



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
DUNGENESS A SITE AND B POWER STATION SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)**

VENUE: TRAINING ROOM 6&7 ENTER VIA MAIN SECURITY RECEPTION (UPSTAIRS)

THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2025

Attendance list

In Attendance

Graham Finn
Cllr David Godfrey
John McNamara
Ian Cuthbert
Cath Pritchard
Jason Crook
Kezia White
Vanessa McKay
Miriam Allardice
Karl Littlewood
Phil Fahey
Ryan O'Connell
Gabriele Popp
Fiona Naylor
Claire Bruce
Gavin Lancaster
Matthew Pardo
Mustafa Janach
Adam Feacey
Richard Highgate
Mike Moore
Matthew Dent

Chair
Vice Chair
NDA
NRS
NRS
ONR Inspector, Dungeness B Site (attended virtually)
Environment Agency
Environment Agency
Environment Agency
Environment Agency
Environment Agency
Affinity Water
Resident
Resident
Resident
Station Director, Dungeness B
EDF
EDF
Kent County Council
Kent County Council
Kent County Council
Minute Taker

Apologies

Bill Hamilton
Kayleigh Ridley
Themis Kantara
Andrew Bull
Cllr Tony Hills
Cllr Alan Martin
Jo Cowdrey
Cllr Bob Jones
Cllr Jean Jones
Cllr Peter Coe
Cllr Paul Redstone

NRS
NRS
Environment Agency
ONR Inspector, Dungeness A Site
Folkestone and Hythe District Council
Folkestone and Hythe District Council
Creative Folkestone Visual Arts Programme
Lydd Town Council
Lydd Town Council
New Romney Town Council
Dungeness A & B Power Stations – Local Community Liaison Council.

1. WELCOME

3968 The Chair (Graham Finn) welcomed the attendees and Gavin Lancaster provided the safety briefing. New attendees were welcomed. Ryan O'Connor from Affinity Water introduced himself. He explained that Affinity Water was the clean water provider for the site and it recognised the importance of the site.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3970 The Chair noted the list of apologies. John McNamara was expected to attend later in the meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

3971 David Godfrey noted that the minutes reported him as saying that 'from 2028 onwards, when the B site was defueled, it would be worth considering the onsite storage of materials', whereas in fact he had said from 2028 onwards, when the B site was defueled, there could be the onsite storage of materials.

3972. Subject to the above amendment, the meeting minutes from 24 October were approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING

3973 There were no matters arising.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

3974 The Chair noted that at the last meeting the Environment Agency had mentioned a Meet the Regulators meeting. The notes and slides from that meeting had been circulated to all members.

3975 A letter had been received from the B site ONR inspector regarding the CW pump prosecution which had taken place. The NDA had sent their mission statement progress report for 2024, which had been circulated to all members. A note had been received from the NDA regarding Sellafield having secured funding and permissions required to mobilise the UK plutonium stocks and put it into a state ready for long-term storage.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

3967 The Chair presented his report.

3978 The SSG chair had been asked to attend a Teams meeting with the CEO of NRS, around the pressure around government funding. Money would be quite tight going forward, and Ian Cuthbert would cover the local impacts of this under his report.

3979 There had been a meeting with NRS on a new sustainability strategy which was going to the NRS board.

Once this had happened NRS offered to attend SSGs to explain the new strategy.

NRS had also discussed its volunteer programme, and there was a new flyer which had been published about volunteering in the community.

3980 There had been no requests for funding, and there was still some money left in the current year, should any organisations need funding.

Questions & Answers

3981 There were no questions.

7. DUNGENESS A SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

3982 Ian Cuthbert presented his report.

3983 The government was looking at funding across the entire public sector. This would affect NRS going forward, but Dungeness A had the funding to carry on most of its mission. Waste projects would continue, including putting waste into long-term storage, which was within a few years of completion. The business case for the removal of the boilers had been put to the NRS executive in November 2024, and it had been supported by the NRS executive and board, as well as the NDA. This programme of work would continue. One of the programmes which would be put on hold was the deplanting of the ponds. These ponds were currently drained and stabilised.

3984 The QA audit had been carried out, on which there had been one minor non-conformance. From an environmental perspective, the site was looking at a variation of its permit to change the requirements. A new set of filters needed to be installed on the void water systems, before going to the local Environment Agency for a variation of the permit. The sewage plant had now shut down and the cleanout had been completed. A check for asbestos was taking place, and once that was cleared demolition would take place.

3985 The site had had a 'wear pink' day to raise money for breast cancer, and various other charities through the year. The Christmas foodbank had been donated to Rye for 2024.

