Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

SIXTH HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 2006 IN THE BRISBANE HOUSE HOTEL, LARGS

Present

North Ayrshire Council
Councillor Richard Wilkinson (Chair)
Councillor Bobby Rae

Hunterston Estate
Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick

British Energy
Mr Tom Ungi
Ms Melanie Robson (B Station Secretariat)
Mr Graham Perry (B Station Specialist)

Community Councillors
Mrs Rita Holmes - Fairlie
Mr John Lamb – West Kilbride
Mr Ian Frame – Millport
Mr Frank Craig - Ardrossan

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr Randall Bargelt

NII
Mr David Shepherd (B Station Inspector)
Mr Peter Ford (A Station Inspector)

British Nuclear Group
Mr Peter Roach
Miss Lynne McTaggart (A Site Specialist)
Mrs Alyson Russell-Stevenson (SSG Secretariat)
Mr Tony Bale

SEPA
Mr Keith Hammond (B Station Inspector)

Several members of the public were also in attendance

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor E McLardy, Mr Hugh McGhee, Mr K Littlewood, SEPA, Mrs L Rose, Scottish Executive Rural Affairs, Dr J Cooper, Mr A Penman, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, Mrs E Lamont, National Farmers Union, Mr K MacDougall, Ardrossan Community Councillor

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Councillor Wilkinson thanked the members and public for their attendance at this sixth meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group. He said that he hoped that everyone would enjoy and participate in the meeting, which would be scheduled to close at around 15.30pm. Councillor Wilkinson apologised for the change in venue for the meeting, and that this was due to the lack of disabled facilities at the venue in Millport.

He went on to inform the group that Mr Craig was here as a stand in for Mr MacDougall for Ardrossan Community Council.

Councillor Wilkinson went on to thank the staff at Hunterston A for the work done to produce the Site End State invitation to tender. Councillor Wilkinson then gave a brief explanation of what the NDA had requested for the benefit of the member of the public present. He then welcomed Dr Chris Howard from Nuclear Technologies – the winners of the tender for Site End State Consultation.

Councillor Wilkinson then went on to comment on the visit to Hunterston that some of the SSG members had to meet Sir Anthony Clever (NDA Chairman) in August. Also the visit that the SSG had to Chapelcross in September to see their SSG meeting and then a site tour the next day. Councillor Wilkinson also put it to the SSG they extend an invitation to Dounreay and Chapelcross for the next SSG meeting on the 23rd November at the Seamill Hydro. The group agreed that this was a good idea.

Councillor Wilkinson then went on to the matter of new members to the SSG. He informed the group that it was agreed at the last sub group that they would advertise for new members – up to 5 new members of which one should be under 25 years old. Councillor Wilkinson went to say that the constitution would need to be changed at a future date to accommodate this. Advertisements will be going out in the next few weeks and those that have sent letters to the SSG expressing an interest will be sent a pack.

2. MINUTES of the 14th June 2006

The minutes of the meeting of the SSG meeting held on the 14th June 2006 were discussed the minutes agreed.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Councillor Wilkinson mentioned that the SSG had received correspondence from the NDA. The draft annual plan was now out for consultation. The details are on the website and have been passed to the sub group for any comments.

4. MINUTES OF REPORT OF HUNTERSTON B STATION, BRITISH ENERGY

- **Hunterston B Site Manager's Report**

Safety

Mr Ungi started the meeting by emphasising that safety is British Energy's fundamental priority. He said that Hunterston B employees have built on their good industrial safety performance by going 450 days without a lost time accident, as at 4 September.

Environment

He stressed the importance of environmental stewardship and said that with 921 days without an environmental event, Hunterston B has maintained its place as the best environmental performer in the fleet.

He said that since the start of the financial year Hunterston B has averted the emission of 1.6 million tonnes of CO2 to the atmosphere, and that since the station started generating 30 years ago, it has saved the emission of almost 150 million tonnes of CO2.

