

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th March 2010 at 1900 hours in the Pentland Hotel, Thurso.

Present:	Bob Earnshaw	DSG chair (Thurso Community Council)
	Alastair MacDonald	DSG honorary member
	Roy Kirk	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
	Eann Sinclair	Caithness & North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership
	John Deighan	Dounreay Unions
	Derrick Milnes	Wick and Thurso Trade Union Council
	Ronnie Johnstone	Church of Scotland
	Anne Chard	Caithness West Community Council
	Ian Webster	Buldoe Residents Group
	Hamish Pottinger	Caithness Against Nuclear Dumping
	Pat Gallagher	Rolls Royce, Vulcan
	Cllr George Farlow	Highland Council (Sutherland)
	Cllr Rick Nickerson	Shetland Islands Council
	Cllr Steven Heddle	Orkney Islands Council
	Cllr Donnie Mackay	Highland Council (Caithness)
	Donald Mackay	Association of Caithness Community Councils
	Koreen MacDougall	Caithness Partnership
	Trudy Morris	Caithness Chamber of Commerce
	Alan Scott	Caithness Contractors Consortium
In addition:	June Love	DSG Secretariat, DSRL
	Simon Middlemas	Managing Director, DSRL
	Stuart Chalmers	NDA, Programme Manager
	David Mudie	Highland Council, Planning
	Roger Wilson	SEPA
	Peter Dickenson	NII (Dounreay)
	Mark Cleminson	MoD, Vulcan
	Ian Bramwell	NII (Vulcan)
	Stuart Currie	DNSR (Vulcan)
	Elizabeth Gray	Scottish Government, Radwaste Dept

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bob Earnshaw thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He noted that the DSG annual general meeting had just been held and the following changes had been made:

Bob Earnshaw	DSG Chairman
Cllr David Flear	DSG Vice-chairman

He stated that prior to the AGM members had agreed, that due to his long association with the Dounreay Local Liaison Committee and for steering the DSG over the last five years, Alastair MacDonald had been appointed as an honorary member of the DSG and would act in an advisory capacity. Bob placed on record the DSG's thanks to Alastair for all his hard work over the last five years and looked forward to his continued involvement.

Bob also welcomed Elizabeth Gray, Scottish Government to the meeting. He intimated that Elizabeth would be providing a presentation on the Scottish Government's consultation on higher activity wastes later in the agenda.

He noted a number of changes to the DSG membership over the last few months. These were:

Councillor Steven Heddle now represents Orkney Islands Council and replaces David Brown.
Brian Mutch, Scottish Government Rural and Agricultural Department replaces Chris Jones.
Cllr Donnie Mackay, Highland Council replaces Cllr John Rosie.
Gordon Jenkins, North Highland College replaces Rosemary Thompson.
Randal Angus, Caithness Young Farmers replaces Isobel Swanson.
Cllr Katrina MacNab, Highland Council replaces Cllr Bill Fernie.

In addition changes to some of the observers have also taken place:

Lyn Bevington, NII has moved on within his organisation and is now replaced with Peter Dickenson as lead site inspector.

Richard Wilkins (DNSR) has been replaced by Stuart Currie.

He asked that thanks were recorded to all those who had moved on and welcomed new members to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Apologies have been received from the following:

Cllr David Flear	Highland Council	
Michael Moreland	MoD (Vulcan)	Mark Cleminson deputised
Gordon Jenkins	North Highland College	
Cllr Katrina MacNab	Highland Council	
Randal Angus	Caithness Young Farmers	
John Green	Caithness Voluntary Group	
Deirdre Henderson	Buldoo Residents Group	Ian Webster deputised
Fiona MacPherson	CNSRP Inward Investment	
Pauline Crow	Health Service	

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

DSG(2009)M004 refers. The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting. This was proposed by Derrick Milnes and seconded by John Deighan.

4. PROGRESS ON ACTIONS

An update on the progress of actions had been circulated to all members – see appendix 1. It was noted that most of the outstanding actions were longer term and would be progressed via the relevant sub groups.

- Action M001/A018: Bob Earnshaw asked Elizabeth Gray if she could provide an update on the licensing issues of the low level waste facility.

Elizabeth Gray responded that there were a number of issues relating to the low level waste policy implementation. A UK group had been set up to drive and take all of the low level waste issues together and Nuclear site licensing was one of these. The aim is to get a proper plan in place and public consultation will be carried out. At

present this is at the planning stage. Elizabeth agreed to take an action to report progress to DSG at the appropriate time.

Action: DSG(2010)M001/A001: Elizabeth Gray to update DSG on low level waste issues relating to policy (and including licensing issues) at the appropriate time.

- Action M004/A001 related to the landfill regulations. At the last meeting an action was placed on DSG to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment raising the concerns of DSG (DSG(2010)C012 refers). A response from Richard Lochhead had been received (DSG(2010)C019 refers) who outlined the EU legislation and suggested that we explore with SEPA whether there is a non-legislative solution to this issue.

Roger Wilson, SEPA reported that this issue (amongst others) had been discussed at a meeting between Simon Middlemas & SEPA's CEO. A member of SEPA's policy department was asked to look at this issue with a view to coming forward with a solution. Simon Middlemas added that he was in a catch twenty-two situation – the waste, after three years, would either be shipped off site or the site would have to apply for a landfill on the site. Either way a cost would be incurred. He noted that there were discussions on going with SEPA to see whether a non-legislative solution can be identified.

