

## **DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER ROUP**

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at 1900 hours in the Pentland Hotel, Thurso.

<b>Present:</b>	Bob Earnshaw	Thurso Community Council (DSG Chair)
	Cllr David Flear	Highland Council (vice-chair)
	Alastair MacDonald	DSG Honorary member
	Cllr Steven Heddle	Orkney Islands Council
	Alan Scott	Caithness Contractors Consortium
	Cllr George Farlow	Highland Council
	Donald Mackay	Association of Caithness Community Councils
	Roy Kirk	HIE
	Koreen MacDougall	Caithness Partnership
	Marcus Mennie	North Highland College
	John Deighan	Dounreay Unions
	Derrick Milnes	Thurso & Wick Trades Council
	Ronnie Johnstone	Church of Scotland
	John Green	Caithness Voluntary Group
	Trudy Morris	Caithness Chamber of Commerce
	Cllr Katrina MacNab	Highland Council
	Eann Sinclair	Caithness & NS Regeneration Partnership
	June Love	DSRL, DSG Secretariat
	Stuart Chalmers	NDA
	Simon Middlemas	DSRL
	Michael Moreland	MOD, Vulcan
	Peter Dickenson	NII
	Jim Gemmill	SEPA
	David Mudie	Highland Council, Planning

## **MINUTES**

### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Bob Earnshaw, DSG Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Jim Gemmill of SEPA who was attending the meeting in place of Roger Wilson.

He noted that there had been a lot of work ongoing since the last meeting which included:

- Attendance at the National Stakeholder Group meeting in Manchester in March which included a personal meeting with Tony Fountain NDA Chief Executive. The meeting with Tony Fountain had been to discuss the progress of the nuclear archives and the competition process, specifically the socio economic aspects of the contract. The chair noted that the competition would be an agenda item later in the meeting and would be fully discussed.

On the archives Tony Fountain has now written to DSG saying that the NDA is still fully committed to this project.

At the National Stakeholder Group there were also discussions on various topics cover the NDA's strategy. NDA will be providing a presentation at the September

DSG on the strategy and the consultation around that.

- A meeting with Lyn Turner of UNITE Trades Union had been held and discussed a number of issues relating to the reduction of jobs on the site and the opportunities and challenges. The chair noted it was pleasing to see that Unite are taking a keen interest and wish to remain actively involved. He congratulated the local trade union representatives for ensuring that Caithness & North Sutherland is firmly of Unite's agenda.
- A number of meetings had been held with Philip Behan, Business Development Manager, Babcock International to discuss the role of DSG and socio economics. The chair noted that it was good to see that Babcock International, as the incumbent Parent Body Organisation, was starting to look at ways of providing support to the Caithness & North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership.
- Derrick Milnes and the chair had met with Randall Bargelt on two occasions to discuss updates on NDA matters.

## **2. APOLO IES RECEIVED**

Apologies received were as follows:

- Pauline Craw, Health Service
- Brian Mutch, SGRIPD
- Rick Nickerson, Shetland Island Council
- Ian Bramwell, NII (Vulcan)
- Stuart Currie, DNSR (Vulcan)
- Roger Wilson, SEPA
- Gordon Jenkins, North Highland College (Marcus Mennie)
- Pat Gallagher, Rolls Royce
- Hamish Pottinger, Caithness Against Nuclear Dumping

No other apologies had been received.

## **3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETIN**

DSG(2010)M001 had been sent to members. The minutes were taken as a true reflection of the meeting and this was proposed by Derrick Milnes and seconded by Alan Scott.

## **4. PRO RESS ON ACTIONS**

Progress on actions can be found in Appendix 1.

## **5. VULCAN UPDATE**

The chair noted that the Vulcan update is part of the Site operations sub group with regular reports from MOD, NII and the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator). At the last sub group meeting the following had been reported:

- The plant was still shutdown and it was expected that operations would recommence in August/September this year.
- The new Director of DNSR had visited Vulcan and DNSR had also carried out a safety audit which was deemed satisfactory.

- Planning continues for the emergency exercise – Lonestar 2010 – which will be held next week on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.
- Discussions with the regulators continue on the proposed reduction of the emergency planning zone.
- A decision on the future of the site was still awaited.

Commander Michael Moreland stated that there was little to add to the brief. He thanked Simon Middlemas for DSRL's ongoing support to the emergency exercise due to take place next week. He also confirmed that the plant remained shutdown.

John Deighan asked whether employment on the Vulcan site was stable and had there been further information on the future of the site.

Commander Moreland confirmed that staffing remained stable and that the future of the site was still ongoing.

#### **6. ADMIN AND PROCEDURES SUB GROUP**

Bob Earnshaw provided the update. The admin and procedures sub group had met on 12<sup>th</sup> May (DSG/APSG(2010)M002 refers). Of note:

- The financial report had been updated at the end of the financial year – the final spend for DSG was £22.5K. The finances had been audited and no issues were raised.
- A number of membership issues are currently being followed up.
- A letter has been written to John Thurso, MP congratulating him on his re-election and requesting a meeting with him on a number of issues. This meeting had now been scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **PROPOSAL TO REFORMAT DSG SUB GROUPS**

Following the AGM in March the Admin and Procedures sub group had looked at ways of reformatting the DSG sub groups. DSG(2010)P010 refers and all members had received copies in advance to discuss at their respective sub groups.

