

**DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP  
SITE OPERATIONS SUB GROUP**

**DSG/SOSG(2010)M001**

Minutes of the DSG site operations sub group meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 1900 hours in the Pentland Hotel (large lounge), Thurso.

<b>Present:</b>	Bob Earnshaw	Thurso Community Council (DSG vice chair)
	Anne Chard	Caithness West Community Council
	David Alexander	Dounreay Unions
	Ian Webster	Buldoo Residents Group
	June Love	DSG Secretariat/DSRL
	Brad Smith	DSRL
	John Lawes	NDA
	David Hanratty	NII (Dounreay)
	Mark Cleminson	MOD, Vulcan

**MINUTES**

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Bob Earnshaw welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that since the sub group chair had not arrived he would chair the meeting. {Secretary's note: belated apologies were tendered by the sub group chairman who unfortunately could not attend due to other work commitments}.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Donald Mackay (Association of Caithness Community Councils), John Deighan (Dounreay Unions), Trudy Morris (Caithness Chamber of Commerce), Simon Middlemas (DSRL Managing Director), Stuart Chalmers (NDA), Michael Moreland (MOD, Vulcan) and Peter Dickenson (NII for Dounreay).

**3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

DSG/SOSG(2009)M004 refers. The minutes were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting and this was proposed by Ian Webster and seconded by Anne Chard.

**4. PROGRESS ON ACTIONS**

See appendix 1 for progress on actions and new actions raised.

**5. VULCAN UPDATE**

Mark Cleminson provided a verbal update. Of note:

- The plant was currently shutdown. Current programme shows start-up late February/early March.
- The Regulators have visited the site once since the last sub-group meeting. No significant issues were raised.
- Work was continuing on planning this year's emergency response demonstration, Lonestar 10.
- The assessment of the proposed reduction of the emergency planning zone was ongoing. The regulators have asked for some additional information and this is envisaged to be available to them in late February to allow a decision to be made.

Papers from DNSR (DSG(2010)P001) and NII (DSG(2010)P004) were tabled. There were no issues raised.

#### 6. **DOUNREAY UPDATE**

DSG(2009)P030 refers. Brad Smith provided a verbal update. Of note:

- The award of the British Safety Council Sword of Honour.
- The amber area of a former fuel plant has now been totally remediated.
- Seventy-seven batches of liquid metal have now been destroyed. The plant is currently shutdown for maintenance and is expected to restart operations in the next 2-3 weeks. 90 batches are expected to be destroyed by the end of the financial year.
- DSRL has been working with NDA with regards the NDA competition industry event in Caithness and Glasgow.

DSG(2010)P003: NII report for DSRL, October to December 2009. David Hanratty provided a verbal update. Of note,

- Peter Dickenson, NII site inspector will take over from Lyn Bevington who has moved within the NII to a new position.

Members asked that Lyn Bevington was thanked for his involvement in the DSG over the years and to wish him good luck in his new job within NII.

- Peter Dickenson had not been available for this meeting but looked forward to working with DSG in the future.
- The Annual Review of Safety meeting had taken place on 26<sup>th</sup> November which was a positive meeting.
- NII approved DSRL arrangements for managing changes to the regulatory milestones (Licence Condition 35).
- NII had been informed of an event involving higher than anticipated radiation doses received by operating staff who were preparing to move an ILW flask. The site have carried out their own investigation and NII are taking this very seriously and are currently undertaking their own investigation of the circumstances. The investigation was at an early stage and would be reported fully once NII's due process has been completed.

#### 7. **NDA UPDATE**

John Lawes provided a verbal update. Of note:

- NDA were continuing to work with DSG and others on the NDA competition industry event, both in Caithness and Glasgow.
- With regards the competition focus was on the NDA ensuring a level playing field for all potential bidders especially since the incumbent management intend to bid for the site.

- Chief Executive Tony Fountain has now completed 100 days in his new post. He stated, on his arrival, that he would be looking to rewire the NDA and with this in mind two of the senior directors (Jim Morse and Bill Roberts) have now left the company. Late last year Mr Fountain visited the Dounreay site and met with the NDA site facing team. His comments on the decommissioning progress of the site were very positive.
- The public value programme (PVP) looking at funding of all public bodies continues and is expected to be complete by end of February. The financial climate and issues surrounding the review have been fully documented and discussed at previous meetings.
- The NDA had requested that Dounreay be left out of the PVP evaluation due to the competition process. It has been confirmed that competition will continue and an announcement of funding is expected next week.

Brad Smith noted that DSRL were currently looking at different planning scenarios dependent on levels of funding available and would continue to discuss this with the NDA. Until the funding levels are announced it was impossible to speculate on what would happen with regard to the decommissioning programme.

Anne Chard asked that if a change of Government occurred would that mean further financial cuts in the budget. David Alexander said that the unions were pursuing this and have asked the question to all shadow ministers and will continue to lobby for adequate funding to allow the site to continue decommissioning.

## 8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- DSG(2009)C089: NDA's 21 strategy objectives was tabled for noting.
- DSG(2009)C108: DSG's submission NDA's draft business plan was tabled. The secretary noted that she had received a couple of further suggestions from the socio economic sub group meeting and would be amending the submission as appropriate. A final draft would be circulated to all members for final approval to allow the letter to be submitted to NDA. Consultation closes on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010.
- DSG(2010)C001: Scottish Government's consultation on higher activity wastes. The secretary noted that this had previously been discussed at the socio economic sub group meeting and sub group members had agreed that this would have to be the subject of focussed meetings. She also noted that a request for DSRL to provide a presentation on the potential impacts for the site be given at the March DSG meeting. She would follow up these actions.
- It was also noted that the Buldoo Residents Group would meet with DSRL management on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

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

**Bob Earnshaw**  
DSG Vice-chairman  
22nd January 2010

## **APPENDIX 1 – STATUS OF ACTIONS**

### **ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

DSG(2009)M004/A001: DSG members to write to Scottish Government on the storage of waste and landfill.

### **ACTIONS COMPLETED**

DSG(2009)M004/A007: All members to discuss with their respective organisations and submit views to the heritage strategy. *Action complete – reminder sent out and closing date of 8<sup>th</sup> March is now passed.*

DSG(2009)M004/A009: Mark Cleminson to provide a brief on why the emergency planning zone is proposed to be reduced in time for December DSG. *Action complete – an update was provided on 9<sup>th</sup> December. This will come back to the table once NII give approval to the Vulcan emergency planning zone.*

DSG(2009)M004/A010: Chairman to write to DSRL and NDA on behalf of DSG sub group expressing disappointment that there was no representation at this meeting. *Action superseded – letters from NDA and DSRL were received.*

DSG(2009)M004/A011: 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. *Action complete.*

DSG(2009)M004/A012: Site operations sub group to write to Scottish Government requesting a list of consultations and the timescale for the proposed consultations. *Action complete – see DSG(2009)C098*

DSG(2009)M004/A020: DSG to write to Babcock International (through Simon Middlemas) inviting them to meet with stakeholder group members at the earliest opportunity, *Action complete – see DSG(2009)C097. Proposed dates are 21/22<sup>nd</sup> January or 28/29<sup>th</sup> January 2009.*

DSG(2009)M004/A023: Secretary to respond to DSG(2009)C092 (invite to pre-consultation on bulk quantities and licensing of disposal) *Action complete – email sent on 16<sup>th</sup> November confirming Bob Earnshaw's attendance at workshop*