- Bob Earnshaw noted that there had been a report in the local press relating to the low level waste community fund on the 3rd March. He stated that the DSG working group were currently awaiting the final article of memorandum to be provided before things would progress. The document is now in its final stages and it was expected that a meeting would be called shortly to agree on placing adverts in the paper for a Board of Directors to make up the Funding body. Once the body is in place it was DSG's intention to hand over to the new group who would be responsible for agreeing the criteria in which applications for funding would be assessed. It was still the aim of the group to have this up and running in time for Spring 2011.

5. VULCAN UPDATE

Bob Earnshaw noted that Vulcan updates were part of the Site operations sub group remit. However, it was useful to continue this as a separate agenda item.

At the last site operations sub group meeting two written reports – DSG(2010)P001 (DNSR report) and DSG(2010)P004 (NII report) – there were no issues raised.

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

- Programme and contract: The shore test facility is currently shutdown with a mechanical problem. This did not present any safety concerns and trials are expected to resume later in the year.
- Safety, security, environment and waste: Since the last meeting, the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulators (DNSR) have conducted one inspection. This had resulted in a satisfactory outcome with no safety concerns highlighted.
- A further successful planning meeting has taken place for this year's emergency response demonstration exercise. LONESTAR 2010 will take place on 23 June 2010 and the aims and objectives have been agreed with confirmation of

participation by Northern Constabulary, the Highland Council and the National Health Service.

- At the last meeting the site REPPIR (Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations) submission was discussed. This is a regulatory requirement where a site presents what it considers is the accident scenario from which emergency plans are then derived. The submission remains under discussion with the regulators.
- Decommissioning and socio-economics: Future programme for the site remains under consideration. There is nothing to update from previous reports.

NII update for Vulcan

Ian Bramwell, NII inspector for Vulcan noted that the report provided to the site operations sub group had covered the inspections jointly undertaken by NII and DNSR. Together, arrangements were found to be adequate. In addition:

- He noted that the REPPIR submission had been covered – Vulcan has indicated they wish to reduce the emergency planning zone from 2km to 1.15km in line with the Dounreay site. The case for the reduction was still being considered.
- This week a team of inspectors were looking at compliance with the ionising radiation regulations (IRRs) which is the cornerstone arrangements for the site to control the workforce exposure to radiation. Details of the findings will be provided in the next report.

Rick Nickerson noted that there had been an indication from Vulcan that it would dovetail into the decommissioning at Dounreay. The DSG had not received confirmation as yet and he asked for clarification. Mark Cleminson responded that a decision on the future of Vulcan was still awaited and was not expected until later in the year. He would inform the DSG as soon as a decision had been made.

DNSR update for Vulcan

Stuart Currie, DNSR provided a brief update. He stated he had been in the job for five days and this was his first visit to the DSG. He looked forward to the interaction with the group over the coming year and would provide updates as appropriate.

6. PRESENTATION ON HIGHER ACTIVITY WASTES

Bob Earnshaw noted that all members had received copies of the Scottish Government's consultation documents on higher activity wastes. Additional copies were available in Dounreay.com if required.

He noted that a DSG working group has been set up to consider the issues within the consultation document and a list of questions/issues were raised (DSG(2010)C017 refers) which had been passed to Elizabeth prior to the meeting to see if she could provide clarification during her presentation. Bob then handed over to Elizabeth Gray.

Elizabeth Gray provided a presentation – see DSG(2010)C020. Of note

- This was a high level policy framework and not a siting consultation.
- Retrievability is an issue being looked at across other countries and SEPA is involved in a project with OECD which is reviewing its definition of retrievability and reversibility.

- 75% of waste in Scotland is graphite and metals.
- Dounreay's inventory of waste differs from all other sites (see slide 13 and 14).
- This consultation does not cover materials (uranium, plutonium, spent fuel and exotic fuels).
- 100 years is the defined term for regulators for store capability (ie the building).
- 300 years is the defined term for control of wastes.
- 10s of metres was taken from current guidance for authorisation for near surface facilities. This is based on international practice and guidance.
- Facilities can be on or under the surface (illustrated in the diagram on possible models).
- All principles for managing radioactive waste will be considered.
- Waste hierarchy is essential and potential new treatments may be developed in future years.

John Deighan asked whether there was a chance of a policy change if the Government changed. Elizabeth Gray said that the issue is that the policy will reflect the waste Scotland has. She believed that the present Scottish Government policy more accurately reflects what is happening in other countries for the wastes covered by the policy. The Dounreay situation was slightly different because of the more complex inventory on the site in relation to the other Scottish sites. For example, when you consider Chapelcross it is graphite and metal which makes up the bulk of its waste inventory. The NDA have 19 sites within their estate, and treatment of graphite could potentially be applied to them reducing the inventory of wastes going to a deep geological facility.

Derrick Milnes noted that the UK Government has enormous problems finding a site for the waste – he asked how sites in Scotland would be identified when the attitude here was a hundred times worse. Elizabeth Gray responded that in terms of storage facilities, the sites were already storing waste.

Derrick Milnes responded there had been some objections to the low level waste facility being sited off site therefore how the problem of intermediate level waste would be overcome was still a big question. Elizabeth Gray re-stated that all sites, at present, work on the basis of storage on site. Waste is already being dealt with at sites and the consultation was not calling for one site. The siting of such facilities would be at the next stage of the consultation process after the policy framework is finalised an implementation strategy will take it forward

Ronnie Johnstone stated that he had a lot of sympathy for civil servants. One of the problems of this issue was that some wastes are Scottish while others are quite definitely UK waste, eg submarines and waste at Vulcan. Elizabeth Gray stated that it was quite clear that the Submarines were MoD's responsibility and they would be classified as UK waste on that basis. When the powers were devolved to Scottish Government it took responsibility for the civil nuclear waste while MoD nuclear issues remained a reserved matter.

