

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP
DSG SITE RESTORATION SUB GROUP

DSG/SRSG(2016)M003

Minutes of the DSG Site Restoration sub group meeting held on Wednesday 16th November 2016 at 1900 hrs in the Pentland Hotel (Georgina suite), Thurso.

Present:	Bob Earnshaw	Thurso Community Council (sub group chairman)
	David Flear	DSG Chairman
	Brian Mutch	SGRPID
	Mike Flavell	Health Service
	Thelma MacKenzie	Thurso Community Council
	Cllr Roger Saxon	Highland Council
	George MacDougall	Caithness West Community Council
	David Broughton	DSG member
	Roy Blackburn	DSG member
In addition:	Dawn Clasper	DSG Minute Secretary
	June Love	Dounreay Community Relations Manager (DSG Secretariat)
	Mark Raffle	NDA Programme Manager
	David Lowe	Deputy Managing Director, Dounreay
	Ella Feist	Dounreay Environmental Closure Department
	Cdr Ken Dyke	MOD Vulcan
	Sheila Hutchison	ONR (Dounreay)
	James Byrson	DNSR (Vulcan)
	Pat Green	CNC

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bob Earnshaw welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced Dawn Clasper who would be taking over as minute secretary for the DSG sub groups. June Love would now be attending in her capacity as Community Relations Manager and would continue to attend these meeting in that capacity. He also welcomed James Byrson, DNSR for Vulcan and Pat Green, CNC.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

- Cllr George Farlow Highland Council
- Cllr Willie Mackay Highland Council
- John Deighan Dounreay Unions
- Stewart Ballantine SEPA

June Love noted that Stewart Ballantine apologised for his non-attendance, however this was due to his new born baby just arriving.

3. MINUTES

Bob Earnshaw noted that the July minutes – DSG/SRSG(2016)M002 – had been circulated to members in advance. This was proposed by Thelma Mackenzie and seconded by Roger Saxon.

No issues were raised.

4. ACTIONS

Bob Earnshaw noted that the status of actions had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The majority of actions were now complete.

- DSG(2016)M003/A001: David Flear to write to Highland Council encouraging them to follow up on NDA letter regarding nuclear material transport. Action ongoing : June Love a letter would be drafted following this meeting.
- DSG(2016)M003/A009: Phil Craig to provide timeline for modifications to cementation plant and programme of cementing PFR raffinate. Action complete: The cementation plant modifications to process PFR Raffinate is due to be complete August 2017 with PFR raffinate being processed around December 2017.
- DSG(2016)M003/A016: Wendy Newton to liaise with June Love to agree appropriate sub group meetings to provide update on the future options of the site. Action ongoing: Wendy Newton to come back to with a timeline and this will be updated.
- DSG(2014)M003/A009: Emma Forbes, Highland Council Planning, to look into the issue of excessive noise at the CNC Firing Range and report back to DSG. Action ongoing: It was noted that this action had been outstanding for some time. June Love agreed to make contact with Buldoo Resident to find out whether progress would be made or whether this action should be closed out.
- DSG(2016)M003/A006: June Love to co-ordinate written response to questions on nuclear material transports raised by Tor Justad. Action complete – DSG(2016)C037. It was noted that this response had been co-ordinated by DSRL but had been a multi-agency response.

David Flear stated that the correspondence relating to transport (C037) had shown there had been a number of questions/answers and information provided and DSG should not get into a situation whereby they were continuing to ask the same questions. The movement of this material was UK Government and Scottish Government policy and therefore NDA and Dounreay were complying with that policy. While he did not want to curtail discussion on any subject he felt that those questions already raised with responses provided should not be raised again. David Broughton asked whether the correspondence received would be referred to as a full and comprehensive document and this was agreed by the sub group members.

5. DOUNREAY UPDATE

Bob Earnshaw noted that a number of written papers had been distributed to members in advance of the meeting including:

- DSG(2016)P023: Dounreay report
- DSG(2016)P022: SEPA report
- DSG(2016)P021: ONR report

He invited the following to provide updates:

NDA: Mark Raffle, NDA provided the following update:

- A number of the NDA senior team would be leaving the organisation over the coming months and the NDA was in the process of recruiting replacements. This was being done from the Chairman down to allow the new Chairman to be part of the selection process for the Chief Executive, then the Chief Executive could start to consider the shape of his new team.
- David Batters has been re-appointed as the NDA Director responsible for DSRL and Magnox which will be a temporary position until the new CEO was appointed . David Batters had been at Dounreay recently as part of the National Audit Office visit and while here had met David Flear and Roger Saxon as well as a visit to Nucleus.
- The Magnox consolidation was continuing but was being dealt with by a separate NDA team.

