



## Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

THE ELEVENTH HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2007 IN THE SEAMILL HYDRO HOTEL, SEAMILL.

### **Present**

#### **Hunterston Estate**

Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick (Deputy Chair)  
Mr Ralston Rider

#### **British Energy**

Mr Tom Ungi  
Mr Andy Taylor  
Ms Yvonne White  
Ms Anne Bradley

#### **Community Councillors**

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

#### **Magnox North**

Mr Peter Roach  
Mr Rueben Phillips  
Mr Adam McNelis  
Mr Tony Bale

#### **NHS**

Mr Allan Penman

#### **Scottish Government Radioactive Waste Team**

Mrs Emma Cooke

#### **Ayrshire & Arran Health Board**

Mrs Lorrette Dunlop

#### **SEPA**

Mr Karl Littlewood  
Mr Keith Hammond

#### **National Farmers Union**

Mr Daniel Reid

#### **Nuclear Decommissioning Authority**

Mr Keith Riding

#### **Nuclear Installations Inspectorate**

Mr Peter Ford

#### **SSG Community Members**

Mr Ivor Roscoe  
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, Councillor Robert Barr, North Ayrshire Council, Mr Hugh McGhee, North Ayrshire Council, and Mr John Robertson, SSG Community Member.

### **1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

Chairman John Lamb welcomed everyone to the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Hunterston (Site Stakeholder Group) SSG.

### **2. MINUTES of the 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007**

Mr Kenny MacDougall was unhappy with the wording used on page 13 regarding the discussion about Mr Hugh McGhie's appointment to a new community role within British Energy. Mr Kenny MacDougall felt that it was not a fair reflection of the conversation that took place. Mrs Rita Holmes added that she did not like the use of the word "appropriateness". It was agreed that the minutes would be amended, the sentence now reads "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 Liaison Officer, and the timing of this appointment by British Energy."

Mrs Rita Holmes highlighted a comment that had been attributed to her which had been made by Mr Ivor Roscoe. The minutes have been corrected.

No other issues were raised and the minutes were agreed.

### **3. CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr John Lamb had received no correspondences since the last meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2007. Mr Adam McNelis read out the apologies that had been submitted.

### **4. HUNTERSTON A SITE REPORTS**

Hunterston A Site Director, Mr Peter 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 75 months without a lost time accident and the site is very happy with this achievement.

The site SEEP (Safety and environment enhancement plan) is on schedule. The site sets itself targets and is committed to delivering continuous improvement via the Hunterston A Site SEEP.

Representatives from Hunterston A Site attended the annual RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) Award Ceremony and Gala Ball. The site was delighted to receive a Gold Achievement Award for 2007.

Progress continues to be generally good at Hunterston A Site. The site is slightly behind where it should be in terms of delivery of planned work, however, it is important to note that a corner has been turned in the past couple of months. The site measures its performance on what is called a SPI (Schedule Performance Indicator), it was sitting at 0.88 in August and is now at 0.91. When the SPI reaches 1 it will mean that the site has achieved everything it has set out to do for the year, Mr Roach is confident that the site will have an SPI close to 1 by the end of the financial year.

Mr Roach explained that at the 20<sup>th</sup> September meeting of the SSG there had been a request for more information on the projects currently underway at Hunterston A Site. The Hunterston

A Site Information Day was held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2007 which allowed members of the SSG to view presentations and ask questions regarding all the most current work on site.

#### **ILW Store**

Mr Roach informed the meeting that all of the construction is largely complete, there is work underway to resolve some issues with the hoist arrangements and commissioning for the ILW Store is now expected to finish in mid February.

#### **Fuel Routes**

Mr Roach added that commissioning of Pond Skip removal equipment is now in progress with full operation anticipated some time in December.

A plan to prove the arrangements for pond clean up by carrying out a demonstration has been endorsed and is now being worked up.

Work to de-plant the irradiated fuel transfer tunnels has been completed.

