



**HUNTERSTON A**

**SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP REPORT**

**SITE DIRECTOR – DANIEL SMITH**

**MARCH 2025**

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**SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO THE SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**  
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**Hunterston A continues to address the nuclear liabilities at Hunterston A in a safe, secure manner with care for the environment.**

**1 SITE DIRECTOR OVERVIEW**

Safety performance in the period has been good with zero safety events. The site are focussed on maintaining this safety performance and continue to run a number of safety initiatives through 'Target Zero' including face to face safety reset briefings of all staff following the festive season break, delivering Hazard Awareness & Risk Perception training and continuously reinforcing key safety expectations.

Storm Eowyn on 24 January impacted the site with strong winds of around 90mph which led to some damage to the cladding of Hunterston A's pond building. On site preparations for the weather meant the overall impact was limited to one section of building cladding which fell to the ground. This was well within the site boundary and the company's specialist contract partner was able to recover the material without impact for people or the environment. There was no risk to the public. Repairs to the building have now been completed and decommissioning work in the area has now recommenced.

At the last Site Stakeholder Group meeting I provided an update on issues associated with the calibration of instruments in the site laboratory which resulted in SEPA writing to the site to instruct that we cease use of our site laboratory for any sampling related to our authorised discharge limits. On site and across NRS we are taking this issue very seriously and have entered a process called Event Recovery, which has been resourced from personnel from site and across NRS. The Event Recovery is making good progress with a number of workstreams established to manage our site activities, maintain compliance sampling via an external accredited laboratory, invest to deliver improvements to the site laboratory and actions in place to increase environmental compliance awareness across all site personnel. The work we have conducted on the Event Recovery has been shared with SEPA and we will continue to keep them updated as the work streams progress.

In preparation for the transfer of our neighbour Hunterston B transferring to NRS, planned April 2026, Advanced Gas Reactor (AGR) transfer sessions were held for staff at Hunterston A to allow them to hear about the future transfer and what opportunities it may present for them.

On our waste facilities, work to recover waste from the Solid Active Waste Bunker Retrieval (SAWBR) facility has progressed in the period with preparations made for

recovery of the fuel debris into a purpose built storage container by the end of March 2025.

## **2 SAFETY OVERVIEW**

### **2.1 Safety Review Performance**

The Site Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) is 0.44 and the Days Away Case Rate (DACR) is 0.44. 6 months have passed since the last Lost Time Accident (LTA) where an operative suffered a minor head injury. There have been 0 First Aid Case (FAC) injuries occur during this reporting period.

Hazard Awareness & Risk Perception remains a focus point for NRS. Site has delivered Site produced hazard awareness and risk perception training to operatives who undertake work on site. NRS has also planned to roll out NRS hazard perception training across all NRS sites during Q4 as part of the NRS safety excellence plan. This training is being delivered by both NRS staff and external provider.

During January the Site was impacted by Storm Eowyn. The site was in a ready state and had taken action to minimise disruption and maintain safety on site. The Site did suffer from storm damage to some of the buildings such as cladding, gutters, downpipes but due to the proactive measures taken by site prior to the storm arriving damage was minimised. The Site took appropriate measures to keep the RCA closed for general access until the full scope of damage caused was understood and actions taken to repair where required and ensure the Site was safe for general access to resume. There was a great team effort by NRS and our Contract partners to bring the Site to a safe state.

The Site welcomed the NRS executive EHSSQ review recently. This visit is part of assurance process to ensure the site is maintaining compliance, standards and expectations and to identify any improvements or recognise good practices. During the review there was engagement with employees, visits to site facilities and meetings with safety representatives. Feedback received at the end of the visit was positive with some learning points identified.

The Daily Safety and Compliance meeting screens all Q Pulse events and event categories are applied in accordance with S-469 Categorisation and Notification of Events guidance document. An improvement has been made to the Q Pulse reporting form; this improvement allows the person raising the Q Pulse report to request feedback on what has been done to manage the event. This has been well received on site.

Reporting culture on site remains strong. Q Pulse electronic reporting system was introduced to Site around 2017. This is the site process for reporting events that occur on site both positive and negative. It is expected that the site will reach a total number of Q Pulse reports received will reach 10,000 at some point in March 2025. The site will be celebrating this achievement by holding an Operational Experience Awareness/Learning Day on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

The Event Review Team (ERT) meeting continues to meet weekly to review the previous week's events to ensure they are suitably addressed and categorised.

