

Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

THE FIFTEENTH HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2008 IN THE BRISBANE HOUSE HOTEL, LARGS.

Present

Magnox North

Mr Peter Roach
Mr Reuben Phillips
Mrs Kelly McMillan
Mr Tony Bale

British Energy

Mr Mark Gorry

Hunterston Estate

Mr Ralston Ryder

Community Councillors

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

In Attendance

Mr Derek Rooney, Magnox North
Mr Steve Saunders, Magnox North
Mr Ed Lavery, Magnox North
Mr Norrie Fleming, Magnox North
Mrs Anne Bradley, British Energy
Ms Yvonne White, British Energy
Mr Andy Taylor, British Energy
Mr Stuart McGhie, British Energy
Mr Richard Flynn, NDA

Apologies for Absence

Sandra Jack, Elizabeth Gray, Dr. Jane Cooper, Cllr William Gibson, Hugh McGhee, Mike Johnston, John Robertson, and Angus Cochran-Patrick.

NDA

Mr Keith Riding

SEPA

Karl Littlewood
Keith Hammond

NII

Dr. Les Davies
Mr Peter Rothwell

Community Members

Mr William Laing
Mr Frank Craig
Mr Ivor Roscoe

Ayrshire & Arran Health Board

Mrs Lorette Dunlop

National Farmers Union

Mr Daniel Reid

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Chairman John Lamb welcomed everyone to the 15th meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group (SSG).

2. MINUTES of 18th SEPTEMBER 2008

Mrs Rita Holmes raised the issue of where the Potassium Iodate tablets are stored. Mr Mark Gorry reiterated that there was no secrecy relating to this matter, good information was provided regarding emergency planning, however the exact location of where the Iodate tablets are stored can not be made available.

Mrs Lorette Dunlop added that this matter has recently been discussed with the Scottish Government Health Department, and for security reasons it is UK and Scottish Government policy not to disclose the location of these stockpiles. Mrs Dunlop offered to provide information at the next SSG meeting which would detail who distributes the tablets and the public procedure for picking them up during an emergency. Mr Lamb then drew this matter to a close, and stated there is no further action on B Station.

No further issues were raised and the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18 September 2008 were agreed.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

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

4. SILWE PRESENTATION

Mr Peter Roach took an action at the last SSG meeting to provide more information on Hunterston A's Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation (SILWE) project. As a result, Mr Roach introduced two members of the Site SILWE project team, Mr Ed Lavery and Mr Norrie Fleming, to carry out a presentation and answer any questions thereafter.

Mrs Rita Holmes asked if the HEPA filters will be intact when they are removed from the bunkers. Mr Fleming explained that HEPA filters had been put into the bunkers during operational years, however there is a requirement to segregate them. The intention is to put two HEPA filters into each box through shredding and compacting, therefore preventing a build up of hydrogen during the encapsulation process. Mr Fleming added that it is the responsibility of the SAWBR project operators to ensure that no more than two filters are put into each box.

Mrs Holmes asked if this clean up process had been looked at anywhere else. Mr Roach confirmed that Trawsfynydd are retrieving solid waste and Mr Lavery stated that waste had also been encapsulated at Sellafield through a similar process.

Mrs Holmes raised some concern regarding carbon-14 emissions. Mr Lavery explained that results from Trawsfynydd regarding the encapsulation of similar material have provided base data on gaseous emissions, and laboratory trials are also being conducted to quantify carbon-14. A vent system however is in place at Hunterston A to control and monitor contamination.

Mr Kenny MacDougall directed a question at NII regarding possible concerns with the SAWBR process. Dr Les Davies confirmed that NII are actively engaging with Hunterston A on this project with regular meetings held to discuss and resolve any issues which may arise. The

contents of the bunkers provide the biggest hazard at Site, therefore the project is a priority to ensure this hazard is reduced. Mr Roach added that the only previous concern he was aware of regarded water ingress into the room above the bunkers caused by rainfall, which has since been repaired. Importantly, Detection systems on the bunkers show that water did not gain entry into the bunkers themselves.

Mrs Holmes enquired if SEPA had any concerns regarding the process. Mr Karl Littlewood stated that SEPA has been involved in various stages throughout the commissioning of the project, and the characterisation of studies to look at potential gaseous arising was of significant interest. If for example there was carbon-14 gaseous discharges, the Site would require an authorised discharge route.

