

Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

THE THIRTEENTH HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 19TH JUNE 2008 IN THE BRISBANE HOUSE HOTEL, LARGS.

Present

Hunterston Estate

Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick

British Energy

Mr Mark Gorry
Ms Anne Bradley
Ms Yvonne White
Mr Stuart Mears
Mr Andy Taylor

Councillors

Mr Robert Barr (Dalry & West Kilbride)

Community Councillors

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

Magnox North

Mr Peter Roach
Mr Reuben Phillips
Mrs Alyson Russell-Stevenson

In Attendance

Mr Sam Anderson, Scottish Government
Several members of the public

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were given for Karl Littlewood, Jane Cooper, Tony Bale, Ralston Rider, Mike Johnston, and William Gibson.

National Farmers Union

Mr Daniel Reid

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Mr Keith Riding

Nuclear Installations Inspectorate

Mr Les Davies

Community Members

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

North Ayrshire Council

Mr Hugh McGhee

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Chairman John Lamb welcomed everyone to the 13th meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group (SSG).

2. MINUTES of the 20th MARCH 2008 Amendments / Actions

Mr John Robertson stated he was unhappy regarding funding that was given to Largs Town Twinning. Mr Peter Roach acknowledged the point being made, and noted the concern.

An amendment has been made to the last minutes with regards to a request for information on marine modelling. The request was in fact made by Mr Kenny MacDougall, not Mr Ivor Roscoe as the minutes had suggested.

There were no other amendments or actions, and the minutes were accepted.

Matters Arising

Mr John Lamb raised the matter regarding Mr Daniel Reid's question from the last meeting which was taken up with the Scottish Government. The response Mr Lamb received from the Scottish Government was that if Mr Reid was still not satisfied with the SSG's response, the next course of action was to take the matter up with the minister involved via local MSP. As of now, it is no longer an SSG matter.

Mrs Rita Holmes commented that details for emergency planning are too general, secretive, and is not specific enough for the local population. Mrs Holmes also requested information regarding Potassium Iodate tablets. Following discussions, Mr Mark Gorry denied emergency planning was secretive, and as a result would write to all members of the committee to inform them of the Potassium Iodate tablet arrangements for the community.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

The apologies which had been submitted were read out. There was no other correspondence.

4. NDA GENERAL UPDATE

Mr Keith Riding then presented the NDA general update, with the following discussions taking place:

Mr Kenny MacDougall asked if the new NDA Chairman, Steven Henwood, would be doing any site visits, and if so, would the SSG be invited to meet him. Mr Riding responded that Steven Henwood had already visited certain sites, but that something would be arranged in the foreseeable future with regards to a meeting with the SSG.

There were no further questions, however Mr Lamb said he would write to Dr Roxburgh on behalf of the SSG to thank him for the work which he has done.

5.A HUNTERSTON A SITE REPORT

Peter Roach presented the Hunterston A site report, and the following discussions took place:

Mrs Holmes requested a copy of the map which shows where the assets around Hunterston A site are. **ACTION: P. ROACH**

Mrs Holmes then questioned if the ILW store was in fact too big for what is intended to be stored in the building. Mr Roach clarified that the store was designed to cope with the operational waste arising on site, however should material be stacked differently, there was the possibility of storing more than what was originally designed for.

Mrs Holmes also asked if there would be any gaseous discharges from the ILW store, to which Mr Roach confirmed it was the assumption that there would not be, however environmental equipment had been installed to detect discharges should any arise. Mr Roach also confirmed that there was little or no chance of potential criticality due to an assay system which is in place, where upon retrieval this would be found before being stored into boxes.

Mrs Holmes did request regular updates on the details of the retrieval and repackaging design, which Mr Roach agreed to do in order to ensure stakeholder engagement in the form of a pamphlet. **ACTION: P ROACH**

Mr Kenny MacDougall asked for some clarity on whether Hunterston A were intending to apply to change the authorisation of what can be stored in the ILW Store. Mr Roach responded that there was no intent or action taken at present to change the current planning permission. However, twelve months ago the site looked into the possibility of moving other ILW from other sites into the building. This was deemed possible, however aspects such as security, transport, package design, new emergency arrangements, planning, and consultation with the public would need to be looked at in order to deem whether or not changes would be proposed.

Mr Daniel Reid asked for Mr Roach's comments on two points he felt were inconsistent regarding emergency arrangements. Mr Roach said he failed to see where the points were inconsistent, and clarified that the NII have licence conditions which Hunterston A must satisfy, including a responsibility to have emergency arrangements in place while ensuring they are regularly exercised and observed by the NII as being appropriate and adequate. Mr Reid also insisted there is a gap in the arrangements for providing information to farmers following an off site release. Mr Roach made it clear that this is not Hunterston A or the NII's responsibility, but that of the Scottish Government.