Target Zero campaigns continue with topics changing each month. November's topic was – Zero Harm Ethos, December – Error Traps and January was Zero harm as we return to work. These specific topics are discussed daily at meetings, setting to work, pre and post job briefs and are seen as a proactive measure to raise awareness and increase knowledge of the topic of the month and assist the site in reaching target zero which is zero Accidents, zero incidents and zero harm.

The Site safety representatives meet fortnightly and is attended by NRS & Contractors safety representatives, Site Director, EHSS&Q manager and Head of Safety.

The Site Health, Environment, Safety, Advisory Committee (HESAC) meeting is held bi-monthly. Typical discussions held at the HESAC include safety performance, Site changes, progress on safety improvements and any issues safety representatives wish to raise with management.

## **2.2 Emergency Arrangements**

The site's Accident and Emergency Arrangements are regularly evaluated and validated to ensure they remain suitable and proportionate to the risks on site. Over the last 3 months the site has delivered 5 emergency exercises comprising of live play and tabletop discussions on a variety of credible scenarios which include cross-site contamination spread, rescue from height and the site's response to a transport accident involving radioactive materials. Each scenario demonstrated the site's preparedness to handle emergent risks and implement effective mitigations to manage each event to a safe conclusion.

The site's 2025 Training and Exercise Programme is now underway, incorporating over 20 on-site exercises designed to challenge our team's response to realistic emergency situations, evaluate resources and test staff and both operational and tactical levels.

The site is currently in the planning stage and working closely with local category 1 responders to develop and deliver our triannual level 1 exercise to the Site Regulator which is expected to be demonstrated on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

Additionally, the site continues to develop in-house staff and resilience in both first response and incident management with over 20 Nuclear Occupational First Aiders attending a 4-day refresher course with the British Red Cross and a new Duty Manager being recently authorised to bolster the site's incident management team.

Finally, the site continues to collaborate with local Civil Contingency Teams and recently hosted a successful site visit from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service where joint training and exercising opportunities were explored, response strategies discussed, and industry

knowledge shared to ensure the site's ability to work in partnership with responding agencies.

Further visits are currently being planning for later this year.

### **3 DECOMMISSIONING PROGRESS**

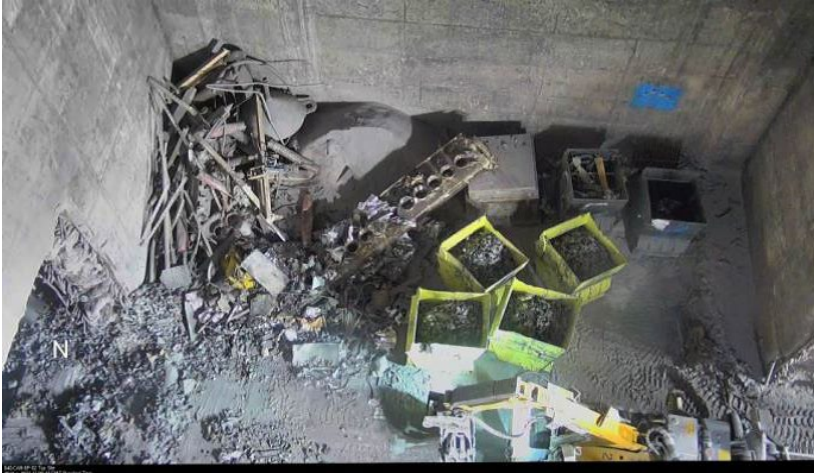
#### **3.1 Solid Active Waste Bunker Retrieval (SAWBR) Project**

The SAWBR facility was constructed to recover solid HAW (Higher Activity Waste) from within the site's five HAW bunkers. This is achieved by using remotely operated vehicles (ROV's) to fill hoppers that are then tipped into RWM (Radioactive Waste Management Ltd) approved 3M<sup>3</sup> stainless steel boxes. The initial breakthrough into Bunker 5 was achieved in March 2014 and has now been completed which is a significant milestone for Hunterston and NRS.

The SAWBR team have been working to a 'back out plan' for the SAWB Bunkers with the aim of achieving Post Operational Clean Out (POCO) status. This includes a detailed strategy for the processing of the identified orphan wastes, the Fuel debris items and the retrieval of the fine's dusts.

