



Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group

Venue: The Canalside, Bridgwater

3rd March 2025 commencing at 0930 am.

Additional paperwork for this and previous meetings can be found on the website:

www.nrsssg.com

AGENDA

All reports & presentations will be circulated with final agenda two weeks before meeting. Members are requested to review reports and submit questions before the meeting, this is to allow responses to be made on day. Questions received during the meeting may be responded to in writing after the meeting.

The chair has asked that presenters use their speaking time to highlight important points only, this is to allow time for Plenary Panel Session.

All timings indicative and subject to change at Chairs discretion.

1. 09.30 Welcome from the Chair - Cllr Leigh Redman.
To include introductions of new staff.
2. 09:35 Apologies for absence.
3. 09.40 Open public Q&A session - Subject to Chairs discretion.
4. 09.50 Minutes of the Meeting held 28th October 2024.
Accuracy & matters arising – see separate sheet.
5. 09.55 Station Director's report - Hinkley Point B Station,
Nicola Fauvel
6. 10.10 Site Director's report – Hinkley Point A site, Mark Pitts
7. 10.25 NRS corporate report – Bill Hamilton
8. 10.35 NDA reports – John Mcnamara

9. 10.45 Plenary session: The Plenary for this meeting is split into two parts: The session will give each presenter up to 10 mins to outline their message and 10 mins for SSG members' question & answers. Session will last around 45 mins.

NRS – Kate Baxter – Introduction to NRS Sustainability Strategy

A presentation on the New NRS Sustainability Strategy. We would like to share our recently developed strategy, which sets a framework for maximising the public value we deliver through our mission

Environment Agency – Becca Williams - Hinkley Habits Survey Interim findings

Environment Agency - Becca Williams - Radiological Monitoring & Assessment Specialist, will give a presentation on the interim findings from the habits survey that occurred in the Hinkley Point area in August 2024, she will also present some slides on behalf of the Food Standards Agency (FSA).

Habits surveys are used to gain site specific data of the food people consume and their activities in the vicinity of a nuclear site, they are studies of the habits of people to find out how their diet and activities may influence their exposure to radioactivity. The surveys are commissioned by a partnership of organisations: EA, FSA and ONR and carried out by Cefas. A routine habits survey occurred in the Hinkley Point area in early August 2024 and the interim survey findings will be presented.

10. 11.35 Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) report Hinkley A&B - Bert Broadly
11. 11.50 Environment Agency Report Hinkley A&B - Alister Wintle
12. 12.05 Chair's report and to note items circulated between meetings.
13. 12:15 To note items circulated between meetings.
Environment Agency's Hinkley 'meet the regulator meeting' invitation – 20/11/24
EA interim report December 2024
14. 12.30 Any other business

If you have any queries relating to the SSG meeting or wish to send any pre-submitted questions, please use the following email address: Hinkley.ssg@nrsservices.uk

If you are sending a pre-submitted question, please make it clear in your email which regulator the question is for, so we can ensure it is passed to the relevant team.

The next Hinkley Point SSG's meeting date: 23rd September 2025



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HINKLEY A & B STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
HELD AT BRIDGWATER & TAUNTON COLLEGE, CANNINGTON CAMPUS, TA5 2LS
MONDAY 28 OCTOBER 2024**

Attendance/Apologies list

Present

Cllr L Redman
Mr M Pitts
Ms N Fauvel

Chair/Bridgwater town Council & Somerset council
Site Director, Hinkley Point A
Station Director, Hinkley Point B

Elected Members

Cllr K Hewson
Cllr M Hodson
Cllr C Morgan
Cllr R Perrett
Cllr M Phillips
Cllr J Roberts

Bawdrip Parish Council
Spaxton Parish Council
Stogursey Parish Council
Otterhampton Parish Council
Wembdon Parish Council
Nether Stowey Parish Council

EDF

Mr H Dyer
Mr J Mason
Mr D Stokes
Mr D Uminski

NRS

Mrs S Fry
Mr Bill Hamilton

In Attendance

Mr R Wallis
Mr A Jeffery
Ms M Smith
Mr A Debenham
Mr A Harper
Dr P Jenneson
Mr D Wallace
Mr A Wintle
Mr J Ayers
Mr J Burton
Ms L Martin
Mr J Bartrum
Mr C Jones
Ms R Austin

Staff of Ms R Gilmour MP
Green Party
West Somerset Green Forum
Stop Hinkley
NDA
ONR
NDA
Environment Agency
Environment Agency
Somerset Council
Somerset Council
Somerset Council
Somerset Council
Minute Taker

OFFICIAL

Members of the Public

Ms A Bedford
Mr D Carson

Amentum
Amentum

Apologies

Ms R Gilmour
Cllr C Allen
Mr B Broadley
Mr M Brown
Cllr P Crosland
Cllr H Davies
Ms N Dawson
Cllr A Govier
Mr M Pardo
Cllr M Rigby
Mr P Stevens
Ms V Thomas

MP for Tiverton and Minehead
Cannington Parish Council
ONR Hinkley B
Vice Chair
Fiddington Parish Council
Somerset Councillor for Watchet, Williton and Stogursey
Somerset County Council
Somerset County Council
EDF
Somerset County Council
Somerset Council
Environmental Agency

1. WELCOME

The Chair (Cllr Redman) opened the meeting and thanked the attendees for their time. He noted that the meeting had been scheduled for earlier in the year but had been delayed by the calling of the General Election. He welcomed the new MP for the area, Ms Gilmour, who had sent her apologies and a representative in her place. The chair also welcomed the new executive member for Somerset Council, Cllr Mike Rigby. The Chair had emphasised to him the importance of sites A, B and C. An A&B site visit for the new MP and executive member would be arranged for early 2025. The Vice Chair had been unable to attend the meeting due to illness, all members present sent their good wishes.

Reports had been circulated at the earliest possible opportunity to give members the chance to review and send questions in advance. All presenters had agreed to reply in writing on questions they were unable to answer during the meeting itself. An independent notetaker was present and was recording the meeting for these purposes.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received as listed above.

3. OPEN PUBLIC Q&A SESSION

No public questions were received.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 26 JANUARY 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2024 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5. STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B STATION

Ms Fauvel passed on the best wishes of those at Hinkley Point B to Mr Brown, the SSG Vice Chair, in light of his illness.

Ms Fauvel introduced herself and summarised her career. The safety and environmental performance of the site and its defueling progress was noted. Defueling aimed to remove fuel from the site, but also to prepare for the transition from EDF to NRS. An NRS engagement day had been held on 14 October to help staff to understand what the future would look like. Ms Fauvel emphasised that, after safety and the environment, her top priority was looking after staff at the station.

The emergency arrangements exercise programme for 2024 had been completed and emergency plans were otherwise continually reviewed. The 'family and friends' weekend and various community events were highlighted.

Mr Debenham asked when Hinkley B would 'give up responsibility' and 'stop paying for things to happen'. He further asked whether EDF paid for the transport of fuel elements to Sellafield and whether there was an inherent danger in this process. He noted the killing of fish in the Severn and asked at what point in the decommissioning process this would cease.