Ronnie Johnstone said he believed that this could complicate the process. The map within the consultation document included Rosyth. Elizabeth Gray said that what Rosyth had was mainly resins and they were actively working with the NDA and British Energy sites to look at dealing with these. The Rosyth wastes do not include redundant nuclear powered submarines and the MoD has indicated they will be consulting on Submarine dismantling and will be looking at experience in the civil area for dealing with similar wastes.

Steven Heddle said that while understanding this was a framework policy the move towards disposal was a big change. Elizabeth Gray stated that storage remained the fundamental approach but it had been recognised that near surface disposal is a possible option for some wastes and will be available for them it is appropriate.

John Deighan noted that financial constraints were obvious at this time and ultimately the taxpayer would have to pay for this. Elizabeth Gray said they were not adding new costs. Storage costs are already in plans and the initial assumption is that the costs will not increase significantly for already established baseline plans.

Rick Nickerson stated that, on balance, long term storage should be the first option. The emphasis on disposal should be as a last resort. Elizabeth Gray agreed adding that disposal will not be feasible unless it is proven to be feasible.

As there were no further questions from members Bob Earnshaw opened up the questions to members of the public in attendance. No further questions were raised.

Elizabeth Gray thanked DSG for the opportunity to provide the presentation and to respond to questions raised. She intimated that if further questions were forthcoming she would be happy to provide a response at a later stage.

7. ADMIN AND PROCEDURES SUB GROUP UPDATE

Bob Earnshaw (chair of sub group) provided the update. Of note:

- The admin and procedures sub group had met on 29th January. The majority of the meeting had concentrated on the annual general meeting and the paperwork for the AGM had been circulated well in advance to members.
- Letters had been distributed to all members to complete on the representative and deputy for each organisation. He asked members to return these forms if this had not already been done.
- A response to a request from CoRWM on DSG's views of public and stakeholder engagement had been provided (DSG(2010)C013 refers). This was taken by email correspondence as the request was received outwith the sub group meeting.
- At the next admin and procedures sub group meeting a review of the sub group memberships would be undertaken.

For completeness and ease of reference all actions from the admin and procedures sub group are transferred here:

DSG(2010)M001/A002: APSG Members to provide comments on Chairman's report for AGM. *Action complete – see DSG(2010)C008.*

8. SITE OPERATIONS SUB GROUP UPDATE

Bob Earnshaw provided the update. Of note:

- The site operations sub group met on 20th January 2010.

- Tim O'Brien (sub group chair) was unable to attend and has in fact tendered his resignation due to work commitments. A decision on whether the Caithness Contractors Consortium continues to be represented is currently under discussion.

- All members had received the minutes of this meeting in advance. AOf note:

qCfCLtW5BcF4E4vcfGjC30nJR6CacfGjC306wUuzS56CSacfC83n5U96CjEjRqWUGjCGCjRRR1

- In addition to that the NDA is looking across its estate. A percentage of the budget is being spent on support services rather than on delivery. DSRL has reduced the site's support services but further overhead reduction is required with a further reduction of 5% during the next year.
- Competition for the site management had now started and the contract notice had been issued
- Over the last few years UKAEA has been working with CH2MHILL and AMEC in delivering the decommissioning programme. Following the sale of UKAEA to Babcock International it was decided not to continue with the partnership arrangements. With immediate effect two AMEC secondees will leave. Both partners had provided fantastic support and thanks to both companies should be recorded. As far as the Dounreay site is concerned it continues to be business as usual.

Peter Dickenson provided a verbal update from NII. Of note:

- Lyn Bevington had moved on within the organisation. Support to Peter on site now includes Peter Watson who has a great deal of regulatory experience including work at Sellafield. [David Hanratty and Chris Smedley (part-time) complete the NII inspection team.].
- The change in funding has significant issues on how the decommissioning progresses. NII will continue to ensure that safety remains a priority.
- At the last meeting an update on the re-organisation of NII had been provided. NII have now joined with OCNS (Official of Civil Nuclear Security) and Safeguards and the structure would be amalgamated into a statutory corporation. This should come forward to Parliament before the Easter recess and it was thought that the change would come into effect by 1st April 2011.

Stuart Chalmers provided a verbal update from NDA. Of note:

- Funding had been covered in DSRL's report and the NDA were working with the site and regulators to understand what this means to the programme and potential impacts.
- The NDA were undergoing changes with new Chief Executive, Tony Fountain continuing to review restructuring. The focus for NDA will be on accountability for delivery. Whilst Dounreay has a good record for delivery the site will be put under more pressure to deliver more for less.

No actions were identified at the site operations sub group meeting.

9. ENVIRONMENT SUB GROUP

Bob Earnshaw handed over the George Farlow to provide an update from the environment sub group meeting held in the afternoon.

George Farlow reported that the group had met this afternoon and therefore no formal minutes were available. DSG/ESG(2009)M004, held in December, had been circulated in advance to all members. The following was noted:

- The minutes of the December meeting were accepted as a true record.

- ESG actions, were in the main, longer term actions and would continue to be progressed as appropriate.
- The ESG spent quite a lot of time discussing the particle clean-up programme. Of note:

A contract has now been awarded to Land and marine for the off-shore clean-up work which will commence in July.

An environmental safety case for the remediation of the old liquid effluent discharge system has been written and provided to SEPA..

DSRL continue to provide all information on particle clean-up, both on and off shore to the Particles Retrieval Advisory Group. This assists PRAG with the production of its first report which will make recommendations for the future.

On-shore monitoring has continued and since our last meeting in December DSRL have monitored the Dounreay foreshore. Since November one minor particle has been detected on the west foreshore. No surveys have been carried out on east foreshore since November due to the lack of sediment and the icy conditions which have prevented access.