Mr Lamb also informed Mr Reid that the plan for a nuclear emergency can be found both in local libraries and on the North Ayrshire Council website. A lengthy discussion certain members of the group then took place, with Mr Sam Anderson reiterating that if Mr Reid was still not happy with this particular issue, he should write to his local MSP to inform the appropriate minister, who would then investigate the issue and get a response accordingly.

Mr Lamb enquired if the SILWE demonstration facility installed at a workshop in Kilbirnie would be something that the SSG members could visit. **ACTION: P. ROACH**

Mr Lamb asked if the disposal of the CCP fuel storage skips to Drigg would have an effect on the percentage of authorised disposal. Mr Reuben Phillips responded that the site would still be well within its authorisation limits as the amount stored in containers are maximised to ensure best use of the facility at Drigg. It was also confirmed that the amount of half height iso's being disposed to Drigg was approximately twenty per year.

Mrs Holmes enquired about the problem with the wet sludge retrieval project. Mr Roach reiterated that the contractor has a problem ensuring the sludge can be retrieved in the right concentration, so that grouting is made easier when the time comes to pacify the waste.

Mr Kenny MacDougall enquired what effects SEPA's industrial action would have on the program of work at Hunterston A, and if there was a potential for any neptunium in the pond. Mr Roach responded that the site's program of work could be impacted, but that there are other works which have authorisation already in place therefore work would not be stopped completely. Mr Roach added that while there was potential for traces of neptunium at variable concentrations, there is a hold point in the course of work which prevents any discharging to the River Clyde until SEPA have granted authorisation. Until then, there would be no discharging.

5.B NII SITE REPORT

Dr Les Davies presented the NII Hunterston A report, and invited any questions. Mr Lamb asked what the outcome was of the NII investigation. Dr Davies replied that an investigation is still on going, and the outcome of this will be included in the next SSG report.

6. B STATION REPORT

Mr Mark Gorry reviewed the Hunterston B Quarterly Report which had been sent to the committee members in advance of the meeting, and the following discussions took place:

Mrs Rita Holmes referred to the Station's PPC permit for combustion plant, asking if this was for burning Low Level Waste (LLW) and if so was there was a problem. Mr Gorry confirmed that this was not plant for burning LLW, and the issue was that it was a requirement to have a permit from SEPA to burn combustibles in the plant, for example to operate diesel engines. With regards to LLW, Mr Gorry was pleased to report that the station was coming towards the end of burning the backlog of oil LLW.

Mrs Holmes asked if the Hunterston B quarterly report coverage dates could be more up to date. Mr Gorry said that the written report covered the agreed time period, and that he added this information verbally at the meeting in order to bring everyone up to date.

Mrs Holmes then referred to the R4 Reactor trip in the report, stating that in the past the SSG members had been informed by letter of any events of this nature. Mr Gorry responded that at previous sites, letters were only sent to SSG members when there was something that could potentially cause concern, but that he was happy to write out about the R4 reactor trip & would do so.

ACTION: M. GORRY

Mr Ivor Roscoe asked if there was any update to a previous discussion at the September meeting, where British Energy had taken an action to contact Network Rail with regards to the stability and security of the railtrack between Largs, West Kilbride and Ardrossan. Mr Gorry said he was not aware of any safety problem with the railway track, but that he would make further enquiries into the matter.

ACTION: M. GORRY

Mr Angus Cochrane-Patrick referred to an article in the Scottish Daily Mail about emergency shutdown equipment at Hunterston B, and asked Mr Gorry if he could comment on its accuracy. Mr Gorry confirmed he had written to the editor about the lack of accuracy contained in the article, which referred to the need for an additional shutdown system,

however his response had not been published. Mr Gorry described the installed systems which could be used in the event of an emergency shutdown, i.e. control rods and the secondary shutdown system using gas, and said that a third system called a diverse shutdown system was under review which was what the article referred to.

Mr Peter MacFarlane mentioned he heard there had been a manual shutdown at Hunterston B due the failure of the emergency system. Mr Gorry assured Mr MacFarlane that there had been no manual shutdowns at the plant due to failure of the automatic shutdown system. Mr Andy Taylor suggested that Mr MacFarlane may have been referring to a “trip” during 2007 where operators had taken action to shut the plant down in advance of the emergency system activating. Mr Gorry offered to provide more information in writing on this event to the SSG.