5. NDA GENERAL UPDATE

Mr Keith Riding presented the NDA general update, and the following discussions took place:

Mr Ivor Roscoe asked if any input will be given by the NDA into in the next build of power stations with regards to decommissioning works. Mr Riding replied that the NDA are not associated with new build whatsoever, but it is likely that the organisations involved with this design work will already have considerable decommissioning experience from the UK and around the world.

Mrs Holmes enquired about other organisations in the current marketplace. Mr Riding explained that while the required experience is available in today's marketplace, the NDA have confidence that with the Nuclear Management Partnership Group, the right company is in place.

Mr Frank Craig asked if any of the tendering organisations had previous experience in clearing Sites. Mr Riding stated that Washington Group have done extensive decommissioning work on major US sites in addition to designing equipment at Sellafield. Arriva also have extensive French experience, and Amec have been involved in decommissioning works across numerous sites across the UK and overseas.

Mr MacDougall referred to a matter which was brought up at a recent NSG meeting, that Safe Secure Sites (S3) actually represents closing down sites and transferring the funding to Sellafield. Members of the NSG present at the meeting felt that S3 was very active, resulting in job losses across all the mentioned sites, thus allowing the NDA to channel extra funding into Sellafield. Mr Riding replied that the NDA have engaged with stakeholders and regulators to discuss prioritising work across all sites. The key issue is reducing hazards, therefore a hazard prioritisation plan has been set up. This plan indicates that Sellafield requires the most hazard reduction, and more funding means reducing these hazards quicker. Mr Riding reiterated that the NDA are a decommissioning authority, and their purpose is to close down sites.

Mrs Holmes wished to know if Hunterston A currently came into the category of S3. Dr Davies replied that the contents of the bunkers represent the largest hazard at Site, with an ongoing program in place to deal with this hazard. An improvement notice was placed in 2002 which requires the Site to empty the bunkers by 2013, and at present there is no reason to suggest the project will not progress.

Mr Tony Bale stated that part of the S3 final report recommendation was to have lead sites, with Hunterston A mentioned as lead site for Scotland. Mr Bale questioned why this had not

been discussed. Mr Riding explained that the issue of lead site and decommissioning of a Magnox Site is identified in the Draft Business Plan. One of the main problems is the vast amounts of graphite with no effective waste routes in place. The graphite would need to be removed and stored elsewhere until the national repository became available, or a process was identified to treat graphite. This is one of the main reasons that it is not appropriate to dismantle the reactor buildings.

6. A HUNTERSTON A SITE REPORT

Mr Roach presented the Hunterston A Site report and welcomed any questions.

Mrs Holmes requested more information on where the wet ILW is at Hunterston A. Mr Roach stated that there is sludge in the bottom of the Cartridge Cooling Pond (CCP), sludge retention tanks at various parts, and also a resin tank. There is some depleted acid from the clean and pack activities from the skips, and also the water itself in the CCP. The contract was let with AKER Solutions who are using a number of sub contractors to help design and construct the facility. Mr Roach offered a Site invite to those who wished to know more about the wet ILW project and the CCP.

ACTION: K. MCMILLAN

Mr Roscoe asked if the change from BERR to DECC happened recently. Mr Riding confirmed it happened at the beginning of October 2008, with Mr Lamb clarifying that the change is not a straight split, but now a combination of all government departments.

6. B NII REPORT

Dr Davies took the NII Report as read, and there were no questions from the group.

6. C SEPA REPORT

Mr Karl Littlewood presented the SEPA report to the group, and welcomed any questions.

Mrs Holmes commented that it would be a benefit to have a SEPA representative attending the Land Quality Subgroup meetings. Mr Littlewood replied that SEPA prioritise all areas of interest at Hunterston A, and arrangements will be made in the near future for an update with a one off opportunity to attend a subgroup meeting to address any specific questions a possibility thereafter. This however is not something SEPA would be able to attend on a regular basis.

ACTION: K. MCMILLAN

Mr Lamb referred to the SEPA report and asked if the review of arrangements for discharges later in the year would be for authorisation in 2008 or 2009. Mr Littlewood confirmed that the current schedule anticipates spring 2009, although there are some regulatory constraints.