During the reporting period the facility has delivered its Quarterly maintenance activities and continued with the recovery of fines material. Significant progress has also been made on preparations to recover the fuel from the bunkers by end of March 2025. Removal of the fuel from the bunker is of significant importance as it will allow completion of the residual waste materials in the bunker, size reduction of the miscellaneous waste items and routing to appropriate waste stream and final clean up.

*Picture below of Bunker Waste Recovery Operations showing fuel assy/skip guide and part of the De-splitter machine.*



### 3.2 Wet Intermediate Level Waste Retrieval & Encapsulation Plant (WILWREP)

The WILWREP facility was designed and constructed to recover and encapsulate Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) sludges, resins and acids stored in site tanks. Having completed the first stage of bulk sludge recoveries the plant was being reconfigured to retrieve and encapsulate radioactive Nitric acid before being paused in Summer 2022 due to other site priorities.

Active commissioning phase for the recovery and encapsulation of nitric acid from the Acid Storage Facility (ASF) was progressed during the reporting period. In total 3 drums of waste has been produced during the Active Commissioning phase. Each drum will contain approx. 1500kg of acid waste, plus the neutralisation agent and grout mixture.

WILWREP is currently impacted by restrictions on our on-site Laboratory. Maintaining compliance with our permit reporting requirements has meant priority order at the accredited 3<sup>rd</sup> party laboratory and hence restrictions on the analysis of WILWREP specific samples that may permission the release of previously encapsulated packages.

As soon as capacity issues resolve themselves and appropriate results returned, it is expected that WILWREP will be in a position to restart the remaining Active Commissioning scope before the end of the Financial year. The site is working hard with our 3<sup>rd</sup> party provider to make this happen.

### 3.3 Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation (SILWE) Project

The SILWE facility is designated to encapsulate the 3M<sup>3</sup> packages containing solid waste. This waste is retrieved from the Solid Active Waste Bunker (SAWB). Once encapsulated, the packages will be ready for long term storage within the Intermediate Level Waste Store.







**Before – powder delivery pipe restricted**



**After - powder delivery pipe clear**

During recent grouting trials it became apparent that there were inconsistencies when trying to achieve a stable grout viscosity. A change in water quantity did not always result in a change in the grout viscosity. Further investigation revealed that the powder supply pipework and associated valves were significantly restricted, resulting in inconsistent powder quantities being delivered. As the accompanying images show, significant improvement has been achieved by the implementation of recent maintenance activities. The success of this maintenance will be tested through further grouting trials over the next few weeks.

### **New Effluent Treatment Plant (NEffTP)**

The New Effluent Treatment Plant (NEffTP) within the Low Level Waste Transfer Facility will provide an alternative means of processing miscellaneous effluent arisings which are generated on-site from various sources within the RCA e.g. C3 shower water. This newly installed plant along with diversion of existing misc. sources will create redundancy in the Misc Receiving Tanks and Misc Filtration Plant therefore enabling them to be decommissioned in the future.

The project to install and commission NEffTP has taken a big step forward within the reporting period. A final T&CP has been successfully held ahead of Active Commissioning and DAR 5.2 has now been approved by the Programme Design Authority. Final approval by site will allow pressure testing to commence as the first step in the Active Commissioning Schedule.



**New Effluent Treatment plant within the Low-Level Waste Transfer Facility**

### **Miscellaneous Receiving Tank decommissioning**

The Miscellaneous Receiving Tanks (MRTs) form part of the wider AETP facility and are concrete underground tanks approx. 25m<sup>3</sup> in capacity. The access to these tanks is within an external C2 area in the AETP compound. The MRT's are currently operational and used in the treatment of miscellaneous effluent. They receive miscellaneous arisings which are passed through to the Miscellaneous Cartridge Filtration Plant (MCFP) providing removal of suspended solids.

