

Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

THE FOURTEENTH HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2008 IN THE LAURISTON HOTEL, ARDROSSAN.

Present

Hunterston Estate

Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick

British Energy

Mr Colin Weir

Mr Stuart McGhie

Magnox North

Mr Peter Roach

Mr Reuben Phillips

Mrs Kelly McMillan

Mr Tony Bale

Community Councillors

Mrs Rita Holmes - Fairlie

Mr John Lamb - West Kilbride (Chair)

Mr Kenny MacDougall - Ardrossan (Deputy Chair)

Mr Peter MacFarlane - Largs

In Attendance

Ms Yvonne White, British Energy

Mr Andy Taylor, British Energy

Mr Lee Talbot, Magnox North

Mr Jon Dolphin, Magnox North

Mr Derek Rooney, Magnox North

Mr Arthur Cairns, North Ayrshire Council

Strathclyde Police

Members of the public

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were given for Keith Riding (NDA), Les Davies (NII), Karl Littlewood (SEPA), Mark Gorry (British Energy) and Cllr William Gibson.

Community Members

Mr Mike Johnston

Mr Ivor Roscoe

Mr Frank Craig

Mr John Robertson

Councillors

Mr Robert Barr (Dalry & West Kilbride)

North Ayrshire Council

Mr Hugh McGhee

Ayrshire & Arran Health Board

Mrs Lorette Dunlop

Scottish Government

Mrs Sandra Jack

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Chairman John Lamb welcomed everyone to the 14th meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group (SSG).

2. MINUTES of the 19th JUNE 2008

Amendments / Actions

No issues were raised and the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19th June 2008 were agreed.

Matters Arising

Mr John Lamb informed the group that he received a response from Dr. Roxburgh thanking the SSG for the letter sent to him regarding his retirement from the NDA. Dr. Roxburgh expressed that he will be working closely with the Executive team whilst the process to recruit his successor progresses.

Following an action placed on Mr Mark Gorry regarding the status of the rail track between Fairlie, West Kilbride and Ardrossan, Mr Lamb confirmed Mr Gorry had since responded by sending letters to all members of the group.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

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

4. HUNTERSTON B STATION REPORT

Plant Manager Mr Colin Weir, deputising for Station Director Mr Mark Gorry, reviewed the Hunterston B Quarterly Report which had been sent to the committee members in advance of the meeting. The following discussions took place.

Mrs Rita Holmes referred to Mr Gorry's proposed action to send a letter to the SSG members regarding the 'secrecy surrounding the storage arrangements of potassium iodate tablets'. Mr Weir responded that there was no secrecy, and referred the members to a letter written by Mr Gorry alluding to the publicly available emergency plan.

Ms Lorette Dunlop added that the residents within the detailed emergency planning zone at Hunterston had recently received new stocks of iodate tablets. The NHS holds stocks of tablets which would be issued to the public if required during an emergency and that for security and safety reasons, no public disclosure would be made regarding the storage details.

Mr Ivor Roscoe queried how the public find out information about rest centres, and what arrangements there are in place. Mr Arthur Cairns, Emergency Planning Officer for North Ayrshire Council, referred Mr Roscoe to the emergency plan and explained that there are robust arrangements in place to ensure the public's safety and wellbeing are looked after.

Ms Yvonne White, Press Officer for British Energy added that the communications team and the media would play a big part in communicating information to the public during an emergency.

Mrs Holmes asked which schools would be benefiting from the Generation Science tour 2009. Mr Stuart McGhie responded that several schools in the local area had been nominated, and he would furnish the members with a full list if requested.

Mr Kenny MacDougall asked why there were no representatives from either the NII or SEPA present at the meeting. Mr Weir advised that while British Energy was not responsible for ensuring their attendance, he would pass on the question to the NII and SEPA for a response.

Mr Lamb added that the meetings were pre-determined by the NII and SEPA so as to facilitate their attendance while stating that their requirement to attend the meetings needed to be emphasised.

Mrs Holmes questioned the 'adequate' pass mark given to Hunterston B from NII in relation to a recent Level 1 exercise. Mr Weir explained that this was the terminology the NII used, and it did not indicate that Hunterston B's pass mark was low.

Mrs Holmes asked how Mr Weir could be sure that work carried out at Hunterston B is being properly overseen, ensuring that any equipment being moved/removed is done so by someone who knows what they are doing. Mr Weir responded by highlighting British Energy's primary focus on safety and high standards of human performance. There were no issues with regards to safe systems of work as these assessments are robust in the Station's work management systems. Individuals on site are trained and qualified in line with company requirements. The equipment was not removed in this instance, however some adjustments were being made at the time of the transient.

Mr Angus Cochrane-Patrick made a request to British Energy asking that the company did not send the SSG members any further information relating to new build issues, unless it was specifically requested.

No SEPA report was available for B station.