Sandside monitoring resumed on 9th November and surveys were completed during November and December.- a total of 12 particles (one relevant and eleven minor particles). Monitoring of Sandside is not taking place and discussions continue with the owners for long term access permissions.

A Dunnet beach strandline was completed in December and no particles were detected. The monitoring data from the strandline and targeted areas will be provided to SEPA to assist them with their habit survey which is expected at the end of March. This will form part of SEPA's review of beach monitoring. The next survey is scheduled for the end of this week (12th).

Thanks were recorded to all landowners who were allowing continuous access for monitoring.

- DSRL provided two written reports – Paper 5 and Paper 6 which is the performance reports for December 2009 and January 2010. Of note:

At PFR the second tank (of three) had been decommissioned.

The PFR reactor top electrical strip-out was now complete.

Inspection by a remote camera was undertaken and identified there was no significant amounts of sodium remaining in the vessel.

At DFR 89 batches of liquid metal had now been destroyed.

Simon Middlemas had nothing more to add to update.

SEPA provided a written update – DSG(2010)P007 refers. Roger Wilson had been unable to attend the ESG. A number of issues had been raised as follows:

The return of the application for a new authorisation to DSRL. Clarification was request on why the application was not properly made. In addition SEPA were asked what the review periods for the site's discharge authorisation was.

The ESG also discussed the waste and landfill issue which was discussed earlier. ESG members wished to encourage SEPA to consider this issue and look, as the Cabinet minister suggests, at non-legislative ways of dealing with this.

Prior to the ESG meeting a number of questions were raised by members in relation to last Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (the RIFE report). SEPA were asked to provide a copy of the 2008 habit survey, clarify the sampling of one rabbit and respond to what effect does Dounreay have on the environment?

George Farlow invited Roger Wilson to respond. Roger Wilson responded as follows:

- In relation to the discharge authorisation SEPA felt that DSRL had provided insufficient information in some areas and SEPA inspectors have been in discussion with DSRL to resolve this.
- SEPA were actively working with DSRL to look for a sensible way forward with non-radioactive waste issues.

Bob Earnshaw stated that he hoped that SEPA and the site can find a way forward. Roger Wilson responded that this did not just affect Dounreay but impacted on other sites as well.

- The questions raised in relation to the RIFE report had been forwarded to SEPA colleagues and a response was currently awaited. This would be provided to DSG as soon as it was available.

Roger Wilson, SEPA provided a verbal update to the meeting. Of note:

- SEPA were also looking at their structure in relation to funding. SEPA was also looking at partnership working with other government bodies – the Scottish Environment & Rural Services (SEARS) initiative is a good example where Rural Payment Inspectorate staff also undertake some farm inspections on behalf of SEPA.
- SEPA had undertaken a lot of the work to assist with the Scottish Government's higher activity waste consultation – another example of partnership working.
- Organisational changes in SEPA were also taking place. Four Directorates were being cut to three with Colin Bayes (Director of Environmental Protection & Improvement) retiring shortly and Calum MacDonald taking over responsibility. Much nearer to home Byron Tilly (Radioactive Substances Unit Manager) has taken voluntary retirement effective from the end of March.

NDA provided a verbal update at the meeting. Of note:

- Outlined the funding position (previously reported)

- Provided an update on the site competition (will be covered by separate agenda item)
- NDA Chief Executive and the local NDA team had congratulated the site and its contractors for achieving a year without a lost time accident.
- NDA's re-organisation continues.

Stuart Chalmers had nothing more to add.

- The Scottish Government's higher activity waste consultation was discussed. This has been discussed in detail earlier in the agenda.
- An update on the heritage strategy was provided. Thirty-seven responses were received to a consultation which was well advertised. DSRL are currently reviewing all the responses will provide a report and a timetable for the heritage strategy to be finalised in the near future.

Rick Nickerson asked that it be noted that Shetland Islands Council would not be associating itself with the DSG response to the higher activity waste consultation as their views differ in some areas from the majority of DSG organisations.

George Farlow noted that Highland Council would also be submitting a response to the higher activity waste consultation. The draft response would be tabled at the Planning and Environment committee on 17th March.

Rick Nickerson also noted that a question had been raised at the ESG in relation to the COMARE extended study on cancer excesses in the vicinity of Seascale and Dounreay. He asked whether COMARE will be considering the recently published KIKK studies (German study).

For completeness and ease of reference all actions identified at the ESG have been transferred here:

DSG(2010)M001/A003: Secretary to contact COMARE to ask if they were considering KIKK (German) study on leukaemia clusters in young people while carrying out their own extended study.

DSG(2010)M001/A004: Secretary to circulate PRAG(D) minutes and list of paperwork to ESG members on a regular basis.

DSG(2010)M001/A005: Secretary to ask SEPA when consultation on DSRL's site discharge authorisation was expected.

DSG(2010)M001/A006: Alan Scullion to clarify review periods for the site discharge authorisation.

DSG(2010)M001/A007: : Rick Nickerson to circulate Shetland Islands Council response to Scottish Government's consultation on high activity waste when available.

DSG(2010)M001/A008: Steven Heddle to circulate Orkney Islands Council response to Scottish Government's consultation on high activity waste when available.

DSG(2010)M001/A009: George Farlow to circulate Highland Council's response to Scottish Government's consultation on high activity waste when available.

DSG(2010)M001/A010: James Gunn to check whether DFR is scheduled to be painted this coming financial year.

DSG(2010)M001/A011: Roger Wilson to provide response in relation to questions from RIFE report.

10. SOCIO ECONOMIC SUB GROUP UPDATE

Derrick Milnes provided the socio economic sub group update. Of note:

- The socio economic sub group met on 20th January. The minutes – SESG(2010)M001 – were distributed to all members for information.:

The Community funding requests had been considered and a number of applications endorsed – DSG(2010)C005 refers.

