

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group, Public Meeting, held at 19:00 on Wednesday 20 March 2024 in Pentland Hotel (Ballroom), Thurso and via MS Teams.

Present:	Cllr Struan Mackie	DSG Chair (The Highland Council)
	David Alexander	DSG Vice-chair (Thurso and Wick Trade Union Council)
	Gillian Coghill	DSG Site Restoration SG chair (Buldoo Residents Group)
	Roger Saxon	DSG Site Restoration subgroup deputy chair
	Peter Faccenda	Focus North
	Eann Sinclair	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
	Niall Watson	NRS Dounreay Trade Unions
	Ron Gunn	CHAT
	Tor Justad	HANP
	David Broughton	DSG co-opted member of the public
	David Craig	Caithness West Community Council
	Thelma Mackenzie	Thurso Community Council
	Elsbeth Husband	Thurso Community Council Deputy
	Cllr Andrew Jarvie	Highland Council
	Cllr Stephen Clackson	Orkney Council
	Christian Nicolson	NHS
	Cllr Matthew Reiss	Highland Council
Attending:	Mark Rouse	NRS Dounreay Managing Director
	Mac MacGill	NRS Dounreay Deputy Managing Director
	Alan Mackay	NDA Site Facing Team
	James Francis	ONR
	Stewart Ballantine	SEPA
	Cdr Ian Walker	MOD Vulcan
	Supt Lynsay Hernandez	CNC
	Tina Wrighton	NRS Dounreay Stakeholder & External Relations Lead
	Dawn Clasper	DSG Minute Secretary
	Ferne Mill	NRS Dounreay Communications Administrator
	Emma MacDonald	NRS Dounreay Business Apprentice

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Cllr Mackie stated that the DSG Annual General Meeting had been held prior to this meeting. He thanked members for re-electing him to chair, David Alexander as Vice-chair and Socio Economic subgroup chair and Gillian Coghill as Site Restoration subgroup chair. On behalf of all the officials he thanked members for their continued support

2. APOLOGIES

The following apologies were received:

- Trudy Morris Caithness Chamber of Commerce
- Debbie Murray UHI North West & Hebrides
- Murray Lamont North Highland Tourism
- Sandy Mackie Scrabster Harbour

- Cllr Michael Baird Highland Council
- James Bryson DNSR
- Richard Faris ONR

3. NRS DOUNREAY UPDATES

As before, Cllr Mackie asked that updates be kept to a high level. He would take all the updates and then open up to members for questions. Of note:

NDA Corporate: Alan Mackay reported:

- Creating meaningful conversations stakeholder event took place in December 2023.
- Scottish Parliament Standards Committee gave approval to the establishment of a Cross Party Group on Nuclear Decommissioning. Their first meeting will be held on 27 March 2024. He noted that this is a Cross Party Group not a NDA group and any questions should be referred to Dave Wallace.

Cllr Struan Mackie noted that we had been waiting for this for a number of years and it is important that they understand how important decommissioning is and that the wider supply chain and the NDA have done fantastic work ensuring the decommissioning spend continues. It's not surprising that Scotland has a nuclear industry at large which needs to add to the conversation of Just Transition.

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked Alan Mackay for his update and invited questions from members. Of note:

- David Broughton asked for an understanding of the relationship between NDA, Magnox and NRS. Is Magnox a limited company? Alan Mackay responded Magnox has been subsumed into NRS and is a subsidiary of the NDA. Magnox still exist legally at the moment, but going forward there will be no reference of Magnox.

Mac MacGill responded that the NDA's aspiration was to create a four-pillar model in the long term with NRS as the fourth pillar. Magnox and Dounreay were joined together, and the name will change on 1 April to Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS). Dounreay and Magnox have joined together to form one company, Dounreay is a division of this company to deliver Dounreay's vision.

Mark Rouse responded that Magnox Limited legally is the combination of the original Magnox Limited and Dounreay, which is one company today trading as NRS, a subsidiary of the NDA. We have our own board, and they oversee Magnox Limited, the new company, with David Peattie as the accounting officer.