#### **Land Quality Management**

With most of the site characterisation data available, the main work now is assessment of the site to identify the optimum approach to long term management. Action to secure the foreshore area of the site in front of the Very Low Level Waste pits is progressing well with work due complete on target by early December. This will help protect the foreshore from erosion and also make it look a lot tidier. Some consideration is being given to the advantages of implementing early work to improve and upgrade the site drains discharge route.

#### **Solid ILW Retrieval and Encapsulation**

A contract has been placed for the design and provision of equipment to retrieve the solid ILW material currently stored in the Solid Active Waste Bunkers and place it in disposal boxes. In addition a plan for the encapsulation of the retrieved solids has been endorsed and is being worked up. The contract offer and encapsulation plan include programmes of work which meet the Improvement Notice placed on the site by the HSE.

#### **Wet ILW**

A contract has been placed for the design and provision of equipment to retrieve and encapsulate Wet ILW in disposal drums. Most of the ILW material in sludge form is currently stored in concrete tanks and other material is in steel tanks.

#### **Temporary Weather Barrier**

Work has started to replace the existing reactor glazing system with a temporary weather barrier. A demonstration area, consisting of approximately 3 facets on the north-west side of Reactor 2 building, is being undertaken prior to a larger demonstration of around a further 4 facets in the same area and, if methods and costs prove acceptable, eventually to a complete replacement.

#### **Modular Active Effluent Treatment Plant (MAETP)**

The MAETP is now being prepared for active commissioning. The MAETP will enable Hunterston A Site to clean its pond water before its eventual discharge.

### **OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

All planned maintenance has been completed on time. There has been no specific issue to report during this period.

### **PEOPLE**

Implementation of the new Employee Agreement continues with monthly reviews taking place to record achievements and develop staff.

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

Mr Roach is very happy with the level of morale on site, 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. This indicates that Hunterston A Site staff are fit, enthusiastic, motivated and committed.

Staff Development continues in-house, on job training and secondments. A number of departments have commenced their annual teambuilding events which promote good team working and communication amongst the relative teams and department.

Mr Roach handed over to acting Health Physics Manager, Mr Rueben Phillips for the Environmental, Radiological and Emergency Preparedness Reports.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

#### **Solid Radioactive Discharges**

No solid radioactive waste discharges have been made from the site since April. Discharges over the 12 month period from November 2006 to October 2007 equate to 234 m<sup>3</sup>, this represents to 39% of our authorised disposal limit. Radioactive nuclide content of this waste was all below authorised limits. The main contributions to the waste consignments were from decommissioning projects such as de-planting of the Precipitator Tower, Fuel Tunnels and hot and cold gas ducts in the reactor buildings.

#### **Liquid Radioactive Discharges**

Liquid radioactive discharges during the period October 2006 to September 2007 were made at levels that represent less than 6.2 % for total beta, 0.005 % for Plutonium-241, 0.06 % for Tritium and 0.22 % for total alpha. The main contributions to the discharges were from misc. sources on the site, predominantly plant wash-down activities and filter backwashes.

#### **Gaseous Radioactive Discharges**

Gaseous radioactive discharges during the period October 2006 to September 2007 were made at levels that represent less than 8.7 % for Tritium, 9.55 % for Carbon-14 and 0.55 % for Beta particulate. The main contributions to the discharges were from ventilation systems operating in contamination controlled areas and reactor vessel 'breathing'.

#### **Non-radiological Environmental update.**

Environmental protection activities since the last SSG meeting have centred around the surveillance 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.

The site Environmental Committee continues to meet every three months and continues to review ways of promoting environmental awareness on the site. Six people have enrolled on an Open University Course entitled 'Introducing the Environment' which commenced on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007.

The site is currently developing a specification for a biodiversity action plan.

