

Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group - Notes

SUB-GROUP MEETING OF THE SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP - Hunterston A SSG meeting to discuss setting up a public consultation on Site End State and to consider responding to the public consultation on Long Term Management of Solid Low Level Radioactive Waste in the UK.

Wednesday 26th April 2006 in Conference Room 1, Hunterston A, West Kilbride

PRESENT

North Ayrshire Council

Councillor Richard Wilkinson (Chair)
Councillor David Munn
Mr Kevin Thomas
Mr Joe Graham

Community Councillors

Mr Kenny MacDougall - Ardrossan
Mr John Lamb - West Kilbride
Mrs Rita Holmes - Fairlie
Mr John Robertson - Largs

Hunterston House

Mr Angus Cochrane Patrick

National Farmers Union

Mrs Eleanor Lamont (Deputy Chair)

Trade Union Rep

Mr Tony Bale

British Nuclear Group

Mrs Alyson Russell-Stevenson
Mr Peter Roach

Strathclyde Police

Sgt Stuart

Apologies were received from Mr Ian Frame

Members of the public were not in attendance.

1. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Mrs Eleanor Lamont welcomed the members of the sub-group of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group (SSG). She explained that the primary purpose of this meeting would be to discuss setting up a public consultation on Site End State. She continued, and put the question to the SSG should the be public consultation and should as many members of the public be involved as possible, if so, should there be mail drops or should it be by public meeting in various towns?

2. PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON SITE END STATE

1. Mrs Eleanor Lamont asked the members if they wanted to involve the public on the Site End State.

Members' Response: Agree. Members agreed that the SSG need to make the public more aware, as it has only been done half heartily in the past.

Mr MacDougall said that the public should be included via the media and council etc., but it could not be done yet as the final decision on when Site End State has not been made. Members agreed and it was commented on that the decision it is not just down to the SSG.

Mr Peter Roach stated that the SSG already have the public vote and therefore already have mandate.

Mr Angus Cochrane Patrick mentioned that holding a public meeting was a waste of time as generally no one turns up.

Mr Thomas mentioned that as the process is not yet know no decision could be made and that they would need to wait until the timing was right.

Mrs Lamont mentioned the timings that had been put in place- 31 Dec 06 – and the NDA expect a response, though she thought that this was not reasonable and would need to wait to the Energy Forum.

Mr Lamb inputed that if the Energy Review has been announced at the beginning of the year it would be a different situation, as is what can be presented to the public if there is nothing to go on.

Mr Tony Bale agreed stating that the timescales were unrealistic. Mr MacDougall mentioned that the Scottish Executive stated that the NDA does not have any remit to Site End State Clearance. When or if it happens the money is to go to the Enterprise Agency's not NDA.

Mrs Lamont said that this was not relevant and the decision was required on public consultation. Mr Roach mentioned that he was backing up Mr MacDougall as the NDA does not have mandate process is – SSG>Site Manager>NDA>SSG>Site End State Clearance.

Mrs Holmes inputed that it would be difficult for Mr Roach and the Local Community Councils to have any views as everything is changing. People living in the local area have great concern, as it will be on their doorstep for a long time.

Mrs Lamont reiterated that a decision was required on how the SSG was going to decide on what to do. Mr Roach agreed and stated that what is known is uncertain and a tick box survey could be conducted in the local area to get a view.

Mrs Lamont put the question to the SSG – Stage 1 – Gain information or put it on the back burner or go ahead.

Mr MacDougall asked what should be in the public consultation. Mrs Lamont mentioned that was not to be done yet, but a skeleton action plan for the NDA should be produced.

Mrs Lamont continued with 6 points: 1. Collect information 2. Produce summary – SSG, 3. Pro's and con's to be discussed in workshops 4. Gather and assess all options 5. Produce method for public consultation 6. Deliver

Mr Cochrane Patrick asked where would the independent consultant come in.

Mrs Lamont answered when seeking information an independent consultant would be involved.

Mr Bale produced a chart that he had previously received from the NDA as a guide of what could be done.