5. NDA GENERAL UPDATE

Mr Peter Roach presented the NDA general update on behalf of Mr Keith Riding, and the following discussions took place:

Cllr Robert Barr asked if there was any process in place for dealing with sickness leave. Mr Roach replied that there was indeed a process and it was working well. The short term sickness is very good, but due to a number of employees with back, knee and ankle injuries, long term sickness has increased and therefore statistics are being affected.

Mr Kenny MacDougall asked if the Site wanted to explain more knowledge of the Temporary Weather Barrier project. MR Roach explained that a bracket had been found to be defective. As a result, the job was stopped in line with the Site's commitment to safety first. Tests have been carried out on the contractors brackets and a new design is being prepared to address the problem.

6. A HUNTERSTON A SITE REPORT

Mr Roach addressed all actions from the previous SSG meeting, before presenting the Hunterston A Site report. The following discussions took place:

Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick asked where the Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation (SILWE) plant will physically be going. Mr Roach confirmed that the location would be to the north east of Reactor 1, to which plans for building the structure have been submitted.

Mrs Rita Holmes raised concerns that Fairlie Community Council does not know enough about the SILWE proposals. Mr Roach informed Mrs Holmes that he would be happy to arrange for a member of the Project team to attend the next SSG meeting and give a presentation on the SILWE process and layout.

ACTION: P. ROACH

Mrs Holmes asked what the hazards associated with the retrieval process were. Mr Roach outlined the activities planned and the internal process to identify potential hazards including the HAZOP studies. Mr Roach stated that if further information regarding more detailed work was required, he would be happy to invite Mrs Holmes to study the HAZOP reports or observe a HAZOP process, although this would involve a high degree of commitment from Mrs Holmes.

Mr Lamb emphasised to Mrs Holmes that the planning application gone to North Ayrshire Council is purely for the encapsulation facility, not the retrieval of waste from the bunkers. Mr Roach added at this point that the Site is not required in this industry to apply for Building Warrant.

Mr Frank Craig asked what sort of time span is associated with buildings such as the SILWE plant. Mr Roach responded that plans state the Solid Retrieval should be completed by 2016, with some minor demolition work occurring thereafter to remove the building.

Mr Cochran-Patrick asked for some further information regarding preparations to excavate the foundations. Mr Roach stated that a series of boreholes were drilled to find out what the rock underneath was like, and to test for any contamination. This then allowed for preparation work to follow such as deciding where could be excavated and at what depth etc.

Mrs Holmes enquired why only Mr Lamb and Mr MacDougall were invited to the demonstration workshop at Kilbirnie. Mr Lamb explained that the visit was set up for Chair and Vice Chair prior to the SSG meeting so that relevant information could be fed back to the rest of the group. Mr Lamb added that the workshop is open to those who wish to go and view the facility at a future date.

6. B NII REPORT

Mr Roach stated he was concerned Hunterston A's NII and SEPA Inspectors were unable to attend the meeting, and made it clear that he had contacted Mr Lamb in advance to inform him of both apologies. Mr Lamb confirmed that NII Inspector Dr Les Davies had been in touch to offer his apologies, but did commit himself to attending two SSG meetings per year. Due to defuelling works, it was explained that most of Dr. Davies' time will now be spent at Chapelcross, however when at Hunterston A he would make himself available to the Chair and Vice Chair to address any questions.

Mr Lamb confirmed that SEPA had offered no communication with regards to their non attendance, and has since asked Elizabeth Gray to enquire why there has been this lack of attendance.

Mr MacDougall wished to note that he was uncomfortable both NII and SEPA had not attended the meeting, and as opposed to sending reports, should be sending a representative instead. He stated that both organisations must start showing more commitment and respect to the SSG in the future.

Mrs Holmes added that the Inspectors could not be in two places at once, and while it would be good if they could attend meetings, it is more important that they are looking after defuelling at Chapelcross.

7. HUNTERSTON A LIFETIME PLAN PRESENTATION

Mr Roach gave an overview presentation of the Lifetime Plan 2008, and the following discussions took place:

Mr Craig highlighted that the NDA facility could carry on decommissioning Hunterston B Station when it stops generating in 2016, as the skills and workforce would already be in place at Hunterston A.

Mrs Holmes asked if all waste being stored in the ILW Store when operations commence in April 2010 will be encapsulated, and also what will be stored first. Mr Roach confirmed that all material will be encapsulated, and that other solid materials around site such as filters can test the active commissioning of the ILW store.

Mr Craig enquired if an encapsulation plant big enough to accommodate both Hunterston A and B would benefit the NDA. Mr Roach responded that while it was an opportunity, improvement notice required the waste to be pacified early, therefore the site had to go with their current plan.

Mr MacDougall suggested that the SSG lobby the NDA for more socio-economic funding. Mr Roach commented how well the SSG scrutinise and made reference to the quality reports which have been produced. He then went on to identify that other SSG's have been able to benefit their local communities through discussions with the NDA and lobbying Government. It was suggested that the Hunterston SSG may wish to explore this opportunity further.