The NDA competition industry event was discussed (covered later in the minutes)

The CNSRP progress report was tabled – DSG(2010)P002 refers. He invited Eann Sinclair to provide a verbal update. Eann added the following:

- CNSRP and other key economic agencies had been involved in both competition industry events. He emphasised the importance of the competition on socio economics and ensuring that the bidding participants were aware of the opportunities that could exist.
- The Crown Estate was expected to announce the first round of sea bed leases on 16th March in Wick. The Chief Executive of the Crown Estates would be present. In parallel the First Minister will be involved in a press event in Edinburgh. This is the first opportunity for industry and the successful bidders to engage.
- In terms of tourism the John O'Groat master plan has moved on with the successful announcement of the private sector's commitment for phase 1 of the redevelopment.
- The CNSRP is working on the programme and looking at finding opportunities. The European Funding Programme director will be visiting next week to identify how European funding can be targeted.

Derrick Milnes invited Roy Kirk, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, to provide an update. Of note:

- HIE was looking forward to the announcements from the Crown Estates for the round 1 of wave and tidal. He acknowledged that working with the Highland Council, Scottish Government and the NDA had helped get to this stage. He noted that there would be future rounds and therefore further opportunities will be identified.
- HIE were also going through a period of change and the local HIE office would also be affected by voluntary retirements. He emphasised that the

extra resources going into the CNSRP and HIE's commitment to the partnership will continue.

Derrick Milnes thanked Eann and Roy for their updates and continued with the update from the sub group meeting.

DSRL is continuing to progress potential workforce transition opportunities including spin out businesses.

Members of DSG met with Babcock International, along with Norman Harrison and Simon Middlemas. A number of questions were tabled at this meeting and a note for the record was issued – DSG(2010)C011 refers. He noted that following the recent announcements of the termination of working arrangements with AMEC the issue would be raised at the next socio economic sub group meeting with a view to holding further discussions with Babcock International.

It was also pleasing to hear that yet again Caithness was successful at the nuclear skills awards.

Simon Middlemas noted that this was the second year where local apprentices had won major awards. The challenge was now to attract and retain these people in the area. He was extremely proud of the DSRL's apprentices.

Pat Gallagher concurred with Simon's views. Rolls Royce was equally proud of their apprentices and it was important to win opportunities to allow these young people to have a future within Caithness.

Simon Middlemas did not have anything further to add to the update.

Stuart Chalmers, NDA was invited to provide a verbal update on NDA socio economics activities. Before this, however, Derrick Milnes raised the question of the national nuclear archives and asked for assurances that this project would continue

Stuart Chalmers provided an update. Of note:

- In terms of NDA socio economic funding applications the two main submissions were from Scrabster and Wick harbours. The Scrabster funding was related to its development plan which has been widely report. The request from Wick harbour was for a change of the use of funding which had previously been awarded. The funding would now go towards feasibility work associated with changing the harbour to target marine energy work. The change of use has been approved.
- In relation to the archives, the funding profile is to the end of the design stage which takes the project through to March 2011. As is normal with all projects the next phase is then considered before agreeing the way forward. Therefore, at present, the funding for the next financial year is secure and then further work is required to develop the case for the next stage of funding.

Derrick Milnes proposed that an action be placed to write to the NDA regarding future funding for the national nuclear archives. This was seconded by Anne Chard who stated that she believed that the funding for the archives had already been fully committed. This was agreed by members.

Action: DSG(2010)M001/A012: DSG to write to NDA regarding future funding for the national nuclear archives.

Derrick Milnes, then, invited Trudy Morris, Caithness Chamber of Commerce to provide an update. Of note:

- Chamber activities continue and there is now 135 members at various membership levels within the Chamber.
- The Chamber welcomes the forthcoming announcements from the Crown Estates. The Chamber have already met with four of the potential companies involved with seabed leases.
- The Chamber would be hosting a north sea decommissioning event on 24th March. This is a new organisation that is looking for opportunities within the oil and gas decommissioning activities. By attending local companies will hear about the opportunities within this industry.
- On the 1st April the Chamber will host a parliamentary question time with the four UK parliament candidates.
- The Chamber will be exhibiting at the forthcoming VisitScotland Expo in April and the All Energy exhibition in Aberdeen in May.
- The Chamber was also working with CNSRP working groups on IT, Tourism and various others.
- Finally, Trudy re-iterated Roy Kirk's comments on the realism for the area with regard to marine energy. Having spoken with developers it is apparent that some are looking overseas because of price and capability. A clear indication was required as to how Caithness can fit into this in respect of cost and capability issues.

Derrick Milnes thanked those who provided additional updates and concluded the report from the socio economic sub group,

For completeness and ease of reference all actions identified at the socio economic sub group are recorded here:

DSG(2010)M001/A013: Anna MacConnell to provide list of registrants for NDA competition industry event (for both Caithness and Glasgow days). *Action complete – distributed before industry event in Wick on 5th February.*

DSG(2010)M001/A014: June Love to circulate invitation to DSG members to attend National Skills award in Manchester on 11th February. *Action ongoing – invitation to all members sent on 22nd January – currently awaiting responses.*

DSG(2010)M001/A015: June Love to draft a letter promoting Caithness as an area which could host the IFMIF facility. *Action complete – DSG(2010)C003.*

DSG(2010)M001/A016: June Love to email DSG members to ask for any further questions to be tabled as well as indicating a 1200 hours start to allow DSG members to meet in advance. *Action complete – email sent to all DSG members on 21st January 2010.*

DSG(2010)M001/A017: June Love to revise draft submission to the NDA's business plan and circulate to DSG members for final approval before submitting to NDA. *Action complete – see DSG(2010)C004.*

DSG(2010)M001/A018: June Love to request presentation from DSRL on the potential impacts for the site of the Scottish Government's consultation on higher activity waste. *Action complete – Elizabeth Gray, Scottish Government, will attend to provide presentation. A working group has been set up to consider the consultation document and will include a DSRL representative for factual information.*

11. UPDATE ON NDA COMPETITION INDUSTRY EVENT

Bob Earnshaw provided the update from the first part of the industry event held in Wick Assembly Rooms on Friday 5th February.

