

Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

THE TENTH HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2007 IN THE BRISBANE HOUSE HOTEL,
LARGS.

Present

North Ayrshire Council

Councillor Robert Barr
Mr Hugh McGhee

British Energy

Mr John Morrison
Mr Stuart McGhie
Mr Andy Taylor
Ms Yvonne White

Community Councillors

Mrs Rita Holmes - Fairlie
Mr John Lamb - West Kilbride (Chair)
Mr Ian Frame - Millport
Mr Kenny MacDougall - Ardrossan

Magnox North

Mr Peter Roach
Miss Lynne McTaggart
Mr Adam McNelis
Mr Tony Bale

Scottish Government Radioactive Waste Team

Mrs Elizabeth Gray
Mrs Marianne Cook

Hunterston Estate

Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick (Deputy Chair)

SEPA

Mr Byron Tilly

National Farmers Union

Daniel Reid

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Mr Stuart Chalmers

Strathclyde Fire Brigade

Mr George Lindsay

SSG Community Members

Mr Ivor Roscoe
Mr John Robertson
Mr William Laing
Mr Mike Johnston
Mr Frank Craig

Several members of the public were also in attendance

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from: Dr Jane Cooper, NHS, Mr Richard Wilkinson, SSG Community Member, Mrs Lorrette Dunlop, Ayrshire & Arran Health Board, Mr Allan Penman, NHS, Mr Ian Frame, Millport Community Council, Mr Peter McFarlane, Largs Community Council, Mr Tom Ungi, Hunterston B Site Director, Mr Peter Ford, NII, and Dr Karl Littlewood, SEPA.

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Chairman John Lamb welcomed everyone to the 10th meeting of the Hunterston (Site Stakeholder Group) SSG.

2. MINUTES of the 28th June 2007

Mr Daniel Reid of the National Farmers' Union brought it to the attention of the meeting that he had not received any correspondence to his new address. He stated that he made aware his change of address at the start of this year. Hunterston A Site Director, Peter Roach apologised on behalf of the SSG Secretariat and explained that Mr Reid's new address would be noted and that he would be included in all further communications.

Mr Roach said that the minutes were very comprehensive and asked the SSG if they would prefer the minutes to continue to be done in this fashion or in a shorter paraphrased concise manner.

Mrs Rita Holmes said that she preferred the more comprehensive style and that she would like them to continue to be done in this way.

SSG Vice-Chair, Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick seconded this.

The minutes were agreed and Mr John Lamb concluded that the minutes would continue to be done in the same detail as they are at the moment.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

The invitation to the coordination centre on the 2nd August from British Energy was unfortunately cancelled due to a lack of people available to attend.

Mr John Lamb explained that he was assured by Hunterston B that this event could be arranged again and that he would like those who would be willing to attend to please make themselves known.

Mrs Rita Holmes wanted to know, before she signed herself up for the day, if the SSG attended a visit would they actually get to see people working or carrying out a demonstration of what would happen if there was an emergency.

Ms Yvonne White, British Energy explained that it was a visit to the premises with presentations from Strathclyde Police, British Energy and press officers who represent both organisations.

Ms Yvonne White explained that there would not be anyone working there on the day because the NII (Nuclear Installations Inspectorate) do not allow any observers to be present if they are not taking part in any exercise. The presentations and the tour around the site would give people a good idea of the work that goes on.

Mrs Rita Holmes said that she would not like to attend if it meant that afterwards there was no one present who was qualified to answer her questions. Mrs Rita Holmes asked if there was going to be someone there from the local authorities to discuss the emergency plans.

Ms Yvonne White said that it could be arranged.

Ms Yvonne White added that there was a copy of Hunterston B's emergency plan available from local libraries if people wanted to find out more about it in the meantime.

Mrs Rita Holmes said that she has read it and she felt it did not give enough information.

Ms Yvonne White informed the SSG that if they would like to come and visit the coordination centre and if they wanted any questions answered in advance, she could arrange this.

