

**DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP
SITE RESTORATION SUB GROUP**

DSG/SRSG(2011)M004

Site Restoration sub group meeting held on Wednesday 20th April 2011 at 1900 hours in Pentland Hotel, Thurso (large lounge).

Present:	Cllr George Farlow	Highland Council
	Alastair MacDonald	DSG honorary member
	Deirdre Henderson	Buldoo Residents Group
	Cllr Steven Heddle	Orkney Island Council
	Cllr Rick Nickerson	Shetland Islands Council
	Alan Scott	Caithness Contractors Consortium
	Thelma MacKenzie	Dounreay Unions
	Trudy Morris	Caithness Chamber of Commerce
	Nicola Dreaves	Caithness Chamber of Commerce
	June Love	DSG Secretary
	Simon Middlemas	Managing Director, DSRL
	Phil Cartwright	Particles Project, DSRL
	Joe Kane	Commercial Manager, DSRL
	Michael Moreland	Vulcan (MOD)
	Roger Wilson	SEPA
	Paul Dale	SEPA
	Peter Dickenson	ONR (Office for Nuclear Regulation)

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

George Farlow welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked Joe Kane, DSRL Commercial Manager and Paul Dale, SEPA for attending the meeting and introductions were made round the table.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

- Anne Chard, Caithness West Community Council,
- Pauline Craw, Highland Health Service
- Stuart Chalmers, NDA
- Stephen Saunders (ONR for Vulcan)
- Stuart Currie, DNSR (Vulcan)
- John Deighan, Dounreay Unions (Thelma MacKenzie deputised part-time).

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting – DSG/SRSG(2011)M003 – was circulated to all members in advance of the meeting. The minutes were endorsed. This was proposed by Cllr Steven Heddle and seconded by Alastair MacDonald.

Rick Nickerson noted that Shetland Island Council had responded to the Scottish Government's Waste substitution consultation. A copy of the response had been provided to the secretary who would distribute to members for information.

Action: DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A001: June Love to circulate Shetland Island Council's response to the Scottish Government's Waste substitution consultation to members of the SRSG.

Rick highlighted the statement of principles in relation to radioactive waste (Question 1). The Council believes that waste substitution is not the best option in this case and would suggest that the wastes are retained and managed by Dounreay. This would remove the need for unnecessary transport of intermediate and high level waste by sea to overseas owners. As highlighted in the consultation document the amount of waste is small in relation to the overall inventory and there is space in the existing stores at Dounreay to manage it.

Steven Heddle noted that Orkney Islands Council had also responded and would provide a copy of that response to the secretary for circulation to members.

Action: DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A002: Steven Heddle to provide Secretary with copy of Orkney Islands Council's response to Scottish Government's Waste substitution consultation.

Rick Nickerson also noted that the minutes stated that he would be attending a workshop to identify the optimised approach to remediating and restoring the site. Due to circumstances he had not been able to attend. The Secretary noted that Alastair MacDonald had attended on DSG's behalf.

4. PROGRESS ON ACTIONS

A separate status report on all actions had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Of note:

DSG(2011)M005/A017: Simon Middlemas to circulate socio economic benefits in contracts when complete. *This action was ongoing but an update was provided (item 5 of this minute).*

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. *Paul Dale, SEPA reported that the report was due to be published on 6th May in London. Action complete.*

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. *See DSG(2011)C162. This action is still ongoing and will be transferred to Stuart Hudson who has taken over from Elizabeth Gray (a discussion on this subject can be found in these minutes under Dounreay item).*

DSG(2010)M003/A015: Secretary to organise a convenient date for members of SCCORS to meet with DSG members (and visit site). *Action ongoing – despite many attempts at making contact no response has been received.*

DSG(2011)M004/A016: Roger Wilson, SEPA to provide information on comparisons of levels of Caesium in Caithness & North Sutherland against other areas. *Action complete – Paul Dale attended this meeting to provide information – see item 7.*

Rick Nickerson noted that the KIKK report had been circulated to members and that the action had been closed out. He asked for it to be put on the agenda for the next meeting so that it could be considered alongside the COMARE report (due to be published on 6th May).