Ms Fauvel stated that EDF funded the end-to-end rail service for the transport of fuel elements to Sellafield through the Nuclear Liabilities Fund. In terms of risk, well-documented experiments had demonstrated that the flasks had been designed to remain intact even if, for example, there was a collision. The Chair added that he would recirculate the data sheet on flasks provided to members in the past and would add a more detailed note to the minutes explaining the safety measures taken. **Action: Recirculate flask details.**

- 11 On the issue of fish, Ms Fauvel explained that the circulating water (CW) intake, which resulted in fish casualties, had reduced by 50%. Once the defueling process was complete, CW intake would essentially cease, and no fish would be taken into the CW system. Mr Uminski added that the majority of material captured during CW intake was seaweed rather than fish. CW intake had reduced significantly since the station had been shut down.
- 12 Cllr Morgan questioned why Operation Harold had not been put into place during a recent incident in the area. Ms Fauvel suggested that this was a question for the police. The site worked closely with all relevant agencies, but it was not the site's duty to engage with the police when a road traffic incident took place on a public road.
- 13 The Chair noted that this was a question with wider applicability beyond the SSG. As a councillor, he was concerned about the volume of recent road closures and would undertake some research with colleagues from Hinkley A and B on the topic **Action: Circulate Project Harrold details and details of communication flowchart for highways obstruction**. Mr Uminski assured members that the site was fully capable to deal with incidents on site without the support of the emergency services. He would raise the topic at the next emergency planning consultation committee meeting.
- 14 Mr Burton noted that it had been 18 years since the last nuclear reportable event, but there had been one top tier environmental reportable event in the last 14 years. He asked the difference between the two. Ms Fauvel explained that every event, no matter how minor, was recorded and categorised through a complex decision tree. Some events might have both nuclear and environmental safety implications, but one element would be more dominant, and the event would be categorised as such. The categorisation used was consistent with global standards. The Chair suggested that this would be a beneficial topic for the next meeting's deep-dive plenary session. **Action: Discuss option for future plenary – Nuclear & Environmental safety, what is the difference and how will this evolve as decommissioning progresses?**

6. SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A STATION

- 15 Mr Pitts extended the best wishes of those at Hinkley A to Mr Brown, the Vice Chair, in light of his illness.
- 16 Mr Pitts introduced himself and summarised his career, highlighting his particular experience in decommissioning. Hinkley A's successes and 'look ahead' were presented, including the enduring culture programme, which in part had resolved past issues with safety representatives. Apprenticeship and training programmes continued at the site. Compliance and delivery efforts were summarised, including closing of two ONR enforcement letters. Mr Pitts noted his focus on operational fitness.
- 17 The Demin Tank event of 31 August 2023 had been reviewed to ensure that lessons had been learned and applied to other cases. Mr Pitts highlighted that some of the targets for 2024/2025 would become green in the coming weeks. The preconditioning facility was now in active decommissioning and good progress had been made on intermediate-level waste.
- 18 Mr Jeffery noted that it had earlier been reported that the first packages would be put into the interim store by the summer. He asked about progress in this regard. Mr Pitts stated that this remained a target for the financial year, to be attained by March 2025. The modular intermediate level waste encapsulation plant (MILWEP) was being built at a number of sites across the fleet, which had taken priority over Hinkley and had knocked back the targeted data as a result.
- 19 Mr Jeffery further asked if it had been determined how the aforementioned demineralised water tank had become contaminated. Mr Pitts explained that it was an underground tank that had previously had a manhole cover level to the floor. It was believed that rainwater had washed into the tank at some point, with sludge settling at the bottom. The Chair noted that

he would seek to add the specific report on the incident to the meeting minutes. **Action: Circulate further detail about 'demineralised water tank incident'.**

20 Mr Debenham asked if the interim storage facility was currently empty and what the rate of filling it would be. Mr Pitts said that the facility contained empty packages. The Chair stated that he would not ask the site director to answer as to the expected rate of progress. He would ensure that these details were included in SSG presentations once the progress began.

21 Mr Debenham requested an illustrative example of the tonnage of material recovered from the dry vault. The Chair suggested that Mr Pitts provide a written response to this end. **Action: Circulate note to members detailing ISF capacity.** Mr Pitts added that he would update the SSG as to progress going forward. At his previous site, volume had been converted into double decker buses or similar to help members visualise.

7. NRS CORPORATE REPORT

22 Mr Hamilton introduced himself. His presentation would focus on the work NRS was doing on the longer-term future of sites. The priority for NRS was managing, treating and storing waste. Until recently, the long-term strategy had been 'care and maintenance', involving waste management, retrieval and storage, before buildings were clad and left alone for 30 years.

23 More recently, working closely with NDA, NRS had decided that a one-size-fits all long-term decommissioning approach was not appropriate. More site-specific strategies would be developed with due consideration for the workforce, the wider community and the site itself. Mr Hamilton estimated that significant decisions in this regard were 10 years in the future. However, survey efforts and research on the topic had begun.

24 New regulations could facilitate application for a permit to leave some lightly irradiated material behind, which would quicken the process and prevent the need for transporting waste elsewhere. This approach would be trialled in North Wales and Dorset. It would be essential to talk to the community to get recognition of and approval for the work. An independent polling company had been engaged to interview ordinary people in the community outside of the SSG who had less knowledge of or appreciation for nuclear power. One focus group had been set up for young people and one had been set up for adults. The results of the exercise had been included in the pack that had been circulated. Safety was by far the most important issue to members of the public across the country, alongside the environment, jobs and future use of the site.

25 A video produced by Thinks Insight including members of the public interviewed during polling was played.

26 Mr Debenham suggested that the NRS was attempting to 'brainwash' members of the public through these efforts. Mr Hamilton clarified that Thinks Insight was an independent company that had been employed to neutrally seek the views of members of the public.

27 Mr Hamilton added that NRS would start to conduct deep dives into each community, with efforts due to start the next month in Anglesey. The SSG would be involved in discussions to build a more complete picture of a community's knowledge, concerns and aspirations for their local site.

28 The Chair noted the ongoing review of SSG terms of reference and asked how the surveying effort might influence SSG operations. Mr Hamilton stated that the two issues were wholly separate. The polling underway did not relate to the SSG review, but it might be beneficial to take some of the learnings from the review into the upcoming community deep dives. The Chair added that he hoped through the polling process SSG membership might become more representative of the community as a whole.

29 Ms Smith asked if leaving some low-level waste on the site would speed up the decommissioning process. Mr Hamilton emphasised that this was not a strategy yet on the horizon for Hinkley, but it may be in the future. Lightly irradiated materials such as brickwork,

concrete and earth, or material not due to go into the geological disposal facility, would remain on site rather than being transported to an ordinary, licensed landfill site. Regulators had decided that it was no longer necessary for every single non-harmful becquerel to be removed from a site. This would reduce the time and effort required to dig out and transport such material and would arguably be safer. The regulator would grant a permit once a site proved it could identify and safely store such waste.

