

## Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

THE SEVENTEENTH HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 25 JUNE 2009 IN THE LAURISTON HOTEL, ARDROSSAN.

### Present

#### Magnox North

Mr Peter Roach  
Mr Stephen Price  
Mr Reuben Phillips  
Mrs Shelagh Milligan  
Mr Tony Bale

#### British Energy

Mr Colin Weir  
Mr Stuart McGhie

#### Hunterston Estate

Mr Angus Cochrane-Patrick

#### Community Councillors

Mr John Lamb - West Kilbride (Chair)  
Mr Kenny MacDougall - Ardrossan (Deputy Chair)  
Mr Peter MacFarlane - Largs

#### In Attendance

Mr Derek Rooney, Magnox North  
Mr Mark Ridyard, Magnox North  
Mrs Saranne Postans, Magnox North  
Mr Jon Dolphin, Magnox North  
Ms Yvonne White, British Energy  
Mr Andy Taylor, British Energy  
Mr Ian Robertson, SEPA  
Mr Bill Shepherd, Scottish Enterprise

Several members of the public were also in attendance

#### Apologies for Absence

Mrs Lorette Dunlop, Mrs Sandra Jack, Mrs Rita Holmes, Mr Mark Gorry, Mr Mike Johnston.

#### NDA

Mr Keith Riding

#### SEPA

Keith Hammond

#### NII

Dr. Les Davies  
Mr Peter Rothwell

#### Community Members

Mr Frank Craig

#### National Farmers Union

Mr Daniel Reid

#### Councillors

Mr Robert Barr (Dalry & West Kilbride)

**1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

Chairman John Lamb welcomed everyone to the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group (SSG).

**2. MINUTES of 20<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2008 APPROVAL AND NOTE FOR THE RECORD of 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009**

There were no comments or issues raised regarding the minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008, and as a result these were taken as approved.

Due to technical problems at the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2009 meeting, no accurate minute was available and therefore this was noted as a record of the meeting. Mr Lamb stated that he had received a query from Mrs Rita Holmes regarding why Mr Reuben Phillips referred to carbon 14 as not being a risk.

**ACTION: R. PHILLIPS**

Mr MacDougall stated he was not happy with the terminology in section seven of the note, and wished that the phrase "successfully set up" be removed.

Mr Lamb asked for an adoption of the meeting as a record as opposed to a minute. This was adopted by Cllr Robert Barr.

With regards to actions from the previous meeting, Mr Lamb added that there were numerous actions required. Mr Roach addressed the action from item two, stating several members of the SSG, including Mr Daniel Reid, had been invited to visit the Site and view the report.

In relation to an action on Hunterston B Site Director Mr Mark Gorry, the deputising Mr Colin Weir stated that the matter of a response to Mr Kenny MacDougall's request for information regarding the separation of B station from the SSG would need to be followed up. Mr Lamb had also queried Hunterston B's non-response to a request from SSG members to attend the Level 1 exercise as observers. Mr Weir stated that an answer had been given at the last meeting, which was that a Level 1 exercise is observed by many agencies and that the public are served through these agencies. It is not practicable to have numerous non qualified observers during such exercises.

At the last meeting on 19 March 2009, Mr MacDougall asked Mr Roach if the newly released RWMD report was linked with the decision to delay progress on the SILWE project. Mr Roach confirmed that this was not the case. Mr MacDougall had also asked about the possibility of socio-economic funding being made available to Ardrossan Community Council to support various community organisations and groups. Mr Roach stated that this was a possibility, however there are processes if people write in and seek support. These will be reviewed and wherever possible, financial support will be provided.

A further action was placed upon Mr Roach to arrange a meeting involving the NDA and Hunterston A Site representatives to clarify the role of the Socio-economic Subgroup. Mr Roach explained that a preliminary meeting had gone ahead which was attended by representatives from North Ayrshire Council's Community Planning Department.

As a result of an action placed upon the Secretariat to emphasise that the Cumbrae project was a separate application from the Largs project, Mrs Milligan confirmed that the two applications would be submitted separately once the Site had received more backup evidence.

### **3. CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr Lamb explained that the Secretariat had received an email from a Mr John Revie regarding a Channel Four news item relating to the leak at Sizewell. The email enquired whether or not the SSG would be informed directly by NII and the HSE should a similar incident happen at Hunterston A or B. Dr Davies confirmed the NII would inform the SSG directly should this ever occur. Mr Lamb added that he had been in contact with the Chairman of the Sizewell SSG and there was no delay from the NII in informing them.