Action: DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A003: Secretary to put COMARE and KIKK report on agenda for next site restoration sub group meeting.

5. DSRL CONTRACTS – SOCIO ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Joe Kane, DSRL Commercial Manager had attended the meeting to update members. This had been as a result of questions raised at the DSG held in March questioning the socio economic benefits for the county in relation to the contract award of the low level waste facility.

Joe Kane stated he would update on two issues – collaborative procurement and identifying, within the NDA estate, criteria and scoring for socio economics in the contract award process (OJEU – Office Journal of European Journal).

On collaborative procurement, an update had been provided at the CNSRP Delivery Group meeting. Collaborative procurement involves all SLCs (Site Licence Companies) working together to buy services from a common pool. An example of this would be the purchase of electricity whereby the NDA could provide value for money by setting up one contract to cover all NDA sites. This initiative can be applied to different services and contracts. Currently 18 topics were being considered some of which apply to the Dounreay site. Collaborative contracts tended to be quite big contracts and it was recognised that the local supply chain may not be big enough to tender for the complete work package. DSRL were working with the Caithness Chamber of Commerce to ensure the capabilities of the local supply chain are well known in order to encourage bigger companies to sub-contract some of the work to the local supply chain. Joe stated that he would circulate the information on the collaborative procurement to the group.

Action: DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A004: Joe Kane to provide information on the collaborative procurement projects to the Secretary.

On the issue of OJEU contracts, Joe stated that because DSRL was Government funded it had to comply with OJEU regulations. DSRL has asked the NDA to consider a socio economic criteria for site contracts to ensure some benefit is retained in the area. Any company submitting a tender would have to detail their socio economic plans and the site could have a qualitative system around that.

The type of socio economic activity could include training, use of the local supply chain, etc and then the site would have to ensure that the right mechanisms were in place to monitor these arrangements to ensure they were carried out. The NDA, are supportive but want to ensure each SLC stays within the legal framework of the OJEU rules.

Alan Scott asked if there was any benefit to involve the local supply chain so that they can express what they can bring to the party. Joe responded that at present the

question for the NDA was around the legislation of OJEU and how it can be implemented without being prejudicial. DSRL are pushing for this and Graham Construction (the company who won the low level waste facility contract) is an example of this.

Joe added that at this point he could not provide timings for when the NDA will complete this work but would ensure that the DSG was updated at the appropriate time.

Deirdre Henderson asked whether a case could be made that Dounreay is an unique site. Joe responded that each site, within the NDA estate, would say the same.

George Farlow noted that the Highland Council had recently talked about renewables and considering a community benefit planning gain. He noted that if DSRL had to go for planning consent for a project it would probably involve this.

6. VULCAN UPDATE

Michael Moreland provided a verbal update. The plant was up and running again and was operating well.

The Vulcan site had been asked to submit information considering the potential scenarios related to an earthquake or tsunami similar to what had happened in Japan. Vulcan had produced a submission and the conclusions were the same as the Dounreay site. Work was in progress to make sure that lessons from the event in Japan are learnt. Back up systems were in place.

Michael added that some of the press coverage had not been helpful when comparing the Japanese reactor to the same type of reactor in a nuclear submarine – this was not the case.

George Farlow asked whether the site had taken geological advice. Michael responded that they took account of the BGS for the UK. Peter Dickenson said there was geological evidence and this would inform Dr Weightman's report that will include nuclear licensed sites in Great Britain.

Rick Nickerson noted that most of the issues would be similar between Vulcan and Dounreay. The difference being that Vulcan had an operating reactor and back up systems would need to meet ONR's requirements. Peter Dickenson suggested that if anyone had any queries they should contact Dr Andrew Hall, who is preparing the report for Dr Weightman.

Steven Heddle stated, with respect to recorded instances in Scotland of tsunamis caused by seabed mudslides, that it was right that different scenarios were considered in the light of the Japanese incident.

DSG(2011)P044, DNSR report for Vulcan (Jan to March 2011) was noted.

7. DOUNREAY UPDATE

DSRL update

DSG(2011)P042 was tabled. Simon Middlemas provided a verbal update.

