

The Unite the union response to the NDA group Draft Strategy 2025.



1. Introduction

- 1.1. This submission is made by Unite, the UK's largest trade union with over one million members across all sectors of the economy, including manufacturing, financial services, transport, food, agriculture, construction, energy, utilities, information technology, service industries, health, local government and the not-for-profit sector. Unite also organises in the community, enabling those who are not in employment to be part of our union.
- 1.2. Of particular interest to this inquiry Unite represents almost 40,000 Energy and Utilities workers including Nuclear Engineers working both for the NDA, but also the remaining nuclear fuelled power stations throughout Britain.

2. Consultation Questions

Q1 - Do you think the introduction to our Draft Strategy provides a clear and accessible overview of our purpose, challenges, and approach? Is there any other context or information you would find helpful?

- 2.1. Unite felt that the NDA's summary of the current situation and its proposals was clear and accessible. The document set out the NDA's position on the challenges and their proposed approach.
- 2.2. What was not clear, however, were the challenges brought about by the leaking ponds, blown containerised processed waste or how the NDA proposes to monitor the waste when it is encased in concrete miles underground in the deep storage facility or when this much needed facility will begin construction.
- 2.3. Unite would also like to know when the announcement is to be made regarding the location of this much needed facility or when the initial designs are to become available.
- 2.4. Unite would like to know now that the plutonium has been consolidated into one location what is to become of it. Will there be any occasion when this could be utilised in future fuel rods or are all the potential fuel rod materials held by the NDA to be treated as waste? Unite believes that in the interest of energy security that the Plutonium is used in fuel rods. Plutonium generally requires a smaller critical mass and has a higher fission rate and thus could enhance energy production and hence can be used to recycle spent uranium fuel reducing the volume of waste material that will, eventually, need to be deposited in a GDF. Granted the Plutonium rods present a more intense radiation hazard that requires specialized handling, but it is what our members are trained to do. Additionally, Plutonium is far more expensive to produce, than Uranium 235 it would be a crime to simply dispose of it without even considering the future.
- 2.5. Unite believes that Plutonium is needed to feed a new reactor and add much needed sustainable energy supply to the country, helping it achieve Net Zero by 2035. There is nowhere in Strategy 5 that would be bring this out as even an option!

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Q2 - Do you agree that our Strategy embeds sustainability throughout – including alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the NDA group sustainability definition? Are there any areas where our approach could be strengthened?

Q3 - Do you support the approach set out in our group strategy and its focus on collective delivery across the NDA group? Are there any significant activities or opportunities you think we should also highlight?

- 2.6. Unite agrees that there has been a clear desire to embed into the strategy to encapsulate the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the NDA groups sustainability definition. None-the-less Unite is convinced that more could be achieved through a closer relationship with the workforce and facility time given to sustainability representatives elected from the workforce to work with management in this area. Unite also believes that with a wider cross sectoral perspective far more could be achieved by the NDA towards sustainability.
- 2.7. The use of workplace sustainability representative roles is to identify where further reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) production could be made and where the NDA estates could reduce both their energy and water usage footprint for example. Training programmes are available via the TUC for these reps whose role is similar to that of a workplace health and safety rep, in that they identify potential environmental savings and report these ideas to management. While senior management may have an overview of the work carried out by the workforce, they are frequently detached from the realities of carrying out tasks on the shop floor. The TUC training provides a plethora of ideas that could be employed from the a range of potential solutions.
- 2.8. Under the UN's point 7 goals it supports the desire for sustainable energy. Unite believes that each site that is no longer generating has an underutilised high voltage grid connection. Given that there is currently a 15 year wait for a grid connection, any underutilised connection is highly valued as it could be used to quicken the progress toward a net Zero Energy Sector future.
- 2.9. The National Grid frequently has situations when the power generated from wind farms and solar is not enough to meet the demand and as the changes in output can be sizeable the grid has Combined Cycle Gas Turbines (CCGT)¹ powered and up to speed ready to be produced power as a supply back up. All the time the grid is receiving the desired power from renewables the natural gas used is going to waste. The energy supply sources also include Open Cycle Gas Turbines (OCGT)² where the exhaust gasses from burning natural gas cause the turbine to turn and oil-fired generators³. Similarly, there may be a time again in the future when the UK produces more power than is required. When this happens, this power is used to pump water uphill or sells this power to neighbouring nations via our interconnectors to mainland Europe⁴.

