

Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

**THE NINTH HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 28TH JUNE 2007 IN THE BRISBANE HOUSE HOTEL, LARGS.**

Present

North Ayrshire Council

Councillor Robert Barr
Mr Hugh McGhee

British Energy

Mr Tom Ungi
Mrs Sue Fletcher
Ms Anne Bradley
Ms Marianne Carlin
Ms Yvonne White
Mr Andy Taylor
Mr Stuart McGhie

Community Councillors

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

British Nuclear Group

Mr Peter Roach
Miss Lynne McTaggart (A Site Specialist)
Mrs Alyson Russell-Stevenson
Mr Adam McNelis

Hunterston Estate

Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick (Deputy Chair)

Nuclear Installations Inspectorate

Mr Peter Ford
Mr David Shepherd

SEPA

Mr Byron Tilly
Mr Keith Hammond

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 Tony Bale, Hunterston A Union Rep, Mr Richard Wilkinson, SSG Community Member, Mrs Lorrette Gilmour, Ayrshire & Arran Health Board, Ms Elizabeth Gray, Scottish Executive, Ms Elizabeth Rose, Animal Health Welfare, and Dr Karl Littlewood, SEPA.

1. **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

Chairman Mr John Lamb welcomed everyone to the ninth meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group.

The Chairman announced that since the last main meeting of the SSG on 22nd March 2007 the approved amended constitution had been issued to all members.

There were two visits to Hunterston A for members of the SSG on 3rd May 2007 and 31st May 2007 which proved very useful to those members who attended.

The information that Mrs Rita Holmes requested relating to the Very Low Level Waste Pits has been issued to everyone.

The NDA have set up an online consultation where members of the public can log on and contribute.

Chairman John Lamb introduced the new NDA representative Mr Stuart Chalmers, explaining that he has taken up the role previously occupied by Mr Randall Bargelt.

Chairman John Lamb welcomed the representatives in attendance from CEFAS.

2. **MINUTES of the 22nd March 2007**

Mr Peter Ford of the NII highlighted that it had not been recorded in the minutes from the last meeting on 22nd March 2007 that he was in attendance. The minutes have been amended. There were no other issues raised and the minutes were agreed.

3. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr Adam McNelis confirmed that there had been no correspondents since the last SSG meeting.

4. **HUNTERSTON A SITE REPORTS**

Mr Peter Roach, Hunterston A Site Director, introduced himself then explained that before he commenced with the Hunterston A Site report he would like to discuss an article that had been published in the Largs & Millport Weekly News titled "Employee slams working practices at Hunterston A", the author of which had invited Mr Roach to respond via the press in a public forum about the issues raised in it. Mr Roach felt that replying directly via the press was not a responsible way to defend Hunterston A as Site Director.

The author of the article said that they would share information they claimed to have with the SSG. As the letter to the newspaper was anonymous Mr Roach was unaware if the author was present at the meeting or not.

Mr Roach explained that he had a short presentation prepared in response to the allegations made in the article and asked the SSG whether he should give it or not.

Mrs Rita Holmes said that she was unhappy with the article and that she felt it was a personal attack on Mr Roach. Mrs Rita Holmes added that she felt Mr Roach was replying to the article in the correct fashion and that she would like to see the presentation.

Mr Kenny MacDougall wished to highlight that if there was anyone from the Largs & Millport Weekly News present they should note that the SSG asked to see the presentation.

Mr Roach said that regardless of whether a representative from Largs & Millport Weekly News was present or not he would still like to offer the members of the SSG the opportunity to hear his reply to the allegations.

Councillor Robert Barr recommended that Mr Roach should not even consider giving the presentation as he felt the author of the article was not entitled to a reply due to their anonymity.

Mr Kenny MacDougall suggested that the members of the SSG vote on whether or not they wanted to see Mr Roach's presentation, Chairman Mr John Lamb accepted this proposal and put it to the SSG members to decide. It was agreed by the SSG that Mr Roach should give a short presentation in reply to the allegations before giving the A Station report.

In response to the article published in the Largs & Millport Weekly News, Mr Roach explained that he would focus on 4 key subjects and answer any questions afterwards.

Arrangements

The article claimed that Hunterston A's arrangements were too onerous, too strong and suppressed work on site, and in particular the arrangements were too difficult for contractors on site to comply with.