30 Dr Jenneson added that, in some cases, granite work surfaces in the home might be more radioactive than the level accepted on a decommissioning site. Most sites were built at the end of a poor road network, requiring travel through small villages. The regulator must balance risk to the public and to the workforce. If moving material around the country became arbitrary in terms of decommissioning benefit achieved, this must be rectified to prevent falling into compliance traps leading to poor outcomes.

31 Ms Smith emphasised that none of these complex procedures were required for wind or solar power generation. Such processes did not need to happen in the future.

32 Ms Martin noted that the council was producing a new local plan for the area. Though timelines stretched far into the future, it was vital that local plans did not take a direction that would negatively impact some of the options presented by NRS for the site, chair agreed that SSG should add comments to Somerset local plan.

33 Mr Debenham suggested that the presentation lacked balance, with no real anti-nuclear viewpoint provided. He further raised concerns about the nuclear industry as a whole, noting that the promises of nuclear energy had not been met. He asked how much the NRS and NDA cost in public funds. Mr Hamilton reiterated that those present in the video were members of the public. There had been a deliberate attempt not to speak to the usual stakeholders, but rather to touch base with ordinary people in the community.

34 The NRS budget was around £540 million per year, which was small in comparison to Sellafield's annual budget of £4 billion, for example. In inevitably spending more public money in pursuit of decommissioning, the wider community and the public at large must be engaged and involved.

35 Mr Jeffery said that it made sense not to needlessly dig up radioactive material to transport it elsewhere. The issue of climate change must be borne in mind, to ensure that radioactivity did not contaminate surrounding water.

8. NDA REPORTS

36 The report had been circulated ahead of the meeting. Mr Debenham noted the cost of the Sellafield site. Recent television presentations had demonstrated that the cost and safety of the site left 'much to be desired'. There was insufficient investment being put into Sellafield to make it safe and this was not presented to the public.

9. PLENARY SESSION

37 Mr Harper introduced himself and noted his role as socio-economic manager at NDA. He explained the statutory purpose of the NDA in terms of socioeconomic factors. The social impact and communities strategy had been published in April. Prior, he had attended SSGs and met with stakeholders to request their input, which had been reflected in the strategy. In addition, there had been a 12-week public consultation, with a comprehensive response provided from Somerset Council amongst others. The strategy was available on the government website and had been circulated prior to the meeting.

38 The NDA's socioeconomic work covered the entire estate, including Sellafield and Dounreay. Economic impact assessments provided insight into the strengths and challenges of each community. Economic experts had been asked to use the standard modelling and scope for their work and priority areas had been identified as a result: North West Wales, Caveness and

Sutherland in Scotland, and West Cumbria. The NDA took an equitable rather than equal approach, considering interventions across the estate with a proportionate approach based on economic need.

39 Now the strategy was in place, the NDA could move into the delivery phase for a vast range of projects, including capital projects, grants. The organisation had invested somewhere in the region of £60 million over the past five years through grant giving and worked with local authorities to lever in more funding through growth deals, levelling up and similar. The NDA played a small part in a larger funding pot and financial leverage would be a key part the approach going forward.

40 The budget for the current financial year was almost fully committed, and 50% had been committed for the next financial year. The NDA worked with partners in advance to create a pipeline of projects, rather than working in-year and delivering only low hanging fruit. Mr Harper presented some Hinkley-specific projects from the past years. In total, these amounted to just below £1 million invested in the area.

41 The Chair requested a link to the strategy document mentioned. **Action: Circulate document.** He noted that Strategy 4 was in place, with Strategy 5 due imminently. The report referenced a consultation in early 2025. He asked how wide this consultation would be. Mr Wallace explained that the Strategy 5 consultation was due to be published in March 2026. It would be a long and wide consultation period. Some discussions had commenced already at the recent stakeholder summit. **Action: Consider future agenda item to discuss Strategy 5 and potential impact on Hinkley sites.**

42 Mr Wallis observed that the economic impact assessments mentioned were on three-year cycles and due for recommissioning in 2025. Given that Hinkley B was due to transfer to NRS in 2026, there would not be a new assessment until 2028. More updated figures would be beneficial. Mr Harper noted that the transfer would take place on a phased basis, with a need to consider when the impact of assessment was refreshed.

43 Ms Smith highlighted that Somerset was deemed to be one of the lowest social mobility areas in the UK. EDF had paid for a training centre at the local college 10 years prior, but it had only intermittently been used. The take up of retrofit training was low and it was challenging to find suppliers. There should be a way to join this up with the NDA's **socioeconomic** approach. Mr Harper explained that he could not speak on EDF funding specifically. However, the challenge of training and retention of young people existed elsewhere, though the subject matter may be different. He would put Maureen in contact with the NDA's skills lead on this topic.

44 Mr Debenham asked how the NDA's work tied into the Hinkley C community foundation. He asked the value of the NDA's budget in this area and raised specific causes which required investment. Mr Harper stated that the NRS element of the budget was £1.1 million, with a central pot of £2.5 million for topping up. The socioeconomic grant programme value for the entire estate was around £14 million. The Chair suggested that Mr Debenham put any specific proposals forward through the NDA's grant application process.

10. OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION (ONR) REPORT HINKLEY A & B

45 Dr Jenneson introduced himself. He observed that this was the first time Hinkley A had gone six months with no inspection recorded. This did not mean that there had been no interventions. There had been a number of enforcements in the past period, and it was important to give sites the time and space to resolve such issues. As soon as the quarter had ended, inspections had recommenced but had just missed the reporting period. Enforcement issues and actions had mostly been addressed and progress was positive.

46 There had been enforcement around a canteen accident at Hinkley A. The ONR tried to regulate a nuclear site to the same standard as any other site, particularly as it had sometimes been felt that nuclear sites were easy places to hide in terms of health and safety. It was

pleasing that Mr Pitts was now site director. Issues the ONR had been concerned about had been addressed.

- 47 Dr Jenneson read a prepared statement on Hinkley B in the absence of Mr Broadley. The supporting habitat regulations assessment had not met the ONR's expectations and work was ongoing with the site to raise its standard, after which the consultation period would recommence. It was recommended that questions specific to Hinkley B be provided through the Chair or to the ONR directly. Emails to the generic ONR contact email related to either Hinkley site were redirected to Dr Jenneson and Mr Broadley.
- 48 The Chair asked if, as Hinkley B transitioned from EDF to NRS, there would be only one site ONR visit. Dr Jenneson stated that this was something for NRS to decide going forward. The ONR would respond to any relicensing request as it arose.
- 49 Mr Debenham asked how pro- and anti-nuclear views were balanced when training to become an assessor. Dr Jenneson emphasised that the ONR held neither such view on nuclear power. If there existed a nuclear sector in the UK, the ONR would regulate it to ensure its safety.
- 50 Mr Debenham further asked at what point the ONR would become involved in Sizewell and Hinkley C. Dr Jenneson stated that the ONR would be involved in the very early stages of both processes. It was currently engaged in the ongoing generic design assessment for small modular reactors.

11. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT HINKLEY A & B

- 51 Mr Wintle stated that an aqueous waste inspection had been conducted at Hinkley A in January and a fire water inspection in October. Information on the latter would be available at the next SSG. Colleagues from the Environment Agency (EA) office had attended the Hinkley A site for new member training. Environmental module data and emissions had all been compliant in the period.
- 52 At Hinkley B, the COMAH exit inspection had been conducted and restrictions lifted. No non-compliance had been identified through the environmental monitoring programme. The EA would be involved in ongoing discussions about moving a laboratory to Hinkley B. Some tweaks, but nothing significant, had been suggested on sediment and seaweed monitoring. A habit survey had been conducted in August.
- 53 Discussions with the site on the pond debris action extension were ongoing. The EA was keen to have this resolved prior to the site's transfer to NRS.
- 54 Mr Jeffery noted that, once the defueling of Hinkley B was concluded, one of the EA's biggest responsibilities would be cooling pond debris. He asked what would happen to the water in question. Mr Wintle stated that all options presented by the site would be considered at the relevant time and a permit granted if the EA was satisfied. As yet, no decisions had been made.
- 55 Mr Debenham asked about the six-monthly environmental impact report. Mr Wintle said that he was unsure to what Mr Debenham referred. The EA considered environmental emissions on a quarterly basis, though Hinkley B had provided such data monthly.
- 56 Mr Wintle added that, since his report had been circulated, there had been an apparent elevated sample in the EA's independent monitoring. Further investigation had shown that it did not match the monitoring carried out by the site. This discrepancy had been looked into, despite the elevated level being well below the investigation threshold. By the second quarter, the results had been as expected and the EA believed that the discrepancy had been caused by an erroneous sample.
- 57 Mr Jeffery asked where the increase in caesium had been found. Mr Wintle explained that the site had a range from west to east across the Severn estuary. The levels recorded had been raised across the entire testing range, which would not be the case in a true result. The Chair requested that a more detailed note from the EA be added to the minutes on this issue.

12. CHAIR'S REPORT AND TO NOTE ITEMS CIRCULATED BETWEEN MEETINGS

- 58 The Chair noted that he had hoped to bring a revised SSG review document to the meeting, but this had been held up. It would be presented at the next meeting. The Vice Chair and Chair had been involved in the ongoing SSG review discussions with others from around the country to ensure that Hinkley's concerns were covered by the report.
- 59 The Chair thanked members of the secretariat for their support in operating SSG meetings and thanked the attendees for their time.

13. TO NOTE ITEMS CIRCULATED BETWEEN MEETINGS

- 60 Circulated between meetings had been the HPB decommissioning consultation letter, the NDA's announcement of the appointment of the Sellafield Ltd interim chair of the board, the NDA's 2024-2027 business plan, the NDA social impact and communities strategy, the radiological habits survey and the NWS annual review 2023/2024.
- 61 The Chair observed that events would naturally occur in the six-month gap between meetings. Rather than hold information back, reports had been shared electronically to capture questions in the interim period. A note had also been sent out at the SSG's request about Hinkley B's R4 defueling.
- 62 Mr Debenham noted that it was impossible to print tens of pages of reports ahead of the SSG meeting. In the past, physical copies had been circulated. The Chair stated that physical copies were no longer provided in the interests of saving paper. Physical copies could be provided for Mr Debenham if he contacted the Chair ahead of the next meeting.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 63 Mrs Fry communicated the scheduled meeting dates. Mr Jenneson noted difficulties attending meetings on the first Monday of the month. The Chair confirmed that meeting dates would be reviewed and issues considered going forward. Best efforts were made to accommodate everyone.
- 64 There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

Next meeting dates: 3 March 2025 and 23 September 2025.



NDA Update for Hinkley SSG

March 2025



Contents

1.0 NDA Stakeholder Update March 2025



NDA Stakeholder Update

Please find below a brief update on main points of interest since the last meeting.

Government Update

Following the re-establishment of Parliament in the Autumn the running of government the selection of representation for select committees has concluded alongside familiarisation visits for key Ministers and officials into their appointment areas.

Key appointments include local Sellafield MP Josh MacAlister as Parliamentary Private Secretary (an MP who serves as an unpaid assistant to a government minister) to The Rt Hon Pat McFadden MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations.

In his new role, Josh will now adhere to the Ministerial Code and will be expected to support the government in divisions in the House. His role will affect how he speaks publicly about the NDA, as Josh is unable to speak in the Commons on matters related to his department. While he can serve on select committees, Josh will be expected to withdraw himself from inquiries concerning the Cabinet Office. Worth noting Josh is also Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Nuclear, and a member of the DESNZ Select Committee.

David Mundell, MP for the area covering Chapelcross, is Vice Chair of the Nuclear All-Party Group. The Energy and Net Zero Committee (ESNZ) has also made appointments which include site MPs Josh MacAlister and Julie Minns (MP for Carlisle) and there are three MPs with NDA sites located in their constituencies sitting in the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

David Peattie, along with Corhyn Parr and Euan Hutton, appeared before the ESNZ committee on the 18th December and answered questions on a wide variety of subjects connected to the NDAs mission. If you've not had a chance to watch proceedings, the hearing is available to view online [here](#).

Spending Review

John McNamara will give a verbal update on the Spending Review and NDA settlement

Outreach activities

- On the 15/16 January the UK decommissioning sector came together in Telford. On 15 January DECOM 25 took place with delegates from across the



decommissioning sector discussing a whole range of topics, including the development of the UK sites and the opportunities for the supply chain, the skills needed to succeed, decommissioning in other sectors and the challenges of preparing for the future of decommissioning. On 16 January there was an NDA supply chain event proving 1700 delegates the opportunity to connect with 300 exhibiting companies – one of the biggest supply chain events in the UK.

- Some stakeholders may be aware that the NDA recently launched its new on-line Stakeholder Survey. Field work continues and we will share key headlines from the survey in due course.
- The latest **Cross-Party Group** took place in the **Scottish Parliament** with the main topic being 'Radioactive Waste - dealing with the legacy'. Topics including how waste was generated, how it is dealt with in Scotland, movement of waste located in Scotland and non-energy sources of radioactive waste. There were around 40 attendees both in person and via Teams.

Engagement priorities for 2025

- The NDA celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, and we are planning some events around this. We would like to mark an SSG meeting at each site with a special presentation reviewing the progress over the last 20 years – more details to follow.
- We plan to communicate more on the SSG Review in the near future. There are four main areas of recommendations on how to modernise and provide more support to SSGs. This exercise will provide an opportunity to reflect on the successes of the stakeholder voice in the local community over the last 20 years. It will also allow us to consider how best to address some of the challenges that face us as we think about the future.
- Nuclear week in Parliament took place at the end of January and was a very positive platform for engagement with parliamentarians. The NDA, Sellafield Ltd and NRS were all involved in special events and receptions during the week.
- As you will be aware preparation is underway for **Strategy V**. Our strategy document is published every 5 years and describes our high-level approach to delivering our mission. Within that we identify several critical enablers essential to the successful delivery of our mission including public and stakeholder engagement. The strategy is planned to go out to consultation in May 2025.