Bob Earnshaw thanked Mark Raffle for his input and invited questions from members.

David Broughton noted that looking at the NDA's written update (DSG(2016)C035) there was information on the low level waste vaults near Drigg and that planning permission had been received. He asked whether the two new vaults being built were to the same standard as Dounreay's which includes roofing.

Action: DSG/SRSG(2016)M003/A001: Mark Raffle to find out if they are built to the same standard as Dounreay.

Dounreay update: David Lowe, Deputy Managing Director, Dounreay provided the following update:

- The new decommissioning plan was taking shape and current estimates were that the interim end state would be in the 2030-33 date range.
- A site-wide safety culture survey will be carried out on site and this will be underway shortly. This will allow management to understand where the site was culturally and identify key improvement areas.
- DIT is continuing to review the safety stand down output relating to tolerance of defects as part of a site review. It appears that too many defects are being tolerated and it has been emphasised that everyone needs to take ownership and report defects promptly.
- The DIT team will stand down shortly and the function to continuously look at safety will transfer, along with the improvement plan, to our Assurance Department. All members of the DIT team will be redeployed on site.
- On a safety front focus is on preparing for the winter weather and cascading safety information in relation to this.
- Site management was pleased with the progress on hazard reduction and two major milestones are now complete as reported in the written update. These being the DFR NaK destruction and the cementation of the DFR raffinate.
- A plant emergency exercise took place at D2001 (Fuel Cycle Area) to test the local response to an incident that involved a broken zinc bromide window and an associated casualty. The

exercise provided a useful training exercise for both experienced and new members of the emergency response teams.

- The PFR team had successfully moved the first tranche of intermediate level waste out of the irradiated fuel cave, using the Z6016 flask, and transferred it to the Dounreay Cementation Plant for processing. This is the first of 12 loads to meet the PBI.
- The supercompactor (WRACS) has now been successfully re-commissioned, and operations resumed this week.

Bob Earnshaw thanked David Lowe for his input and invited questions from members.

Roy Blackburn asked for a scale on the TRIR. David Lowe responded that he thought it was .58 and was up to .65 and now it is at .58.

Action: DSG/SRSG(2016)M003/A002: June Love to request TRIR scale on graph for future reports.

Roy noted that there had been major improvements undertaken by DIT Team over the last two years but it had not been translated to a noticeable reduction in the TRIR. He asked if there were any underlying reasons for that and did it give cause for concern. David Lowe responded that the transition of the DIT team function to the Assurance function was to ensure continuous improvement and was not a reflection that the site believed the level of safety culture or performance was perfect.

DIT had been in place for 2 years and a number of improvements had been made and it is believed that the trajectory from an overall safety culture, safety perception and improvement is moving in the right direction. To get to the next level it needs to be transitioned back to the Assurance function (Chief Nuclear Office) to ensure safety continues to be focussed in the right areas. It had always been the intention that DIT would exist for a short period of time and site management was much more comfortable to take this forward under the direction of Assurance who will continue to focus on the areas that continue to need improvement.

Last year there had been a number of injuries due to the winter weather (slips, trips and falls) with 8 TRIR within a short period of time. For that reason focus is again on winter preparedness and it was hoped that this year will see a reduction of these types of incidents.

Roy Blackburn noted in the report D1208 and DCP reported that the last of the higher active waste from DFR was being processed. He asked whether that the bulk raffinate and whether there was still some raffinate in the heels.

Action: DSG/SRSG(2016)M003/A003: David Lowe clarify whether the bulk DFR raffinate has now been completed and whether there was still some raffinate in the heels.

Mark Raffle noted that he believed that some washbacks were still required. David Lowe added that the normal practice is to flush tanks after raffinate removal.

Roy Blackburn noted that they are going to gear up to do the PFR raffinate after the modifications to the DCP and that it was going to start processing around August 2017 and then there would be a break of about 4 years, presumably to ensure that the DCP store extension was completed. He asked whether this was a cause for concern given that the plant operatives who are currently working there would presumably move to other areas of the site for a period of time which could

mean a loss of operational memory. David Lowe responded that there will be a core of operational personnel that will stay with the facility and the equipment would be put into a safe shut down condition with the intent to re-start in a few years.

