

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

DSG(2009)M002

MINUTE OF THE DSG MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24TH JUNE 2009 AT 1900 HOURS IN THE PENTLAND HOTEL, THURSO

Present:	Alastair MacDonald	DSG Chairman
	Bob Earnshaw	DSG Vice-Chairman
	Roy Kirk	Highlands & Islands Enterprise
	Eann Sinclair	Caithness & NS Regeneration Partnership
	Derrick Milnes	Wick and & Thurso Trade Union Council
	Ian Clark	Dounreay Unions *
	Donna Innes	Buldoo Residents Group *
	Anne Chard	Caithness West Community Council
	Rosemary Thompson	North Highland College
	John Green	Caithness Partnership
	Trudy Morris	Caithness Chamber of Commerce
	George Farlow	Highland Council
	David Brown	Orkney Island Council
	Fiona MacPherson	Inward Investment Manager, CNSRP
	Pat Gallagher	Rolls Royce
	Irina Foss	ERI
	Silvia Batchelli	ERI
In addition:	June Love	DSG Secretariat (DSRL)
	Simon Middlemas	Managing Director, DSRL
	Stuart Chalmers	NDA
	Nigel Canty	MOD, Vulcan
	Lyn Bevington	NII (Dounreay)
	Byron Tilly	SEPA
	David Mudie	Highland Council, Planning
	Donald Norrie	Highland Council, Emergency Planning

* denoted deputies

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Alastair MacDonald, DSG Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Special welcomes were made to those attending meetings for the first time:

- Donald Norrie, Highland Council Emergency Planning.
- David Brown, Orkney Island Council. David had replaced Nick Blowfield as the Orkney representative and had attended the Environment sub group that afternoon.

The chair placed on record formal thanks to Nick Blowfield for his contribution over the past year.

- John Green is currently representing Caithness Partnership.

In addition welcome to Lee Winsor and Debbie Storm (SEPA communications) who are sitting in the audience. Both attended the ESG this afternoon as observers.

The chairman also noted a number of familiar faces in the audience, some visiting Caithness at this time.

It was also noted that this was the first full meeting held since George Bruce sadly passed away. George had been an active member of the DSG as well as other organisations and will be sadly missed by all. Our thoughts remain with Elizabeth and her family at this difficult time.

2. APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Apologies were received from the following:

David Flear Highland Council
(David was attending a Scottish Government workshop on higher activity wastes on behalf of DSG).

Roger Wilson	SEPA
John Deighan	Dounreay Unions
Richard Wilkins	DNSR Vulcan
Ian Bramwell	NII Vulcan
Isobel Swanson	Younger Farmers
John Rosie	Highland Council
Hamish Pottinger	Caithness Against Nuclear Dumping
Pauline Crow,	Health Service
Willie Calder	Scrabster Harbour Trust/Seafoods Ltd
Rick Nickerson	Shetland Island Council
Donald Mackay	Association of Caithness Community Councils
Murray Lamont	North Highland Tourism
Tim O'Brien	Caithness Contractors Consortium
Deirdre Henderson	Buldoo Residents Group
Ronnie Johnstone	Church of Scotland

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

DSG(2009)M001 refers. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and this was proposed by Derrick Milnes and seconded by Anne Chard.

4. PROGRESS ON ACTIONS

All members had received a status report on outstanding actions. Since the report had been circulated the following actions had been progressed further:

Action M001/A002: DSRL (Simon Middlemas) to set up local liaison meeting with reps from Buldoo Residents Group as soon as possible. Action complete: The first meeting is scheduled for 8th July and will have representation from Caithness West Community Council, Buldoo residents, near neighbours and DSG. Bob Earnshaw is the DSG representative for this meeting. [Secretary's note: due to availability of those attending the first meeting will be scheduled for September].

Action M001/A005: DSG members to write to MSP to try to affect progress with the Scottish land registry. This action is ongoing. The NDA's solicitors are preparing the application for submission to the ROS.

Action M001/A018: Scottish Government/HSE to update on the situation regarding the licensing of the low level waste facility. This action is ongoing – Scottish Government have responded as follows: "There are currently actions outstanding arising from the last meeting with HSE and other interested parties which require to be completed but due to other priorities in each of the organisations we have not

been able to progress this matter as quickly as we would have wished. The Scottish Government will continue to work closely with HSE and others to progress the issue of licensing facilities such as that planned for Dounreay”.

A list of ongoing and new actions can be found in Appendix 1.

5. NDA COMPETITION PROCESS FOR DOUNREAY

The Chairman updated members. During April the NDA competition team had attended both the socio economic and site operations sub groups where they outlined the process for competing the Dounreay site. [Full details are recorded in both sets of sub group minutes.] They also met with Caithness Councillors and Trade Unions on the same day.

