

**DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP
SITE RESTORATION SUB GROUP**

DSG/SRSG(2011)M003

Minutes of the DSG Site Restoration sub group meeting held on Wednesday 19th January 2011 in the Pentland Hotel, Thurso at 1900 hours.

Present:

Anne Chard	Caithness West Community Council (Chair)
Alastair MacDonald	DSG Honorary member
Deirdre Henderson	Buldoo Residents Group
Cllr Steven Heddle	Orkney Islands Council
Alan Scott	Caithness Contractors Consortium
John Deighan	Dounreay Unions
Trudy Morris	Caithness Chamber of Commerce

In addition:

June Love	DSG Secretariat, DSRL
Simon Middlemas	MD, DSRL
Stuart Chalmers	NDA
Roger Wilson	SEPA
Michael Moreland	Vulcan (MOD)
Phil Cartwright	DSRL

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Anne Chard (deputy chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Apologies were received from:

- Cllr George Farlow, Highland Council
- Cllr Rick Nickerson, Shetland Island Council
- Hamish Pottinger, Caithness Against Nuclear Dumping
- Pauline Craw, Health Service
- Peter Dickenson, NII

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes (DSG/SRSG(2010)M002 refers) were accepted as a true record. This was proposed by John Deighan and seconded by Alan Scott.

No issues were raised from the minutes.

4. PROGRESS ON ACTIONS

Appendix 1 details progress on the actions.

5. VULCAN UPDATE

Anne Chard noted a number of papers had been circulated in advance to members. These were

- Papers 31 and 35 - updates from Vulcan
- Paper 32 and 33 - NII reports for Vulcan
- Paper 34 - DNSR report for Vulcan

Michael Moreland noted that there was nothing further to update.

It was noted that there had been four lost time accidents at Vulcan. Michael Moreland confirmed that 3 of these had been discussed on previous meetings and these had now been investigated and improvements had been made. The recent lost time accident had been caused by a trip.

John Deighan asked what the employment status was. Michael Moreland responded that it was steady at this time. He added that Rolls-Royce was continuing to consider future business some of which may be in the area.

Michael Moreland also noted that by the next meeting he hoped that Vulcan would be back up and running. It was estimated that there was 12-18 months to complete the programme of work identified and then decisions on the future of the plant would be taken.

Anne Chard noted that NII had provided a report on Exercise Lonestar (DSG(2010)C129 refers). She thanked NII for providing a very clear and easy to read report.

No further issues were raised.

6. **DOUNREAY UPDATE**

Anne Chard noted two papers had been tabled for this meeting:

- DSG(2011)P038: DSRL report
- DSG(2011)P040: SEPA report

The DSRL report was taken as read and Simon Middlemas noted that there was nothing further to add. He said that the site had been busy with the competition participants who were, for the moment, in Cumbria undergoing formal dialogue with the NDA. It was expected that more site visits would take place around Easter.

John Deighan asked about the employment status. Simon Middlemas responded that the site was on track to reduce a number of identified posts. This had been done by early retirements, redeployment, retaining and natural wastages. There had been no compulsory redundancies.

John Deighan noted that the contract for the construction of the low level waste facility had gone to a Northern Ireland company. He asked whether it was likely that they would involve the local supply chain. Simon Middlemas said there were a number of sub contracts within this contract and it was hoped that the local supply chain would benefit.

Alan Scott noted that there was a statement in DSRL's report (Section 4) regarding the award of credits to tenders for work which bring local economic benefits. He said that the Caithness Contractors Consortium welcomed this. Simon Middlemas responded he was pleased with this addition and agreed to circulate the criteria for socio economic benefit when complete.

Action: DSG/SRSG(2011)M003/A001: Simon Middlemas to circulate socio economic benefits in contracts when complete.

Roger Wilson presented DSG(2011)P40 (SEPA report). Of note, SEPA

- continue to undertake work to analyse the data from the wet silo leak detection monitoring systems.
- had received the updated environmental safety case 2010 for the proposed new low level waste disposal facility.
- have been involved in discussions with the Environmental Agency (covering England and Wales) to look at conditions and authorisations for low level waste facilities at Dounreay and Drigg to ensure there are not vastly different approaches to implementing legislation.
- had met with Buldoo Residents Group.
- continues to work with DSRL is developing a site wide authorisation, looking at options and potential constraints.
- made presentations to both competition participants and had held individual sessions with them along with other regulators as part of the formal information discovery process.