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

Mr Weir reviewed the Hunterston B quarterly report and highlighted that British Energy's open reporting culture remains strong. Mr Weir also highlighted that the intake of graduates at Hunterston B will double over the coming year.

Mr MacDougall felt there should have been an update in the report on previously discussed items such as the oil found in the tritiated water storage tank. Mr Andy Taylor offered a verbal update, explaining that analysis of the oil had been completed with the oil being confirmed as gas circulator oil which enters the reactor coolant in small quantities and is extracted as a by-product of the gas drying plant.

Mr MacDougall then asked if this was a common issue across the whole fleet of nuclear power stations. Mr Taylor replied that all stations with similar gas circulator equipment experience this effect to some extent. Mr MacDougall again asked why this wasn't in the report. Mr Weir replied that the anomaly was from normal operations and was not a reportable event. It was right to report it to the SSG as an anomaly but it did not affect the environment as the oil had not been discharged.

Mr John Lamb queried how Hunterston B could classify the two week shutdown of reactor four as minor repairs, when it was another minor repair which caused the same reactor to be off for only two days previously. Mr Weir explained that the first repair, on the turbine, was carried out with the reactor still running at load. When a similar problem on the turbine appeared again, the station took the conservative decision to take the reactor offline to carry out further investigations, and take the opportunity to do further repairs at the same time.

Mr MacDougall asked if Hunterston B were still using sawdust as a bung. Mr Weir confirmed that the station was not injecting sawdust at present.

There were no further questions from either the SSG members or from the public.

Mr Lamb thanked Mr Weir for the report, and concluded by saying that he had hoped Mr Ian Stewart, the newly appointed Station Director for Hunterston B, would have attended the meeting. Mr Weir explained that Mr Stewart was currently on annual leave.

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

Mr Peter Rothwell presented the NII report and welcomed any questions thereafter.

Mr Reid queried who deals with off-site regulation. Mr Rothwell replied that the NII and various other agencies deal with this but he only looks after on-site regulation so could not comment any further. Mr Roach then added that this issue has been on-going for 12 years yet Mr Reid's issue is still not understood. It was stated that Mr Reid had received several written responses, and both Hunterston A and B have done all they can to address the matter.

Mr McDougall asked why Hunterston B call a fire “conventional”, stating it cannot be conventional due to it being a nuclear power station. Mr Rothwell replied that the fire was not nuclear related, it was on the conventional side of the plant.

Mr Weir added that Hunterston B takes all incidents seriously, minor or not.

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

Mr Keith Hammond presented the Hunterston B SEPA report and the following discussions took place.

Mr MacDougall asked that if the discharge is unmonitored, how is an amount known. Mr Taylor replied that the tank has daily checks and a residual volume, so the Station knows how much there is between checks. Mr Taylor added that an online sample is taken when discharging to sea. The tank has low activity and low volume.

Mr Lamb enquired about what volumes were involved in the joint inspection which was scheduled for Wednesday 24 June 2009. Mr Taylor replied that in the last year, two half height ISO containers of non-compactable waste were sent to Drigg plus three full height containers of compactable waste. He added that where possible and practicable, Hunterston B minimise the waste flow to Drigg.

#### **5. RESOURCE LEARNING AND SKILLS STRATEGY**

Mr Mark Ridyard, Learning and Development Officer, gave a short presentation on Magnox North’s Resource Learning and Skills strategy 2008-2011 and invited any questions.

Cllr Barr asked what guaranteed payback there is for someone who had been trained or qualified to a certain level then decided to leave the company. Mr Ridyard explained that there is a tie in with each member staff. The organisation pays for the extra qualifications based on the business needs, however if they leave within the first 12 months of gaining the qualification, they are contractually obliged to pay back the full amount of the fees. If they leave within two years, the fees are reduced to 50%, and if it is longer than two years the fees are zero. This therefore means that effectively, there is a two year tie in once the organisation has paid for the training.

