

Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

THE TWELFTH HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 20TH MARCH 2008 IN THE SEAMILL HYDRO HOTEL, SEAMILL.

Present

Hunterston Estate

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

British Energy

Mr Mark Gorry
Mr Stuart Mears
Mrs Marianne Carlin

Councillors

Mr Robert Barr (Dalry & West Kilbride)
Mr William Gibson (Saltcoats)

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 Reuben Phillips
Mrs Kerry McMillan
Mr Tony Bale
Mr Duncan Currie

Scottish Government Radioactive Waste Team

Mrs Emma Cooke

Several members of the public were also in attendance.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were given for Mike Johnston, John Robertson, Hugh McGhie, Dave Shepherd, Peter Rothwell, Francis Craig and Keith Hammond.

Delegated Attendance

Mr Reuben Phillips for Miss Lynne McTaggart, EHS&Q Manager, Hunterston A Site
Mr Stuart Mears for Mr Stuart McGhie, Hunterston B Trade Union Rep

SEPA

Mr Karl Littlewood

National Farmers Union

Mr Daniel Reid

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Mr Keith Riding

Nuclear Installations Inspectorate

Mr Peter Ford
Mr Les Davies

Community Members

Mr William Laing
Mr Ivor Roscoe

Strathclyde Police

Inspector Jim Seenan

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Chairman John Lamb welcomed everyone to the 12th meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group (SSG), and confirmed that Mr Angus Cochrane-Patrick had stood down as Deputy Chair. Mr Lamb wished to note his thanks to Mr Cochrane-Patrick for his support during the last year, and hoped for his continued support for the future. It was also confirmed that Mr Kenny MacDougall had been elected as the new Deputy Chair, and he was welcomed in his new role.

2. MINUTES of the 20th NOVEMBER 2007

No issues were raised and the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20th November 2007 were agreed.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr John Lamb stated the only correspondence received since the last meeting was from Councillor Richard Wilkinson, who has tendered his resignation from the SSG. Mr Lamb informed the group on behalf of Mr Wilkinson that as a result of pressure of work, he did not like being part of an organisation yet not having time to contribute to its work. It was also said that he is proud at becoming the first SSG Chairman and helping to form the group, while passing on his best wishes to all members and staff involved.

The apologies which had been submitted were read out.

4. NDA FEEDBACK FOR HUNTERSTON A

Mr. Keith Riding started on a positive note stating that Hunterston A site had submitted their Lifetime Plan 08 to the NDA. Following a detailed review of the Plan and a presentation given by the site lead team on the 19th March, the NDA recommendation was to accept the first year of the Plan.

Mr. Riding then explained that as part of its assurance procedures, the NDA carried out monthly performance reviews of each of its sites. Scores are allocated during the review, set against specific criteria (green is best, amber is adequate, and red requires improvement). Mr Riding was please to inform the group that over the last 3 months the site had attained a green in all areas.

Mr. Riding went on to explain that since the last meeting the NDA has seen quite a significant number of changes, to the senior management structure and also to the roles of its personnel, following a review by Deloitte that focussed on the challenges that face the NDA in the future. The last three years has seen the NDA become the Intelligent Customer; the next phase is for the NDA to become more focussed on the strategic issues that face the nuclear decommissioning industry

Mr. Stephen Heywood has been appointed the new Chairman and takes over formally in April. The NDA executive board intend to hold their April meeting at Hunterston and this will be the first opportunity for Mr. Heywood to visit the site.

As part of the re structuring, Dr. Brian Burnett's role as NDA Deputy Director for Magnox North (which includes Hunterston) has increase to include all the Magnox South sites, in addition to Winfrith, Harwell and LLWR at Drigg.

Mr Riding informed the meeting that the 08/09 Draft Business Plan consultation period had closed with approx 126 responses from the public/stakeholders having been received. These

had been considered and the final Plan was awaiting Ministerial approval; which was expected before the end of the month.

On the 3rd March, Dr Roxburgh had presented before the Commons Public Accounts Committee to answer questions relating to the Nation Audit Office review of the NDA. In his summing up, the Chairman of the PAC, Edward Leigh was extremely complementary of the evidence given by Dr Roxburgh and Jim Morse.

In terms of successes at Hunterston A, the Intermediate Level Waste store has been built and was undergoing inactive commissioning. The Modular Active Effluent Treatment Plant was being actively commissioned and the Solid Active Waste Building retrieval project was in the design phase. Last month the NDA had sanctioned (circ £6M) for the design phase of the Solid ILW Encapsulation Plant project (total project cost circ £36M)

The NDA had recently announced a market engagement exercise to determine the level of interest in the NDA owned land and assets associated with each of its sites. The assets ranged from the land, which could be considered for alternative commercial use, to even special materials associated with new fuel production. The exercise would last approximately 4 weeks and the SSG would be kept informed of the progress at the next meeting.

Questions

In response to Mr. Riding's comments, Ms Rita Holmes commented that as a result of the Government complaining about the increase in the nuclear liabilities, the selling of NDA assets could be in conflict to the interests of the local people

Mr Riding stated that the NDA had a duty to maximise the commercial assets on behalf of the taxpayer in order to offset the cost of the decommissioning programme.