ACTION: DSG/PM(2024)M01/A001: Mark Rouse/Mac MacGill to provide the group operating framework

- Tor Justad asked what the remit for the Cross Party Group (CPG) is as all CPG's have different remits, how often they meet and who's represented. Alan Mackay responded that there is a link in the paper and he would refer to this [Civil Nuclear Industry | Scottish Parliament Website](#). And it states, 'The CPG will be the forum for Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs), stakeholders and interested parties to engage directly with each other in order to raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges facing nuclear decommissioning and the existing associated civil nuclear footprint, workforce, and supply

chain in Scotland and to better inform the development of policy in this important area.' He was unaware of the frequency of meetings and would refer this to David Wallace.

Peter Faccenda noted he believed there would be four meetings per year, and the next two meetings have been set. Cllr Struan Mackie agreed and noted that there has been a lot of work on this and he had been consulted on this. He wants Scottish Government and members of parliament in Holyrood to be more informed on what is going on in nuclear decommissioning. This is an industry that is not well understood. The NRS AGR fleet will be coming offline and there will be more decommissioning in Scotland and in the future at Vulcan. This is being led by Oliver Mundell MSP and Colin Smyth MSP, he noted it is not possible to have an all CPG without having a number of parties represented. He noted there is a good synopsis on the website at www.parliament.scot of the aims and ambitions of this group going forward.

- Tor Justad noted the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) and asked if this was an updated report as he was aware another community has dropped out and asked what the current situation was. Alan Mackay responded that this would have been correct at the time of publication.

ACTION: DSG/PM(2024)M01/A002: Alan Mackay to provide an update on the GDF disposal facility report.

There were no further questions.

NRS Dounreay: Mac MacGill reported:

- Good progress this year to date and forecasting one target to be missed. This will be updated at the next subgroup meeting in April.
- Created and agreed the performance targets for the FY 2024/25.
- Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) increased to 0.29 following a number of slips, trips and falls on ice. A review will be carried out of the last two slip/trip/falls to identify any improvements which can be made in periods of inclement weather.
- On 5 February 2024, NRS Dounreay received an ONR Enforcement Action – Improvement Notice No. ONR-IN-23-3 relating to the storage arrangements of alkali metals within the Prototype Fast Reactor (PFR) turbine hall and steam generator hall. Project management plan has been developed.
- On 5 February 2024, NRS Dounreay received an ONR Enforcement Letter in relation to Workplace Building Integrity – Water ingress and temperature. Guidance has been issued to building risk assessors to put appropriate measures in place to accommodate extremes of temperatures.
- On 12 March 2024, NRS Dounreay received an Enforcement Letter in relation to the control of the risk presented by dangerous substances and explosive atmospheres. We are working through a plan for this - he would like to assure that Dounreay is committed to meeting the regulatory requirements and closing out these actions in a safe and controlled manner.
- NDA continues to review cost and timescale implications over Lifetime Plan (LTP), an agreement to implement early years of plan from 1 April has been set. This plan will see us build on the “portfolio, programmes and projects” model, so our workforce will restructure on 1 April to match this requirement.

- New generation of leadership talent will be empowered to deliver hazard reduction on time and to budget through improvements in how we manage our resources. This should provide less friction in the system and greater sense of accomplishment in the workplace. The transition to new ways of working have been cleared through regulatory scrutiny and will be rolled out across the site from 1 April 2024.
- Nuclear Restoration Services - our new brand - is about to formally replace Magnox Ltd as the name of the employer and licensee. The corporate centre is going through restructuring to reflect growth in the company's portfolio of sites and inclusion of the AGR's. Some people who worked in the corporate functions of Dounreay will become part of the corporate functions of NRS but retain an unrelenting focus on delivery of the Dounreay mission.
- Natalie Sutherland and Tamara Yankovich have recently presented papers at the Waste Symposium in Phoenix.
- International Women's Day on 8 March marked with a 7th Anniversary conference of our Gender Balance Network – part of our support for national strategy to meet goal of women making up 40% of workforce by 2030.

