DSG(2014)C081

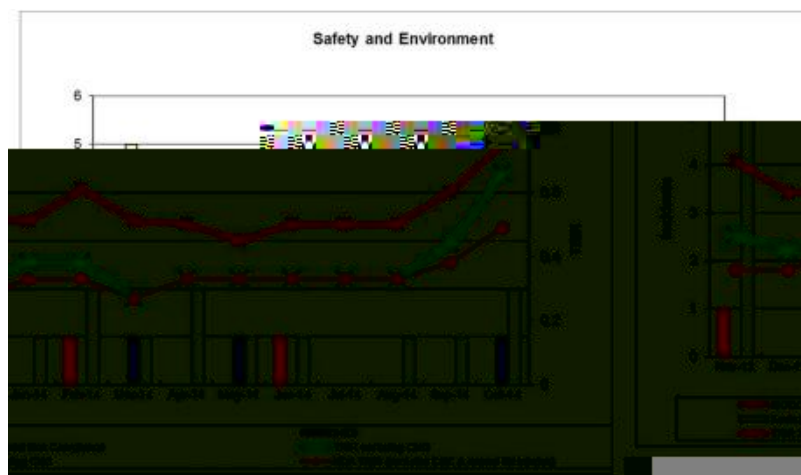1   TANK FARM EVENT PRESENTATION TO
     DSG 10/12/2014

Agenda

- Background
- The event
- Consequences
- Actions taken
- Way ahead

3   10/12/2014

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Background

4   10/12/2014

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PFR

PFR sodium tank farm

5   10/12/2014

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Interior of the tank farm

6   10/12/2014

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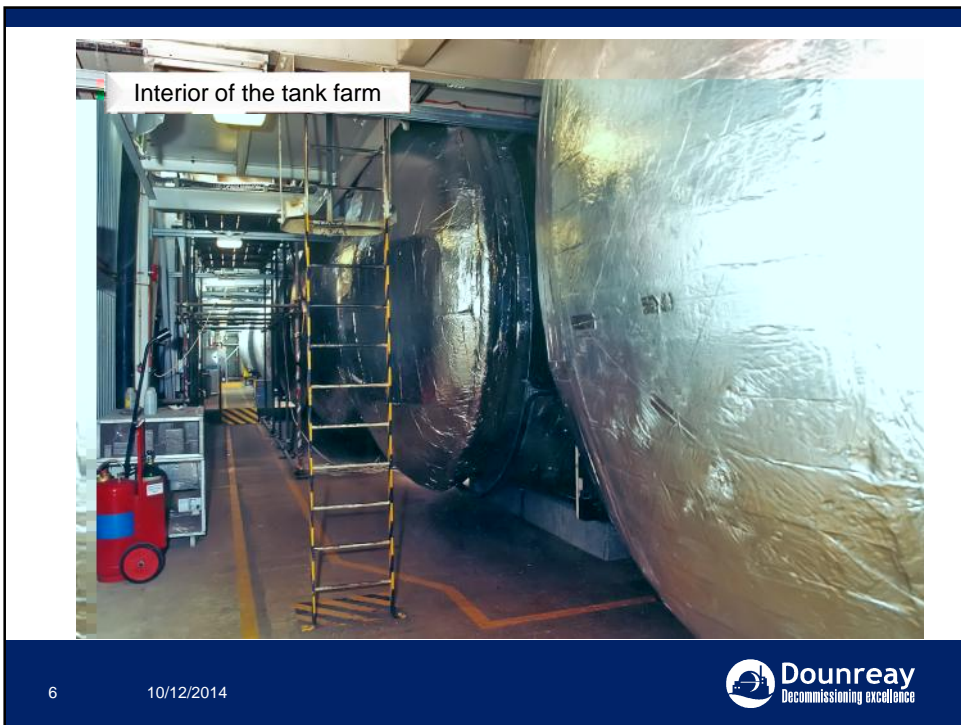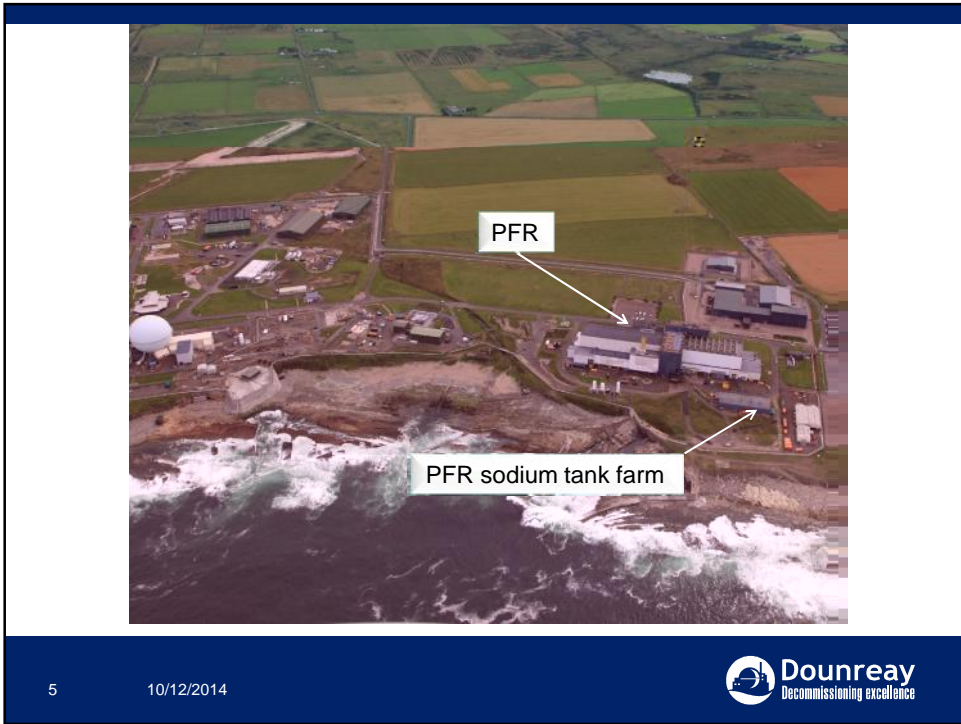
The event