Mr. Kenny MacDougall then questioned the consistency of Mr Riding's comments as it was his understanding that Dr. Roxburgh and the NDA had been lambasted by the Public Accounts Committee for not addressing the issues. Mr MacDougall also asked for clarity on whether the NDA assets around Hunterston A site would be made available to the SSG. Mr Riding responded by saying that it was proper that the NDA should be challenged by Government and while the message was probably not the one they wanted to hear, it was none the less consistent and it was recognised that significant good work had been done. The committee also stated that it was now up to the NDA to look at managing the liabilities in order to reduce the costs.

In response to the NDA assets being made available, Mr Riding explained that any one individual or group or company could express an interest in the assets and he would report back top the meeting on the process. Mr Angus Cochrane Patrick informed the group that a map was available on the NDA website detailing all NDA land holding around Hunterston.

Mr Ivor Roscoe asked if there was any agenda for separating funds from Sellafield and Dounreay. Mr Riding stated that the funding model was being looked at by NDA and it was recognised that Sellafield posed a significant burden on the NDA budget. To this end, the NDA was driving forward with the Sellafield competition to bring in a new PBO that would make efficiencies and manage the Sellafield budget to deliver better value for money. There was still much work to be done in this area before funding could be released to other sites if the prioritises remain focussed on hazard reduction.

With regards to the tendering process for Sellafield, Ms. Rita Holmes asked who the assessors were. Mr. Riding explained that the majority were from the NDA who came with various skills and backgrounds required to make informed judgement. These were complimented with a few external specialists in support.

Despite having no bearing on Hunterston, Mr John Lamb asked if Mr Riding would like to comment on the Magnox Operating Plan 8 (MOP8) as it had a cost implication to the whole of the NDA. Mr Riding stated that the Magnox reprocessing plant is very old, and although money has been spent on the refurbishment and maintenance of the plant, there could still be problems in moving forward. All sites that need to send material to Sellafield, for example the fuel from Chapelcross, are on programme to meet the MOP. When asked if Sellafield are able to take the fuel from Chapelcross, Mr Riding replied that they could.

5. CONTINGENCY PLANNING: SAFE SECURE SITES (S³)

A brief presentation by Mr Duncan Currie was given on a program of work that the NDA have asked Magnox to do regarding contingency planning. It is a review of various interim safe states and options for Magnox sites and their potential impacts. Discussion points and questions were duly raised afterwards.

Mr Kenny MacDougall requested that a copy of the presentation be sent out to all SSG members.

ACTION: K. MCMILLAN

Ms Rita Holmes asked for two points to be cleared up. The first point, with regards to the Lifetime Plan, asked if Mr Currie was talking about clearing the site in 25 years time. Mr Currie replied that he was referring to the Lifetime Plan 08, where the site goes into care and maintenance in 2020. He added that this was just a way of looking at what different options were available, enabling the NDA's decision making process.

The second point asked if Magnox North and South are to be operated either as separate entities, or as one. Mr Riding confirmed that as of January 2008 as far as the NDA are concerned, Magnox had been operating as one, with Brian Burnett taking over the areas and working on bringing together both organisations. Mr Roach then added the original strategy was to separate out Magnox North and South, with the organisations auditing their arrangements and posting their intent to the NII. Currently, the NII are in the process of assessing a period known as 'shadow working', which involves inspections of both North and South. Mr Peter Ford then stated if the shadow working period meets the NII's criteria for success, they will re-licence.

Mr Tony Bale had some points which were put forward. He asked if the S³ presentation is classed as engaging with the local stakeholders, and also commented on the National Stakeholder Group, where Mr Roxburgh was trying to justify a change in decommissioning. The trade unions were given a promise of 25 years extended employment and careers for all, yet due to some funding and technical problems, the whole process is being held back. Mr Bale also added that in his opinion, Hunterston A is far in the lead within the Magnox sites and that there should be an appointment of a lead site. Mr Keith Riding responded by saying he recognised the points being made, and that the early business plan did state there was an aspiration to decommission the reactors within 25 years which is still being looked at. Mr Duncan Currie also responded to Mr Bale by saying that this presentation was just a brief, and while there is a work stream for stakeholder engagement in place, he would find out what the intentions are in terms of engaging with the SSG's. Mr John Lamb was asked to clarify that

the SSG had not yet been engaged in the hearing, which he confirmed was correct. Mr Peter Roach however did say that while this was the first engagement with the SSG, he does expect further engagement with the group and the local community. **ACTION: D. CURRIE**

In view of the S³ contingency program being put forward, Mr Lamb asked what impact this will have on the end state proposals that were submitted by the SSG to the NDA last year. Mr Currie replied that the end state will not be affected by this piece of work, but it will inform the NDA's strategy. Mr Keith Riding added that one of the key issues is dealing with appropriate waste routes. The UK Governments stand on this is for deep repository, and the NDA will look at what the final end states are going to be. The end state for a Scottish site may be different to that from an English site, and that must be considered. Mr Roach then commented that he is clear on the fact this piece of work will have no bearing on the end state.

With regards to the possibility of a lead site in the draft business plan, Mr Riding stated it was Dr Roxburgh's intention to look at the potential of a lead site. He added that Chapelcross are also commissioning works, and their SSG have looked into becoming lead site.