David Flear noted that it was good to see the paper picked up the story on the additional NDA funding. Unfortunately this story had not been picked up until 1st September and a week later the site reduced the decommissioning operatives framework contract resulting in a potential loss of 20 individuals over three companies. He noted his disappointment at the way the site had handled the reduction of the contract and once the new decommissioning plan was approved it was hoped that a flatter profile will be available. He noted there had been a suggestion that the 20 people affected may have other opportunities on the site in the future but felt that because the nuclear industry was crying out for people it may be that they would not be available when the site required them. This news just before Christmas had been extremely disappointing.

Pat Green, CNC stated that the CNC had been advised of the potential reduction and had reached out to the individuals to enquire whether they would be interested in joining the CNC.

David Broughton noted in the written report there was a lot of mention of decommissioning activities in the FCA taking cells apart but he had also read that the Low Level Waste (LLW) facility was not taking any waste receipts at present. He asked whether the site would be in difficulty if waste continued to be generated with no disposal route. David Lowe responded that at this stage there were sufficient stores for LLW and therefore will not curtail decommissioning activities at present.

David Broughton asked what the output was from the workshop held on the remediation of the Liquid Effluent system. Bob Earnshaw noted that he had attended this workshop and had found it useful with a lot of challenge from those around the table. June Love added that once the information from the workshop had been summarised and options for the remediation of the system were identified DSG would receive further information.

Roger Saxon noted the increase of accidents and asked whether this was co-incidental or due to winter weather. David Lowe responded that it was primarily due to weather and poor underfoot conditions.

Roy Blackburn enquired about the results of the inspection of the PFR reactor. David Lowe responded that the video had provided invaluable information showing it was in excellent condition and was surprisingly very clean with little signs of corrosion.

There being no further questions on the Dounreay report, Bob Earnshaw handed over to Ella Feist for an update on the site end state and related projects. Ella Feist, Environmental, Closure & Demolition Department Manager reported the following:

Site end State Review: The workshops had been completed and the final reports were now being developed. The results appear to be consistent with the 2007 BPEO. The report will then be summarised into a decision paper which will allow consider of any area of opportunities where there could be a change of legislation. It was expected that this would be completed by March 2017.

Interim End State Landscape: Workshops had been held to look at possible landscape options for the site end state. This would support the planning application phase 3 that would be submitted to Highland Council in the first half of 2017. Early discussion with Highland Council and stakeholders had intimated that the current concept was not the most favourable. Three options have been

developed with the current preference to move towards a more natural environment which would not rule out the construction of a new business park.

Liquid Effluent Discharge System – This workshop had been held over the last few weeks and it had been recognised that to remediate the entire system (pipes on land and sea and the chamber) that remediation action for one part may not be the optimum action for other part of the system. The feedback from the workshop was currently being developed and this will result in an action plan being submitted to SEPA by April 2017.

Bob Earnshaw thanked Ella Feist for her input and invited questions from members.

Roy Blackburn noted the comments on the options for landscape and asked whether the options identified satisfied the Highland Council's expectations. Ella Feist responded that the options were to allow more flexible in an end state and NDA approval was required before this can be taken forward.

David Flear noted that the DSG had consulted on the end state of the site in 2007 and at that time those who took part had recognised it was difficult to see what type of industry would locate onto an old nuclear site. Added to that the opportunities within Caithness and North Sutherland are located around the harbours and airport and with the Forss industrial park nearby it was difficult to see an industrial activity at the site. Highland council had been part of the consultation in 2007 but now obviously wish to maximise the benefit from the site. June Love noted the 2007 BPEO had identified that flexibility was key.

SEPA:

Bob Earnshaw noted that SEPA had provided a written update and that as mentioned earlier Stewart Ballantine had been unavailable for this meeting. Stewart had indicated that if there were any questions arising from the SEPA report he would be happy to deal with this through correspondence.

Roy Blackburn noted that the bowing and distortion on the lids of the low level waste containers and asked whether the conclusion of the report had identified this as a major problem or a one-off. David Lowe responded that there had been a small number of containers that shows signs of a build-up of pressure. A full investigation was conducted and discussed with SEPA. Clarification on the gas generation and ullage issues were ongoing and discussions had been held with the LLWR (near Drigg) to learn lessons from them. At the time this was identified the correct actions were followed with SEPA being notified and disposals put on hold. All 209 containers would be opened to allow additional venting.