Mr John Lamb explained that there had been a request by the NDA (Nuclear Decommissioning Authority) regarding additional funding concerning Harwell and Winfrith, who are going into "care and maintenance". The NDA will take them out of "care and maintenance" if money can be found to carry out the rest of the decommissioning.

Mr Stuart Chalmers, NDA explained that it is a request by the NDA to SSGs around other sites to see if they can free up any of their budget to support Harwell and Winfrith.

Mr John Lamb explained that £25 million was cut from Harwell and Winyfreth's budget, hence why they cannot continue the decommissioning process at the moment.

Mr Roach commented that there is only a set amount of money set aside for the decommissioning of all of the sites and that it is a matter of prioritisation. Mr Roach said that he would not be keen on money which has been set aside for Hunterston A Site going elsewhere.

Mr Tony Bale said he believed that the decision making on this subject should be left down to the NDA. Mr Lamb agreed with this.

Mr Roach reiterated that it was a matter of prioritisation.

Mrs Rita Holmes said that she would like a presentation from the Harwell and Winfrith SSG before making any decision.

Mr Kenny MacDougall said that he would like to find out more about the financial structure at the NDA, he feels there should not be a situation where a site is asking around for funding to continue its decommissioning process. The money should be in place to fulfill the obligations taken on.

Mr Stuart Chalmers said that his understanding of the situation was that the Harwell and Winfrith SSG approached the NDA, and the NDA sent the letter out on their behalf.

Mr Stuart Chalmers explained that what Mr Roach said earlier was correct, it was a matter of prioritisation. The NDA is getting pressure from the government to concentrate on high hazard and as Harwell and Winfrith do not come into this category, that is why the money has been reduced.

Mr Kenny MacDougall said that he is concerned that this could happen at Hunterston A Site.

Mr John Lamb asked if the SSG would like more information on this situation.

Mr Frank Craig said that he would like to hear from the Harwell and Winfrith SSG on how they feel.

Mr Kenny MacDougall stressed that he wants to know if the NDA are struggling for funding and stated that a letter should be sent to them asking this as he feels the situation at Harwell and Winfrith is disturbing.

Mr Stuart Chalmers highlighted that there is no short fall in funding. There has been more funding than in previous years, although there has been a different distribution of funding this year.

Stuart Chalmers added that there are early indications that funding will increase over the next 3 years.

Kenny MacDougall still wants clarification from the NDA in writing regarding the issue of funding and whether or not there is a shortfall.

Mr John Lamb continued, there was a copy of a letter from Mr Roach to B Station Site Director, Mr Tom Ungi regarding the remediation of coastal defences at the Hunterston A Site foreshore in the vicinity of the VLLWPs (Very Low Level Waste Pits).

Mr Roach explained that a copy of this letter was sent to everyone to keep them informed of what was happening and also give them an indication of why there would be more traffic on the roads around both Hunterston sites.

Mr John Lamb added that there was also a letter from Fairlie Community Council concerning the VLLWPs. The letter was addressed to Mr Roach, who read it out to the SSG as there had not been time to distribute it.

Mr Roach reminded the meeting that there had been a discussion after the last SSG about how the VLLWPs were not included in the scope of the Site End State. Mr Roach explained that the NDA accept responsibility for the VLLWPs as they are on their land. Mr Roach added in his report that Hunterston A Site should undertake work to investigate what the options are in relation to the VLLWPs and then propose these options at a sub group for further discussion before carrying out a formal consultation on what can be done.

Mrs Elizabeth Gray, Scottish Government Radioactive Waste Team, commented that an option study is the way forward.

Mrs Rita Holmes asked Mr Roach what the results were of the survey carried out at the VLLWPs. Mr Roach said that the results were not comprehensive.

Miss Lynne McTaggart said that she can arrange for a summary of the findings to be presented at the next main meeting of the SSG.

Mrs Rita Holmes asked when do the NDA stop being the owners of that land (where the VLLWPs are). Mrs Elizabeth Gray said that the NDA own the liability and they will not move on until it is remedied.

