ONR NGO Climate Change Workshop - Meeting Minutes   
22 October 2024 (09:30-15:30) – Millennium Hotel, Knightsbridge, London.

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| In Attendance (ONR): | In Attendance (NGO): |
| Sarah Brown (SB) – Head of Policy Co-chair  Jean Llewellyn (JL) – Non-Executive Director, ONR Board  Shane Turner (ST) – ONR Director of Regulation - Technical directorate  Andria Gilmour (AG) – ONR Sabotage, Target Analysis and Review Inspector – Nuclear Safety  Teresa Monataner Calatrava (TMC) - Head of Profession, Civil Engineering & External Hazards  Linda Christian Booth (LBC) - Nuclear Safety Inspector- Leadership and Management for Safety Specialist  Louise Smith (LS) – Senior Policy Advisor  **Secretariat/organisers:**  Liz Bibby (LB) - Policy Advisor | Katy Attwater (KA) – Stop Hinkley – Climate Change Workshop Co-chair  Prof. Andy Blowers (AB) – Blackwater Against New Nuclear  Alison Downes (AD) – Stop Sizewell C  Allan Jeffrey (AJ) – Stop Hinkley  Jo Smolden (JS) – Stop Hinkley  Pete Wilkinson (PW) – Together Against Sizewell C  Chris Wilson (CW) – Together Against Sizewell C  David Cullen (DC) – Nuclear Information Service  Sue Aubery (SA) – Stop Hinkley  Trish Whitham (TW) – Nuclear Information Service |

Agenda

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| Topic | Time |  |
| **Arrival and refreshments** | **9.30 – 10.00** |  |
| Opening introductions   * Purpose of the workshops * How we got here * What we’d like to achieve – Agreement of the Terms of reference | 10.00 – 10.15 | Co-Chairs – Sarah Brown (ONR) and Katy Attwater (NGOs) |
| Updates since we last met:   * CNI themed Inspection Report Update * Updates to regulatory position in relation to climate change * Expectations for licensees to update the live safety case in relation to climate change. * Mandatory reporting for climate adaptation, 4th round | 10.15 – 11.15 | Andria Gilmour (ONR) |
| **Break** | **11:15 – 11:30** |  |
| Expert speakers Dr Joe Osborne and Rachel Perks (Met Office) | 11.30 – 12.30 | Via MS Teams |
| **Lunch** | **12.30 – 13.30** |  |
| Introduction to systems thinking persona exercise | 13.30 – 13:45 | Louise Smith (ONR) |
| Break out into groups and tea and coffee served | 13:45 – 15.15 |  |
| Summary of the day and next workshop | 15.15 – 15.30 | Co-Chairs – Sarah Brown (ONR) and Katy Attwater (NGOs) |

Presentations:

ONR Presentation

Met Office Presentation

1. Opening introductions
   1. The ONR and NGO chairs opened the workshop, thanking attendees for travelling to London and for giving up their time. They also led introductions for all the attendees.

**Purpose of the workshops and how we got here**

* 1. At a previous ONR NGO Forum in 2018 it was agreed the Forum should look to find a mechanism to enable engagement on topics of mutual interest outside of the biannual meetings. Climate change was identified as a topic that would benefit from a more detailed, open dialogue and as a result three workshops on climate change were held. Following the initial workshops, ONR and NGOs agreed to undertake another series of workshops on climate change.
  2. In her introduction KA raised the issue of AMOC (Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation) having undergone exceptional weakening in the last 150 years. The melting of the Greenland Ice Sheet will noticeably disrupt the AMOC which could result in more frequent extreme weather events.
  3. KA noted that ONR is excellent at managing the regulation of existing nuclear power stations and their waste. However, looking into the future, suggested ONR should be exploring questions around building new nuclear power stations and SMRs, when a GDF will be built and how can nuclear facilities be made safe as the climate crisis progresses.
  4. KA also noted the Regulator’s Code and noted that the Minister for BEIS at the time, said in his covering letter (April 2014), “Regulators share a common primary purpose which is to regulate for the protection of the vulnerable, the environment, and social objectives.” However, there is no mention of these societal objectives in the Regulators Code.
  5. It was also noted by one of the NGO participants that ONR regulate in the short and medium term with a long-term context and this creates a reliance on adaptive management and a belief that things can be moved if necessary and that this must be challenged as climate change intensifies. ONR should consider at what point does adaptive management become impossible.

**The Terms of Reference**

* 1. ONR proposed a Terms of Reference for the ONR NGO workshops. The purpose of this was to clarify the ways of working. These weren’t agreed at this workshop and there is some further work to be done.
  2. **Action:** ONR to revisit comments sent in from the NGOs and to bring a revised Terms of Reference back for agreement.