The competition will be run out of Cumbria with legal advice from London. DSG members emphasised that it was important to ensure that Scottish Law was covered in their legal advice.

At this stage NDA envisaged there would be an industry day in Edinburgh or Glasgow and this was opposed by DSG and others.

Another meeting was held on the 10th June. The NDA had re-considered earlier discussions and had come forward with a proposal to hold an Industry Event. The intention was that this event would be in two phases - the first day would take place in Caithness and concentrate on the socio economic challenges for the county and provide an opportunity for potential bidders to familiarise themselves with the site. The second day would be held in Edinburgh or Glasgow and would concentrate more on the legal, contractual and programme issues.

The original proposal to hold an Industry Day would have meant that all topics for competition would have been covered in one day thus limiting the time to discuss the socio economic issues. By holding an event it allows real focus to be given to the challenges faced by the community and the socio economic impact of the decommissioning of the Dounreay site.

After discussion It was agreed that:

- the proposal was acceptable
- the first day would be solely on socio economic activities
- the agenda for the day would be identified by DSG
- DSG would host the day
- NDA would provide funding and resource to organise the event.
- a joint press release would be issued between DSG and NDA once dates were identified.

DSG will set up a small steering group to put together proposals for the agenda and once drafted this will be circulated to all DSG members and other interested stakeholders for comment before being finalised.

6. EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

The Chairman introduced Donald Norrie, Highland Council Emergency Planning to the meeting. He noted that at a previous meeting it had been announced that there was a planned reduction in the emergency planning zone at Dounreay. At that meeting members expressed surprise that no engagement had taken place with those who could be potentially affected.

Donald Norrie thanked the group for inviting him to attend. Of note:

- He had taken up position in the Highland Council in September last year having spent the previous 8 years in Cumbria.
- He noted the comments which had been made over the lack of engagement on the proposed reduction of the emergency planning zone. The aim to reduce the zone should be a welcome reduction and should in the future disappear all together. There are two plans in existence at present – one that reflects the zone as was and the 2nd one which reflects the reduction. The new plan will not be issued until NII feel that you have been consulted.
- Vulcan also have an emergency planning zone and without pre-empting this it is expected that ultimately the Vulcan and Dounreay emergency planning zones will be combined into one document.

Ian Webster, Buldoo Residents Group noted that he had looked up the 2001 regulations that local authorities issue and within that it states that consultation should take place with other persons including members of the public. In the circumstances Buldoo residents who live within the 1.15km should have been informed of the proposed changes. He stated that it would be useful for the affected families to have discussions to ensure they understood the changes being proposed.

Anne Chard suggested that, in future, a presentation be provided to Caithness West Community Council which would adequately cover consultation within the affected area.

Donald Norrie responded that he would consult with NII to make sure views have been taken on board, particularly those views from the community within the emergency planning zone.

Lyn Bevington responded that he was also available if there were any questions on the technical position.

7. VULCAN UPDATE

The Chairman noted that at a previous meeting DSG members had asked for an update on the future of the Vulcan site. A list of questions had been produced – DSG(2009)C021 refers and a written response had been received (DSG(2009)C046 refers). Nigel Canty outlined the following:

- The Vulcan emergency planning zone may also be the subject of a reduction at some stage and they would take on board the discussions held to ensure that engagement with those affected took place at the appropriate time.

The submission for the planned reduction is about to be forwarded to DNSR for initial assessment prior to evaluation by NII. The reason for the planned reduction is appropriate and any recommendation in the joint development of a single plan with Dounreay has yet to be decided.

- Commodore McFarlane and Captain Coulthard had both visited the Vulcan site recently and both had been positive about the operations of the site.

- Lonestar exercise was not a requirement to demonstrate the external plan and therefore DNSR took the lead in assessing the adequacy of the exercise. They deemed this to be an adequate demonstration. NII and DNSR both had observers in attendance to witness the demonstration.
- The plant is nearing completion of its annual maintenance programme and it is expected that operational activities will commence shortly.
- In relation to the questions outlined in DSG(2009)C021:
 - no decisions have been made as yet. It is assumed that the current contract will be finished in 2014.
 - Within the next 2 years MOD will be trying to establish what the requirements will be and how best the submarine propulsion programme will be serviced.
 - Studies are currently underway and they are fairly confident that the recommendation will be not to extend critical operations beyond 2013/14. This will be finalised in Autumn 2009.
 - In the event of operations ceasing in 2014 a programme of decommissioning would be undertaken. In considering such a programme the Dounreay site decommissioning programme will be taken into account.
 - The Trident requirements do not go to Government until later this year for a decision.

Alastair MacDonald thanked Nigel for the update and appreciated that until decisions were made from Government and MOD it was difficult to predict the future programme of Vulcan.