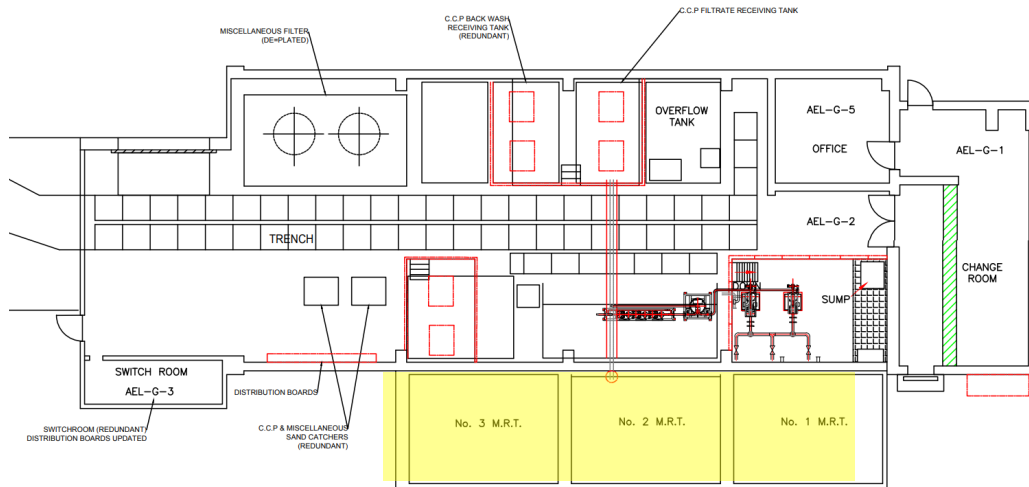
The Pond programme is responsible for diverting the existing effluent streams away from the MRT's thus facilitating the decommissioning of the tanks which will comprise of desludging, decontamination and deplanting.

Within the reporting period a number of deliverables have been progressed as follows:

- Design Authority Review 1 for desludging has been approved.
- Scope of works for characterisation of sludge samples with a UKAS accredited laboratory has been produced and approved.
- Meeting with technical experts from Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) for early engagement of acceptance of conditioned sludge waste undertaken.

- Technical note issued from NRS to NWS regarding conditioning proposals, cement matrix recipe proposal, arrangements for demonstration of product quality during active commissioning.
- Sampling methodology report has been drafted and internally reviewed.

The project team is now developing the deliverables in support of DAR 2: Concept Design for approval in 2025.



**Miscellaneous Receiving Tanks (highlighted yellow)**

### C3 Shower Pumping Station

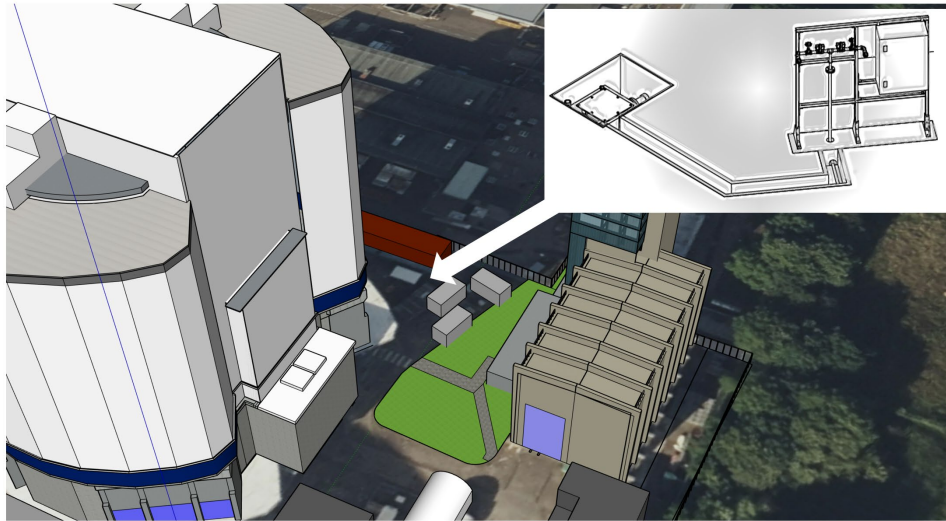
The Pond programme has a live project to divert all sources of miscellaneous effluent on site to the NEffTP. This will be achieved through local collection and transfer to the plant by bowser and will free up the site Active Drains, Misc Filtration Plant and Misc Receiving Tanks for decommissioning.

As part of this wider project JGC are currently designing a pumping station to collect arisings from the C3 showers on site. The small plant will pump shower water from the sump adjacent to the C3 showers directly to the Misc. effluent bowzers effectively isolating this source from the Active Drains.

Progress to date is as follows:

- Site survey conducted.
- Contract placed with JGC for design and installation.
- Design review successfully held and design approved.
- Contract placed with Mitie for Civils excavation scope with materials now onsite.
- Procurement underway for mechanical and electrical scope.

Mitie are planned to commence their excavation works in February with JCG scheduled to mobilise soon after in March to install the pumping station.