In summary the paper proposed that:

- The admin and procedures sub group changes to the DSG business meeting and will include the chair, vice-chair and sub group chairs. This meeting would meet following all other sub groups to allow key issues to be discussed, actions arising identified and would inform the agenda for the main DSG meeting. This meeting would not be a decision making body and any proposals from this meeting would come forward to the full DSG for endorsement before implementation.
- The socio economic sub group remains unchanged.
- The main change is the combination of the site operations and environment sub group with it being renamed as the 'site restoration sub group'. The reasoning behind this was that many of the issues overlap, that it could be easier for members to attend instead of holding one of these sub groups in the afternoon of the main DSG and it strengthens the scrutiny and oversight of both sub groups.

The site operations sub group had met and are, in general, in agreement but it had been noted that the timing of the agenda would need to be strictly adhered. They agreed that a trial of a combined meeting would be useful to see if it was workable.

George Farlow noted that the ESG had discussed this during their meeting that afternoon. Shetland Islands Council had provided written comments and were concerned about the increased travel that would result from their point of view. The reason why the ESG had been scheduled for the afternoon of the main meetings were primarily to keep travelling to a minimum.

John Deighan noted that while he recognised the concerns of Shetland and Orkney it needed to be recognised that primarily the DSG existed for the local community. Steven Heddle responded that while he recognised the majority of issues were Caithness driven the environmental aspects of the site was of interest to both Orkney and Shetland. He added that the request for a different time was to negate additional overnight accommodation.

John Deighan also noted that he would like to see deputies identified for the DSG business meeting. It was agreed that this would be done.

It was agreed that a trial meeting of the combined sub groups would be organised and would be followed by a decision on whether this was workable or not.

**Action: DS (2010)M002/A001: Secretary to organise a trial meeting of the combined site operations and environment sub groups and to take on board the identification of deputies for the DS business meeting.**

For ease of reference all actions from the Admin and Procedures sub group are recorded here:

**DS (2010)M002/A002: Secretary to draft a letter to John Thurso, MP on his re-election and to ask for a meeting at the earliest opportunity. *Action complete – see DSG(2010)C048***

## **7. ENVIRONMENT SUB GROUP**

George Farlow provided a verbal update from the meeting. Since the meeting had been held that afternoon there were no formal minutes available. Of note:

- Minutes of the meeting held in March had been agreed.
- There had been a number of outstanding actions which had been completed this afternoon (see appendix 1).
- A number of concerns had been raised by the Buldoo Residents Group representative including:
  - Information on sampling statistics
  - Incorrect information provided to SEPA
  - Size of barge for off-shore particle clean-up.

Actions have been identified to deal with these issues, either via ESG or by the Buldoo Residents Group meeting which is held.

- With regards particles clean-up programme:

- Offshore clean-up would commence in July.
- Onshore monitoring – access to Sandside had been granted on the 17<sup>th</sup> May and five particles had been retrieved. Currently access had been withdrawn.
- Dunnet, Murkle, Peedie Sands and Melvich had been monitored with no particles detected.
- The Particles Retrieval Advisory Group (PRAG(D)) will meet next week and updates from this meeting will be provided.
- DSRL update included:
  - There had been a lost time accident on the site resulting in the run of 469 days without an injury being broken.
  - Discharges from the site remain within the authorised limited.
  - There had been a fire in PFR on 28<sup>th</sup> May which had been dealt with promptly and reported.
  - DSRL were working to deliver additional information to SEPA for the new discharge authorisation.

Simon Middlemas added the following:

- On the Buldoo concern regarding information on monitoring of land. He confirmed that information sent to SEPA had included a map which had not been correct. SEPA had responded content that this had been an administration error.
- Dialogue continued with Sandside's landowner to resolve access agreement.
- The lost time accident had resulted from someone rolling over on his ankle and breaking it.
- The fire at PFR had been a sodium burn and it was a credit to the site's fire brigade that action was taken professionally and promptly. Donald Mackay asked whether it was an ignition and what had caused it. Simon responded that it had been some sodium which had been dug out and combusted. They were currently investigating the circumstances and he did not want to prejudice outcome of the enquiry.
- SEPA update included:
  - DSG(2010)P014 was tabled for discussion.
  - Jim Gemmill and Paul Dale from SEPA had attended the meeting where Jim had outlined the re-organisation of SEPA and Paul provided an update on the sampling regime of rabbits as outlined in the RIFE report.
  - SEPA were asked when the Dunnet beach habit survey would be finalised and it was confirmed that SEPA were in the process of finalising this report and would be published.

- SEPA were also asked about the item in their written report with regards the unlicensed keeping of excavation and similar wastes. Members were reminded that DSG had written to the Minister and a response had been received saying that SEPA would be looking at this. It was hoped that common sense within the bounds of the legislation would prevail.
- SEPA were currently assessing the site's discharge authorisation and an action was placed on SEPA to provide a timescale for the public consultation relating to this.