¹ CCGT's are typically 60% efficient at turning the energy contained in the gas into electricity but they are slow to come up to speed.

² OCGT's are typically around 35–45% efficient at turning the energy contained in the gas into electricity but are far more reactive than CCGT which use the gas to boil water to produce the steam that turns the turbine.

³ Oil fired generators efficiency is around 38% but oil can also be used in a CCGT facility

⁴ of total generation in 2024, Nuclear contributed 41TWh (13%), biomass produced 40TWh (13%), and imports from all generation types of energy in Europe made up 11% of UK electricity at 33TWh. But while the numbers for biomass and imports are growing the amount from Nuclear is going to drop before recovering slightly as first all but one of the existing stations close, Hinkley Point C comes on stream, then we are scheduled to lose the last of the existing plants Sizewell B before Sizewell C comes on stream. Sizewell B has the capacity to continue generating until 2055 and if it is safe to do so, Unite would support the idea provided that it does not stop other stations from being built.

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- 2.10. Unite believes that it would be far better to send this excess power to a battery bank sited at a decommissioning site than to send this power to Europe where they do the same thing. One reason is the prices charged for the power to be returned, but the other is to reduce the losses from transmission.
- 2.11. The installation of a battery bank need not be housed in a permanent structure on the site but within a series of shipping containers to ensure that it is not a permanent structure which would fit in well with the ultimate plan to return sites to nature.
- 2.12. If containerised, these batteries could also be utilised onsite or transported the short distance to the port of Dover (who are waiting for a grid connection) from the site of the Dungeness A and B stations, for example to help them provide shore power to cruise ships wishing to turn off their engines while in port⁵ until a grid connection of sufficient size becomes available. Unite believes that the above also fits in well with point 9, 12 and 17 in relation to industrial innovation, responsible consumption and cross sectorial partnerships.
- 2.13. Unite believes when it comes to a strategy to encapsulate the UN Sustainable Development Goals that outside of the box, cross sectorial thinking is required and there should be a goal to do more than simply pay lip service from within one organisation and would fit in well with the point 43 goal of demolishing or reusing buildings.
- 2.14. Clearly Unite supports the intent of the NDA to be more sustainable and its focus on collective delivery across the NDA group but as demonstrated there are greater opportunities out there if you take a wider viewpoint, consider what is best for the grid, for the UK and the wider environment.

Q4 - Do you think our aspirations for ‘Safe Stewardship’ – the safe and sustainable management of our estate – are clear and appropriate? What other aspirations should we consider?

- 2.15. Unite considers the aspirations for safety and sustainability management are clear. Unite believes that the NDA sites have built into their very being the concept of safety given the nature of the role that is being undertaken. Unite believes however that when it comes to sustainability more could be achieved.

Q5 - Do you think our objective to optimise the use and reuse of our estate is clear and appropriate? Are there other opportunities we should explore to achieve this goal?

- 2.16. Unite believe that several of the sites in England and Wales should be utilised as the site of a replacement station, be that a full scale Hickley Point C or a Rolls Royce Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Unite feels that the time is right to commence the process of assessing the Wylfa site for a clone of Hickley Point C and Sizewell C to help redress the fleet of power generating stations which have closed in Wales. Following this either Bradwell B or the Moorside project should be considered.

⁵ See the [International Chamber of Shipping race for shore power](#)

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- 2.17. As given the increasing renewable capacity in the UK there is a ever growing need for energy storage but due to the 15 year long queue for a connection all existing connections should be put to a productive use.

Q6 - Do our updated set of IWM principles reflect the nature of our mission and cover the key areas of focus for waste management?