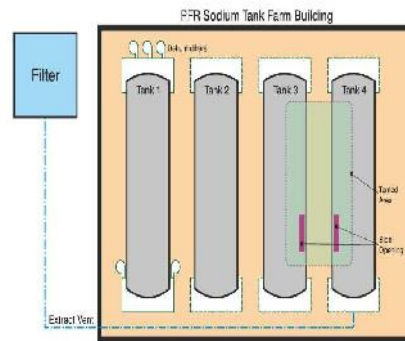- Work underway to remove residual sodium from sodium storage tanks in preparation for dismantlement
- Tank 3 sodium removal started on 5 October by team of operators

PFR Sodium Tank Farm Building

Filter

Tank 1 Tank 2 Tank 3 Tank 4

Extract Vent

7   10/12/2014

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Tank No 3: side opening

8   10/12/2014

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The event

- Fire occurred on scaffold platform below Tank 3 access opening
  - Most likely cause: residual sodium reaction
  - Heat from a secondary fire further along tent burst nearby bags of sodium
  - Fire brigade responded and extinguished the fire
  - No injuries, some damage to scaffold and tent
  - Small amount of tritium released to building instead of monitored release point

8   10/12/2014

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Consequences

- Shutdown of work in this area; formal (L3) investigation
- Realisation that non-compliance with the approved method of working played a significant role in this event;
- The ONR have applied an Improvement Notice;
- SEPA are issuing a variation to DSRL's authorisation.

10   10/12/2014

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Actions taken

- Alkali metal specific and site wide general compliance checks undertaken (independent checks on results commenced);
- Tank farm work (other than essential monitoring) suspended;
- Normal DSRL disciplinary process applied;
- Full review of working practices and processes at PFR initiated

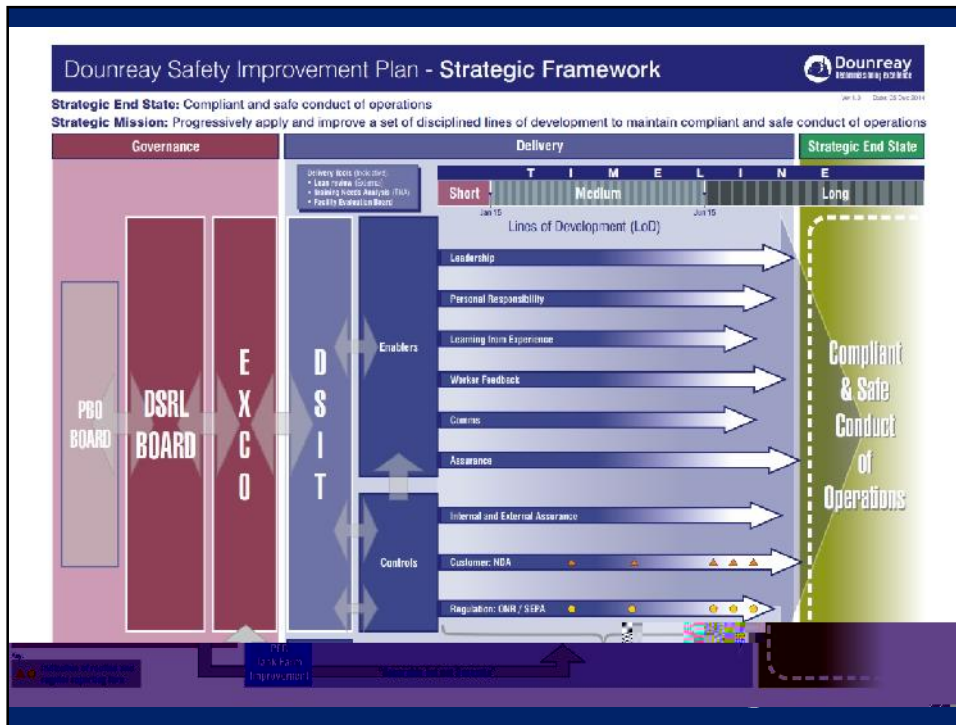11   10/12/2014   **Dounreay** Decommissioning excellence

Way ahead

- Immediate actions to raise site awareness and ensure work is being conducted in accordance with authorised documentation - complete;
- Action plan to address Improvement Notice (PFR tank farm specific) endorsed by DSRL board – will now be discussed with ONR and SEPA;
- Strategic Framework for the Dounreay Safety Improvement Plan endorsed by the DSRL board;
- Standing-up of a Dounreay Safety Improvement Team endorsed. Bob Kury (deputy MD) nominated to lead. Next step is to get the team in place and complete the formal Management of Change process.

12   10/12/2014   **Dounreay** Decommissioning excellence

We understand that this was a significant event.

We are determined to learn from it and improve our performance – top to bottom.