Anne Chard noted that the Scottish and English/Welsh legislation is different with Scotland working to RSA93. She asked if Scottish Government had any plans to align to English/Welsh legislation. Roger Wilson responded that this was part of a number of things that SEPA were looking at. He added there was a tranche of proposals looking to make SEPA more effective and these proposals would go to Scottish Government for discussion.

Phil Cartwright, DSRL, provided an update on the particles off-shore retrieval project and a recent meeting with the independent body, Particles Retrieval Advisory Group (Dounreay). Of note:

- DSRL were congratulated on the success of the 2010 work.
- The new system appears to be better at detecting and retrieving relevant and minor particles.
- The number of significant particles being found is much lower than expected, based on the DPAG (Dounreay Particles Advisory Group) work. PRAG(D) recognises this could be for a number of reasons and work will continue to further refine the predicted number of particles in the off-shore environment.
- The number of in-situ particles being left by the new equipment had been greatly improved as the operating techniques were developed... It was likely that these particles would be in the significant range and therefore would be re-targeted in the future.
- Monitoring of an area at the east end of the plume would take place at the start of the next campaign and will provide information on the particles in the area to allow a decision to be taken on the need for a local extension to the fishing exclusion zone (only when particle detection and retrieval were in operation).
- One member of PRAG(D) had carried out some further work on the number of predicted particles in the off-shore environment. He has indicated that there may be 2-3 times fewer significant particles than originally predicted, but that further

work was required to determine the detection efficiency of the equipment.

- A review of what has been happening, with particle arrivals at Sandside was ongoing. Eight particles had been detected and removed since monitoring restarted in October.
- A review of beach monitoring (for beaches which DSRL volunteered to monitor) is also being undertaken.

Deidre Henderson asked for clarification of the possible extension to the fishing zone. Phil Cartwright confirmed that the PRAG and the Food Standards Agency would be considering the results of the work at the eastern end of the plume, to ensure that if the barge had to work outside the current zone, there were clear arrangements in place to allow this to happen. Deirdre asked whether the local fishermen had been informed. Phil responded that the PRAG meeting had just taken place a few days ago and this was the first time the opportunity had arisen to provide this information to the stakeholders. At present this is only a possibility. Simon Middlemas added that if this becomes a requirement DSRL would ensure that local fishermen were informed.

Steven Heddle noted that Phil had referred to fewer significant finds than expected. He asked if there was any suggestion that the shape of the plume is not as what was predicted. Phil Cartwright tabled a diagram which shows the plots of particle finds and stated that it did not appear that there was any deviation in the shape of the plume however the population of the plume appeared to be lower. He explained that the original plume had been predicted following diving surveys and some seabed monitoring. PRAG(D) is content that on the basis of information currently available the plume shape has not changed.

Steven Heddle asked whether the remotely operated vehicle could go into deeper water. Phil Cartwright said that the ROV could go into deeper water and they had followed surveyed Northwards until particle finds had reduced. With the work already done he felt that they were getting a better definition of the north edge of the plume.

Steven Heddle asked if there were any signs that the barge had been disturbing particles. Phil Cartwright responded that there was no evidence to suggest the barge or the retrieval operations were causing particles to move quicker.

Steven Heddle asked about the significant particle found on Sandside Beach which had been reported as the highest activity particle found to date. Phil Cartwright confirmed that the press article had reported in error and that it had been reported that the find had been on Sandside when in fact it had been retrieved from off-shore. He added that following rechecks on the activity it was not the highest activity particle found to date.

Steven Heddle asked if the particles found at Sandside were what were expected. Phil Cartwright responded that of the eight particles found on Sandside 2 were relevant with the rest being minor. He confirmed that this was what would be expected.

Alan Scott asked whether there was a defined link between the transport mechanism and the correlation on Sandside beach. Phil responded that there did not seem to be. He added that a sentry box had been situated in an area on the west side of the plume to ensure that if the retrieval work caused a disturbance to the transport

mechanism this should have been detected. Alan Scott asked if DSRL expected to find a link to which Phil replied that they had not expected to see an increase and the sentry box was installed as a precaution.

7. **NDA UPDATE**

Anne Chard invited Stuart Chalmers, NDA to provide a verbal update. Stuart Chalmers, noted:

- Nothing major since last meeting.
- Planning guidance had been provided to DSRL to plan for £150M per year for the next four years. The NDA local team had received additional funding which would only be used for decommissioning activities and only if the site could justify additional spending.
- Competition dialogue was ongoing. This was the second week of a 12 week period which was likely to conclude in March but may be extended.