The Highland Council had held a civic reception on the evening of the 4th February in Caithness Horizons and both the Chief Executive and Convenor of the Highland Council attended along with the majority of the Caithness Councillors.

On the 5th the NDA set the scene on the competition then the day was handed over to highlight the socio economic opportunities of the area. Presentations were provided by a number of people including representatives from the CNSRP, Chamber of Commerce, Dounreay Unions, North Highland Initiative and North Highland College. All speakers should be congratulated for their short and concise presentations and for the consistent message of partnership working.

Following this event DSG received a letter from Graeme Rankin, the competition programme manager, thanking DSG for their help and support. Thanks from the DSG were extended to the local NDA team, the competition team and Anna MacConnell in particular for their efforts to ensure that the day went smoothly.

A number of Caithness representatives were also in attendance at the second part which concentrated more fully on the actual competition itself and the contractual information. Bob then handed over to Stuart Chalmers to update members on the second part which had been held on the 9th March.

Stuart Chalmers, NDA reported that the Glasgow event was more focussed for the bidding community and had been split into four sessions. The first session dealt with NDA's model of working between the PBO, NDA, SLC and the regulators and how that all fits together. The strategy to get to the interim end state was discussed and identified some of the issues that the site faces. Each session was finished with a question and answer session.

The second session concentrated on the contract and procurement strategy in relation to a target type price contract. Great emphasis was given on trying to assure the market place that this was a level playing field especially when the incumbent company would also be bidding.

In respect to the contract timescale – the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) will be issued and that will take place between now and the 14th May. The NDA will take some time to assess those and down select three participants to go forward into the dialogue stage. This will include visits to the site and access to DSRL information and personnel.

At the end of the dialogue process participants will be invited to submit their final tenders. This takes the process to January 2011 to get the tender submissions submitted and following this NDA will again review the submissions before announcing the preferred participant.

Stakeholder presentations were provided by John Thurso, MP (socio economics), Davie Alexander (Unions) and Elizabeth Gray (Scottish Government).

The final session was handed over to the regulators with presentations from NII, & SEPA and the Department for Transport was present to answer questions arising.

Approximately 150-170 people attended the event and general feedback from the market was positive.

Derrick Milnes noted that he attended the second part of the industry event. He felt that DSG needed to ensure that the socio economic message was re-enforced at all times. He stated that, unlike Sellafield, the Dounreay contract was a closure one with no future for new build. This was important when considering the weighting of socio economics within the contract. If companies were not interested in the future of the area then the community did not want them here.

John Deighan said that DSG and other organisations had continued to emphasis the importance of socio-economics and the loyalty of the workforce throughout the year. He noted that it would be important to get the participants to DSG so that they can set out their plans for socio economics as the potential new parent body company.

Roy Kirk said he felt that the industry event had been very well done. On the socio economic element he questioned whether that would be contracted as he had got the impression that this would be outwith the contract agreement.

Stuart Chalmers responded that he thought that was correct. He added there will be a certain element within the scope of DSRL to deliver socio economic activities but thought that this was not the case for the PBO. Roy Kirk responded that it appeared then that socio economic activity would be a matter of good faith rather than in the contract.

Elizabeth Gray noted that Scottish Government will have a role to play and without wishing to pre-empt anything there were still decisions to be made in regard to how the socio economic function will be taken account of in the process. She also added that the community needed to think carefully about what exactly it was they required in terms of social-economic opportunities for the future.

Ronnie Johnstone commented that the area was not poor natives that people could throw a few baubles at. If what Roy Kirk had said is correct it could mean that companies could offer a bag of promises but if they chose to change their position they are free to do so. He said he hoped that the DSG would express serious concerns as it appears that there have been some vague promises made. He emphasised that DSG should be extremely concerned that there is not something more definite than an act of vague goodwill.

Bob Earnshaw agreed with Ronnie Johnstone. He felt that this needed to be raised yet again to ensure the message was received by NDA that the closure contract of Dounreay was a completely different contract to that of Sellafield and that socio economics needed to be fully embedded within the contract.

It was agreed that DSG would write to NDA outlining their concerns.

Action: DSG(2010)M001/A019: DSG to write to NDA raising concerns regarding the socio economic element within the site competition contract.

12. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Bob Earnshaw invited members of the public if they wished to ask questions or raise any issues.

John Crofts introduced himself as someone who had attended the NDA competition industry event, as an advisor to Serco, but that he was raising these issues as a member of the local community. He said he fully supported the discussions relating to the NDA contract for the site. However he pointed out that time was of the essence as the competition had started. At the industry event it had been emphasised that the contract would be awarded on cost and closure. Any questions relating to socio economics fitting into the contract had not been answered adequately and had left the participants with mixed messages. He emphasised if DSG wished to raise this as an issue they would have to do this quickly.

Anne Chard asked whether this is something that Scottish Government could influence. Elizabeth Gray said that, as far as she was concerned, our opinions counted. She re-iterated that socio economics is still an issue that needs to be properly resolved in the process. She added that it would be useful to everyone if those with responsibility for economic regeneration would be clear on what they were seeking.

