

**DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP
SITE OPERATIONS SUB GROUP**

DSG/SOSG(2009)M003

Minutes of the DSG site operations sub group meeting held on Wednesday 22nd July 2009 at 1900 hours in the Pentland Hotel, Thurso.

Present:	Alastair MacDonald Anne Chard John Deighan Ian Webster Peter Body	DSG Chairman Caithness West Community Council Dounreay Unions Buldoo Residents Group Caithness Chamber of Commerce
In addition:	June Love Simon Middlemas Lyn Bevington Mark Cleminson Mike Astell	DSG Secretariat (DSRL) Managing Director (DSRL) NII Vulcan (MOD) UKAEA Ltd (observing)

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Alastair MacDonald welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that the sub group chair, Tim O'Brien, was unable to attend because of work commitments. He welcomed Mike Astell, UKAEA Ltd, who was attending in an observer capacity.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Tim O'Brien, Trudy Morris, Nigel Canty and Stuart Chalmers.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

DSG/SOSG(2009)M002 refers. It was agreed that the minutes were a true reflection of the meeting.

4. ACTIONS ARISING

Appendix 1 provides details of the status of all actions since the last meeting. Of note:

M002/A006: Simon Middlemas and Trudy Morris to discuss site contracts. Action complete: Simon Middlemas noted that he had met with Trudy.

M002/A009: Communications department to consider if there is a more uniformed way of reporting DSRL and contractor numbers working on site. *Action ongoing – two options had been circulated to members for consideration. The secretary had discussed this with Alan Scott (who had originally raised this issue). There was still concern on the reporting of contractor numbers via site held gate passes (which does not reflect the number of contractors on site in any one day). Simon Middlemas said he would be happy to discuss this with Alan Scott to see if there was a different way of collating this information.*

Action: DSG/SOSG(2009)M003/A001: Secretary to contact Alan Scott to discuss contractor number reporting with Simon Middlemas.

M001/A013: DSG to write to Highland Council requesting a DSG representative to attend emergency planning meetings. *Action complete – Donald Norrie, Highland Council Emergency Planning attending meeting on the 24th June 2009 (see DSG(2009)M002).*

The secretary noted that she had spoken with the DSRL emergency planning manager to consider DSG attendance at emergency planning meetings. It had been suggested that rather than a DSG rep attend meetings in Inverness an alternative was that, following an emergency planning meeting, the DSRL manager would provide a written brief for the site operations sub group and would subsequently attend the appropriate meeting to discuss and respond to any issues. Members agreed this was a good way forward and asked the secretary to ensure appropriate arrangements were put in place for future meetings.

Action: DSG/SOSG(2009)M003/A002: Secretary to speak to DSSRL emergency planning team to put arrangements in place to provide an update to site operations sub group at the appropriate time.

5. **NDA COMPETITION UPDATE**

Following the last meeting, the NDA had confirmed that an Industry Event would take place which would consist of a day in Caithness for local stakeholders to set out the future challenges and opportunities for Caithness and North Sutherland to allow potential bidders to understand the socio economic impact that the closure of Dounreay will have on the area. The second day would be provided in Edinburgh or Glasgow and would cover the legal and contractual issues relating to the competition.

A Steering Group of the DSG has been set up to provide an outline agenda to the NDA who would resource and fund the event. The Steering Group would meet for the first time on the 27th July and a draft programme will be circulated to all DSG members for review and input in due course.

It was expected, that due to the sale of UKAEA Ltd, the Industry Event may be delayed until January/February 2009.

6. **VULCAN UPDATE**

DSG(2009)C046 had been circulated at the DSG meeting held on 24th June 2009. In addition papers from DNSR (DSG(2009)P012) and NII (DSG(2009)P013) had been circulated to members.

DSG(2009)P018 – DNSR report covering the period April to June 2009 was also available for the sub group.