6. HUNTERSTON A SITE REPORTS

Mr. Peter Roach introduced the reading of the Hunterston A Site report by saying that since the last report to the SSG on 20th November 2007 the site's performance remains high with all key milestones being met. The site continues to be well led, managed and controlled, engaging openly with key stakeholders allowing them to influence and shape the future plans for the Site.

Safety, Security and Environmental overview

After 77 months without a Lost Time Accident a member of staff was injured in January when he slipped ascending a metal staircase. He sustained bruised ribs and minor injuries to his leg and face. As a result he was absent for work for 5 working days. The event was promptly reported, investigated and lessons have been learned.

Other than the above there have been no other injuries to staff or contractors since the last Site Stakeholders Group (SSG) meeting.

Improvements identified in the annual Site Safety and Environment Enhancement Plan (SEEP) are on target for 100% completion by the end of the financial year.

SEEP improvements include:

- improved feedback communications for site and off-site events
- the introduction of pedestrian "safe routes"
- improved standard for temporary barriers
- reduced electricity consumption
- improved waste management and paper recycling arrangements
- provision of mobile change room facilities for remote location working.

There has been an increase in the number of Behavioural Safety Observations completed by personnel.

Human Performance training has been rolled out to staff stands at 77% with 100% expected by the end of March.

Hunterston A has had both NII and SEPA annual reviews of its Environmental, Health, Safety and Quality Performance over the last 12 months. The feedback was very positive.

Decommissioning Process

Progress recovery continues to go according to plan with Schedule Performance Indicator now at 0.97.

ILW Store

Inactive commissioning has commenced and is ongoing. Completion is expected in the coming weeks.

Fuel Route

Commissioning of Pond Skip removal equipment is now substantially complete, a proving run is being completed for the process, with full operations expected in June 2008.

Clean and Drain pond decommissioning design work has commenced and work is scheduled for site in December 2008. This decommissioning work includes removal of settled sludge and preparation of pond walls prior to the draining of the pond.

Land Quality Management

With most of the site characterisation data available, the main work has been and continues for the near future to be assessment of the site to identify the optimum approach to long term management. Action to secure the foreshore area of the site immediately in front of the Very Low Level Waste pits is now complete. The second phase (a further 130m length) is progressing well with work due to be complete late March 2008. We continue to look for opportunities to bring forward work, particularly where it demonstrates an environmental improvement.

Solid ILW Retrieval and Encapsulation

Design work for the retrieval plant is ongoing with the first orders being placed for long lead plant items. Paperwork is being raised to allow site prep works to be carried out.

A scheme design for the encapsulation plant is being developed. Trials are also taking place to develop encapsulation formulas for the waste. In addition a further contract has been placed to demonstrate techniques for mechanical handling of waste packages. Successful completion of these trials will allow the design to be developed using this method of handling.

Wet ILW

The design, build and commission contract for the retrieval and encapsulation of Wet ILW in 3M drums is progressing well. Most of the ILW material in sludge form is currently stored in concrete tanks.

Temporary Weather Barrier

The initial 3 facets demonstration on the NW side of Reactor 2 has been successfully completed. Funding approval to complete all the temporary weather barrier work on both buildings was secured in February. Consequently an order has been placed for the complete temporary weather barrier with work on site due to commence in early April 2008.

Modular Active Effluent Treatment Plant (MAETP)

The MAETP is currently being actively commissioned and results from this phase of work are due in April 2008; early indications are encouraging.

Operational Activities

With one exception all planned maintenance was completed within the prescribed period. An efficiency check on a filter in a chemistry laboratory was not undertaken due to an inconsistency in the maintenance arrangements. Once found the test was carried out immediately and was successful. There was no safety or environmental consequence. Investigation and learning completed.

People

Personal development plans continue to be progressed via the new Performance Review System.

Recruitment is on-going for a small number of posts and the current workforce stands at 237 core and agency staff. Expect a further 20 vacancies to be filled in the coming weeks.

Sickness absence continues to be well managed with an average of 3.81 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.

Staff learning and development continues with a number of courses run over the period which cover both technical and soft skills.

Hunterston A was represented at the inaugural meeting of the National Skills Academy Nuclear (Scotland) local Steering Group (Central and South West).

Preparations continue for refresher first aid training which will be delivered to the appropriate staff in March.

Environment

Radioactive Discharges

Solid:

LLW discharges to LLWR (previously known as Drigg) re-started in January 2008. Discharges over the 12 month period from February 2007 to January 2008 equate to 195 m³, this represents to 32.5% 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 CCP Fuel Storage Skips in the reactor buildings.

Liquid:

Liquid radioactive discharges during the period February 2007 to January 2008 were made at levels that represent less than 6.0% for total beta, 0.005% for Plutonium-241, 0.06% for Tritium and 0.18% for total alpha. The main contributions to the discharges were from miscellaneous sources on the site, predominantly plant wash-down activities and filter backwashes.

Gaseous:

Gaseous radioactive discharges during the period February 2007 to January 2008 were made at levels that represent less than 7.8% for Tritium, 8.85% for Carbon-14 and 0.70% 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 on the surveillance of the new sewage treatment plant, (including the analysis of discharge samples, ensuring compliance with the COPA authorisation) and sampling and analysis of effluent discharges relating to the liquid and gaseous discharge systems.

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 members of staff are due to complete an Open University Course entitled 'Introducing the Environment' in March 2008.

