

## Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

**THE NINETEENTH HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER 2009 IN THE LAURISTON HOTEL, ARDROSSAN.**

### **Present**

#### **Magnox North**

Mr Peter Roach  
Mr Reuben Phillips  
Mrs Shelagh Milligan (Secretariat)  
Mr Tony Bale (Trade Union Representative)

#### **British Energy**

Mr Colin Weir  
Mr Stuart McGhie (Trade Union Representative)

#### **Community Councillors**

Mr John Lamb - West Kilbride (Chair)  
Mrs Rita Holmes – Fairlie  
Mr Peter MacFarlane – Largs  
Mr Kenny MacDougall – Ardrossan (Vice Chair)

#### **In Attendance**

Mr Derek Rooney, Magnox North  
Mr Jon Dolphin, Magnox North  
Mrs Anne Bradley, British Energy  
Mr Andy Taylor, British Energy  
Ms Yvonne White, British Energy  
Mr Alan MacRae, CNC, British Energy  
Mr Ewan Young, Scottish Government  
Mr Stuart Hudson, Scottish Government  
Mrs Deborah Ward, NDA  
Strathclyde Fire & Rescue

#### **NDA**

Mr Keith Riding  
Mr Jonathan Jenkin

#### **SEPA**

Mr Keith Hammond  
Mr Ian Robertson

#### **NII**

Mr Les Davies

#### **Councillors**

Mr Robert Barr  
Mr William Gibson

#### **Community Members**

Mr William Laing  
Mr John Robertson  
Mr Frank Craig

#### **National Farmers Union**

Mr William Addison

#### **Hunterston Estate**

Mr Ralston Ryder

A representative from the local press and several members of the public were also in attendance

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Mr Ian Stewart, Mr Richard Griffin, Mr Angus Cochran-Patrick, Mrs Nina Staebler, Dr Jane Cooper, Mr Robert Turner, Mr Hugh McGhee, Mr Ian Frame, Mr Peter Rothwell and Strathclyde Police.

**1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

Chairman John Lamb welcomed everyone to the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group (SSG).

**2. MINUTES of 17<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009 APPROVAL**

There were no comments raised and the minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> September 2009 were approved.

**3. CORRESPONDENCE**

Mrs Shelagh Milligan highlighted that a letter had been received from Strathclyde Police stating representation would no longer be present at every meeting. A copy of this letter was attached as an appendix to the minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> September 2009. Two letters were also received from British Energy, one regarding the discharge of liquid from Hunterston to the River Clyde and the second a mid term update. In addition, a Site Programme Manager briefing for SSG meetings was received from the NDA.

The apologies for absence were then read out.

**4.A HUNTERSTON B STATION REPORT**

Mr Colin Weir, Plant Manager, deputising for Station Director Mr Ian Stewart, reviewed the B station quarterly report.

Mr Weir reported that safety performance continued to be good in terms of lost time accidents and nuclear reportable events. The planned statutory outage on Reactor 3/TG7 had been successfully completed and had come in on plan, within budget and the unit had been successfully returned to power.

With regard to Reactor 4/TG8, higher than normal vibrations were being experienced and these were being investigated to determine the root cause. Two repairs were carried out on the turbine control oil system through September when the unit was turned off for a day. The reactor was not shutdown and following load raising the unit operated reliably.

Mr Weir reported that the main environmental issue had been a loss of lubricating oil from an oil cooler tube nest on Turbine 8. A small number of pinhole defects had led to some oil leaking into the cooling water discharge. The leak was detected and quickly dealt with and the plant was isolated. On the day of the leak the station took delivery of new titanium cooler tube nests. Two had been installed in the outage unit and were about to be installed on the Turbine 8. Tube nests had now been replaced on all affected units and were working well.