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked Mac MacGill for his update and invited questions from members. Of note:

- Gillian Coghill noted that in January the PFR hall leak was not mentioned at the site restoration subgroup. She noted that there could have been water ingress, and this has come forward with an Enforcement Letter from ONR. This should have been brought to the DSG's attention at the time. Mac MacGill apologised for the DSG not being informed at the time of this and would look at why this was and provide an explanation.
- She also noted that the maintenance budget would rise due to the electrical infrastructure, water ingress and the buildings ageing as the end date has been extended. What is the rise in maintenance and how will this affect the plan for the future? Mac MacGill responded that the three components at Dounreay are area stewardship, mission delivery and investment and this is recognised in the LTP. This is under constant review and will take prioritisation.
- Gillian Coghill noted that the pay dispute is worrying and hopes that this is settled in a timely manner. Mac MacGill responded we do not want to be in the position where we have an unhappy workforce and need a real sense of purpose and are working together with the Trade Unions to find a resolution.
- Gillian Coghill noted that she would like a good outcome from the pay dispute, as this could put the plan in jeopardy, as there could be kickbacks from government making it more difficult to justify the work.
- Regarding the Dounreay unions balloting their members on industrial action over pay, Niall Watson noted that the one thing the unions and site would agree on is this is not where either would want to be. He also indicated that it was important to understand that the basis of the unions' pay claim was to protect salaries in real-terms and that a fair pay rise for Dounreay employees is good for the local community as members spend a lot locally. He also stated that he did not believe that all avenues to resolve the dispute had been

exhausted. He stressed that the unions would not take any action that would compromise the safety or security of the site.

- David Craig asked when the DSG would see the LTP and if the DSG could get a copy of this for information as soon as possible.

Cllr Struan Mackie noted that the LTP is the longest ongoing action for the DSG. He asked if there was an update. He has a couple of things he would like to pull out on expectations and asked for a date when we would have access to this.

Mac MacGill responded that we have the first four years endorsed and through the subgroups we will provide further details.

Cllr Struan Mackie noted that he is conscious the DSG is reactive and he wants them to be proactive. The LTP is an important document for this community and so expectation management is key and various dates are banded about. The site has been clear with stakeholders that is not releasing a lot of detail in the early years and there won't be specific dates in the public domain. Expectations have not been met and trust needs to be rebuilt and until our forum is able to scrutinise the documentation and the expectations and use of taxpayer's money, we are not able to get into this community position of trust and there will be questions and media interest.

Mark Rouse responded that he was happy to announce that the programme is extending and where there is certainty and judgment this is all underpinned by detail and logic and they will take the DSG through this. It will not be precise dates and technology will evolve, but we will take you through this.

Roger Saxon noted that they had an indication of what the plan may be and as there was a management change are we back to stage one? It is very frustrating for the DSG, the public and employees at Dounreay that what they are working on may be a mothballed building. We have hotel costs and now we have to repair buildings doing nothing for the next decade which is an extra cost for Dounreay. To know that they will be concentrating on the high-risk items will create certainty and people who thought they were part of the decommissioning progress may be disheartened. We need to have an outline for the community and supply chain who are sitting waiting hoping that there will be new contracts available.

Cllr Struan Mackie noted that Trudy Morris is the champion for the supply chain and our want and desire is not just for staff and the supply chain it's community wide and the site will allow us to get into the next four years, and he takes the point that the DSG is privy to some information to give reassurance that what we are told is sound and robust.

Cllr Andrew Jarvie noted while we are not getting a clear outcome on the LTP he would like a clearer understanding of where we are in the process and what already exists that could be published. It's fair there is some slippage in a complex project and from what he has heard it feels like 'analysis paralysis'. What is being analysed and what is the difference in the plan? For the complex tasks could there be a threshold rather than a target date, which could provide more trust in the community?

Mark Rouse responded that the analysis of the LTP is complete and the certainty into the outer years is reaching out to the 2070's which was presented at the Focus North conference. We can show the subgroup how this was built up and how we have made decisions and how we have got the shaft and silo back on the programme.

Cllr Struan Mackie noted that there is going to be one chance to get the comms correct and how it feeds into the organisation and supply chain to build confidence and capabilities. He stressed that we cannot go back into promises that are not going to be met like during the PBO times when money could be spent on front line decommissioning or socio economic spend.