Mr Roach explained that he is an agent for the licensee of a nuclear licensed site and is at Hunterston A to deliver 3 things; safety, security and environmental performance. Keeping the site safe, secure and clean are the primary objectives set by the NII, SEPA and the SSG as he oversees the decommissioning of the site.

Mr Roach added that as Hunterston A is a licensed site there are legal obligations put on him to carry out his duties safely, in a secure fashion and with care for the environment. These legal requirements in addition to all of the other requirements emanate from the Health and Safety at Work act and the Nuclear Installation act.

Mr Roach said that he believes that the last thing Hunterston A's regulators and local community would want is for him to relax his arrangements for the site. The arrangements in

place are tried and tested from over 40 years of Magnox Electric's work on nuclear sites, they are very experienced and robust.

Staff Numbers

One of the claims made was that Hunterston A had grown 'fat and happy' and that there were too many 'pen-pushers'.

When Mr Roach arrived at Hunterston A just over 2 years ago there were 140 core staff, 40 agency workers, a total of 180, and on any day there could be as many as 150 contractors on site. During this period the ILW store was at the main stage of its construction which brought a lot of contractors on site.

Currently there are 194 core staff, 45 agency staff, a total of 239. The workforce has increased because Hunterston A is now doing more work.

Hunterston A has now strengthened its competence by adding key positions and employment for the local area.

Mr Roach very much refutes that there are too many 'pen-pushers'. There is an administration building that supports the main work on site and that team are every bit as important to the safe delivery of the work as the contractors who physically carry it out. Staff numbers in June 2005 were noticed by the NII and NDA, both concurred that Hunterston A was under staffed. Mr Roach implemented a recruitment plan to achieve an appropriate number of staff to ensure Hunterston A was fit for purpose.

The staff numbers at Hunterston A will rise modestly as the site moves forward, next year there is a greater volume of work scheduled and a lot of it will be given to contractors as Hunterston A focuses on new areas of construction as part of the decommissioning process.

Contractors

The anonymous author of the article claimed to be a contractor and said that these 'pen-pushers' were not adding value for money to the site and recommended that Mr Roach should 'look after' the contractors.

Mr Roach explained that part of his job is to ensure that the tax payer gets value for money as well as running the site in a safe, secure and environmentally secure fashion.

Mr Roach emphasised that contractors are important to Hunterston A and that the site needs them, they can offer specialist skills that are not available from core staff. Mr Roach added that the contractors are good supporters and that there is a good relationship between them and the site. Their skills and ability to help at peak times are valuable assets, however there are also potential problems with contractors.

Mr Roach explained that sometimes problems can arise when working with contractors, they may have the wrong mindset or they are new to working in the nuclear industry. Arrangements

are in place to make sure that people who are not experienced in working in nuclear sites are given the right training to make them fit to work on site. Even after every effort has been made people can still occasionally make mistakes, it is Hunterston A's responsibility to control the contractor supervisors to make sure that they do not.

The article in the Largs & Millport Weekly News also said that there may be 'lost time accidents' that are not being reported. Mr Roach explained that shortly after the last main meeting of the SSG there was a dropped load incident on site, approximately 2 tonnes in weight, that fell 40 feet down a fuel tunnel and the sub-contractor in question did not report it. Mr Roach highlighted that it was not the site that did not report it but the sub-contractor.

The incident was eventually reported to Mr Roach who made sure that an investigation was carried out immediately.

Mr Roach said that the dropped load incident had been a very disturbing and disappointing incident for him personally, it has caused him to rethink about the sort of contractor he wants on site in the future particularly with respect to the importance of open reporting culture.

Hunterston A has learned a lot from this incident but only because they found out about it. Had the incident remained unreported Hunterston A would have missed out on unique learning opportunities and this kind of event could be repeated with the potential for someone to be injured. There was no one injured on this occasion, due to the strength of Hunterston A's arrangements it meant that there was no one in the area where the load fell.

Value for Money

The author of the article claimed that Hunterston A is not providing value for money for the NDA and the British tax payer.

The article in the Largs & Millport Weekly News also accused Hunterston A of wasting huge sums of money via the site's customer (the NDA), not adding value to the country, thereby sitting back 'fat and happy'.