Mr John Lamb continued by saying that everyone had received information regarding CORWM's consultation on a framework for implementing geological disposal regional events in Reading, Leeds and Cardiff. There are representatives from Hunterston SSG attending the Cardiff meeting (Vice-Chair, Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick and Mr Kenny MacDougall) on 3 October 2007.

Mr John Lamb announced that there had been a letter of complaint from Ardrossan Community Council regarding item 8 in Mr Roach's Hunterston A Site report concerning the possibility of ILW (Intermediate Level Waste) from Chapelcross being stored at Hunterston A Site.

Mr Roach said that his recollection of the views expressed at the meeting in Ardrossan which took place in 2006 concerning the possibility of ILW from Chapelcross being stored at Hunterston A Site were that people were very much against this concept. Mr Roach understood these views and thought that the SSG also understood that he would still carry out a feasibility study and that there was possibly some misunderstanding regarding this. Mr Roach wished to emphasise that this was a study regarding whether or not it was possible. Although, Mr Roach stressed that there are several other issues that would have to be resolved before this could ever happen. There is no agreed safety case for this material, there are transport regulations, security implications and planning issues as Hunterston A Site's ILW Store was not designed to take in additional ILW. A huge amount of work and stakeholder engagement would be required. There would be commercial benefits as it would save Chapelcross from having to build an ILW Store.

Mrs Rita Holmes said that the SSG were told that the Hunterston A Site ILW Store was only for Hunterston A Site Waste.

Mr Kenny MacDougall highlighted that he had written the letter in question and that he was angry that despite the opinions expressed that Chapelcross's waste should not be put in Hunterston A Site's ILW Store, money was spent on a feasibility study to see if this was possible and the SSG were not made aware of this for a year. Mr Kenny MacDougall wishes for the depth of the SSG's feelings on this matter to be recognised and that the feasibility study goes no further.

Mrs Elizabeth Gray said that sites throughout the UK have been asked by the government to investigate the possibility of consolidation of storage facilities for a study on this matter. The findings will be made public and it is not until this study has been concluded that any decision can be made.

Byron Tilly, SEPA, commented that there are a huge number of steps that would have to be followed before this could be possible.

Mr Roach confirmed that the planning permission for Hunterston A Site's ILW Store only allows for the site's own waste and if that was to change a lot of work would have to be done.

Mr Roach explained that consultations could take years on this matter and that if there are goals to strive for Hunterston A Site would do so by following the correct procedures.

Mr Kenny MacDougall expressed his concerns that North Ayrshire Council's planning department were being overlooked with this feasibility study as they state that Hunterston A Site can only store its own waste.

Mr Ivor Roscoe asked if there has always been a plan to build a store at Chapelcross, why transport the waste to Hunterston A Site. Mr Stuart Chalmers said that it would save a huge sum of money as it would mean that a store would not have to be constructed at Chapelcross if its waste could easily fit in Hunterston A Site's ILW Store.

Mrs Rita Holmes asked if this included the encapsulation of the waste also. Mr Stuart Chalmers said that it was one of the options the NDA were looking at.

Mr Kenny MacDougall asked if there had been an environmental study carried out for the construction of Hunterston A Site's ILW Store. Miss Lynne McTaggart confirmed that there had been and it was required as part of the application of the building.

Mr John Lamb discussed the last item to come under 'correspondence', the meeting of the NSG (National Stakeholder Group) in Manchester on 5th & 6th July 2007 that both he and Vice-Chair, Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick attended. Mr John Lamb felt that it was very useful with regards to SSG and the main development of note was that there is going to be a new forum made up of just Scottish sites, with the first meeting being Friday 21 September 2007.

Mrs Elizabeth Gray was keen to highlight that this initial meeting was set up to up to establish what should be covered in the following meetings and who should be in attendance. She explained that the Site Directors and SSG representatives from each site would be present.

Mr Kenny MacDougall said that he was concerned about the questions that may be asked on behalf of the Hunterston SSG as there may be varying opinions on these matters. Mr John Lamb suggested that prior to the next meeting of the NSG, SSG Secretariat, Mr Adam McNelis writes to each member of the SSG asking for suggestions regarding the questions which should be asked.