The site is currently developing its Biodiversity Action Plan.

There were no environmental events in the period November 2007 to January 2008.

Radiological Safety

Dose Management and Contamination Control

Explanatory Note – The maximum permissible dose to a radiation worker in the UK is 20mSv (millisieverts) in a calendar year. The average annual radiation dose to the UK population from all sources is 2.6mSv. Collective dose is usually measured in man.millisieverts. For example if ten people were each to receive 0.1millisieverts during a particular task, then the collective dose for the task would be 10 people x 0.1mSv each = 1 man.millisievert.

Doses for the calendar year 2007 were as follows;

- Employees received a collective dose of 19.722 man.mSv;
- Contractors received a collective dose of 28.628 man.mSv;
- The highest individual dose received by an employee was 2.038 mSv;
- The highest individual dose received by a contractor was 1.312 mSv.

Doses for the calendar year 2008 (up to 31st January 2008) were as follows;

- Employees received a collective dose of 1.401 man.mSv;
- Contractors received a collective dose of 1.299 man.mSv;
- The highest individual dose received by an employee was 0.174 mSv;
- The highest individual dose received by a contractor was 0.236 mSv.

The majority of the 2007 dose was 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. The majority of dose accrued in 2008 has been from the CCP Skip cleaning project. All doses in these projects were prior-assessed, planned and tracked throughout the project durations.

Contamination Control

There were no radiological events in the period November 2007 to January 2008.

Emergency Preparedness

The Hunterston A Site level 2 demonstration exercise took place on the 29th of January 2008. This was a demonstration of the off-site emergency plan to the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII). The NII deemed that the exercise had met the necessary requirements.

Work is underway to prepare for the next Hunterston A Site level 1 exercise which will take place on the 18th June 2008.

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

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.

Other Issues

In line with NII's policy of rotating inspectors, Dr Les Davies will succeed Peter Ford as the Hunterston A, Site Inspector. Dr Davies is currently going through a handover and is expected to complete this by end of March 2008.

Future Plans

Construction of the Life Time Plan (LTP) 2008 is almost complete. The next plan will be our best yet and we continue to work hard to achieve the best possible outcome in terms of funding and hazard reduction.

National Matters Linked to Hunterston A Site

A study into the incidence of non-cancer deaths in the nuclear workforce was published on 4th March 2008. This work is funded by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and has been carried out by Westlakes Scientific Consulting Ltd.

The aim of the study was to determine whether there is any evidence of a statistical link between non-cancer deaths and cumulative external dose amongst radiation workers at ex BNFL sites, i.e. Chapelcross, Sellafield, Capenhurst and Springfields. Only 4 employees at Hunterston A have previously worked on these sites.

PA/PR Activities / Charitable Donations

Hunterston A Site is keen to continue supporting the local community by funding worthwhile groups and organisations. The following highlights groups which have been supported by Hunterston A since November 2007.

Soc-Ec & Charity Donations:

- Ardrossan Community Council	£2,000
- Organic Growers of Fairlie	£2,000
- Dalgarven Mill	£1,000
- Largs Town Twinning	£800
- Dalry Burns Club	£500
- West Kilbride PTA	£250

The Site also supported staff in their fundraising efforts boosting the total amounts raised by the site and staff as follows:

- Rachel House (CHAS)	£1,677
- Breast Cancer Care	£1,000
- Marie Curie	£600
- Maggie's Cancer Centres	£500
- Marina Dalgleish Appeal	£250

Site Visits

Hunterston A site continues to attract the right kind of interest through our excellent performance. A selection of visitors during the period included:-

20/21 November 2007	Karl Littlewood, SEPA Site Inspector
21/22 November 2007	Peter Ford, NII Site Inspector
29/31 January 2008	Karl Littlewood, SEPA Site Inspector to carry out an inspection of our management arrangements
30/31 January 2008	NII delegation for our Annual Review of EHSS&Q
12 February 2008	NDA personnel to carry out a review
14/15 February 2008	NII delegation consisting of Mike Weightman, NII Chief Inspector, Andy Hall, NII Deputy Chief Inspector, and Peter Ford, NII Site Inspector
20 February 2008	Karl Littlewood, SEPA Site Inspector - Annual Review of Environmental Management/EHSS&Q

Questions

Mr Ivor Roscoe enquired as to how discharges are transported to Drigg, to which Mr Reuben Phillips answered by road.

Mr Ian Frame asked if liquid discharges from Hunterston A went into the River Clyde. Mr Roach responded by stating that the site had been discharging operationally for years, but is in a cleanup state now. Pond water has been brought out from the first part of active commissioning of the MAETP, and these samples show the only activity found was very low. This therefore means the site is attempting to clean the water before it goes into the Clyde. Mr Roach also added that these samples are taken both through Hunterston A's own obligation to do the best we can, and through SEPA requiring the site to demonstrate that our best environmental means are put to work.

Mr Ian Frame then asked if the sea was big enough to cope with the amount of discharge. He also stated that some of the discharges could prove very dangerous if washed up. Mr Roach informed the group that discharges from Hunterston A have been very small and this will be improved upon further using the MAETP. The site however need to dispose of the material somewhere. The aim is to capture as much of the waste as possible through filters, which will be sent to the ILW store as opposed to the River Clyde.

