

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HUNTERSTON A STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
HELD AT
SEAMILL HYDRO, 39 ARDROSSAN ROAD, WEST KILBRIDE, Ayrshire KA23 9NB
ON TUESDAY 2nd JUNE AT 13:38**

Attendance

Ms R Holmes	Fairlie CC (Chair)
Mr S McGhie	Hunterston B Union Rep (Vice Chair)

Operators and Officers

Mr R Gibson	Engineering Manager (Hunterston A)
Mr A Dalling	Site Director (Hunterston B)
Ms M Hayes	SEPA (Site Inspector, Hunterston A)
Mr K Hammond	SEPA (Site Inspector, Hunterston B)
Ms C Aitken	Comms & Socio-economic Lead – Scottish Sites
Ms N Thomson	Communications Coordinator (Hunterston B)

In Attendance

Mr K Macintosh	Largs CC
Mr S Mackenzie	North Ayrshire CC
Mr G Buckley	West Kilbride CC
Ms I Agnew	Skelmorlie CC
Mr G Madden	Minute taker

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mr A Holden
Mr J Riddick
Mr D Reid

APOLOGIES

Mr Daniel Smith	Site Director Hunterston A
Ms D Hamilton	Scottish Government
Ms A Craig	North Ayrshire Council
Mr A Cochran Patrick	Hunterston Estate
Ms E Collier	North Coast and Cumbraes Council
Mr J McHenry	Cumbrae Community Council
Mr P Roche	Member of the public
Ms L Jeffrey	Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Team
Mr I Murdoch	North Ayrshire Council
Ms M Jones	Socio-economics Lead, NRS
Mr S McKenzie	North Ayrshire Council
Mr T Saunders	ONR
Ms T MacLeod	ONR
Mr J Lamb	Member of the public

1. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair opened the meeting at 13.38.

Apologies had been received from Daniel Smith, Aileen Craig, Diane Hamilton, Mair Jones, Angus Cochran Patrick, Eleanor Collier, John McHenry, Peter Roche, John Lamb, Lesley Jeffery, Ian Murdoch, Tim Saunders, Tanya MacLeod and Scott McKenzie.

No interests were declared.

2. CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR UPDATES AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Chair reported that she and the Vice Chair had attended a dinner to celebrate Hunterston B transferring to the NDA and NRS. She had visited Sizewell A and B on 10 March and had also attended the Sizewell SSG. The Chair and Vice Chair had joined a SSG chairs and vice chairs meeting on 17 April. The meeting had addressed the future of stakeholder engagement. It had been communicated that the NDA would no longer attend SSG meetings. A meeting with NGOs had taken place on 13 May and had covered Sizewell C and the nuclear taskforce. The Chair and the Vice Chair had also visited the radio chemistry lab.

The government had estimated that the transfer of all AGRs to NDA and NRS for decommissioning would result in a £1 billion saving. The NDA project academy had expanded nationally. The NDA was of the view that the House of Lords briefing would play an important role in the NDA's mission. The NDA had agreed upon a standardised waste container initiative; the first order for a Pegasus transport package had been received.

Ken Macintosh asked how the £1 billion figure had materialised. Andy Dalling replied that there was potential for £1 billion in savings as part of the transfer. The transfer would eradicate the need to build an ILW store at Hunterston B. There would also be economies of scale. The synergies would become apparent as part of the ongoing NRS programme.

3. ACTIONS AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Responding to the action regarding possible signage for the low-level waste (LLW) pits, Richard Gibson stated that Hunterston A was considering creating signage for the Very LLW pits. Consultation was taking place with the NRS central land quality team, and he hoped to provide a response at the next SSG.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

4. HUNTERSTON B SITE REPORT

Hunterston B Site Report

Andy Dalling delivered his report. The transfer to NDA and NRS had taken place. integration activities continued; staff were familiarising themselves with new IT, processes and ways of working.

The business plan continued to progress. Cladding for the north elevation had been replaced, and work would now commence on the south elevation. Hunterston B continued to advance the alternative active discharge line project. It hoped to award a contract for the design build work. The electrical overlay project was progressing well.