4. HUNTERSTON A SITE REPORTS

Mr Roach introduced the reading of the Hunterston A Site report by saying that progress at the site has been steady since the last SSG meeting.

Hunterston A has now achieved 72 months without a lost time accident. The safety performance is simply stunning and reflects the hard work of Hunterston A Site employees and contractors and the importance placed on safety.

Similarly, the Hunterston A management team places great importance on its environmental obligations and responsibilities and has done so for many years. Hunterston A Site is working hard to lift the profile of environmental matters to match safety. Hunterston A Site has an active Environmental Action Committee with individuals who care and want to make a difference.

Hunterston A Site continues to take its responsibility for site security very seriously. The site remains vigilant in line with Government guidance. Approved security plans are in place and the site's response is routinely tested to demonstrate to the security regulator Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) Hunterston A Site's preparedness.

In addition to inspections by regulators, Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII), Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) arrange other independent audits to complement Hunterston A Site's own self-validation processes. There have been several examples of good and best practice identified and importantly there have been no significant issues of concern identified since the last report. Several helpful observations were made to further enhance Hunterston A Site's procedures in some areas, thus profiting from learning elsewhere.

Decommissioning Progress

Progress continues to be generally good at Hunterston A Site, however, the site is a little behind where it should be in terms of delivery of planned work. Although there have been some modest funding constraints this year, please be assured that safety, security and our care for the environment will not be affected as these activities are fully funded.

All the civil work in the Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) Store is complete as is the functional testing of the internal plant and equipment. The plant is now being commissioned.

Contracts have been let for ILW sludges and ILW solids from the reactors.

Although Pond Skip removal has started, as work progressed towards full commissioning of the process for dealing with pond skips, a number of final inspections and reviews identified requirements for operating safety improvements on legacy plant. Full commissioning re-started as planned. Hunterston A Site still expects the first disposals to Drigg to occur during summer 2008.

Mr Roach explained that there was an issue he wished to bring to the SSG's attention that was not included in the report. The dropped load incident that was discussed at the last meeting of the SSG has now been completely resolved and work has restarted.

Mrs Rita Holmes asked if there was a date for when the first load was expected to go into the ILW Store. Mr Roach said that the first load is expected in 2010.

Mrs Rita Holmes asked which contractors have been given the contract for the ILW sludges and solids. Mr Roach informed Mrs Rita Holmes that COSTAIN are dealing with the solid waste and Aker Kverner are responsible for the sludges, and they have a series of sub contractors who work for them.

Mrs Rita Holmes wanted to know about the methodology that will be used. Mr Roach explained that the contractors will have to work within the bounds of a safety case, make a concept design, create a detailed design and an entire range of processes and reviews that will test if their designs are appropriate.

Mr Kenny MacDougall wanted clarity that work is still on target for the site to be ready for the Care and Maintenance phase by 2016. Mr Roach confirmed that the site is on schedule.

People

Mr Roach said that there are steady numbers at the moment with regards to staff and they continue to be well managed and well led.

Recruitment is on-going for a small number of posts and the current workforce stands at 242 core and agency staff.

Sickness absence continues to be well managed with an average of 3.32 days lost over the past 12 months. This figure is well below the company target of 5.75 days and the national average of over 9 days.

A recent visit from the Trawsfyndd programmes team allowed the sharing of best practice on the sites skills maintenance document.

Mr Roach temporarily passed the reading of the report to EHS&Q Manager, Miss Lynne McTaggart.

Non-radiological Environmental update

Environmental protection activities since the last SSG meeting have centred around the commissioning of the new sewage treatment plant, including the analysis of discharge samples, ensuring compliance with the COPA authorisation.

Further work is being completed on driving down electricity and water usage and maximising recycling opportunities.

Contamination Control

In the period July to September 2007 there were 5 radiological minor events involving contamination incidents. There were no spreads of contamination outwith the Radiological Controlled Area relating to these incidents. The contamination detected in all incidents was through the use of fully-trained staff, site procedures and engineering controls.