Paul Dale provided a brief on the rabbit sampling which he had previously outlined at the ESG. See DSG(2010)C056 for presentation. Paul explained that the sampling was not carried out with one rabbit but a composite of a number of rabbits. The exact source was difficult to identify and while the sample showed a high caesium activity, the doses to the most exposed person was well within the legal limit. SEPA had instigated further samples and reported activities less than 1 Becquerel. Currently, it is considered that the higher reading may have been an outlier but will undertake further sampling in 2010 to determine this.

Jim Gemmill added that with regard to the unlicensed keeping of excavation and similar wastes SEPA would be working with DSRL to make sure that the rubble can be re-used if appropriate.

- NDA update included:
  - NDA re-organisation continues.

Stuart Chalmers had nothing to add.

- The ESG received correspondence from the NDA asking if information on the waste inventory was sufficient. A response is required by the 31<sup>st</sup> July and the secretary would be circulating to all members to collate views before drafting a response.

George Farlow commented that, since there would be a trial of the combined sub groups, he would like to take the opportunity of thanking all environment sub group members for their commitment to the group over the years. He especially made mention of Ian Webster's (Bulldozer Residents Group) input over the last two years.

For ease of reference all actions from the Environment sub group are recorded here:

**DS (2010)M002/A003: Secretary to include additional agenda item following item 3 (minutes of the meeting) to allow follow up discussion on the minutes.**

**DS (2010)M002/A003: Roger Wilson to provide timetable for consultation on DSRL's site discharge authorisation.**

**DS (2010)M002/A004: Alan Scullion to consider how to best to present sampling results and discuss with Deirdre Henderson to ensure the information provided is understandable.**

**DS (2010)M002/A005: All members to provide any questions or issues to be raised at PRA (D) to June as soon as possible (meeting to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June).**

**DS (2010)M002/A006: All members to provide comment/views on DS (2010)C047 (waste inventory) to secretary for collation. Views to be submitted to NDA by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010.**

#### **8. SITE OPERATIONS SUB GROUP**

In the absence of Anne Chard who had chaired the site operations sub group, Bob Earnshaw provided the update.

The site operations sub group met on 28<sup>th</sup> April. Minutes SOSG(2010)M002 refers and all members had received a copy of the minutes.

Members had received an update from DSRL. Of note:

- The NII investigation into the incident of a flask which resulted in higher than anticipated radiation doses to operating staff was received. DSRL had already made a number of improvements in the processes.

Peter Dickenson stated that the situation had not changed since the sub group meeting. NII were in the process of going through their internal processes. Once this was completed and an independent check carried out the outcome would be published.

- High hazard reduction continued and DSRL had met their target for last financial year for the destruction of liquid metal in DFR.
- 100 m3 of Materials Test Reactor raffinate had been processed through the Cementation Plant.
- The funding for the site had been confirmed by NDA for up to £150m per annum. This has resulted in two of the three major build projects being put on hold.
- NDA has set all its sites a challenge to make reductions in support services by 5% per year. DSG members did voice their concerns because they felt that Dounreay, had already achieved a huge amount of efficiency savings since NDA had been formed and it was felt that the site was penalised for being efficient in comparison to other sites which were not quite so efficient.
- Because of the funding situation the site was looking at the decommissioning programme and a new programme was expected by the end of this calendar year.

Simon Middlemas provided a verbal update:

- A lot of work was ongoing in relation to the lifetime plan (decommissioning programme).
- The site was also getting ready for the competition process.
- Hazard reduction continues with the cementation of wastes and the site was considering other wastes which could be put through the same plant. The site and regulators need to be satisfied that this can be done safely and discussions are ongoing.

- 40% of the sodium in the DFR NaK Disposal Plant has now been destroyed.
- A lot of successful decommissioning has continued on the site and this is credited, not only to DSRL staff, but includes the supply chain.

Bob Earnshaw asked whether DSRL could provide a presentation to the December DSG on the updated programme given the funding level. Simon Middlemas said he would be happy to update DSG members as the programme evolved and would be happy to provide a presentation in December.

**Action: DS (2010)M002/A007: Simon Middlemas to provide a presentation on the revised decommissioning programme at December DSG .**

An update from NII had been provided, of note:

- The NII re-organisation is ongoing.
- NII were taking an active interest in changes to the site's decommissioning programme as a result of the funding levels, including the impact on regulator milestones.

Peter Dickenson added the following:

- NII were looking at staffing levels and as part of that has reviewed the numbers of inspectors currently inspecting the Dounreay site. One member of NII will be moved to another site but this does not mean that NII will decrease the regulating of the site.
- NII witnessed the level 1 emergency exercise on 12<sup>th</sup> May and deemed it an adequate demonstration.
- NII continue to review funding levels for the site to ensure that any programme changes does not impinge on safety.
- The NII quarterly report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter is nearing completion and will be circulated to members when finalised.

An update from NDA was provided:

- NDA had published its business plan for the next three years.
- Also covered the reduction in support costs. £30M of support reductions would come from the sites with an additional target of 20% from the NDA internal resource.
- Competition was also covered but I will leave this for the agenda item.