Mr Weir reviewed the EDF situation with regard to new nuclear build which is attracting a lot of interest south of the border with a considerable amount of investment planned. This policy did not affect Scotland due to planning issues being devolved. Mr Weir advised that in Scotland EDF had recently opened a new wind farm near Galashiels with the capability to power 19,000 homes annually, avoiding emissions of around 40,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> each year because it doesn't use fossil fuels to provide electricity. 13 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are avoided annually between Hunterston and Torness power stations.

Mr Weir reported that in terms of safety performance the recent outage had been very good. There had been a large number of contractors as well as British Energy staff on site with numbers exceeding 1,000 daily over a period of 70 days. It was worth notice that these high numbers generated a lot of money being spent in the communities around the station. Mr

Weir advised that the station was currently advertising in the local press for new apprentices and would continue to recruit more staff as needed.

Mrs Rita Holmes asked if Mr Weir had a response to the action against Mr Stewart with regard to providing an assurance that there would be access to the station should there be a one in a thousand year tide surge in the Firth of Clyde. Mr Weir responded that the safety case for the station did look at tidal wave defences and flooding. The safety system would operate in terms of either defences being breached or continual flooding on site. The reactor would be in a safe and operable condition.

Mrs Holmes asked if there would be access to the actual Power Station if the road was underwater. Mr Weir confirmed that there was an emergency plan and there would be enough staff on site to deal with the situation. As for access this would be gained with the assistance of the police or army and that there were alternative routes to the site other than via the coast road. The most important thing to note was that the reactor would be operable and safe should there be this kind of flooding event.

Mr Ian Frame asked if both units would continue to run at 70% power and also if there was any truth to the rumour that B Station would continue running until 2021. Mr Weir confirmed that the units were running at 71/72% power and that the station was looking continually to see if this could be improved upon. The station is also making plans to remain operational until 2021. Obviously, different regulatory advice and approval would need to be sought throughout the time period.

Mr Kenny MacDougall enquired as to what action was placed on the station by SEPA on the loss of approximately 1,000 litres of lubricating oil into the River Clyde. Mr Weir advised that SEPA had visited the station to review the incident. As the replacement tube nests were in the process of being installed when this loss occurred, SEPA were content that the actions being taken were correct.

Mr MacDougall asked why the station wasn't penalised for the oil spill, adding that if the fishing industry had leaked oil into the harbour or the River Clyde they would have been severely penalised. Mr Weir said that the oil leak was very small compared to the cooling water flow, equivalent to one-tenth of one part per million of the affected cooling water local to the cooler. It was a very small leak and difficult to detect. It was equivalent to a small drop of ink in a 10 metre swimming pool and it is regrettable that the spill had occurred however actions to replace the affected coolers were immediately put in place after the previous incident. Mr Weir advised the members that he had brought along some of the tubes and invited them to view the very small pin holes in the tubing.

Mr MacDougall said he found it strange that SEPA did not fine British Energy where they would have fined a local businessman. He asked if SEPA dealt with nuclear power differently and what happens outside of the industry. Mr Keith Hammond of SEPA advised that the handling of this situation was not unique to the nuclear power industry and that the response was the same as any industry which uses similar oil coolers which are direct sea water cooled. In this case British Energy had instigated two actions, principally they were looking at ways of monitoring for leaks and they had also accelerated the programme of installing the titanium tube nests. SEPA was happy that these were reasonable steps to take in the circumstances and it was unfortunate that a second leak had occurred. SEPA'S biggest concern was to ensure that British Energy identified the mechanism that was causing the tube nests to fail and prevent further leaks. He did not think it was fair to say that SEPA would necessarily penalise

a local businessman any differently in the circumstances. This leak was very small, had gone in to a large cooling water flow, had been extremely difficult to detect and had no environmental impact. These were the sort of things which SEPA would take into consideration. SEPA were monitoring the situation would continue to discuss issues with the Station.

Mrs Holmes had a question concerning the higher than normal vibrations being experienced on Turbine Group 8 and asked if this would affect the repairs to the cooling water leak. Mr Weir said the elevated vibration levels were in an entirely separate area, being in the steam chest rather than the turbine itself.