## **RADIOLOGICAL SAFETY**

### **Dose Management and Contamination Control**

Doses for the calendar year 2007 (up to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007) are as follows;

- Employees received a collective dose of 17.483 man.mSv;
- Contractors received a collective dose of 29.584 man.mSv;
- The highest individual dose received by an employee was 2.032 mSv;
- The highest individual dose received by a contractor was 1.312 mSv.

The majority of the dose has been accrued by personnel involved in the de-planting of the Precipitator Tower, Fuel Tunnels, Hot and cold gas ducts in the reactor buildings and Skip Cleaning operations. All doses in these projects were prior-assessed, planned and tracked throughout the project durations.

### **Contamination Control**

In the period September to October 2007 there were 3 radiological minor events involving contamination incidents. One of these events involved the discovery of low levels of contamination out-with the Radiological Controlled Area (but on the licensed site). The contamination detected in all incidents was through the use of fully-trained staff, site procedures and engineering controls.

## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

The training programme for staff with emergency posts is being delivered, with an emergency training exercise being held each month.

Emergency Arrangements staff continue to attend company emergency arrangements seminars and joint seminars with British Energy. This allows each site to learn from each other and help improve emergency arrangements.

Work is progressing for the planning for the Hunterston A Site level 2 demonstration exercise which will take place on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2008. This will be a demonstration of the off-site emergency plan to the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

Hunterston local emergency services forum held on site on 28/9/07. This is a joint meeting between Magnox North, British Energy and local liaison officers from the 3 emergency services, where training, exercises, emergency plans etc are discussed. This was the first of these meetings and the proposal is to hold the meeting every six months.

Mr Rueben Phillips concluded his section of the report.

### **OTHER ISSUES**

Since the last meeting of the SSG the NDA have appointed a new Site Programme Manager to oversee our performance, Mr Roach introduced Mr Keith Riding and welcomed him to the site. Mr Stuart Chalmers has a new role at Dounreay.

### **FUTURE PLANS**

Construction of the Life Time Plan (LTP) 2008 continues to be challenging. The next plan will be our best yet and we continue to work hard with key stakeholders to achieve the best possible outcome in terms of funding and genuine hazard reduction of the site.

### **NATIONAL MATTERS THAT LINK TO HUNTERSTON A SITE**

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) published its draft Business Plan for 2008 to 2011 on 7 November. The plan is subject to consultation and outlines the key challenges and priorities. Consultation will close on 31 January 2008.

### **PA/PR ACTIVITIES / CHARITABLE DONATIONS**

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

Mr Roach concluded the Hunterston A Site report.

Chairman, Mr John Lamb asked if there were any questions on the Hunterston A Site report.

### **QUESTIONS**

Mr Kenny MacDougall wished to have more information on the 3 radiological minor events involving contamination incidents. Mr Rueben Phillips explained that he only had information on the most recent incident and that he would have to provide information on the other 2 incidents to the SSG at a later date. The most recent incident was minor contamination being found 2-3 feet outside the RCA (Radiological Controlled Area) fence in the compound of the ILW (Intermediate Level Waste) Store. The level of contamination was not significant, however it is Hunterston A Site's policy to report such incidents regardless.

Details of the two other radiological minor events:

**Reactor 2 Vault Exit Building:** An empty plastic drum with contaminated internals was being incorrectly stored in clean area (but within the RCA). The contaminated internals were found when the drum was size-reduced prior to monitoring - part of agreed site procedures to determine the disposal route for the drum.

**Active Effluent Treatment Plant:** Elevated contamination levels were found around an access manhole into an underground active sludge tank. The contamination is likely to be from the last sludge sampling exercise from this tank. The access manhole is within a contamination controlled area. Decontamination has been arranged.

Subsequent SSG reports will have a brief summary of events in the form of a table.

Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick asked where the solid ILW bunkers were on site. Mr Roach replied that they are situated between the two reactors on the south side, they are above ground and sectioned into 5 compartments. These bunkers stored Hunterston A Site's ILW during its generating phase.