A thorough review had taken place following the improvement notice from ONR, and the notice had been closed before the transfer. An investigation had taken place following the oil leak in the lagoons. Improvements had been made to the oil abatement plant. The site was also considering implementing further enhancements to the lagoon.

Hunterston B had met the transfer aspirations of 99% of staff. 246 people had transferred over to NRS, and Hunterston B would welcome a period of stability. It would now grow its capability to deliver more decommissioning work.

SEPA Report

Keith Hammond reported that the transfer had progressed well. SEPA had transferred the radioactive substances, the industrial activities and water activity permits, and had also issued a new registration for abstraction.

Keith Hammond had visited the site twice since the last SSG. SEPA was satisfied with Hunterston B's investigation and resulting actions following the non-radioactive oil event in March. It would continue to monitor this.

Q&A

Stuart McGhie asked what would happen with the remaining portion of land that EDF had oversight of. Andy Dalling responded that the land area was significant in size. Hunterston B was being kept updated on any land developments, and there were strong links between the NRS and EDF commercial teams.

The Chair said she understood that part of EDF land would be taken over by the organisation that would be bringing in subsea cable from Northern Ireland. Andy Dalling stated that the organisation wanted to use the field adjacent to Hunterston B.

The Chair said she had assumed that the land proposed for the data centre belonged to Hunterston Estate rather than EDF. Ken Macintosh replied that it did. The Chair noted that a previous SEPA representative had been concerned about flooding in this area. Ken Macintosh stated that, while flooding had taken place in this area, the issue was solvable.

Alan Holden asked whether the new cladding was flammable. Andy Dalling stated that Galbestos cladding had not been removed. There had been a like-for-like replacement of sheets, and the new cladding was not flammable.

Alan Holden asked if the oil leak had been related to one of the transformers on the side of the station. Andy Dalling replied that it had been related to station auxiliary transformer 4. Alan Holden asked if the main oil tanks had been pumped out. Andy Dalling stated that the investigation had concluded that the main oil tanks had not been pumped out. This had caused an overflow of oil to the lagoon where the abatement plant had protect the environment.

The Chair referenced the removal of the reactor cooling water pipework and asked if the work would take place in a confined space. Andy Dalling replied that work would take place above ground. The Chair asked if the SSG would have visibility of the detailed design for the active effluent discharge line. Andy Dalling replied that SEPA was reviewing the permit variation. The detailed design would cover necessary changes to the plant to meet the new permit requirements. The concept design would involve threading a small pipe through the culvert. The discharge point would remain the same. The work would commence in Easter 2027. While progress would be visible to the public, Andy Dalling agreed to provide an overview of the design at future SSGs. The Chair asked if Hunterston A was involved in discussions on the permit variation. Andy Dalling confirmed this.

The Chair asked if the transport desktop exercise had taken place. Andy Dalling confirmed that it had. He agreed to follow up on this in the next report.

Action: Andy Dalling to provide an update on the transport desktop exercise for Hunterston B.

The Chair noted that the report for Hunterston B had referenced emergent faults in the irradiated fuel dismantling (IFD) Cell. Andy Dalling clarified that this was an error. Hunterston B no longer used the IFD.

The Chair asked if the station transformer would remain on site. Andy Dalling stated that the oil leak associated with the transformer had been monitored for several years. A new discharge line was required, as this would allow Hunterston B to shut down its main CW pumps. Consequently, the site would no longer need to rely on the 132KV supply. At that point the station transformer would be removed from service.

The Chair noted that the revocation of the registration for water discharge activity was now covered by a general binding rule (GBR). She asked if this would result in any difference. Keith Hammond responded that it would not.

5. HUNTERSTON A SITE REPORT

Hunterston A Site Report

Richard Gibson reported that Hunterston A's business plan had closed on 31 March. The waste retrieval programme had achieved all of its annual targets. Key ageing assets and staff welfare facilities had been significantly improved. Staff had supported the Hunterston B transfer, and considerable improvements had been made to environmental safety management systems. This had culminated in the withdrawal of the SEPA prohibition regulatory notice.

