), and the RSPB had suggested that the site attempt to help the father. It was expected that the chicks would fledge within a month.

12. DUNGENESS B SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

3888 Gavin Lancaster reported that Dungeness B continued to work through its improvement notice. The site had informed the ONR of its completed actions to address the

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improvement notice, and the ONR would assess the improvement notice. It was anticipated that all actions would be closed by the next SSG.

3889 Dungeness B had received an enforcement letter for construction, design and management. The site inspection visit had been rated satisfactory.

3890 The site was currently undertaking a behavioural safety improvement programme. There had been 41 lost time incidents across EDF, and it was also noted that there had been three safety incidents at Dungeness B. Behavioural safety, and the safety of teams, remained critical, and teams would be encouraged to not take risks.

3891 During preparatory painting works, the site had identified a small hole in the wall of a bulk fuel oil tank. A small amount of fuel oil had escaped. This reinforced the need for Dungeness B to continue its corrosion programme, and a learning team had also been coordinated to ensure that the risk and impact was proactively managed. Refrigerant gas management and compliance remained an important focus.

3892 The station had performed positively over the last six months. Three major projects had been scheduled for the year, including improving the reliability of the fuelling machine and modifying the flask corridor. The latter had been successfully completed by 8 June and had enabled the site to resume its work on batch 3. Defueling had recommenced on 9 June.

3893 As part of its business plan for the year, Dungeness B aimed to increase its operating capability. Regarding the fuel route optimisation, the site would aim to improve its rate of flask removal from one to three per week. Dungeness B would also seek to move 85 fuel assemblies from the reactor and into the ponds. Over the last 18 months, the site had campaigned to invest in the areas where its staff worked and lived. A meeting would take place with Ian Cuthbert to consider any possible future synergies, and there was a desire to build permanent structures.

3894 Dungeness B had secured its funding into local communities. Attendees were reminded of the funding provision.

3895 A team from Dungeness B had visited Wylfa, to understand its staff journey during its transition from generating to defueling. Radio Kent had attended the site for Kent Day and had interviewed staff.

13. ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE FOR DUNGENESS A AND DUNGENESS B

3896 Themis Kantara reported that, since the last SSG, the EA had undertaken two site inspections for Dungeness A. The first inspection had focused on the development and application of solid waste fingerprints on site, and no instances of non-compliance had been identified. The second inspection had addressed climate change, sustainability and the management of environmentally suitably qualified and experienced people (SQEP). The EA had been assured of the site's sustainability, while there had been positive progress on climate change. There had been no issues of non-compliance.

3897 The EA had continued to engage with Dungeness A regarding its decommissioning plans, and the site had confirmed that it would address the EA's feedback. The environmental awareness plan had been issued and would be implemented. Further discussions had taken place with the site regarding implementing a firewater management plan. It was expected that this would be provided following the progress report.

3898 The site had identified potential sources for the proposed infill material for the turbine hall void and confirmed that the material specifications met the EA's requirements for environmental protection.

3899 It was noted that the EA had previously received reports of sustained high pH (>10) in the reactor 1 turbine hall drains pit. The contingency plan had been implemented. Despite the elevated readings in the drain pits, the readings in the syphon recovery chamber had

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remained within acceptable limits. Following the sustained pH readings, a slow downward trend had been observed.

3900 Dungeness A had advised that it had observed some gaseous flow emitting from a joint of the wet waste transfer facility ventilation plant. The site had also confirmed that it had undertaken a calculation for the gaseous flow, and based on the estimates there had been no change in the discharges. The facility would remain unused until the plant had been repaired.

3901 Discussions would continue with Dungeness A regarding the upcoming environmental permit. The permit application would be published. It was clarified that there would be no increase in permit limits.

3902 The monitoring programme for Dungeness A had been slightly amended in order to change the sampling arrangements and the frequency.

3903 Dungeness A and Dungeness B had submitted its environmental monitoring returns for Q1, and the EA had noted a +4 sigma Beta/Gamma result for a sediment sample collected at Greatstone Beach on 13 March. The last result had been higher than the average for the previous 12 results at the same location. The EA would continue to monitor the subsequent results.

Questions & Answers

3904 The Chair asked if the sediment sample collected at Greatstone Beach was within the recommended limit. Phil Fahey responded that Katherine Berry's environmental monitoring programme would observe extremely low levels of radiation in the environment. The radiation was extremely low. While Katherine Berry was not concerned by the results, they would treat all results extremely seriously. Themis Kantara stated that the current Q2 results were back within the normal range.

14. NRS UPDATE

3905 Bill Hamilton explained that NRS had moved away from a care and maintenance approach to site-specific decommissioning strategies. The new decommissioning regulations allowed NRS to apply for environmental permits to leave some material on site, and the new approach had resulted in fresh communications with communities. NRS would develop its conversations with the wider communities, and it had commissioned Thinks Insight to undertake a polling exercise.

A video was shown demonstrating Thinks Insight's engagement with the local community.

Questions & Answers

3906 Gabrielle Popp asked if the video would be circulated. Bill Hamilton responded that it would be uploaded onto YouTube, with the link to the video to be circulated to the SSG.

15. NDA UPDATE

3907 Pip Hatt presented her report.

3908 Ed Miliband had been appointed as the new Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. An introductory letter would be sent to all new ministers at sites and ministers at Whitehall. Over the coming months, the NDA would work through any policy implications.

3909 Peter Hill had been appointed as the new NDA chair, while Chris Train had been hired as the new chair of Sellafield.

3910 The Chair and Vice Chair had attended the NDA/NRS Chairs' and Vice Chairs' meeting, with its CEO and group CEOs. The NDA would circulate a short questionnaire. Anecdotal feedback had stated that the meeting had been valuable.

3911 Pip Hatt highlighted the independent review of the SSGs and stated that the NDA was halfway through this exercise. Next steps involved conducting further interviews with bodies

that had experience of engaging with communities, including GBN. The exercise was designed to ensure that the SSGs remained relevant and reflected the voice of local stakeholders, as well as consider the involvement of the next generation. Following the interviews, there would be focus groups, and it was also anticipated that there would be a further feedback session for chairs who would attend the stakeholder summit.

3912 The agenda for the stakeholder summit continued to be formalised, and it was expected that invitations would be circulated within the next two weeks. Work was also taking place on the stakeholder survey, and all SSG stakeholders would be asked to contribute their views. It was anticipated that strategy 5 would be published in March 2026, with the 12-week consultation period likely running from January to March 2025. The new Government was expected to approve the NDA's annual report and accounts later in the month.

16. AOB

A. Dungeness B Offsite emergency planning zone (DEPZ)

3913 Adam Feacey presented the current and draft DEPZ. Following changes to the regulation in 2019, KCC had been permitted to set the DEPZ, and it had subsequently set an irregular DEPZ. EDF had issued a new consequence report, and as the risk had reduced, KCC had been responsible for re-reviewing the area and setting a smaller zone. EDF had stated that the consequences for an offsite nuclear emergency would just breach the fence line.

3914 The report had also been scrutinised by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), which had agreed with EDF's view. The zone was bigger than necessary and was for urgent protective actions that would need to be taken in the event of an offsite nuclear emergency. The new report stated that Dungeness B no longer needed to consider evacuation, and the new DEPZ would only aim to provide sheltering. Rest centres would remain in place.

3915 The Chair asked how the changes would be communicated. Adam Feacey responded that the final DEPZ would be issued to residents.

B. Closing

3916 There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 24 October 2024 (Dungeness B Power Station), at 10.00