Emergency Preparedness

Hunterston A Site successfully demonstrated its emergency arrangements to the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate during the level 1 demonstration exercise on 27/6/07.

Hunterston A Site has in conjunction with Strathclyde Fire and Rescue initiated a community partnership training initiative. This has involved joint training between Hunterston emergency staff and Strathclyde Fire and Rescue staff at various fire stations in Ayrshire.

Work has started on the planning for the Hunterston A level 2 demonstration exercise which will take place on the 29th of January 2008. This will be a demonstration of the off-site emergency plan to the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

Mrs Rita Holmes wanted to know in regards to Miss Lynne McTaggart's statement that most of the discharges were from the men showering if the men were cleaning radioactivity off of their bodies or from suits. Miss Lynne McTaggart said it was a combination of both.

Miss Lynne McTaggart handed back the reading of the report to Mr Roach.

Future Plans

Construction of the Life Time Plan (LTP) 2008 will be challenging. The next plan will be Hunterston A Site's best yet and the site continues to work hard with key stakeholders to achieve the best possible outcome.

PA/PR Activities / Charitable Donations

Hunterston A Site is keen to continue to support the local community through charitable donations and sponsorship within the local area.

Visits

Hunterston A Site continues to attract the right kind of interest through our excellent performance, on 19 September 2007 EnergySolutions visited the Site.

Hunterston A Play Safe

Hunterston A Site celebrated its outstanding Health and Safety record without a 'lost time accident' by hosting a Teambuilding Extravaganza on Friday 29th June 2007. Staff, contractors, invited guests, friends and families all enjoyed a fantastic day of fun and laughter on the grounds of the Hunterston Estate in West Kilbride, the highlight being the "It's a Knockout" event which replicated games from the original 70's BBC TV show.

Mrs Rita Holmes requested more information regarding all of the projects underway on site. Mr Roach said that he will bring a Project Leader to the next SSG to provide more information.

Mr Daniel Reid wanted to know what measures have been taken to inform the NFU of emergency exercises. Mr Roach explained that before any exercise is undertaken a plan has to be put together and submitted to all the regulatory bodies. Mr Daniel Reid said that the NFU were not notified of the last exercise and when he checked with Department of Agriculture they said the NFU should have. Mr Roach said that he would look into this and clarify the situation.

After investigating this matter Mr Roach could find no evidence that stated that the NFU have to be informed of emergency exercises, although if evidence to the contrary was presented he would acknowledge it and take it on board.

Mr Kenny MacDougall asked if the NII had given the ILW Store full approval. Mr Roach said that the store is in the process of inactive commissioning, the NII will have to give the store approval before it moves into the active commissioning phase and then again before waste is moved into it in 2010.

Mr Kenny MacDougall wished to highlight that according to an NII report 07/08, there will be a shortfall in the number of inspectors and he wanted to know what effect this will have on both Hunterston A Site and B station, and in particular how it will effect the timeline of Hunterston A Site's decommissioning work. Mr Roach said that it is a concern, the site makes commitments to the regulators and they make commitments back. If the paperwork required to carry out a job is not in order because of a lack of inspectors then the job does not go ahead.

Mrs Rita Holmes said that surely something can be done with regards to recruitments or salaries to ensure that there are more inspectors as the site's safety depends on them.

Mrs Elizabeth Gray said that there are two issues regarding this matter. The first is that what the inspectors are paid is a matter for the NII to address and secondly the age profile of the industry is causing a problem as there are not enough younger people being encouraged into the industry.

Mr Kenny MacDougall said that he was concerned about the possibility that the NII may cut corners due to a shortage in staff or that they cannot do the job at all, creating a backlog.

Mr John Lamb asked Mr Stuart Chalmers about the meeting between the NII and the NDA regarding future funding arrangements. Mr Stuart Chalmers confirmed that a meeting had taken place, they had made their proposal to government and early indications are that more funding will be made available for the next 3 years than have been made for the past 3 years.