- 2.18. Unite feel the updated set of IWM principles do reflect the nature of the NDA's mission and that the coverage of the key areas of focus for waste management, that being consolidation of waste materials, for encapsulation and eventual storage are laid out in enough detail.
- 2.19. Unite echoes the concerns posed by the "*approximately 500 tonnes of other metallic fuels that will need to be extracted from the legacy First Generation Magnox Storage Pond (FGMSP) and Pile Fuel Storage Pond given the derogation of the containment vessels after spending that long under water*". The containers holding this material may have been designed to cope with that duration under water, but clearly something in the designs were not considered. Unite would argue that the same could be true of the NDAs plans for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) which is why Unite continues to argue for accessible waste storage, to ensure issues can be tackled before they become a more serious matter.
- 2.20. Unite still believes in repressing the materials to extract the still useful materials rather than letting them go to waste

Q7 - Are there any specific opportunities or considerations you think we should take into account when developing solutions for deriving value from non-radioactive materials, such as through reuse and recycling?

- 2.21. Unite would always advocate for the reuse and recycling of materials where it is practicable to do so but recognises that in some cases it is far simpler and less time consuming to simply use fresh materials especially if there is any doubts that surround the materials. Copper wiring insulation can become brittle over time, so it may be more advantageous to send the copper for recycling rather than reusing it. Construction materials may also require cleaning to remove old mortar before they can be reused but if not they

Q8 - Our strategy sets out the NDA's role in supporting the wider UK Nuclear Enterprise, while maintaining our focus on core mission delivery. Do you think the strategy clearly defines our position? Are there any additional areas we should consider or clarify? [pages 82 to 92]

- 2.22. Unite believes that the strategy sets out the NDA's role, focus and position. Unite would have hoped that the NDA would have embraced the idea of a Just Transition⁶ so that the staff being displaced from stations scheduled to end energy generation might better transition into their new role within the NDA and similarly should their role be concluding in a few years, embrace the concept of a Just Transition so that the employee may more easily migrate into a new and productive role in the nuclear industry, thus preserving their skills and background knowledge for the betterment of the nuclear programme and worker

⁶ [The International Labour Organization \(ILO\) defines a "Just Transition"](#) as an approach to transitioning to environmentally sustainable economies and societies that maximizes opportunities for decent work and quality jobs while minimizing negative social and economic impacts, ensuring that no one is left behind through effective social dialogue and respect for fundamental labour rights.

Q9 - Our mission and strategy delivery is underpinned by our Critical Enablers. Do you agree with the proposed Critical Enabler Strategies and that we have focussed on the most important issues in each topic? Are there further suggestions you might have for the NDA to consider, whether general or on a specific Critical Enabler?

- 2.23. The Critical Enablers that underpin the strategy are on the following: -
- 2.24. **Health, safety and wellbeing.** - Unite welcomes this strategy as being of the highest importance and understands that the areas focused on in the Critical Enabler Strategy (CES) on health and safety would automatically focus on radiation but there are other more basic issues in a workplace that also need to be addressed. Air quality for example, to ensure that it is as free as possible from any potential harmful contamination, not just contamination which is radiological in nature. Even health and safety basics like the avoidance of trips, slips and falls, especially from height also need to be included in the strategy.
- 2.25. **Environment.** – Unite strongly believes in battling Climate Change and all efforts to avoid the release of greenhouse gasses. This includes, of course, efforts to reduce mains water and energy consumption to a minimum with the use of things like grey water⁷ to flush toilets.
- 2.26. **Security and resilience** – Unite believe that this is not a topic that should end at the perimeter fence. The security for these facilities needs to remain top notch, not only due to the nature of the materials but also the security of the staff and their families.
- 2.27. **Cyber security** – Unite agrees that computers and importantly AI is becoming more sophisticated by the day and with computers continuing to double in speed some experts⁸ predict human-level Artificial General Intelligence (AGI)⁹ could arrive soon, leading to potential security systems that are superior to human capabilities. The timeline varies significantly, but the core trend is a rapid escalation of AI's role, making the next few years critical for adapting security practices to expect an era when artificial intelligence tools may overcome all but physical firewalls to totally separate systems. Some predict that AGI will never arrive at a level where it could exceed human intelligence as we do not know how to map the human brain and hence human intelligence, so how could a computer supersede it. None the less the threats that arise from evolving technology are very concerning. Unite is concerned that the use of AI to combat a future when AGI exists may provide an open door. Such AI is only as good as its programmer and often just as flawed. No security is absolute as someone with enough determination will find a flaw. The trick is to stay one step ahead and that means employing the best of the best.
- 2.28. **Research, development and innovation** – R&D especially on the previous topic is something to be encouraged in order to stay one step ahead. When it comes to the