- The NDA has been working closely with the Nuclear Industries Association (NIA) to establish a **Cross-Party Group on the Civil Nuclear Industry in the Welsh Parliament**. The first meeting took place on the 21st January.

Publications, public service and policy updates

- We have now published our **Annual Report** which has also been laid in Parliament. The Annual Report sets out the progress made against our mission, from safely decommissioning existing sites to preparing to take responsibility for more, while managing radioactive waste for our existing programme and new nuclear
- As previously advised we expect the Scottish Government to start its review into its policy for higher activity radioactive waste (HAW). The policy framework is set out in a 2011 Policy and the 2016 Implementation Strategy. The anticipated timeline is: Commence review – late 2024, hold a public consultation – early 2025, issue a revised Policy document – late 2025.
- The **NAO value for money study** into whether Sellafield and the NDA are taking a sustainable approach to decommissioning, leading to permanent hazard reduction has now been published and can be found via the following link [Decommissioning Sellafield: managing risks from the nuclear legacy - NAO report](#). The Public Accounts Committee will visit Sellafield in February with a hearing taking place later this Spring.
- We have recently published our [Nuclear Heritage Strategy](#). The NDA are tasked with decommissioning the UK's legacy nuclear sites, sites and facilities which have been at the heart of delivering nuclear benefits for the UK, including national defence programmes and supplying safe, low-carbon power, for decades. The heritage strategy enables the NDA group to identify and preserve the tangible and intangible assets, objects, and memories of the nuclear industry, the people who worked in it, and the communities that supported it.
- NDA has published its **Socio Economic Report for 2023/24**, detailing a record investment in projects across the UK - [NDA group investing in our communities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- Following the publication of the Chapelcross masterplan in August 2024 the NDA has been leading work to identify a strategic partner for the development that will deliver the vision for the sites transformation into a green energy hub. We are now evaluating the proposals from potential partners and hope to be able to make an announcement this Spring.



- The NDA funded a [project](#) in North Wales which has delivered a range of successful outcomes for the low-carbon sector across North Wales. M-SParc's Egni team, based on Anglesey, has worked with a range of partners throughout the three-year programme to deliver impactful projects that support businesses, drive investment and educate the next generation.
- The Egni team was created in 2021 with a £360,000 grant from the NDA's Socio-Economic Fund. The team is now permanently established - with four full-time team members, four associate members and two interns - and will continue to meet the needs of the low-carbon sector as it develops in the future.

Mission delivery

- The NDA recently launched its brand-new, specialised cyber facility to accelerate collaboration and innovation across nuclear operators and the supply chain, enhancing the collective ability to successfully defend against cyber threats. The Group Cyberspace Collaboration Centre (GCCC) provides a space for experts in cyber, digital and security to come together and share knowledge and learning on how best to defend against evolving threats
- Future plans for our Chapelcross site in Dumfries and Galloway were unveiled in August, with a long-term vision to develop the site into a Green Energy Hub: [Chapelcross Masterplan - CX Project](#)
- NWS and the NDA have established an innovative partnership for the enhanced management of asbestos waste, awarding two contracts to establish the **Asbestos Innovation Partnership**. This partnership will work with the NDA group and the supply chain, to test and develop new solutions to treat asbestos waste, helping to deliver efficiencies and enable more effective waste management.
- A collaboration between NRS, NTS and NWS has achieved a significant milestone by transporting the final waste from the Treated Radwaste Store (TRS) in Winfrith to the LLWR for disposal. The completion of this project ahead of schedule means that the need for **waste storage at Winfrith** which closed in 1990 has been removed, leaving the site ready for decommissioning.
- NDA and NRS have underlined their commitment to Government to, where possible, safely accelerate **land release at Harwell** site to maximise the economic impact of decommissioning. We have identified clear areas of strategic importance and will work together with the Harwell Campus joint venture on developing options for those areas. We are at early stages and still progressing the current release of plots, aiming to have a broader plan for land release this autumn.



Thank you for taking the time to read our update. If you have any questions, please feed-back through the Secretariat or raise with the NDA official at the SSG meeting.



Nuclear
Decommissioning
Authority

ONR Site Report

NRS Ltd – Hinkley Point A

ONR Site Report

NRS Ltd - Hinkley Point A

Report for period: 1 July – 31 December 2024

Authored by: Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: Superintending Inspector

Issue: 1

Published: January 2025

Record reference: 2025/449

Foreword

This report is issued as part of ONR's commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the above site available to the public. Reports are distributed to members for the Hinkley Point A&B Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<https://www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/lcsvg-reports/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend the Hinkley Point A&B Site Stakeholder Group meetings where these reports are presented and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR.

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1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of inspection

ONR Inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 July to 31 December 2024:

- 23 July 2024
- 4, 5 & 18 September 2024
- 17 October 2024
- 26 November 2024

2. Routine matters

2.1. Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with:

- the conditions attached by ONR to the nuclear site licence granted under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65) (as amended);
- the Energy Act 2013
- the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HSWA74); and
- regulations made under HSWA74, for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99).

The inspections entail monitoring the licensee's actions on the site in relation to incidents, operations, maintenance, projects, modifications, safety case changes and any other matters that may affect safety. The licensee is required to make and implement adequate arrangements under the conditions attached to the licence in order to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, routine inspections of NRS Ltd Hinkley Point A covered the following:

- management of operations including control and supervision;
- staff training, qualifications and experience;
- plant construction and/or commissioning;
- radiological protection;
- decommissioning;
- organisational changes;
- security

Members of the public, who would like further information on ONR's inspection activities during the reporting period, can view site Inspection Records on our website: www.onr.org.uk.

Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email contact@onr.gov.uk.

2.2. Other work

The site inspector attended the NRS Ltd Oldbury, Berkeley and Hinkley Point A Quarterly Regulator Interface Meeting on the 10 October 2024 to discuss issues, events and project milestone updates at the sites. The overall site performance across the NRS Ltd southwest region remains adequate and no new issues which would significantly impact ONR's purposes were identified.

The site inspector held regular meetings with the Site Director and weekly keep-in-touch meetings with the operational staff on site. During these meetings they discussed regulatory issues, site incidents, future permissioning and progress with significant decommissioning milestone delivery.

The site inspector also met with the Hinkley Point A Trade Union Safety Representatives several times during the reporting period, although no significant safety issues were raised.

3. Non-routine matters

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. ONR inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

There were no such matters or events of significance during the period.

4. Regulatory activity

ONR may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, ONR issues regulatory documents, which either permit an activity or require some form of action to be taken; these are usually collectively termed 'Licence Instruments' (LIs) but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an Enforcement Notice.

- No LIs, Enforcement Notices or Enforcement letters were issued during this period.