7. LAND QUALITY SUBGROUP UPDATE

Mr MacDougall presented the subgroup update, and the following discussions took place:

Mr Daniel Reid felt that the issue of field drainage had not been fully addressed. Mr Steve Saunders stated that he believes the investigation work carried out at Hunterston A is an example of industry best practice. Through an independent consultant, a conceptual model has been produced for the area which includes two 9" land drains laid when the Site was developed. These are now intercepting any field drains which existed pre Site development. Mr Saunders added that after investigating contaminated land for over 30 years, he is convinced that the conceptual model fits what is actually on the Site. Mr Reid wished to note

that the statements being made are false, and believed certain drainage was not pre Site construction. Mr Saunders agreed to check and confirm this. **ACTION: S. SAUNDERS**

Mrs Holmes stressed that water samples and intensive monitoring along the beach area should be occurring on a regular basis. Mr Reuben Phillips confirmed that the 15 and 18" outfall drains are sampled twice a week with the results reported to SEPA. Mr Andy Taylor added that the area at Little Briggard is part of the district survey monitoring program which has been extensively reported through SEPA for at least 30 years.

8. NDA LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SSG's

Mr Lamb reported that the NDA have run an extensive consultation on local arrangements for SSG's for the last six months. This consultation is complete, and a final report is due for submission at the end of the year. Included are recommendations for how SSG's should operate, and Mr Lamb proposed that amendments to the current constitution are distributed to members for discussion at the March 2009 meeting.

Mr Lamb informed the group that since last meeting in September, both he and Mr MacDougall have attended 14 meetings representing the Hunterston SSG, ensuring the views of the members are put across to the NDA. Mr MacDougall added that three specific meetings were attended additionally, a Geological Disposal workshop in Leeds; a Plutonium Disposition meeting in Manchester, and an ILW Store meeting also in Manchester. These reports are now on NDA website, but Mr MacDougall stated it was beneficial for the Hunterston SSG to have a voice at these meetings.

9. SCOTTISH SITES LIASON GROUP UPDATE

Mr Roach explained that the recent meeting included a progress update from across the Sites, and a draft summary of this will be issued to members in due course. Some input regarding the NDA's Draft Business Plan and skills training across Scotland was given, however the most significant issue which arose was regarding Scottish Governments emerging strategy on waste. Scotland is now defining a new phrase called Higher Level Waste, which is anything above Low Level Waste (LLW). All sites generating this form of waste will be required to look at their inventory waste streams and determine what could be kept in some form of interim decay store and presented in future as LLW, or alternatively separated into Higher Level Waste and therefore deserving a longer term storage facility. Once proposals have been developed with SEPA, consultation with the public will occur thereafter.

10. NSG NOVEMBER 2008 UPDATE

Mr Lamb stated that both he and Mr MacDougall attended the NSG meeting at the beginning of November, where the main discussions surrounded the new Draft Business Plan. This must be agreed by Ministers in London and also Scottish Government. Copies of the plan are now accessible on the NDA website, however copies will be distributed to members of the SSG. **ACTION: K. MCMILLAN**

11. A HUNTERSTON B STATION REPORT

Mr Mark Gorry presented the Hunterston B report which had been sent to the committee members in advance of the meeting. There were no questions raised on the report.

Mr Gorry informed the members that British Energy was at the early stages of considering introducing separate 'Open' meetings throughout their sites, where topics pertinent to the company could be discussed and questions raised by a wider audience. He explained that

British Energy are currently guests at the SSG meetings, held primarily to discuss decommissioning at Hunterston A. The time allocated to B Station during each meeting was considered inadequate and not the correct forum to discuss the positive issues of plant lifetime extension, new build, jobs, and local community interaction. Mr Gorry asked the members to write, phone or e-mail him with any views on this separate meeting. (mark.gorry@british-energy.com)

Mr MacDougall agreed that the time allotted to B station was not sufficient to contribute adequately. However, he felt it would be inappropriate for members to express their views on whether there should be an alternative meeting if the SSG would not be able to join these meetings. Mr Gorry advised that typically British Energy Open meetings would be less formal, directed more at looking ahead to the future and that SSG members would be most welcome to attend. All topics would be covered and questions answered.