⁷ The use of rainwater for toilets, can aid in the reduction of power consumption for water purification and pumping from the point of extraction to point of use. While the energy network still relies on Natural Gas and imports from nations where there are still coal and oil-fired generators, each litre of water comes with it an often surprisingly high carbon footprint. Therefore, the use of a grey water system to reuse wastewater from sinks and rainwater to flush the toilet can have a major impact. NDA sites are often considerable distances from the point the water is extracted, increasing the carbon footprint further due to the need to pump the freshwater supplies and wastewater over a longer distance.

⁸ Ai foundations in August 2025 reported on the results of a survey of 8,590 predictions from experts and those working at Companies working in this field include Open AI, Google DeepMind, Anthropic Microsoft and Meta are openly racing against one another on AGI who suggested a point which may be as early as the 2030's till the 2060's when human intelligence will be superseded by artificial intelligence.

⁹ For more on [Artificial General Intelligence \(AGI\)](#) follow the link

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decommissioning of nuclear power station sites, Unite would caution against diving too deeply down rabbit holes especially if the early signs are not too promising.

- 2.29. With the Advanced gas-cooled reactor's (AGR's) transferring and funded through the Nuclear Liability Fund (NLF), it is an opportunity for the NDA to demonstrate it can innovate and deliver on its mission. It is important to note however that this will not be case of repeating the current process of decommissioning but with a different financial source. Unite members strongly recommend that the NDA needs to maintain the evidential momentum and morale of staff at AGR sites. The NDA should ensure the staff are permitted to undertake the task of decommissioning within guidelines but some degree of autonomy and common sense. For this reason, Unite believes that a minimal operational interference, light touch is needed to enable innovation and the development of a decommissioning process given the substantial differences between a Magnox and AGR design.
- 2.30. **People** – In this area Unite is extremely concerned. From the profile of average membership in the NDA it is clear that there are a lot of engineers in their mid to late 50's and into their 60's and therefore many who are seriously considering retirement. Others by contrast are not that long out of full-time education leaving a gulf between the two groups with a dip bottoming out in the early 40's. When it comes to gender profiles, the numbers are highest in the school leaver groups with far lower levels than their male colleagues. This pattern is echoed in role after role, industrial sector after industrial sector across the economy.
- 2.31. Unite is always in favour of making the role more manageable but is concerned about the use of AI in the workplace. AI is a technology driven by a relatively homogeneous group of individuals in an ideal world, but reality the vast majority of programmer/compiler are men and as a result diversity challenges related to gender and ethnicity have occurred in several cases. Unconscious and occasionally deliberate prejudices can be transferred to the algorithms that drive AI systems and hence any automated decision making can result in erroneous outcomes, especially in HR. Equally, an AI system making decisions based on value for the taxpayer can, result in false economies over the longer term.
- 2.32. **Asset management and continuous improvement** – Unites members report that rather than continuous improvement the process appears to be managed decline due to the delays and funding constraints in the decommissioning process. Unite believes that there is a clear need for more money to be found to maintain the infrastructure, thus ensuring the safety of all.
- 2.33. Unite believes that there is about 30 more years of generational capacity to be had from the Sizewell B facility and given the growth in generation demand, Unite would strongly suggest that this facility remains open for as long as it is safe to operate. This should not be used as an excuse to prevent the building of Wylfa B or any other nuclear plant due to the speed at which we are moving away from oil and gas to more sustainable options, which generally means more electricity.
- 2.34. **Commercial and supply chain** – The supply chain to the Decommissioning of nuclear plants can be very specialised but as stated above, Unite has concerns over lost skills and personnel due to retirement with the absence of any new blood at the levels required at the supply chain companies. Unite would strongly suggest a closer working relationship to try and ensure that resources are there when required.