**Location of New Pumping Station for C3 showers**

## **4. PEOPLE**

### **4.1 Site HR**

Whilst the Business Plan for 2025/26 continues to undergo review and final approvals, recruitment for a few key vacancies has continued, with offers made and new starts recently onboarded in some critical skill areas, including Environment Co-ordinator, Radiochemist and Maintenance resource.

We have recently launched our new competency management system within our existing learning management system, which will help to simplify and streamline some of our key Learning & Development processes, including the management of authorisations and SQEP assessments. This has been accompanied by the issue of a number of user guides and videos, with drop-in sessions provided to team leaders to support them in learning how to use the new system and processes.

We will shortly be launching the 2025 NDA Group Employee Engagement Survey to all of our employees. We will be actively encouraging our staff to take the time required to complete the confidential survey as this is a valuable opportunity for them to provide the business with feedback on their experience of working at NRS. Last year's surveys highlighted many positives as well as areas for improvement which we then used to form action plans which were tracked throughout the year.

## **4.2 Occupational Health**

Sickness absence levels continue to be monitored and through pro-active case management by HR, Line Management and Occupational Health we continue to see a positive impact on our sickness levels. This includes early intervention and support from the OH team to identify opportunities for reducing sickness periods, as well as identifying additional support mechanisms which may require to be put in place to facilitate successful return to work.

In recognition of the connection between financial wellbeing and mental health, some virtual sessions are planned this month to support line managers and Mental Health First Aiders in learning about the connection between money and mental health and how to signpost colleagues to the support they might need to support their financial health.

## **5 ASSET MANAGEMENT**

To enable safe operation, we proactively review our systems, processes and facilities via our Systems Engineering Department. This enables us to look at future investment requirements to maintain a safe operational status.

Welfare upgrades have commenced across site using a local contractor. This will focus on Contractor's ablutions and toilet facilities on site including the Control Room. This work commenced on 2<sup>nd</sup> December and is progressing to plan. Additional improvements are being planned for the Admin Reception, Main Conference Room, Training Room and communal areas of the Administration Building.

Initial specifications for the replacement shower facility have been refreshed in conjunction with Engineering and are now progressing through the procurement process. Several options are being considered and progressed currently. It has been decided that the most viable option would be to refurbish the current facility. This is being progressed with initial strip out planned before the end of the financial year.

A contract has been placed to repair the access road adjacent to the south of the site to the former Learning and Development centre compound. This is planned for completion prior to the end of this Financial Year.

Progress of this year's work packs is ongoing through production of specifications, quotation requests and contractor engagement.

A portfolio of work packs for 2025/26 and 2026/27 is being developed.



## 6 RADIOLOGICAL SAFETY

*Explanatory note: The maximum permissible dose to a radiation worker in the UK is 20mSv (milliSieverts) in a calendar year. The average annual radiation dose to the UK population from all sources is 2.6mSv. Collective dose is usually measured in man.milliSieverts. For example, if ten people were each to receive 0.1milliSieverts during a particular task, then the collective dose for the task would be 10 people x 0.1mSv each = 1 man.milliSievert.*

Doses for the calendar year 2024, to the end of December, are as follows:

- Approximately 229 employees and visitors received a total collective dose of 11.245 man.mSv between them.
- Approximately 431 contractors received a total collective dose of 6.684 man.mSv between them.
- The highest individual dose received by an employee was 1.713 mSv.

## 7 ENVIRONMENT

### 7.1 Radioactive Discharges (January 2024 - December 2024)

#### Solid

Low Level Waste (LLW) disposals to the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) continue. 31.19 m3 of LLW and VLLW with a total activity of 0.26 GBq was disposed of during the twelve-month period from January 2024 - December 2024. There is no limit on the volume or radioactivity content of LLW and VLLW being disposed of under the site EA(S)R Permit. The main contribution to these waste consignments was decommissioned plant, equipment, and materials generated during decommissioning operations.

#### Liquid & Gaseous

Following cessation of analysis at the sites laboratory the site has engaged with an external laboratory to undertake analysis required to support discharge assessments. This has resulted in an increase in the time taken to assess monthly radioactive discharges. The site is presently compiling the assessment for October 2024. At present, there is no update to the information provided within the previous report, dated October 2023 – September 2024.

