

Site Stakeholder Group Land Quality SubGroup

THE FIRST SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP LAND QUALITY SUBGROUP MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 15TH JULY 2008 AT HUNTERSTON A SITE.

Present

Hunterston A Site

Mr Steve Saunders
Mr Donald Ashburn
Ms Lorna Lavelle
Mr Reuben Phillips
Mrs Kerry McMillan
Mr Derek Rooney

Site Stakeholder Subgroup

Mr Kenny MacDougall (Chair)
Mr John Lamb
Mrs Rita Holmes
Mr John Robertson
Mr Peter MacFarlane

1. WELCOME

Mr Kenny MacDougall welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group Land Quality Subgroup. It was agreed that the subgroup were happy to represent the SSG provided that other members of the SSG were welcome to attend any future meetings should they wish to do so.

2. LAND QUALITY MANAGEMENT PRESENTATION

Ms Lorna Lavelle, Mr Steve Saunders, and Mr Donald Ashburn then presented the Land Quality Management Presentation to the rest of the group, and welcomed any questions thereafter.

3 Q&A

Mr Kenny MacDougall requested copies of any diagrams or information which may be presented to the subgroup at future meetings, which was noted for action.

Mrs Rita Holmes asked if the land which the pits are in is reclaimed land, which Mr Steve Saunders confirmed it was. It was also confirmed that if this land was taken away, the sea would ingress as a result.

Mrs Holmes then brought up the matter of lost records, to which Ms Lorna Lavelle explained that these records would only show the physical makeup of what was in the pits, and not the radioactive inventory.

Mr John Robertson also voiced his concerns regarding the loss of records. Mr Robertson believed that from his time working at Hunterston A Site, radiation levels were higher than those currently being stated, and that he was not convinced there was absolutely no official records somewhere. Ms Lavelle stated that she could only confirm the results of the extensive analysis which has been carried out on the pits, and five years of investigation work speaks for

itself. With regards to the loss of the records, Ms Lavelle stated it was her understanding that the records were kept in a filing cabinet within Hunterston B Station, and were water damaged following a flood. Due to the fact there are no records available, this is why the Land Quality team have carried out such an extensive program of characterisation. As a result, a significant amount of time and money has been put into this project to ensure the Site know exactly what the inventory is.

Mr Kenny MacDougall informed the group that both he and Mr John Lamb had attended recent workshops on Near-Surface Disposal Facilities and Deep Geological Disposal Facilities on Land for Solid Radioactive Wastes, hosted by SEPA and the Environment Agency respectively. A concern raised at both workshops was the fact it cannot be guaranteed that accurate records of waste streams from nuclear industries will be kept in future years. As a result, there must be a way of storing records and information in different formats, so in future years when technology has advanced, records are still available.

Mr Steve Saunders added that there are licences for all the pits which the Site has, and they specify what can be stored in the pits. It was offered to the group that copies of records from the Golder Report would be made available. **ACTION: S. SAUNDERS**

Mrs Rita Holmes asked what is being expected of the SSG with regards to the pits. Ms Lavelle responded that she wanted the group to buy into the forward strategy of managed and improved containment.

Mrs Holmes then asked who was responsible for the land in future years once remediation works are complete. Ms Lavelle responded that under the Environmental Protection Act Part II, the Site are no longer legally required to monitor and maintain the pits. While the land would still be owned by the NDA, the regulatory matters would be the responsibility of North Ayrshire Council.

Mr MacDougall asked for clarity on the distance between the boreholes. Mr Donald Ashburn replied that there are 18 constructed boreholes over the full length of the pits, with distances apart varying between 3 or 4 metres. Physical samples of these boreholes were taken and in turn analysed. Other sampling types varied up to around 10 metres apart.

Mr MacDougall also asked for some clarity on what the figures of the samples taken were. Ms Lavelle stated that this information was available, which would provide a wider range of figures, and that this would be passed on to the group. **ACTION: S. SAUNDERS**

Mrs Holmes asked if the 834 separate measures were from the boreholes. Ms Lavelle responded that they were a combination of the 18 permanent boreholes and 72 standpipes. Mrs Holmes then stated that she was happy for the pits to stay and containment work to progress, so long as they are not forgotten about in years to come.

Mr John Lamb asked what materials were found during the core drilling of the boreholes. Mr Ashburn informed the group that, bedrock, concrete and clay had been found.

Mr Lamb asked when the SEPA Radiological Habit Study Report was due out. Mr Saunders explained that he had a draft copy of the report, and that while it had not been published yet, it was due soon.

In terms of the bulk of contamination being 2.5m – 3m below ground level, Mr Peter MacFarlane asked if this contamination could be potentially carried in groundwater flow. Mr Ashburn confirmed that caesium does not travel through groundwater as it binds itself to fine silts and solids, and therefore is not demobilised.

Mr MacDougall requested a paper copy of the presentation slides for the SSG members, and stated that for future reference, paper copies of all information should be made available to the group.
ACTION: K McMILLAN

Mrs Holmes asked if there was a timeline in place from the NDA for getting these works completed. Ms Lavelle replied that while she was waiting on NDA approval for the finances, she did hope to have restoration work done before the end of the financial year.

4 TOUR OF VLLWP

The group were then taken on a detailed tour of the VLLWP by the Land Quality team.

5 OPTION SELECTION FOR FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF VLLWP

Ms Lavelle asked if the group were happy to support the Land Quality team's forward strategy, in terms of managed containment and enhancing the containment. Mrs Holmes said that the public have a right to know where the pits are, so as long as the Site adhere to having signs which help identify this, she had no problems. Ms Lavelle added that while there is an agreement in principle from the subgroup, she was keen for the information presented to be passed on to the SSG in order to gain endorsement from them regarding this site strategy.

6 AOCB

Mr Steve Saunders informed the group that the Land Quality team have completed an optioneering study, justifying why the Site want to progress with the enhanced managed containment strategy. A report was compiled as to why this is deemed as the correct procedure to take, and copies of this report will be attached with the presentation packs for the SSG.
ACTION S. SAUNDERS

The next meeting with the NDA, to discuss any concerns with regards to the information presented, was confirmed as being either 19 or 20 August 2008.

Mr MacDougall thanked everyone for their attendance, and also the Land Quality team for their presentation. The meeting was then called to a close.

Mr Kenny MacDougal
SSG Vice Chairman