Niall Watson stated that it is important that Dounreay prioritises the biggest hazards on site and that where this requires staff to be moved around it is done in a planned and managed way including engaging with staff early and communicating clearly.

Tor Justad noted in the last report that went to the Site Restoration subgroup it stated that decommissioning clean-up work from 1 April was set up across the three new programmes - has the transition been made? Mac MacGill responded that we have a transition window and this has been briefed out over the last couple of days. It will take several months to roll-out the new structure.

There were no further questions.

SEPA: Stewart Ballantine reported that there was nothing to add from the update provided at the January subgroup.

ONR: James Francis reported:

- Slips trips and falls had been reported to ONR under RIDOR regulations due to weather related issues, and they are content with the Dounreay responses.
- An asbestos dangerous occurrence - there has been follow up on significant deviation on the established arrangements – the individual received no exposure and posed further intervention on asbestos arrangements.
- ONR has issued two enforcement letters around compliance of DSEAR relating to a number of inspections carried out in December that related to heating not being provided for a prolonged time and rain water ingress in a number of facilities. These were around working conditions and electrical safety and degradation to buildings and other assets - no safety concerns.
- ONR issued an improvement notice to Dounreay around its prolonged storage of alkali metals in 2 locations - concern on the nature of damp conditions in the environment in the storage area and the effect on the storage barrier - no immediate threat but prolonged storage is undesirable. Have had various interactions with Dounreay and we are content with the response noting that there are time periods set.

Tor Justad asked how much asbestos there was on site and if they are planning to extract the asbestos to remove associated risks with the material. James Francis responded that ONR has engaged very extensively with the Dounreay asbestos team as well as facility managers on the arrangement of management of asbestos and we are still collecting information on this intervention. At the next meeting we may state a definitive position on the issue.

Mac MacGill responded that we do expect to find asbestos given the age of the buildings on site, and that there are detailed procedures to identify and manage it. Training continues on asbestos awareness, and specialists are brought in when required.

David Craig noted that there are rumours that the LTP may have a cold and dark strategy for some buildings and does this cause ONR any concerns, given the current enforcement notice on building integrity? James Francis responded that ONR has had sight of the LTP and has engaged with Dounreay on the plan. He noted there are facilities that will slow down decommissioning and exist for longer and that will be prioritised on the information provided by the site.

CNC: Supt Lynsay Hernandez reported:

- CNC recruitment continues to see a positive response, there is a healthy pipeline of applicants, and they are preparing delivery of the local training.
- CNC are preparing for a security exercise in May 2024.
- CNC are also preparing for a visit of the Chief Constable in a couple of weeks.

Cllr Matthew Reiss thanked the CNC for the assistance to Police Scotland through the winter weather.

Ron Gunn asked if the change of recruitment strategy has been successful in retention of officers in Caithness. Lynsay Hernandez responded that the data suggests that local people do tend to say in Caithness, however officers may transfer to other units within the CNC and also the police force. The hope is that the training delivered locally may increase the retention of new officers in the area.

4. MOD (VULCAN) UPDATES

MOD, Vulcan: Cdr Ian Walker reported the following:

- 2 loss time accidents in January - one was greater than 7 days and reported as a RIDDOR. The health safety and wellbeing is of highest priority so disappointed these have occurred - they are being fully investigated and while ongoing the improvements and processes have been identified and implemented.
- 3 minor injuries since the last report - all reported through the systems to identify trends and mitigate accordingly.
- 2 breaches of conventional environmental discharge permits. Sewage flow meter was showing outflow volumes in a repeating pattern that did not reflect the actual outflow. This is almost identical to the occurrence in 2023. They were not maintaining adequate discharge records as required. They can prove they did not discharge more than their permit volume through other information. Discussion with the manufacturer has not provided any information on the cause of the recurring fault. They are determined to replace this with an alternative from a different manufacturer. They have introduced further mitigation measures while this is being implemented. Breach of daily discharge limit of the boiler flow neutralising system - a valve failed to reseal-through other available data they can demonstrate they did not discharge an abnormal amount of effluent.
- No events reported to DNSR or ONR.
- The annual security and safety demonstration exercise will take place in June.
- ONR undertook a health and safety inspection on electrical safety and DNSR inspection of arrangements of compliance to authorisation 36 – organisation capabilities.