Mrs Russell-Stevenson said that the site was happy to give the SSG members any information from the site which they would require.

Mr MacDougall inputted that he understood that the site could hand over information and contribute, the SSG could produce a draft of the site end report and what they don't know the Site Manager does. Everyone needs to work together encompassing everything. The Socio-Economic plan for the area needs to be brought in. However the Scottish Executive contradicted everything, it was not in their mandate and the Stakeholders should be the only ones to decide.

Mrs Holmes stated that the NDA diagram was not fantastic and there was not a broad spectrum of people.

Mrs Lamont responded that Mrs Holmes will ensure the people she wanted to invite would be invited.

Mr Cochrane Patrick stated that the NDA want the SSG to run the End State and all they can do is ask questions.

Mrs Lamont said that the SSG can come up with the public consultation but there is no need to have all the ideas mentioned on the chart that she had produced.

Mr MacDougall answered that it was not known what money the NDA is putting on the table for the Site End State.

Mr Bale replied that this was what the SSG would have to come up with. Mr MacDougall replied that it was irresponsible for the SSG to have to do this and a figure could just be made up. The SSG to submit how much and the NDA agree.

Mr Lamb stated that the information required would take time to require and the assess the information would take time and the result could end up being that there may end up not having time. The options are A. Collect the information ASAP and collate the information B. Give a realistic time scale. SSG will have to go back to the people and then back to the NDA, and 90% of people are not being paid to be here and will want to be paid.

Mr Bale commented that the point was made clear and that timescales and the task need to be dealt with.

Mr Lamb stated that the NDA should come up with the proposal.

Mrs Holmes stated that the information needs to be gathered from relevant sources and that it needs to be reliable, the information given from Mr Roach is good and the SSG need integrity from all sources. An independent consultant is a good idea as people have no faith. The information must be truthful and need integrity for the public.

Mrs Lamont stated that there needs to be other inputs than just an independent consultant such as information from SEPA, regulators etc.

Mrs Holmes mentioned that an Independent Consultant might spot something that others may not.

Mr Roach stated that integrity is needed no matter what. The money in the budget for the SSG has been upped from £50 in 2005 to £50000 in 2007, so the SSG can appoint an independent advisor if they wish they need to decide what to use the money on.

Mrs Lamont summarised the meeting thus far. Collect information from – Local Authorities, NDA, BNG, Scottish executive, regulators, Independent Consultants, Others (Greenpeace, NGO's)

Mrs Holmes noted that there was too much information to source, Mrs Russell-Stevenson stated that the Independent Consultant could gather the information. Mrs Holmes commented maybe the Independent Consultant could not gather the information but could go through it once it was gathered.

Mr Wilkinson mentioned that the SSG would need to be careful as £10000 was for the Independent Consultant and we would need to be careful on how to spend it.

Mr MacDougall stated that the role of the Independent Consultant would be 24/7 till the decisions of the Site End State report and who would want that position. The report is a very important document and £10,000 is not a lot of money to an Independent Consultant and that a report would not be produced on that amount of funds.

Mrs Lamont agreed with Mr MacDougall. Mrs Lamont summarised that information had to be collected and the decision was now who was going to do it.

Mrs Russell-Stevenson stated that Hunterston A would be happy to help to help the members to do the job but it was the SSG's decision.

Mr MacDougall asked why the SSG could not do the work.

Mrs Holmes stated that she did not feel that the SSG was capable of doing the job that the site could do. She would be happy to look at the work and then go to the Independent Consultant and then be able to question the areas that may require further information. Also the Independent Consultant can provide a 3rd party view.

Mrs Lamont put it to the SSG who should collect the information – Site and SSG members?

Mr Munn asked about SEPA, Mr Roach answered that SEPA have stated that they will give their view but will not undertake any work.

It was noted by members that there may be independent associates that could be used.

Mrs Lamont put it to the members that a decision was to be made who was going to collect the information.