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- 2.35. **Information governance** – Unite can only echo the call for the security of the industries safety critical information, That said there is a desire for some degree of transparency from the general public and unions over the security and safety around having, what can be, incorrectly, perceived by some as, massive stockpiles of glowing nuclear waste that will cause mutations in the environment for miles around each facility, where, at any moment there is going to be a white flash and a mushroom cloud appearing where the facility was.
- 2.36. Anyone with any interaction with a nuclear industry site should realise that the negative perception of nuclear energy is based on anti-nuclear propaganda from the 1950's. Unite still believes that better general public engagement combined with education and a controlled open-door policy would dispel these fears about radiation.
- 2.37. The policy of greater transparency must be balanced against modern day security concerns of course, to guard against any of the materials leaving the controlled environment. But provided that the employer is as open as is possible about their operation, through engagement with unions, and the neighbours, concerns can be resolved.
- 2.38. Given the concerns over radioactive waste in general, engagement is a critical role within the NDA.
- 2.39. Unite is therefore pleased to see the level of focus placed on this topic in the NDA Draft Strategy, but felt the focus was far too passive rather than being influential in debates to show that there is a future for the industry as a whole and that the NDA long term plans will be there to safely manage any materials that require special handling much in the same way that a chemical company should be safely disposing of its waste. The difference being of course the fact that the NDA has been set up for this task where no equivalent body was ever established to deal with the mountains of waste from the coal industry or the waste gasses released from natural gas fuelled generation.
- 2.40. **Socio-economics** – The existence of a nuclear facility, should provide huge socio- economic benefits to the local community, from an influx of well paid highly skilled jobs to the investment opportunities to improve the locality. When the NDA moves in and eventually helps return the area back to a field and erasing the footprint of the nuclear facility, it cannot turn back the clock regarding the socioeconomics of the area around the plant back to empty fields supporting picturesque hamlets where small towns now stand.
- 2.41. Unite believes that the NDA should engage with the local community and the energy industry to maximise the potential of the site. Given the 15-year delay in providing national grid connectivity any dormant connection site should be put to good use. Since 2022, the UK has lacked enough electrical energy generation and storage facilities to provide for the needs of its population. Instead, the supply of energy has become heavily reliant on the undersea Direct Current interconnector energy links with European neighbours.
- 2.42. Due to the unpredictable and uncontrolled nature of renewable energy there are times when the UK generates more energy than what we can use and, as we do not have enough storage, have no choice but to sell this electricity back to our neighbours, normally at rock bottom prices. At other times, the renewable sources do not produce enough and must buy energy from our neighbours, and this is normally at a far higher price. What is desperately needed is either the ability to produce energy at the drop of a hat to fill gaps and/or storage capacity so that we can build up a strategic reserve for just such an eventuality.