Mrs Holmes enquired if Mr Roach was asking the SSG to promote work at Hunterston A site. Mr Roach stated that some SSG's are lobbying Government to put pressure on the NDA to make their site first to be cleared. Mr MacDougall added that Mr Roach was not asking the group to do anything, merely highlighting the opportunity to lobby for secure funding which will allow works to progress. If the SSG want site clearance, then they must make their voice heard and become more knowledgeable about what is going on out with Hunterston A.

Mr Tony Bale highlighted that from the ten sites within the Magnox fleet, only Hunterston A and Trawsfynydd are at the decommissioning stage. While Trawsfynydd are more politically active in trying to secure lead site, Hunterston A would be ideal for lead site in Scotland. As a result, Hunterston A should concentrate on both decommissioning and what the SSG can do to secure this.

Mrs Holmes reiterated that effectively the Government decide where funding will go, which in general tends to be areas with the most hazardous conditions such as Dounreay and Sellafield. Mr Roach agreed that the Government do decide on funding, however in staying silent, the Hunterston community may miss out.

Mr Mike Johnson commented that there is pressure to reuse Hunterston A for new nuclear build or a clean coal station, and that the site should not be reused while the legacy is being abandoned. The condition of reuse should be that the legacy is at least maintained on schedule or accelerated. Mr Lamb responded that the forecast for the clean coal site is the

Hunterston ore terminal, nor would there be any new build at Hunterston A. If there was to be a Government approved site for new build at Hunterston, it would be in the form of a C Site.

Mrs Holmes voiced her concerns that the longer waste is left the more it will decay naturally. Mr Roach stated that some radionuclides are not short lived and therefore will not decay sufficiently.

Mr Lamb said that the SSG should look at lobbying to assist with securing continued funding. Mrs Holmes added that her only concern was that the SSG were being expected to commit themselves to something other than decommissioning. Mr Lamb suggested a subgroup meeting be set up to discuss this matter further. **ACTION: K. McMILLAN**

Before moving on to the next item on the agenda, Mr Lamb touched briefly on the opportunity members of the SSG were given to visit Sellafield, LLW Repository and Dounreay. The group were exceptionally well received with significant visits around the Thorp and MOX plant, and observing an SSG at Dounreay was also deemed beneficial.

8. LAND QUALITY SUBGROUP UPDATE

Mr MacDougall gave a brief update on the Land Quality Subgroup, commenting that a presentation was given by Project Leader Lorna Lavelle at a meeting on 15 July 2008. Mr MacDougall added that Project Leader Ms Lavelle had since left the company, with Jon Dolphin taking over as her replacement.

There were some concerns voiced regarding the Very Low Level Waste Pits (VLLWP) which is why the subgroup was originally set up. It was also advised that a paper trail be made available, which has now been addressed and put in place. Mr MacDougall also highlighted that for future reference, it would be helpful if evidence was provided for statements that are made, e.g. if the pits were removed the water would ingress.

An email was also sent by North Ayrshire Council in response to a question raised at the last meeting from Mrs Holmes regarding regulatory matters. The email states that under the new regulations, North Ayrshire Council has a duty to notify SEPA about where they suspect land to be radioactively contaminated. The procedure for giving such notice is a matter for SEPA to jointly consider with North Ayrshire Council, but ultimately for SEPA to confirm the radioactive contamination and inform the Council of the outcome. If land is contaminated, then responsibilities lie with SEPA.

One further point Mr MacDougall noted was that the Dounreay SSG are looking into the removal of the waste from their low level pits, and wondered why Hunterston A felt an alternative route was best. Mr MacDougall felt this was an issue which should be discussed at the next subgroup meeting, on Monday 29 September 2008 at 6.00. All members of the SSG are welcome.

9. FUTURE SSG MEETING STRUCTURE

Mr Lamb informed the group that it had been proposed to change the structure of future SSG meetings. This new proposal would consist of two Hunterston A SSG meetings per year, two Hunterston B SSG meetings per year, and two Hunterston A and B SSG meetings per year. As opposed to four meetings per year, there would effectively be six in total.

Mr Roach confirmed he had proposed the change as it would allow for time to discuss more detailed Hunterston A issues. Mr MacDougall added that he felt Hunterston B could put more information towards the SSG, and this could be captured in a B Station only meeting.

Mrs Lorette Dunlop felt that six meetings per year would be an additional demand on those attending, however Mr Lamb commented that in terms of getting information into the public domain, and considering the SSG was set up for the decommissioning of Hunterston A, the new format would be more appropriate.

The new proposal was agreed, and an action placed to set up next year's diary which would include the new structure. **ACTION: K. McMILLAN**

10. DATE, VENUE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be 20 November 2008 at the Brisbane House Hotel, Largs at 9.30am.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Cochran-Patrick related back to the Land Quality Subgroup and wished to note he was very impressed with the reports and work which has been done regarding the very low level waste pits.

12. PUBLIC Q AND A SESSION

There were no questions from the public, and Mr Lamb concluded the meeting by thanking all those present for their attendance.

Mr John Lamb
SSG Chairman