1. Updates since we last met:
   1. AG led a session on updates since the group last met – these included:

* CNI themed Inspection Report Update​
* Updates to regulatory position in relation to climate change​
* Expectations for licensees to update the live safety case in relation to climate change
* Mandatory reporting for climate adaptation, 4th round​
  1. Please see the presentation above for the detail on the updates provided.
  2. AG confirmed that she was taking up a different role within ONR and would not be part of the NGO workshops going forward. It was noted by the participants that Andria would be missed and that she has been instrumental in helping to give impetus to the issue of climate change within ONR.
  3. One of the NGO participants said they took two big points away from this agenda item. One was that the first round of workshops was effective in emphasising climate change and increasing its profile at Board level. The work and the evidence presented by the Hazards Panel clearly has had impact.
  4. Another NGO participant said that the update section was important and they were pleased see to see that there is an expectation for licensees to update the live safety case in relation to climate change, that there is mandatory reporting for climate adaptation and that a site licence condition related to climate change might be considered in the future.
  5. There were some questions from the NGO participants. Firstly, it was noted that start up times for HPC and SZC keep slipping; ONR were asked if there was a cut off date where this slipped too far and ONR would no longer allow SZC to go ahead. In response ONR noted that there is no nuclear hazard until the fuel arrives on site and that ONR would not allow fuel to be delivered to site unless there was an adequate safety case.
  6. A follow up question on this was asked by an NGO participant – if it got to 2040 would ONR still allow a licence to be granted? ONR confirmed that if the safety case was no longer relevant then ONR would not allow nuclear fuel onto site. Furthermore, the current site will store used fuel for up to 100 years, that must be safe and secure. If it is not suitable then it can be moved to another site - modern fuel is easier to move than old style fuel.
  7. **Action -** ONR to add three new Expert Panel papers to its website covering areas of emergent science: Tipping Points; Compound Flooding Events; Modelling Uncertainty – Completed - [ONR Expert Panel on Natural Hazards | Office for Nuclear Regulation](https://www.onr.org.uk/our-expertise/expert-panels/onr-expert-panel-on-natural-hazards/) ​

1. Expert speakers Dr Joe Osborne and Rachel Perks (Met Office)
   1. Please see the slides for an overview of the Met Office presentation. Following the presentation there was time for Q&A. Some of the questions that were asked were followed up after the meeting and the responses provided by the Met Office can be found below:
   2. One NGO participant asked about methane releases and noted that these were not modelled during the presentation. In a written response the Met Office advised:

Methane is included but is taken from the RCP/SSP forcing so that whilst it covers major human driven and some natural sources and sinks it doesn't include the amplification from major thawing of permafrost and methane release or methane hydrate release (a potential tipping point). Also worth noting that whilst simple climate models can be driven by emissions of methane, complex ESMs have typically been driven by concentrations from the simple model. However, we are one of the first groups to develop an interactive methane scheme for a complex ESM and as more centres do this, we'll gradually get a more sophisticated inclusion of methane in earth system simulations and eventually it will feed into future extreme SLR scenarios.

* 1. Another NGO participant asked about projections on Atlantic Meridional Overturning Current (AMOC). In a written response the Met Office advised:

High impact, low likelihood events, particularly AMOC collapse, have the potential to significantly alter the climate of the United Kingdom. As it stands, the vast majority of transient climate simulations to the end of the 21st century do not simulate such a collapse, so the sample size of data after such an event is small and mostly limited to climate simulations that are deliberately ‘nudged’ to invoke such a collapse. For example, AMOC collapse isn’t reached in any of our UKCP18 climate simulations, despite those simulation reaching high levels of global mean warming, It is important to be cognisant of such events, although currently considered unlikely, and as such the Met Office Hadley Centre is still undertaking research in this space and will continue to consider time horizons when a collapse could become greater than a negligible likelihood (should this be deemed to be a possibility).

1. Systems Thinking Personas Exercise
   1. In the afternoon ONR introduced a personas exercise. A persona is a fictional character created to represent a set of people that might interact with an organisation.  ONR advised that they were introduced to the concept by the University of Cambridge in training on systems thinking, as a way of putting people at the heart of policy making.
   2. ONR noted that using personas helps us to consider how different types of people’s needs are best met by our communication on how, when and why we make the decisions we do.
   3. ONR noted that the NGOs have extensive experience of community engagement with the people ONR serves and so we are looking for them to help us to understand the types of people that need information from us and how we can best serve them.  This will help us to work to ensure that the information we provide serves all of these different types of people.
   4. Each table was tasked with creating a persona and then considering their needs and how these are served. Three groups created four personas with a copy of each below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Jane, 23 |  |
| Kirsty, 75 |  |
| Kitty, 75 |  |
| Megan, 71 |  |

* 1. In the second part of the activity, ONR shared a flow chart outlining ONRs regulatory processes from early engagement up to de-commissioning with the points in the process where ONR interact with the public.
  2. The idea was to test ONR’s current approach and help ONR to identify opportunities to improve our communications, taking into account all of the different types of people that might want to, or need to, engage with us.
  3. **Action:** ONR will consider the personas created and the feedback received to understand how to take the personas exercise forward in future workshops.

1. Next workshop
   1. The next NGO forum will be virtual and will be held on 20 November at 10am.
2. Summary and Close
   1. The co-chairs gave their thanks to everyone involved in organising and also in taking part in the workshop.
   2. KA said that Mark Foy had confirmed that NGOs would be asked for their input before the CNI themed report was published. This did not happen and KA requested this be noted.
   3. Meeting closed at 15.30.
3. Summary of Actions
   1. ONR to revisit comments sent in from the NGOs and bring a revised Terms of Reference back for agreement.
   2. ONR to add three new Expert Panel papers to its website covering areas of emergent science: Tipping Points; Compound Flooding Events; Modelling Uncertainty. - Complete - [ONR Expert Panel on Natural Hazards | Office for Nuclear Regulation](https://www.onr.org.uk/our-expertise/expert-panels/onr-expert-panel-on-natural-hazards/)
   3. ONR will consider the personas created and the feedback received to understand how to take the personas exercise forward in future workshops.