

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HUNTERSTON A STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
HELD AT
SEAMILL HYDRO, 39 ARDROSSAN ROAD, WEST KILBRIDE, Ayrshire KA23 9NB
ON THURSDAY 5TH MARCH AT 13:35**

Attendance

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

Operators and Officers

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Mr D Smith | – Site Director (Hunterston A) |
| Mr A Dalling | – Site Director (Hunterston B) |
| Ms C Aitken | – Comms & Socio-economic Lead – Scotland NRS |
| Mr B Hamilton | – External Affairs Director, NRS |
| Ms F McCall | – EDF |
| Ms D Hamilton | – Scottish Government |
| Mr E Mitchell | – Site Head of Security (Hunterston A) |
| Ms T MacLeod | – ONR Site Inspector (Hunterston A) |
| Mr S Ballantine | – SEPA (Site Inspector, Hunterston A) |
| Mr K Hammond | – SEPA (Site Inspector, Hunterston B) |

In Attendance

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mr K Macintosh | – Largs CC |
| Mr S McKenzie | – North Ayrshire CC |
| Ms L Jeffreys | – Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Team |
| Ms P McKnight | – West Kilbride CC |
| Ms I Agnew | – Skelmorlie CC |
| Giles Madden | – Minute Taker |

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

J Lamb
A Rich
A Holden
H Maclean
C Corral
D Reid
Mr R Motram

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND OPENING COMMENTS

Apologies had been received from Mair Jones, Aileen Craig, Tim Saunders, Angus Cochran Patrick, Louise Martin and Melanie Hayes, who was represented by Stewart Ballantine.

Fiona McCall and Bill Hamilton were thanked for their service and presented with medals.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair reported that since the previous meeting in December, she and Stuart McGhie had remained informed of the progress at both sites. They had visited the refurbished radio chemistry laboratory at Hunterston A, met the two chemists, and viewed the separation of the actual laboratory from the working space used by monitoring staff. The site was awaiting SEPA assessment. There had been an online cross-party civil nuclear meeting on 10 December. It was as yet unknown who would take over from David Wallace. The SSG Chairs and Vice Chairs had received an update from Rob Fletcher, NRS Chief Executive, via Teams on 12 December.

Chairs and Vice Chairs had received an update from Paul Vallance from NDA on 6 February. This had primarily involved receiving reassurance about personnel leaving, but no specific future plans had been clarified. Chairs and Vice Chairs had attended an online catch-up with John McNamara of NRS on 12 February. He had agreed to extend his post until the end of 2026. There was unlikely to be NDA presence at SSG meetings in future, but a written report would still be provided, and SSG Chairs and Vice Chairs would hold quarterly meetings with them. The Chair said the transfer date for B Station was fast approaching and it had been noted that key people were leaving shortly before this point. The NDA stakeholder survey would close on 6 March.

Stuart McGhie said he had been very impressed with the radio chemistry laboratory, and would be surprised if the other locations did not feel envious.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

4. HUNTERSTON B SITE REPORT

Hunterston B Site Report

Andy Dalling presented his report. The site transfer date was approaching and preparations were going well. There had been plentiful engagement from NRS. The main mission was now decommissioning, and the site was in the very early stages of the journey post-defueling. This would escalate post-transfer. The fish farm was now gone and cladding works were underway. Most activity was preparation for larger projects such as the alternative effluent discharge line and electrical overlay system. These were nearing the completion of the design phase.

There had been a significant safety event during the reporting period. An event had been discovered on a 415-volt temporary cable being utilised during an outage. It had been controlled safely during the job, but then left in a configuration which had presented a risk thereafter. This had been self-reported and an improvement action plan had been created. This had been a human performance error in the field, and processes had now been enhanced alongside a significant training programme. There was confidence the issue would be closed by 20 March. There had been a

successful demonstration of a level one exercise in the reporting period, and any arising learnings were being closed out. A significant amount of organisational change had been enacted and 99% of staff aspirations had been met. The remaining team of 246 were ready to transfer to NRS. The sister site of Hinkley Point B was now also fuel-free.