Mr Roach presented some figures to the SSG; in the financial year 2005/06 Hunterston A spent £45m of tax payers' money and delivered £49m worth of value, saving the tax payer £4m, this was due to Hunterston A's efficiency and innovation. This trend was repeated for the financial year 2006/07, Hunterston A spent £37m but provided £41m worth of value and the same will happen again next year. Year on year Hunterston A provides real value for money.

Mr Roach added that the individual who wrote the anonymous letter in the Largs & Millport Weekly News was ill informed, they have not looked at the full picture and have made quotes out of context and that he wanted to make the truth clear.

Mr Roach asked those present if they had any questions. Largs & Millport Weekly News journalist Mr Calum Corral asked what exactly happened in the incident. Mr Roach explained that there was a 2 tonne load that fell 40 feet down a vertical shaft into a fuel tunnel and

reiterated that there were no people in the area due to the strength of Hunterston A's arrangements. The load had been inappropriately moved and lifted.

Mrs Rita Holmes said that she is glad that Mr Roach is in charge of Hunterston A and not the author of the anonymous letter. On behalf of Fairlie Community Council Mrs Rita Holmes said that they were not concerned with the value for tax payers' money but the safe and clean decommissioning of the site.

Vice-Chair Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick asked if the contractors were still working with Hunterston A. Mr Roach replied that the work had been suspended and the individual Site Sub Contract Manager who took the decision not to report the incident is no longer at Hunterston A. The workers from that contractor are still on site, they had followed their procedures and Mr Roach did not deem them responsible for the non reporting of the incident. It was a proportionate response.

Mr Mike Johnston explained that when he recently visited Hunterston A he saw that there had been 67 months without a 'lost time accident'. He felt at the time that this figure was improbable but accepted it as it was clear that there was a safety culture at the site. Mr Mike Johnston added that after looking at national statistics Hunterston A's safety record appears to be ten times the national average which seems possible but improbable. Mr Mike Johnston is concerned that there is the potential to protect the record rather than report incidents. Mr Roach replied that it is one of the cultural learning points that has arisen from the dropped load incident not being reported and Hunterston A needs to be careful that this safety milestone does not drive down reporting culture, with regards to the 67 months safety record and whether or not it is true, the answer is a resounding yes. Mr Roach assured the meeting that there has not been a 'lost time accident' in the time that he has been at the site and he is sure that previous Site Managers would confirm the same.

Mr Kenny MacDougall asked if the dropped load incident was a one-off or if there were more incidents that happen and do not get reported. Mr Roach said that Hunterston A investigated the incident thoroughly as well as wider safety issues on site, the answer is a resounding no. Mr Kenny MacDougall added that he is concerned that contractors may not wish to report an incident as they feel it may jeopardise their work at the site. Mr Roach explained that the safety and reporting culture is strong amongst the contractors who work at Hunterston A and that close relations continue to be fostered.

Chairman Mr John Lamb asked if anyone had any further questions, as there was no reply he thanked Mr Roach for his explanation and asked that the meeting move on to the Hunterston A Site Reports.

Hunterston A Site Report

Mr Roach began the report by saying that performance on site remains high and all key milestones are being met. The site continues to be well lead, managed and controlled, Hunterston A are keen to continue engaging with the SSG to keep them informed of every development at the site.

Safety, Security and Environmental overview

Mr Roach highlighted that Hunterston A has now achieved 70 months without a 'lost time accident'. Thus far, this financial year Hunterston A has had no medical treatment cases, adding that the safety performance on site is simply stunning and reflects the hard work of Hunterston A's employees and contractors and the importance placed on safety at the site. However, at the end of March, as was discussed earlier, Hunterston A had an unreported lifting incident undertaken by one of the sub-contractors.

The Hunterston A management team places great importance on its environmental obligations and responsibilities and has done so for many years. On 5th June 2007 it was 'World Environment Day' and Hunterston A took part, 143 staff visited an exhibition that had been set up and many employees made a personal commitment or pledge to do something that can make a difference to our environment. Hunterston A has an active Environmental Action Committee with individuals who care and want to make a difference.

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

Mr Roach temporarily handed the role of reading through the Hunterston A report to EHS&Q Manager, Miss Lynne McTaggart.

Miss Lynne McTaggart said that the site focuses on first aid and medical treatment cases as well as 'lost time accidents' and whilst Hunterston A's safety figures are excellent the site strives to make further improvements via the Behavioural Safety Observation Process and proactive initiatives carried out jointly by staff and contractors' Safety Representatives. There have been some instances where people have sustained injuries such as cut hands, workers at Hunterston A are determined to make sure that no one working at the site receives an injury of any kind.