Mrs Rita Holmes asked how seriously Hunterston A Site takes contamination being found outwith the RCA. Mr Roach said that Hunterston A Site has done an extensive amount of characterisation and takes contamination matters very seriously. The site has a lot of knowledge in this area.

Mrs Rita Holmes asked if it was alpha that was found. Mr Rueben Phillips said that it was gamma.

Mr Daniel Reid, NFU (National Farmers Union), wanted clarity on whether or not there was potential for off site contamination given that Hunterston A Site is participating in an off site exercise on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Mr Roach said that although extremely unlikely, there is the potential for an off site radiological incident.

Mr Roach expanded on this point by saying that both he and B Station Site Director, Mr Tom Ungi are required to provide plans for any potential emergencies relating to their site. Hunterston A Site's potential hazards are being reduced all the time as the site continues its decommissioning work.

Mr Roach said that during the off site exercise, the numerous bodies present will run through all the possible scenarios and members of the public present will have the opportunity to ask questions. With regards to the NFU Mr Roach expects there to be advisors present who can answer questions and address any of their concerns on the day.

Mr Peter Ford, NII (Nuclear Installations Inspectorate) said that every site has a site emergency in place and they are tested to make sure they do what they are intended to do.

Mr Daniel Reid said that he has been present at a level 3 exercise in 1999 and witnessed several gaps in the emergency plan relating to agriculture.

Mr Roach said that if there are any gaps then they should be resolved.

Mr Peter Ford said that he is happy to take a question back (to NII head quarters).

Mr Tom Ungi wished to confirm what Mr Roach had said by explaining that both sites have to have certain emergency arrangements in place as part of the site licence requirements and if there are any gaps they should be filled as both himself and Mr Roach take this matter very seriously.

Mrs Rita Holmes asked what projects will Hunterston A Site have to accomplish before the first package can be put in the ILW Store in 2010. Mr Roach said the principle project is the removal of the solid ILW from the bunkers. Once removed, the waste will have to be encapsulated, the facility required to do this will be completed in 2009.

Mrs Rita Holmes asked if this work is expected to be completed on time and have the NII given their approval. Mr Roach said he expects the work to be done on schedule and that the site is working closely with the NII, the work thus far has been approved and he sees no reason why this should change.

Mrs Rita Holmes asked why the waste was being removed from the side of the bunkers rather than the roof. Mr Roach explained that Hunterston A Site has more ILW than other Magnox North Sites and unlike those sites Hunterston A Site's bunkers are above ground.

Mrs Rita Holmes asked if the discharges will significantly increase during the pond skip removal. Mr Roach said that there will not be a substantial increase in the amount of discharges into the environment, the water used in the ponds will be treated through the MEATP (Modular Active Effluent Treatment Plant) before eventual discharge into the River Clyde. There will be discharges as the site continues its work but they will be agreed with the site's regulators before they are embarked upon.

Mrs Rita Holmes asked when Mr Roach expects the first discharges from the ponds into the River Clyde to take place. Mr Roach said that he expects these discharges to occur between 2010 and 2011, although he would like to bring the date forward if possible.

Mrs Holmes asked if there are any plans for an epidemiology study to see what effects these discharges into the River Clyde have on the local community. Mr Roach said that with regards to Mrs Rita Holmes' question the answer is no, Hunterston A Site has been making discharges into the River Clyde for 40 years, Hunterston B have also started doing this and there is no evidence to suggest that there are any problems with the discharges.

Mrs Rita Holmes asked if there will be more contamination in the discharges now that the site is decommissioning and added that she was surprised that there was not a study being carried out to ascertain if there had been any effects. Mr Roach said that this point was raised a few meetings ago and the meeting was informed then that the discharges will be agreed by a regulatory body and that samples are taken every year from the surrounding islands with no evidence of any danger resulting from the work at Hunterston A Site or Hunterston B.