3986 Litter picking would be resuming as soon as the weather became warmer. A bike to work scheme was being investigated for the people who lived in Lydd and Greatstone.

3987 The turbine hall infill work had started, and the contractor was now engaged and levelling out. In the near future gravel would be imported to fill the pit. The gravel was coming from Lydd, so only four lorries would be needed on turnaround. This would reduce traffic. The main contract for the boilers down project had gone to tender, with currently three contenders coming back with final bids in March. The new stores building would be moved into the following month, becoming operational in April. 136 mosaics had been sent to Bradwell. 210 tonnes of non-hazardous waste had been removed from the site. Currently waste could not be sent to Bradwell due to a defect on a crane there. For the last three years one of the reactor buildings had been clad in scaffolding following a storm. The first new cladding had been placed on the reactor, and over the next few months the scaffolding would be removed.

3988 There was some money available for socio-economic funding, and Ian Cuthbert encouraged applications. The good neighbour scheme had seen some of the team work in New Romney to help after the recent storm, and they had enjoyed it. There was an intention to tidy the birdwatching hut in front of the A site around March.

3989 Ian Cuthbert presented a video about the new builds on site.

Questions & Answers

3990 An attendee queried whether the new waste handling capacity was being transferred to Dungeness Site B. Ian Cuthbert noted that the facilities being built could be made available at the appropriate stage. Ian Cuthbert and Gavin Lancaster had discussed the need at both sites for a new admin building. Wherever possible, facilities would be transferred and/or shared.

3991 The Chair queried whether the sewage plant would be taken down in its entirety, and whether residents would be alerted. Ian Cuthbert said as soon as a date was available, an email would be sent out. Working hours would be kept to agreed hours to keep disturbance to the local community at a minimum. Claire Bruce said it was just a case of giving residents advance notice.

8. DUNGENESS B SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

3992 Gavin Lancaster presented his report.

3993 £20 million of investment had been secured for replacement of the administration building. There would be early engagement with the community around this, as well as close working with the Dungeness A Site team to share facilities and minimise environmental and financial impact.

3994 Dungeness B Site had had a good 2024, building capabilities around the defueling journey and providing confidence around the movement of fuel from Dungeness B to Sellafield. The business plan for 2024 had been achieved, with the training of a minimum of 20 operators, the dispatch of 20 flasks, and to remove 85 channels of fuel from the reactor. Thirty new operators had been trained, 32 flasks had been dispatched, and 85 channels had been removed.

3995 The environmental conditions at Dungeness continued to pose challenges, and some roof cladding had been lost control of. Fortunately nobody had been hurt, but it emphasised that conditions could be changeable. There had also been flooding of a transformer, which had meant for four days the site had limited power supplies. The investment undertaken on the station was around making sure it was fit for the future and continued to be the main element across both sites.

3996 A new sewage treatment plant had been installed, with the large part of the previous year spent commissioning it. This plant was now safely in service.

3997 In 2022 there had been an event on the main cooling water valve, where control had been lost of the valve. It had moved, and one of the team had lost part of their foot as a consequence. The ONR had prosecuted EDF and a court had fined the company more than £500,000. There had been a further safety event where a third-party contractor lost control of a vending machine as it was being moved down some stairs by, and one of their team had been hurt. There had been enforcement action around manual handling, and training, development and mitigation were underway.

3998 The chief inspector of the ONR had visited both sites, as had Tony Vaughan the MP for Folkestone & Hythe. The primary focus of the visit had been to see how Dungeness B was safely defueling but also how the station was building future teams by working with local education providers..

Questions & Answers

3999 Claire Bruce noted that when talking about education, the range of skills across the two sites must be enormous. She noted Gavin Lancaster had started at 16, and there was a lot of value in his story to demonstrate the opportunity. The sites were also seen as 'very male' places to work, which was an area to redress. Gavin Lancaster agreed that the workforce lacked diversity, and noted that Linda, the HR manager, had been working with Sizewell B which had been looking at diversifying their recruitment. .

9. REGULATORY UPDATE FOR DUNGENESS A

4000 Andrew Bull was not present to deliver his report.

10. REGULATORY UPDATE FOR DUNGENESS B

4001 Jason Crook presented his report.

4002 A number of inspections had been carried out in-period, which had all been rated green. In November the review of safety had been completed. In 2024 there had been a sustained and significant improvement in operational performance, such that at the end of the year targets had been met.

4003 The visit of the ONR chief inspector had been positive, with good progress made but sustained effort required to ensure successful completion of the site's mission.

