

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

UPDATE FOR SSG CHAIR'S FORUM – 16TH MARCH 2010

- DSG held its annual general meeting on 10th March. Bob Earnshaw was elected as DSG chair with Councillor David Flear elected as vice-chairman.
- At the AGM Alastair MacDonald received an honorary life membership for his commitment and long-stand association with DSG (and previously with the Dounreay Local Liaison Committee).
- The main DSG meeting was held on 10th March. Highlights for this group included:

Elizabeth Gray, Scottish Government, provided a presentation on the high activity waste consultation currently being carried out. A DSG working group met on Friday 12th to discuss a response to the consultation.

The action on whether the site's low level waste disposal facility would be licensed was raised. It was stated that discussions were still ongoing and consultation would be undertaken in due course.

DSRL informed the group that the site programme was currently under review to accommodate the £150m funding allocated to the site for financial year 2011/12. Some projects, especially the new builds, were currently being reviewed.

SEPA intimated that they were working with DSRL to resolve the issue of material stored on site being subject to landfill tax after a three year period.

UKAEA, following its acquisition by Babcock, has terminated its working arrangements with AMEC.

National Nuclear Archives – an action was placed to write to the NDA to ask for re-assurance that this project would still go ahead in the timescales planned.

NDA held the second part of the Industry Event in Glasgow on 9th March in Glasgow. DSG members felt that clarity was required now on what would be required within the contract in terms of socio-economics. Members agreed to pursue this issue outside the meeting as a matter of urgency.

- Dounreay has recently carried out a consultation on a heritage strategy for the site. At one of the workshops Scottish, Welsh and English Heritage were present and they appeared to like the site's approach to developing a strategy. One of the issues that was raised via workshops and written submissions was a NDA national strategy on heritage.
- A working group is continuing to progress the community fund related to the low level waste facility. We are currently awaiting the legal document and following receipt of that we will start to look at setting up a funding body to move this forward.

- The SSG chair's visit to Dounreay has now been organised for 29th June. I would suggest that June works through Richard Griffen to provide a programme for the visit, etc. It would be useful to know whether you intend to hold a SSG chair's meeting when you are in Caithness because that will depend on how long you have to visit the site.
- From an operational point of view, DSRL are:

Continuing to destroy the highest hazard on the site – the liquid metal from the Dounreay Fast Reactor. 89 batches have now been destroyed.

Voluntary early release has been offered to DSRL staff. The site will continue to monitor this as the scenarios for the plan are developed with regards to the funding provided.

The NII are currently investigating an event involving higher than anticipated radiation doses received by operating staff who were preparing to move a flask. NII are going through their due process before a decision is made on the action, if any, is taken.

The site has achieved a year without a lost time accident. This includes all DSRL staff as well as sub-contractors.

A new contract for the clean-up of particles in the off-shore environment has been awarded to Land and Marine Services. The 2010 campaign will take place in July.

The site has just submitted its new discharge authorisation to SEPA for consideration.

Bob Earnshaw
DSG Chairman
14th March 2010