

Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

FOURTH HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29th MARCH 2006 IN BRISBANE HOUSE HOTEL, LARGS

Present

North Ayrshire Council

Councillor Richard Wilkinson (Chair)
Councillor Bobby Rae
Councillor Elizabeth McLardy
Mr Joe Graham

Strathclyde Police

Sgt Les Stuart

Community Councillors

Mr Kenneth MacDougall - Ardrossan
Mr John Lamb - West Kilbride
Mrs Rita Holmes - Fairlie
Mr Ian Frame - Cumbrae
Mr John Robertson - Largs

British Nuclear Group

Mr Peter Roach
Mrs Lynne McTaggart (A Site Specialist)
Mrs Alyson Russell-Stevenson (SSG Secretariat)

SERAD

Mrs Liz Rose

Hunterston House

Mr Angus Cochran Patrick

British Energy

Mr Tom Ungi
Ms Melanie Robson (B Station Secretariat)
Mr Graham Perry (B Station Specialist)

National Farmers Union

Mrs Eleanor Lamont (Deputy Chair)

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Mr John Farquhar

NII

Mr John Burrows (A Site Inspector)
Mr Graeme Thomas (B Station Inspector)

Several members of the public were also in attendance

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor D Munn, Councillor J Moffat, Mr Hugh McGhee, Mr Kevin Thomas, North Ayrshire Council. Dr W Munro, Foods Standards Agency (FSA). Mr H Kerr, Strathclyde Fire Brigade. Dr J Cooper, Mrs L Dunlop, NHS Ayrshire and Arran

SSG IN-HOUSE BUSINESS - NOTES

Councillor Wilkinson welcomed the members to the fourth meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group (SSG). He stated that as once again and as previously agreed with the members, this first hour of the meeting would be held for SSG members only to conduct SSG housekeeping matters. He explained he would like to use this time to elect the Chair and Deputy Chair and to discuss the formation of sub-group of the SSG to discuss various matters pertaining to the site end state for Hunterston A and Socio-Economic Development Plans also for the A Site.

Councillor Wilkinson instructed the SSG Secretariat to make outline notes pertaining to this part of the meeting to be held as an accurate note in the minutes.

Councillor Wilkinson stated that he would like to start the meeting by handing over to Mr John Farquhar (NDA) to conduct the business of election for Chair and Deputy Chair. Mrs Lamont also stated that she would like to hand back to the group her post of Deputy Chair at this point of the proceedings. Mr Farquhar thanked Councillor Wilkinson for the temporary Chairmanship of the meeting and asked the Secretariat to disclose the details of the nominations for Chair and Deputy Chair that had been received. Mrs Russell-Stevenson explained that four nominations had been made in total two for Chair and two for Deputy Chair. She continued that both the nominations for Chair had been for Mr Richard Wilkinson and both nominations for Deputy Chair were for Mrs Eleanor Lamont. Mr Farquhar thanked Mrs Russell-Stevenson and explained to the members that if everyone was agreed he was delighted to inform Councillor Wilkinson that he would be returning to the post of Chairman of the Hunterston SSG as elected by the members. The members agreed. Mr Farquhar then said that he was also delighted to state that Mrs Eleanor Lamont would be reinstated as Deputy Chair for the Hunterston SSG. Mr Farquhar then handed the meeting back to Councillor Wilkinson (and Mrs Lamont) and stated that these positions would be for a period of 3 years to be reconfirmed in post annually.

Councillor Wilkinson thanked Mr Farquhar and thanked the members present for their nominations and that he was delighted to be continuing in the post and hoped the SSG could continue to progress to grow in strength and understanding of nuclear matters on behalf of the community.

Councillor Wilkinson said that he would like his first task as re-elected Chair to be to ask the members to agree to form a subgroup to discuss Hunterston A Site End State and Socio-Economic matters. After some discussion by the members the members agreed the formation and:

- Mrs Lamont would head up the sub-group.
- All members would all be sent notification of subgroup meetings so as not to preclude any one member for attending
- These meetings would be held in the evenings
- The meeting would be held in the conference room on the Hunterston A Site
- These were not foreseen as public meetings and as such notification in the press would not be required.

Councillor Wilkinson asked the members to consider an offer to undertake a training session based around the standards for community engagement aligned to the National Standards and run by North Ayrshire Council. There was considerable discussion on this subject and the members agreed to allow Councillor Wilkinson to furnish them with dates of training to allow them to discuss attendance.