Output & R3 Outage

Mr Ungi reported that since the start of this financial year, Hunterston B has generated 2.5TWh of electricity. He said the big challenge on output at the moment was Reactor 3. During the routine inspection which is carried out every three years on the statutory outage, boiler components were identified with a higher number of defects than anticipated. He referred to the letter sent to SSG members a few weeks earlier which explained the problem. He said that main boiler feed pump problems last year have exacerbated the boiler problems but that the aim is to return the reactor to service in October. He pointed out that despite having 1,500 staff and contractors working on the outage, there have been no lost time accidents.

People

Mr Ungi explained that in the 1990s staff numbers had been reduced but now the company has started to increase numbers again which he feels is a very positive step. He said that by the end of this financial year the headcount was targeted to be 507 people.

Mr Ungi announced that Brian Cowell would be moving to Torness before the end of the year to take over the role of Station Director, and that he would then be confirmed Station Director for Hunterston B.

Community

Mr Ungi outlined the employee charity of the year and explained that this year staff were helping the Ayrshire Hospice by fund raising and in other ways. He explained that every £ raised by staff would be matched by the company.

Energy Review

Mr Ungi outlined British Energy's position that there needs to be a balanced mix of energy sources to provide the UK with security of electricity supply and meet climate change targets. He explained that CORWM has recommended deep geological disposal of nuclear waste to the Government.

- **Financial**

Mr Ungi explained that despite challenges to output, the financial performance of the company has been good. He explained that this was mainly due to high electricity prices but it does allow British Energy to invest in its plant. He said that almost £300 million had been invested last year and the same would be expected this year again.

Mr Ungi pointed out that while the focus of attention was inevitably about unit 3 and its boiler tube problems, the exceptionally good performance of unit 4 should not go unmentioned.
Mr Ungi handed over to Mr Perry for the environmental and radiological safety report.

- **Environment**

Mr Perry said that a periodical meeting with SEPA on 24 May went well and that SEPA encouraged British Energy to continue working towards the new RSA authorisations.

Mr Perry referred to the very warm weather during July and said that Hunterston B has an agreement with SEPA to maintain the cooling water discharge temperature into the surrounding Firth of Clyde at below 30 degrees Celsius. Mr Perry explained that output was reduced for a short period to keep the water temperature at the outfall to below this figure but the output was subsequently returned to normal after discussion with SEPA subject to an agreement to provide environmental data that is needed by SEPA to an agreed timescale.

- **Dose control**

Mr Perry confirmed that personal radiation monitoring showed normal dose levels, until the end of July. The outage dose that was anticipated initially was 388man mSv. Mr Perry explained that the estimate had had to be revised upwards to 917 man milliesieverts after the extent of boiler defects became known. Thanks to novel ways of working this was reduced to 714 man milliSieverts by the completion of work.

Mr Perry explained that the target maximum dose level for individuals was also increased to 10 milliSieverts per person but that the station had eventually bettered that by achieving a maximum of 8.4 milliSieverts.
He added that does levels next year will also be substantial due to continuing boiler work and that more details would be given nearer the time.

Mr Perry advised that during the outage to date there had been 8 minor contamination events and 9 individuals with contamination. More details will be given at the next meeting.

- **Solid Waste**

Mr Perry said there had been no solid waste disposed of since the last meeting but that there was one ISO container full of solid compacted waste almost ready to go to Drigg in Cumbria.

- **RSA Authorisations**

Mr Perry said that arrangements were on plan regarding RSA authorisations and that the draft authorisation had been received from SEPA. Mr Perry explained that if all went to plan the new authorisations would come into force on 1 February 2007. A review by SEPA of the station's progress is expected at the beginning of November

Mr Perry explained that as part of the reauthorisation process there is to be an update of the district survey programme and mentioned that a training programme for the new requirements under RSA93 had already started.

- **Laundry**

Mr Perry explained he had provided in the notes for the meeting a 'non-sensationalist' report of a leak of clean water from one of the site's two laundry waste water tanks. Some of the information had previously found its way into the media.