Mr Tony Bale asked Mr Roach what his first impressions of the NDA's 3 year draft financial plan were and what effect it may have on the Hunterston A Site Lifetime Plan. Mr Roach said that as discussed in the last SSG meeting the NDA are focussing on the prioritisation of hazards. The two sites in the UK with the highest volumes of hazards are Sellafield and Dounreay, there is a possibility that there will be a reduction in the amount of funding at other sites with lesser hazards to meet the demands of these two sites. The 3 year financial plan is still only a draft and is out for consultation and Mr Roach would suggest that all members of the SSG take part in this process. In terms of immediate finance for Hunterston A Site there is significantly more money available next year than there was this year and the site has been told to continue all its planned work.

Mr Keith Riding reiterated Mr Roach's point that it is a matter of prioritisation and that the strategy of focussing on high hazard sites was agreed with stakeholders throughout the UK.

Mr Keith Riding added that throwing money at a problem does not guarantee that it will fix it. The NDA will work with all the sites and stakeholders over the next 12 months to come to a conclusion on what direction to take with regards to future funding.

Mr Tony Bale asked why did the SSG take the time to carry out a Site End State consultation if there is a significant chance that funding will be cut and the Site End State report will be delayed. Mr Keith Riding said that it would be wrong to presume that any dialogue with the

SSG has not been considered, reiterating that the financial plan is in a very early stage and there are numerous possibilities.

Mr Roach wished to add that the End State is unlikely to be altered although there may be a change of date of when it is achieved. The work done by the SSG is still valued, it may be concluded on a different timescale.

Mr Kenny MacDougall said that he has been a member of the SSG for 2 years and has attended numerous meetings on their behalf, and yet after all this time he has still to hear what is to be done with the waste. Mr Kenny MacDougall stressed that he believes this is the key issue, he wants to know what all the money is being spent on when the matter of what will happen to all the waste has not been resolved.

Mr Keith Riding said that in order to deal with the hazards at Sellafield and Dounreay other infrastructure has to be built similarly to the ILW Store at Hunterston A Site. Many of these sites were built many years ago and full consideration was not given to their legacy. Waste will be kept in temporary storage until a national repository becomes available. It is better to have the waste in storage.

Mr Kenny MacDougall asked if the timescale for decommissioning at Hunterston A Site will keep changing. Mr Keith Riding said that the NDA's overall strategy has not changed, there has been a blip in the funding and the NDA have to manage that the best they can.

Mr Kenny MacDougall said that although the site's funding is secure for 12 months, not a lot of decommissioning can be achieved in that time and that he was concerned what would happen there after. Mr Keith Riding reiterated that nothing has yet been decided and the draft plan is out for consultation.

#### **NII HUNTERSTON A SITE REPORT**

Mr Peter Ford read through the key points of his report. In October HSE specialists inspected the Temporary Weather Barrier and they were satisfied with the site's arrangements.

There were no questions asked.

#### **SEPA HUNTERSTON A SITE REPORT**

Mr Karl Littlewood read through the key points of his report. SEPA carried out a pre-commissioning visit of the ILW Store and looked at the development of MAETP (Modular Active Effluent Treatment Plant) commissioning.

In the last period SEPA issued Hunterston A Site with a Final Warning Letter relating to discharge data. After an investigation it was determined that monitoring equipment was the cause of the incorrect data, which was detected by Hunterston A Site's own routine checks.

Mr Kenny MacDougall questioned the wording of "Final Written Warning Letter" when it was the first letter sent to the site regarding this matter. He felt the wording used was harsh. Mr Karl Littlewood explained that it is part of SEPA terminology.

Mr Roach highlighted that it was Hunterston A Site who detected the problem and informed SEPA.

Mr Peter McFarlane asked where about on site was the faulty monitoring equipment. Mr Roach said the reactor buildings.

## 5. **ENERGYSOLUTIONS PRESENTATION**

Mr Roach gave a presentation on Hunterston A Site's new parent company.

EnergySolutions has integrated the capabilities of six proven companies:

- Safeguard International Solutions limited
- BNG America
- Scientech D&D
- Envirocare of Utah
- Duratek
- Reactor Sites Management Company

EnergySolutions are a publicly quoted company, they were floated on the New York Stock Exchange in November 2007.

