

Cross-Party Group on the Civil Nuclear Industry

Date: Monday September 22nd 2025

Time: 2.00pm

Minutes of Last Meeting

These were approved.

Present

MSPs

Oliver Mundell MSP	Co-Convenor CPG
Emma Harper MSP	Vice-Convenor CPG
Douglas Lumsden MSP	
Jamie Halcro-Thompson MSP	
Finlay Carson MSP	

Invited guests

Paul Morton	EDF
Sohail Ashraf	NRS

Non-MSP Group Members

Cllr Archie Dryburgh	Chair CPX SSG
Cllr George Jamieson	VC CPX SSG

Cllr Stewart McDonald	East Dunbartonshire Council
Cllr Norman Hampshire	East Lothian Council
Rita Holmes	Chair Hunterston SSG
Cllr Ken Harvey	Perth and Kinross Council
Kenny Taylor	Zero Waste Scotland
Louise Martin	SCCORS
Phil Matthews	NuLeaf/SCCORS
Robert Orr	Skills Development Scotland
Peter Faccenda	Focus North
Paul Dale	SEPA
Malcolm Stone	National Decommissioning Centre
Prof Mike Ward	University of Strathclyde
Mark Longland	Arup
Cathryn Walley	Amentum
Sam Long	Decom Mission
Paul Morton	EDF
Sohail Ashraf	NRS
Ben Brennan	NRS
Gail Ross	NRS Dounreay
Pete Thomson	NRS Dounreay
Danny Fox	NDA
Andrew Clarke	NDA
Simon Napper	NWS
John McNamara	NDA
Mair Jones	NRS
Alastair Findlay	NDA
Claire Aitken	NRS
Mark Rouse	DESNZ

Apologies

Kenny Gibson	MSP
Fiona McColl	EDF

Agenda item 1

Opening Remarks

Oliver Mundell MSP reminded members of the NDA Virtual Summit on Monday 3 November 2025.

Activity was progressing as a result of the CPG on 'skills' and updates would be featured at the next CPG in December.

OM reported that the CPG had delivered on its promise for outreach activity having now visited two sites in Scotland – CPX and Hunterston – where today's meeting was hosted.

The NDA secretariat highlighted that the NDA's consultation on Strategy 5 was due to close on September 29th and that the CPG would be making a submission. Submissions from other parties was also welcome in the time remaining to the deadline of September 29th. OM referred to the ongoing and positive engagement between the NDA, Scottish Government and SEPA and that these relationships were highly valued by the CPG.

In response queries in advance of the meeting regarding the co-convenor **OM** advised that Colin Smith MSP was subject to an on-going criminal investigation and that this was not a matter for the CPG. He explained CPG office bearers would be up for re-election at the next December AGM meeting of the CPG.

Agenda item 2

AGR Transfer Programme – Update

Paul Morton began by outlining AGR decommissioning progress at Hunterston B (HNB).

He highlighted 4 phases of decommissioning:

- Defueling
- Preparation for Decommissioning
- Safestore construction
- Final site clearance

Contracts for decommissioning had been negotiated between EDF and the UK Government in 2021. EDF had been identified as ‘best athlete’ for defueling with NRS ‘best athlete’ for deconstruction and decommissioning.

Over time both people and land would move across.

HNB was now fuel free – all spent fuel now off-site and the nuclear hazard had been significantly reduced. Defueling had been achieved ‘ahead of plan and the ‘transition phase’ preparing for NRS decommissioning had begun.

The ‘transition phase’ was made up of a number of workstreams:

- People
- Licensing and Permitting
- Land
- IT
- Commercial Contracts
- Funding
- On-site activities

Partners were ‘on-plan’ for April 2026 handover. Testing and Assurance reviews currently underway between UK Gov/NDA/NRS and EDF – these would help re-assure stakeholders partners were ready for transfer.

PM reported some more detail as regards the ‘workstreams’:

People – there was now a defined structure with the number of people required confirmed as 246. 96% of people would get the outcome they wanted with the lion share choosing to stay on site. PM reported morale was “in a good place”.

Funding – for AGR decommissioning would come from the Nuclear Liabilities Fund (NLF). The fund was made up of contributions from UK Government and EDF. **PM** highlighted the importance ring-fenced funding to meet timescales.

Permitting and Licensing – EDF and NRS had been working closely with Regulators over the last 2 years. Regulators were confident all timescales for handover could be met.

On-Site Activities – no Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC) on site. The Site Team would be reduced from 300 to 246 by March 2026. The Control Room numbers had been reduced from 15 to 3.

After HNB handover in April 2026, Hinkley B is planned to follow 6-8 months later.

In general, Life extensions to EDF stations were still on the agenda in order to support UK Gov climate change targets.

Sohail Ashraf (NRS) expressed excitement at having a group of people keen to be part of the NRS decommissioning mission. Cultures were aligned and there had been great Regulatory support between SEPA/ONR and Scottish Government. He added that the funding model gave some additional certainty to the Supply Chain in terms of ‘multi-year funding’ vs ‘annualised’ funding model. This was also good news for innovation and development. Taking learning from the HNB transfer would help future transfers.