8. ADMIN AND PROCEDURES SUB GROUP UPDATE

Bob Earnshaw reported. Of note:

The sub group meeting was held on 22nd May 2009. DSG/APSG(2009)M002 refers and these minutes have been circulated to all members in advance of this meeting. Of note:

- DSG finances were audited by the Dounreay site Finance Department. The accounts were in order.
- Following the AGM the Terms of Reference had been distributed to all members.
- A letter has been sent to all members providing the key dates for DSG and sub group meetings and also the remit and membership of each of the sub groups. All members are encouraged to ensure they have deputies in place to allow continuity in times of absence. All members are also reminded that they are representing an organisation and all information from DSG should be cascaded through your respective organisations.
- A small number of vacancies have arisen due to the representative moving on to new jobs. The Admin and Procedures sub group will continue to progress new representation from the organisations involved. One change which has taken place is that John Green will represent the Caithness Partnership until the recently vacated post is filled. Willie Calder will represent Scrabster Harbour Trust (as well as Scrabster Seafoods Ltd) until such times as the Scrabster Harbour Trust position is filled.

- A diary of events has been compiled by the secretary and will continue to be updated and distributed to you on a regular basis.
- DSRL/Local community liaison group: A letter has been received from DSRL requesting DSG representative on the liaison group which is a condition of the planning consent for the low level waste facility. After confirmation from members I will be representing the DSG on this group.
- A Scottish Government workshop on higher activity wastes is taking place today. We expressed disappointment that this clashed with our meeting today however it was impossible to re-arrange therefore David Flear is in Edinburgh to attend this important workshop as it is certainly going to have an impact on the decommissioning of Dounreay.

For completeness all actions from the Admin and Procedures sub group are recorded here:

M002/A001: Secretary to seek clarification on representation of the National Farmers Union. *Action ongoing – a letter has been written to NFU.*

M002/A002: Secretary to write letter to all DSG members enclosing DSG(2009)C037 and the dates of all forthcoming DSG and sub group meetings. *Action complete – see DSG(2009)C041.*

M002/A003: Secretary to contact Nigel Canty to ensure that he was available to provide an update on the future of Vulcan (addressing list of questions outlined in DSG(2009)C021. *Action complete – email sent to N Canty on 25th May 2009 and confirmed.*

M002/A004: Secretary to write to all DSG members with reference to representation on the DSRL/Local Community Liaison Group. *Action complete – email sent to DSG members. Bob Earnshaw will be representative with Derrick Milnes as deputy.*

M002/A005: Secretary to write to Scottish Government expressing DSG's disappointment of date of workshop. *Action complete – email sent to Scottish Government on 25th May – a response was given on 27th May to say unfortunately they could not change the date of this workshop. David Flear will represent DSG at this workshop.*

9. SITE OPERATIONS SUB GROUP UPDATE

Alastair MacDonald provided the update in Tim O'Brien's absence. Of note:

The sub group meeting was held on 27th April and the minutes of the meeting have been circulated to all members. (DSG/SOSG(2009)M002 refers). Of note:

- Representation on Emergency planning meeting was discussed.
- NDA competition team attended sub group to outline process for competition.
- Nigel Canty provided an update on Vulcan, of note:
 - Plant currently shutdown for maintenance and will continue to June.
 - No significant changes to staff numbers and expect this to remain during 2012-2014.

- There was no reports available from DNSR or NII for the sub group. DNSR report has now been received and will be brought forward for next sub group meeting.
- DSRL update:
 - Safety remains a priority for the site and a 'stop work' session was held recently concentrating on electrical work. Similar sessions are planned for future dates.
 - Planning for the new low level waste facility has now been confirmed.
 - Decommissioning continues to make good progress with over 31,500 airline suit entries carried out last year between DSRL and contractor staff.
 - A presentation was given to Shetland Island Council on progress of decommissioning and outlined waste and fuel strategies.

Simon Middlemas provided a verbal update:

- that the presentation to Shetland Island Council had been positively received.
- Safety was the main focus of the site at present as statistics show that July/ August are the months most likely where an accident will occur.
- Looking at presenting staff and contractor numbers in a different format and asked for feedback.
- Held a successful emergency exercise which was deemed as satisfactory.
- Reduction of the highest hazard of the site was progressing well with 10% of the inventory not destroyed.
- DVD available on the website entitled 'Countdown to closure' – feedback was invited.

Trudy Morris asked if the Chamber could have visibility of the programme for contracts for the site. Simon Middlemas agreed to meet with her to discuss.

Action: DSG(2009)M002/A006: Simon Middlemas and Trudy Morris to meet to discuss site contracts.

Derrick Milnes noted that the media was reporting that 13 companies had showed an interest in the sale of UKAEA Ltd. He asked whether a list of those companies interested was available. Simon Middlemas said he believed that these had now been shortlisted and there was a total of 8 left. He did not have any further details on this.