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- 2.43. Providing either of these facilities and utilising the grid connections on site would create new local jobs and provide some degree of long term local economic and wider economic benefits.
- 2.44. The draft strategy instead states that the NDS “*believe that decommissioning activities should benefit local communities, while developing the required capabilities for future mission delivery and providing a positive legacy during and on completion of our work*”. While these may be fine words there is sadly little evidence of “*a positive legacy*”. The stated role of the NDA is to wipe away all evidence that a nuclear generation facility existed on the site. Unite however believes that the local community needs to see some long-term benefits from the location once the reactor building is demolished.
- 2.45. As stated in the Draft Strategy document “*the Energy Act (2004) that provides us*” (the NDA) “*with a legal duty to have regard for the impact of our activities on communities living near our sites. We*” (the NDA) “*also share the wider responsibilities all public bodies have under the Social Value Act (2012)*”.
- 2.46. Throughout the extensive list of activities around Socio-economic engagement not once does the NDA consider the needs of the grid and the potential to maintain a local generator or a power storage facility on the site to assist the local and UK economy. Unite would therefore suggest that this is something the NDA should consider.
- 2.47. **Digital data and artificial intelligence** – Unite applauds the engagement with the latest technology but is always minded to ensure any enhancements to the way things are completed are mindful of the most important resource at the NDA’s fingertips, its staff. Should the utilisation of digital technology and artificial intelligence (AI) displace previously valued roles, then Unite would strongly urge the NDA to engage with the Just Transition programme, to ensure that nobody is left behind in the path to full decarbonisation of our energy network.
- 2.48. If someone has the information technology skills to work for the NDA, then their analytical and logical thinking approach to problem solving may be of use somewhere else in the organisation. If not then perhaps, if they are willing, after some inhouse training they could be of use either to the NDA or the wider local economy. Unite believes in this programme and strongly feels that a staff member should always be treated with respect and the opportunity to stay and assist the organisation or the local community if they are no longer needed.
- 2.49. Unite recognises that it is no use fighting the influx of AI into every aspect of employment but hopes that wherever possible the AI’s function is to assist and increase productivity rather than replace human decision making. AI is after all only as good as its programmer and the quality of what it can learn while performing tasks.
- 2.50. Unite is therefore concerned that NDA plans for AI include its deployment “*across functional and operational areas, including Asset management, Operations and maintenance, Integrated waste management, Projects, Decommissioning and remediation, Nuclear transportation and logistics, Research, development and innovation, and end-user applications*”¹⁰. Unite can appreciate that AI may help in the decision-making process but strongly cautions against allowing the AI system from making all the decisions without oversight.

¹⁰ See page 125 of the NDA Draft Strategy 2025

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- 2.51. **Public and stakeholder engagement** – Unite would argue that if the objective is “*To build a better understanding of our mission among the public and our stakeholders, and maintain their support, confidence and trust.*” Then there is a clear requirement for the sharing of information in an open and transparent manner.
- 2.52. Unite strongly believes that if the community and stakeholders (including Trade unions) know what is going on, then, they can offer assist, where required, toward the common goal. This very closely links engagement with the previous topic of socioeconomics and ensuring there is a local community to survive and thrive once the NDA completes its work. Unite is therefore very pleased to acknowledge the NDA’s heartfelt desire “*to engage with new and harder-to-reach audiences, with recognition that our work will continue into the next century*”.
- 2.53. While these goals are fine words and the strategic application of these goals appears to open up all the channels it has at its disposal it does not express a desire to utilise the channels open to its target demographic to spread the positives messages about nuclear energy and its full lifecycle promoting the role of the NDA as a potential partner organisation to assist and receive assistance in return.
- 2.54. Unite therefore welcomes the NDA desire to “*Maximise the relationships we have with others and strengthen our engagement with devolved and regional voices*” and “*Build on our existing relationships and improve our engagement with our important and valued trade unions*”. Unite too values its connections with the NDA and is willing to engage and provide a conduit to those in power as well as to our members in this and other industries who are willing to listen.
- 2.55. Unite greatly welcomes news that it aspires to see “*greater coordination of engagement across the NDA group, as part of a more joined up One NDA way of working*”. Unite especially applauds the goal to “*improved coordination of meetings will reduce stakeholder travel, avoid unnecessary repetition, and ensure messages and feedback are consistent and reach the right people at the right time*”. The only question concerns the determination over who are the right people and when is the right time when there is supposed to be greater transparency.
- 2.56. **Transport and logistics** – Unite has a multimodal transport policy to wherever possible promote the benefits of a multimodal transport and logistics model. Unite is also the union for transport workers engaged in every mode of transport and can therefore assist in making an unbiased assessment of the benefits and potential issues of each.
- 2.57. The NDA Objective here is to “*ensure the effective, safe and secure transportation of materials to enable the successful delivery of the NDA mission*”. Unite recognises the importance of such an objective and the security concerns when focussed on radioactive materials. It raises in the relocation of spent fuel rods and other radioactive materials from the point where they come under the NDA’s purview through to its ultimate reuse or safe disposal.
- 2.58. While Unite recognises the tight constraints placed on the relocation of these radioactive materials and understands why the NDA favour the use of rail and the level of control that the mode provides it stresses that there are alternatives.