- Simon noted that the picture on the front page depicted the capping of the stack. A new ventilation system had been installed, as part of the RSA authorisations requirements, and had been completed on schedule and was working well. The cap on the stack is a temporary one until decommissioning is undertaken.
- Safety and industrial injuries performance were good. The site had recorded 310 days without a lost time accident. DSRL had submitted an application to the Babcock Safety Awards which included the supply chain as well as DSRL staff.
- Following the recent Japanese event, NDA and ONR had asked the site to provide information on the impact of such an event occurring on the site, including what back-up plans were in place. The site had provided a high level response and concluded that the site was fail safe as it does not require cooling or ventilation because the reactors were not now operational. In the event of a tsunami, there may be a release into the environment and the right processes would be in place to ensure safe re-entry into facilities. The likelihood of an earthquake or tsunami happening in Caithness were small and the worse case scenario appeared to be that some facilities would be washed away. In summary the Dounreay site did not rely on cooling and forced ventilation and was therefore resilient under such natural disasters..
- DSRL and SEPA had been working together and a formal assessment of the site's environmental performance is sitting in the satisfactory zone. Roger Wilson, SEPA noted that there had been significant investment in environmental management and a consequent improvement in environmental performance.
- On the operational performance, the DSRL report now included information from a report which was submitted on a monthly basis to the NDA. It provides details of the work to be carried out, ie destruction of Nak from DFR, and sodium from PFR both of which are progressing well and meeting targets.

Cleaning up the fuel storage ponds is something that DSRL is pioneering alongside its sub contractors. Using new, simple, techniques, the timescale for the clean-up reduced from an estimated 2.5 years to a few months, leading to lower doses to the workforce.

The Cementation Plant was operating well and the cementation of raffinate was being progressed steadily. It was now at a stage where the last of the liquid raffinate in the tanks were getting difficult to extract because of the sludge.

- The report now also contained an update on the Pensions Administration Office following interest from DSG members in March. The Secretary noted that the socio economic sub group had received an update from Richard Stoneham at the meeting held in the afternoon (20th April).
- The Cost Performance Index was showing that the site had performed 11% better than planned during the financial year 2010/11. This included more efficient ways of working, but also includes things such as estimating assumptions.
- Post reductions on the site were continuing well and was ahead of schedule.

- The NDA Operating plan (provided at the back of the written report) was provided for information. This is the NDA's commitment to DECC on site delivery. For the financial year 2010/11 there had been 62 performance based indicators identified, of which 2 were missed. The site also missed 2 from the 'stretch' programme (additional work identified to accelerate site decommissioning).

Simon noted that the report had been changed from the previous one to take on board the action placed at the last meeting requesting information on the five main projects on the site. He stated if he would welcome feedback on the report.

Action: DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A005: All members to consider whether information in DSRL report is adequate or further information is required.

Alan Scott noted that he had raised the question of information on the five main projects. He stated that the DSG's remit was to provide scrutiny on the NDA and DSRL to ensure value for money to the taxpayer. He believed that if information was made available detailing when the project was due to start, how much the contract was worth and when it was completed and the final cost of completion the DSG could then comment on how wisely the money had been spent.

Simon responded that the SPI had been running at greater than 1, for two years now and currently the site was 1% ahead of the programme. The CPO of 1.11 shows that the taxpayer is getting £1.11 from every £1 spent. The PBIs were activities that were on the critical path and currently all were on schedule.

Alan Scott said that the performance of the site was good but as it currently stood it was aggregated information and did not provide detail on where the savings had been made and where there had been overspends.

Action: DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A006: Simon Middlemas to consider providing more breakdown on projects in the next DSG report.

Rick Nickerson asked if the cap on the stack would remain. Simon responded that it would be removed at some point when the old ventilation system was removed. Rick added that he thought the pictures were excellent and the report was beginning to be useful in terms of the information required by the group.

Rick also noted that the licensing of the low level waste facilities was still an ongoing issue. While he understood the decision lay with the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and the Scottish Government, and the policy makers were dragging their heels. He was aware that the NDA and DSRL were spending considerable amounts of money when they did not know whether the facility will be licensed. There was an issue of due diligence here because no-one knows what the policy remit is.