- **District Survey Report**

Mr Perry referred the meeting to the paper prepared by his colleague Peter Shields in response to an action from the previous SSG meeting requesting more information on the details of the district survey. Mr Perry thanked his colleague for the high quality of the data provided. He explained that the purpose of the paper was to show that the quality and quantity of the current district survey programme is sufficient, to show clearly that doses resulting from historical Hunterston operations are indistinguishable from fluctuations in natural background levels in the area. The paper uses Hunterston district survey data to illustrate the long term decrease in doses resulting from nuclear weapons testing in the 1960's and shows the measurements are sensitive enough to indicate enhanced dose rates in the locality resulting from the Chernobyl disaster. Despite the sensitivity needed to illustrate these trends, the measurements do not indicate any evidence of enhanced dose rates from operations at Hunterston 'A' or 'B' over 40 years of operations.

- **Emergency Preparedness**

Mr Perry confirmed that the re-demonstration of new arrangements on 16 June to the NII had been deemed as satisfactory.

- **BK Industrial Action**

Mr Ungi referred to the current industrial action between Balfour Kilpatrick and its workforce who were contracted to British Energy and British Nuclear Group. Mr Ungi explained that while British Energy hadn't sanctioned the industrial action – which is entirely between BK and Amicus and nothing to do with British Energy – it had allowed the picket on the Hunterston approach road for safety reasons. This picket had subsequently been deemed a safety risk by BE because it inadvertently caused a six mile tailback on the approach road and main A78. Therefore, to avoid a repeat of the previous week's unsafe situation, Mr Ungi explained that agreement had been reached between BE and Amicus to remove the picket from British Energy land, without, Mr Ungi added, support from the other parties involved.

- **Nuclear Installations Inspectorate Report**

Mr David Shepherd, site inspector for Hunterston B, referred to the quarterly report included in the meeting notes and highlighted a few points.

He said that the repeat demonstration of the new access control point showed emergency arrangements to be satisfactory as Mr Perry had already said, and that once the station has finally determined the best way to use the ACP it will prove to be an excellent facility.

Mr Shepherd said that the station has had a good outage, apart from the boiler issues already discussed. He said that the preparation was good and this has paid off. He said the station had

put a lot of effort into improving planning and that his job was to ensure that the improvements were taken forward.

Mr Shepherd said that it will be necessary to develop an adequate safety case for restart following the boiler tube repairs.

Mr Shepherd referred to the regulation of doses and said he is satisfied that the stations' methods are thorough and have kept the station doses ALARP

Mrs Holmes asked if the boiler tubes are leaking then where are they leaking to.

Mr Shepherd responded that this was not what he said but that if water did leak from a boiler tube it would go into a containment vessel and would not be released into the workplace or the environment.

Mrs Holmes asked how this would affect the station's request for a life extension.

Mr Ungi offered to give Mrs Holmes and other SSG members a full explanation of the boiler tube issues at another time. He explained that that the station knew it would have to deal with the boiler issues at some time. He said repairs to boiler tubes have been carried out as necessary since the late 1980's and the situation is being carefully monitored.

Mr Wilkinson requested that the SSG continues to be updated on the situation.

Councillor Rae asked if the boiler tubes were repaired or blocked off.

Mr Ungi explained that there are a number of techniques in use, including, repairing, replacing, or plugging the damaged tube He explained that BE would be required to demonstrate a robust safety case to the regulator.

- **SEPA Report**

Mr Keith Hammond, SEPA site inspector for Hunterston B, referred to the written report issued with the meeting notes and highlighted a few points.

He also directed the attention of the meeting to the waste oil report that he had produced following questions to SEPA at the last SSG meeting about the regulatory control of waste oil incineration.

- **Public Questions**

Mr Wilkinson requested questions for the B station from the audience.

A member of the public audience asked if there was a limit for particulate matter in SEPA's authorisation. Mr Hammond said there was not.

Mr Bale asked how long unit 3 would be off the grid as the Herald newspaper had mentioned it would be a long time. Mr Ungi said that the outage target had been 76 days, which was considered a substantial outage anyway, even before the extent of the boiler tube issue was known. He said that British Energy has forecast the City that it will be an additional month. He confirmed that there had been an additional briefing to the City that morning and that Hinkley Point B would be taken off proactively by British Energy to inspect for the same issue, as Hinkley is a similar design and was built at the same time as Hunterston B.