Mr Kenny MacDougall wanted to know where Hunterston A Site fits in terms of priorities for the NDA and will this effect the possibility of additional funding being spent on the site. Mr Roach said that Hunterston A Site is not at the very top of the list, that would be Sellafield and Dounreay, we would be somewhere in the middle. Mr Stuart Chalmers confirmed that there is a possibility that Hunterston A Site may not see any of the additional funding but nothing has yet been finalized.

SEPA A Station Report

Chairman Mr John Lamb introduced Mr Byron Tilly from SEPA. Mr Byron Tilly read through the SEPA Hunterston A Site report explaining that there have been two visits to the site since the last meeting and that SEPA continue to liaise with the NDA at national and local level. SEPA also continue to meet with both the site and the NII over ILW and are still anticipating the submission of a new authorization application.

Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick asked what the time frame was for the authorization. Miss Lynne McTaggart said that the site expects to make the submission before the end of this calendar year.

Mr Kenny MacDougall asked Mr Byron Tilly if SEPA ever carry out any unplanned inspections. Mr Byron Tilly said that this is very rare and that the majority of areas that they would inspect cannot be improved upon in a short space of time.

Mr Kenny MacDougall said he believes that SEPA should be able to turn up at Hunterston A Site and reports should be there ready for them and that prior notice of an inspection should not be required. Miss Lynne McTaggart said that although the site is given notice, they are not made aware of what areas SEPA will be covering and to what extent.

Mr Roach added that often SEPA take samples of the land from Hunterston A Site without the site knowing this.

Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick asked Mr Roach about the separation of Magnox into two separate SLCs (Site Licensed Companies). Mr Roach explained that there is now Magnox South and Magnox North, of which Hunterston A Site is part of. Each company will be responsible for five sites each.

Mrs Rita Holmes asked what the benefits were of the split. Mr Roach explained that with there only being five sites instead of ten it has brought a greater sense of closeness between Hunterston A Site and the other four Magnox North Sites.

Mrs Rita Holmes wanted to know if it was true that EnergySolutions had suggested the possibility of taking Hunterston A Site's reactors to America. Mr Roach said that he could not

answer this but added that EnergySolutions have big ideas and they are looking at every possibility.

Mr Kenny MacDougall asked where EnergySolutions are based. Mr Roach told him that it was Saltlake City, Utah, then suggested that he brought a presentation on them to the next main meeting of the SSG.

NII Report

There was no representation from NII at the meeting.

5. HUNTERSTON B REPORTS

Strategic Outage Manager John Morrison, deputising for Station Director Tom Ungi, chaired the Hunterston B report. This is a summary on what was reported.

John Morrison introduced himself to the members of the SSG and reported to the group on Hunterston issues from the period 1 May 07 to 31 July 07.

- **Outage completed and successful return to service**

Mr Morrison advised that Reactor 3 was successfully synchronised and reconnected to the National Grid at 12.46 hours on 30 May 07, following extensive maintenance programme. He quoted Bill Coley, CEO of British Energy, who had publicly praised the work and dedication of all involved.

- **White Paper – BERR consultation**

Mr Morrison reported that the UK Government Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) were consulting on new nuclear and its future involvement in energy provision in the UK. He encouraged SSG members to take the opportunity to fully participate in the local consultation meeting which takes place on September 25th at the Brisbane House Hotel in Largs.

- **Financial Results Quarter 1**

Total output was lower than the comparable period last year due to later return to service and lower output from Hunterston B and Hinkley Point stations.

- **Industrial Safety**

Industrial safety continues to remain a high priority at Hunterston B, with only one lost time accident to report during this period. Manual handling safety sessions have been held for staff.

- **People**

Hunterston B continues to support the local community with employment opportunities. Mr Morrison reported that six apprentices had joined the company in September for a 4-year apprenticeship. On successful completion of their training they would be employed by the company as full-time members of staff.

- **Community**

Mr Morrison introduced Stuart McGhie, as the newly appointed Community Relations Officer for Hunterston B Power Station. Stuart's role will involve actively communicating with the local communities on behalf of British Energy, working closely with Yvonne White, Regional Public Relations Officer (Scotland).

