



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
HELD AT THE WATERSIDE HOTEL, ARDROSSAN ROAD, WEST KILBRIDE, KA23 9NG
THURSDAY 12 JUNE 2025**

Attendance/Apologies list

Attendance

Ms Rita Holmes	Fairlie CC (Chair)
Mr Stuart McGhie	EDF (Vice Chair)

Operators and Officers

Ms Fiona McCall	EDF
Mr Daniel Smith	Site Director (Hunterston A)
Mr Andy Dalling	Site Director (Hunterston B)
Mr Keith Hammond	SEPA (Site Inspector, Hunterston B)
Ms Melanie Hayes	SEPA (Site Inspector, Hunterston A)
Mr Paul Dale	SEPA
Mr Peter Hughes	ONR (Site Inspector, Hunterston A)
Ms Claire Aitken	NRS
Mr David Wallace	NDA (Stakeholder Lead Scotland)
Inspector Paul Gilmartin	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Mr Scott McKenzie	North Ayrshire Council

In Attendance

Mr Graham Buckley	West Kilbride CC
Mr Graham Wallace	Cumbrae CC
Mr Alan Holden	Fairlie CC
Mr Frank Alexander	Largs CC
Mr Angus Cochran Patrick	Hunterston Estate
Cllr Eleanor Collier	North Coast and Cumbraes Council
Mr Willie Jack	NFU
Mr Matthew Dent	Minute taker
Members of the public	

Apologies

Mr Colin Hargreaves	NRS Lead Site Inspector
Mr Bill Hamilton	External Affairs Director, NRS
Ms Diane Hamilton	Scottish Government
Ms Louise Kirk	North Ayrshire Council
Mr John Lamb	West Kilbride CC
Cllr Tom Marshall	North Ayrshire Council
Cllr Ian Murdoch	North Ayrshire Council
Mr Alistair Walker	NRS
Tim Saunders	ONR

1. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair opened the meeting at 13.41.

Apologies were noted from Colin Hargreaves, Bill Hamilton, Diane Hamilton, Louise Kirk, John Lamb, Tom Marshall, Ian Murdoch and Alistair Walker

No interests were declared.

2. CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR UPDATES AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Chair presented her report.

Since the last SSG meeting, the Chair and Vice-Chair had had online meetings with the Hunterston A site director to discuss progress, updates and incidents. There had been several online meetings of the UK chairs and vice-chairs of SSGs, which had been dominated by discussion of the change to emoluments being paid in a lump sum to being paid by the NDA. It had been emphasised that they were in no way employees of the NDA.

The Chair had visited Sellafield alongside others and had seen the low-level waste (LLW) repository in Drigg and plans for dealing with plutonium waste.

The latest SSG chairs and vice-chairs meeting had been on 6 June, which had included updates from all sites except Sellafield. The Chair and Vice-Chair would attend the NDA SSG chair and vice-chairs meeting in Manchester on 1 and 2 July. She invited attendees to let her know of anything which they wanted to be raised.

The Chair had responded to four SEPA consultations on behalf of the SSG. The latest of these had been on the environmental performance assessment scheme.

The recommendations and guidelines from the NDA review of SSGs and their constitutions had been circulated to members. The SSG needed to submit a new constitution soon, and the Chair proposed an online meeting to discuss this in the next few weeks.

The Scottish Nuclear Sites meeting would be taking place on 26 August at 14.00 at Victoria Quay. The Chair and Vice-Chair would represent the SSG. This was a face-to-face meeting with the Scottish Government and the radiological waste team.

The Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCORS) had met recently, and the Chair invited Scott McKenzie to provide an update from it. Scott McKenzie related that it had been a very productive meeting. North Ayrshire Council had not had an elected member part of SCCORS for some time, so Scott McKenzie attended in an officer capacity. A request for an elected member representative had been made to the council and was being considered.

3. ACTIONS AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Vice-Chair proposed that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved. The Chair seconded the motion. The minutes of the meeting of 6 March were approved as a true and accurate representation of the meeting.

Private security patrols – Andy Dalling reported that the new security plans had confirmed that offsite patrols would cease, and only internal sweeps would continue.

Waste categorisation at HNA – Daniel Smith reported that further work had taken place to look at what further actions were required in respect of the waste in bunkers. A proposal was going through internal governance process, before being sent to regulators.

Civil Contingencies arrangements – This action was ongoing.

Independent review of SSGs – Claire Aitken had circulated the draft report.

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Meeting between NDA and North Ayrshire Council – David Wallace reported that the NDA socio-economic team had met with Louise Kirk to discuss regeneration of the area. Further conversations were scheduled for August.

4. HUNTERSTON B SITE REPORTS

Hunterston B Site Report

Andy Dalling presented his report.