Stuart Chalmers provided a verbal update:

- The NDA internal organisation would be announced on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.
- Richard Waite, NDA Strategic Manager will be leaving NDA in September and joins CH2MHILL.



- NDA's strategy will be published in draft in September and this will be followed by consultation. *{Secretary's note: NDA will provide a presentation on the strategy at September DSG}.*

For ease of reference all actions from the site operations sub group are recorded here:

**DS (2010)M002/A008: Secretary to take up suggestion of trialling combined site ops/environment sub group meeting before making a final decision.**  
***Action complete – suggestion passed to Admin and Procedures sub group for inclusion in final discussion at DSG on 16<sup>th</sup> June.***

## **9. UPDATE ON NDA COMPETITION**

Bob Earnshaw introduced this agenda item. He asked Stuart Chalmers, NDA to provide an update. Stuart Chalmers stated:

- There was two consortia going forward into competition (Babcock Dounreay Partnership (Babcock International, CH2MHILL and URS) and Caithness Solutions Ltd (AMEC/Energy Solutions).
- The dialogue would continue shortly with a six week period where the participants will get access to the Dounreay site for information gathering. There will be discussions and presentations made by the SLC (site licence company),

The discussion, which included Alistair Dodds (Highland Council) had allowed them to make some helpful suggestions. Since then there had been further discussion with the NDA Socio Economic Manager and he was expecting more discussion to follow. Roy stated that it was a general agreement that the socio economic aspect for this contract was important, the discussions had just started and he looked forward to further input.

David Flear noted that he attended the dinner where initial discussions had taken place with Roy Kirk and Alistair Dodds. He believed the discussion last about 40 minutes and was concerned that there was no further dates scheduled for future discussions. He had received feedback from Alistair Dodds who is committed to taking this forward. David also noted that last week Mr Dodds had provided information to the NDA as examples of measures which could be placed within a contract. He said he would be meeting with Alistair Dodds next week and would ask him when the next meeting was taking place.

**Action: DS (2010)M002/A009: David Flear to speak to Alistair Dodds on progress of discussions with NDA on socio economic criteria for the Dounreay site closure contract.**

Ronnie Johnstone asked if Stuart Chalmers could explain ‘rephrasing’ ‘revised funding’ and ‘maturity of information’? He felt that the words being used continued to ensure there was an uncertainty of the future funding for the site which would impact greatly on the community.

Stuart Chalmers responded that the site had received its funding limits before the spending review had been completed because it had been recognised that to ensure there was a healthy competition a surety of funding was required. The site had been given a funding level of up to £150m flat funding going forward. This was different to current forecasts where the site saw a peak in funding over a few years to take into account the new builds which were required. The peak of funding would now need to be adjusted to fit with the £150m which means that the decommissioning programme needs to be adjusted to fit the funding levels. This could mean that the programme is extended.

The rephrasing is in association with the competition schedule. As explained the funding for the site means that the decommissioning programme (lifetime plan) needs to be adjusted to fit and therefore has to be revisited. To ensure a level playing field between the competition participants it would be useful to have this information to help them with their tender.

Ronnie Johnstone added that this came back to the uncertainty of planned assured funding – was it planning to assure the funding. He emphasised that the language being used sounded like there is a plan which the NDA hoped and expected to assure. This did not give any guarantees and led to the confusion and uncertainty for, not only the site, but for the community as a whole.

Stuart Chalmers responded that as far as the NDA was concerned the Government had said that Dounreay will get up to £150m for decommissioning.

Ronnie Johnstone noted that he sympathised with those having to lead these discussions as inevitably it is the Government that makes the decision and the NDA and others have to work within those limits.

Simon Middlemas added that the site is working towards a plan which is funded for £150m.

Roy Kirk noted that the key to all this would be to work in partnership and to be flexible in approaches. He added that HIE had been getting some useful information from the site so that, by working together, it strengthens the efforts to attract new companies. He stressed that there was some good partnership working going on.

John Deighan stated that there is 180 posts at Dounreay going over the next three years and there is an expectation that supply chain numbers would also be impacted. He re-iterated that the unions wanted to work in partnership and they would continue to lobby hard. He concurred with HIE's view that partnership working was the only way to address the situation and it was more important than ever to do this.

Roy Kirk responded that when everyone works together it was really helpful and while he recognised that some contentious discussions had to take place the partnership approach added strength for the whole community. He acknowledged the strong lobbying position of the unions and looked forward to further productive discussions.

Peter Dickenson, NII reminded the group that while the lifetime plan would change the NII would be looking at the potential to affect the reduction of hazards on the site. NII would be ensuring that DSRL take account of the fact that they need to continue to reduce the high hazards.

George Farlow asked that if the consortia bidding for the site came up with a programme which could be dealt with for less than £150m would the money that was saved be provided for socio economic activity in the community.

Roy Kirk responded that the real opportunity from the consortiums would be to be innovative. Clearly they would be considering their own commercial interests to get most in terms of profit. If they can see some commercial advantage for them or their partners in establishing new businesses off-site it will be in their commercial interests. The real benefit of this would be jobs. He would hope that the two consortia adopt an approach of innovation and good suggestions when it came to developing their tenders.