Mark Cleminson provided a verbal update. Of note:

- The plan had resumed critical operation with standard trials and core burn-up. There were no events of note to raise.
- On the Safety, security, environmental and waste side of things – Emergency exercise Lonestar had been completed satisfactorily although there was always room for improvement. Next year a higher level of emergency exercise is planned and currently they were discussing this with other agencies to try to minimise resource requirements since Dounreay will also hold a level 2 exercise.

- The REPPiR submission was sent off at the end of the month. NII will formally assess this in November with support from DNSR. This will result in a decision on any reduction in the detailed Emergency Planning zone.
- Nigel Canty, at the last DSG, provided a brief on the future of Vulcan. A formal response was expected sometime in the Autumn.
- Nigel Canty, will leave his post at Vulcan in mid-September. His replacement will be Michael Moreland.

John Deighan asked if the job numbers at Vulcan were expected to remain steady until 2014. Mark Cleminson responded that they expected this to be the case.

The secretary noted that at the socio economic sub group meeting Pat Gallagher had provided a brief on Rolls Royce's aspirations to continue in Caithness following cessation of operations at Vulcan. An update at the next DSG would be provided by Rolls Royce.

7. **DOUNREAY UPDATE**

DSG(2009)P016 site performance for May 2009 was noted. Simon Middlemas provided a verbal update. Of note:

- An audit had just been carried out by British Safety Council (BSC) for a five star award whereby a sword is awarded if successful. This had been an intensive audit and while the site was still awaiting the formal outcome of the audit positive feedback from the auditors had been forthcoming. The auditors had been extremely complementary of the approach from the site and the helpfulness of the staff. The audit covered all aspects of safety and therefore included the work carried out by contractors as well as DSRL staff and everyone should be extremely proud. At present, only one nuclear site in the UK had achieved the 5-star award.
- Site performance is going well and presently was delivering on schedule and performance. The staff, including the supply chain, were all working hard to achieve these results. Currently the site was underspending and discussions are ongoing with the NDA on this.

Alastair MacDonald stated that the positive feedback from the audit was good for the site and for the staff.

- JGC Engineering and Technical Services were currently carrying out a project on the site and through innovation have helped to identify efficiency savings. The contract is one of the biggest on the site at this time – improving the ventilation system in the fuel cycle area – and JGC were delivering this on time and on budget.

Lyn Bevington, NII concurred with this view. He stated that he had visited the project recently and had seen significant progress in the last 4-5 weeks.

Lyn Bevington then provided a verbal update of issues relating to NII:

- Following on from comments on successes. NII had a specialist team at Dounreay assessing the shaft and silo retrieval project and the waste encapsulation plant. Although formal feedback is still to be finalised early

indications are that this had been a positive visit and the team were complementary of the open and honest approach of people they had been talking to which reflects well on the site.

- NII were involved in both the Dounreay and Vulcan emergency planning exercises which have been previously reported as being satisfactory.
- NII and SEPA had approved the resumption of commissioning of the NaK Disposal Plant (NDP). A further inspection was scheduled in September with a view to commencing operations. Simon Middlemas noted that 50 batches of NaK had been destroyed to date.
- NII's Deputy Chief inspector was due to visit the site in August.
- A couple of issues had been noted at the last DSG meeting but it had been too early to provide the detail. One issue was in relation to plant modifications which had gone through an internal process but was not followed through externally. The other issue related to safety case compliance with one of the waste plants. DSRL had informed NII of these issues and had responded promptly to both. NII have decided that no further action is required although they will write to the site.
- NII had received a letter from John Thurso, MP suggesting that the lessons learnt at Dounreay for decommissioning should play an important part in the current new build programme in England and Wales. NII were currently in the process of responding.

8. **NDA UPDATE**

The secretary noted that Stuart Chalmers had tendered his apologies. Of note the NDA's annual reports and accounts had been published.

9. **RESTRUCTURING OF HSE'S NUCLEAR DIRECTORATE**

DSG(2009)C061 and C053 refers. Lyn Bevington provided a summary of the proposed restructure. Of note:

- Consultation on the proposed restructuring was underway and would close in September.
- Currently work was progressing on a transition programme
- No intention to change the powers that NII already have
- While this was ongoing it was 'business as usual' for the majority of staff

Members agreed that DSG should provide a response to the consultation. They agreed to provide feedback to the secretary who would collate the responses and circulate to all DSG members for final comment and approval before submission.