Councillor Wilkinson told the members he had had considerable feedback and discussions with members of the SSG and members of the public that felt the length of the SSG meetings were excessive. After some discussion the members agreed that the meeting to be held that evening would finish at 8.30pm at the latest. He continued that he would like to also review the format of future meetings to be slicker and asked the managers of both British Nuclear Group and British Energy to ensure presentations were by exception or specific request from the members. Both managers agreed.

These matters discussed, Councillor Wilkinson thanked the members for a very productive hour, closed this part of the meeting and asked the members to reconvene downstairs in the main conferencing area for the SSG meeting to be held with the public viewing gallery.

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Councillor Wilkinson thanked the members and public for their attendance at this fourth meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group. He said that he hoped that everyone would enjoy and participate in the meeting, which would be scheduled to close at around 8.30pm.

He continued that he was pleased to inform the members of the public that at the housekeeping meeting held earlier in the evening in the hotel he had been voted back in as Chairman of the SSG and Mrs Eleanor Lamont had been re-elected as Deputy Chair for the SSG. He said that he was delighted to be able to continue in this role and represent the views of the community and continue to seek the views of the operators at these public meetings.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the inaugural meeting of the SSG meeting held on the 23rd November 2005 were adopted as an accurate record.

The Chairman asked the Secretariat to ensure this and future meeting minutes were sent to members within approx 4 weeks of the meeting then reissued with any amendments 4 weeks prior to the next meeting. The Secretariat then agreed this action.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Councillor Wilkinson said that he had received two pieces of correspondence since the last SSG meeting.

He explained that first piece was from Mr Joe Graham Senior Planning Officer, North Ayrshire Council, which was the abridged version of the Off Site Emergency Plan for both sites and was available for public scrutiny. Councillor Wilkinson asked Mr Graham to speak to the members about the information. Mr Graham explained that he was the Chair of the group responsible for preparing the plan under Radiation Emergency Preparedness Public Information Regulations (REPPPIR). He continued that the plan was available in CD in libraries in North Ayrshire Council but had not been produced in hard copy. He asked the members to please go through the SSG Chair should they have any problems in getting hold of a copy. He continued that it was a multi agency document with over 20 agencies involved in the preparation and that it was the abridged version which was available in the libraries, all security and personal information (data protection) had been taken out.

Mr Lamb asked if the Community Council could be sent a CD. Mr Graham said that was the decision of the group to make the copies available in the library and not sent to individuals. Mr Lamb asked if Mr Graham could go back to the group to see if this was possible. Mr Graham agreed to do this and he was only one of 20 and could not take this decision alone. Mr Lamb said thank you.

Councillor Wilkinson said the final piece of information he had received was another multi agency document (DEFRA, Scottish Executive etc) who were looking to consult with the SSG. He explained that it was a consultation on policies on waste and to be complete by 31st May 2006. He explained to the public that this was one of the reasons a sub group had been set up earlier in the evening to discuss matters like these pieces of correspondence.

Councillor Wilkinson asked if there were any further questions, as there were none Councillor Wilkinson handed over to Mr Peter Roach, Site Manager Hunterston A Site, British Nuclear Group.

4. MINUTES OF REPORT OF HUNTERSTON A SITE, BRITISH NUCLEAR GROUP

• Hunterston A Site Manager's Report

Mr Roach explained that Hunterston A had now achieved 55 months without a lost time accident and had enjoyed 4 months, this year, without even a medical treatment case. He continued that this safety performance was simply stunning and reflected the hard work of employees and contractors and the importance British Nuclear Group place on safety.

He continued that in a troubled world that the Hunterston A Management Team continue to take the responsibility for securing the site very seriously. He continued that the site had approved security plans in place and the response would be routinely tested to demonstrate to the security regulator Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) our preparedness. He explained that one such demonstration had been successfully completed since the last SSG meeting. Mr Roach said that given the much-reduced hazard at Hunterston A, he was currently reviewing arrangements to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Mr Roach went on to explain that similarly, the Hunterston A management team places great importance on its environmental obligations and responsibilities. We have had another incident free period, whilst a significant amount of nuclear decommissioning is underway.

Mr Roach added that in addition to inspections by regulators, Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII), Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and OCNS, British Nuclear Group arranges other independent audits to compliment Hunterston A's own self-validation processes, that there had been no significant issues identified since the last report. He said there had been several observations made to further enhance the procedures in some areas, thus profiting from learning elsewhere.

Mr Roach went on to discuss the decommissioning progress of the Hunterston A Site highlighting that they were on course for an exceptional year at Hunterston A. He said they would complete all planned work; make savings of 7%; use the savings to accelerate other hazard reduction and execute an additional £1.5m worth of hazard reduction; all delivered with an excellent safety and environmental performance.