- **Charity and community contributions**

Mr Morrison reviewed the list of donations for the year from Hunterston B staff to Ayrshire Hospice which amounted to £25,000. Other contributions included a donation of skills and time by a number of British Energy staff, and a donation of £100 to the Rotary Club of Hunterston.

Mr Andy Taylor had to leave meeting and was unable to provide comment on environmental and radiological safety issues. Mr Morrison summarised the report from points 9. Environment, to point 10.4 District survey.

- **Emergency Preparedness**

Miss White advised that the planned visit to Hunterston Strategic Co-ordination Centre at Prestwick had been cancelled due to lack of response. Interest was raised at the meeting for a visit on November 20th, to coincide with next SSG meeting. Miss White advised that she would take this action forward and update the members as soon as possible if this was possible.

- **NII report**

There was no representation from NII at the meeting.

- **SEPA Report**

No notes.

- **Question and Answer (B Station)**

Mr Ivor Roscoe questioned the stability and security of the railtrack between Largs and West Kilbride, which acts as a transport line for fuel flasks to and from Hunterston B Power Station.

It was noted that the level of traffic using that railway line has increased above what it was originally intended to carry, and that this could compromise the safe transportation of fuel flasks.

British Energy took the action to contact Network Rail, as owners of that railway line, and ask for a response to the query.

Mrs Holmes and Mr McDougall both questioned the security arrangements around Hunterston B, and queried the responsibilities of local police and Civil Nuclear Constabulary. British Energy took an action to provide a separate forum where the issues surrounding security of the station would be discussed in full.

Mrs Holmes raised the issue of Potassium Iodate Tablets, and queried why tablets were not issued to those living on the route of the transported fuel. British Energy

took this as an action to provide a separate forum where the issues surrounding emergency planning and DEPZ zones/distribution of Potassium Iodate Tablets would be discussed in full.

Mrs Holmes and Mr MacDougall both enquired as to what qualifications Mr Stuart McGhie had to make him the best candidate for the role of Community Liason Officer, and the timing of this appointment by British Energy. It was proposed by Mrs Holmes that the appointment was 'propaganda' as it coincided with the BERR consultation on the future of nuclear as part of the UK's energy mix. British Energy advised that the Community Liason programme was a new proactive approach to improving relationships with the wider community, but that community liaison work had been undertaken for a number of years by the regional public relations officers and station staff in a variety of ways.

6. HUNTERSTON A SITE END STATE UPDATE

Mr John Lamb explained that he and SSG Secretariat Mr Adam McNelis attended an End State meeting hosted by the NDA. The meeting allowed the SSGs from each site to give clarifications on the wording of the End State agreements and for the NDA to give an update on the End State process.

Mr John Lamb explained that the only clarification required from Hunterston A Site was regarding the Scottish Government's policy on waste.

Mr Stuart Chalmers said that the NDA have accepted the End State that Hunterston A Site submitted but until the government waste policy issue is resolved no one knows how this could potentially affect the End State.

Mrs Elizabeth Gray said that the Scottish Government are working with all the regulators to explore all of the implications of recent announcement concerning geological disposal in Scotland and once any decisions are made they will be available to the public.

7. DATE/VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was agreed as 20th November 2007 at 2pm in the Seamill Hydro Hotel, Seamill.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Kenny MacDougall expressed his concern at the lack of representation from the local authorities at SSG meetings, especially with regards to the Police as he feels the security of both sites is of paramount importance.

Mr John Lamb announced that there will have to be the setting up of a sub-group for Socio-Economic matters.

Mr Stuart McGhie asked the meeting if it would be better if people submitted their questions before the meeting to allow those required to answer the questions to get as much information as possible ready to answer the questions.

Both Mr Kenny MacDougall and Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick explained that this had been tried before and did not work.

9. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

There were no questions from the public.

Chairman Mr John Lamb concluded the meeting and thanked all of those present for attending.

Mr John Lamb
SSG Chair