EnergySolutions have operations and offices in the US, UK, Canada, Mexico, Japan and China with their headquarters based in Saltlake City, Utah.

EnergySolutions manage over 5000 employees and have a turnover of over £1,750 million per annum.

EnergySolutions have clear focus on the nuclear sector for complete fuel cycle solutions. They are the owner and operator of nuclear facilities in the US and UK and are supported by technical expertise and state-of-the-art resources.

EnergySolutions prides itself on the following four core values:

- Highest standards of safety
- Environmental safety
- Operational efficiency
- Innovative solutions

What makes EnergySolutions different:

- Integrated company focussed on the nuclear market
- Strong financial backing, ownership and operations of nuclear facilities
- Long-term commitment to communities we work in
- Engrained safety and quality culture; commitment to regulatory compliance
- Turnkey capability for delivery of major projects and full service waste management

EnergySolutions is the leading provider of speciality transportation and logistics services:

- Over 28 years of safe nuclear transportation experience
- Annual average of 14,000 shipments and 8 million miles
- Transportation logistics via road, rail and water
- Excellent safety record – maintains satisfactory highway safety rating, which is the highest rating issued by the Department of Transport.
- Since 1996, moved over 75 large used radioactive components, including boilers (steam generators) and reactor Vessels.

EnergySolutions owns and maintains the largest fleet of shielded flasks:

- 67 licensed shielded shipping flasks
- Regulatory approved QA programme with rigorous inspection, maintenance and repair programme assures safety and compliance
- Design and Licensing of new flasks
- IAEA IP1 and IP2 qualified

Mr Roach concluded his presentation and asked the meeting if there were any questions.

Mrs Rita Holmes asked if the regulators in the USA are as robust as they are in the UK. Mr Roach said that they are as equally concerned with safety and are bigger in terms of technical back-up.

Mrs Rita Holmes asked if in the UK it is legal to smelt nuclear waste. Mr Roach confirmed that it is legal as long as a safety case and the correct authorisations are in place, it has been done at Capenhurst.

## 6. HUNTERSTON B REPORTS

**Mr Tom Ungi, Station Director presented the B Station Report. This is a summary of what was reported.**

- **Safety**

Mr Ungi reiterated that safety continued to be a fundamental priority for B Station. He reported that as at 20<sup>th</sup> November, the station had gone 167 days since last lost time accident; 304 days since contractors last lost time accident and 182 days since an environmental event.

- **Financial Results**

Generation had been lower during the period; however profits were higher due to the increase in electricity prices.

- **Energy White Paper – BERR consultation**

The consultation had now been concluded. Mr Ungi advised the meeting that British Energy believes it has a significant role to play with regard to how energy is created and used in the United Kingdom.

- **Upcoming Outages**

There are two outages ahead in 2008. These will commence in February and will continue into the early part of the summer months. The workforce will be increased by a large number of people coming into the area to work on the outages.

- **Lifetime Extension**

The decision on life extension of Hunterston B will be made by the British Energy Board before the end of March 2008.

- **Equipment Reliability and Management of Work Assist visits**

The workforce at Hunterston B would be joined by a team of specialists from across the British Energy sites which would assist in the review of Equipment Reliability and Management of

Work plans. Mr Ungi informed the meeting that British Energy were investing circa £400M into their plants, of which Hunterston had received a significant share.

**Mr Ungi handed over to Mr Andy Taylor who summarised the environmental and radiological safety issues.**

• **Environment**

During the period there were no reportable environmental events. Further to the problems reported at the last meeting with the sewage plant, a project has been set up which will include re-lining some portions of the foul drain system to prevent recurrence of the sewage spill event.

Progress on the Station 'special waste' storage area has been made in the period and this will enable the safe storage of conventional chemical and oil based wastes pending off site disposal using specialist contractors.