Mr Frank Craig stated that training existing employees was not a great help to the local area as unemployment is a massive problem in North Ayrshire. He added that jobs and training should be created for youngsters who need the opportunity. Mr Ridyard responded by explaining that there is a robust process in place for deciding how to recruit and train people accordingly. There are currently four apprentices on Site at Hunterston A, and in addition, there are also agreements in place for using local businesses to provide external training courses. While the Site may not be actively recruiting at present, local businesses are being used in order to generate some local income. Mr Roach wished to add that when he arrived at Hunterston A four years ago, staff numbers and contractors were around 145 and 100 respectively, whereas now, these figures are approximately 200 and 150-200 respectively. While Mr Roach stated that he hoped more apprentices could be recruited, it does depend on continuity of work and funding.

Mr Tony Bale also explained that as a Union Representative for Hunterston A, he engages with Mr Roach regularly regarding recruitment. It is acknowledged that North Ayrshire has one of the highest unemployment rates in Scotland, and Mr Bale added that the challenge he

always puts towards Mr Roach, as Site Director, is if the Site cannot take on core workers, then they try to secure fixed term contracts at competitive salaries. When looking to recruit core workers, the Site uses the Magnox North Resourcing Policy that has been agreed with the Trade Unions. A further challenge was put in early this year regarding apprentices, and despite Mr Roach declining at the time, there are plans in place for a resource policy for apprentices across Magnox North. Mr Roach wished to add that not many companies around the local area have increased their workforce by an additional 50% during the last four years. There are other things which the Site does to contribute into the community, such as the £100,000 spent on work at Kelburn to create a new viewing platform. This work employed approx 100 youngsters from the three towns over a period of 12 months. This was the first opportunity that some of these people had of work experience.

Mr MacDougall stated that Magnox North should be commended for taking an initiative and providing a facility for apprentices while increasing the workforce.

A member of the public commented that as an ex-employee at Hunterston A Site, there has been a severe lack of training in recent years, however he was pleased to hear that this has been recognised and Magnox North are now addressing the problem.

#### **6.A HUNTERSTON A SITE REPORT**

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

Mr Reid, together with Mr Lamb and Mr MacDougall, had previously attended a meeting at the Site to discuss land drains. Despite at the time confirming he was satisfied with the outcome, Mr Reid did not think the summary of the meeting fully represented his feelings. Mr Reid became increasingly irate and alleged that members of staff from Hunterston A Site had lied and that he had been abused by Mr MacDougall. Mr Reid became increasingly angry and his behaviour worsened, contravening the standards and behaviours expected by the Site Stakeholder Group and its constitution. Mr Lamb intervened and silenced Mr Reid, stating that all concerns had been addressed appropriately. For those who wish to hear the above discussions in full, a verbatim minute is available and can be accessed at any time upon request.

Mr Bale commented that he found some of the language used by Mr Reid towards staff members at Hunterston A Site offensive, and added that if this is how future meetings were to be conducted, he would no longer continue to be present at them as a Trade Union representative. Mr Bale finished by stating that Mr Reid should apologise for his comments. Subsequently, Mr Reid apologised for the terminology he had used in the previous debate.

Mr Lamb had a number of points to raise on behalf of Mrs Rita Holmes who had gave her apologies for the meeting. The first point stated that Fairlie Community Council wished to thank the Communications team for carrying out the recent photocopying service for their village survey.

Mrs Holmes also wished to know if there was any feedback from the SAFEGROUNDS conference in respect to the Land Quality Management statement. Mr Jon Dolphin, Project Manager for the Land Quality Management project, explained that Magnox North's intelligent customer gave a presentation on how Magnox North address land quality issues. An example used was the very low level waste pits at Hunterston A and how the Site engages with it's

stakeholders in this matter. A statement from Mr MacDougall supported how the Site engages with its stakeholders, and the presentation was well received.

Mrs Holmes was interested as to what actions will be taken in relation to contract to undertake remediation to the active effluent pipeline being placed. Mr Dolphin outlined that the Site are now in a position to let a contract to the chosen contractor. The chosen contractor will work with Magnox North, its Intelligent Customer and Design Authority in providing a solution for the issue of contamination in the Site's road drain scheme, which has potential to leak onto the foreshore. SEPA are well aware of this issue, with all parties working hand in hand to provide a solution for this.

A further query from Mrs Holmes asked if the material used on the Site's Temporary Weather Barrier project was non-flammable. Project Manager Stephen Price confirmed that this material was non-flammable.