8. **LOW LEVEL WASTE**

Anne Chard noted that DECC had launched a consultation on low level waste from the non-nuclear industry (DSG(2010)C134 refers). The secretary asked if members wished to respond to this consultation. She noted that it was unlikely that there would be a consensus view. Following discussion it was agreed that DSG would not submit a collective response and leave individual organisations to decide whether they wish to respond or not.

DSG(2010)C138 was also noted. This was a letter from DSRL informing members that the environmental safety case for the low level waste facility was now available. (Secretary's note: this was briefly discussed under the SEPA report). A non-technical summary would be available shortly.

9. **TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

Anne Chard noted there was a number of correspondence for discussion. This included:

- DSG(2010)C133 - Scottish Government's consultation on Dounreay's Radioactive waste substitution. The Secretary noted that the consultation closed on 11th March. Members agreed that comments would be provided by correspondence as the closing date for consultation did not leave enough time to have a full discussion at the next scheduled DSG.

The Secretary noted that Scottish Government had provided a written update for the DSG (DSG(2010)C136 refers). Further Scottish Government had offered to meet with members if they wished to discuss the consultation and seek further clarification before submitting a response. Members agreed, as a first step, they would provide any comments to the Secretary by the middle of February.

Action: DSG/SRSG(2011)M003/A002: All site restoration sub group members to provide comment on the Scottish Governments consultation on Dounreay's Radioactive waste substitution.

- Dounreay Heritage Strategy: DSG had received a report written by a number of people who are opposed to the demolition of DFR.

Simon Middlemas stated that the site had also received a copy of the report and had written to the authors inviting them to visit Dounreay. Stuart Chalmers confirmed that the NDA and UK Government had also received copies and that responses were being prepared.

Simon Middlemas noted that the DFR sphere was not programmed to be demolished for at least 15 years and if someone came up with a robust business case for retention of the dome then it could be considered further down the road. However, at this point the site had to make a decision to allow the lifetime plan to be fully populated and that decision was for demolition.

Anne Chard reminded members that regular updates had been provided to the Environment sub group meeting on the development of the heritage strategy and that members had received an opportunity to provide their views.

It was agreed that the secretary would write back to the authors acknowledging receipt of the report.

Action: DSG/SRSG(2011)M003/A003: Secretary to write to authors of the Dounreay heritage (save the sphere) to acknowledge receipt of the report.

- A draft response to the NDA business plan was tabled. The secretary explained that the consultation closes on 26th January and therefore agreement as to the final version of the draft response was now required. She added that the Socio Economic sub group had approved the draft with no further changes. Anne Chard asked members whether they were content with the draft. She suggested that if members had any reservations or wished to see something else included they spoke to the Secretary as soon as possible.

10. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

The following correspondence was noted:

- NDA briefings for November and December – DSG(2010)C128 and C140 refers.
- DSDG(2010)C127 is the German study on childhood cancer in the vicinity of nuclear power plants. This completed an action which was placed at the last sub group meeting to circulate this report.
- DSG(2010)C136 was an update from Scottish Government on higher activity waste, low level waste and waste substitution.
- Feedback from the CoRWM meeting held in November – DSG(2010)C127 refers.
- DECC issued a press release on the 16th November DECC on the Redfern Inquiry.

Simon Middlemas noted that the Redfern Inquiry had been set up by Government when it came to light that analysis of human tissue had been taken from individuals who had worked in the nuclear industry without knowledge by their next of kin. The inquiry had been set up in 2007. Simon Middlemas noted that Dounreay site had not been part of this and most of the issues sat with Sellafield (which had been part of the UKAEA at the time).

11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Anne Chard noted the following:

- DSRL were holding a workshop to identify the optimised approach to remediating and restoring the site. The work was being undertaken to underpin the chosen end state which DSG was heavily involved in. The workshop would take place on 8th/9th February and Rick Nickerson and Alastair MacDonald had volunteered to take part.

Anne asked members if they wished to raise anything further.

- Simon Middlemas noted that this was likely to be his last DSG meeting. He intimated that his relief had been identified and would be announced shortly.

There being no further business Anne Chard thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Anne Chard
DSG Site Restoration Sub group deputy chair
23rd January 2011

APPENDIX 1 – STATUS OF ACTIONS

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

DSG/SRSG(2011)M003/A001: Simon Middlemas to circulate socio economic benefits in contracts when complete.

DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A002: All site restoration sub group members to provide comment on the Scottish Governments consultation on Dounreay's Radioactive waste substitution.