Progress is being made on the projects associated with Oil Storage Regulations which involve material condition enhancements to the storage and handling equipment for fuel oil and lubricating oil across the site.

The final documentation and procedures associated with EMITS are now being progressed - these support maintenance work on environmentally significant plant.

• **Radiological Safety**

Mr Taylor advised that the highest doses during the calendar year 2007, to the end of September for a member of station staff had been 4.387mSv and for a contractor 5.772mSv.

The station upgraded their radiation dosimetry system on 14 June, 2007. The new EPD2 dosimeter is lighter, more robust and more reliable than its mark 1 predecessor. Development work is currently underway to utilise the EPD2 as a telemetric dosimeter. This will allow remote monitoring and enhanced control of personal radiation dose during high dose rate work, such as reactor vessel entries.

• **Contamination Control**

Mr Taylor reported that during the period 01 August 2007 to 15 October 2007 inclusive there have been 5 occasions when small quantities of radioactivity have been found outside contamination controlled areas, and 10 minor personal contamination events. In all cases contamination was detected by routine monitoring and there was no spread of contamination out from the Radiological Controlled Area.

• **Radioactive Discharges**

A full height ISO container of drummed waste was consigned to Drigg at the end of July 2007. The consignment was subjected BNFL Level 2 verification monitoring at Drigg and found to be fully compliant.

At the end of the period two half height ISO container of uncompactable solid low level waste were transferred to Drigg.

The most significant gaseous discharge is that of Carbon-14 which, at 615 GBq from October 2006 to September 2007, was 13.7 % of the RSA93 authorised limit of 4500GBq. Tritium in

liquid discharges, at 41.6 TBq over the same period, were 6 % of the 700 TBq RSA93 authorised limit. All other radioactive discharges from the station remain well below the levels authorised by SEPA.

There had been no transfers of wet and oily waste off site during the period.

- **Industrial Safety**

No lost time accidents had been reported during the period.

### **Mr Taylor handed back to Mr Ungi**

- **People**

Mr Ungi stated that Hunterston B employed people from a variety of disciplines from engineering to occupational health and was committed to creating an environment of continuous learning ensuring that staff can fulfil their potential. Staff turnover rate is relatively low indicating employees think British Energy is a good employer and Hunterston is a good place to work.

As well as employing permanent British Energy staff, the station employed a number of contractors and work in partnership with them to ensure continued production of safe, reliable electricity.

- **Community**

Mr Ungi re-emphasised British Energy and Hunterston B's commitment to engage with the local community, schools, colleges, universities as well as local businesses. The company recognised the importance of having the support of the local community.

Mr Ungi advised that the company's Talk Service had been re-launched and number of experienced staff who were members of this service were already actively involved with the local schools as part of the national curriculum.

- **Charity and Community Contributions**

Mr Ungi reviewed the list of donations for the year from Hunterston B staff to Ayrshire Hospice which amounted to £25,000+ , this figure will be matched by the company bringing the total to over £50,000. A number of individuals have been sponsored by the company e.g. Jonathan Stocking who has been sponsored to the tune of £350 for his safety equipment.

- **Emergency Preparedness**

A visit by SSG members to Hunterston's off-site emergency centre at Prestwick airport took place today, prior to this meeting.

- **SEPA Report**

Mr Hammond reported on a site inspection carried out on 27<sup>th</sup> September and noted improvements required to be made to the radioactive oil storage facilities. A programme of work to improve these facilities is a high priority in the Station improvement plan. A number of ongoing issues both RSA related and conventional environmental were progressed during the period.

- **NII Report**

There was no representative available from the NII to speak to this report.

**Question and Answer (B Station)**

Mr MacDougall asked what role the NDA played in the life extension of B station. Mr Ungi responded that the NDA had to be satisfied that the operating of the plant with the increase in liabilities, does not outweigh the benefits of British Energy's life extension of the plant.