SEPA Report

Keith Hammond presented his report. A readiness inspection was scheduled for the coming week to manage the transfer of the permit. He had been involved in overseeing site activities such as the radiochemistry refurbishment and active drains. After the report had been prepared, it had been discovered that there had been a non-radioactive oil leak caught in the interceptor. Some oil had gotten through to the lagoons. This was being monitored and an investigation would be undertaken. The source had been an out-of-service auxiliary transformer and the leak should have been caught by the interceptor, but it had also been faulty.

Q&A

John Lamb asked if the fish farm demolition had included any pipework leading back to the B Station. Andy Dalling replied that it had only included above ground buildings. It was confirmed that the fish farm had been fed with water from the A Station. The Chair asked if there were any plans for the land. Andy Dalling replied that the land would remain property of EDF, and to his knowledge, they had no plans for it. The Chair highlighted that preparations for the circulator hall and turbine hall de-planting would involve heavy equipment moving on and off site. Andy Dalling said nothing would happen in the coming year. Some early work was due by March 2027. Movement of materials would be within the bounds of the EIADR submission.

Alan Holden said there had been plans to remove LP turbines for EDF use. Andy Dalling said they had not been deemed necessary, so were now available for decommissioning. Alan Holden asked if other parts of the plant would remain with EDF. Andy Dalling replied that EDF would remain as a landowner in the area. The Chair said she believed there had been an application for an interconnector to the Hunterston subsea cable over EDF land. Fiona McCall said she would check the most up-to-date plans.

The Chair asked if more information would be made available about design of the effluent discharge pipeline. Andy Dalling replied that concept design was almost finished, and SSGs would be kept updated. The intention was to agree a design and build contract in 2027. The Chair asked if condensation issues mentioned in the report were in the reactor building. Andy Dalling replied that they were in the stairwell. Safety engineers had highlighted it and non-slip was being installed.

The Chair asked why it had taken ONR so long to enact an enforcement notice about the electrical problem. Tanya MacLeod replied that ONR did not consider it to have been a significant delay. Alan Holden asked which transformer the oil spill had originated from. Andy Dalling replied that it had been transformer four, which had been taken out of service. The oil traps were regularly inspected, but had suffered an additional fault, and a review was underway to determine cause.

The Chair asked if more information could be shared about ONR's notice on new regulatory control for Magnox sites. Tanya MacLeod replied that she had been leading a project to reset regulation of NRS former Magnox sites as the risk profile was changing more towards conventional safety rather than nuclear safety as sites decommissioned. Hunterston B would be brought into scope for this project and NRS would be held to account on pace of decommissioning. Stewart Ballantine said a discussion would be held with ONR about the implications, but statutory remits and

permits had not changed. Opportunities to integrate to increase efficiency and reduce burden on the site would be explored.

5. HUNTERSTON A SITE REPORT

Hunterston A Site Report

Daniel Smith delivered his report, including an overview of the Hunterston A business plan for the current financial year, delivery updates, including safety performance, and a socio-economic update. The business would grow on 1 April when Hunterston B transferred, and also on 1 October when Hinkley B transferred. Such growth would continue across the coming decade. The regulatory notice issued in November 2024 had led to the refurbishment of the chemistry laboratory, and SEPA had now visited to gather evidence. Site safety performance had been strong with a total recordable injury rate of zero and 19 months since the last lost time accident. Stretch business plan targets for management of waste had been achieved. Targets for programmes and managing assets on site were on track to be achieved. There had been heavy investment in welfare facilities including refurbishment of the staff canteen. Support was continuing of Hunterston B, and Daniel Smith was working closely with Andy Dalling.

Hunterston A had recently been visited by the NRS board and executive team, who had left with a positive impression. They had also visited Hunterston B, which had been equally positive. Hunterston A had recently hosted the decommissioning download, where Daniel Smith and Andy Dalling had spoken about company performance and waste programmes to approximately 800 attendees via Teams. Return to work sessions had been held with staff at the start of the year, and more would shortly be held at the end of the financial year to thank staff for their support of company performance.

Some applications from Hunterston A had been received for the mutually agreed voluntary exit (MAVE) scheme, and these staff had been supported. The impact of their departure had been reviewed including required recruitment. The first exit had taken place on 1 March and others would follow on 31 March. There had been a number of site visit and cross-site meetings, including charity activities. Cards detailing human performance tools had been re-rolled out to staff as part of safety efforts. A recent meet and greet to discuss had been well received. The laboratory refurbishment had been accompanied by training and updating of procedures. Numerous recent audits and inspections had resulted in no major findings.