Mr Ungi explained that the scope of work in the outage has extended as repairs have been done. He said that samples have also been taken to reassure us that nothing new is happening. He said the initial results are what we would have expected but in some areas cracking seemed to have happened quicker than we would have expected.

Mr Ungi said that we have to satisfy ourselves that the boilers are safe or we won't bring them back. He said that although it is costing the company a lot of money, it is the right thing to do.

Mrs Holmes referred to waste oil and asked why some limits are going up while some are going down. She asked which radio nuclides are anticipated in the waste oil, including alpha.

Mr Perry said that there is no more alpha activity than there has ever been. He said that water that is collected from around the plant accumulates in tanks and that the first step of the cleanup process is separation of the water from any oil that is mixed with it. In the past the oil was separated by skimmers, but vertical gravity separators have recently been introduced and these provide enhanced separation and so better protect the water cleanup system. It also now believed that these separators also separate some of the alpha contamination in the oil / water mixture into the oil phase (which is ultimately burned) rather than it being left in the water phase (which is ultimately discharged to sea).

Mrs Holmes said she is not happy about there being any alpha aerial emissions when the oil is burned. Mr Perry said that the alpha level is measured before the oil is burned and that it is way below anything that would give rise to significant doses. Mr Perry explained that most of the alpha contamination does not go into the air because a centrifuge filters it out. Additionally some of the particulate activity remains in the ash.

Mr Perry said that the charts would be updated for the next meeting after the waste oil burning had taken place. **ACTION MR PERRY**

Mrs Holmes asked how much waste oil is waiting to be burned. Mr Perry said it was substantial and at least 8,000 litres. (The volume of oil waiting to be burned is approximately 45,000 litres)

Mrs Holmes asked how much radioactivity is in that oil. Mr Perry said he would send this information to the chairman ahead of the next meeting **ACTION MR PERRY**

Mr Cochran Patrick asked about the type of incinerator, and was there any smoke, Mr Perry said it is a standard oil burner and that the emissions are transparent and clear, there is no smoke.

Mr Wilkinson asked if it was monitored by SEPA. Mr Hammond responded that there are PPC permit obligations which set limits as there can be other products in the smoke and that the station monitors it themselves.

Mr Ungi explained that compliance means we have to prove that we have adequate monitoring equipment.

The B station section of the meeting concluded.

5. HUNTERSTON A SITE REPORT, BRITISH NUCLEAR GROUP

- **Hunterston A Site Manager's Report**

Mr Roach went through his report that was sent out to all members highlighting the key issues below:
Mr Roach explained that Hunterston A had now achieved 5 years without a lost time accident and that the Site's performance remains high with all key milestones being met.

With Hunterston A achieving 60 months with out a lost time accident, this safety performance is simply stunning and reflects the hard work of the employees at Hunterston. Mr Roach then went on to say that they remain committed and refuse to become complacent, and that they have rolled out a new safety and environmental enhancement plan to strive for continuous improvement. Mr Roach went on to mention the Summer Achievements Ball that was held on the 11 August and how it was a very good evening.

Mr Roach informed the SSG that Hunterston has had another incident free period, and that this performance is all the more significant given the amount of nuclear decommissioning currently underway.

Mr Roach explained that on the 21st June the site successfully demonstrated its emergency response arrangements during and NII witnessed exercise. Mr Roach also pointed out that during June and July Hunterston A was independently audited by Swedish based company DNV, against the International Safety Rating Scale across 119 elements of their safety and environmental processes. The feedback given was even better that hoped, giving high confidence in both staff and the arrangements.

Mr Roach went on to update the SSG on the decommissioning progress stating that it continues to be exceptional and that they are slightly ahead in terms of delivery of planned work.

He then touched on the Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) Store saying that the civil construction is complete, as is the external steelwork.

Mr Roach mentioned that the work in the de-planting of the reactors is an area that they want to accelerate.

Mr Roach went on to mention the Reactor Building Structure and how as previously reported the construction of the weather envelopes over reactor 1 and 2 continued to be deferred (but definitely not cancelled) with this fitting in better with new NDA strategy. Mr Roach mentioned that Brian Clarence was going to be giving a presentation later on this subject.

