

## Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

**NOTE FOR THE RECORD: SIXTEENTH HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19 MARCH 2009 IN THE SEAMILL HYDRO HOTEL, SEAMILL.**

Note: As indicated in the formal minute of the meeting this document is based on informal notes and individual recollections following a breakdown in the taped record.

### **Present**

#### **Magnox North**

Mr Peter Roach  
Mr Reuben Phillips  
Mr Tony Bale  
Miss Diane Burton

#### **British Energy**

Mr Colin Weir  
Sgt. Allan Gillies (CNC Representative)

#### **Hunterston Estate**

Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick

#### **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 Nigel Monckton, Magnox North  
Mrs Anne Bradley, British Energy  
Ms Yvonne White, British Energy  
Mr Andy Taylor, British Energy

Members of the public were also in attendance.

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Sandra Jack, Dr. Jane Cooper, Lorette Dunlop, Ivor Roscoe, Karl Littlewood, Les Davies.

#### **NDA**

Mr Keith Riding

#### **SEPA**

Mr Keith Hammond

#### **NII**

Mr Peter Rothwell

#### **Community Members**

Mr William Laing  
Mr Frank Craig

#### **Councillors**

Mr Robert Barr (Dalry & West Kilbride)  
Mr William Gibson (Three Towns)

#### **National Farmers Union**

Mr Daniel Reid

#### **North Ayrshire Council**

Mr Hugh McGhee

### 1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

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

### 2. MINUTES of 20 NOVEMBER 2008

Mr Lamb apologised to the group for the minutes not being sent out prior to the meeting. Mr MacDougall stated that he found it difficult to comment on the minutes given that he and the other members had only just received copies upon arrival. Mr Lamb added that there were actions upon the Secretariat from the previous SSG meeting, and asked if these had been carried out.

Miss Burton explained that with regards to item 6.A, a project presentation is currently being organised and Site invites will be sent out to members of the group who wish to find out more about the wet ILW and CCP projects in the near future. In terms of item 6.C, Miss Burton stated that no date had yet been set for the next Land Quality Subgroup meeting. Mr Roach added that while Karl Littlewood could not commit to attending on a regular basis, the Site will continue to invite SEPA to future meetings.

Miss Burton stated that no report was available from Mr Steve Saunders in relation to item 7. Mr Roach added that he would chase up plans of the area incorporating these drains and circulate them with the group in due course.

**ACTION P. ROACH**

Finally, Miss Burton addressed the remaining actions from items 10 and 13, explaining that copies of the new Draft Business Plan had been sent to the members, information regarding the Hunterston SSG had been updated on the NDA website, and the Socio-economic subgroup had held their first meeting on Thursday 5 February 2009.

Mr Lamb decided to leave any questions regarding the minutes of 20 November 2008 open until the next SSG meeting.

A member of public stated his displeasure at the late delivery of the minutes, and sought assurance from Mr Lamb that there would not be a recurrence. The member of the public also stated all actions from the previous meeting should be fully addressed, as no feedback had been provided from Mrs Lorette Dunlop regarding who distributes Potassium Iodate tablets and the public procedure for picking them up during an emergency. Mr Lamb said he would ensure this did not happen in the future, but highlighted that the unapproved minutes had been available to view on the NDA website. This was confirmed by an additional member of the public who stated draft minutes were available. Mr MacDougall added that there was a new Secretariat in place and that handover had been relatively short, hence some difficulties which he believed were being resolved. Mr Roach confirmed that minutes would be distributed earlier in future, as had been standard practise previously.

### 3. CORRESPONDENCE

Miss Burton stated that the NDA Draft Business Plan was received on 8 December 2008 and had been distributed to members. On 24 December information regarding NDA guidance for SSG's was received as was the NDA Stakeholders newsletter which was sent out on 29 December. In addition, Mrs Sandra Jack contacted the Secretariat on 17 March 2009 with an update on the Higher Activity Waste Policy. This email was read out to the group and relevant documentation was made available.

Mr Lamb highlighted a slight change in the agenda, and handed over to Mr Colin Weir to present the Hunterston B Station report.

#### **4.A HUNTERSTON B STATION REPORTS**

Mr Colin Weir, Plant Manager (deputising for Mr Mark Gorry, Station Director) reviewed the Hunterston B Quarterly Report and invited questions.

Mr Lamb referred to the increased staffing figure and enquired if this increase related to an intake of apprentices. Mr Weir advised that the figure was due to an increase in apprentices as well as more full time staff. The company had a very strong apprenticeship and graduate programme which would continue under EDF.