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

Mrs Holmes had some questions with regard to this report however, due to Mr Peter Rothwell's absence, agreed to put them in writing to the Secretariat who would pass them on.

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

Mr Hammond said that other than the one scheduled inspection they had been quite busy with the various licences at the station. The RSA authorisation was being reviewed with a view to including non radiological conditions into the RSA liquid effluent discharges section, also the main cooling water discharge CAR consent is being reviewed with a view to updating the associated conditions and the Pollution Prevention and Control permit (PPC) (which covers the auxiliary boilers and the diesel generators at the station) were subject to an application for variation which was currently being determined. There had been one environmental event which had been discussed.

Mr Hammond advised that the latest edition of Radioactivity in Food & the Environment (RIFE 14) covering 2008 and the Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (SPRI) data for 2008, including that for Hunterston B, was available from the SEPA website.

Mr Lamb asked if the stations application to vary the pollution prevention and controls permit for auxiliary boilers etc was currently within the over all pollution prevention and control parameters for the whole station or was it being taken out as a separate entity. Mr Hammond responded that the application related to alteration of dates for completion of certain actions due to the station replacing the auxiliary boilers or taking them offline.

Cllr Robert Barr asked Mr Hammond if SEPA were pleased with the speed that B station had contacted them to report the second spillage. Mr Hammond confirmed they were.

Mr Calum Corral of the Largs & Millport Weekly News asked Mr Weir to expand on his statement on the taking on of new apprentices at the station. Mr Weir responded that in previous years they had taken on 6 apprentices annually and that this year would not be any different. There continues to be a need to bring through apprentices into what the company see is an expanding industry with new nuclear build.

#### **5.A HUNTERSTON A SITE REPORT**

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

Mrs Holmes asked how the Site is currently dealing with its CP7 Compound. Land Quality Management Project Manager Mr Jon Dolphin explained that the Site's lead consultants (Enviros) had employed a local civil engineering firm (Land Engineering) to work on a solution



for the contaminated drainage system. The best practical means steps of looking at various potential options are being undertaken, with a final solution to be decided and implemented in due course. Essentially, in order to cut off the potential of the contamination moving into the drainage system, the main drain (pathway) must be blocked off with the source left in-situ. Additionally, a thorough clean out of the contaminated elements of the drainage system will be carried out.

Mr Lamb asked how the contamination being sealed in place conformed with the Site end state timeline. Mr Roach replied that the Site's current end state is 2085 and, while it is difficult to predict future discussions with regulators, the Site would comply with what is required of it at the relevant time.

A member of the public asked if foreshore monitoring was still ongoing at the 15 and 18" outfalls. It was confirmed by Site representatives that routine monitoring takes place in the form of water and silt samples. No activity is found in these samples. In addition, catchpit arrangements are being managed to allow sediment to settle out and therefore minimize the effect of particulate matter leaking onto the foreshore.

A member of the public asked for clarity on the commissioning of the Modular Active Effluent Treatment Plant (MAETP). Mr Roach confirmed that the MAETP was officially in the active commissioning phase and would be for some time, however continuous operation of the plant had been running stably for numerous weeks. Following a previous continuous operation period of three months, approximately half of the activity was removed. Recent months have involved improving stability in terms of water flows and pressure flows around the system, however once the official operational phase has been running for a sustained period, the real benefits of the plant itself will become more evident. Mr Roach added that the MAETP was an investment by the Site to protect the environment whilst utilising the best available technology. The aim at the Site is to press on properly and effectively with clean up in conjunction with regulators SEPA and NII. Mr Keith Riding confirmed that the NDA look very closely at the case for this sort of technology and that the benefits of the MAETP for the rest of the Magnox North estate is quite significant.