George Farlow asked whether both consortiums were starting on a level playing field, since one of the participants was the incumbent.

Stuart Chalmers responded that AMEC had been on site for five years and he did not agree that the incumbent had an advantage. In fact it could have the opposite effect. To ensure a level playing field all correspondence from DSRL to the incumbent parent body organisation (PBO) was logged via the NDA to ensure that the information is impartial. The participants for the competition are a different set of people than those who are managing the site at present and there were rules in place to ensure that the participants did not have an advantage over the other participant.

David Flear concluded that he had hoped that the two participants had heard the key messages from the community which were for a strong socio economic aspect which is innovative and supportive to the local economy.

## 10. SOCIO ECONOMIC SUB GROUP

Derrick Milnes provided the update from the socio economic sub group. The sub group meeting met on 15<sup>th</sup> April and the minutes – SESG(2010)M002 – had been circulated to all members in advance of the meeting.

Of note:

- A number of community fund requests have been endorsed.
- The CNSRP Programmes Manager had provided a written progress report – DSG(2010)P009 refers. Topics covered included seabed leases, local supply chain capabilities, skills update, HITRANS meeting and an update from the CNSRP Advisory Board.
- The sub group noted the potential loss of 180 posts at Dounreay over the next three years and also noted the loss of Nuvia positions over the last few months. This should be a wake up call for the whole community because this is the first visible signs of the reduction of jobs at Dounreay and this is likely to be trend for years to come. A number of activities have been proposed to ensure DSG is supporting those tasked with delivering the CNSRP programme and these will be followed up at the next socio economic sub group meeting.
- The sub group had written to NDA on a number of topics following its last meeting – asking for clarity on the planned assured funding, the NDA competition, the national nuclear archives and the reduction of support services. These will all be followed up at the sub group meeting.
- Norman Harrison had written to the sub group. Norman had now moved within Babcock International to the strategy division and Roger Hardy would be taking over Norman's role which includes responsibility for the Dounreay site. Mr Hardy had been in Caithness twice and members recorded disappointment that he had not found time to meet with DSG members yet.

It was agreed that Roger Hardy would be invited to attend the next DSG Socio economic sub group meeting as part of the incumbent parent body organisation.

**Action: DS (2010)M002/A010: Secretary to invite Roger Hardy to attend next DS Socio economic sub group meeting.** *Action complete – Roger Hardy is not available to attend the next sub group meeting but Philip Behan, Development Manager, Babcock International would be attending in his place.*

Derrick Milnes also noted that a number of members from DSG and the CNSRP Advisory Board had visited Orkney this week. He had found this a worthwhile visit and it appeared that Orkney was keen to work with Caithness to realise the potential opportunities for marine renewables.

Derrick Milnes invited Eann Sinclair to provide an update from the CNSRP. Eann provided a verbal update. Of note:

- From a general point of view, over the past 2/3 months there had been a number of different ways of working to deliver the CNSRP programme. New alliances had been formed to deliver different aspects of programme. It had been a difficult

year so far and rather than creating jobs it had been about retaining them.

However, there was a number of alliances coming forward, as an example Skills Development Scotland are helping to deliver workforce transition alongside CNSRP, NDA, DSRL and others. The IT connectivity has seen IT companies coming together to deliver the programme and with involvement from the Advisory Board there are signs that these are beginning to function as core delivery teams.

Derrick Milnes then invited Roy Kirk, HIE to make additional comment. Roy Kirk noted the following:

- He re-enforced the points being made of partnership working and was delighted to lead and sponsor the trip to Orkney. He felt that the visit had been timely and paid tribute to Orkney for their helpfulness.
- HIE had formed closer working relations with DSRL and this was beginning to pay dividends.
- HIE were in detailed discussions with many marine renewable developers and were exploring investment opportunities. These discussions would be ongoing.
- Discussions had taken place between HIE and Babcock International and these initial discussions had been positive. Meetings would continue to explore areas where Babcock could support.

Simon Middlemas added that Roger Hardy had a bigger portfolio than Norman Harrison and was in charge of Babcock's nuclear services. He believed that Roger Hardy would be delighted to meet with DSG members. Babcock were also interested in working with the local supply chain. Simon agreed to provide Roger with dates of DSG meetings. *{Secretary's note – Philip Behan who advised Roger Hardy would be visiting Caithness again on 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> July and would be attending the socio economic sub group. Philip had received the dates of the meeting and will pass these on to Roger Hardy.}*

Roy Kirk thought it would also be beneficial to speak to the two consortia of the Dounreay site competition. The secretary noted that this would happen and was working with the NDA and DSRL to identify suitable dates for separate discussions with DSG (and others) and the participants.

