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Date: 15 December 2017

Dear Mr Saxon,

Thank you for your letter of 10 November 2017, on behalf of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group, regarding the future of the Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment site.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for stating very clearly in your most recent letter, the Dounreay Stakeholder Group's view of what should happen to the Vulcan site at the end of its operational life. Your views have been passed to the Vulcan team.

In answer to the questions you raised in your letter:

- The options assessment exercise for the future of the Vulcan site is planned to take place during 2018, with the aim of making formal recommendations in the first half of 2019. As this is still in the planning phase we are unable to comment on the specific details of the steps that will be undertaken.
- We will use an assessment criteria built around the 'PESTLE' (Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Legal, and Environmental) model, to take into account all of these factors prior to selecting the preferred option.
- The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) is one of the MOD's key stakeholders and there is regular engagement at all levels of the two organisations. For Vulcan specifically, the MOD routinely update the NDA on progress against the programme. The NDA will also be one of the key stakeholders in the options assessment process and will be involved in workshops and discussions over the next 12 months as we work towards determining the preferred option for the future of the site; which the MOD holds the lease and ultimate responsibility for.

We must, however, reiterate the statements made in previous correspondence that the MOD will not formally consult on the options under consideration for the Vulcan site. As has been

previously stated, the local community will be kept informed via the Dounreay Stakeholder Group, and its sub-groups, as the decision making process is undertaken.

We appreciate that you may be disappointed by this response and that it does not provide the involvement in formal consultation on the options assessment that you were seeking.

However, you may be interested to learn that formal consultation would be required on decommissioning under the Nuclear Reactors (Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning) Regulations (EIADR), were this to be the preferred option. This covers the process where sites approaching decommissioning go to the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) to get consent to proceed with the project. An Environmental Statement is prepared, that gives an assessment of the environmental impact of the decommissioning project and what measures will be taken to mitigate these. This is then put out by the ONR for consultation - which would include the public and other interested parties and so provides an opportunity for the group to engage.

Yours sincerely,

James Franklin

Head of Nuclear Policy and Secretariat