Ms Rita Holmes asked what sort of volume was expected to be discharged into the River Clyde. Mr Reuben Phillips explained that a typical discharge to sea was around 40m³ over a number of hours. Ms Holmes then commented that local people should be informed of when waste is being discharged to sea. In response, Mr Roach offered to compile a briefing sheet once SEPA agree to Hunterston A's approach, which would outline likely discharges and their timing, the quantities involved, activity levels, and how these will be scheduled.

This was accepted by the SSG members.

6.1 NII HUNTERSTON A SITE REPORT

Mr Peter Ford read through the key points of his report, informing the group he had been on site at Hunterston A three times this year, and following a recent inspection of the pond skips, was happy at the way the operation was being undertaken. As a result of the annual review in January, the site was able to demonstrate its good safety record, and in February the NII Chief Inspector visited site and was happy with what he saw. Mr Ford then introduced Dr Les Davies, who is taking over as NII Inspector for Hunterston A site from 1st April 2008.

There were no questions raised, however Mr John Lamb thanked Mr Ford for his attendance at previous SSG meetings while welcoming Dr. Davies.

6.2 SEPA HUNTERSTON A SITE REPORT

Mr Karl Littlewood read through the key points of his report. SEPA concluded an annual review of Hunterston A's environmental performance since the last SSG meeting, with significant improvements being made over the past year at site.

It has been reported in the press that SEPA will be affected by industrial action over the coming months, with likely implications for site inspections and regulatory activity as a result.

Questions

Mr Angus Cochrane-Patrick asked when a copy of the Habit Survey report will be made available to the public. Mr Littlewood stated the report is being produced in two forms – one in a more detailed form for internal purposes, and one in a suitable form for public dissemination. The report had been produced in draft within the last few weeks, and while there is currently an on going approval process, finalisation is expected some time in the summer.

Ms Rita Holmes asked why SEPA feel it necessary to take industrial action. Mr Littlewood commented that SEPA has decided to dismiss its employees in order to issue new contracts for any employment. SEPA management have determined this was an appropriate action to take. Mr Peter Ford explained that on the NII side, a major recruitment drive is on the way which is still enrolling.

Mr Kenny MacDougall asked in the event of a strike, who would monitor the industry, and Ms Holmes questioned if Hunterston A site plans would then be delayed as a result. Mr Roach responded to both, highlighting that Hunterston A do require interaction with their regulators on a frequent basis for work to progress, so if there was a strike it could distract works, and SEPA management are aware of this. However in this event, plans would be changed or slowed down to accommodate SEPA, ensuring Hunterston A are effectively regulated. Mr Ford also commented that while the industry seemed short staffed, there was still effective regulatory coverage on all sites.

Mr Kenny MacDougall wished to have more information regarding the exercise in marine modelling. Mr Littlewood explained that SEPA were involved in emergency exercise Kilchatton which the site conducted. SEPA internally exercised their marine modelling capability in relation to how this would inform their response. Mr Roscoe asked if this involved sampling effluents released to the environment. Mr Littlewood responded that it would have that information in the model as to where sampling may be carried out should the need arise.

7. HUNTERSTON B STATION REPORTS

Mr Mark Gorry, Station Director, commenced by introducing himself and gave a brief description of his nuclear experience over the last 30 years and as station director at five of BE's power stations. He added that he was currently living in Fairlie and was committed to continuing to live in the area. Mr Gorry then presented the B station report. This is a summary of what was reported.

Safety first

Mr Gorry reiterated that safety continued to be a fundamental priority for B Station. At the time of preparing this report the station had gone 275 days since the last lost time accident, 412 days since the last contractor lost time accident and 108 days since the last environmental event. He added that, unfortunately, since the date of this report, there had been a lost time accident. Details of this would be included in the next report.

Powering the low carbon generation

Since the station started generating 30 years ago, it has avoided the emission of more than 140 million tonnes of CO₂.

Company financial results

On 13 February 2008, British Energy Group plc published quarter 3 results 07/08 for the nine months ended 30 December 2007.

Earnings were £745 million, down from £775 million for the comparable period (EBITDA) reflecting lower realised prices and higher unit operating costs. This is based on lower output from Hunterston B and Hinkley Point B, and the boiler closure unit problems which have caused the shutdown of Hartlepool and Heysham1.

Mr Gorry added that at present there was a lot of press coverage regarding the possibility of British Energy (BE) either being taken over or working in collaboration with another company. There had been a subsequent rise in the company share price. He advised that BE was not in a position to comment on the current situation due to stock exchange restrictions.

Energy White Paper – BERR consultation results announce

Following an extensive public consultation on the future of civil nuclear power in the UK, the government department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR), announced its results on January 10. The published White Paper on Nuclear Power stated that there should be a new nuclear programme in the UK.

Company strategic siting assessment

A consultation on the scope of the strategic environmental assessment that the government will undertake is expected in February/March 2008, followed by a consultation on the criteria to be used in the strategic siting assessment in March/April 2008. The entire process is

expected to take until autumn 2009, when a National Policy statement on nuclear power should be finalised.

Generic design assessment

The regulatory bodies of England and Wales (principally the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency) are undertaking a generic design assessment process, which will take approximately 3.5 years to complete.