Derrick Milnes invited Trudy Morris, Caithness Chamber of Commerce, to provide an update. Trudy provided the following:

- The Chamber had recently attended two exhibitions – VisitScotland Expo and All Energy. She thanked DSRL for their continued support to the All Energy exhibition. The companies who had attended had provided favourable feedback and a number of improvements to the exhibition for next year are planned.
- Eight local companies had visited Ireland to see the Seagen tidal device developed by MCT. This had given the supply chain an opportunity to speak to a developer and question them on requirements.
- Progression with the chamber membership has been ongoing over the last 18 months and the Chamber is going from strength to strength. It allows an

independent voice for businesses and currently the Chamber were looking to identify new business opportunities to move the Chamber into a self sustainable organisation.

- The chamber was working on a number of development projects and were seeking European funding for one of these.
- Business Gateway were working with the Chamber to help with the Town Centre manager positions to take town centre initiatives forward.
- The Chamber's AGM will take place in August. A third of the Board Directors need to stand down and nomination forms for Directors will be issued at the end of June and member organisations were encouraged to consider this.
- The annual dinner would take place in September and preparations were already underway.

Bob Earnshaw noted that following discussions with Roy Kirk he and David Flear had received an update of the spend against the additional £12M provided by HIE. He noted, that following discussions here tonight, it would be even more crucial to ensure that the additional funding was spend on projects that would make a difference.

David Flear agreed – he said it was helpful to see what the £5M had been spent on but the information provided did not provide outcomes which would be useful. He also believed that some of the activities listed were what he would have expected to come from HIE's day to day operations and agreed to speak to Roy Kirk outside the meeting. He re-iterated comments made that it would be crucial to ensure that the additional funding was spent on things that would make a huge impact, ie infrastructure would be essential.

**Action: DS (2010)M002/A011: David Flear to discuss the spend against the £12M additional funding with Roy Kirk.**

Roy Kirk said he would be happy to re-issue spend with outcomes against them. He agreed that it was essential that the additional funding was directed to the right projects. However, he noted that NDA also carried a £10M budget for socio economic projects and it would be important to ensure that some of that was secured for Caithness and North Sutherland.

Roy also added that if anyone had any ideas on projects he would be happy to listen to them. HIE were already supporting some good projects and wanted this to continue.

George Farlow noted that the Highland Council was also a partner within the CNSRP and were, among other things, supporting the administration costs.

Katrina MacNab asked how many jobs had been created with the money spent so far and was CNSRP and HIE confident that the 180 posts from Dounreay could be replaced.

Roy Kirk responded that by working together with all the other agencies they would need to be clever in their approach. He also noted that on top of potential supply chain losses there would also be other public sector jobs which would suffer from the

present financial climate. He acknowledged that the creation of new jobs would be a challenge and it was important to use the resources already in place to capitalise on the good work that had already taken place within the partnership.

Katrina also stated that she felt that as well as the retention and creation of new jobs it was important to ensure that there were apprenticeships coming forward. At this time companies did not have the confidence to take on apprentices and this was something that needed to be watched carefully. There are youngsters in the area who have no desire to leave the county and there needed to be something done to ensure they had jobs to go into.

Roy Kirk agreed. He said that HIE were leading for inward investment and apprenticeships were a relatively small part. He said that some of the youngsters would inevitably leave the area and that the real issue was how opportunities were created to ensure that they have the opportunity to come back.

Katrina pointed out that not all youngsters wanted to leave to go to further education. She felt that there was a need for some measures to be recorded which showed job creation against the funding spent.

Roy Kirk responded that some of the funding already committed had gone to infrastructure projects which would allow the creation of structures which in turn would create jobs. It was important to look at all the resources available to ensure it is used effectively.

Derrick Milnes felt that this was a question that could also be put to the participants for the Dounreay site competition.

Alan Scott agreed that it was important to keep track of the number of jobs being lost against those being created. He asked if anyone was keeping this information.

Eann Sinclair said he was attempting to do this. Simon Middlemas added that there would need to be combined effort to ensure that the data was accurate. Trudy Morris reminded the group that the important thing here was to retain the GDP of the area.

David Flear agreed that it was the GDP that was essential and that was why it was crucial to ensure that the funding available was focussed on the right things.

Donald Mackay agreed with Katrina's statement on apprenticeships. He encouraged HIE to consider ways to use some of the funding to train apprentices.

Ronnie Johnstone noted that the whole country was moving into uncertain times and it was inevitable that other job losses would come, for example the reduction of beds in Dunbar hospital would inevitably lead to job losses. He added that this would not be under the community's control but it would be essential to think innovatively and by working together in true partnerships this would be come.

On apprenticeships, Roy Kirk responded that Skills Development Scotland was the organisation responsible with apprenticeships and that is the organisation which the group would need to encourage. He added that HIE had been working with Caithness & North Sutherland companies to help them grow which should provide the confidence needed to employ more people.

He also assured the group that HIE would develop a model on the economic impact and how this could be monitored and share this information with the DSG and CNSRP Advisory Board.