- NII update::
 - NII had worked with SEPA to agree the restart of commissioning activities for the NaK Disposal Plant at DFR.
 - A briefing from DSRL had been received on contaminated land strategy
 - No change in the progress of licensing the low level waste facility. [Again – this has been discussed previously].
 - NII will shortly move out of main stream HSE and into a statutory corporation. New build is one of the reasons for this change in direction.

Lyn Bevington provided a verbal update as follows:

- In terms of the organisational changes to HSE/NII the day to day business and powers to carry out the regulatory work will remain the same, ie business as usual. The reason for the change in the working arrangements is to allow greater flexibility in dealing with demands placed on NII including the new build

programme in England/Wales and the MOD related work as well as the NDA decommissioning sites. It is intended that a consultation process on this issue will be carried out fairly soon.

Alastair MacDonald asked whether the change of arrangements will help with the resources of NII. Lyn Bevington responded that one of the objectives for changing was to ensure there was flexibility to respond to demands on NII resources. As a result of the change there will be satellite offices set up in Cheltham and London which should help in securing sufficient resources to carry out their remit.

- NII had witnessed both the Dounreay and Vulcan emergency exercises and both were deemed adequate.
- NII were gearing up to deal with the process of the NDA competition for the Dounreay site. It would not be as onerous a task as that carried out when the site carried out their re-licensing organisation. The message to the site from NII is that they expect to see the focus on safety maintained throughout the competition process and that for DSRL it should be business as usual..
- At the site operations sub group meetings NII had intimated concern over a number of minor issues. DSRL had informed NII of a number of failings in due process and administration processes which NII had followed up during inspections in May. NII were satisfied that these issues were administration failures and did not lead to a reduction in safety. DSRL have confirmed they are looking at ways of improving these processes.
- To endorse what Simon Middlemas had already said, NII were pleased that good progress is being made in the reduction of the highest hazard on the site. In conjunction with SEPA, NII were involved this year in inspecting the upgrades made to the plant at DFR and had given agreement for resumption of activities.
- NDA update:
 - The NDA business plan had now been published. Agreement on the reduction of consultation from 12 weeks to 8 has been agreed.
 - Funding for the site confirmed at £156M, funded at £153M (takes into account 3% efficiencies)
 - The site had had a good year with regards to delivering the site decommissioning programme.
 - The lifetime plan was submitted to NDA in March by DSRL. Minor adjustments were currently taking place.

Stuart Chalmers provided a verbal update:

- On personnel changes: Richard Jones, Head of Competition had left the NDA and Phil Trevian had taken over this role. In addition, a recent announcement that Tony Fountain had been appointed as new Chief Executive and would take up his position in October 2009.

Other business arising from the sub group included:

- DSG representatives attended the Scottish Sites meeting in Edinburgh with Scottish Government and the Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances. (SCORRS) launch on 1st May.

At the Scottish Sites meeting the following was discussed:

- Scottish Government policy updates, including
 - Higher activity waste
 - Low level waste – non-nuclear industry and NDA LLW strategy
 - Radioactive contaminated land regulations
 - Exemption order review
 - Waste substitution
- Greg Allan reported on the Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership holding this up as a good example for others to follow.
- Margaret Burns and Brian Clark from CoRWM provided an update.
- There was also a discussion on new build for England/Wales.
- NDA presented updates on skills and the competition process.

The minutes of the meeting will be distributed shortly and DSG members will be provided with these when available.

- SCCORS meeting: The remit of this group is to provide a mechanism to identify a common, Scottish local authority viewpoint on radioactive waste management issues and to act as an interface with Scottish Government, Parliament and regulatory bodies as they consult on radioactive waste management and clean-up policy and practice and to influence a national policy on radioactive waste management in the interests of the communities affected.

It was made clear by Chair, Councillor George Regan that this forum was not to debate for or against nuclear but to ensure local authorities were informed on the issues.

Presentations from Health Protection Agency, NDA, Scottish Government, SEPA and NII were provided.

SCCORS will meet approximately three times per year and it was suggested to the chair that they rotate these meetings round the affected sites to ensure local authority representatives could see first hand the challenges and progress of the sites.

- DECC workshop on plutonium was attended by Alastair MacDonald on 21st May in Manchester. This workshop was held following the prime ministers speech on nuclear energy and proliferation on 17 March and referred to the need to examine how best to deal with the accumulated stocks of fissile material for the long term.

DECC's intention is to set out, in a public consultation, a preliminary view of what is considered an appropriate long term solution for dealing with plutonium. This meeting was a pre-meeting before the consultation is launched.