- In January we submitted to SEPA the evidence we consider demonstrates we have addressed the findings raised in the September inspection.
- Hosting a visit for the Committee of Radioactive Waste Management on 27 March 2024.
- Cdr Ian Walker noted that he would like to thank everyone during the challenging weather.
- Supported Caithness West Community Council in providing works for the new information sign at Reay harbour.

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked Cdr Ian Walker for his update and invited questions from members. There were no questions or issues were raised.

Cllr Struan Mackie noted that previous correspondence with MOD regarding the AUKUS agreement on nuclear propulsion. Cllr Struan Mackie wrote to the department minister regarding hundreds of jobs being created in Wales and Glasgow and the skills that would be required, this has now come out in the public. He noted that we need to be conscious of the skills in the area and ensuring we are working together, he does feel that gave department contractors and agencies are working together as we need to grow our own skill capability and retain what we have and bring in new people to the area.

DNSR:

Cllr Struan Mackie noted there was no one in attendance from DNSR but stated that if any questions arose these would be actioned through the minutes to ensure a response was forthcoming. He invited members to raise any questions.

No questions or issues were raised

SEPA: Stewart Ballantine reported that there was nothing to add from the update provided at the January subgroup.

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked Stewart Ballantine for his update and invited questions from members. Of note:

- Roger Saxon noted this is the second time that Vulcan has discharged water, and he understands this is not radiological or a safety hazard and it is a discharge limit that they are allowed. Is there a legal reason for that discharge limit if it is clean water? Is there a reason for that limit to be in place and are there any worries that maintenance on the valves is not up to scratch? Stewart Ballantine responded that he would take this as an action to the Thurso office who are responsible for determining the application related these discharges.

ACTION: DSG/PM(2024)M01/A003: Stewart Ballantine to ask the Thurso SEPA office to determine the relation of the discharge limits for Vulcan.

Cdr Ian Walker responded that with sewage issues the permit requires a limit and we are within this limit and keep accurate records - the flow meter doesn't have the accurate records. They can demonstrate to SEPA they are within the limit.

ONR: James Francis reported:

- ONR has not attended site within this reporting period.

- ONR is aware a RIDDOR event has been reported to HSE.
- ONR carried out an electrical safety inspection on site on 19 March 2024.

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked James Francis for his update and invited questions from members. There were no questions or issues raised.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the last public meeting (DSG(2023)M04) held on 6 December 2023 were ratified, proposed by David Craig, and seconded by Thelma Mackenzie.

The minutes of the DSG socioeconomic subgroup (DSG/SESG (2023) M03) held on 24 January 2024 were ratified, proposed by Davie Alexander, and seconded by Gillian Coghill.

The minutes of the DSG site restoration subgroup (DSG/SRSG(2023)M03) held on 24 January 2024 were ratified, proposed by Gillian Coghill, and seconded by Tor Justad.

6. STATUS OF ACTIONS

The status of actions were taken as read.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr Struan Mackie noted all correspondence received has been circulated to members and would be noted.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Prior to opening to DSG members, Cllr Struan Mackie noted the following;

- Cllr Struan Mackie noted he would be attending the Cross Party Parliamentary Working group on 27 March.

Cllr Mackie then invited members to raise any other business. No issues were raised

9. CLOSE

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked everyone for their input and formally closed the meeting.

Cllr Struan Mackie
DSG Chair
17 April 2024

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

DSG/PM(2024)M01/A001: Mark Rouse/Mac MacGill to provide the group operating framework.

Endorsed on 10 September 2024

DSG/PM(2024)M01/A002: Alan Mackay to provide an update on the GDF disposal facility report.

DSG/PM(2024)M01/A003: Stewart Ballantine to ask the Thurso SEPA office to determine the relation of the discharge limits for Vulcan.