5. News from ONR

For the latest news and information from ONR, please read and subscribe to our regular email newsletter 'ONR News' at <https://www.onr.org.uk/news/newsletter/>.

6. Contacts

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ONR Site Report

EDF Energy – Hinkley Point B

ONR Site Report

EDF Energy - Hinkley Point B

Report for period: 1 July – 31 December 2024

Authored by: Nominated Site Inspector Hinkley Point B

Approved by: Head of Regulation

Issue No.: #

Publication Date: February 2025

Record Ref. No.: 2025/3295

Foreword

This report is issued as part of our commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the above site available to the public. Reports are distributed to members for the Hinkley Point A and B Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR [website](#).

Our site inspectors usually attend Hinkley Point A and B Site Stakeholder Group meetings where these reports are presented and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact us via email at contact@onr.gov.uk.

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1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of inspection

Our site safety inspector and specialist inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 July to 31 December 2024:

- 18 July
- 10 – 12 September
- 20 November

Our site security inspectors made inspections on the following dates:

- 19 November

2. Routine matters

2.1. Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with:

- the conditions attached by ONR to the nuclear site licence granted under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65) (as amended);
- the Energy Act 2013;
- the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HSWA74);
- regulations made under HSWA74, for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99); and
- The Nuclear Industry Security Regulations 2003 (NISR).

The inspections entail monitoring the licensee's actions on the site in relation to incidents, operations, maintenance, projects, modifications, safety case changes and any other matters that may affect safety. The licensee is required to make and implement adequate arrangements under the conditions attached to the licence in order to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, routine inspections of Hinkley Point B covered the following:

- emergency arrangements;
- management of change;
- ionising radiation regulations;
- operational records / safeguards; and
- emergency equipment.

Emergency arrangements

On 18 July 2024, our safety inspectors evaluated a demonstration of the station's emergency arrangements. The emergency exercise was judged to be an adequate and effective challenge to the emergency response arrangements required under Licence Condition 11. As with all exercises, some learning opportunities were identified – in this case involvement of the blue light services in exercise planning.

Operational records/safeguards

On 10 September 2024, our inspectors carried out an inspection of the operational records associated with the defuelling of reactor 4. The inspection sampled the quality plans and records collated by the station to demonstrate that all the fuel elements had been removed from reactor 4.

From the sample inspected, we judged that Hinkley Point B had followed their quality plans and produced suitable and sufficient operational records to demonstrate that the fuel from the channels inspected had been removed.

We judged that Hinkley Point B had met the legal requirement for compliance with LC25 – operational records, and relevant sections of the Nuclear Safeguards Regulations 2019.

Management of change

On 11 and 12 September 2024, our inspectors attended site to discuss the station's proposals for the Hinkley Point B overarching Management of Organisational Change (MoC) proposal for the introduction of the deconstruction organisation at the site. This precedes planned transfer of the site to ownership by Nuclear Restoration Services. The overarching MoC does not enact any change itself but provides the basis for the development of a series of department-by-department enacting MoCs.

We provided comments on these draft documents and will review the final overarching MoC to inform our regulatory footprint for the enacting MoCs which will follow.

Ionising radiation regulations

On 12 September 2024 our inspectors attended site to inspect Hinkley Point B's arrangements and their implementation for compliance with the Ionising Radiation Regulations. The inspection involved a review of documentation, technical discussions and a plant walkdown.

The inspection team considered that Hinkley Point B has adequate arrangements for the production and implementation of Radiation Risk Assessments, Local Rules, training relevant to radiation protection, arrangements for controlled areas, the appointment of Radiation Protection Advisers, source accountancy and the radiation monitoring of designated areas. Therefore ONR judged that Hinkley Point B had met the legal requirement for compliance with the Ionising Radiation Regulations 2017.

Emergency equipment

On 20 November 2024, our safety inspectors carried out an inspection of the station's emergency equipment. The inspection reviewed arrangements for emergency equipment and sampled the availability, maintenance and security of that equipment. This was achieved through a combination of sampling records and documented arrangements and through inspection of facilities. Overall, the sites arrangements and their implementation adequately satisfied regulatory expectations regarding safety and security. Throughout the inspection a number of areas of both good practice and minor opportunities for improvement were observed that have been shared with site.

Security

There is nothing of significance to report from security inspections carried out during this period.

Members of the public, who would like further information about our inspection activities during the reporting period, can view site Intervention Reports at www.onr.org.uk/intervention-records.

Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email contact@onr.gov.uk.

2.2. Other work

Our site inspectors and our Operating Reactors Heads of Regulation attended the Annual Review of Safety Security Safeguards and Environment meeting on 17 July 2024

Our site inspector attended an onsite health and safety committee meeting on 12 September 2024. Subsequently they had a further meeting with committee members on 19 November 2024.

3. Non-routine matters

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. Our inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

On the 1 October 2024 we were informed about a low level surface contamination marginally above permitted limits being discovered. The discovery was made during a routine radiological survey of a fuel flask containing spent fuel prior to its dispatch from the Bridgend railhead. The flask was returned to site for investigation and decontamination. We are satisfied that there was no risk to the public or the environment and that the licensee has taken appropriate corrective action and identified learning from this event.

4. Regulatory activity

We may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, we issue regulatory documents, which either permit an activity or require some form of action to be taken; these are usually collectively termed 'Licence Instruments' (LIs) but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an enforcement notice.

- No LIs, enforcement notices or enforcement letters were issued during this period.

We received an application for consent from EDF to decommission under the Nuclear Reactors (Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning) Regulations 1999.

We have received a request to approve a revised copy of Hinkley Point B's Emergency Arrangements.

5. News from ONR

For the latest news and information from us, please read and subscribe to our regular email newsletter 'ONR News' at www.onr.org.uk/onrnews.

6. Contacts

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Environment Agency report to the Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group.

February 2025

Introduction

This report covers the Environment Agency's regulation of the Hinkley Point A & B nuclear sites and related issues for the period November 2024 to February 2025.

Radioactive substances regulation

We regulate radioactive waste disposals to the environment. We do this through environmental permits that contain limits and conditions aimed at minimising wastes and protecting the environment. We also check compliance with these permits by making regular inspections at Hinkley Point A & B.

Regulatory compliance interactions are recorded in Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Reports (RASCARs). These summarise the type of work we have undertaken, describe any non-compliance or observations and good practice, and include actions or recommendations from our findings. They are public register records and can be provided on request (please see the 'further information' section at the end of this document to find out how to request public register records-in the link below).

We maintain regular contact with the sites between visits to the sites.

Hinkley Point A

Fire water and site drainage inspection:

We expect all permitted sites to have procedures and plans in place to prevent and manage the escape of firewater and other runoff that may cause pollution to the environment. Dependent on the fire risks associated with the site we also expect the operator to take all steps that are reasonably practicable to minimise pollution from firewater or other spillages.

We are working with Nuclear Restoration Services to check their understanding of fire risk and drainage arrangements to protect the environment. We expect to see sufficient procedures and plans in place to prevent or mitigate the impact of a release of contaminated runoff from sites.