Mr Roach explained that civil construction is almost complete and the focus was now moving to the installation of the plant and equipment. During the summer the building will be clad to add that final level of protection from the elements. The store delays have been recovered as forecast and the project continues to be on course for success. With much plant and equipment to install and extensive commissioning arrangements, Mr Roach said the store was not scheduled for use until summer 2007.

Mr Roach said that the planned reactor de-planting had been successfully completed without incident and that additionally the NDA had recognised good performances at Hunterston A over the last few months and granted the Site an extra £1.5m to accelerate further decommissioning. Mr Roach continued that British Nuclear Group and its contractors had risen to the challenge by delivering extra de-planting activities and removing hazardous lagging material from the boilers in Reactor 1. He continued that this was in addition to enabling NDA to optimise the use of funding in Region 4 and removal of a genuine hazard, it had delivered a key-enabling step to ensure alignment with the NDA's proposed strategy.

Mr Roach briefly touched on the subject of contaminated land explaining to the members that considerable progress had been made in the land characterisation process since November 2005 and that Ms McTaggart would explain the detail in her radiological report.

Mr Roach moved to the subject of operational activities and explained to the members that all planned maintenance had been completed on time and there had been no specific issues to report during this period. He continued that there had been a minor problem with the pond water clarity and that the pond "chemistry" had deteriorated over time and has led to the reducing visibility and that actions had been deployed to recover the position. He closed that he was very pleased to report that the actions put in place were already working and the pond clarity had improved.

Mr Roach detailed the visits that had taken place on site since the last meeting and that Hunterston A was continuing to attract the right kind of interest in decommissioning and hazard reduction from members of the public, nuclear community and other interested parties.

Mr Roach finished his report by detailing the future activities which would be taking place on the Hunterston A Site over the coming months. These included:

- Maintain performance in safety, security and environment;
- Take part in NDA Region 4 sharing best practice;
- Submit the updated Lifetime Plan by 15 March 2006 to NDA;
- Complete work on this year's contract with NDA
- Sign new contract with NDA.

Councillor Wilkinson thanked Mr Roach for his report and asked the members if they had any questions.

Mrs Lamont asked Mr Roach if it would be possible to have a copy of the Hunterston A Life Time Plan and Long Range Graphic Plan as she had found them excellent tools and very useful to have. Mr Roach replied that he was pleased to hear that they were useful and that all SSG members would be sent a CD of the Hunterston A submission for this year, and that the members would receive these in May.

Mr Lamb asked if the boiled delagging materials were to be stored on or off site. Mr Roach answered that it would all go to a hazardous waste landfill site but that this was because of the asbestos contained in it and the materials were clean from radiological point of view.

Mrs Homes asked if the workforce would be getting more of a dose because of the Precip Tower package of work. Ms McTaggart replied that doses in this area would continue to deteriorate with time and would continue to do so and that it would remain a balance as to whether to remove it or put containment around it and remove it now. Mrs Holmes asked whether it would be cleaned before it was chopped up. Ms McTaggart answered that it would not be cleaned first this was not the chosen option.

Councillor Wilkinson asked if there were any further questions from the members. There were none.

Councillor Wilkinson then addressed the members of the public and asked if they had any questions for Mr Roach at this point. There were none.

Councillor Wilkinson thanked Mr Roach for his report and asked Ms McTaggart to present the Radiological and environmental safety report for Hunterston A.

• **Radiological and Environmental Safety Report**

Ms McTaggart presented this report and highlighted that the liquid radioactive effluent discharges remained low and well within the authorised limits which were running at approx 10% of the 12 month rolling authorisation total for Total Beta. She continued that the main

source of liquid effluent discharges were from routine activities (via the drains servicing contamination controlled areas) and the backwashing of sand filters for cleaning pond water.

Ms McTaggart moved on to discuss clean waste disposals from the site. She explained that approx 176 tonnes of scrap metal and cable had been disposed of from the site for recycling during the period of September – December 2005. She continued that 12m³ of general rubble had been disposed of to landfill from Hunterston during the period of September 2005 – January 2006.

Ms McTaggart reported that there had been no significant radiological or environmental events in the period from 1st November 2005 to 31st January 2006. She continued that the remediation of an area with elevated contamination readings at the Very Low Level Waste Pits (VLLWP) was completed in late January/early February and that 12 220l drums of impacted soil had been removed. These had been received onto site and were loaded into Half Height ISO freight containers for disposal at the Drigg LLW repository.