Simon Middlemas responded that the decision on licensing arrangements were not holding up the project at this time.

Peter Dickenson explained that to dispose of low level waste the site will need an authorisation from SEPA and anything carried out on the site will have to meet safety regulations. If it is decided that the site of the repository comes under the UK licensing regime its regulation will be proportionate to the risk. The problem of whether to license the

site or not is that international law refers to but does not define what bulk quantity of radioactive wastes are. The UK Government is trying to clarify this. Whatever happens, operations on the site of the repository will be done safely and disposal of radioactive waste will be authorised.

Roger Wilson confirmed that the facility would be covered by an authorisation from SEPA. At this point there are contingencies to deal with the issue. He confirmed that it was something that was being managed by the site and was not being ignored.

Rick Nickerson responded that the clarification had been helpful and Shetland Island Council had always favoured this option as long as contingencies were in place and the money being spent now was good value.

Simon Middlemas assured Rick that this was the case. A safety case and environment impact assessment had both been produced to make sure on the way through. Added to that DSRL underwent a business gateway review to ensure money was being spent wisely and the site also followed best practice on governance. At this point in time little money has been spent on the licensing issue but he acknowledged there would be a time when the site will need a decision but that ONR and Scottish Government were aware of that.

On the subject of contracts, George Farlow asked the Caithness Chamber of Commerce whether they were satisfied with how the site interfaced with them. Trudy Morris confirmed that this was the case.

Office for Nuclear Regulation (was NII)

DSG(2010)P039, NII report for Dounreay (Oct to December) was tabled. Peter Dickenson apologised for the delay in providing the next report. This delay had been caused by the re-organisation of the NII.

The ONR is currently an agency of HSE and in time the intention is to become a separate body. ONR has announced that Nick Baldwin will become interim chair and will take up his post very soon. Following that the Board structure will be identified. ONR will include NII, OCNS (Office for Civil Nuclear Security), Safeguards and in July the nuclear transport will also be integrated.

A report would be forthcoming shortly and would take a slightly different format from previous reports to reflect the ONR's corporate style. In the meantime if anyone had any queries on the ONR an email address was available – ONRenquiries@hse.gsi.gov.uk. Information on regulation of nuclear licensed sites continues to be available via the HSE website.

A joint Guidance by ONR, EA and SEPA to nuclear licensees on the management of Higher Activity radioactive wastes had been produced. The purpose is for the site to demonstrate how a particular higher activity waste will be dealt with. SEPA/ONR had worked closely with the Environment Agency (EA) on this to ensure a commonality between Scotland and the rest of the UK. Dounreay was in the forefront of this work and had produced an exemplary piece of work.

George Farlow asked what the difference was between an event and an incident. Peter Dickenson responded that the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) had a 7 point scale which explained this.

Rick Nickerson asked, in terms of the new set up, if anything would change in the next two years. Peter Dickenson said he did not expect to see much change in regulation of nuclear licensed

sites, they would still continue to be regulated against existing legislation. However if legislation changed then regulation would change to adhere to any changes. In terms of site inspection, this would not change due to the formation of the ONR.

SEPA report

DSG(2011)P043 was tabled. Roger Wilson noted the following:

- Low Level Waste facility – a draft submission from DSRL has been sent to SEPA to review prior to transmission to the Scottish Government to send to the European Commission under the Article 37 of the Euratom treaty.
- The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 have come into force, which means that amendments to the 2005 regulations are now all consolidated.
- The Waste Management Licensing (Scotland) Regulations 2011 came into force in March. The changes to the regulations should benefit the site in dealing with waste.