Miss Lynne McTaggart thanked North Ayrshire Council for providing the site with Recycling Officer Mr Martin Gorman for World Environment Day, his input and suggestions were greatly appreciated. Miss Lynne McTaggart added that Mayfield Primary school came to visit the site and designed a garden for staff to enjoy on their lunch break, which will also improve the ecology on the site.

Radiological Safety

Miss Lynne McTaggart announced that there have been no significant doses since January. The site tracks doses on a calendar year basis, the site total dose is just over 21.5 milliSieverts and no individual has received more than 1 milliSievert, most of the work carried out on site in this period was in low dose areas or non contaminated areas.

Miss Lynne McTaggart added that in the past 6 months there have been 3 occasions where small quantities of contamination were found outside the contamination controlled areas, but

they were within the radiological controlled area. No one picked up a significant dose, these readings were recorded by monitoring surveys and dealt with immediately.

Radiological Discharges

Miss Lynne McTaggart explained that since the last SSG meeting Hunterston A had dispatched 8 ISO containers to the Drigg depository, this reflected the deplanting work that had been done. It is a lower than average figure, Hunterston A are working hard to reduce waste as the Drigg facility is filling up all the time and the site has to find new and innovative ways of reducing waste.

Miss Lynne McTaggart said that the amount of liquid radioactive effluence is still well below Hunterston A's authorised discharge limit, it is less than 10%, as is the levels of gaseous radioactive effluence.

Miss Lynne McTaggart explained that the site is submitting a proposal for new authorisations. Hunterston A is expecting that once SEPA have determined the new authorisations the liquid and gaseous limits will decrease, the only area where Hunterston A is asking for more volume is for solid waste discharges which will reflect the waste expected further on in the site's decommissioning programme where the site will be tackling some of the more active areas than are being dealt with currently.

Hunterston A had one event report that they raised in the last period, it was an error in the gaseous discharge report that the site made to SEPA, there was an inaccuracy in the figures. Hunterston A has recalculated the figures and SEPA will come to the site to see what has been done and determine why this happened.

Mrs Rita Holmes asked what the reinforcement for the Very Low Level Waste Pits (VLLWP) was going to be, Mr Roach replied that they will be engineered shore defences designed to bolster the protection that is already there.

Mrs Rita Holmes then asked what the decommissioning implications of the dropped load incident were, Mr Roach replied that the incident had no effect on decommissioning.

Miss Lynne McTaggart concluded her section of the report and Mr Roach continued.

Decommissioning Progress

Mr Roach said that progress continues to be very good at Hunterston A although the site is slightly behind where it should be in terms of delivery of the planned work. It is estimated that Hunterston A has completed 93% of the work it should have done, this is down to the time taken out to stop and investigate the dropped load incident and also work on the general upkeep of the site as certain areas are very old. Although there have been funding constraints this year the SSG can be assured that safety, security and Hunterston A's care for the environment will not be affected as these activities are fully funded.

All the civil work on the Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) store is complete as is the functional testing of the internal plant and equipment. Some issues with the cladding have been overcome and preparations are being made to move into the Non-active Commissioning phase.

People

In April 2007 Hunterston A Decommissioning Site was successful in gaining Investors in People Scotland accreditation. The following comments were received from the recognition panel:

“Despite ongoing considerable change over the past two years, it is clear that Hunterston A has dealt with this well, improving communications and feedback. You are to be congratulated on the pride your workforce feels in the company, its safety record and its comparative position against competitors. It is clear from the report that managers are 100 % committed to equality of opportunity and to developing people.”

Emergency Preparedness

Hunterston A undertook a level 1 Emergency Preparedness exercise on 27 June 2007 which was witnessed by the NII (Nuclear Installations Inspectorate) and successfully demonstrated the adequacy of the site's arrangements. There were a couple of minor points for improvement but overall the exercise was a resounding success.

Mrs Rita Holmes asked Miss Lynne McTaggart where exactly on site were the staff who received the most dose working. To the end of June the highest individual doses were contractors. The most significant doses were received while they were working under the MSRT (Miscellaneous Sludge Retention Tank) task code around March/April of this year.