Ms McTaggart closed her report by stating that the Hunterston A standalone emergency arrangements were continuing to operate satisfactorily and that the next Level 1 exercise was scheduled to take place in June this year.

Councillor Wilkinson thanked Ms McTaggart and asked if the members had any questions.

Mr Lamb asked if there was a shortage of manpower at the site as he had noted that Ms McTaggart's report was both agreed and approved by her. Mr Roach replied that actually the site was in the middle of a recruitment campaign! Ms McTaggart explained that this was a perfectly acceptable practice as she was an accredited health physicist and the manager of the department.

Mrs Holmes asked Ms McTaggart if it was possible to have a breakdown of dosimetry. Ms McTaggart pointed out that there was a full breakdown contained within her report as appendix A, B and C.

There were no more questions from the SSG members; Councillor Wilkinson asked the members of the public if they had any questions about Ms McTaggart's report. A member of the public asked if the Precip Tower was High Level Waste (HLW). Ms McTaggart explained that it was not and there was no HLW on the Hunterston A Site.

Mrs Holmes said that she felt the dose limits to be high as the dose rates on site were low and would they be going up or would the site be applying to be reducing the limit. Ms McTaggart answered that this limit would continue as it would allow several packages of work to be carried out at the same time and that each package is As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP) and thus the doses are low.

As there were no further questions, Councillor Wilkinson thanked Ms McTaggart for her report and asked Mr Burrows to present the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) quarterly report.

- **HSE NII Hunterston A Site Inspector's Report**

Mr Burrows began by saying this would be his last meeting as the NII Inspector for Hunterston A as he would be moving on to another site as of 1st April 2005. He continued that Mr Peter Ford would be taking over from him and would be in attendance at the next SSG meeting in June. He thanked the SSG members for their support and acquaintance while he had been in post.

Mr Burrows presented his report highlighting that 3 site inspections had been carried out in the quarter and that these inspections had been aimed at verifying the safety arrangements. He said that the inspections concentrated on the overall site, the construction of the ILW Store, the ponds area and the plant currently undergoing decommissioning.

Mr Burrows stated that during these inspections the HSE became aware the sites core resource of Suitably Qualified and Experienced Personnel (SQEP) was stretched and that they had asked the site to review it's core manning levels. He concluded that the site had responded positively and had since enhanced training of existing staff and started to recruit additional new staff as reported earlier in the evening by the Hunterston A Site Manager.

Councillor Wilkinson asked the SSG members if they had any questions for the Inspector. Mrs Lamont asked if the Inspector could foresee a National Skills Shortage in light of the NDA's proposed accelerated decommissioning programme. Mr Burrows said that he was concerned about some areas of shortages in the industry in general. Mr Farquhar said that the NDA were aware of skills shortages and that they had a number of major initiative from which to draw from to try to address this problem and that it was an excellent point well made. Mr Roach added that the Hunterston A Site management team were also trying to address future shortages by employing a number of apprentices and graduates to the site. He continued that this was a first for the site in many years.

Mr MacDougall said that he was very sorry to see Mr Burrows leaving is post and that this seemed to be a hazard of the job as no one seemed to stay in post very long as he had previously stated in the last few meetings about the past inspectors. Mr Burrows replied that he had been in post for 6 months and that a normal tour of duty was about 3 years. He said his move was due to unforeseen circumstances as was his predecessors. Mrs Holmes added that she was also sorry to see Mr Burrows leave.

Councillor Wilkinson thanked Mr Burrows again for his report and answers and said he would like to thank Mr Burrows for his time while he had been in post sand wished him well in his new position on behalf of all the members of the SSG.

- **SEPA Hunterston A Site Inspectors Report**

Mr Littlewood was unable to attend the meeting and sent his apologies.

- **Any other A Site Business**

Councillor Wilkinson asked Mr Roach if there was any other business to close the A Site part of the agenda. Mr Roach said he did not.

Mr MacDougall informed the members that he had toured the A Site's IW Store and records store and had a very enjoyable and informative visit. He explained that he had met with Mr Roach, Mrs Russell-Stevenson, Mr Ian Anderson (records) and Mr Mark Clarke (LW Store) and all questions he had asked were explained in full and he wished to thank the team for clearing these matters up with detailed paperwork and records.

This concluded the Hunterston A section of the agenda.

5. MINUTES OF REPORT OF HUNTERSTON B STATION, BRITISH ENERGY

Tom Ungi welcomed everyone to the Hunterston B meeting.