ACTION: M. GORRY

Mr John Lamb asked Mr Gorry to further explain the incident referred to in the NII report, item 3.1, Removal of Reactor 3 Cooling Water Pump. Mr Gorry explained that the event was assessed as a level 1, the lowest level on the INES scale, referred to as an anomaly. During maintenance of one of the reactors some equipment was taken out of service for routine work, not recognising that it was required to be available as backup for Reactor 4. An investigation was launched immediately, and actions were placed to re-write the associated operational procedure more clearly with further training provided.

Mrs Holmes referred to the item on the new apprentice programme, commenting that she had spoken to a member of Greenpeace who confirmed that the academy based in HMS Sultan, Gosport provided the best training available. Mr Gorry said that the training facilities were superb with excellent accommodation for the students, and that their parents would be offered visits by British Energy to view the facilities for themselves. Members of the company had also recently met with the parents at a presentation evening in the Seamill Hydro. Mr Gorry went on to say that British Energy had signed a seven year contract with Flagship to provide training to the company’s engineering apprentices.

Out with the report, Mrs Holmes asked Mr Gorry to divulge the location of the storage of Potassium Iodate tablets should they be needed outside the DEPZ, saying she felt there was secrecy as to where they were being held. Mr Gorry assured Mrs Holmes there was no secrecy, and offered to write to the SSG with more information on this point.

ACTION: M. GORRY

7. NSG UPDATE

Mr Lamb informed the group that both he and Mr MacDougall had attended the NSG Conference in Edinburgh, where presentations included the development of a new strategy for the NDA, and also SSG consultation on guidance to stakeholder engagement. The mode and format of future NSG Conferences is going to be looked at by the NDA, which will be instrumental in granting SSG’s a greater involvement in future NSG meetings. The full minute of this meeting will be available shortly on the NDA website, with hard copies also available at the next SSG meeting in September.

8. LOCATION OF SSG MEETINGS

A request has been made to include Ardrossan in the hosting of future SSG meetings.

9. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next SSG meeting will be in Lauriston Hotel, Ardrossan on the 18th September 2008 at 2.00pm.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was confirmed that the visit to Dounreay will be on Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th August 2008, with the visit to Sellafield on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th September 2008.

Mr John Robertson proposed that certain questions be in writing to the Chairman in order to avoid a number of questions being answered for one person. Mr Lamb said this would be considered as an option.

Mr Angus Cochraine-Patrick enquired what website the SSG use in relation to stakeholder guidance. Mr Lamb confirmed the information would be available on the Hunterston A website, but will be accessible via a link on the NDA website.

Mr Daniel Reid asked if Mr Lamb would like to comment on the communication he had received from the Scottish Office. Mr Lamb reiterated that he was informed Mr Reid had rejected an invite to attend a conference in Edinburgh, ran by the Health Protection Agency. Mr Lamb added he was lead to believe that if Mr Reid had any further requests for information, it had to be directed through his MSP to the minister involved in Edinburgh, and as a result the Scottish Government would then take the matter up further. Mr Reid stated that while he failed to take the offer up, he denied he formally declined the invite.

In an attempt to try and improve upon the process of future meetings, it was suggested that all reports are assumed as read, with only issues which may arise being discussed. However Mr Lamb clarified that as members of the public do not have access to these reports, and this was in fact a public meeting, all reports must be fully covered for in the current format.

It was also suggested that a sub-group be set up to deal with the emergency planning issue in particular, and indeed any other issues which may arise. Mr Lamb agreed to take this suggestion on board, and get back to the members of the SSG as soon as possible to organise this.

11. PUBLIC Q AND A SESSION

The point was raised that members of public have little opportunity to exchange views with the SSG, and the question was asked by a member of the public as to how the Community Councillors and Community Members distribute SSG news and updates. It was also added that very little information on this matter can be found in local libraries, websites or Community Council meetings. Mr Kenny MacDougall responded that every Community Council meeting details the Hunterston reports. These are then submitted to the local library along with the minutes of the Community Council meeting, which include a full report on all SSG matters.

Mrs Alyson Russell-Stevenson also made it clear that the minutes from the SSG meetings are sent to the Largs & Millport Weekly News, the Ardrossan & Saltcoats Herald, West Kilbride Library, Cunningham District Library, Largs Library, the Chief Executive at Cunningham House, and other individuals who request copies. Furthermore, the NDA can only put minutes on their website once approved.

There were no further issues raised, with Chairman Mr John Lamb concluding the meeting and thanking all of those present for their attendance.

Mr John Lamb
SSG Chairman