Mrs Holmes wished to know if the HAZOP 2 was a statutory instrument used on Site. Mr Roach explained that this was a process which the Site goes through in order to identify hazards early in a phase so potential risks can be understood. A wide audience is invited to contribute to what these hazards might be, and then a series of mitigations are worked through to remove these potential risks.

To conclude the queries Mrs Holmes had submitted, Mr Lamb asked what a human performance tool was. Mr Roach stated that the Site uses 10 tools/steps which it believes will dramatically reduce human error, such as using the phonetic alphabet to reinforce communication techniques. Mr Roach added that the more these tools are used, the less likely there is of human error occurring.

Mr Lamb asked what the new multimedia authorisation for radioactive discharges entails, and if a future date had been confirmed for a presentation to the SSG on its details. Mr Roach could not commit to a date, however Mr Reuben Phillips outlined that the authorisation regards applying to SEPA for a new discharge authorisation that covers solid, liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment. Currently there are three separate authorisations which are relatively old authorisations, so a new format is being applied for. An application report will be submitted to SEPA which is still being worked on, however part of the process will involve briefing the SSG on what this application will contain, but at present the Site are not in a position to offer a date.

A member of the public asked for an update on the current level of activity in the pond and how the Modular Active Effluent Treatment Plant (MAETP) is coping with this. Mr Phillips stated that while he was unsure of figures off the top of his head, pond water had not been re-circulated through the MAETP since September 2008. Mr Price explained that there was a significant reduction in activity whilst the MAETP was operating, however the pond will not be drained until the MAETP is back online again. This is still in the commissioning process and it is hoped to get the MAETP online before the end of this calendar year. Mr Roach added that in a relatively short period of time, radionuclide contamination levels in the pond have been halved. The MAETP has presented some problems which the Site are working hard to rectify, but he assured the group that no discharges would be made until it was back online.

In addition, a member of the public asked about future plans for the pond, querying the flow rate via the MAETP. Mr Roach explained that this will be done via the appropriate flow rate,

adding that a plan and schedule is in place with dewatering due to take place for an estimated two years. Mr Phillips also confirmed that pond dewatering has been discussed with SEPA in terms of when and how the Site are expecting go about it.

Mr Reid asked if proposed excavation work in the CP7 Compound area would involve rainwater reaching through the soil to potentially existing low level drains. Mr Roach responded that excavations are managed using quality contractors and method statements. A new route being created, where rainwater could pass through contaminated material to a level which is monitored once every six months, represents a potential hazard which needs to be addressed, however the first part of the contract is about planning, not implementation.

Finally, Mr Roach made a statement regarding SEPA, explaining that there was no report due to the previous inspector resigning. Since then, new inspector Mr Ian Robertson has been recruited. In addition, discussions with Mr Byron Tilly confirmed that the usual interactions in terms of swapping correspondence and reporting from the Site has continued as normal, therefore no data has been lost.

#### **6.B NII REPORT**

Dr Les Davies took the report as read, and there were no questions from the group or members of the public.

#### **7. NDA GENERAL UPDATE**

Mr Keith Riding presented the NDA general update and invited any questions thereafter.

Mr Bale asked for clarity on the extension date of generation at Wylfa, as he was under the impression it was more than nine months. Mr Riding stated he would check up on this and confirm.

**ACTION: K. RIDING**

#### **8. SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT WITH NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

Mrs Shelagh Milligan stated that the Site held a meeting with North Ayrshire Council's planning department to establish if a socio-economic partnership would be available, and gave the following summary.

With the NDA having four priority areas of funding, not currently including North Ayrshire, previous concerns of the SSG were raised that the area was being overlooked because of the perceived affluence in West Kilbride, Fairlie and Largs. The community planning department provided documents which demonstrated the deprivation in the area and the Site also stated that the benefit claimants has almost doubled since the 1980's.

Mr Riding asked if there was a long term strategic plan which the NDA could potentially contribute to. The Council confirmed that a partnership project would be very beneficial to the economic regeneration of North Ayrshire, as similar partnership projects have been very successful at Chapelcross with Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Following Mrs Milligan's summary of the meeting, Mr MacDougall questioned if the Site had come away with any substance as a result of this meeting, stating that he has had previous assurances from the NDA yet is still awaiting feedback. He added that a firm commitment is required from the NDA first and foremost which accepts North Ayrshire is an area of deprivation, otherwise no progress will be made. Mr Riding responded that the NDA cannot

lead in the regeneration of an area, only a small amount of support can be provided. However, in terms of looking at the overall strategy and prioritisation, this is currently being reviewed with discussions taking place as to how this is achieved. Consultation with the Government is also required, so this is not just a quick process. Mr Roach added that he was quite upbeat following the meeting with the Council, as the facts which were presented to the NDA regarding unemployment and benefits being claimed painted a much different picture than what was expected.