John Crofts agreed that there were mixed messages – he noted that John Thurso at the industry day had emphasised how important socio economics was but when the NDA were questioned they had no answers. He believed that the socio economic aspect was embedded into the Sellafield contract and made up for 20% of the marks. *[NB: Secretary's note – the 20% figure has not been verified].*

David Koster, AMEC noted that he had also attended the industry event. He added that DSG must note that the competition has started and the participants would have to adhere to the competition criteria set. Therefore there was a very small window for DSG to try to influence the criteria and scoring.

Steven Heddle said that it would seem the contract for Sellafield had offered up some issues on socio economics so why was it so difficult for Dounreay. Anne Chard asked Stuart Chalmers why the Sellafield contract was different to Dounreay. She felt that because Dounreay was a closure contract the bidding process should be changed adding more weight to socio economics. Stuart Chalmers said he did not know what the differences were with the Sellafield and Dounreay contract. Stuart was asked to clarify the Sellafield contract.

Action: DSG(2010)M001/A020: Stuart Chalmers to clarify the socio economic element of the Sellafield contract.

John Crofts added that he didn't know whether there was a contract requirement for Sellafield but there was a socio economic element for the bid evaluation. Stuart Chalmers responded that this would also be part of the criteria for the Dounreay bid but this was still under discussion. *[NB: Secretary's note – since the meeting Stuart Chalmers has confirmed that this was not part of the Sellafield contract].*

John Crowden noted there had been a letter from the NDA Chief Executive updating sites on the public value programme (PVP) review. He noted previous comments on the site funding and the deferral of major projects because of this. Just over 12 months ago there had been £100 million contracts coming off which had to be good for the local economy. Now all of this has changed and it appeared that the only way of continuing with decommissioning was to extend the end date.

Stuart Chalmers agreed that the PVP review puts everyone in a difficult place. He added that feedback from the market place has been that their concern was that the major projects had been set and that would not allow them to consider different ways of delivery to be in a position to make an impact on delivery. The NDA competition team heard that and these projects are still progressing when they could have been completely stopped. Then PVP came along which more or less made the decision for us.

Simon Middlemas said that DSRL is reviewing this and looking at different scenarios to allow funding to be released, at the appropriate time, to restart these projects.

John Crowden said that by deferring these major buildings must have had an impact on the local supply chain also. He was also concerned that while DSRL can redeploy their own staff the sub-contractors did not have that luxury. Simon Middlemas responded that the site could not afford to simply redeploy people into other areas of the site nor displace sub contracting staff. As intimated earlier DSRL staff was volunteering for early release and he noted that DSRL would have to work with the supply chain. He acknowledged that this was not an easy job to keep the right balance but he was committed to doing so. The problem here was how to make the right decision, continue with the major projects and lay off somewhere in the region of 400 staff and sub-contractors or defer the major projects and concentrate the funding on other high hazard projects.

John Crofts asked if the Pentland Alliance had run its course and did that mean that Pentland Alliance would not be bidding for the site competition. Simon Middlemas stated that he could not comment on the competition process. Stuart Chalmers said that the competition will carry on regardless of who bids.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bob Earnshaw raised the following:

The DSG secretary is currently arranging a visit to the Dounreay site for DSG members. Members were reminded to contact the secretary if this wished to be involved.

Representatives from DSG will be present at the NDA National Stakeholder Group meeting.

The site stakeholder group chair's forum (chairmen from all NDA site stakeholder groups) will be visiting Dounreay on 29th June.

14. CLOSE

As there was no other business raised Bob Earnshaw thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Bob Earnshaw
DSG Chairman
14th March 2010

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

DSG(2010)M001/A001: Elizabeth Gray to update DSG on low level waste issues relating to policy (and including licensing issues) at the appropriate time.

DSG(2010)M001/A003: Secretary to contact COMARE to ask if they were considering KIKK (German) study on leukaemia clusters in young people while carrying out their own extended study.

DSG(2010)M001/A004: Secretary to circulate PRAG(D) minutes and list of paperwork to ESG members on a regular basis.

DSG(2010)M001/A005: Secretary to ask SEPA when consultation on DSRL's site discharge authorisation was expected.

DSG(2010)M001/A006: Alan Scullion to clarify review periods for the site discharge authorisation.

DSG(2010)M001/A007: : Rick Nickerson to circulate Shetland Islands Council response to Scottish Government's consultation on high activity waste when available.

DSG(2010)M001/A008: Steven Heddle to circulate Orkney Islands Council response to Scottish Government's consultation on high activity waste when available.

DSG(2010)M001/A009: George Farlow to circulate Highland Council's response to Scottish Government's consultation on high activity waste when available.

DSG(2010)M001/A010: James Gunn to check whether DFR is scheduled to be painted this coming financial year.

DSG(2010)M001/A011: Roger Wilson to provide response in relation to questions from RIFE report.

DSG(2010)M001/A012: DSG to write to NDA regarding future funding for the national nuclear archives.

DSG(2010)M001/A019: DSG to write to NDA raising concerns regarding the socio economic element within the site competition contract.

DSG(2010)M001/A020: Stuart Chalmers to clarify the socio economic element of the Sellafield contract.