Customer service line

03708 506 506

Floodline

03459 88 11 88

Incident hotline

0800 80 70 60

We carried out an inspection on Firewater management and site drainage in October 2024. In the inspection we reviewed Hinkley Point A's arrangements for managing site drainage, drainage related assets and prevention of firewater runoff from site. This included credible scenarios for fires that could produce fire water runoff and/or spillages to the drainage system that have the potential for environmental impact.

The inspection included a review of management systems documents, a site walkover and discussions with HPA staff.

NRS has risk assessments for fires, but these are based on risk to life from fire and did not fully consider environmental impacts. We saw evidence of procedures for pollution and fire response, although these are not detailed and rely on the dynamic incident response and availability of key knowledge providers to focus deployment of resources and equipment. We concluded more work should be done on credible fire scenarios on site and their associated environmental risks. We identified arrangements that should be reviewed and amended.

We did not find evidence of non-compliance with the permit. We provided advice and guidance during the inspection and through the RASCAR.

Asset Management Inspection.

We had planned an Asset Management Inspection for December 2024 but due to the disruption caused by Storm Darragh this has been postponed until March 2025.

This inspection builds on the asset management inspections carried out in 2018 and 2021. In the inspection, we will review how NRS have responded to the findings from the previous inspections and will assess how the arrangements for controlling asset management risks are improving, particularly for ageing infrastructure.

High Activity Waste Inspection

In January we completed a High Activity Waste Inspection. As part of our forward work planning, we have identified the need for a review of the active commissioning of the Concrete Box Loading Facility (CBLF), Pre-Conditioning Facility (PCF), Modular Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation Plant (MILWEP) and Interim Storage Facility (ISF), looking at the disposal and waste management routes.

The commissioning of the CBLF, PCF, ISF and MILWEP facilities are recognised as an opportunity for Hinkley Point A (HPA) to incorporate learning from the processes at Berkley and Bradwell into the processes at HPA.

Customer service line

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Floodline

03459 88 11 88

Incident hotline

0800 80 70 60

We reviewed the commissioning and proposed operations of the ISF, MILWEP, PCF and CBLF. We reviewed how the operator will demonstrate compliance with the requirements of their Environmental permit with regards to the operation of the facilities and the planned management of waste arisings, packaging, storage and final disposal.

The facilities are in different stages of construction and commissioning. Within the inspection we included a review of arrangements and records, and a site walk down of the four facilities.

We did not identify any non-compliances during the inspection. HPA are making progress in commissioning the four facilities. The operator was able to demonstrate the processes for commissioning and how they consider environmental permit requirements. We will review progress once all the facilities have been actively commissioned.

Hinkley Point B

As part of our routine regulation we hold routine meetings with the Environmental Safety Group (ESG), station management and Independent Nuclear Assurance (INA), in addition to relevant external bodies such as the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). These routine interactions allow us to remain informed of any relevant activities and events at the site of regulatory interest during the defueling period.

Contract Management and Intelligent Customer Inspection

We undertook an inspection of Hinkley Point B's (HPB) arrangements for contract management and intelligent customer at the end of October.

Nuclear operators must manage and operate activities in accordance with a written management system sufficient to achieve compliance, using sufficient competent persons and resources. This is in accordance with Condition 1.1.1 of EDF's environmental permit for Hinkley Point B (EPR/ CB3735DT).

Physical and intellectual goods and services may be acquired from outside the operator's organisation. In order to do so, a nuclear operator must be an 'intelligent customer'. We use the IAEA's definition on intelligent customer in the context of environmental protection:

'An organisation (or individual) that has the competence to specify the scope and standard of a required product or service and subsequently assess whether the supplied product or service meets the specified requirements'
(IAEA NG-T-3.10)

Operators must have suitable intelligent customer capability for all work carried out on its behalf, to ensure environmental protection and compliance. This means the operator must have enough technical capability to specify, understand and review the work of the third party

Customer service line

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03459 88 11 88

Incident hotline

0800 80 70 60

Overall, we found that arrangements for the management of contractors and contract/project management at Hinkley Point B were well managed and found no non-compliances with the stations environmental permit. We made some recommendations to help ensure future compliance and noted several areas of good practice including the diversion of a large number of old portacabins as waste, in accordance with the waste hierarchy.

We noted some issues with the intelligent customer role although staff were aware of arrangements for requesting IC resource, as have raised these with our EDF corporate regulator to follow-up on.

Planned Inspections

We are undertaking a joint inspection on decommissioning (License Condition 35), with the Office for Nuclear Regulation at the end of February. This inspection plans to focus on decommissioning plans for the site with the transfer of the station to NRS due on 1st October 2025.

Events and enforcement

Hinkley point A

There have been no non-compliances identified at Hinkley Point A to date this Compliance Year.

Hinkley Point B

There have been no non-compliances identified at Hinkley Point B since our last report.

Discharge reports

The operators at Hinkley Point A and B are required to report liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment to us on a regular basis. We assess these to check compliance with the site permits. The site discharge reports, and our assessments are placed on the public register.

Hinkley Point A

The effluent and gaseous discharges from Hinkley Point A were below notification levels and permitted limits. The Environmental Monitoring Programme data was submitted within the required timescales and the review identified no results or trends of concern.

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Floodline

03459 88 11 88

Incident hotline

0800 80 70 60

Hinkley Point B

The liquid and gaseous discharges from Hinkley Point B were below any notification levels and within permitted limits. The Environmental Monitoring Programme data was submitted within the required timescales and the review identified trends of concern.

Environmental impact

Nuclear sites are required to carry out a rigorous environmental monitoring programme (EMP) that requires the operator to monitor and assess the impact of their discharges on the environment.

Additionally, the Environment Agencies and Food Standards Agency carry out independent environmental monitoring around nuclear sites. The results of this work are published in our annual Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) report (1). We will continue to follow Government guidelines with Safe Systems of Work in place, with the with regards to our monitoring of the environment and foodstuffs.

The 2023 RIFE report is available here: Radioactivity in food and the environment (RIFE) report - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) and the 2024 report is in preparation.

Overall in the UK, between 2022 and 2023 there were no significant changes to the radioactivity measured in food and the environment. The dose received by the public near to nuclear licensed sites and industrial and landfill sites in the UK is low and again well within legal limits. Radioactivity from natural background, rather than nuclear sites, continues to be the more significant source of exposure to communities in all areas of the UK.

At Hinkley the 'Total dose' for the representative person was 0.032mSv in 2023, approximately 3% of the dose limit to members of the public. Gaseous discharges of carbon-14, sulphur-35 and argon-41 from Hinkley B decreased in 2023. Liquid discharges of tritium from Hinkley B decreased in 2023. The reductions in gaseous and liquid discharges are due to the cessation of power generation.

