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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
DUNGENESS SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
HELD AT DUNGENESS B POWER STATION, ROMNEY MARSH, TN29 9PX
THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER 2025**

Attendance/Apologies list

In attendance

Graham Finn	Chair
Bill Hamilton	NRS
Kayleigh Ridley	NRS
Carl Welsh	NRS
Miriam Allardice	Environment Agency (attended virtually)
Claire Bruce	Resident
Gavin Lancaster	Station Director, Dungeness B
Spencer Bashford	EDF
Matthew Pardo	EDF
Kezia White	Environment Agency
Nicol Carllin	Environment Agency
Diane Gelon	Dungeness Residents Association
Duncan Edwards	Amentum UK
Adam Feacey	Kent County Council
Cllr Tony Hills	Folkestone & Hythe District Council
Jo Wynn-Carter	Folkestone & Hythe District Council
Cllr Paul Thomas	Romney Marsh Partnership
Cllr Paul Redstone	East Sussex County Council
Peter Williams	Liverpool University
Alyson Shaw	Careers and Work Experience Coordinator, Marsh Academy
Jane Wilson	Member of the Public
Clive Wilson	Member of the Public
Geoffrey Dore	Minute Taker

Apologies

Katharine Walker	ONR Inspector, Dungeness A Site
Ken Obbard	Natural England
John McNamara	NDA
Jason Crook	ONR Inspector, Dungeness B Site
Vanessa McKay	Environment Agency
Cllr Keith Glazer	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Alan Martin	Lydd Town Council
Ian Cuthbert	Site Director, Dungeness A
Ray Johnson	Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce
Tudor Price	Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce
Cllr David Godfrey	Vice Chair
Louise Barton	Lydd Airport Action Group
Cllr Bob Jones	Lydd town council
Cllr Jean Jones	Lydd town council

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Cllr Stephen Scoffham
Jo Cowdrey
Cllr Peter Coe

Folkestone and Hythe District Council
Creative Folkestone/Dungeness Resident
New Romney Town Council

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Chair opened the meeting at 10.02.

Gavin Lancaster provided the safety message.

The Chair welcomed the new attendees.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from Katharine Walker, Ken Obbard, John McNamara, Jason Crook, Vanessa McKay, Keith Glazer, Alan Martin, Ian Cuthbert, Ray Johnson, Tudor Price, David Godfrey Louise Barton, Bob Jones, Jean Jones, Stephen Scoffham, Jo Cowdrey and Peter Coe.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair invited comments on the minutes.

Tony Hills referred to the sentence 'Tony Hills noted that two of the bays had recommended no bathing due to water quality'. He clarified that there was only one bay, and there were three beaches, of which one was causing concern. He had engaged in dialogue with officers from the EA who had stated that the water quality would not be affected by the new sewage plant on the B site.

Subject to the above amendment, the minutes were agreed as a true and fair representation of the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

The Chair noted that Tony Hills's comments on the minutes of the previous meeting had addressed the action for Vanessa McKay to consult with colleagues regarding possible effluent contamination. Action Closed

Alyson Shaw was attending on behalf of the Marsh Academy. Action Closed

Paul Thomas was attending on behalf of the Romney Marsh Partnership. Action closed

5. CORRESPONDENCE

The Chair reported that he had sent out the planning application for the boiler down project for Dungeness A. A link for the planning portal had been circulated.

Local residents had received an invitation to visit the NRS trailer.

The Chair had written to the NDA to ask if the SSG terms of reference would cover the solar farm grid connection coming into the Dungeness sub-station. The NDA had clarified that the solar farm was not within the remit of the group to discuss, as the grid sub-station was outside of the nuclear licence site.

6. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair stated that he had attended several meetings to discuss the NDA's strategy document. He had decided not to include any comments on behalf of the SSG, as the strategy document did not contradict any of the SSG's plans.

The Chair had attended the EA's 'meet the regulator' meeting.

He had also conducted work on the constitution for the SSG. The constitution included comments from the EDF and NDA. One change involved site directors being allowed to bring along a subject matter expert, rather than a supply chain representative, to a meeting. The constitution had also been amended to state that the SSG could not provide formal advice but could provide operators with points for consideration, while the secretariat could only circulate documentation to members that originated from the Chair or the site directors. Paul Thomas asked if the amendments included input from the wider SSG review performed during the last year. The Chair confirmed that the constitution had been updated to support the document generated during the wider review.

7. DUNGENESS A SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Carl Welsh presented the report on behalf of Ian Cuthbert.

The NRS roadshow trailer was visiting Dungeness. Over the last few months, there had been a litter pick day and Great British Beach Clean with good turnout from the site. Six staff members had volunteered to paint the gorilla enclosures at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park. Kayleigh Ridley noted that she was the neighbourly/volunteering champion for the site, and members should email her should they have any potential organisations or charities for consideration.

Carl Welsh reported that Dungeness A was working on a site sustainability plan and hoped to issue this in the next few months. The site had received a fire enforcement notice and had complied with all requirements. There was ongoing work on the site to install new fire escapes, and no work would take place in the plant until the work was completed. Works were due to be completed in November or December. A safety day had been held across the site. ONR carried out a site intervention focused on public dose calculations and were satisfied with the site's approach, resulting in a green rating.