Mr MacDougall asked if the station was experiencing problems with the cold water ingress pipe. Mr Ungi responded that there ongoing seasonal problems with seawater and jelly fish, however there were counter-measures in place to deal with this and the problem was being managed well.

Mr MacDougall asked if random drug and alcohol tests were being performed on the workforce at the station. Mr Ungi responded in the affirmative and Mr Roach also confirmed that random tests were undertaken at A station.

Mrs Holmes asked what role the NII and SEPA had in the life extension of the plant. Mr Ungi responded that the NII have recently endorsed the station's periodic Safety Reviews up till 2017. The NII and SEPA do not have any formal input into Plant Life Time Extension decisions. However, the NII have to be satisfied that Hunterston B continues to operate within the Safety Cases. They do have the power to shut Hunterston B down if they are not satisfied at any time. The NII have to be satisfied that the plant is operating in a safe manner to allow it to continue to operate.

Mr Roscoe asked if there was anything else available that would fill the gap if British Energy closed the plant in 2011. Mr Ungi said there had been an occasion recently when such shortages in supply meant that there were risks some people may have had to be taken off the grid. He also said that "renewables" were still quite a long way off.

Mr Macfarlane asked if all the tubes had been repaired and if there continued to be problems in the same areas as previously. Mr Ungi advised that not all the tubes had been repaired but the mechanism which was leading to these cracks had been switched off. The further defects would be dealt with at the next outage which commences in February 2008.

Mr Frame asked if the unplanned outages were related to voltage control equipment. Mr Ungi advised that these problems were instrumentation based and have been resolved.

Mr Lamb asked if there was an intention, with the plant not running at full power that the SEPA authorisation would change. Mr Ungi responded that at this stage the SEPA authorisation is still based on the plant running at 100%.

Mr Lamb requested that the SEPA report should reflect that there had been inspections of the plant, regardless as to whether there was anything to report from these inspections or not. Mr Hammond undertook an action to ensure this was reported in future.

Mrs Holmes asked if emissions were monitored from burning waste oil at the plant, how they were checked to ensure they were within the limits. Mr Taylor advised that prior to burning of waste oil taking place, a detailed analysis of the activity to be discharged is made. Detailed information has been provided to the SSG on a number of occasions in respect of the waste oil burner however, if there was any further information required, the station would be happy to respond to a written request from the SSG.

A member of the public asked if the station carried out an analysis of the oil before it is burned and is there any monitoring of what is going up the stack. Mr Taylor advised that the oil, goes through a purification process and is sampled and analysed for radioactive content as part of the treatment process. There is no specific monitoring of the stack as all of the activity within the oil is effectively discharged by the burning process and reported as discharged as per the SEPA authorisation for the process.

#### **7. DATE/VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was agreed as 20th March 2008 at 2pm.

Mr John Lamb also announced that all meetings in 2008 would be held in the afternoon.

#### **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Peter MacFarlane asked for an update on the feasibility study concerning Chapelcross's waste being held in Hunterston A Site's ILW Store. Mr Roach explained that a study has concluded that this is possible but there are several hurdles to overcome before this could ever happen. The site will be meeting with the NII, SEPA and various other bodies to discuss this matter over the coming months.

Mr Kenny MacDougall asked if it is the intention of the site to revisit the planning permission for the ILW Store, adding that he finds it disturbing that this matter has not been concluded. He feels as though the views of the local community, who are strongly against ILW from other sites coming to Ayrshire are being ignored. Mr Roach explained that before this could ever happen there would have to be numerous issues resolved and dialogue with the community.

Mr Roach added that Hunterston A Site already has a store, the feasibility study is about saving Scottish tax payers money (estimated £19m - £20m).

Mr Kenny MacDougall said that the store was built for Hunterston A Site's waste only and does not see why that should be changed, adding that his primary concern is that it will start a trend whereby sites throughout the UK start sending their waste to Ayrshire.

Mr Roach said that he cannot speculate on the future use of the ILW Store.

#### **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**