Deputy Chair Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick asked what the first stage of the weather envelope will be, Mr Roach explained that on the north east corner of Reactor 2 Hunterston A is currently carrying out a trial. Hunterston A is erecting access for the full height of the reactor, some of the glazing has already been removed, an engineered solution is being put in place for the temporary weather barrier. The trial will confirm that everything works as expected, it will test Hunterston A's safety arrangements, especially working at heights. It will give an indication of how long it will take and how much it will cost to do both reactors in their entirety. There is the trial phase first and then the rolling out of the rest of the work over the following 2 years.

Mr Ian Frame asked if the envelope will be white, Mr Roach replied that it will be translucent but appear to be white.

Chairman Mr John Lamb asked Mr Roach if he could give some details about the announcement by BNFL that the Reactor Site Management Company was to be sold to Energy Solutions. Mr Roach informed those present that on Tuesday 26th June 2007 Energy Solutions, which is an American company, bought over the company that he works for (Reactor Site Management Company). In purchasing the company they also bought over the contracts that they are committed to work. There are a number of contracts within the NDA for 10 Magnox

stations throughout the UK, 5 in the South and 5 in the North. They also have shares in Magnox Electric which is the site's licensed company who work for the NDA.

Energy Solution's headquarters are in Saltlake City, Utah. They are 1800 people strong, they are big in terms of nuclear clean up and they want to get bigger by acquiring business in different countries to eventually satisfy their ambition. They do not buy anything other than quality products and that is why they have bought Reactor Site Management Company.

Chairman Mr John Lamb asked if the company being bought over would have any effects with regards to the management of the Hunterston A site. Mr Roach replied that as far as he is concerned the answer is no. The reason Energy Solutions bought over the site is because it is well run and respected, the new buyers would not want the site to lose focus. The takeover will not interfere with the operations at Hunterston A.

NII A Station Report

Chairman Mr John Lamb introduced Mr Peter Ford, NII, to read through his A Station report. There was an inspection of the ponds that was undertaken by the HSE Glasgow office and there were a number of concerns raised. Having personally inspected them himself very recently it is clear that there have been improvements but there are still a couple of concerns to be addressed.

Mr Peter Ford highlighted that the NII conducted its own investigation of the dropped load incident and came to the same conclusions as the investigation carried out by the site itself. Work will continue to improve the reporting culture and the site will continue to be inspected.

There was a level one exercise and it was an acceptable demonstration.

Mrs Rita Holmes asked if the SSG could see the full report given to the site. Mr Peter Ford explained that it is the same report that the SSG have and that any additional comment to the site is done verbally. Mrs Rita Holmes added that she did not think that the amount of information given in the report was very much. Mr Peter Ford told Rita that he will be writing to the site and the SSG will receive a copy of that.

Mrs Rita Holmes asked, with relation to the dropped load incident, what the input had been from the trade unions as they will be concerned for the safety of their workers. Mr Roach replied that the trade unions are very supportive of the initiatives Hunterston A has taken. Hunterston A works very closely with the trade unions, they provide the site with union appointed safety representatives whose job it is walk the site, get involved and ask questions. The trade unions were as concerned as Hunterston A about the dropped load incident and have also voiced concerns about the pond building. Although the pond building is to be demolished Mr Roach confirmed that aspects such as hand rails and lighting will be improved to meet current standards and expectations.

SEPA A Station Report

Chairman Mr John Lamb introduced Mr Byron Tilly from SEPA. Mr Byron Tilly explained that he was representing Dr Karl Littlewood who could not be present.

Mr Byron Tilly told the meeting that there were no major issues to highlight in the SEPA report, regular inspections continue to be carried out with key actions being followed up. It is important to note that the habit surveys that are carried out by CEFAS apply to both Hunterston A and Hunterston B. One of the key advances that SEPA wants to make this coming year is progression with the multi media authorisation, this is to replace the existing authorisations, of which there are several, with one unified version which incorporates more up to date conditions. SEPA are waiting with great anticipation for the submission from Hunterston A.

Mr Byron Tilly explained that there was an issue that he would like to talk about that was not in the report exclusive to Hunterston A. There is a national group which involves the central people from Magnox Electric, the NII, OCNS and the Environmental Agency looking at the whole process and the competition of the Magnox sites, this has been going on for over a year. A fully report is expected to be ready for discussion by the date of the next main meeting of the SSG (20th September 2007).