Following the action raised at the last sub group meeting on comparison of levels of Caesium in Caithness & North Sutherland against other areas Paul Dale provided the following explanation:

Each year the annual radioactivity in Food In the Environment Report (RIFE) reports the concentrations of radio-nuclides in the environment and the resultant doses. In general terms the environment around Caithness & North Sutherland has similar levels of Cs-137 to other areas of Scotland. However, the concentration of Cs-137 is highly spatially variable, thus there is a need to consider areas as a whole rather than specific points. In the 2010 RIFE report the dose to the most exposed person around Dounreay was dominated by the dose received from ingestion of Cs-137. This was the result of a combination of the habits data which indicated an individual consuming venison and the activity concentration of Cs-137 in the venison. Deer is a known hyper accumulator of caesium and at particular times of the year will graze on lichen and mushrooms which are also hyper accumulators of caesium. Thus deer can have relatively high concentrations of Cs-137 in their meat. When a relatively high concentration of Cs-137 in meat is multiplied by a high ingestion rate this gives the potential for relatively high doses from Cs-137 relative to the other doses. However, it should be stressed that all doses at Dounreay were well within the legal limit of 1 mSv.

Deirdre Henderson asked whether it was people from Dounreay who had been identified as eating venison. Paul Dale responded that he could not answer the question, because the privacy of individuals was protected under the Data Protection regulations.

Rick Nickerson noted that the Caesium was not necessarily linked to Dounreay. Paul Dale agreed and added that it was impossible to tell due to the fact that it considered all sources including weapon fall out and the Chernobyl effects.

Update on particles

Phil Cartwright, DSRL provided a verbal report.

- The offshore particle recovery project was scheduled to commence again in May. The barge (weather dependent) was expected to leave Liverpool on 27th April and arrive in Scrabster on 31st April. It would then be fitted out and deployment in the Pentland Firth would begin in the

first week of May.

- An action was placed at the last meeting to invite members of DSG to visit the barge and members noted that there would be a fairly tight window of opportunity before the barge was deployed for operations.
- Letters had been written to provide details of the timeline for expected deployment of barge and these had been issued to Scrabster and a local fisherman on Tuesday 19th April.
- Sandside Beach was now being monitored on a regular basis (since October 2010) which allowed, for the first time, consistent data to be collated and sent to PRAG(D) to review. Thirty-two particles had been detected since October, 28 being in the minor category with 4 relevant particles (one relevant still to be ratified). Particles were being detected and removed regularly but was in line with what was expected.
- Monitoring of the foreshore continues and since October 10 particles have been found. Of these 8 were significant with 2 relevant.
- The PRAG(D) report was due to be published on Tuesday 26th April 2011.

Action: DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A007: Secretary to send link to DSG members of PRAG(D) report when published on 26th April 2011.

- DSRL had looked at spacial finds on Sandside Beach since October and the general picture basically fitted with the patterns as before. Particles were being found close to the tideline however this was an area which had been focussed on.

Alastair MacDonald stated that it was a positive step forward collecting consistent data from Sandside. He added that he always had a problem with casual mention of thousands of becquerels as to those who were not aware it would appear that these figures were horrendous.

Rick Nickerson asked what the target for offshore clean up was for this year. Phil Cartwright responded that it was DSRL's intention to cover 16.5 hectares. The initial plan would be to cover 2 hectares at the east end of the plume, then move into areas further down the plume while monitoring the effectiveness and efficiency of the detection and retrieval equipment.

Rick Nickerson questioned whether the target was area rather than time. Phil confirmed that it was area and added that it also took into account funding. He emphasised that with good weather he would like to exceed the planned target area.

Rick asked what the retrieval efficiency was expected to be. Phil responded that last year it was 94% and if the first two weeks of operation were discounted (system being proved and improved) then the rate would have been 97%.

Rick asked whether this was the last year of planned operations. Phil noted that this would be dependent on results. PRAG(D) would look at the results of this years work and it is hoped that there will be enough information to start to consider completion criteria. Phil expected that a further year would be required with some repeat coverage possible.

George Farlow said it was pleasing to see that the press coverage was very limited and that he believed the clean up programme should be considered good news. He looked forward to seeing the results of this years' campaign. He thanked Phil and everyone else involved in the particles project on moving forward positively and said the site should be congratulated on the progress being made.