For completeness all actions arising from the site operations sub group are recorded here:

M002/A007: NDA competition team to evaluate the possibility of holding the industry day in Caithness and to feedback to the DSG. *Action complete – see report in DSG(2009)M002.*

M002/A008: Alan Coghill to write to Buldoo residents outlining what activities is likely to be undertaken over the next 2-3 months to ensure there is no void of information while the liaison group is being set up. *Action complete – letter been sent.*

M002/A009: Communications Dept to consider if there is a more uniformed way of reporting DSRL and contractors working on site. *Action ongoing – Communications Department have come back with two different options for reporting and this will be discussed at next site operations sub group in July 2009.*

- **Community benefits working group update**

Bob Earnshaw provided an update:

The DSG community benefits working group met on 14th May to discuss the next stages in setting up a funding body to take forward a process for administering the fund. Highland Council, NDA and DSRL representatives were invited to attend to provide input on governance and guidance.

As a reminder the background to this is:

- DSG had set up a working group approx 2 years ago to consider a funding package for the low level waste facility.
- While the working group concentrated on the proposed low level waste facility it was recognised that there could be other opportunities in the future and not just related to the Dounreay site and therefore the process adopted for administering a fund would need to be flexible in its approach.
- Discussions had taken place with NDA, DSRL and Highland Council and the outset was a £4M funding package with £1M paid into the fund in 2011 (at the start of construction) with £300K provided as soon as the facility became operational (2014 to 2023).
- DSG working group had recognised that they would not be the body to administer such a fund but would continue to work until a funding 'body' was identified and could take over the process.

At the last meeting we held we agreed the following:

- A total of 7 people should be appointed to the funding body.
- Two Highland Councillors would become members of the body (awaiting confirmation from Highland Council)
- The remaining five places will be advertised to allow anyone with an interest to apply.
- NDA and/or DSRL will provide a governance role.

After the funding body is in place

- The new body will progress branding, principles for fund, criteria for assessment, and marketing material.
- DSRL will provide any legal support required to draw up the agreement.
- NDA will ensure governance in this process.

DSRL has met with their legal advisers and a letter has now been sent responding to some of the questions raised. A further meeting of the working group will be organised in the next couple of weeks to progress the actions required to get to a point where the adverts can be placed. DSG will continue to lead this, in partnership with Highland Council, until there is a legal body identified and in place.

10. ENVIRONMENT SUB GROUP UPDATE

George Farlow provided the update from this meeting. The ESG had met this afternoon and therefore no minutes were available at this time. Of note:

- The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
- Particles update:
 - Dounreay, in association with other agencies, were looking at ways of minimising access to the site foreshore.
 - Off-shore clean-up started on 1st June and the aim was to cover 7.5 hectares.
 - Monitoring of the beaches continues –
 - Two significant particles were detected on the Dounreay foreshore in March. Bird nest season has limited monitoring.
 - Dunnet beaches: One minor particle has been detected and retrieved at Murkle. Dunnet beach strandline is complete – no particles were detected. SEPA are carrying out a habit survey of Dunnet beach.
 - Sandside: 14 particles were detected and retrieved in June. Access was withdrawn from the landowner during this survey.
 - Expert group: New expert body set up to replace the Dounreay Particles Advisory Group. The new group – Particles Retrieval Advisory Group (PRAG) will consider the data collected from the offshore particles retrieval work. DSG have been asked to consider representation at this meeting.
- Updates:
 - DSRL:
 - Update on progress of ventilation system project for the fuel cycle area.
 - Investigation currently being undertaken into small traces of tritium in active drains. Plant is shutdown at this time.
 - Good progress with reduction of high hazard material (liquid metal coolant) at DFR. 10% of inventory is now destroyed.
 - Emergency exercise on 13th May was deemed an adequate demonstration.
 - SEPA:
 - DSG(2009)P015 refers.
 - Written to landowners to advise on SEPA's plans to carry out radioactive contaminated land survey.
 - NDA:
 - Written update provided.
 - NDA consultation on low level waste strategy now published. ESG agreed that a response should be submitted and an action placed on all DSG members to input.

- DSRL provided a verbal update on the all waste options study which has now been submitted to SEPA.
- DSRL also provided an update on new site discharge authorisation reflecting the change from operational to decommissioning activities. ESG suggested a presentation at the next ESG and DSG meeting to provide details of the proposed discharges.

Byron Tilly SEPA provided an update on the change of approach for consulting on the low level waste authorisation. Following the previous presentation SEPA had taken on board the feedback provided. It is now proposed that the consultation will be in two phases, the first phase will be to consult with statutory consultees and following feedback SEPA would begin to determine the application. Following an initial assessment the logic of their thinking would then go out for consultation to the wider community.

Member of the audience, William MacIvor requested that a statement from the Sandside landowner be read out. The statement was as follows:

“I wish to inform you that following unanimous advice from all our advisers we have now offered those responsible for Dounreay a more than fair and reasonable means where, by partly dealing now with matters already agreed, consent for monitoring can immediately be restored. The ball is in the polluter’s court.”