4004 There had been a loss of electrical supply in November due to water ingress into the plant. The station had responded appropriately to manage the event, and the ONR would be engaging with the investigation to reduce the likelihood of recurrence.

4005 The prosecution around the main CW pump had concluded in November, with the judge finding EDF and Trillium. Both organisations had taken responsibility for the improvements and recognised the event should not have happened. The organisations had worked to put in place improvements. On the vending machine incident, the ONR had issued an improvement notice against the logistics company involved, and enforcement letters to EDF and EQUANs.

Questions & Answers

4006 There were no questions.

11. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT – DUNGENESS A

4007 Phil Fahey noted this would be his last meeting, and that Vanessa McKay and Miriam Allardice would be attending from the Environment Agency moving forward.

4008 Vanessa McKay and Miriam Allardice presented the report.

4009 The lead regulator was currently Themis Kantara, who could not be present. Handover had been taking place for Vanessa McKay to become the lead regulator from 1 March.

4010 In October an inspection had been carried out focused on central projects and intelligent customer capabilities. It had concluded that projects were well managed, and appropriate engagement was being sought from the site operations team. Engagement continued around a holistic view of aqueous waste, and management of reactor void water best available techniques (BAT) assessment, copies of which should be seen in the next quarter.

4011 At the previous SSG, there had been notification of an event involving gaseous flow from a joint within the wet waste transfer facility. Further information had been submitted by the operator and would be taken onboard. There had been no increase in discharges as a result of this event.

4012 In September following an internal audit, it had been discovered that there was no evidence that updates to the 'Site Techniques Document' had been sent formally, as required, to the Environment Agency since 2015. An apparent cause investigation (ACI) had been received, highlighting actions, which had concluded it was a breach of the site environmental permit, but with no adverse environmental impact. The ACI had been reviewed and responded to in December. The operator had been given a recommended completion date of the end of February. Findings would then be reported once the investigation had concluded.

4013 In November 2024, the Environment Agency had published the Radioactivity In Food and the Environment (RIFE) report. The total dose to a representative person at Dungeness had been 0.005 mSv in 2023, which was well within legal limits.

Questions & Answers

4014 There were no questions.

12. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT – DUNGENESS B

4015 Kezia White presented the report.

4016 There had been a joint inspection in October with the ONR, focused on management of contractors. Everything had been complaint, with good practice being highlighted. The question had been asked of EDF how these would be incorporated into their fleetwide standard.

4017 The variation to the radioactive substances permit had been issues in November, to allow very low-level waste disposals from the site.

4018 Dungeness Site B carries out the environmental monitoring programme for both sites, and in the last quarter the required amount of fish samples had not been able to be collected. This had been acknowledged and discussed with the Food Standard Agencies and internal Environment Agency monitoring teams and would be born in mind going forward.

4019 Kezia White was currently looking at planning cycle for the coming year starting in April.

Questions & Answers

4020 There were no questions.

13. NDA UPDATE

4021 John McNamara presented the update.

4022 The NDA was the landowner, and NRS was the operating company with which the NDA had the closest interaction with. The government was committed to professional clean-up of nuclear waste, and the settlement was anticipated to be around £4 billion. Some work would have to be paused, including not just at NRS, but Sellafield, Nuclear Waste Services and Nuclear Transport Services. The NDA normally set a five-year strategy, which it was due to do that year. There was due to be a public consultation in May, but given the spending review it may be put back to the autumn.

4023 2025 was the 20th anniversary of the NDA, and this would be marked with a few events. John McNamara intended to come back to the SSG about these at a later date. This also incorporated the review of the SSGs, for which the feedback would be published in the next few months, but it had been very positive. It was hoped to carry out interviews with SSG chairs.

4024 There had been an announcement regarding plutonium disposal, and a new plant would be built at Sellafield, with the generation of around 3,000 to 4,000 jobs.

Questions & Answers

4025 An attendee asked how plutonium was disposed of. John McNamara said there were a number of methods being looked into. He could come back with more information, but no decision had been made, and it would ultimately go to a public consultation.

4026 David Godfrey asked how many communities had expressed interest in the geological storage site for nuclear waste. John McNamara said two sites in Cumbria had done so, as well as one non-nuclear community in Lincolnshire. Ultimately there would be a public vote.

14. AOB

4027 Gabriele Popp resident raised the point that some of the reports as printed included a lot of wasted print. It was requested that this be reviewed going forward.

4028 There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 11.40.

Date of next meeting: 17 July 2025.