Deputy Chair Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick asked the gentlemen present from CEFAS to talk about the work they are currently doing in the local area (habit survey). Mr Matt Sherlock, CEFAS, explained that the habit survey started Wednesday 27th June 2007 and the work is on behalf of SEPA. The aim of the work is to identify ways in which people could potentially come into contact with any radioactive pollution from any licensed site. CEFAS monitor any aquatic pollution, also looking at people who live or work within 1 kilometre of the site centre, and any food production within 5 kilometres of the site centre. The aim is to talk to as many people as possible who live or work in the immediate area who tend to come into more contact with radioactive pollution than ordinary members of the public. The last survey was carried out in 2001, they are normally conducted every 5 or 6 years.

Deputy Chair Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick asked if the survey results were published, Mr Matt Sherlock replied that the results are put on the SEPA website, although for data protection reasons no individual who takes part in the survey is named.

Mr Mike Johnston asked if CEFAS took into consideration the high tension cables in the local area, Mr Matt Sherlock replied that CEFAS do not take this into consideration. Mr Peter Ford added that the type of radiation from the cables is different to that on site.

Mrs Rita Holmes said that she felt that conducting the survey only one kilometre from the site was not very far, and asked if the people who take part in the survey are put through whole body monitors to get a more accurate reading of whether or not they have been exposed to higher levels of radiation. Mr Matt Sherlock explained that these are the regulatory distances in place and that full body monitoring is not required as samples are taken from local foods such as seafood and vegetables and this indicates the level of dose. Mrs Rita Holmes added that she thinks the survey is focussed on pleasing Hunterston A and Hunterston B rather than

the local community. Mr Matt Sherlock explained that there is no need to take human samples, just samples of what the local community are eating.

Mr Kenny MacDougall asked how far along the shore would CEFAS take samples from, Mr Matt Sherlock answered that they will take samples from within 5 kilometres of the site.

Mr Douglas MacFarlane asked if CEFAS compare their results with local medical records to see if their findings match cancer rates in the immediate area, Mr Matt Sherlock stated that once they have gathered their information they give it straight to SEPA.

Mr Hugh McGhee added that the consultant on public health medicine co ordinates any epidemiology in the area and asked if they would receive a copy of the survey results. Mr Matt Sherlock reiterated that their findings go straight to SEPA.

Mr Kenny MacDougall asked Mr Byron Tilly from SEPA if there was a higher number of cancer cases in the area would SEPA look further into any possible connections between this and the results of the CEFAS report? Mr Byron Tilly explained that investigating a potential link between radiological pollution and cancer rates would only be carried out if a specific reason to do so arose. He also added that the information SEPA receives is published annually.

Mr William Laing asked Mr Matt Sherlock what it meant in the report by 'habit' and 'population'. He answered that 'habit' was in reference to anyone who worked, lived or took part in water sports etc within 1 kilometre of the site, and the 'population' referred to in the report is the human population and does not take animals into consideration.

Mr William Laing asked if Mr Matt Sherlock could please outline the methodology that CEFAS will be using, Mr Matt Sherlock explained that they identify all of the local homes and businesses within a 1 kilometre of the site then set about arranging an interview with them, they spend time on the foreshore taking samples and they also talk to local fisheries.

Chairman Mr John Lamb asked if any members of the public had any questions for Mr Roach, Mr Peter Young did not have a question but wished to voice his support of CEFAS in carrying out the habit survey by explaining that these kind of surveys are carried out at every kind of plant throughout the UK and are nothing new and nothing to be concerned about.

5. HUNTERSTON B REPORTS

Station Director, Mr Tom Ungi summarised the reports on the following:

- **Boiler Issues**

Mr Ungi referred to the letter sent to the members of the SSG that consent had been given by the NII to return the two boilers to service. Since the start-up of the boilers one unit had been operating reliably, the other had experienced some problems which were unrelated to the previous ones. This problem stemmed from plant control systems which resulted in a manual shut down of the boiler and the unit being taken out of service for repair. Extensive

investigations were nearing completion and it was anticipated that the unit would be returned to service in the near future.

- **Safety**

Mr Ungi reported that there had been 16 minor accidents during the period, none of which resulted in lost time. For the second successive year, RoSPA had awarded Hunterston B, a 'Commendation in the Electricity Supply Sector Award'. The station was still the only one in Britain to have received this award which reflected highly on the standard of health and safety being maintained at the station.