8. **NDA UPDATE**

The secretary noted that unfortunately Stuart Chalmers had tendered his apologies for this meeting. Stuart had provided the following written update:

- 2010-11 was a good year in terms of delivery on site
- Mark Lesinski, NDA's Delivery Executive Director attended the DSRL "kick-off meetings" which provide NDA with detailed of DSRL's operational plans for forthcoming fiscal year
- Mark Lesinski commented on the good leadership at the site, the good management team and good job that is being carried out on site
- Dounreay PBO Competition – competitive dialogue period is now complete.
- NDA has offered the position of Head of Programme position based at Forss and an announcement will be made very soon

The secretary also noted that NDA were now providing monthly updates to Site Stakeholder Groups and reports for February, March and April had been received (DSG Correspondence 144, 158 and 182 refers).

Rick Nickerson noted that the NDA had reported an income of £1bn. He asked if an action could be placed to request a breakdown of the income in relation to revenue generation and the sale of NDA assets.

Action: DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A008: Secretary to contact NDA to ask for breakdown of £1bn income in relation to revenue and sale of assets.

Rick Nickerson stated that he was aware of the plutonium management credible options analysis which the NDA had published, in particular Mox fuel. He noted that the Sellafield Mox plan had never worked efficiently. While he was aware that it was not a particular issue for Dounreay he noted that if the option goes ahead he could see impacts on the NDA's revenue which may have a detrimental impact on Dounreay in terms of annual site budget. He suggested that the DSG Socio Economic sub group consider this as there is a potential to impact on the short-term socio economic impacts of the Caithness and North Sutherland community.

Action: DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A009: Secretary to put issue of credible options for plutonium management to Socio Economic sub group meeting to consider how it could potentially impact on funding for the Dounreay site.

9. **LOW LEVEL WASTE ISSUES**

George Farlow noted that the following documents had been circulated to members for information.

- DSG(2011)C167: LLW Environment safety case
- DSG(2011)C169: LLW 2010 project summary

- DSG(2011)C170: LLW potential use of blasting
- DSG(2011)C162: Scottish Gov update on LLW

Trudy Morris noted that an action had been placed on her at the last DSG meeting to discuss with Graham Construction (the company who won the contract award for the low level waste facility) the likely use of local labour and supplies. The Chamber would be setting up an event to allow the local supply chain to meet with Grahams on a one to one basis to explore where the local supply chain could support.

Rick Nickerson noted Correspondence 167 (LLW Environment safety case – non technical summary). He voiced his disappointment with some of the terminology used, ie ‘insignificant’, the use of national background comparisons, etc. He believed that comparing things with Cornwall was not useful.

Roger Wilson responded that this was a non-technical summary and noted that Environment Agencies Guidance on Requirements for Authorisation for Near Surface Disposal Facilities on Land for Solid Radioactive Wastes, which has been consulted on, indicates that comparison with naturally occurring levels of radioactivity in the environment should be provided as an environmental safety indicator. DSRL is expected to comply with this guidance.

Deirdre Henderson pointed to one diagram which was impossible to read. George Farlow asked Deirdre whether the site meeting with Buldoo residents was improving. Deirdre Henderson responded that, in her opinion, it was not. She noted that John Thurso, MP had attended the last meeting and had recognised that it had to change. Currently consideration was being given to an independent chair for the group.

She pointed to one document which commented on ‘the brow of a hill’ and noted that for Buldoo residents it was ‘the brow of our hill’ and residents found this type of language offensive as it affects them as a community.

Steven Heddle noted that he had some concerns regarding the proposal for blasting. Deirdre Henderson said she found the paper on blasting deeply insulting.

Since the Managing Director, DSRL had to leave the meeting early the Secretary asked whether they would like to invite a member of the low level waste project team to come along to the next meeting to update the group. Deirdre Henderson said by the time the meeting came round (July) it would be too late. The Secretary agreed to find out the timeline for preparation works for the facility and, following that would agree a way forward with the Chairman.

Action: DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A010: Secretary to get timeline for the low level waste project and discuss with Chairman a way forward to update the group.

The secretary noted that she had contacted Scottish Government to provide clarification on briefing note which was provided in March (DSG(2011)C162).

Action: DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A011: Secretary to follow up clarification with Scottish Government on update note provided in March (Correspondence 162 refers).

10. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

George Farlow noted that DSG(2011)C154: DECC consultation on the management of plutonium had been circulated to all members. The group needed to agree whether they wished to respond to the consultation.

Rick Nickerson stated that Shetland Island Council would submit a response and could not be included in the DSG's response.