ACTIONS ONGOING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

DSG(2009)M003/A003: Secretary to invite National Nuclear Archives Project Manager to the next DSG Socio economic sub group meeting for an update. *Action ongoing – will be available for April sub group meeting.*

DSG(2009)M004/A003: Tony Wratten, DSRL to provide a presentation to the ESG on environmental monitoring (current regime and into the future). *Action ongoing – on agenda for June ESG.*

DSG(2009)M004/A005: June Love to organise a visit to the Dounreay site for Councillors Steven Heddle and George Farlow (and extend to other DSG members) at a convenient time. *Action ongoing – currently out to members to identify all those who wish to visit.*

DSG(2009)M004/A006: Tony Wratten to circulate the Highland Council's Planning Framework document to ESG members when complete. *Will likely be available in the summer 2010.*

DSG(2009)M004/A008: Secretary to invite COMARE to present their findings once the extended study on cancer excesses in the vicinity of Seascale and Dounreay was complete. *Invitation has been sent asking COMARE for updates and a presentation when study is complete.*

DSG(2009)M004/A016: Koreen MacDougall to co-ordinate a small DSG group to work up a proposal to take forward community projects in a more cohesive approach. *Work has started and will be taken forward at next socio economic sub group meeting.*

ACTIONS COMPLETED

M015/A021: Secretary to put heritage strategy presentation on September DSG agenda. *Action complete – included in agenda for December meeting*

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 – 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". [DSG(2009)C098 asks for this action to be closed out as a matter of urgency]. Action now complete – this action has been superseded by DSG(2010)M001/A001*

M002/A001: Secretary to seek clarification on representation of the National Farmers Union. *Action complete – Letter sent on 8th January (DSG(2009)C109.*

M002/A014: DSRL to provide a presentation at next ESG and DSG on the application for new discharge authorisation. *Action complete – presentation taking place at ESG in September and on agenda for DSG meeting on 9th December.*

M003/A004: Secretary to put update from Rolls Royce on the agenda for the next full DSG in September. *Action complete – Pat Gallagher was unable to attend the September meeting therefore this item will be put on December agenda.*

M003/A008: Tony Wratten to provide secretary with electronic version of summary information in support of the application for authorisation from Dounreay. *Action complete – see DSG(2009)C102.*

DSG(2009)M004/A001: DSG members to write to Scottish Government on the storage of waste and landfill. *Action complete – see DSG(2010)C012.*

DSG(2009)M004/A002: Secretary to circulate list of paperwork for PRAG meetings to ESG members. *Action complete – list of PRAG(D) papers for meeting 2 was sent round ESG members on 15th December 2009.*

DSG(2009)M004/A004: Phil Cartwright to send Cllr Steven Heddle the DPAG defined map of the main particle plume (and website link to DPAG's 4th report). *Action complete – maps of main particle plume sent to Cllr Heddle on 15th December.*

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 8th 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 9th 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/A013: DSG to write to Highland Councillors asking them to attend meetings and/or put deputy arrangements in place in times of absences. *Action complete – combined with letter C109.*

DSG(2009)M004/A014: DSG to write to Highland Council to re-enforce need for the Pentland Firth profile to be raised and the capabilities within Caithness. *Action complete – see DSG(2010)C002.*

DSG(2009)M004/A015: Randall Bargelt to raise the issue of raising the profile of the Pentland Firth and the capabilities within Caithness with the CNSRP Executive Board. *Action complete.*

DSG(2009)M004/A017: Secretary to draft letter, for sub group approval, to Roy Kirk emphasising the importance of one group looking at issues relating to the CNSRP including the Pentland Firth. *Action complete – see DSG(2009)C095. Response received from Roy Kirk confirming that the proposal had been tabled and accepted at the Advisory Board.*

DSG(2009)M004/A018: DSG to write to Crown Estates mirroring concerns about delays in seabed leasing. *Action complete – see DSG(2009)C096.*

DSG(2009)M004/A019: All sub group members to pass any comments or questions to June Love on DSRL's socio economic strategy and plan who would ensure a response from Ken Nicol (DSG(2009)C080 and C079 refers). *Action complete – discussions will be ongoing throughout year at socio economic sub group meetings.*

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 21/22nd January or 28/29th January 2009.*

DSG(2009)M004/A021: Secretary to write to all members, prior to AGM in March 2010, asking for written confirmation of representation for their respective organisations. *Action complete* – see DSG(2009)C109.

DSG(2009)M004/A022: Secretary to write to all members, prior to AGM in March 2010, asking for nominations for chair and vice-chair. *Action complete* – see DSG(2009)C109.

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 16th November confirming Bob Earnshaw's attendance at workshop

DSG(2009)M004/A024: Randall Bargelt to distribute competition schedule to DSG members when available. *Action complete* – see DSG(2010)C016.

DSG(2010)M001/A002: APSG Members to provide comments on Chairman's report for AGM. *Action complete* – see DSG(2010)C008.

DSG(2010)M001/A013: Anna MacConnell to provide list of registrants for NDA competition industry event (for both Caithness and Glasgow days). *Action complete* – distributed before industry event in Wick on 5th February.

DSG(2010)M001/A014: June Love to circulate invitation to DSG members to attend National Skills award in Manchester on 11th February. *Action ongoing* – invitation to all members sent on 22nd January – currently awaiting responses.

DSG(2010)M001/A015: June Love to draft a letter promoting Caithness as an area which could host the IFMIF facility. *Action complete* – DSG(2010)C003.

DSG(2010)M001/A016: June Love to email DSG members to ask for any further questions to be tabled as well as indicating a 1200 hours start to allow DSG members to meet in advance. *Action complete* – email sent to all DSG members on 21st January 2010.

DSG(2010)M001/A017: June Love to revise draft submission to the NDA's business plan and circulate to DSG members for final approval before submitting to NDA. *Action complete* – see DSG(2010)C004.

DSG(2010)M001/A018: June Love to request presentation from DSRL on the potential impacts for the site of the Scottish Government's consultation on higher activity waste. *Action complete* – Elizabeth Gray, Scottish Government, will attend to provide presentation. A working group has been set up to consider the consultation document and will include a DSRL representative for factual information.