A non-rad permit variation had been submitted to the EA for determination, and a response was not expected for at least six to 12 months.

The old stores building was being dismantled. The new stores building had been handed over, and work was taking place on the final business case for the boiler down project. All enabling project demolitions of conventional buildings should be completed by December. Electrical isolation work continued, and the site continued to prepare to demolish the DAMAL lab. The active drains removal work was ongoing.

R1 cladding strengthening works had been completed in September, while R2 cladding work was 60% complete. The solid Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) package facility had been site tested, and the plant had started the commissioning phase. Borderline wet waste site enabling works were ongoing, while cyclone dust waste samples had been sent to the National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL) radiological laboratory for characterisation analysis. Improvements to the sludge retrieval fill-house were underway, delays had occurred due to the discovery of underground services, and the work was likely to be completed by the end of December.

Two Low-Level Waste (LLW) HEPA filters had been shipped to Auger, while five legacy scaffold shipments had been dispatched to UNITECH. 92te of non-hazardous waste and 12te of hazardous waste had been removed from the site in 2025. Regarding high activity waste (HAW), the first type VI had been conditioned. The legacy Bradwell Caesium Retrieval Unit (CRU) waste had been successfully disposed of.

Dungeness A was developing its five-year business plan and would likely receive sign-off in the next two months.

Carl Welsh highlighted socioeconomic funding for 2025 and reported that £33,000 had been donated to the Romney Marsh Partnership Officer role. The site had also contributed £3,000

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to Rye Harbour Sailability for the purchase of a Wheelyboat. The Chair invited members to suggest local organisations that required funding for equipment.

Claire Bruce asked how close an organisation needed to be situated to Dungeness to be able to apply for funding. Kayleigh Ridley said she will check the official radius for applications.

Tony Hills asked if there could be a part contribution towards the new village hall. The Chair suggested that Tony Hills speak to Bill Hamilton regarding bigger contributions.

Paul Thomas noted the concerns regarding bathing water quality across Romney Bay and asked Carl Welsh if he was satisfied that the package sewage plant was operating within limits and was not contributing to poor water quality in the area. Carl Welsh stated that Dungeness A does test frequently, and all tests had shown that the plant was operating within limits. There had been no issues in relation to maintenance or useability.

The Chair referred to the three-month look-ahead and asked when the DAMAL building would be demolished. Carl Welsh said demolition on the building would not start until the next financial year. An update would be provided at the next SSG.

8. DUNGENESS B SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Gavin Lancaster presented his report.

The site's teams were now able to remove fuel from the reactors under cold conditions. R21 would be safely defueled at the end of 2026 or the start of 2027. Work would then commence on defueling R22 which would be complete by the end of 2029. After this point, EDF would transfer the site to NRS, and Dungeness A and Dungeness B would operate as two separate business entities.

As Dungeness B progressed through its defueling journey, there would be a reduction in workforce. Teams currently located in Eureka Leisure Park would relocate back to the power station over the next nine months as Dungeness B builds a new administration building. The site's occupational health facility had been relocated and was now situated near the security building and administration building turnstile. There had been an all-leaders away day to discuss mental health. A session had also been held with Mind and the Alzheimer's Society. Discussions had taken place regarding retaining nuclear-trained operators and individuals. Discussions had also addressed building a skills academy.

In June, a small amount of exhaust gases, below limits set by the EA, were released due to a hole in weather shielding from the active laundry duct. The regulator was notified and repairs were carried out, along with a review across other discharge systems.

Two individuals had experienced injuries on site. One staff member had tripped while walking the site perimeter, while another had suffered a minor head injury whilst working on a tambour unit. Both individuals had since returned to work. EDF had submitted a planning application to extend the life of the shingle extraction programme from the borrow pit. Dungeness B had conducted a litter pick, which had been well attended.

The new sewage treatment plant was working effectively and was retaining discharges within environmental limits. While Gavin Lancaster recognised Tony Hills's previous challenge in this area, the plant was being monitored, and he was confident that it was working effectively.

Tony Hills referred to the new sewage treatment plant and said the EA would have to reconsider discharges, as public pressure had grown regarding what was acceptable practice. He requested an update on the application to extend the life of the shingle extraction from the borrow pit. Gavin Lancaster stated that the site had originally considered applying for permission to take 40,000- 45,000 cubic metres of shingle a year, but following the environmental impact assessment, had reduced the expected take accordingly.

Tony Hills noted that the EA's report included a link for climate change. There were challenges, such as potential hurricanes by 2080, while 100-mph winds would present a challenge for defences. He hoped that the site was engaging with companies such as Van Oord. He

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anticipated that a friendlier approach would involve a hydraulic process for sucking the shingle by the borrow pit before bringing it round the site, bi-annually, and then pumping it back onto the beach. Gavin Lancaster said it was being tracked accordingly. The site was committed to maintaining the minimum level of shingle protection in front of the stations for the next 15 years.