Other News

Chief Regulators Report

We've published the first Chief Regulator's report. It summarises the performance of the businesses and activities regulated by the Environment Agency in England in 2023-24. It outlines key outcomes of our regulation, providing assurance and transparency across our wide regulatory remit, and it sets out the aims and ambitions of our Chief Regulator, Dr Jo Nettleton.

Customer service line

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Floodline

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Incident hotline

0800 80 70 60

The report covers our work regulating the nuclear industry and radioactive substances during 2023-24.

[Environment Agency Chief Regulator's report 2023-24 - GOV.UK](#)

Habits Survey

The habits survey undertaken on our behalf by Cefas in the Hinkley area was completed in August 2024. For more information on the Habits Survey please see the leaflet below, which was sent out to the SSG prior to the survey taking place. A final report is expected to be available in March 2025. We will provide more information at the SSG meeting.

[Habits Information Leaflet 2024.pdf](#)

Assessing new nuclear power station designs – Have your say

Generic Design Assessment (GDA) is an open and transparent process. A nuclear power station design company going through GDA must set up a website to:

- publish information about the design
- invite the public to ask questions and make comments

The design company must respond to any comments or questions they receive. The regulators will see the comments and questions and the responses provided. We can also use this information to help inform our assessment work.

Learn more about assessing new reactor designs New nuclear power stations: assessing reactor designs - [New nuclear power stations: assessing reactor designs - GOV.UK](#)(www.gov.uk). Read our blog Ensuring nuclear reactor designs meet high standards of environmental protection – [Ensuring nuclear reactor designs meet high standards of environmental protection – Creating a better place](#) (blog.gov.uk)

Further information

Further information on our role in regulating the use of radioactive substances and related activities on nuclear licensed sites can be found on the Environment Agency section (ii) of the GOV.UK website.

Customer service line

03708 506 506

Floodline

03459 88 11 88

Incident hotline

0800 80 70 60

The Environment Agency's Lead Regulator for the Hinkley Point A site is Alister Wintle. The Environment Agency's Lead Regulator for the Hinkley Point B site is Victoria Thomas.

Victoria is a Senior Nuclear Regulator and Alister is a Nuclear Regulator. Both are based in the Wessex Area. They are all part of the national Nuclear Regulation Group (South) which is based at the Environment Agency's Wallingford office in Oxfordshire.

The EA's Nuclear Regulators undertake environmental regulation of radioactive substances on nuclear licensed sites in southern England. They work closely with the local Environment Agency teams in those areas as well as external bodies such as the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

Hinkley Point A:

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Hinkley Point B:

Victoria Thomas

E-mail: victoria.thomas@environment-agency.gov.uk

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Nuclear Regulation Group (South)
Environment Agency
Red Kite House
Howbery Park
Wallingford
Oxfordshire OX10 8BD

ⁱ <https://www.gov.uk/monitoring-radioactivity>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-regulation-in-the-environment-agency>

Hinkley SSG Chairs report, March 2025.

Mervyn Brown.

I wanted to start my report by paying tribute to my Vice Chair, I heard the sad news from his partner, Mervyn Brown, vice chair of Hinkley SSG, that on the evening of 9th February, Mervyn lost his battle with Prostate cancer, Mervyn has been under the care of doctors for some time, he passed away at Minehead hospital.

I want to say "Mervyn has been part of the Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group (SSG) for many years, he was a great support to me on the SSG, his environmental and Hinkley related knowledge was invaluable, he helped me settle into the role and was always on hand to advise, I am so sorry he has lost his battle with Prostate Cancer, my thoughts are with his partner and family at this time, he will be greatly missed."

There will be a service to celebrate Mervyn's life on Tuesday 4th March at 11 am at St Decuman's Church, Brendon Road, Watchet, TA 23 0AU followed by interment at the nearby graveyard. Everyone is welcome and informal dress is preferred.

The church has a nearby car park.

The arrangements for the gathering afterwards have yet to be confirmed.

There will be a retiring collection for Prostate Cancer Research, and we are hoping that the local museum will agree to having a small area displaying some of his finds with a memorial plaque.

I will be attending the service and am happy to act as a conduit for thoughts and remarks.

SSG Background: -

Independently chaired, the site stakeholder groups meet regularly. Hinkley SSG currently meets twice a year.

The groups are made up of representatives of local councils, non-governmental organisations and other interested stakeholders, along with staff representatives. The meetings provide opportunities for stakeholders in the local community to:

- receive reports and provide information
- ask questions and hold the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), regulators and operators to account
- review, comment on and influence strategies, plans, decisions and achievements
- represent local views at national level through direct meetings with the NDA, Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS), Nuclear Waste Services and attendance at annual conferences, and participation in consultations.

At Hinkley Point A, Hunterston A and Sizewell A sites, the meetings are also attended by EDF (Électricité de France) who is the operator of the adjacent B station sites.

Report.

I have attended a number of meetings along with the vice chair, both virtual and in person, mainly National SSG chairs meeting & NRS related.

A&B station visits

The vice chair and I felt it important to ensure that we maintain our station knowledge between meetings, we attend both stations speaking directly to site directors and staff.

In February I was able to observe when the new MP, Rachel Gilmour, MP for the area Hinkley sits visited A&B stations.

Socio economic grant funding from NRS.

Working with A station I was able to play a part in supporting a number of grants to local groups, these are reported in the A station report.

SSG review.

We have taken an active role in the NDA's review of SSG's, as we approach our 20th anniversary, NDA commissioned Baringa to complete a review, how SSG's operate and interact with our communities. The Vice chair and I have been to a number of meetings and have fed into the work. We await a final outcome report and will keep you updated.

NDA/NRS funding.

Recently SSG chairs met with Rob Fletcher, Chief Executive Officer for Nuclear Restoration Services, for a briefing to discuss some potential impacts of the next budget round. I am hoping that a more detailed response will be available to be shared for your information, I know that site directors may be making reference to this in their reports.

NRS Sustainability strategy consultation.

I was able to attend a virtual briefing on the above, Alan Krailing, Head of Sustainability at Nuclear Restoration Services, showed us a draft strategy and we discussed thoughts, The full draft strategy is currently with the Comms team, who are making final preparations for it to be shared. We expect to have it ready in the next few days and will send it over as soon as it's available.

NRS community volunteering.

I was able to attend an online briefing from one of the team, to discuss how NRS has partnered with Neighbourly, an award-winning giving platform that helps businesses make a positive impact in their communities by donating volunteer time, money and surplus products, all in one place. The flyer is attached, perhaps you have some thoughts around how they might be able to help locally in the Hinkley area?

SSG meetings.

The plenary sessions and early report sharing seem to be working well, with the plenaries allowing a deeper dive into issues, I would welcome suggestions for future sessions. Receiving the reports and presentations early allows members to review and questions to be submitted and this will allow officers to research and respond formally, responding and highlighting just important points during their presentations. I would welcome thoughts and feedback on the new format, along with any topics that members or officer may wish us to consider for future meetings.

SSG membership.

We continue to circulate relevant information between meetings and are working hard to get wider attendance.

I thank you for your participation and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Leigh Redman
Hinkley SSG chair