Refurbishment of a changing and showering facility for staff was due to be completed by April, and investment had also been made to replace bag monitors. The solid intermediate level waste encapsulation (SILWE) project had been ongoing for the last 10 years and represented a huge investment. Bulk clearance of the bunkers had now been completed, which was a positive milestone. The plan would now proceed into inactive commissioning. Decommissioning of plant systems within the pond area was continuing, but much work remained before the ultimate goal of demolition in approximately 15 years. The group key target of sludge retrieval concept design had been achieved ahead of schedule.

It was predicted that high activity waste targets for the year would be achieved in the coming week. Stretch business plan targets for low activity waste had been achieved. Some plant structure decommissioning pertaining to cladding involved asbestos, so techniques were being carefully designed and developed to keep staff safe. A programme was underway to design a technique of restraining, de-energising and removing large spring pipe hangers at the top of the boilers. A sustainability plan was

in place at Hunterston A, and socio-economic involvement in the local community included both financial support and practical participation.

ONR Report

Tanya MacLeod introduced herself as the new site inspector and summarised her previous experience. Peter Hughes had written the report, detailing that no routine inspections had taken place between 1 October and 31 December, but he had undertaken relevant telephone meetings with site senior leadership. On 4 March, a radiation protection inspector had conducted an IRR17 check which had delivered a green result with no areas of concern. On 5 March, Tanya MacLeod had completed a site walkover and held meetings with senior leadership and site safety.

SEPA Report

Stuart Ballantine presented Melanie Haynes' report, saying the main area of interest had been the regulatory notice and laboratory refurbishment. He and Melanie had been impressed by the work done, and Melanie was now in the process of reviewing evidence to conclude whether to lift the regulatory notice. It was hoped this would not take too long. SEPA had participated in the IRR17 visit of 4 March. Susan Howe had been working with NRS on the bunkers issue, which would underpin Melanie's determination on the variation application. Good progress was being made and both sides were happy that a conclusion was being approached.

Q&A

Daniel Smith was asked if he envisaged any issues with caesium from the concrete on the ponds as they dried out. He replied that he did not. The decommissioning programme included strict checks prior to handing over for demolition which would detect any issues. John Lamb said that it had been agreed at a previous SSG that low-level waste pits should be signposted, but this had not yet been enacted. Daniel Smith said there were high and low activity waste areas on site which were signposted. The Chair said that there were five pits of low activity, high-volume waste which had been deposited on reclaimed land, covered with an impermeable cover, and grassed over. Since that point in time, the SSG had asked for it to be signposted. Daniel Smith replied that he had not been aware of it. He was happy to investigate and determine if forward actions were required.

The Chair said the land was accessible to the public and she believed that they would want to know where anything had been deposited. She did not know how this compared with SEPA's position on contaminated land. Stuart Ballantine said he had not been familiar with the issue. Keith Hammond said it was believed that the deposits had been made in the 1970's under authorisation. Daniel Smith reiterated that he would investigate and report back.

John Lamb said it had been previously proposed that demolition waste from bunkers would go into the pond area, and asked if this had now been rejected. Daniel Smith replied that there was potential for this to occur as part of long-term decommissioning, but he did not believe anything had been agreed. John Lamb said there was nothing in the report presented to indicate how much dust had been recovered from the cleaning of the bunkers. Daniel Smith said they had cleared bunkers five, four and three and were now working on bunker two. One waste package had been filled, with another expected to be filled by the end of March.

John Lamb asked Daniel Smith to clarify his meaning of orphan items from his report, and if this included fuel element debris. Daniel Smith replied that fuel element debris was not part of orphan waste. There had been a separate programme of work to deal with fuel element debris, and the agreed interim position had been to transfer it to a purpose-built waste container within the ILW store. A long-term position had still to

be agreed. John Lamb said there was no information reported on the level of Compound 7. Daniel Smith said he did not expect any increase in contamination, but could not provide specific figures. It was still being monitored and he would be happy to ascertain more detail. The Chair said she believed it had been encased in a bentonite wall, and the only concern had been extremely wet weather causing an overflow. Daniel Smith said such a concern had not been realised and regular monitoring had not flagged any issues.