9. ONR REPORT FOR DUNGENESS A

It was noted that Katharine Walker had offered her apologies.

10. ONR REPORT FOR DUNGENESS B

It was noted that Jason Crook had offered his apologies.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE FOR DUNGENESS A AND DUNGENESS B

Kezia White presented her report for Dungeness B.

The EA had reviewed the site's event discharge route event, and Dungeness B's response had been positive and timely. The EA's compliance assessment process had recorded three category 3 non-compliances with the RSR permit. Category 3 events are minor events with minimal impact on the environment, category 4 events are mainly related to errors in paperwork. This information was provided to allow people to understand the severity of the event.

The EA would conduct an inspection in November in relation to defueling discharges and disposals of solid radioactive waste.

Tony Hills commended the work of the EA and stressed the importance of doing the best job for Dungeness. Regarding the sewage effluent outputs, while he did not disagree with the technicalities, it was out of date. He suggested that the treatment of sewage effluent be considered at a higher level within the EA. He also recommended that the EA update its report on climate change.

Paul Thomas said the EA had appeared to have pushed back on receiving international assistance on the discharges. This approach was impacting local populations, environments and economies. Kezia White said the EA's guidance was risk-based and has limited resources.

Paul Thomas said Ofwat did not appear to be as effective as the EA or the ONR, and this needed to change. Littlestone could lose its bathing water designation, which would be a complete disaster. Kezia White agreed it is an issue if the water quality in the area is impacting on Bathing Water designations and has seen similar situations elsewhere in the UK. She agreed to raise concerns about the water quality with the Area Environment Agency team during the EA's annual area review meeting.

Tony Hills highlighted a distinct lack of front-facing activity from the EA. The EA did not want to meet residents. While Kezia White was engaging, the EA was not as engaging on other problem areas.

Gavin Lancaster stated that Kezia White was being held accountable for matters beyond her remit. The Chair noted that Kezia White's remit had been stretched. She had received valid points beyond her remit and suggested that she share them with her organisation.

Miriam Allardice presented her report for Dungeness A.

The site's environmental monitoring programme had been inspected in July. Although no non-compliances had been identified, several recommendations had been issued. Engagement had continued with the site regarding its management of aqueous waste. The EA had received the best available technique (BAT) assessment for the management of the

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reactor void water. Comments had been shared with the site and colleagues who were currently assessing a variation concerning the existing Waste Discharge Activity permit. A copy of the updated holistic overview of aqueous waste was expected in the next calendar year.

The EA had issued its regulatory decision for the two events concerning stack issues. Dungeness A had been assigned several actions to complete to bring the site back into compliance, in addition to regulatory actions that were due at yearend.

The radiological permit variation was in the determining phase. The site currently had an information notice, and the EA awaited further information, to enable it to continue the determination.

Gavin Lancaster asked if Dungeness A's medium active laboratory assessment was related to qualification of the area. Carl Welsh explained that it concerned removing the current discharge routes from the permit. The characterisation was required as part of the demolition works.

12. NDA UPDATE

It was noted that John McNamara had circulated his report.

13. NRS CORPORATE UPDATE

Bill Hamilton presented his report.

Ian Cuthbert and the lead teams at all sites had been working on the detail of the overall envelope of government funding, to ascertain how the funding would impact all sites. The five-year programme would be presented at the next SSG.

Community engagement had taken place in Rye and New Romney with a roadshow. Bill Hamilton noted that residents in Rye had expressed positive views regarding the site, as well as a strong demand for new nuclear.

A deep dive into communities was to take place, there would be three focus groups, covering 16 to 24-year-olds, adults aged 25 and over and SSG representatives. The focus groups would be led by Thinks Insight, which would then produce a report. Thinks Insight would also poll 150 people via telephone calls.

NRS had launched a mutual voluntary exit scheme, which would remain open until mid-December. An individual within the company had recently died by suicide, and NRS would double down on its suicide prevention activities. Tony Hills noted how Dungeness was a unique site, stating NRS should continue its positive work, commending their approach.

Paul Thomas asked if the SSG would be taken off site and into the local community. The Chair said while the SSG had attempted to hold meetings off site, it had found that they were better attended on site. Paul Thomas proposed that some SSG meetings be held at the Maude Community Centre. Alyson Shaw stated that Marsh Academy could also hold some meetings. The chair said they would look at holding the AGM in the local community.

Alyson Shaw asked how members for the focus groups would be selected. Bill Hamilton responded that Thinks Insight would select the focus groups. There would be a bias towards young people. Thinks Insight would use a specialist recruitment agency, though there were clear rules in terms of race, gender and class. Individuals would receive a £75 payment. NRS had no input into the individuals selected. Alyson Shaw said several local 16 to 24-year-olds, particularly some who attended Marsh Academy, would be ideal candidates for the exercise. Tony Hills suggested that NRS work with Marsh Academy in this area. Bill Hamilton agreed to contact Thinks Insight and respond to Alyson Shaw.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 11.33.

Next Meeting date: February 2026