It had been formally verified that HNB was fuel free, a process which had taken two years and 10 months, and had been completed ahead of schedule and under budget. There had been some celebrations to mark this with staff members and their families, and an EDF executive on site.

The completion of defueling allowed progression to work on the transfer of the site. The post-defueling safety case, a new security plan and a new emergency plan were all with the regulator. Once they had given approval, work would move to implementation.

There was nothing to report on safety. Reorganisation continued, moving from around 400 to 250 for decommissioning. 96% of staff aspirations had been able to be met, up from 93% at the last report.

ONR Report

Peter Hughes explained that Tim Saunders had not been able to attend.

SEPA Report

Keith Hammond presented his report.

SEPA had been on site twice since the last SSG. The site was moving from defueling into transition to decommissioning.

The consultation on the variation regarding increased discharge had closed. No representations had been received, and so the variation would be proceeding. The transfer application was also proceeding, but there would be no consultation on this.

Questions & Answers

It was noted that there was still signage on the road network pointing towards the Hunterston visitors centre. Andy Dalling would take this on.

ACTION: Andy Dalling to deal with signage still pointing towards the Hunterston visitors centre.

It was noted that it would have been nice if HBA had invited ex-employees to celebrate the completion of defueling. Andy Dalling said there had been a limit on the number of people who could have been hosted onsite. The idea of holding something more open would be looked at.

Alan Holden queried the masterplan for the debris vaults and the active effluent treatment plan. Andy Dalling explained that the debris vault would not be open for another 80 to 90 years. The active effluent treatment plant was included in the decommissioning plans before the transfer to NRS.

The Chair queried the 270,000 litres of diesel oil which was going to other sites. Andy Dalling explained this was predominantly going to Hartlepool.

The Chair queried whether the safety case which had gone to the ONR was for post-transfer. Andy Dalling explained it was for the current situation. This was the safety case for a fuel-free site. Peter Hughes explained that the ONR would be assessing the new safety case to confirm

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whether they were appropriate. Andy Dalling noted that it should be approved and implemented by the next SSG meeting.

The Chair asked whether the case had been approved for the ILW remaining where it was. Peter Hughes explained that the ONR did not approve this sort of thing. The ONR was aware of what was being done and had assessed it was still safe. HNB would be continuing monitoring arrangements as part of the safety case.

The Chair queried whether dosage restrictions for the workforce would remain after the transfer to the NDA. Andy Dalling explained that post-transfer NRS arrangements would be used. He did not anticipate any change.

The Chair queried the discharge volume and tidal window, and whether any conclusion had been reached. Keith Hammond explained that a determination date had been given of 1 August 2026.

5. HUNTERSTON A SITE REPORTS

Hunterston A Site Report

Daniel Smith presented his report.

Within the period since the last SSG meeting, there had been no safety events causing harm. Disappointingly there had been an event onsite which had been classed as reportable, involving a contract partner moving scaffolding materials onsite with a forklift truck, during which a load had been dropped. This had impacted on electrical supplies to one of NRS' facilities. There had been no injuries, and the right help and support had been sought by the team. This had been a reportable event due to potential for harm. The event was being investigated by the NRS and had been investigated by the contract partner.

Emergency arrangements had been assessed during a recent ONR demonstration exercise on 20 May. This exercise had been rated as a pass with no resultant regulatory actions.

There had been a lot of investment in people, and into facilities for people. Goals and targets had been made clear to staff, as well as development routes. The employee survey had seen the best overall engagement score and completion rate that HNA had seen. The completion rate had gone from 72% to 88%, whilst the engagement score had gone from 6.8 to 7.4, which was both the highest and most improved across the NRS fleet.

HNA remained in event recovery concerning the issues with the laboratory which had led to a prohibition notice. Good progress had been made on the event recovery workstreams, getting back to business as usual using an accredited offsite laboratory. It was anticipated that event recovery would close in August/September. Additionally, both of the high active waste facilities had been returned to service

ONR Report

Peter Hughes presented his report.

A joint inspection had been held alongside security on organisation capability. This had been rated green, but with one minor regulatory issue around the baseline, which NRS were currently progressing and would be closed shortly.

A letter had been issued regarding withdrawal of legacy licence conditions at HNA which were no longer appropriate. This had all be agreed.

Peter Hughes had been onsite twice in Q2. The first occasion had been to conduct initial inquiries into the forklift truck incident. Inquiries were continuing on this, with a decision expected in due course against NRS and the contractor. The second occasion had been to witness the emergency arrangements exercise, which had been deemed as adequate.

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Improvements to the laboratory also continued to be monitored and tracked, in support of SEPA.

The new Chief Nuclear Inspector at ONR had been announced as Mike Finnerty, who would start on 1 July.

SEPA Report

Melanie Hayes presented her report.