Mr Lamb requested that members put their thoughts on this matter in writing to Mr Gorry.

11 B NII REPORT

Mr Peter Rothwell, HSE NII Inspector, introduced himself to the members. He informed them that he had over 20 years experience in his role and had attended many SSG and LLC meetings throughout the U.K. over the years. Mr Rothwell advised that the vast majority of his inspections at Hunterston B are unannounced.

Mrs Holmes asked Mr Rothwell if he had any views on a further lifetime extension at Hunterston B. Mr Rothwell responded he did not, advising that the role of the NII was to consider the safety case presented to them for such an extension and only then could they form a view.

11 C SEPA REPORT

Mr Keith Hammond of SEPA presented the following report verbally to the members as no report had been issued in advance.

Minor Environmental Event

On 11 August 2008, a floating ball valve failure on a diesel generator water header tank resulted in ~500L of non-radioactive antifreeze leaking from the engine water cooling system (via the surface water drainage system) to the Firth of Clyde. Upon detection of the leak, the incoming water to the header tank was isolated thus preventing further discharge. A review of other plant was undertaken and similar potential failure modes were identified on the other header tanks and the jacket water cooling head tanks. The incoming water lines have been isolated to prevent automatic topping up of these header tanks (currently being checked and topped manually). The Station has adjusted the inspection regime for these cooling systems and instigated an improvement plan to allow a return to automatic topping up (i.e. installation of high level alarms, checking of low and high level indicator systems, routing of overflows to bunded areas). There was no discernible impact on the environment due to this spillage.

A similar failure at Torness Power Station prompted British Energy to send a Newsletter to all their sites on the issue of antifreeze leaks.

Regulation

Since the last SSG, SEPA's regulatory effort has focused on the station's ability to comply with the requirements of the Water Environment (Oil Storage) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 as it

relates to the station's Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) permit, Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR) licences and Radioactive Substances (RSA) authorisation.

The Station has undertaken a full review of all storage vessels and prioritised a work program based on environmental risk (based on size, location and state of the asset). The day tanks were on schedule for completion by December 2008, smaller tanks to be replaced by April 2009, central diesel bulk tanks external December 2008/internal March 2009, and the remainder by March 2010. The radioactive waste oil backlog in the Waste Oil Treatment Plant has now been cleared and decontamination work has begun on the disused tanks/bunding in this area.

A variation application for the Station's PPC permit is expected by the end of November 2008 in order to extend the compliance dates for the implementation of BAT (OSR standards) for the storage and handling of non-radioactive fuel and waste oil, monitoring and BAT assessment for the use of the Waste Oil Burner and for performing the CCTV drainage survey.

Radioactivity in Food & the Environment (RIFE)

The latest edition (RIFE 13) covering 2007 is expected to be published shortly and copies should be available at the meeting or can be obtained from SEPA's website.

Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (SPRI)

The data for 2007, including that from Hunterston B, will be published shortly and will be available on SEPA's website.

Mr Lamb asked if B station continued with the waste oil burning. Mr Gorry responded that good progress was being made on the waste oil burning.

12. SUGGESTED DATES FOR 2009 MEETINGS

Mr Lamb informed the group that the suggested dates were put together in line with SEPA and NII's visits to Site. He added that if there is conflict with these dates, members should contact the SSG Secretariat.

The date of the next meeting will be Thursday 19 March 2009, location to be confirmed.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr MacDougall pointed out that the NDA website had no information on the Hunterston SSG.

ACTION: K. MCMILLAN

Mr MacDougall suggested that a Socio-economic subgroup be set up before the next main meeting in March 2009. Mrs Kerry McMillan confirmed that this was already being looked into.

ACTION: K. MCMILLAN

Mr MacDougall also proposed that a presentation be put together to give further information on training.

Finally, Mr MacDougall explained that the SSG had questioned the NDA regarding priority areas at the recent NSG meeting. The NDA were unaware that some parts of Ayrshire are classed as deprived areas, and as a result, socio-economics in Ayrshire will be looked at in a more positive manner.



14. PUBLIC Q AND A SESSION

There were no members of the public in attendance, therefore no questions were raised.

Mr Lamb thanked everyone for their attendance, and brought the meeting to a close.

**Mr John Lamb
SSG Chairman**