For completeness all actions from the Environment sub group are recorded here:

M002/A010: Secretary to write to Nick Blowfield (Orkney Island Council) to thank him for his contribution to the environment sub group and to DSG over the past year.

M002/A011: Phil Cartwright to ensure that the Dunnet landowners are given prior notice before monitoring was undertaken at Dunnet beach.

M002/A012: ESG members to consider representation at the Particles Retrieval Advisory Group (PRAG).

M002/A013: DSRL (Tony Wratten) to provide a diagram to show predicted future discharges.

M002/A014: DSRL to provide a presentation at next ESG and DSG on the application for new discharge authorisation.

M002/A015: All DSG members to provide views on NDA’s consultation on low level waste strategy to the secretary.

M002/A016: Secretary to collate all responses to NDA’s consultation on low level waste strategy and draft response for endorsement by DSG members before submitting to NDA.

11. SOCIO ECONOMIC SUB GROUP UPDATE

Derrick Milnes provided the update: The socio economic sub group meeting was held on 27th April. All members had received copies of the minutes – DSG/SESG(2009)M002 refers. Of note:

- Sub group had requested an update on the Viewfirth redevelopment project for their next meeting.
- NDA competition – this has been covered earlier in the meeting.
- A number of community fund requests had been approved – DSG(2009)C025 and C034 provides details.
- The Caithness & North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership are now producing one report which covers all activities of the key partners. This saves having individual reports from each organisation and is a much better approach to partnership working. Suggested format amendments were made and Eann will take these on board for the next report. From the report it was noted that:
 - Pentland Firth Project was continuing well and it was expected that detail of the eight work packages identified would be available shortly.
 - The Caithness conference is planned for 1st October and will be held in the Wick Assembly Rooms. An organising committee had been established and work was ongoing to identify a programme.
 - The change of strategy for HIE was outlined with the transfer of responsibility of business gateway to the Highland Council, managed by Highland Opportunities Ltd.
 - Caithness Chamber of Commerce was continuing to work with local businesses. Membership had increased by 30 since January. A number of events have been held for businesses – particularly a question and answer sessions with bankers and attendance at the All Energy Conference.

Eann Sinclair, CNSRP Programmes Manager, provided a verbal update.

- The Caithness Conference had now been confirmed for 1st October in Wick Assembly Rooms. Rt Hon Jim Murphy, Secretary of State has been confirmed as keynote speaker.
- A vision document is being worked on and will be finalised by the end of the year to allow it to be put into the hands of potential inward investors and those interested in the Dounreay site competition. A draft document will be available at the conference.
- The National Nuclear Archive is now a standing item on the socio economic sub group agenda and progress will be discussed at the sub group meetings and reported back here.

Simon Middlemas provided an update. The NDA have now provided the scope of work and funding for the archives. This money is ring-fenced in the lifetime plan. A project manager, Stuart Henderson, has been appointed and takes up his post on 20th July. The project manager will work with other stakeholders, including the Highland Council to take this project forward.

- DSG and Wick & Thurso Trade Union Council had attended the Labour and Lib Dem political conferences delivering the key messages for regeneration of the area. In addition representatives attended the STUC conference where there was a lot of support for marine energy initiatives, etc.
- In May we attended the Conservative Political conference. Everyone we spoke to were very supportive of the decommissioning work at Dounreay and are fully behind the Caithness and North Sutherland regeneration partnership in their efforts to bring new business to the area. As a follow up – Shadow Secretary David Mundell MP will be invited to visit and Mary Scanlon has indicated she will

be visiting in the summer.

A number of follow up contacts will be made and progress will be reported at sub group meeting.

- The sale of UKAEA Ltd was noted and also the contract for IT services had now been transferred to CSC – Computer Sciences Ltd. Actions to provide updates on both these issues have been identified and will be progressed via the sub group.
- A letter had been received from the sub group requesting support in writing for a funding submission to the NDA for support of the national Mod in 2010. Members discussed the submission and given the significant economic impact that the Mod will bring to the county members agreed to support this request. A letter has been written and submitted to NDA in support of this funding application.
- Following the DSG letter to Alastair Dods regarding improvements to Far North High Schools a response from Highland Council had now been received. (DSG(2009)C024 refers). It was noted that the Highland Council were currently looking at the 10 year capital programme which would commence in 2012 – a number of high schools had been identified from improvements and this included Wick and Thurso.

Rosemary Thompson, North Highland College, noted that there was a lot of activity going at the college at this time. There were upgrades being proposed for the college facilities as a result of three basic funding packages.

When the Caithness & North Sutherland Strategy was identified it was recognised that the retention of young people in the area was an important element.