Cllr Barr explained that North Ayrshire Council is currently going through a consultation process with Government members in Edinburgh. This is in relation to a new local plan which is in place to discuss plans in North Ayrshire throughout the next 20 years. A point raised was the number of Council owned industrial units currently lying idle, and it has been proposed that rent is reduced in these instances. This is still at the consultation process stage, however Cllr Barr stated that it is hoped the final outcome for this area will be good. Mr MacDougall wished to note that the community councils are also involved in this strategy and have been asked to contribute by way of written and photographic evidence.

Mr Lamb then introduced Mr Bill Shepherd, a member of the national energy team within Scottish Enterprise, who was present to give a brief overview of Scotland's main economic development agency. Mr Shepherd detailed that the Scottish Enterprise had recently gone through reorganisation with a number of functions removed from the company. The key areas of Scottish Enterprise's focus are energy, life sciences, digital media, financial services, shipbuilding and aerospace. It was also explained that funding for Scottish Enterprise projects now comes from a central pot, however, they are keen to work together with Hunterston A on any potential joint partnership opportunities relevant to their specific area.

Mr Roach asked Mr Shepherd to clarify if Hunterston A would fit into the Scottish Enterprise's key areas, being a decommissioning site. He asked if it was pertinent that job creation schemes must be within the energy sector to qualify for support from Scottish Enterprise. Mr Shepherd replied that they are funded by the Scottish Government, however, as the Scottish Enterprise have no budget dedicated to the area, they must bid for money on specific projects on a case by case basis. They would then have to submit each case to the Scottish Enterprise management mechanism which will then be prioritised according to other submitted projects/cases. Mr Shepherd confirmed that the energy team were interested in looking at projects and believed that North Ayrshire has real potential in the energy sector. He added that they would be happy to discuss any potential socio-economic projects that Hunterston A put forward.

Mr Stuart McGhie summarised what had been discussed and added that perhaps there should be a debate in the near future which looks at supporting new build in North Ayrshire.

## **9. UPDATE ON EXTERNAL MEETINGS**

Mr Lamb summarised what external meetings had been attended most by himself and Mr MacDougall since the last SSG meeting in March. These included a CORWM meeting in Edinburgh where discussions took place regarding the latest report to Government on Interim storage of higher activity wastes and the management of spent fuels, plutonium and uranium.

Also attended was a Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCORS) inaugural meeting set up by Dundee City Council, where Cllr William Gibson represented

North Ayrshire. This was in order to set up an information base for Councils throughout Scotland on Radioactive substances.

Mrs Holmes and Mr Lamb both attended the NSG in Manchester where the new NDA Chief Executive, Mr Tony Fountain, was announced. Other discussions included the SSG guidelines for implementation being agreed and funding will be maintained for each of the Sites, however there will be an increase at Sellafield. There were also various workshops set up including strategy management; geological disposal; socio-economic and waste strategy and lengthy discussions took place on low level waste strategy consultation. Details of this documentation are now available on the NDA website.

Other meetings which Mr Lamb mentioned included The Scottish Sites meeting at Victoria Quay; the Hunterston B Station open forum in Largs, and also the Scottish Government consultation on higher activity waste.

Mr Lamb wished to take this opportunity to remind all members of the SSG that they must show respect for one another at all times.

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

With regards to geological disposal, a member of the public asked Mr Lamb to confirm if three applications were submitted from local authorities who are happy to have geological storage on their land. Mr Lamb confirmed that this was correct, and that so far Sites expressing an interest were all in Cumbria.

Mr Riding was asked for more detail on how much is meant by significant funding with regards to Chapelcross for example. Mr Riding stated that initially, the NDA has £10 million per year to invest into socio-economic funding. This is on a first come first served basis in relation to the best submitted business case which meets NDA criteria.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 17 September 2009 with the venue to be confirmed at a later date.

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