Mr Lamb, at this point, referred to a meeting which had taken place between himself, Mr Peter Roach and Mr Gorry to discuss the future of B station's involvement in the SSG going forward. The outcome of their discussion being that, until such time as EDF clarify their community involvement liaison policy, the status quo remained.

Mrs Holmes asked Mr Peter Rothwell whether the NDA would have any influence over EDF with regard to openness. Mr Rothwell responded that the NDA have no influence in that regard. Mr Weir commented that the open reporting culture would not change.

Mr Kenny MacDougall stated that Ardrossan Community Council had written to Mr Gorry with regard to separate B station meetings, as requested at the last meeting and to date no response had been received from Mr Gorry. Mr Weir thanked Mr MacDougall for Ardrossan Community Council's correspondence. He would consult with Mr Gorry with regard to providing a response.

**ACTION M. GORRY**

Mrs Holmes referred to the Environmental Safety section of the report and enquired as to the role of the Diesel Generators. Mr Andy Taylor advised that the Diesel Generators provided back up electricity supplies to the Station.

Mrs Holmes asked if the fact that improvements were being made under the Oil Storage Regulations and the Station's PPC permit for combustion plant meant that the station had fallen below required standards. Mr Taylor advised this was not the case and that the work was being carried out in response to elevated standards required by new regulations.

Mrs Holmes referred to the successful upgrade of personnel and material contamination monitoring equipment and enquired as to whether the equipment tested for gamma, alpha or both. Mr Taylor advised that the new equipment provided an enhanced detection capability which included for alpha, beta and gamma radiations.

#### **4.B NII REPORT**

Mr Rothwell advised that the NII had found good compliance with the areas covered under routine inspections undertaken during the period, and the station had responded appropriately to any minor items identified.

Mr Lamb asked if there was any facility for observers at the Level 1 plant exercise in May, referred to in the NII report. Mr Rothwell responded that he had never known of observers to attend, however the decision would be that of the Station Director and not the NII. Mr Lamb

said he would write to Mr Gorry requesting representatives of the SSG be permitted to observe the exercise. **ACTION J LAMB**

Mr MacDougall asked Mr Rothwell to clarify the programme of plant modifications and training burden in place referred to under a Recovery Programme to raise standards in the station's emergency response to events. Mr Rothwell advised that plant modifications have to be considered and safety implications put in place. These range in levels from Category 1 through to Category 4. Category 1 modifications had to go through the safety committee and then sent to the NII to assess.

Mrs Holmes asked if bifurcations were considered a Category 1. Mr Weir confirmed they were. Mr Rothwell advised specialists within the NII look at these and decisions were taken upon their assessments.

#### **4.C SEPA REPORT**

Mr Hammond advised that the most recent inspection was conducted on 12<sup>th</sup> March and the station was in full compliance. All data is available on the SEPA website.

Mr Frame referred to the liquid effluent discharge which had taken place in November 2008, and the confusion as to which tide table was used, and asked if the company monitored for environmental impact. Mr Hammond confirmed that the company did have an environmental monitoring programme where samples were collected from the Isle of Cumbrae to ensure that there was no environmental impact.

Mr Frame asked if it was not possible to have the Cumbrae Research Station monitor environmental impact. Mr Hammond said that the environmental impact was already independently monitored by the Health Protection Agency on behalf of SEPA and the results published in the annual RIFE report.

Mr Frame referred to the temporary sawdust repair to the leak in the condenser unit and asked if this was due to be repaired soon. Mr Weir confirmed that the sawdust repair was working and there were no concerns. A complete repair would be undertaken during the next statutory outage.

Mr MacDougall referred to the free oil which had been found in the radioactive tritiated water storage tank 3A and asked (a) if this had been addressed, (b) if the oil had been analysed and (c) how difficult would it be to locate the source. Mr Taylor responded that arrangements had been put in place so that no oil could be discharged from the water system that samples had been taken for analysis and full results had not been received, and with regard to the source of the oil, investigations were ongoing and SEPA would be kept apprised.

Mr MacDougall asked if the problem was across the fleet and if there was a design flaw. Mr Weir confirmed that similar issues were being experienced across the fleet and that actions to deal with the oil in tritiated water systems were being put in place.

Mr MacDougall asked Mr Hammond what time frame SEPA allowed the station for reporting back on such problems. Mr Hammond advised that it depended on the nature of the problem. If the operator was putting in enough effort to resolve it then a longer time frame was given.