The new facilities – engineering training and energy & environment facilities will be upgraded to bring these modern standards reflecting the workplace ethos.

Thanks to NDA, HIE, DSRL and the Scottish Funding Council for funding and support additional funding was levered from Europe to ensure the funding packages in place to progress with the two new facilities.

Trends showed that there was a 20% increase in students remaining in the area from last year and other partners were now talking to the North Highland College who have an interest in the facilities proposed.

Rosemary finished by adding that this was a demonstrably project which has seen every partner work together to secure this.

Trudy Morris, Caithness Chamber of Commerce, noted the following:

- up to April membership had increased to 68 members with two premier partners – DSRL and Pentland Alliance.
- Ten Caithness companies attended the All Energy Exhibition in Aberdeen under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce. All the companies who participated agreed it was a successful exhibition and accommodation and has already been booked for next year and companies have started to book space.

- A number of events have been held – the Chamber has been working closely with CNSRP and Highland Council in relation to the town centre regeneration (for Wick and Thurso). A meeting with retailers will take place tomorrow with 38 shops looking to take part in a late night opening.
- On 30th July an event “Keep one step ahead in the recession” will be held with involvement from two accounting firms and lawyers and will consider issues including credit control, debt management, etc.
- On 10th August a member only event will be held on the Pentland Firth project at the Castle of Mey in conjunction with the Crown Estate and members of the CNSRP.
- On 17th August the Chamber will hold its AGM – all board members will step down to allow election of a new board.
- On 25th September the annual dinner will be held for members and their guests.
- The NDA had approved funding for a membership and events co-ordinator. Applications close on 30th June and there have been a number of responses with five good applications. It is expected to interview in early July with appointment being placed by the end of July.
- The Chamber will produce the first of two newsletters in the Executive magazine.
- The Chamber is above the target set for membership and finances at this point.

For completeness the actions from the socio economic sub group are recorded here:

M002/A017: June Love to ask David Brookfield for a brief on progress of Viewfirth redevelopment.

M002/A018: Eann Sinclair to circulate information on the Pentland Firth eight work packages when available.

M002/A019: Eann Sinclair to reformat CNSRP progress report with the main headings listed at the beginning of the report. *Action Complete – update for June has been circulated to Advisory Group with headings.*

M002/A020: June Love to write to Norman Harrison to invite him (or deputy) to attend next sub group to provide an update on the activities of UKAEA Ltd. *Action complete – awaiting a response from UKAEA Ltd.*

M002/A021: June Love to draft, on behalf of the socio economic sub group, a letter of support to accompany funding submission to NDA for the MOD. *Action complete – see DSG(2009)C040.*

12. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

John Crowden asked whether DSRL considered how to measure local content when awarding contracts for the site. Simon Middlemas responded that the site always considers this but needs to work within the framework of the European competition rules. John Crowden asked whether consideration of this could be taken into account when considering larger contracts to ensure local companies can support.

Simon Middlemas said the site would encourage larger companies to use local support where necessary and cited the recent ventilation project work as a good example of a local company winning the work and doing an excellent job.

John Crowden asked NDA whether the site was funded to £156M as previously stated. Stuart Chalmers confirmed that funding for the site was £156M, funded to £153M (taking into account 3% efficiency savings).

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bob Earnshaw reported and he and June Love had attended the NDA National Stakeholder Group on 17th/18th June. On the 16th he had attended a site stakeholder group chair's forum. The chair's forum had requested a visit to Dounreay so that site stakeholder representatives could understand the challenges for the Dounreay site. This visit has been agreed and the site is currently looking at available dates in September.

Full notes of the National Stakeholder Group will be available in mid July. On day one there were breakout sessions on a number of topics including NDA's annual reporting, strategy management, socio economics, deep geological repository and plutonium. Day two concentrated on low, intermediate and high level wastes and issues around these waste streams were discussed and debated. Output from the NSG helps to inform the NDA on strategic issues.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Alastair MacDonald
DSG Chairman
28th June 2009

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING (JUNE 2009)

M002/A001: Secretary to seek clarification on representation of the National Farmers Union. *Action ongoing – a letter has been written to NFU.*

M002/A002: Secretary to write letter to all DSG members enclosing DSG(2009)C037 and the dates of all forthcoming DSG and sub group meetings. *Action complete – see DSG(2009)C041.*

M002/A003: Secretary to contact Nigel Canty to ensure that he was available to provide an update on the future of Vulcan (addressing list of questions outlined in DSG(2009)C021). *Action complete – email sent to N Canty on 25th May 2009 and confirmed.*

M002/A004: Secretary to write to all DSG members with reference to representation on the DSRL/Local Community Liaison Group. *Action complete – email sent to DSG members. Bob Earnshaw will be representative with Derrick Milnes as deputy.*

M002/A005: Secretary to write to Scottish Government expressing DSG's disappointment of date of workshop. *Action complete – email sent to Scottish Government on 25th May – a response was given on 27th May to say unfortunately they could not change the date of this workshop. David Flear will represent DSG at this workshop.*

M002/A006: Simon Middlemas and Trudy Morris to meet to discuss site contracts.