Managing radioactive waste

Following a public consultation, the UK Government published the responses on 27 November 2007. The view is that the consultation responses indicate support for managing higher activity radioactive waste in the long term through geological disposal, as recommended as the best available option by the independent Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) in July 2006.

British Energy – at the heart of new nuclear generation.

BE has commissioned a range of geological, environmental impact, marine, transmission system and other studies for its sites.

Protection of sites from climate change

In January, a review commissioned by British Energy around the engineering needs to protect the sites against the impact of climate change, was published. The Halcrow Group study looked at scenarios anticipated by the Met office. The key conclusion is that flood defence and coast protection measures can be deployed to make replacement build a feasible option at all sites.

Environmental impact studies

BE is commissioning expert studies that will be needed to underpin comprehensive and robust environmental impact assessments for any replacement build.

Grid connections

On 27 November, BE entered into transmission connection agreements with National Grid for each of the key sites it owns in the South of England – at Sizewell, Hinkley, Dungeness and Bradwell - for grid access in the period from 2016 onwards.

Stakeholder engagement

Each power station currently has an active local community group with which it meets regularly and briefs on all topics of interest including possible replacement nuclear.

Partnering opportunities

BE is continuing to hold discussions with a number of companies who have expressed an interest in partnering with us on any new build projects. We will announce the results of these discussions throughout 2008.

Outages 2008

Hunterston B has two outages ahead in 2008. Reactor 3 outage commenced Saturday 2 February. We have begun inspections of the boilers and will thoroughly review the results through a boiler assessment panel and steering group to ascertain the repair strategy.

Life Extension

On December 11, 2007, BE announced its decision to extend the lifetime of its Hunterston B nuclear power station in North Ayrshire by 5 years.

The company announced it has completed the necessary technical and economic evaluation that will see the plant, one of the area's largest employers, continue operating until at least 2016.

Generation

Both reactors at Hunterston B have now been operating for the longest ever period since an unplanned trip – one unit for longer than two years, one for longer than three.

Environment

During the period one event was reported to SEPA which involved a loss of some non-radioactive lubricating oil into the main cooling water discharge in November. Immediate actions were taken to identify the failed components and isolate the cooler and stop the leak from developing further. SEPA were informed of the event using the normal reporting processes and have been kept informed of the investigations.

Doses & Contamination Control

Explanatory note – *The maximum permissible dose to a radiation worker in the UK is 20 mSv (millisieverts) in a calendar year. The average annual radiation dose to the UK population from all sources is 2.6 mSv. Collective dose is usually measured in man.milliSieverts. For example if ten people were each to receive 0.1 milliSieverts during a particular task, then the collective dose for the task would be 10 people x 0.1mSv each = 1 man.milliSievert.*

During 2007, station staff received a collective dose of 75.5 man.mSv. Contractors received a collective dose of 514 man.mSv. The maximum individual dose received during 2007 was 4.6 mSv for station staff and 5.8 mSv for contractors.

During January 2008, station staff received a collective dose of 7.8 man.mSv. Contractors received a collective dose of 1.7 man.mSv. The maximum individual dose received during this month was 1.0 mSv for station staff and 0.3 mSv for contractors.

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. A telemetric version of the EPD2 dosimeter is now available. This allows live time remote monitoring and enhanced control of personal radiation dose during high dose rate work, such as reactor vessel entries.

Contamination Control

During the reporting period there have been a number of instances where small quantities of radioactivity have been found outside contamination controlled areas either as part of routine surveys or normal personnel monitoring processes. There has been no spread of contamination out from the Radiological Controlled Area.

Radioactive Discharges

Gaseous and liquid discharges: - The most significant gaseous discharge is that of Carbon14 which, at 605 GBq from February 2007 to January 2008, was 13.5 % of the RSA93 authorised

limit of 4500GBq. Tritium in liquid discharges, at 35.4TBq over the same period, was 5 % of the 700 TBq RSA93 authorised limit. All radioactive discharges from the station remain well below the levels authorised by SEPA.

Solid low level waste - during the period two consignments of low level active waste have been made to the waste repository at Drigg.

During the period there were no transfers of wet and oily waste for disposal by incineration at the specialist incinerator located at Fawley in Hampshire.

Industrial Safety

There were 11 accidents in total that were minor in nature, (grazes, bumps and bruises etc). Most were low in potential and required only simple first aid treatment, although one did involve a road traffic accident whilst an employee was travelling between BE sites. All injured parties were fit to return to work without losing working time.

The last contractor lost time accident was 20th January 2007 so the contractors have achieved 1 year without a lost time accident. The last BE lost time accident was 6th June 2007. Unfortunately since the period of this report there has been 1 contractor and 1 BE lost time accident. Details of these would be included in the next report.

People

Hunterston B employs in excess of 500 permanent staff in a variety of disciplines from engineering to occupational health and BE is committed to creating an environment of continuous learning that ensures our people fulfil their potential wherever possible. Our staff turnover rate is relatively low which indicates our people think BE is a good employer and Hunterston B is a good place to work. As well as employing permanent staff, we also employ a large number of contractors and we work in partnership with them to ensure we continue to produce safe, reliable electricity.