DSG/SRSG(2011)M003/A003: Secretary to write to authors of the Dounreay heritage (save the sphere) to acknowledge receipt of the report.

ACTIONS CONTINUING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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: As per recommendation in COMARE's 11th report (2006) for the incidence of childhood cancers around both Sellafield and Dounreay to be kept under surveillance and reviewed periodically.*

The review of childhood leukaemia in the vicinity of Sellafield and Dounreay is listed on the current work programme for the committee. The work programme (which can be found on the COMARE website (http://www.comare.org.uk/comare_work.htm)) is reviewed and updated on a regular basis and is liable to changes in priority through requests for advice by Government departments. Arrangements for the Sellafield and Dounreay childhood leukaemia review are still in the early stages and I am afraid at this point it is not possible to give a timescale on the work. We will update the information on this item on the COMARE website as work progresses. We have noted your interest in this work and will be happy to advise you once definite timescales have been established.

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. *Awaiting update.*

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

DSG(2010)M003/A015: Secretary to organise a convenient date for members of SCCORS to meet with DSG members (and visit site). *Action ongoing – currently awaiting information from SCCORS.*

DSG(2011)M004/A013: Simon Middlemas to provide schematic of buildings in site report to DSG and to report on the five main projects in relation to schedule and budget.

DSG(2011)M004/A015: Phil Cartwright to liaise with the Secretary when the barge is due back in Caithness to invite members of the DSG to visit the barge before operations started.

DSG(2011)M004/A016: Roger Wilson, SEPA to provide information on comparisons of levels of Caesium in Caithness & North Sutherland against other areas.

DSG(2011)M004/A020: Deirdre Henderson to discuss with Buldoo Residents Group what issues should be considered within the local liaison group and what should be taken forward within DSG.

ACTIONS COMPLETED SINCE LAST MEETING

DSG(2010)M002/A007: Simon Middlemas to provide a presentation on the revised decommissioning programme at December DSG. *Action complete – see DSG(2010)C141.*

DSG(2010)M003/A004: June Love to circulate note to all DSG members to see if anyone wanted to attend Scottish Government post consultation workshop on higher activity wastes. *Action complete – Derrick Milnes attended..*

DSG(2010)M003/A010: June Love to include deputy sub group chairmen on both site restoration and socio economic sub group meetings. *Action complete.*

DSG(2010)M003/A018: Secretary to identify and circulate dates for Site Restoration sub group up to end of March 2011. *Action complete – see DSG(2010)C075.*

DSG(2010)M003/A020: Secretary to write to George Farlow asking him to consider taking on the role of chairman of the Site Restoration Sub Group. *Action complete.*

DSG(2011)M004/A002: June Love to write to all members regarding insurance arrangements. *Action complete – see DSG(2010)C121.*

DSG(2011)M004/A010: June Love to circulate SEPA's consultation document on environmental regulation to DSG members. *Action complete – consultation document provided at sub group meeting on 19th January 2011.*

DSG(2011)M004/A011: June Love to circulate KIKK report to all site restoration sub group members for consideration. *Action complete – see DSG(2010)C127.*

DSG(2011)M004/A012: Michael Moreland to look into whether he could provide the final report on Exercise Lonestar to the site restoration sub group. *Action complete Commander Moreland noted that the NII report had not yet been received and a request should be forwarded to Ian Bramwell. – see DSG(2010)C129.*

DSG(2011)M004/A014: Phil Cartwright to ensure that it is made explicit in reports that the barge is not searching for particles in Scrabster bay and is situated there in times of inclement weather. *Action complete – Phil Cartwright has requested DSRL Communications to report this when appropriate.*

DSG(2011)M004/A017: Secretary to request copies of RIFE report in CD format for members of the sub group. *Action complete – requested on 7th November 2010.*

DSG(2011)M004/A019: DSRL to ensure that when blasting trials take place on site Deirdre Henderson (plus cattle) and Simon Middlemas are situated in a location which will be the same distance away as if the real blasting was taking place. *Action complete – blasting trials took place on 26th November 2010.*

Endorsed on 20th April 2011

DSG(2011)M004/A021: Secretary to consider wording in DSG's response to the NDA strategy to emphasise that Shetland Islands Council were not part of the response and would submit their own. *Action complete – wording sent in draft response on 7th November.*

DSG(2011)M004/A022: All members to respond to secretary with comments on the draft response from DSG to the NDA's strategy. *Action complete.*