Mr Roach closed his report by discussing the sites future plans with the members. Mr Roach mentioned the Life Time Plan 2007 was already under development. Although not due to be completed until March 2007 spreading the work load over the year to make life simpler and allow more time to engage with consultees, with the aim to be to deliver a high quality plan.

Mrs Holmes thanked Mr Roach for the ILW Store tour that she was given. Mrs Holmes moved on to ask Mr Roach about the money that has been saved by accelerated decommissioning what opportunities is it that Hunterston A plan to pursue. Mr Roach informed Mrs Holmes that the plan was to bring work forward that was planned for 2007, an example would be site remediation. Mrs Holmes asked if the site remediation was to do with Low Level Waste Pits or land contamination within the boundary fence. Mr Roach informed Mrs Holmes that it was the latter, land contamination. Mrs Holmes asked if it was the land underneath the concrete on the licensed site, Mr Roach informed her that this was correct. Mrs Holmes wondered if there was a fair bit of contaminated land underneath the concrete. Mr Roach clarified to Mrs Holmes that the area that may have contaminated land could be round the cooling pond as this was an open to atmosphere cooling pond and the area round it could have contamination due to wind blowing some over spray.

Mrs Holmes then went on to ask about the store and what was going in to it. She wondered if it was operational waste and not non operational waste and does Hunterston have enough operational waste on site to fill or nearly fill the capacity of the store.
Mr Roach informed Mrs Holmes that this was correct operational waste was going in to the ILW Store. Mrs Holmes said that the space in the store is big enough for the operational waste but not for the non operational waste? Mr Roach informed Mrs Holmes that this was correct.

Mrs Holmes then asked about the non operational waste and where it would go or does it stay where it is? Mr Roach informed Mrs Holmes that it would stay in the reactor buildings. But also pointed out to Mrs Holmes that they would need flexibility if they went for early site clearance.

Mr Bargelt inputted that they were looking at options and they were just ideas at present.
Mrs Holmes asked why the NDA were wasting time on Site End State with all these issues hanging in the air, why is there a rush on Site End State?
Mr Bargelt responded that the NDA was asking for this so they have an end point to plan to. They need to know what the stakeholders want.
Mrs Holmes informed Mr Bargelt that she felt this was a waste of time. Operational and Non Operational waste should not be moved here there and everywhere.

Mr Bargelt pointed out that they are trying to make it totally clear and need to determine what they are going to do.

- **Replacement of Reactor Buildings Weather Envelope - Hunterston A**

Mr Clarence gave a presentation to the SSG on the subject of the Weather Envelope. Mr Clarence informed the group that prior to the formation of the NDA the strategy for decommissioning Magnox power stations was known as "Safe Store", this involved building an ILW store and putting a weather envelope around the existing reactor buildings. The NDA have published their aspiration to accelerate the decommissioning activities leading to earlier final site clearance and as a consequence this has raised questions over the requirement over the current 100 year design life for the weather envelopes. In addition to this the condition of the glazing and netting protection systems on the reactor buildings has been a concern for a number of years but projects set up to address these issues have not yet been implemented. The glazing and netting protection system are degrading progressively and are now in a condition where work needs to be carried out on the ground of conventional safety before the system degrades any further.

The current proposal for the replacement of the weather envelopes on the reactor buildings is to carry out work in two phases:
Phase 1: Remove the existing glazing system and replace it with a temporary weather barrier.
Phase 2: Proceed with the erection of the new weather envelopes as detailed in the approved planning permission.

Mr Clarence showed the SSG an example of the weather envelope material and explained how it would be put on the reactors. He then asked if there were any questions.

Mrs Holmes asked Mr Clarence what the difference in cost was from the original plan to putting up a temporary barrier.
Mr Clarence said that it was about 20% of the original cost. Mrs Holmes then asked what the life of the envelopes would be. Mr Clarence answered that it was 2/3 years but NDA strategy changes were firmed up the proposed barrier could be in place for longer, if this was the case then HNA would consult the planning department.

Mr Lamb asked if the reactors would be sealed at the top and bottom, Mr Clarence said that was correct.