- **People**

Mr Ungi reported that Hunterston B were still recruiting. Six apprentices would also be joining 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.

Mr Ungi took this opportunity to introduce the committee to Yvonne White who has taken over the role of Regional Public Relations Officer (Scotland) from Sue Fletcher who has been promoted to Media Relations Manager for British Energy.

- **Community**

Mr Ungi advised that, in the near future, a Community Relations Officer would be appointed whose role would involve actively communicating with the local communities on behalf of British Energy.

- **Charity**

Mr Ungi reviewed the list of donations for the year from Hunterston B staff to Ayrshire Hospice which amounted to £22,000. A detailed breakdown of other donations made to the local community had been provided in the report.

- **Financial Performance**

Mr Ungi reported that financial performance had been good, despite a disappointing generating performance by the Station.

Copies of the Company's Annual Report & Accounts were made available to members of the SSG and members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

Mr Ungi commented that the sale of British Energy shares amounted to £450M which equated to 28% interest in the company, resulting in a £2.3B increase in market capitalisation. The company had been re-admitted to the FTSE 100 index of leading shares.

Mr Ungi also informed the meeting that Mr Robert Armour, British Energy Company Secretary, had been awarded an OBE for his services to the Electricity Industry.

Mr Ungi handed over to Mr Andy Taylor to comment on environmental and radiological safety issues.

- **Environment**

Mr Taylor reported that the last three years had seen a very good record by the Station in terms of events and compliance. It was disappointing to report an event that had occurred in April which had been reported to SEPA regarding one aspect of the Station's district survey environmental monitoring programme. In this event the document recording performance of a quarterly routine radiation survey on three local beaches was not able to be found (other records confirm that the survey took place and that there were no abnormal readings). This had been the first time a record of this type had been misplaced. The Station had looked at methods of further improving the manner in which data was collated and maintained and these had been implemented. Radiation checks carried out both before and after this period continue to confirm no levels above background.

Mr Taylor reported that other environmental protection and improvement activities had continued on the site with a significant amount of activity being directed towards housekeeping and deep cleaning areas of the plant.

During the commissioning of a new sewage treatment plant there had been an event reported to SEPA regarding spillage of a small quantity of partially treated sewage. The event was being investigated and arrangements were in place to prevent a repeat. There was no adverse effect on the environment.

- **Radiological Safety**

Mr Taylor advised that the highest radiation doses during the calendar year 2007 for a member station staff had been 4.3mSv and for a contractor 5.8mSv. During some minor maintenance work in the irradiated fuel dismantling cell a collective dose of approximately 1.9man.mSv was incurred.

- **Contamination Control**

Mr Taylor reported that there had been 8 occasions during the period when small quantities of radioactivity had been detected outside contamination controlled areas and 7 minor personal contamination events all of which were detected by routine monitoring. There had been no spread of contamination beyond the radiological controlled areas.

The majority of these events were associated with an intensive programme of plant clean up work within the radiological controlled area and Mr Ungi added that in terms of cleaning, certain plant areas had not been subjected to deep cleaning for some considerable time. Specialist contractors had been brought in to the plant to perform the work at some considerable cost to the company and the results had been very satisfactory.

- **Radioactive Discharges**

Mr Taylor reported that one full height ISO container had been consigned to Drigg during the period. The continuing decrease in 12 monthly cumulative radioactive liquid and gaseous discharges is the result of continuing reactor outages.

The new multimedia authorisation had come into force on 1st June 2007 and all the necessary arrangements for compliance had been established.

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

- **Discharges from the Waste Oil Incinerator**

As there had been no incineration of waste oil on site during the period, no information had been included in the report. The table recording discharges would be re-instated in the next report and it was noted that the waste oil incinerator was currently in service.

- **District Surveys**

Mr Taylor advised that all environmental survey measurements and samples had been carried out to programme during the period and that this assessment continues to confirm that the station has negligible radiological impact on the local environment.

- **Emergency Preparedness**

Miss White advised that invitations would be sent to all members to visit the Strategic Co-ordination Centre at Prestwick on 2nd August 2007. This visit would comprise of lunch, a presentation and tour of the centre. Transport would be laid on by the station.