### 7.2 Non-radiological Environmental update (January 2024 - December 2024)

Treated sewage effluent from the plant is currently being independently assessed by SEPA on a quarterly basis. Results from an independent off-site laboratory analysis verify that the sewage treatment works reed beds continue to work efficiently to maintain good quality effluent in compliance with the sites CAR discharge licence.

### 7.3 Environmental Events

The site suffered damage to several buildings following Storm Eowyn on Friday 24th January. There has been no environmental impact as a result of the damage.

## 8. SOCIO-ECONOMIC / STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

Every year, the 'good neighbour' fund at Hunterston A receives £6000 to support local initiatives and organisations within our local community that deliver projects or services for the benefit of local people.

In recent years, we have struggled to receive applications and as such, not utilised all of the £6000 available to support projects close to Hunterston A.

This financial year, we have received an influx of applications from a number of initiatives and have committed in full our funding to support them.

Details of some of the applications that are currently being supported through the NRS socio-economic good neighbour fund include:

| Organisation                           | Project                                                | Amount awarded | Funding benefit                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AC Irvine 2014's                       | New kits and rain jackets                              | £750           | New NRS branded kit allowing the children to feel part of a team and a sense of pride.                                                                                                                                                                  |
| West Kilbride Community Initiative Ltd | Lights, camera, action                                 | £2,000         | Funded media equipment for a new studio, designed to attract a younger age group to increase their media skills especially in the field of film production, studio set ups, scripting, shooting, film transfer, editing and programme final production. |
| Irvine Clean Up Crew                   | River Irvine Clean up                                  | £1,000         | Funding to purchase equipment necessary for volunteers collecting rubbish from otherwise inaccessible areas of riverbanks.                                                                                                                              |
| CS Dance Academy                       | Dance World Championships                              | £800           | Fund matching kit for the team of athletes from the academy to attend the world championships in Florida.                                                                                                                                               |
| Organic Growers of Fairlie             | Growing fruit trees with Fairlie Primary School pupils | £1,360         | The group were approached by the after school club to help pupils plant fruit trees. The funding is for small, raised beds for each child to grow the fruit trees in, nurture and eventually harvest, whilst learning all about pollination.            |



For more information on the scheme, please visit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/nrs-working-with-our-communities>

For good neighbour applications up to £2,000, contact Claire Aitken

[Claire.aitken@magnoxsites.com](mailto:Claire.aitken@magnoxsites.com)

To discuss larger applications please contact Mair Jones

[mair.jones@magnoxsites.com](mailto:mair.jones@magnoxsites.com)

## 9 SUSTAINABILITY

### 9.1 Sustainability Strategy

NRS's sustainability strategy centres around five goals: governance, environment, supply chain, employees, and communities. Goal 5 recognises NRS's responsibility to deliver value to its communities and this goal aims to strengthen local engagement, invest in local community assets and share our expertise.



### 9.2 Volunteering Portal

After a successful soft launch with 3 Sites including Hunterston A, NRS has established a new Volunteering Standard. The Standard describes how to find opportunities to volunteer in local communities and how to request paid time off for volunteering activities.

Our company agreement states "The company may at its discretion grant additional paid leave of up to one week, and additional unpaid leave, to enable employees to undertake voluntary work in the local community".

Further volunteering opportunities for volunteering are being promoted to staff as well as encouraging local charities and organisations to register with Neighbourly.

## 10 SITE VISITS AND KEY DATES

**Hunterston A Site continues to attract the right kind of interest through our good safety and business performance. Below is a selection of visitors / key dates during the period.**

| DATE                                                                                                                                                                       | EVENT/VISIT                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Irene Campbell MP<br>Paul Winkle - NRS<br>Jon Woodburn - NDA<br>Bill Hamilton - NDA<br>Fiona McCall - EDF                                                                  | 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2024 |
| Return to work Briefs to all employees on site led by Site Director Daniel Smith                                                                                           | 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2025   |
| SEPA visit led by Dr Paul Dale                                                                                                                                             | 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025  |
| EHSS&Q Review<br>Paul Winkle - NRS<br>Mike Heaton - NRS                                                                                                                    | 4 <sup>th</sup> February       |
| AGR Transfer Engagement Sessions<br>Andy Munro - NRS<br>Sohail Ashraf - NRS<br>Laura Dungar - NRS<br>Alastair Walker - NRS<br>John Grierson - NRS<br>Angharad Rayner – NRS | 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 |
| Hazard Perception Training                                                                                                                                                 | 26 & 27 February 2025          |