Since the last SSG meeting, SEPA had attended the HNA once, in mid-March to continue investigations into the laboratory issues. SEPA were in the process of writing up their investigation, the outcome of which would be shared in due course.

In relation to the inspection in October 2024, HNA had now provided the information requested to close out the actions. This information was currently being considered.

An information notice had been issued at the start of 2024, for which some of the action dates had been extended at the site's request. The information to close out actions 2(b) and 2(c) had now been received prior to April. Information had also been received to close out actions due before the end of May. The backdated gaseous discharge returns were due at the end of June.

The application for a variation on aqueous discharge had concluded its consultation period on 22 April, with no representations made. This would be considered in due course. The application for a variation on gaseous discharges, including the running of SILWE and discharge point, would be determined in due course, but the determination date had been extended to October 2026.

The investigation into the laboratory was being concluded. NRS confirmation of completion of actions was awaited, at which point the laboratory would be reassessed.

One new q-pulse had been raised since the last SSG meeting, in relation to a potential discrepancy between system drawings for the LLW processing facility ventilation system and the installed plant, resulting in an underestimation of flow within the facility. This may have an effect on reported discharges. The outcome of the internal investigation was awaited.

Questions & Answers

The Chair noted that the local community could not have faith in the industry on discharges unless machines were properly calibrated. She wondered how long the issue had been going on. Melanie Hayes noted that SEPA were satisfied that the site was putting a lot of work in to have the regulatory note lifted. The note would not be lifted unless SEPA were completely satisfied. Paul Dale agreed that it had been very disappointing but the necessary and proportionate actions had been taken. Monitors onsite had not shown a significant increase in contamination. Regulators were confident that the public had not been exposed to elevated levels of contamination. Variations of licences would not be considered until historical non-compliances had been corrected.

The Vice-Chair queried the site leadership's action plan in relation to the employee survey results. Daniel Smith explained there were three key points: growth and development, learning, and wellbeing.

The Vice-Chair noted the forklift truck incident, and queried whether there was any requirement for retraining, and why the scaffolding had fallen. Daniel Smith explained that the contractor had completed an investigation and there had been a human performance element around the size of the load lifted and how it had been lifted. Key learning had been taken onboard, and the contractor was improving their risk assessment procedures. The scaffold laydown area was under quarantine and was being considered as to its appropriateness.

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Frank Alexander queried whether there would be any impact in the short-to-medium-term on workforce numbers as the site moved towards the new regime. Daniel Smith did not anticipate any workforce impact.

RT noted a reference in the SEPA report to a discrepancy between the systems drawing and installed plan for the LLW facility. She queried how serious the discrepancy was. Melanie Hayes explained that the final report had not been completed. There had been a 17% underestimate of the flow rate for the LLW facility, and another vent system had been found with a 15% underestimate.

6. CIVIL NUCLEAR CONSTABULARY UPDATE

Paul Gilmartin presented his update.

The CNC were due to withdraw from Hunterston after 20 years. This would be a period of organised withdrawal. Officers and staff had been offered alternative positions at other sites across the UK.

Paul Gilmartin noted he had attended the SSG meetings until 2024, when he had moved to Dounreay. His attendance was to say thank you and goodbye.

Frank Alexander queried whether any community issues around the HNA and HNB sites were foreseen as a result of the CNC withdrawal. Paul Gilmartin noted that the CNC were restricted on what they could deal with offsite. At Dounreay he had attended seven firearms supports to Police Scotland. There was more complexity around non-firearms incidents.

Angus Cochran Patrick asked how the security arrangements for HNA and HNB would be managed after the CNC's withdrawal. Andy Dalling explained that the new security plan predominantly relied on onsite security guards.

7. UPDATE FROM SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Claire Aitken noted that Diane Hamilton was not present but had provided her report and any questions could be put to her.

8. UPDATE FROM NDA

David Wallace presented his report.

The NDA had laid its business plan in the Scottish Parliament and UK Parliament. The strategy 5 consultation would begin on 7 July for 12 weeks, and the NDA would engage with the SSG and other stakeholders around it. Scottish ministers were briefed annually, and the cabinet secretary for climate action and energy had been briefed a few weeks earlier.

The cross-party group of MSPs were keen to visit sites and had met at Chapelcross in March on the topic of site end states. The group had met two weeks previously at the Scottish Parliament on the subject of SCCORS. In September, the cross-party group intended to come to Hunterston.

The first SCCORS meeting in five years had taken place, with 24 of 32 local authorities attending. It had been a hybrid meeting held in Glasgow City Chambers. A lot of issues had been covered, and the minutes would come out early in the coming week.

The spending review had been announced the previous day, and the implications were being reviewed. Briefings had taken place with the Scottish and Welsh governments around the one-year settlement.

9. NRS CORPORATE UPDATE

Bill Hamilton was not present.

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10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 15.09

Next Meeting date: Thursday 4 September 2025.