**Action: DS (2010)M002/A012: Roy Kirk to develop a model on the economic impact and how this could be monitored to be shared with DS and CNSRP Advisory Board.**

For ease of reference all actions arising from the socio economic sub group meeting are recorded here:

**DS (2010)M002/A013: June Love to contact David Brookfield to find out what progress had been made on Viewfirth project. *Action complete – discussed and agreed to set up meeting.***

**DS (2010)M002/A014: June Love to circulate an email, following discussions with David Brookfield on Viewfirth, requesting views on the way forward. *Action complete – email circulated to organise meeting to discuss way forward.***

**DS (2010)M002/A015: All SES members to provide any questions or views they would like to raise with HIE to Secretary. *Action complete – questions or views raised by SESG members.***

**DS (2010)M002/A016: All SES members to consider key messages for the area and send to the Secretary (see DSG/Wick & Thurso Trades Council). *Action complete – key messages agreed and leaflets currently being designed.***

**DS (2010)M002/A017: Secretary to draft letter to NDA regarding response to national nuclear archives. *Action complete – DSG(2010)C035.***

**DS (2010)M002/A018: Secretary to circulate DS (2010)P010 to site operations and environment sub group members for discussion and put on DS agenda for 16<sup>th</sup> June. *Action complete – discussed at site operations sub group in April, circulated to ESG for discussion on 16<sup>th</sup> June and on agenda for DSG meeting.***

**DS (2010)M002/A019: Secretary to draft letter to NDA raising issues in business plan including skills, socio economics and planned assured funding for Dounreay. *Action complete – see DSG(2010)C034.***

**DS (2010)M002/A020: All SES members to provide secretary with any issues they would like to see raised in meeting with Jamie Stone, MSP. *Action complete.***

**DS (2010)M002/A021: Secretary to write to Roger Hardy to invite him to meet with DS members. *Action complete – see DSG(2010)C037.***

**DS (2010)M002/A022: SES to invite NDA Chief Executive to nominate NDA representatives to consider centralising support services in Caithness to support the vision of the NDA to reduce their overall support service costs. *Action complete – see DSG(2010)C036.***



## **11. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Bob Earnshaw invited questions from members of the public.

David Alexander noted that Stuart Chalmers had been asked at a previous meeting to clarify the socio economic criteria within the Sellafield contract. Stuart Chalmers confirmed that there was not a contractual element in the Sellafield contract in relation to socio economics.

Ronnie Johnstone asked whether the DSG and others, working in partnership, could influence the weighting of the socio economic criteria for the Dounreay site closure contract. It was agreed that DSG would write to NDA competition manager on this subject.

**Action: DS (2010)M002/A023: DS to write to Graham Rankin regarding the weighting of the socio economic criteria within the Dounreay site closure contract.**

David Alexander also noted comments made by HIE about partnership working and expressed his disquiet about some of the comments made during the meeting. Roy Kirk responded by saying that he had not been suggesting there had been no partnership working but merely that it was improving as time moved on. It was not the fact that the organisations had not been working together since the formation of the CNSRP. The £14M investment in the college and Wick Marina were examples of partnership working.

## **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Bob Earnshaw noted the following:

- Some members of DSG were due to visit the Dounreay site tomorrow for a familiarisation tour. The programme had been distributed to all members who were taking part.
- The site stakeholder group chair's forum representatives would visit Dounreay on 29<sup>th</sup> June. The programme for the visit was well advanced and the final touches for this visit were being made.
- Various members of DSG had met with Philip Behan, Babcock International at the end of May and provided an opportunity to highlight the challenges and opportunities for the county. Philip is part of the PBO currently managing the site and DSG look forward to continued discussions with him and his colleagues in the future to explore how Babcock International can support the regeneration programme.
- A meeting had been arranged with John Thurso to discuss a number of issues and this will take place at the end of this week.
- The DSG working group had met to make progress on the Caithness and North Sutherland Fund which is the fund associated with the low level waste facility. The legal documents were almost complete and a new timetable has been drawn up to start the process of advertising for Directors for the funding body.

David Flear said that discussions were ongoing with Transport Scotland to progress the feasibility study of the Berriedale braes. It had been disappointing that Transport

Scotland had rejected the case especially when funding had been committed by HITRANS, HC and DSRL.

**13. CLOSE**

There being no further business the chairman noted that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September. He thanked everyone for their input and closed the meeting.

**Bob Earnshaw**  
**DS Chairman**  
20<sup>th</sup> June 2010

## **APPENDIX 1 – PRO RES ON ACTIONS**

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

DSG(2010)M002/A001: Secretary to organise a trial meeting of the combined site operations and environment sub groups and to take on board the identification of deputies for the DSG business meeting.

DSG(2010)M002/A003: Secretary to include additional agenda item following item 3 (minutes of the meeting) to allow follow up discussion on the minutes.

DSG(2010)M002/A003a: Roger Wilson to provide timetable for consultation on DSRL's site discharge authorisation.

DSG(2010)M002/A004: Alan Scullion to consider how to best to present sampling results and discuss with Deirdre Henderson to ensure the information provided is understandable.

DSG(2010)M002/A005: All members to provide any questions or issues to be raised at PRAG(D) to June as soon as possible (meeting to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June).

DSG(2010)M002/A006: All members to provide comment/views on DSG(2010)C047 (waste inventory) to secretary for collation. Views to be submitted to NDA by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010.