Mr Coral asked how often the Site's anti terrorism exercise takes place; if Security had been briefed as a result of the decommissioning process and for what reasons was the exercise a success. Mr Roach explained that staff are regularly exercised to ensure they know what to do in the event of any incident, and while this is a requirement, it also gives the workforce and local community's confidence that Hunterston A is in a position to deal with an event effectively. Security standards have always been tight and are relevant with being a Category 4 Site. The exercise was observed by an independent regulator from the Office of Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) who commented accordingly. This requires a satisfactory demonstration of our arrangements and it went very well.

Mr Lamb asked where sludge being removed from the bottom of the Cartridge Cooling Pond (CCP) is stored. Mr Roach explained that sludge goes into stainless steel drums ready for processing into the new wet waste processing plant. There are a number of small components at the bottom of the CCP which are now contaminated and must be removed. Once removed, each component is sampled, checked, dried and placed into Bunker 5 for interim storage prior to solid waste processing.

Mr Lamb asked what disciplines the four Hunterston A apprentices were in. Mr Roach confirmed that one was electrical, one instrumental and two mechanical.

With regards to the Site's Solid Active Waste Bunker Retrieval (SAWBR) project, Mrs Holmes asked if the vacuum system feature reduces oxygen from the process cell inside the bunkers. Mr Roach stated that there was a vacuum system to be used to suck up and collect any graphite dust. Additionally, there is a system that processes the air in the bunkers to reduce the oxygen levels. There will be a new discharge stack and the discharge is made via HEPA filters.

### **5.B NII REPORT**

Dr Les Davies presented the NII report and the following discussions took place:

Dr Davies addressed an action from the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2009 SSG meeting by providing an update on the witnessing of a shift exercise at Hunterston A Site. This shift was witnessed by Dr Davies himself where the Site managed to recover a missing person. Unfortunately, this wasn't done as promptly as Dr Davies would have liked, and as a result, the Site has been asked to perform another shift exercise to increase NII's confidence in Hunterston A's ability to cope with such a situation. This is scheduled to be carried out in January 2010, the conclusions of which will be briefed prior to the next SSG meeting.

Mrs Holmes asked who the appointed NII Project Inspector was. Dr Davies confirmed the Inspector was an NII's member of staff called Mr Cook.

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

Mr Ian Robertson presented the SEPA report and the following discussions took place:

Mrs Holmes asked what had been learned from Mr Robertson's attendance at a workshop, held by Magnox North, to carry out screening assessments of endpoint strategies and options for treatment and conditioning of higher activity wastes. Mr Robertson stated that whilst the workshop was both interesting and informative, he was there to observe, not to express any opinion or to favour any one particular line of action. Mr Holmes then asked what various end points had been discussed. Mr Robertson explained that there was a range of options discussed, however it was not SEPA's place at this stage to identify these options. Mr Roach added that there were over 200 options which had been filtered down to around six. Mr Roach stated that a presentation to the stakeholders at the next SSG meeting would be organised regarding the current possible options. **ACTION: P. ROACH**

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

Mr Riding presented the NDA general update and the following discussions took place:

Mr MacDougall asked for clarification on how the Public Value Programme was going to affect the NDA after April 2010. Mr Riding responded that at the present moment, the effects are not known, however a lot of work is being done by the NDA on this at present. HM Treasury guidelines have been sent to every Government department requesting plans for 50% of projected work. The NDA are currently engaging through the Shareholder Executive, HM Treasury, Government and Shadow Government.

Mr MacDougall asked if new NDA Chief Executive Officer Mr Tony Fountain had been brought in to perform severe cut backs which will affect all Sites, with care and maintenance dates at lead Sites being accelerated. Mr Riding explained that both Chapelcross and Hunterston A Site impressed on delivery at recent NDA board meetings. The new Parent Body Organisation is picking up speed on developing an agreed plan with the NDA, and with

Chapelcross and Hunterston A proving they can deliver, all other aspects will be looked at dependant upon on what funding can be secured from Government in the next few years. Some interesting plans are being put together but whether they come to fruition is unknown at present.