David Flear noted that at the last DSG Phil Craig spoke about the warning letter for the Krypton 85 and asked whether SEPA was now happy with the action that had been taken. David Lowe responded that he could not respond on behalf of SEPA but discussions with them had been positive.

David Flear asked about the wet silo in relation to the increase water level and what action was DSRL taking. David Lowe responded that SEPA were currently undertaking an investigation. After looking into this it had been identified that there had been a faulty valve where the water was getting in. DSRL informed SEPA soon after we had identified the increased water levels and continue to keep them informed.

ONR: Sheila Hutchison reported:

- ONR were content with the compliance inspections during the last quarter and had deemed these adequate. Where they had had concerns related to the incidents on site where people had not stopped work after identifying an issue and reporting it. This had indicated to ONR that all the improvements implemented were not working in all areas of site. The letter ONR had submitted to the site was to ensure that there was action taken to ensure a consistency across all areas of site.

David Flear noted the letter from ONR regarding how the site will measure the effectiveness and asked what was the site being asked to measure. Sheila Hutchison responded that it was about the site putting together an improvement plan with measurable outcomes that can demonstrate that improvements are being realised.

Roy Blackburn asked whether there were any underlying reasons that people were carrying on with work or whether it was simply a matter of good intentions to get the job done. In particular he asked whether the commercial aspects of the contract were driving this behaviour to ensure performance measures were met which equates to bonus payments. Sheila Hutchison responded that there could potentially be an element and that some people feel there is a pressure to carry on when there isn't one. June Love noted that at the recent staff talks the Managing Director had made very clear statements about stopping work if anyone felt there was a potential issue. This message was beginning to percolate down. Mark Raffle also added that at the same staff talks NDA had stressed that the targets would not be met if they had not been carried out safely.

CNC: Pat Green reported:

- The main focus of the CNC was the security of the site and supporting the nuclear material transports. CNC have also identified more efficient ways to work with security to achieve the same level of security.
- CNC has also appointed a dedicated officer, Peter Shewell, to interact with the local neighbours and CNC is getting positive feedback from the local community on this interaction.
- Twelve local people were recruited in the summer and a further five are starting in December. The CNC were also holding an event with the site executive team where CNC will provide a tour of their facilities and present on how CNC day to day business is undertaken.
- Invites have also been extended to local Councillors to visit the site to meet with CNC so that there is an understanding of what CNC does. June Love noted that SI Martin O'Kane had also extended an invitation to the DSG members and given that some of the Councillors also sit on DSG it would make sense to extend the invite to all DSG members on the same day.

Action: DSG/SRSG(2016)M003/A004: June Love to liaise with Pat Green CNC about extending the invitation to visit CNC on site to DSG members.

CNC are providing logistical support to MDP SEG (Vulcan) to assist with their operations.

As there were no further questions relating to the Dounreay activities, Bob Earnshaw thanked everyone for their input.

6. VULCAN

Bob Earnshaw noted four written reports had been received prior to the meeting.

- DSG(2016)P027 Vulcan update
- DSG(2016)P012: Rolls Royce update
- DSG(2016)P020: ONR report
- DSG(2016)P026: DNSR report

Cdr Dyke highlighted the following:

- There had been no lost time accidents or injuries in 2016.
- There had been a safety stand down for 1 hour to reinforce the safety culture STOP principle.
- The SEPA report had referred to the annual spill exercise at Vulcan which was based on an oil spill.
- SEPA were on site for an inspection against the site's compliance against the letter of arrangements and they made mention of surrendering two of the Site's licenses relating to a redundant cooling tower that was discharging heat into the atmosphere and the other was the main water outlet from the sea water outlet that was used for the cooling of the PWR that was shut down in 2015.
- From a waste disposal viewpoint there was nothing of any significance as discharges have been maintained within the prescribed limits. The SEPA approval is being amended and is with Scottish Government for their review.

Bob Earnshaw thanked Cdr Ken Dyke for his input and invited questions from members.

David Flear re-iterated the point that the community should have the opportunity to engage in the options assessment for the future of the Vulcan site. He noted that Simon Tinling and Wendy Newton were completely aware of DSG's views in this regard and if DSG felt that no engagement was forthcoming at the appropriate time he would have no hesitation in writing to the new Commodore Mark Adams, Head of the Nuclear Propulsion Project Team. He emphasised the need for MOD to communicate openly and honestly in this regard.