John Lamb asked about the status of the temporary weather barrier. Daniel Smith replied that the barrier was approximately 15 years old, but remained temporary within the long-term decommissioning plan. It was regularly inspected, but had sustained no damage despite strong storms. The plan stated that once external plant systems to the reactors had been decommissioned, the weather barrier could be removed. There were no plans to replace the weather barrier, but any deterioration or defects would be repaired. John Lamb said the planning approval given had been for seven years, and asked if it had been renewed. Daniel Smith said he did not know. The Chair said the main objection for most people was the bright white appearance of the weather barrier. Daniel Smith said he understood that this did make the barrier more visible, particularly to people in Millport.

The Chair asked what PC-CREAM and GoldSIM models were. Keith Hammond replied that they were industry standard models. PC-CREAM was used to model the radioactivity spread within the environment, and GoldSIM was a more conventional contaminated land model which EDF had been using to monitor the short-term effects of release if the main cooling water flow was removed. The Chair asked if the variation application would be decided soon. Stuart Ballantine replied that it was the next task for Melanie when the regulatory notice was lifted, and would be done in as timely a manner as possible. The Chair asked if the characterisation of the bunker waste would be concluded. Stuart Ballantine replied that Susan was working separately on it with NRS and good progress was being made. An agreement had previously been reached with ONR to allow the encapsulation of waste from bunker one for safety reasons. The additional characterisation work related to bunkers two to five.

Alan Holden asked if learnings from a serious industrial accident which had occurred on the conveyor system that fed debris to the bunkers in the 1980s would be fed into the decommissioning process. Daniel Smith said key operating experience was factored into the decommissioning plan, and that he would return to site and ask the programme team to locate the experience Alan Holden had referred to. Alan Holden said he could put Daniel Smith in direct contact with two individuals who had witnessed the industrial accident. Daniel Smith said any experience would be welcomed and could be integrated into the plan.

6. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT REPORT

Dianne Hamilton apologised for submitting her report late. The amended designation direction required to transfer Hunterston B from EDF to NRS had been approved and was available online. Work with NDA on the development of 2026 strategy had been concluded. The strategy had been approved by UK and Scottish Ministers, presented to both parliaments on 23 February, and published online. Scottish elections would take place on 7 May, meaning a pre-election period would begin on 26 March. During this time, essential government business would continue, but decisions on matters of policy would be postponed, unless a postponement would be detrimental to Scotland's interests or wasteful of public resources. Higher activity waste policy review would be postponed until the next administration was operational. The Scottish parliament election guidance had been published online.

9. NDA REPORT

The Chair said she would take the NDA report as read and assumed any questions would be submitted separately.

10. NRS REPORT

Bill Hamilton reiterated that the NDA had decided it would not send a representative to SSGs, but would instead to invite Chairs and Vice Chairs to quarterly meetings, two in person and two virtual. In recent years, he had tried to attend as many SSGs as possible to provide a corporate presence. Now that restructuring was complete and stability had been achieved, site directors had been given greater responsibility and accountability. In the new financial year, site directors would be responsible for both site reports and corporate reports. Bill Hamilton would retire and there would be no presence from the NRS corporate affairs team unless deemed appropriate to address a particular issue.

The cross-party group in the Scottish parliament had been administered by David Wallace, who had left under the MAVE scheme. The NRS would take over administration of the work. In terms of relationships with the Scottish and Welsh devolved parliaments, the NDA would be present, but the NRS would be doing more on cross-party group relations.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair said she had hoped that Eleanor Collier from North Ayrshire Council would have attended the meeting, as she had been present at the last meeting of the Scottish Council's Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCORS). The Chair asked if Environmental Health from North Ayrshire Council had attended. Scott McKenzie replied that he had attended and it was making progress. Most councils were now represented at political level, and most at officer level. Tanya MacLeod said she had attended and presented at SCCORS, in a joint presentation with SEPA.

Claire Aitken asked if everyone was content to continue using Seamill Hydro as a venue in future. No objections were raised.

The Chair thanked attendees and closed the meeting at 15.00.