Mr Bale stated that the whole ball game had changed. Mr Roach answered that the new weather envelope has planning permission has been through due process and agreement from the planning authority. Mr Roach went on to say that the temporary weather barrier is currently an interim solution and if there are changes that need to be made they will have to go through planning and due process.

Mr Cochran-Patrick asked why the temporary weather barrier could not be transparent. Mr Clarence stated that this would degrade faster. Hunterston A are currently looking at a system with a 10 year design life. Mr Roach added that there was no intention for it to be there for 10

years. It would be in place for a maximum of 6 years but this was dependent on clarification of the NDA strategy.

Councillor Wilkinson asked when this work would start. Mr Clarence answered May 2007 but they hope to bring it forward.

- **Radiological and Environmental Safety Report - Hunterston A**

Ms McTaggart presented this report and explained it covered radiological safety and environmental performance at Hunterston 'A' Decommissioning Site from 1st May 2006 until 31st July 2006.

Ms McTaggart went through her report that was given to all SSG members highlighting some key points.
Ms McTaggart informed the group that 92.4 tonnes of scrap metal and cable was disposed of from site for re-cycling during the period April – June 2006.

Ms McTaggart went on to inform the group on the emergency arrangements and the standalone emergency arrangements continue to operate satisfactorily. The sites emergency arrangements were successfully demonstrated to the NII at the level 1 exercise on 21st June 2006.

Councillor Wilkinson thanked Ms McTaggart and asked if the members had any questions.

Mrs Holmes asked Ms McTaggart if the scrap metal needed to be cleaned before it was sent off site. Ms McTaggart answered that it did not as it was well below the level that is allowed to go out.
As there were no further questions, Councillor Wilkinson thanked Ms McTaggart for her report.

- **HSE NII Hunterston A Site Inspector's Report**

Mr Ford went through his report that was given to each member of the SSG. He commented on the Level 1 emergency exercise held in June and said that it was a good exercise. Also that the inspection of LC 11 & 35 covered emergency arrangements, which were found to be adequate.

Councillor Wilkinson thanked Mr Ford and asked if the members had any questions, to which there was none.

- **SEPA Hunterston A Site Inspectors Report**

Mr Littlewood could not attend the meeting, his report was noted and there were no questions.

- **Any other A Site Business**

Councillor Wilkinson asked Mr Roach if there was any other business to close the A Site part of the agenda. Mr Roach said he just wanted to comments on the picket matter and that the

issue was with BKI and Amicus and Hunterston A were not involved, and to apologise for any inconvenience it may have caused.

This concluded the Hunterston A section of the agenda.

6. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meting was agreed as 23rd November 2006 at the Seamill Hydro. This was agreed to be an evening meeting with a start time of 1800 with a buffet dinner to be arranged for before the meeting. This meeting would have guests from Dounreay and Chapelcross.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Councillor Wilkinson addressed the members of the public on behalf of the SSG and asked if there were any further questions on any of the reports or any questions to any member of the SSG, which they would like to ask.

Mr Cochran-Patrick asked Mrs Russell-Stevenson about the Socio Economic proposals that Hunterston A had received. Mrs Russell-Stevenson said that she had only officially received one and that had been put to the SSG and was now with the NDA.
Mr Craig asked how versatile did they have to be. Mrs Russell-Stevenson answered that the want them to be based around re-skilling, jobs etc.

Mrs Russell-Stevenson put it too the group that if there are ideas for the Socio Economic funding then put in a formal proposal and she will take it through the process.

Councillor Wilkinson stated that some good opportunities are becoming available through the Socio Economic funding and maybe it should be a standing item on the agenda.
ACTION Mrs Russell-Stevenson.

A member of the public asked Mr Roach about the Site End State and when was the industry going to tell the public what can be done. Mr Roach informed the gentleman that the company - Nuclear Technologies – that has won the tender will go to public consultation and that will be between November till January 2007. They will give the public a list of options and all the information will be made available.

Councillor Wilkinson then thanked the public for their support and the members of the group for a lively discussion during the meeting and closed the meeting.

Councillor Richard Wilkinson
SSG Chair