David Broughton noted the comments made on surrendering licences and asked whether that inferred moth balling the plants which would have a knock on effect with future decommissioning. Ken Dyke responded that it meant that the site no longer require these services and the cooling towers had already been removed.

No further questions were raised.

Bob Earnshaw noted that the Rolls Royce paper (DSG(2016)P012) was the one tabled at the July DSG sub group meeting. John Hook had intimated that this report was still extant with nothing further to add.

The ONR report for Vulcan was considered with no questions raised.

DNSR: James Bryson reported the following:

- DNSR carried out five routine visits during the second quarter.
- Working with Vulcan to ensure a safe state for the movement of nuclear materials to reduce the hazard from the site.
- Vulcan had demonstrated good leadership and positive behaviour towards the hazard reductions and while the programme had been accelerated it was being undertaken safely. DNSR were looking for this to continue until all materials were transported off site.

Bob Earnshaw thanked James Bryson for his input and invited questions from members.

Roy Blackburn asked whether it would be possible to provide a little bit more detail on the 5 visits event if this was just to state that what had been inspected was found to be adequate. James Bryson responded that his difficulty would be if it was in relation to activities around which security has to be taken into account. The information provided in his written report was of a high level nature but did note that he could, at meetings, provide clarification.

Roger Saxon asked whether Vulcan would provide DSG members with information following each nuclear material transport. Ken Dyke responded that this would not happen, DSG members have been provided with a presentation on the nuclear material transport and as this was now an operational issue the next time DSG would be updated would be when all nuclear material transportation to Sellafield had been completed.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Bob Earnshaw noted correspondence which had been received since the last DSG meeting, including:

- DSG(2016)C034: Waste practices
- DSG(2016)C035: NDA SSG briefing

David Flear stated that a letter had been received from a 'whistleblower' (DSG(2016)C034 refers) citing poor behaviours and practices relating to waste issues on the site. The letter had been received by him as Chairman and he had passed it to Phil Craig, Managing Director to address and response to. Phil Craig mentioned this at the September DSG meeting and the correspondence also provided the site's response. While the letter indicated that the author of the letter would be contacting SEPA and the NDA it appeared that this had not happened. The site's response had been sent back to the author but no further correspondence had been received.

The NDA Site stakeholder briefing for October (DSG(2016)C035 refers) was noted by members.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bob Earnshaw invited members to raise any other business.

David Flear stated that, on behalf of DSG, he had attended the Scottish Government Scottish Sites meeting and the draft minutes had been circulated to members for their information. At this meeting all Scottish site stakeholder group chairs had thought it would be useful to invite the Cabinet Secretary to the next meeting which would take place after the AGM in March. An invitation had been extended to the Cabinet Secretary on behalf of all three Scottish sites (Dounreay, Chapelcross and Hunterston). An acknowledgement had now been received.

David Flear noted that he would be attending the Nuclear Industries Association conference in London on 1st December and would also attend the NIA dinner as a guest of DSRL.

David Flear noted that he had attended a workshop on the regulation of nuclear clean-up back in May 2016. A follow up workshop was now taking place on Monday 28th in Manchester and Roger Saxon was attending on behalf of DSG. He recorded his thanks to Tor Justad for volunteering but given Roger's position as vice-chairman it had been felt it would be useful for Roger to attend. The discussion paper had been circulated and members were requested to provide any comment they had on this paper to ensure Roger could provide DSG input.

Action: DSG/SRSG(2016)M003/A005: All members to provide input to the discussion paper on the regulation of nuclear sites in the final stages of decommissioning.

There being no further business, Bob Earnshaw thanked everyone for their input and formally closed the meeting.

Bob Earnshaw
DSG Site Restoration sub group chairman
23rd November 2016

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

DSG/SRSG(2016)M003/A001: Mark Raffle to find out if they are built to the same standard as Dounreay.

DSG/SRSG(2016)M003/A002: June Love to request TRIR scale on graph for future reports.

DSG/SRSG(2016)M003/A003: David Lowe clarify whether the bulk DFR raffinate has now been completed and whether there was still some raffinate in the heels.

DSG/SRSG(2016)M003/A004: June Love to liaise with Pat Green CNC about extending the invitation to visit CNC on site to DSG members.

DSG/SRSG(2016)M003/A005: All members to provide input to the discussion paper on the regulation of nuclear sites in the final stages of decommissioning.