OM opened the meeting up to **questions from CPG members.**

Cathryn Walley (Amentum) – asked about the partner’s assessment of ‘skills and capability’, and whether they had thought about work that will be done ‘in-house’ and work they

intend to offer to the Supply Chain- in addition to their timings for engagement with the Supply Chain.

PM – reported they were retraining and upskilling people currently which was a big part of the ‘transition’ programme. It was positive to have HNA next door in order to gain advice and guidance. Both EDF and NRS were engaging with suppliers - EDF looking to novate across some of their contracts and NRS making use of incumbent suppliers. He stressed a significant amount suppliers will be required to supplement the 246 staff.

SA repeated that much work was going on as regards ‘skills and capability’. ‘Deliverability Reviews’ were underway with Site Team understanding the need for a longer-term Supply Chain strategy. He stressed how instrumental and critical the supply chain would be to mission delivery. He also felt there was a great opportunity to highlight just what the UK can deliver in the decommissioning sector.

CW stressed the need to engage the supply chain “sooner rather than later”.

Cllr Norman Harrington introduced himself as the Leader of East Lothian Council and asked about the timeframes for the Nuclear Site Licence (NSL) , and at what point during the decommissioning process does it not remain a nuclear site. He also asked about the future use of the site given Torness had consents for another 8 reactors – and whether this had been taken into consideration going forward?

SA said the NSL would exist until they achieve final site clearance, however, working alongside Regulators, they can always give consideration to boundaries and exploit potential opportunities for land-use. CPX was a good example of this where land out-with the NSL is being utilised for development of a ‘Green Energy’ park.

OM pointed out that NSL will likely remain for decades, with SA pointing to around 80 years of a journey towards Care and Maintenance of stations.

PM highlighted the work currently going on between EDF and NRS as regards land boundaries and land that will be required transfer to NRS to carry out decommissioning work.

Kenny Taylor (Zero Waste Scotland) expressed importance of ‘granularity’ in the process of engaging on a visible and accessible strategy for the supply chain. He also asked for consideration of ‘materials management’ and how this helps learning and projects already progressing with materials management in Scotland.

SA agreed and said he was keen to produce a medium to longer term strategy which would give the supply chain time to consider and innovate going forward.

OM stressed the importance of maximising the value of the supply chain in Scotland and was sure this view was reflected by all MSPs on the CPG. He was also keen to express this view in the forthcoming CPG submission to the NDA’s S5 consultation. He highlighted the importance of North Ayrshire and the many companies working in this area – particularly in the Engineering space. OM also linked this to work already between NRS/NDA and Ayrshire College.

Rita Holmes (RH) – Chair of Hunterston SSG, expressed concern about different funding streams with **PH** clarifying that there was only one funding source being NLF.

RH asked about whether there was a cap on NLF funding since this was the first AGR decommissioning. **PH** stated both EDF and NRS had to predict ‘forward liability’ for the whole fleet – this allows for sufficiency of funding. This has to be done annually. He said doing this promptly was a good way of driving efficiency – defueling ahead of schedule was good for the fund!

SA said having two funding streams if you include HNA, allowed both HNA/HNB to work closer together to identify synergies that result in cost savings for both.

Cllr Stewart McDonald from East Dunbartonshire Council asked for clarity in terms of current waste policy in Scotland and long-term plans for transporting waste from Scotland to England.

OM drew attention to the intention of Scottish Government to go out to public consultation next year on the subject of their current waste policy. He also stressed the cost of transporting waste was minimal compared to the storage of the waste. He highlighted the assurances he had been given by Scottish Government to conduct an extensive public consultation on Waste Policy, particularly with people who live and work around the sites. OM also referred to NDA's commitment to running all their sites safely and securely and to respect and work in line with devolved policies across the United Kingdom.

Cllr McDonald stressed the need for a longer-term waste solution.

CW asked if timelines for waste solutions could slow any AGR transfer progress. OM responded that in order to avoid this forward planning was key.

Bill Hamilton (NRS) highlighted that there are waste solutions currently being applied and we have storage plans for over 100 years, therefore, time was on our side.

Agenda item 3

AOB

OM thanked Gail Ross and her Dounreay Team for their contribution to the Festival of Politics held in August at the Scottish Parliament.

Sam Long (Decom Mission) mentioned the importance of the CPG in raising and discussing such important topics facing the wider decommissioning industry. He asked that the CPG consider widening the discussion to embrace Cross-Industry decommissioning – including Oil and Gas.

OM said he would welcome that approach and referred to members of the CPG who may have links to other (O&G) CPGs for Cross-Party Group further discussions. He highlighted that sharing and learning also provided best value for the taxpayer. He also thanked staff and leadership of both HNA and HNB for their time at the sites visit earlier in the day.

OM thanks members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Agenda item 4

Date and time of next meeting: Wednesday 10th December, 6pm

Venue: Scottish Parliament

Ends