## 5.A HUNTERSTON A SITE REPORTS

Mr Roach presented the Hunterston A Site report and the following discussions took place:

Mr Roach indicated that Magnox North were in discussion with NDA and regulators re: a pause in encapsulation of retrieved wastes. There was currently a window of opportunity as Scottish Government policy may come in favour of segregation of long and short lived wastes. In response to questions from Mrs Holmes, Mr Roach emphasised temporary nature of pause and need to gain agreement from regulators, but potentially major cost saving were available by not encapsulating now if waste was to be segregated. The Site intends to continue retrieval and propose to place waste in boxes without grouting. Mrs Rita Holmes asked why the retrieval process was still continuing despite encapsulation progress being slowed down and questioned if something less safe was being considered in order to save money. In particular she expressed concern about the potential for off-gassing with C-14 content. Mr Roach explained why this was not an issue and again emphasised the pause in progress, not a halt.

Mr MacDougall asked if the newly released RWMD report was linked with the decision to delay progress on the SILWE project. Mr Roach explained that he was not aware of the report. Mr Roach agreed to investigate this matter further. (NOTE: Discussions after the meeting between Mr Nigel Monckton, Head of Communications for Magnox North, and Mr MacDougall suggest that the report in question is the inventory report previously produced by Nirex).

**ACTION: P. ROACH**

Mrs Holmes wished to know if there are any gaseous discharges of Carbon 14 from the bunkers and if they are monitored. Mr Phillips explained why this wasn't a risk. Mrs Holmes also asked how long the process of emptying the bunkers would take. Mr Roach stated that the bunkers would be emptied by 2015.

Mr Lamb enquired about where the liquid radioactive discharges of Plutonium 241 came from. Mr Phillips said that radioactive liquid wastes, generated during filter backwashes and other plant operations, include plutonium-241 as part of their 'isotopic fingerprint'. This is activity picked up through historical operations within the liquid effluent system, and is part of normal active effluent arisings.

Mr MacDougall asked if any socio-economic funding would be made available, as it has in the past, to Ardrossan Community Council to support various community organisations and groups. Mr Roach took an action to confirm this request.

**ACTION: P. ROACH**

Mr Bale enquired how much funding *EnergySolutions* would be giving the Site. Mr Roach indicated that a small sum had been distributed to each Site for local use, but that the main sum (around £100k) was being retained centrally and sites would need to apply for funds for particular projects. These applications would require a proper case to be made. Mr Roach also indicated that for this year at least, a decision had been taken to concentrate funding on North Wales.

## 5.B NII REPORT

No representative from NII was present at the meeting, and a general report was handed out to the group.

#### **5.C SEPA REPORT**

No representative from SEPA was present at the meeting, and again a general report was handed out to the group.

#### **6. NDA GENERAL UPDATE**

Mr Riding presented the NDA general update and subsequent discussions took place.

#### **7. SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUBGROUP UPDATE**

Mr MacDougall gave an update on the Socio-economic subgroup which has been successfully set up with its first meeting held on Thursday 5 February 2009.

An action was placed upon Mr Roach to arrange a further meeting within two weeks involving the NDA and Hunterston A Site representatives to clarify the role of the Socio-economic Subgroup. Mr Monckton offered to attend the meeting and produce note on the role of the socio-economic subgroup at other Magnox North sites. **ACTION: P. ROACH**

Miss Diane Burton explained that two applications had been received from Sports Scotland National Centre, Inverclyde, for community projects. One application is for a new indoor community sports hall at the Sports Scotland National Centre in Largs, and the other for a new community fitness suite at the Scottish National Centre, on the Island of Cumbrae. Extracts from these applications were handed out to the group. Certain clarification on project costings were omitted from the applications, but Miss Burton informed the group that she had been in contact with the applicant in order to receive this information. Based on receiving this, the SSG agreed that the applications could be forwarded to the NDA.

Mr Frame wished to emphasise that the Cumbrae project was a separate application from the Largs project. A covering letter with each application will be submitted to the NDA as a result. **ACTION: D. BURTON**

#### **8. UPDATE ON EXTERNAL MEETINGS**

Mr Lamb gave the group and update of the external meeting which both he and Mr MacDougall had attended since the last SSG meeting.

#### **9. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting will be Thursday 25 June 2009. The venue has not yet been arranged and will be confirmed at a later date.

#### **10. PUBLIC Q AND A SESSION**

Due to no manual record being taken and the failure of the electronic recording, no questions have been recorded in this note. However, there would appear to have been no actions required by Hunterston A Site to report back at the next SSG meeting.

**Mr John Lamb**  
**SSG Chairman**