British Energy recognises the importance of having the support of the local community as we go through a period of uncertainty in Scotland regarding the future of nuclear energy. We are committed to engaging more with local schools, colleges, universities, businesses and the new Scottish administration to promote the industry and ensure we have a part to play in providing reliable, low carbon fuel.

Mr Gorry added that we encourage applicants from the local community for our apprenticeship and graduate placements.

Engaging

Our new Community Liaison Officer, Stuart McGhie, is doing an excellent job of generating interest in nuclear power from the local area which has resulted in a number of visits to the station from individuals and groups.

Participating

British Energy has re-launched its Talk Service across the UK and Hunterston's Talk Service is up and running with experienced staff who are keen to engage with the public to help increase awareness of energy production and environmental matters.

Contributing

Our staff actively support the local community, not just financially, but by giving voluntarily of their time, skills and knowledge to various people to help improve the environment.

Our official support of Help the Hospices, our UK wide charity of the year, completed at the end of 2007 with a fantastic £532,000 donated. However this deadline has now been extended until autumn 2008 so we hope to raise even more money for them. There will be a new Charity of the Year announced at that time.

Emergency preparedness

British Energy has commissioned a survey of the local DEPZ (designated emergency planning zone) to ensure we have up to date contact information for all residents living within a 2.4km zone of Hunterston B.

Following the public meeting at Hunterston B in February, there were several articles in the local media regarding emergency plans and evacuation centres. Mr Gorry would, in due course, respond to these articles with a letter to the editor, reassuring the public that we take very seriously our responsibility as a nuclear operator in warning and informing the public should there be an unforeseen event at the station. An edited version of the emergency plans has always been publicly available, and we regularly test these plans, working closely with our partner emergency services and local authorities.

Questions

Mr MacDougall welcomed Mr Gorry to the station and the area, adding that he had enjoyed a good relationship with Mr Ungi and hoped to continue this with Mr Gorry.

In relation to emergency preparedness, Mr MacDougall asked why local community representatives were not invited to witness emergency exercises at the station. He felt that this would assist in their understanding of what would happen in a real event. Mr Gorry responded that the exercises undertaken at Hunterston B were already witnessed by our regulators (NII), but he would be happy to discuss giving a small number of people access to view an exercise, if this was considered to be helpful.

Mr Barr added that he felt if something happened within B station that he did not have enough knowledge of where to go and what actually happens. Mr Gorry said that there was a good amount of detail within the DEPZ plans and indicated he would be happy to talk to Mr Barr in more detail, should he wish.

Mr MacDougall asked about rumours that EDF (Electricity de France) might takeover British Energy how this would affect B station. Mr Gorry advised that he was unable to comment on this in any way due to current stock exchange restrictions.

Mrs Holmes asked if Wylfa was one of the stations that was part of the transmission connection agreement. Mr Gorry advised that Wylfa was not a British Energy station so he could not comment.

Mrs Holmes asked if the applications for grid connections included two reactors at each station. Mr Gorry said that he thought this was the case but in any case the Jackson report was available online which described the whole process in detail.

Mrs Holmes asked if grid connection had been sought for Hunterston C and Mr Gorry advised that this was not the case.

Mrs Holmes said she felt that emergency planning arrangements seemed to be quite 'secretive'. Mr Gorry said that this was not the case and indicated he was happy to discuss further any aspects whatsoever that Mrs Holmes wished clarification on.

Mrs Holmes asked about security arrangements for safeguarding the railhead transport. Mr Gorry confirmed that the CNC (Civil Nuclear Constabulary) were closely involved in all security arrangements. These were not publicised for obvious reasons. He added that nuclear flasks did not travel along the public highway, and that the flask being a 55 tonne stainless steel casket had been extensively crash tested. He felt entirely confident that the arrangements in place were very secure.

Mr Roscoe referred to the recent visit to site of Adam Ingram, MP and J Robertson, local councillor and was concerned that North Ayrshire had not been represented by Katy Clark MP. Mr Gorry advised that he had invited Ms Clark to the site as he was keen to discuss the nuclear debate with her and the contribution of Hunterston B to the local economy.

Mr Lamb asked about burning oil waste and the two specific discharge authorisations that Hunterston B holds. Specifically he asked about oil in the incinerator which is slightly radioactive. Andy Taylor responded that Hunterston B has been authorised by SEPA for disposal of oil / oily material through two disposal routes. Firstly the burning of radioactive waste oil through incineration on the premises and secondly a route to utilise the Hythe high temperature incinerator in Southampton is provided for incineration of solid material including organic (oil) (e.g.-where separation of the oil from the solid material is more difficult). Both of these disposal routes are reported to SEPA as they are deployed as part of the authorised activities.

Mr MacDougall asked for information regarding how many fishermen were fishing in the vicinity local to the station. He had heard that Clyde Fisheries had been asking for this information. Mr Gorry responded that he had no knowledge of this but advised that there was no hazard to anyone fishing in the local area. Mr MacDougall said that he would leave this in abeyance and report further at the next meeting.

Mrs Holmes asked about the recent issue in relation to a control rod actuator and if this was related in any way to the graphite bricks in the core. Mr Gorry said that this was essentially a brake pad failure which had slightly affected part of the control rod and that it was a one off incident. Mr Gorry categorically stated that this was not related to the reactor core. He added that Mr Rothwell, NII Inspector, would also take a view on this incident.

There were no questions from the public with regards to Hunterston B.