Under requirements by the NII, the Station has changed the emergency plan to a British Energy Fleet-wide plan.

A Level 1 demonstration was held on 29th March and observed by the NII who deemed it to be an adequate demonstration of the emergency arrangements at Hunterston. A Level 2 exercise will be held in October and again in March 2008 both of which will be observed by the NII.

- **NII report**

Mr Shepherd of the NII apologised for his absence at the last meeting.

He reported that a number of specialists had been involved in the monitoring of the work during the double reactor outage, stating that there was more work ahead. He added that the outage had been well organised with no significant accidents. The plant had been improved considerably with the cast iron cooling water system replacement having been brought forward.

For the foreseeable future inspections would take place every two years and the station had changed their arrangements to accommodate these.

The emergency exercise Stockholm where the station demonstrated its emergency arrangements under site licence condition 11 was judged by the NII to be adequate, which is the level required. The exercise demonstrated a need for British Energy to provide a different alternative Emergency Control Centre which made use of the "A" station ECC if the main "B" station became untenable.

- **SEPA Report**

Mr Hammond reported that the new multimedia authorisation was “bedding in” well.

He advised that a ‘final warning letter’ had been issued to the station in connection with the missing data relating to the beach gamma dose rate measurements, previously referred to by Mr Taylor in his environment report.

Mr Hammond reported that the Pollution, Prevention & Control permit covering non-radioactive emissions from emergency diesel generators, auxiliary boilers and the waste oil incinerator had been issued to the station.

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

Mrs Holmes asked if Reactor 3 and 4 units were identical and, if so, why did one shut down and not the other. Mr Ungi stated that R3 had more boiler surface than R4 however the control systems equipment was effectively identical. The components which caused the fault were being stripped down and investigated. It was the gas temperature which was being monitored.

Mr Cochran-Patrick asked if the Community Liaison Officer would be appointed from the community. Mr Ungi responded that the person appointed to the role would be sourced from the talented people already working at Hunterston, the majority of whom lived in the local communities.

Mr Johnston asked if the work presently being undertaken on the grid posed any risk to the integrity of the maintenance work being done at the plant. Mr Ungi responded that a safety case is always prepared prior to any maintenance work being performed. Mr Johnston asked if there was a “hot line” between parties. Mr Ungi confirmed this was the case.

Mrs Holmes referred to the multimedia authorisation and asked if a presentation could be given on this to the committee. Mr Hammond of SEPA said he would arrange for a presentation to be given for the next meeting.

Mrs Holmes asked if emissions are checked from the incinerator. Mr Taylor advised that discharges are controlled strictly in accordance with arrangements agreed with SEPA under the new multimedia authorisation and that records of oil burned and activity present are part of these arrangements and reported to SEPA. Mrs Holmes asked for more information on oil burning to be made available to the SSG. She was advised that a report on this subject had been provided to the SSG last year. Mr Ungi said he would be prepared to look at it again and update it if so required.

- **Any Other Business**

Mr McDougall asked about funding of decommissioning of Hunterston B and Mrs Fletcher referred to the recent Government conversion and sale of 450 million shares in British Energy, raising £2.2 Billion which had gone into the Nuclear Liabilities Fund which was currently more than well-endowed to meet decommissioning costs.

6. DATE/VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was agreed as 20th September 2007 at 6pm in the Brisbane House Hotel, Largs.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Peter Young said that from his time spent working in the industry he can assure the public that the operations at Hunterston A are not a problem to the environment.

Mrs Rita Holmes said that she was sceptical about the monitoring being carried out by CEFAS and that she felt it would be not good enough until the local community has a say in how it is carried out and that the people carrying out the monitoring are independent from both Hunterston A and Hunterston B.

Mr Peter Young said that the nuclear industry as whole gets very bad publicity and he feels that Hunterston A and Hunterston B should be more pro-active in promoting all of the positive aspects of their work.

Mr Allan Rice agreed with Mr Peter Young and added that he felt there was far too much negativity at the meeting.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Mr James Willets said that what Mr Peter Young had said was very impressive, although just because people were doing their best to keep the environment and local community safe does not guarantee anything. Mr James Willets asked Mr Roach what the timeline was for Hunterston A, Mr Roach replied that for planning purposes Hunterston A has guidance that their best assumption should be that the long term repository for final disposal will be available from the year 2045.

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

Mr John Lamb
SSG Chair