

**DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP  
SITE OPERATIONS SUB GROUP**

**DSG/SOSG(2009)M004**

Minutes of the DSG Site Operations Sub group meeting held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at 1900 hours in the Pentland Hotel, Thurso.

<b>Present:</b>	Alastair MacDonald	DSG chair
	Anne Chard	Caithness West Community Council
	John Deighan	Dounreay Unions
	Ian Webster	Buldoo Residents Group

<b>In addition:</b>	June Love	DSG Secretariat, DSRL
	Lt Cdr Mark Cleminson	MOD, Vulcan

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Alastair MacDonald welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that Tim O'Brien had tendered his apologies and he would chair this sub group meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from:

- Tim O'Brien, Caithness Contractors Consortium
- Lyn Bevington, NII
- Commander Michael Moreland, MOD (Vulcan)
- Simon Middlemas, DSRL
- Trudy Morris, Caithness Chamber of Commerce

It was noted that a number of members and observers had not attended the meeting with no apologies tendered. The attendance of members (or deputies) would be discussed with the Admin and Procedures sub group to take forward.

**3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

DSG/SOSG(2009)M003 refers – it was agreed that the minutes were a true reflection of the meeting. The minutes were proposed by Anne Chard and seconded by John Deighan.

**4. PROGRESS ON ACTIONS**

All actions relating to the site operations sub group had been completed.

DSG(2009)C069 (response to HSE re-organisation) and DSG(2009)C068 (response to pre-consultation on plutonium management (key factors)) were noted as being submitted.

**5. NDA COMPETITION UPDATE**

DSG(2009)C084 which provided an update of the NDA competition industry event was tabled.

A steering group has been actively working with the NDA to pull together a programme for part 1 of the industry event which will take place in Caithness and concentrate on the socio-economic challenges and opportunities for the future.

A number of actions had been identified and these will be progressed with the NDA and the event management company who are providing the administration for this event.

A note had been circulated to all DSG members asking if, in principle, they would like to take part in this day. Responses are coming in and members were reminded to let June know if they have an interest in attending. Once the date has been confirmed DSG members will be notified.

## 6. **VULCAN UPDATE**

Lt Cdr Mark Cleminson provided a verbal update. Of note:

- The plant was currently shutdown for maintenance. It was expected to be back in operation in December.
- No real issues of concern and no safety issues highlighted since the last meeting.
- Commander Michael Moreland had taken up his position as Naval Superintendent at Vulcan.
- The emergency planning arrangements for Vulcan had been previously outlined and work was ongoing by the NII to assess the proposed emergency zone reduction.

It was noted that Donald Norrie, Highland Council, would attend the DSG in December to provide an update.

Anne Chard asked what the reasons were for the proposed reduction of the zone. Mark Cleminson agreed to provide a briefing on the reduction of the emergency zone.

### **ACTION: DSG/SOSG(2009)M004/A001: MARK CLEMINSON TO PROVIDE A BRIEF ON WHY THE EMERGENCY PLANNING ZONE IS PROPOSED TO BE REDUCED IN TIME FOR DECEMBER DSG.**

- John Deighan asked that if the decision was to cease operations in 2014 was there a chance of some co-operation at Dounreay for decommissioning.

Mark Cleminson stated that they were still awaiting a formal decision on the future of the Vulcan site and until such times this was clear it was difficult to know who would be the lead body to take such discussions forward.

- DSG papers 27 (DNSR report), P19 and P26 (NII report for Vulcan) were all noted. No issues were raised.

## 7. **DOUNREAY UPDATE**

There was no representation from DSRL at the meeting.

- Site performance papers were tabled – see DSG(2009)P21 (July report), P24 (Aug report) and P028 (Sept report). No issues of concern were raised.
- DSG(2009)P022 (NII report for Dounreay) was tabled. Lyn Bevington had tendered his apologies but had intimated that if there were any issues raised he

would be happy to respond via correspondence or take up at the DSG meeting in December. No issues of concern were raised.

#### 8. NDA UPDATE

There was no representation from NDA at the meeting.

- Members noted their disappointment and concern that no-one attended from DSRL or the NDA. It was agreed to write to both organisations expressing this disappointment.

**ACTION: DSG/SOSG(2009)M004/A002: CHAIRMAN TO WRITE TO DSRL AND NDA ON BEHALF OF DSG SUB GROUP EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THERE WAS NO REPRESENTATION AT THIS MEETING.**

#### 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **Plutonium management:** DSG(2009)C085 had been circulated in advance to the sub group. This was a pre-consultation covering the methodology and timetable for decision making for long term plutonium management. Response to this document is required by 30<sup>th</sup> November.

The sub group agreed that the DSG should submit a response and this would be drafted and circulated to all members for comment and endorsement before submission.

**ACTION: DSG/SOSG(2009)M004/A003: SITE OPERATIONS SUB GROUP MEMBERS TO PROVIDE SECRETARY WITH COMMENTS ON DSG(2009)C085 RESPONDING TO THE PRE-CONSULTATION OF THE METHODOLOGY AND TIMETABLE FOR DECISION MAKING FOR LONG TERM PLUTONIUM MANAGEMENT.**

- **Waste substitution:** It was noted that the secretary had circulated a note round DSG members on 9<sup>th</sup> October regarding foreign fuel which is currently at Dounreay and is not in an appropriate form to send back to the originator. A report in the media covered this topic.

Scottish Government has provided a statement on this issue as follows:

"The media recently reported that a decision had been taken to keep wastes at Dounreay arising from Dounreay overseas fuel reprocessing contracts rather than return wastes to the countries involved. This is incorrect. The Scottish Government have not taken such a decision.

The Scottish Government will consult widely and openly on proposals for how best to deal with the waste in the next few months, and we are absolutely clear that no decisions will be taken until we have fully considered all the responses to the consultation process."

- Ian Webster stated that there needed to be more clarity around waste issues. He had read some information about orphan wastes and it appeared it was getting close to abandoning some wastes.

Discussions then centred on the number of consultations that appeared to be in the pipeline. Consultations on waste substitution, higher activity wastes,

plutonium management were all in the pipeline and the NDA had also extended their UK strategy for low level waste. The NDA was also looking to inform its strategy over the coming year. In addition, no outcome had been forthcoming on discussions between Scottish Government and NII on whether the low level waste disposal facility at Dounreay would be licensed. These were all important issues for the Dounreay site and it was agreed that the group would write to Scottish Government on this subject and to request a clearly set out timetable of the consultations that were coming up.

**ACTION: DSG/SOSG(2009)M004/A004: Site operations sub group to write to Scottish Government requesting a list of consultations and the timescale for the proposed consultations.**

There being no further business the Chair thanked those in attendance and closed the meeting.

**Alastair MacDonald**  
**DSG Chairman**  
28<sup>th</sup> October 2009

## **APPENDIX 1 – PROGRESS ON ACTIONS**

### **ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING**

DSG/SOSG(2009)M004/A001: Mark Cleminson to provide a brief on why the emergency planning zone is proposed to be reduced in time for December DSG..

DSG/SOSG(2009)M004/A002: Chairman to write to DSRL and NDA on behalf of DSG sub group expressing disappointment that there was no representation at this meeting.

DSG/SOSG(2009)M004/A003: Site Operations sub group members to provide Secretary with comments on DSG(2009)C085 responding to the pre-consultation of the methodology and timetable for decision making for long term plutonium management.

DSG/SOSG(2009)M004/A004: Site operations sub group to write to Scottish Government requesting a list of consultations and the timescale for the proposed consultations.