M002/A007: NDA competition team to evaluate the possibility of holding the industry day in Caithness and to feedback to the DSG. *Action complete – see report in DSG(2009)M002.*

M002/A008: Alan Coghill to write to Buldoo residents outlining what activities is likely to be undertaken over the next 2-3 months to ensure there is no void of information while the liaison group is being set up. *Action complete – letter been sent.*

M002/A009: Communications Dept to consider if there is a more uniformed way of reporting DSRL and contractors working on site. *Action ongoing – Communications Department have come back with two different options for reporting and this will be discussed at next site operations sub group in July 2009.*

M002/A010: Secretary to write to Nick Blowfield (Orkney Island Council) to thank him for his contribution to the environment sub group and to DSG over the past year.

M002/A011: Phil Cartwright to ensure that the Dunnet landowners are given prior notice before monitoring was undertaken at Dunnet beach.

M002/A012: ESG members to consider representation at the Particles Retrieval Advisory Group (PRAG).

M002/A013: DSRL (Tony Wratten) to provide a diagram to show predicted future discharges.

M002/A014: DSRL to provide a presentation at next ESG and DSG on the application for new discharge authorisation.

M002/A015: All DSG members to provide views on NDA's consultation on low level waste strategy to the secretary.

M002/A016: Secretary to collate all responses to NDA's consultation on low level waste strategy and draft response for endorsement by DSG members before submitting to NDA.

M002/A017: June Love to ask David Brookfield for a brief on progress of Viewfirth redevelopment.

M002/A018: Eann Sinclair to circulate information on the Pentland Firth eight work packages when available.

M002/A019: Eann Sinclair to reformat CNSRP progress report with the main headings listed at the beginning of the report. *Action Complete – update for June has been circulated to Advisory Group with headings.*

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M002/A021: June Love to draft, on behalf of the socio economic sub group, a letter of support to accompany funding submission to NDA for the MOD. Action complete – see DSG(2009)C040.

ACTIONS ONGOING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

DSG(2009)M001/A002: DSRL (Simon Middlemas) to set up liaison meeting with representatives of Buldoo Residents Group as soon as possible. *Action ongoing – letters with draft Terms of Reference have been distributed. Expected first meeting will be held in July.*

DSG(2009)M001/A005: DSG members to write to MSP to try to affect progress with the Scottish land registry. *Action ongoing: The Registers of Scotland (ROS) initially said to the NDA in June 2007 that they would not at that time accept an application for voluntary registration of the subjects. Voluntary registrations are not normally accepted by the ROS unless there are obvious benefits to the keeper in accepting them. However in November 2008 the ROS wrote to DLA to say that the keeper now has no objection in principle to a voluntary registration of the subjects in the Sasines Register using the transfer scheme as a link in title. My understanding is that DLA Piper (NDA Solicitors) are preparing the application for submission to the ROS.*

DSG(2009)M001/A013: DSG to write to Highland Council requesting a DSG representative attend emergency planning meetings. *Action ongoing. The Secretary noted that a discussion on representation at emergency planning meetings had previously been discussed at the site operations sub group and Anne Chard had been nominated as the DSG representative. Since then the secretary has spoken with Donald Norrie (Highland Council Emergency Arrangements) who has indicated he will attend the next DSG meeting in June. DSG members can then explore the best way of being kept informed on information relating to emergency procedures for both Dounreay and Vulcan.*

DSG(2009)M001/A018: ESG to write to Scottish Government and HSE to stress that a date for a decision on whether the low level waste facility should be licensed was given greater priority to allow a decision to be made. *Action ongoing – letter sent to*

Scottish Government requesting greater urgency in reaching a decision. Awaiting response.

DSG(2009)M001/A023: Rosemary Thompson to see what accommodation was being offered at Ormlie Lodge (as part of discussion on Viewfirth redevelopment project) and report back to next meeting. *Chased on 28th May.*

M011/A008: Secretary to organise a meeting with Dr Ian Roxburgh, NDA Chief Executive and DSG members. *Action ongoing – this will be put on hold until new Chief Executive is announced and then an invitation will be extended. Topics for discussion are funding, socio-economic activities and site competition.*

M015/A021: Secretary to put heritage strategy presentation on September DSG agenda. *Action ongoing - This will come forward at a future meeting once project team has developed strategy and discussed with Historic Scotland. Updates will continue at ESG until timetable for process and engagement is finalised.*

M016/A014: Doug Graham to consider how best to present the information on environmental aspects and the frequency of this report.