Hunterston A had consistently been one of the top sites within the NRS fleet for several key metrics, such as employee engagement, safety inspections and compliance activities. A more challenging waste processing target had been set for the year. Key site works included progressing the pond roof overclad and delivering the SILWE plan.

Hunterston A would strengthen ties with Hunterston B through key activities. Cross-site networks would be embedded. Hunterston B would also encourage use of the collaboration hub.

The new chemistry laboratory at Hunterston A had opened on 1 April. The facility had been praised as a standard setter across NRS. Hunterston A had celebrated success at the NRS Excellence Awards, and Robin Rowell and the Higher Active Waste (HAW) team had won the innovation award.

Richard Gibson reported on EHSSQ. Regarding TRIR and DACR, there had been no lost time accidents or recordable injuries in the last 18 months. Environmental management improvements were ongoing and included the laboratory work. The human performance rollout continued. New safety campaigns that focused on different themes were being rolled out across the site. The first campaign on asbestos had been successfully delivered.

The annual emergency exercise had been conducted, and the assessors had been satisfied with the demonstration. The refurbished canteen had opened. Two new waste bag monitors (WBMs) were being commissioned. The WBMs would accurately measure various weights and density of material. Campaign 3 testing for the SILWE project was underway.

The ponds team continued with de-planting work after making significant progress in bay 4. The LLW team had exceeded its annual targets and had delivered every single one at stretch level. LLW and HAW targets for the current year were being exceeded. The plant and structures team had undertaken cold duct cladding removal in the reactors.

As part of sustainability work, Hunterston A staff had taken part in a site-wide litter pick on 7 May. Hunterston A would also push for an increased use of local suppliers on site and would sign up to a pollinator corridor initiative. Socio-economic funding for the current year was open.

SEPA Report

Melaine Hayes presented her report. A joint SEPA and ONR inspection had taken place in March. The inspection had addressed the retrospective calculation of doses received by members of the public due to gaseous and liquid discharges and direct radiation shine[?] from the Hunterston A site. No instances of non-compliance had been detected during the inspection.

Work had been recommended on the aqueous discharge variation application, and SEPA expected to determine the variation application by 31 October. SEPA had withdrawn its regulatory notice for the laboratory and had commended the amount of work undertaken by Hunterston A to address it. Hunterston A was progressing the workstreams in relation to the characterisation of ILW bunker waste. A waste package weighing and assay campaign was complete. The sampling of identified waste packages should begin in early summer 2026.

Q&A

Stuart McGhie referred to the socio-economic fund and asked if Hunterston A would have any input into the utilisation of the Willie Mackie Skills Hub at Ayrshire College. Richard Gibson replied that Hunterston A did not have input into how the facility was utilised. However, the intention was for future apprentices to use the facility.

The Chair noted that the joint SEPA and ONR inspection had addressed the direct radiation shine from the Hunterston A site. Melanie Hayes clarified that ONR had addressed this aspect. Richard Gibson said there was no radiation shine on site.

The Chair highlighted the SILWE project and asked why Hunterston A had applied considerable pressure on SEPA. Richard Gibson stated that Hunterston A had not intended to apply pressure on SEPA but rather optimise the plan. Melanie Hayes added that Hunterston A had not applied any pressure on SEPA.

The Chair asked if the sampling monitors were in a fixed position. Richard Gibson confirmed that they were.

The Chair asked about the packaging being used for LLW. Richard Gibson responded that Pac-Tek bags were used. This was standard proof packaging for LLW.

The Chair commended SEPA for its role in helping to facilitate the opening of the chemistry laboratory. Melanie Hayes praised Hunterston A's transparency during the process.

6. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT REPORT

It was noted that Diane Hamilton had submitted a report in advance of the meeting. Phil Carson had joined the Scottish Government team on 5 May, on an 18-month secondment from NRS.

Following the elections, several new government officials were in post, Craig Hoy. Gail Ross would assume the role currently held by David Wallace. It was hoped that the cross-party group would be established by September.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Claire Aitken stated that elections would take place at the next meeting. Should anyone wish to stand for chair or vice chair, she would contact them prior to the next meeting.

The Chair thanked attendees and closed the meeting at 14.41.