Mr Holmes asked how much money would be required to clean up Sellafield. Mr Riding replied that he was unsure of an exact figure but stated he would get back to Mrs Holmes with further information.

**ACTION: K. RIDING**

#### **7. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATE**

Mr Stuart Hudson gave a brief presentation to the group regarding the Scottish Government's Higher Activity Radioactive Waste Policy which will be published in June 2010. Unlike England and Wales, the Scottish Government didn't follow the same line in terms of the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Program. Instead, they opted for a Near Site, Near Surface Storage Policy. The Consultation Document is expected to come out in early 2010, copies of which will be sent to SSG's.

Mr Hudson stated that another piece of work ongoing relevant to Hunterston A Site is a review of the exemption orders under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993. This determines what is fundamentally meant by radioactive waste. A consultation was held in the summer of 2009 and as a result of the significant feedback received, a further consultation has been scheduled for early 2010.

#### **8. NDA SOCIO ECONOMIC FUNDING PROCESS**

Mr Jonathan Jenkin delivered a presentation on the NDA's Socio-Economic funding policy, and the following discussions took place:

Mr MacDougall wished to stress that the Sellafield (Cumbria) area will not be deprived for quite some time compared to the likes of Hunterston (North Ayrshire). He added that the funding Sellafield receive could be put to better use in areas such as North Ayrshire which is much more deprived. Mr MacDougall wished to state that he will no longer submit informative reports to the NDA as they are not being taken on board. Mr Jenkin assured Mr MacDougall that the information submitted has been very useful and will continue to be used for future funding applications. Mr Jenkin also explained that in terms of geographical priority areas, the long term impact is key therefore the NDA are working towards mitigating the effects of decommissioning and clean up. For the four priority areas to be reviewed, and a particular area to be considered as a result, a business case backed with evidence is required. Mr Roach wished to note that he felt there was a timing issue with regards to priority areas. While Sellafield dominates in terms of numbers, its timing is quite different, and the NDA strategy must take more account of where the need is. Issuing a priority list is very unhelpful for everyone not on the list, and that presents a problem.

Mr MacDougall asked what the timeline was for DECC approving projects over £500k? Mr Jenkin stated that in terms of who approves projects, it is those within the Shareholder Executive. Only three projects have gone above the £500k threshold to date, however Government officials are undertaking a turnaround of approvals within three weeks.

Mr MacDougall then wished to state his concerns regarding enterprise agencies in Scotland. Mr Jenkin stated on behalf of those unfamiliar, that the NDA approved £2.5 million towards the development of an industry park on part of the Chapelcross Site - a proposal lead by Scottish Enterprise for which the NDA provided match funding. However, the remit of Scottish

Enterprise has changed therefore the industry park has not progressed as much as everyone would have liked. Scottish Enterprise have stated that the level of demand has changed for business space in the area, and that the original Site at Chapelcross would need significant upgrade to the local road infrastructure. For these reasons, Scottish Enterprise have undertaken an exercise to look at how the site may be used, such as industrial development, with an alternative location proposed involving the development of three plots of business space around the towns of Gretna Lockerbie and Annan. The NDA Committee are happy to proceed with these changes subject to Scottish Enterprise having European funding in place.

Mr Stuart McGhee wished to put some clarity on what he proposed at the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2009 SSG meeting regarding unemployment in North Ayrshire. It was proposed, and supported by Cllr Robert Barr, that the SSG takes time to discuss the furtherance of nuclear generation in North Ayrshire and the benefits new build would bring. At no time was the Hunterston SSG Socio-Economic Subgroup to be hijacked. Mr McGhie stated that it had been suggested this proposal was not within the remit of the SSG, however according to the constitution, Mr McGhie believed the matter was allowed to be discussed. Mr McGhie also wished to state that he is speaking on behalf of approx 500 trade union members who work within British Energy, not for British Energy the company Mr MacDougall agreed that the constitution does give the window of opportunity to discuss enterprising issues in North Ayrshire.