Mr Ungi stated by explaining to the group that Hunterston B had marked 30 years of safe, reliable generation on Monday 6 February and that the staff all celebrated this with a party at the Seamill Hydro. He continued that there was an exhibition showing 30 years of the station on display through the week in the staff restaurant.

He spoke about another milestone that was passed on 24 February when Hunterston B achieved 2 years operation without a reportable environmental event. He explained that in July, a statutory outage will begin on Reactor 3/TG7 and will last for a number of weeks which also means there will be many more contractors on site.

Mr Ungi referred to recent media speculation towards life extension at Hunterston B. He said that BE were looking at Hunterston's life extension being extended beyond 2011 to 2021 but that there was still work to be done. A decision would be made and announced in 2008. Mr MacDougall asked if Mr Ungi thought Hunterston B would get its life extension. Mr Ungi said that British Energy do expect to get it but there is no guarantee and that lot of studies still had to take place. Mr MacDougall asked if no life extension was given would this mean decommissioning would begin. Mr Ungi replied yes if no consent was received. Mrs Fletcher informed Mr MacDougall that the British Energy Board, NDA and the Regulators all have an input to the decision of life extension.

Mr Thomas explained that there were economic decisions to be made – the Licensee has to have a safety case for continued operation which the NII challenges the modifications. A lot of consultation takes place before any decisions are made. Mrs Holmes asked whether there would be a need for more outages due to the age of the plant. Mr Ungi replied that there may be a possibility due to the age of the plant. Mr Ungi explained that an outage is a legal requirement that used to take place every year but now is every 3 years. An outage is to make sure that the plant is working to its fullest and all required maintenance takes place to allow it to work. The NII have also an input. Mr Thomas explained that extensive inspections are made to make sure that the plant is fit for purpose.

Mr Ungi thanked everyone who attended the BPEO workshop in February, which was run by Mr Bob Kafka.

Mr Ungi then handed over to Mr Graham Perry to talk to the Health Physics part of the report.

Mr Perry gave a summary of his part of the report. He also thanked all who attended the BPEO workshop, he hoped they all found it informative and of interest. Questions were asked at the end.

Mr Perry handed back to Mr Ungi to speak to the rest of the report.

Mr Ungi explained that the station has emergency exercises to make sure the station has adequate arrangements in place and that they are used effectively.

He informed the committee that the Fire Brigade and the Police can often be seen at the entrance to the access road but they are not allowed on site until they are required to attend the emergency exercise. Mr MacDougall asked why the fire brigade is in the car park but it takes 10-17 minutes to get from Ardrossan to the station. Mr Ungi replied that the fire brigade does not enter site until the right time, allowing for a journey time of 10 to 17 minutes. Mr Thomas informed Mr MacDougall that some elements have to be simulated. Mr MacDougall asked if accidents are simulated. Mr Ungi said yes – the scenarios of the exercises are kept secret from those persons that are not involved in the planning of the exercise. Mr Ungi explained that the station tries to simulate as much as they possibly can.

Mr Angus asked what would happen if the access road wasn't passable as his road was not passable at the moment for heavy vehicles due to maintenance requirements. Mr Ungi told Mr Angus that he would look into this matter.

Mr MacDougall asked if exercises were carried out during holiday periods. Mr Ungi replied that exercises can be carried out during holiday periods as the station has a set level of manpower on site to respond in an emergency and if required other members of staff would be called in.

Mr Graham made the comment that it is common practice in many companies for emergency exercises to take place, not just on nuclear plants. Umpires/Marshalls are in place at all times during the exercises. All exercises are well maintained and managed by a planning team.

Mr Ungi handed over to Graeme Thomas, NII Inspector B Station.

Mr Thomas informed the committee that he will be leaving Hunterston B after being the site inspector for 3 years and a Mr David Shepherd would be replacing him. Mr Thomas gave a summary of his report. He also explained that all NII reports are available on their website. No questions were raised.

With no one present from SEPA so no report was given.

Mr Ungi asked if there was any other business. Nothing was raised and Mr Ungi closed Hunterston B's part of the meeting.

6. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 14th June 2006 in Ardrossan. This was agreed to be a morning meeting with a start time of 0930 with a buffet lunch to be arranged for after the meeting. The venue was agreed to be the Lauriston Hotel but members would be notified once availability had been confirmed.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Councillor Wilkinson addressed the members of the public on behalf of the SSG and asked if there were any further questions on any of the reports or any questions to any member of the SSG, which they would like to ask. There were none. Councillor Wilkinson then thanked the public for their support and the members of the group for a lively discussion during the meeting and closed the meeting.

Councillor Richard Wilkinson
SSG Chair