8. SSG RESPONSE TO NDA BUSINESS PLAN CONSULTATION

Mr John Lamb informed the group that the SSG responded to the NDA Business plan consultation, and as a result of the special meeting which took place regarding this matter, all points that were brought up have been forwarded to the NDA. Assurances have been given by the NDA that these points will be taken into consideration.

Anyone seeking a copy of the responses from SEPA, the NII, and the Environment Agency can contact the SSG secretariat.

9. SCOTTISH NUCLEAR SITES UPDATE

Mr Roach presented the Scottish nuclear sites update. A number of representatives recently attended a Scottish sites discussion group in Edinburgh, which included Mr John Lamb and Mr Angus Cochrane-Patrick. Also in attendance were representatives from the NII, NDA, British Energy stations, Magnox North, Dounreay, MOD sites and the Scottish Government. Examples of subjects discussed were new build and socio-economic affairs, in particular a strong input on skills academy and retraining, and community apprenticeships.

The NDA gave an input on their business plan, as well as information on a strategic environmental analysis paper on going at present. They reiterated the fact their assets were up for sale to facilitate potential new build, and that they have a new chairman in Steven Henwood.

The meeting is an appropriate forum for operators, regulators and stakeholders to get some input to and from the Scottish Government. The meeting was considered to be generally productive, with the next meeting scheduled for October.

Mr John Lamb added that both Hunterston A and B stations should look to get information on nuclear skills academies to local schools in order to raise awareness.

Mr Roach then commented on what was an interesting discussion regarding the ability to move waste across boundaries, i.e. the UK and abroad. Elizabeth Gray had stated this wasn't policy, but was reminded that options are trying to be opened up in this instance, and by foreclosing these potential options the best environmental impact assessments may be missed out on. As a result, it was promised that these changes would be considered.

Mr Ivor Roscoe referred to an article which received bad press regarding the shipment of plutonium on old ferries, asking if it was the NDA who organised this. Mr Keith Riding assured the group that the tabloid press organised this, and that the vessel would be compliant.

Mr John Lamb informed the group that there are summary transcripts of the NSG held on 22nd/23rd November 2007 available to anyone who may be interested, as well as copies of the report Mr Angus Cochrane-Patrick compiled on the BERR presentation in London.

10. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was agreed as Thursday 19th June 2008 in the Brisbane House Hotel, Largs at 2pm.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

With regards to national matters linked to Hunterston A site, Ms Rita Holmes asked if heart disease was being referred to when mentioning non cancer deaths, to which Mr Roach confirmed it was.

Following a question asked at the November SSG meeting, regarding provision of information to farmers during an emergency at the Hunterston site, Mr Daniel Reid stated that no feedback had been received from Mr Peter Ford or Mr Peter Roach on the matters rose.

Mr Peter Ford highlighted that this action was taken away to the NII and enquiries made as to what sort of advice is offered to farmers in respect to their animals. Mr Ford then offered the following response:

Initial guidance is provided in the Hunterston Nuclear Power Station and Decommissioning Site Off-Site Plan which instructs "leave all farm animals where they are" (Annex 18.1 Information for Local Residents Annex A). More specific information is not available at this stage as it will depend on the nature of the actual incident. The priority will be human health and safety. The keeper will receive specific information regarding the emergency by appropriate means such as phone, text etc.

Movement restrictions if appropriate will be applied following consultation between a number of agencies including Animal Health Office and Food Standards Agency, and will take into account the risk to humans, the food chain and animals."

Mr Ford then informed the group that he had showed this statement to Mr Reid before the meeting started, and confirmed that prior to the meeting, he spoke to Mr Reid by telephone on two occasions. During the second conversation, which lasted over an hour, the same issues to those aired at the November meeting were raised again. Mr Ford stated he had outlined the sort of comment he could provide Mr Reid, based on the advice he had received. It was made aware to the group that effort had been put in to respond to Mr Reid's concerns, as an act of goodwill. The off-site emergency plan is published by North Ayrshire Council and calls for a multi-agency response in the event of an off-site incident. Leave commitments have also led to a slight delay since the last time this matter was spoke of.

Mr Reid responded by saying that this confirms there is a gap, which nobody is willing to accept. It was also confirmed that legal reasons as to why the National Farmers Union (NFU) should be involved in the emergency plan had been submitted to Mr Roach. Mr Ford stated he was not aware of a gap.

Mr Lamb commented that he would make enquiries with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) regarding animal health and obtain their input into the emergency plan.

Mr Roach then explained that there are varying responsibilities across all government agencies and groups during an emergency exercise. This will be looked at again to find out who should converse with the NFU during these exercises. Mr Roach added that while the emergency plan is his responsibility, the approval of this plan has a very in depth consultation process. It is lead by the NII who consult with a number of agencies, placing numerous responsibilities at the emergency control centre. These agencies can be advised, but not controlled by the Site Director.

Mr Kenny MacDougall suggested that the SSG write to all the agencies to ask them what emergency exercise procedures are.

Ms Rita Holmes informed Mr Reid that RIMNET were an agency with stations near Hunterston A site, where radiation monitoring is available.

Mr Angus Cochrane-Patrick added that the NFU should take this matter up directly with the Government.



12. PUBLIC Q AND A 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 Chairman