Action: DSG/SOSG(2009)M003/A003: All members to provide June with comments or feedback on the proposed restructuring of HSE. Following collation of the comments received a draft response will be circulated to all members for final comment before submission.

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- DSG(2009)C054: Feedback from higher activity waste workshop. Scottish Government have begun the process of consulting on higher activity wastes. David Flear attended the workshop on the 24th June representing DSG. The

feedback tabled was from that workshop and is currently for noting. Full consultation was expected later in the year.

- DSG(2009)C059: Plutonium management workshop summary. DECC had recently held a preliminary workshop to discuss the management of plutonium. Alastair MacDonald had represented the DSG.

Since the workshop which had been held in May a further paper had been distributed (see DSG(2009)C064) which was requesting feedback on the key factors that should be used to compare the options.

It was agreed that a response to this document should be provided and the secretary was asked to collate any comments or feedback from the pre-consultation document.

Action: DSG/SOSG(2009)M003/A004: Secretary to circulate DSG(2009)C064 to all DSG members to ask for views or feedback to respond to pre-consultation on the key factors for the long term management of plutonium.

- DSG(2009)C055: NDA international agreements. This paper was for noting. A question had been raised at the NDA National Stakeholder Group which had resulted in this information being circulated.
- DSG(2009)C056: CARL workshop. An invitation had been received to attend the CARL workshop to enable stakeholders (especially local communities) involved in radioactive waste management in the UK to meet with their counterparts in other countries. The workshop was being held at Sellafield and a site visit to the low level waste repository at Drigg was included.

Following discussion it was agreed that Anne Chard would attend this workshop on behalf of DSG. Anne had been involved in other CARL workshops.

Action: DSG/SOSG(2009)M003/A005: June Love to register Anne Chard to attend the CARL workshop.

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

Alastair MacDonald
DSG Chairman
24th July 2009

APPENDIX 1

STATUS OF ACTIONS

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

DSG/SOSG(2009)M003/A001: Secretary to contact Alan Scott to discuss contractor number reporting with Simon Middlemas.

DSG/SOSG(2009)M003/A002: Secretary to speak to DSSRL emergency planning team to put arrangements in place to provide an update to site operations sub group at the appropriate time.

DSG/SOSG(2009)M003/A003: All members to provide June with comments or feedback on the proposed restructuring of HSE. Following collation of the comments received a draft response will be circulated to all members for final comment before submission.

DSG/SOSG(2009)M003/A004: Secretary to circulate DSG(2009)C064 to all DSG members to ask for views or feedback to respond to pre-consultation on the key factors for the long term management of plutonium.

DSG/SOSG(2009)M003/A005: June Love to register Anne Chard to attend the CARL workshop.

ACTIONS ONGOING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

M002/A009: Communications department to consider if there is a more uniformed way of reporting DSRL and contractor numbers working on site. *Action ongoing – two options had been circulated to members for consideration. The secretary had discussed this with Alan Scott (who had originally raised this issue). There was still concern on the reporting of contractor numbers via site held gate passes (which does not reflect the number of contractors on site in any one day). Simon Middlemas said he would be happy to discuss this with Alan Scott to see if there was a different way of collating this information.*

ACTIONS COMPLETED SINCE LAST MEETING

M001/A013: DSG to write to Highland Council requesting a DSG representative to attend emergency planning meetings. *Action complete – Donald Norrie, Highland Council Emergency Planning attending meeting on the 24th June 2009 (see DSG(2009)M002).*

M002/A006: Simon Middlemas and Trudy Morris to discuss site contracts. Action complete: Simon Middlemas noted that he had met with Trudy.

M002/A007: NDA competition team to evaluate the possibility of holding the industry day in Caithness and to feedback to 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 in information while the liaison group is being set up. *Action complete.*