DSG(2010)M002/A007: Simon Middlemas to provide a presentation on the revised decommissioning programme at December DSG.

DSG(2010)M002/A009: David Flear to speak to Alistair Dodds on progress of discussions with NDA on socio economic criteria for the Dounreay site closure contract.

DSG(2010)M002/A011: David Flear to discuss the spend against the £12M additional funding with Roy Kirk.

DSG(2010)M002/A012: Roy Kirk to develop a model on the economic impact and how this could be monitored to be shared with DSG and CNSRP Advisory Board.

DSG(2010)M002/A023: DSG to write to Graham Rankin regarding the weighting of the socio economic criteria within the Dounreay site closure contract.

### **ACTIONS ON GOING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

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/A007: : Rick Nickerson to circulate Shetland 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(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. Action ongoing - *Invitation has been sent asking COMARE for updates and a presentation when study is complete*

### **ACTIONS COMPLETED**

DSG(2009)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

DSG(2009)M004/A003: Tony Wratten, DSRL to provide a presentation to the ESG on environmental monitoring (current regime and into the future). *Action complete* – Alan Scullion provided a presentation on this. See DSG(2010)C055.

DSG(2009)M004/A006: Tony Wratten to circulate the Highland Council's Planning Framework document to ESG members when complete. *Action complete* – Alan Scullion reported that because the two major build projects had been deferred it was uncertain whether the framework document would be required in the short term.

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 complete* – visit organised for 17<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

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. Action complete* – discussed at meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

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

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. *Action complete: Paul Dale stated that while he could not speak on behalf of the COMARE chairman he could confirm that the KIKK report had been taken into account.*

DSG(2010)M001/A004: Secretary to circulate PRAG(D) minutes and list of paperwork to ESG members on a regular basis. *Action complete* – this will be done as appropriate via Environment sub group.

DSG(2010)M001/A005: Secretary to ask SEPA when consultation on DSRL's site discharge authorisation was expected. *Action complete* – DSRL had sent the application to SEPA and further information was requested. Once SEPA has determined the application it will go forward to statutory consultation (Scottish Government, NII, Food Standards Agency, etc) before going out for public consultation which is likely to be at the end of 2010 or early 2011.

DSG(2010)M001/A006: Alan Scullion to clarify review periods for the site discharge authorisation. *Action complete – Alan Scullion reported that looking back at history there has been a number of reviews based on the site's requirements and the authorisation has matched that. It is expected that the review would be 2012 to 2014 unless there was a major change. Jim Gemmill confirmed that SEPA would normally undertake the review but if circumstances changed a review could be undertaken earlier.*

DSG(2010)M001/A008: Steven Heddle to circulate Orkney Islands Council response to Scottish Government's consultation on high activity waste when available. *Action complete – DSG(2010)C033.*

DSG(2010)M001/A010: James Gunn to check whether DFR is scheduled to be painted this coming financial year. *Action complete – there are no plans to paint the sphere this year – it is currently in the plan for 2011 (budget permitting)*

DSG(2010)M001/A011: Roger Wilson to provide response in relation to questions from RIFE report. *Action complete – Paul Dale provided a brief presentation which was discussed under item 7 (SEPA update).*

DSG(2010)M001/A012: DSG to write to NDA regarding future funding for the national nuclear archives. *Action complete. – response received – see DSG(2010)C029.*

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 5<sup>th</sup> February.*

DSG(2010)M001/A014: June Love to circulate invitation to DSG members to attend National Skills award in Manchester on 11<sup>th</sup> February. *Action ongoing – invitation to all members sent on 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.*

DSG(2010)M001/A019: DSG to write to NDA raising concerns regarding the socio economic element within the site competition contract. *Action complete – response received – see DSG(2010)C029.*

DSG(2010)M001/A020: Stuart Chalmers to clarify the socio economic element of the Sellafield contract. *Action complete – there was no socio economic element in the Sellafield contract.*

DSG(2010)M002/A002: Secretary to draft a letter to John Thurso, MP on his re-election and to ask for a meeting at the earliest opportunity. *Action complete – see DSG(2010)C048*

DSG(2010)M002/A008: Secretary to take up suggestion of trialling combined site ops/environment sub group meeting before making a final decision. *Action complete – suggestion passed to Admin and Procedures sub group for inclusion in final discussion at DSG on 16<sup>th</sup> June.*

DSG(2010)M002/A010: Secretary to invite Roger Hardy to attend next DSG Socio economic sub group meeting. *Action complete – Roger Hardy is not available to attend the next sub group meeting but Philip Behan, Development Manager, Babcock International would be attending in his place.*

DSG(2010)M002/A013: June Love to contact David Brookfield to find out what progress had been made on Viewfirth project. *Action complete – discussed and agreed to set up meeting.*

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DSG(2010)M002/A020: All SESG members to provide secretary with any issues they would like to see raised in meeting with Jamie Stone, MSP. *Action complete.*

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DSG(2010)M002/A022: SESG to invite NDA Chief Executive to nominate NDA representatives to consider centralising support services in Caithness to support the

vision of the NDA to reduce their overall support service costs. *Action complete – see DSG(2010)C036.*