It was decided that the Chair and Deputy Chair would put together a paper check that it covers relevant information, then SSG members review it, then send it out to other areas. It was decided that it would be a joint approach with the SSG and the site. The SSG will draw together the information that they require and the site will provide it is possible.

2. Mrs Lamont moved on to the next point what shall the SSG do?

Members' Response: The members decided that a letter should be composed and sent out. It was then asked what should be in the letter.

Mrs Holmes asked Mr Roach what does the site contractor think, is the weather envelop out or is in on the back burner. Mr Roach stated that it had been deferred for 12 months waiting on the NDA, but money is available whichever way the decision goes.

Mrs Russell-Stevenson stated that the Lifetime Plan would be available from week commencing 1st May 2006, which would go into the sites current plan in great detail.

Mr Roach was asked what was in the current site plan. Mr Roach replied that the current plan would be that there would not be any buildings – all gone by 2091. All radioactive areas cleared out to 1 meter deep in areas on contamination, with a fence around the area, the Lifetime Plan CD would specify this in more detail.

Mrs Lamont asked the members what issues the wanted in the letters that would be sent out.

Mr Thomas stated that it was all about the timing and things keep changing so will not get qualified answers.

Mr Roach agreed and stated that things will change possibly every year and the context set will not be right the first time. Mrs Russell-Stevenson mentioned that the Tech feasible options today are as far as we can go.

Mr Wilkinson stated that the SSG should get information from the site.

Mr MacDougall mentioned Elizabeth Grey from the Scottish Executive and was wondering what was their position.

Mrs Lamont stated that letters should be put out seeking information even if it is only in interim.

Mr Lamb mentioned that letters should be sent out to the Scottish Executive, Local Authorities, NDA, Regulators and site and ask what they want to see and the Site End State. Get the information from them, and then the SSG would have something to go on. Then the SSG can come together with a consolidated plan, then ask people who have a bearing.

Mrs Lamont put forward that the SSG should just ask one basic question in the letters.

Mr Bale stated that the SSG should give lead as to how they wish it to be not the other way round.

Mrs Lamont answered that they require information in to come up with options and then they will be able to come up with more questions and information.

Mr Wilkinson stated that they should go with Mr Lamb's suggestion. This will start a dialogue and gain information and possibly more questions.

Mr MacDougall stated that the Scottish Executive have to come back with their policy. Elizabeth Grey should be approached with a ballpark of what is being discussed, as he is worried that they may veto the work if the question is not liked.

Mrs Lamont drew attention back to the letter and commented on the contents – basic question asking what are your views on Site End State. It was decided that Mrs Lamont would write the letter and Mrs Russell-Stevenson would sent out on the members behalf. Letters should go to the following: Scottish Executive, NII, SEPA, Local Authorities, Site, Greenpeace, and Friends of the Earth.

3. PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON POLICY FOR THE LONG TERM MANAGEMENT OF SOLID LOW LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE IN THE UK DOCUMENT

Mrs Lamont raised the issue of the report mentioned above, that had been sent to her, on whether the SSG want to respond as individuals or as the SSG. A discussion ensued and it was

agreed each member would read the report and send individual responses to Mrs Lamont and she would forward all individual responses on behalf of Hunterston SSG to John Howley of DEFRA. All responses are to be with Mrs Lamont for the 15th May 06.

4. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Mrs Russell-Stevenson gave the SSG members an update on Hunterston A's Socio-Economic Plan 2006 and proposed funding bid (Project 01). It was agreed that each member of the SSG present would take the bid away to scrutinise and have comments back to Mrs Russell-Stevenson by 15 May 06 and if agreed would go to the NDA shortly after this date. The members thanked Mrs Russell-Stevenson for to put together such a comprehensive and well thought out proposal and agreed that she should put together further funding bids on their behalf as soon as possible.

5. CLOSE OF MEETING

Mrs Lamont closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their continued support and commitment for attending meetings, and their preparation beforehand in reading the 'mountains of paperwork' which had become part of being a member of the SSG.

Mrs Eleanor Lamont
SSG Deputy Chair