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- 2.59. If placed on the road, any materials of that nature would need to travel under a police or potentially military escort and avoid, wherever possible journeys through large conurbations, to ensure it was not driven off the agreed course or through highly populated areas. Journeys by sea are even more uncontrollable and heavily influenced by the weather but have the advantage that any size load that can be fitted on a ship can be relocated without the need for road closures and major disruption. Given Most Nuclear sites are coastal in nature a route by sea has distinct advantages. Unite would also suggest that the use of the inland navigable waterway network and/or coastal shipping, provides the opportunity to negotiate around congested areas unimpeded all be it at a very slower pace that that afforded by rail or road transport especially when moving objects that may cause issues due to their size on other transport modes.
- 2.60. Given the NDA is “*increasingly looking to move bulk non-radioactive materials such as soil, spoil and aggregates as part of construction programmes to enable decommissioning works*”, as there is nobody waiting for the arrival of the material, the speed of delivery should not be an issue. The only the capacity issue is to ensure the safe remove this material at the pace required. In these circumstances short sea shipment by coastal shipment or inland waterway should be the preferred option as it affords the minimal disruption to local communities or their traffic concerns.
- 2.61. The NDA, however, seeks to move materials, there is a significant possibility that Unite members will be involved in some way, be they the train driver, lorry driver, tug crew member, marine pilot or an engineer that ensures the equipment (including the street furniture, waterway embankments and rails) are in good order. In that respect Unite would welcome the opportunity to be part of the Transport and Logistics Working Group. At the end of the day, Unite only asks that other modes are considered when moving materials.
- 2.62. **International relations** – According to the NDA’s Draft Strategy the objective is to “*engage and collaborate effectively with international partners to facilitate delivery of the NDA group’s strategic objectives*”. Unite is part of several international trade union organizations, working collaboratively with them to promote and support the nuclear industry and the rights of workers in a variety of industries, both publicly and privately owned. Unite is part of one of the first international trade union mergers when we merged with the United Steelworkers union of the United States. Therefore, Unite fully understands the benefits of working collaboratively with others not just in the nuclear industry.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1. Unite trusts that from the above it can be gleaned that Unite supports the basic aims and ideals of the nuclear industry and in general terms supports and agrees with the vast majority of the points raised by the NDA Draft Strategy. Unites first loyalty must be to its members and is surprised by the holes that appear to have materialised in this policy framework.
- 3.2. Unites strongly supports the ideals that support a nuclear industry, from initial project conception, through early development, planning, construction, operation and eventual decommissioning. Indeed, several of members from the construction sector of the union are even now working on the construction of the Hinkley Point C and Sizewell C reactors.
- 3.3. Unite members have severe and lasting doubts over the Government and NDA proposals for the High-Level Geological Nuclear Waste depository and the plans to simply treat spent nuclear fuel as high-level waste, even though over 90% of the fuel rods material can be

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reused in reactors, if reprocessed. Unite in an ideal world would like to see reprocessing happening again in the UK. In any even Unite feels that all high-level radioactive material needs to be closely monitored rather than containerised and buried behind several meters of concrete.

- 3.4. Unite is aware that some containerised waste, have blown the sides of their previous containers. We are aware that has been the need to redesign the containers and repackage the materials held at Sellafield. Given the length of time this material is to be stored within the rock strata at depth, Unite believes that it would be prudent to have a way to assess the integrity of the containers over time and have the ability to extract and repackage the materials should another fault develop. This is one of the strongest reasons why Unite continues to call for a deep accessible long-term solution, especially when it comes to materials that could be reprocessed and utilised, to fuel the reactors of the future.

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