Mrs Holmes stated that it would be more appropriate to discuss new build issues at the next Socio-Economic Subgroup meeting. Mr John Robertson agreed that this issue should not fall into discussion at this group, and should command a separate forum. Mr MacDougall suggested that Mr McGhie delivers a presentation on the merits of nuclear generation at the next Socio-Economic Subgroup.

**ACTION: S. MILLIGAN**

Cllr Barr stated that North Ayrshire Council had been in contact with the NDA to discuss ways of bringing other industries or projects into North Ayrshire. Mr Riding advised that a proposal is submitted to the NDA with a consultant, who can work with local authorities and stakeholders on regeneration, to bring forward a feasibility study highlighting relevant issues.

A member of the public asked where minutes of Hunterston SSG Socio-Economic Subgroup meetings could be obtained. While hard copies of subgroup minutes are available at main SSG meetings, it was proposed that copies of subgroup minutes are distributed to local libraries and uploaded to the NDA website.

**ACTION: S. MILLIGAN**

Mr Lamb stated that as far as Mr McGhie's proposal was concerned, he did not think this particular open forum was the place to discuss the matter. If the Trade Unions at Hunterston B Station wish to discuss this matter further, there is nothing to stop them utilising the services of the Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC) to arrange an open forum for this. Mr Tony Bale wished to state that the Hunterston A Site Trade Unions fully support the Hunterston B Station Trade Unions.

## **9. SITE SOCIO ECONOMIC UPDATE**

Mr Tony Bale stated that the vision and purpose at Hunterston A is to safely put the Site into a care and maintenance state. There is a highly skilled and motivated workforce at Hunterston A, and with the care and maintenance date getting closer, Magnox North have taken the initiative to actively ensure its workforce are left with quality full time jobs. A small project group at Hunterston A, supported by Mr Roach, has been set up to engage with consultants and look at the options available. This will be driven purely by Magnox North to look after the

needs and benefits of its employees. Mr Bale rounded up by adding that the group will be looking to engage with Hunterston B Station, North Ayrshire council, and other relevant bodies in the near future. Updates will be given as and when required.

Mrs Holmes stated that, although it was commendable that Magnox North are looking after their employees, surely the workforce would still be decommissioning in the next 50 years. Mr Bale explained that the current Lifetime Plan takes decommissioning to 2020. Mr Roach stated that until recently, the Hunterston SSG had been focused more on scrutiny as opposed to Socio-Economics. He added that this is an appropriate piece of work, looking to sow seeds now for future benefit.

#### **10. UPDATE ON EXTERNAL MEETINGS**

Mr Lamb gave an update on external meetings by stating that since September 2009, the Chair and Vice Chair had attended the Scottish Sites meeting in Edinburgh; the annual Magnox North meeting with the NDA, and the NSG in Manchester. Here, various workshops were held on a range of topics such as geological disposals, asset management, transport logistics, and Site end states. Mr Lamb highlighted that due to changes in Government Policy, there may be a case for Site end states to be revisited. The NDA will keep SSG's updated.

Finally, a Health and Safety Executive workshop was attended on bulk quantities in Edinburgh during December 2009. This was an attempt to clarify questions being asked on the pre-consultation document, due out in the first quarter of 2010.

Mr Lamb stated that Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) will be meeting more often during 2010. Mrs Holmes asked if this will bring geological disposal any closer. Mr MacDougall clarified that there have been a lack of meetings due to a slight change of Government Policy, however a report will be produced which will bring everything to closure. CoRWM have not changed their position and still recommended numerous sites as opposed to one.

Mrs Holmes asked what was meant by bulk quantities. Mr Hudson clarified that bulk quantities regarded definitions in the Nuclear Installations Act to decide what needs to be licensed under this act. One part of this involves bulk quantities of radioactive matter and what is meant by this. Low level waste facilities do not pose the same level of hazard or risk as geological disposal facilities.

#### **11. DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 1st April 2010 in the Seamill Hydro.

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