Action: DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A012: DSG Site Restoration sub group members to consider the DECC consultation on the management of plutonium (DSG(2011)C154) with a view to agreeing if a response should be submitted.

11. CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING

The Secretary noted that the following correspondence had been circulated for information:

- DSG(2011)C178: NDA Strategy from April 2011
- DSG(2011)C179: NDA Business Plan 2011-2014
- DSG(2011)C183: NDA Business plan consultation responses
- DSG(2011)C180: Scotland's higher activity radioactive waste policy 2011
- DSG(2011)C160: Scottish Gov update to DSG (March 2011)
- DSG(2011)C174: Letter from Simon Middlemas (staying on as MD, DSRL)
- DSG(2011)C175: Letter in response to C174
- DSG(2011)C177: Letter from Ian Bramwell

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- NDA competition update: The secretary noted that she had circulated an update on the NDA site competition – DSG(2011)C173 refers.
- NFLA/KIMO ask why are Sellafield's Irish Sea radioactive discharges rising? George Farlow noted that he had received an email from KIMO International regarding the rising discharges from Sellafield. He stated that over time the discharges would come up to the Pentland Firth and had the potential to affect Shetland, Orkney and Caithness. He asked whether these discharges could be identified as initially coming from Sellafield?

Paul Dale responded that SEPA had just completed a detailed study on seaweed in regards to Tc99 primarily in the south west of Scotland and dose levels were generally in line with what was expected. George Farlow asked whether there would be any affects to the Caithness community. Paul Dale said he saw no challenges from a SEPA point of view, and while there may be some contribution to the local environment it would similar to the Japanese event whereby the doses diminish over distance and time.

Rick Nickerson said that the real issue is that the UK signed up to OSPAR to reduce discharges by 2020. A recent report published would suggest that the UK will increase discharges over the next five years, although it was recognised that some part of that would be due to some legacy material. Paul Dale said that while discharges may raise it was the dose that needed to be taken into account.

Steven Heddle asked what the INES scale would be for plutonium being discharges in the Irish sea. Paul Dale said that the INES scale did not consider such things as it was designed to describe the severity of incidents or accidents. Rick Nickerson said that the plutonium discharged is about suspension and similar to the particles in the off-shore

environment around Dounreay. Paul Dale added that these issues were considered under the contaminated land regulations. George Farlow asked whether Europe was stricter in adhering to legislation. Paul Dale responded that he believed that currently UK had a more stringent regime to follow.

- Videoconferencing for meetings: Rick Nickerson noted that it was becoming expensive to travel to sub group and main meetings for the DSG and due to all the financial constraints the use of videoconferencing may be an option to cut costs for individuals who have to travel from a distance. The Secretary said she would put this on the agenda for the DSG Business meeting to discuss and agree a way forward.

Action: DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A013: Secretary to put the use of videoconferencing facilities on the DSG business meeting for discussion.

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

George Farlow

DSG site restoration sub group chairman

22nd April 2011

STATUS OF ACTIONS

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A001: June Love to circulate Shetland Island Council's response to the Scottish Government's Waste substitution consultation to members of the SRSG.

DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A002: Steven Heddle to provide Secretary with copy of Orkney Islands Council's response to Scottish Government's Waste substitution consultation.

DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A003: Secretary to put COMARE and KIRK report on agenda for next site restoration sub group meeting.

DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A004: Joe Kane to provide information on the collaborative procurement projects to the Secretary.

DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A005: All members to consider whether information in DSRL report is adequate or further information is required.

DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A006: Simon Middlemas to consider providing more breakdown on projects in the next DSG report.

DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A007: Secretary to send link to DSG members of PRAG(D) report when published on 26th April 2011.

DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A008: Secretary to contact NDA to ask for breakdown of £1bn income in relation to revenue and sale of assets.

DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A009: Secretary to put issue of credible options for plutonium management to Socio Economic sub group meeting to consider how it could potentially impact on funding for the Dounreay site.

DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A010: Secretary to get timeline for the low level waste project and discuss with Chairman a way forward to update the group.

DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A011: Secretary to follow up clarification with Scottish Government on update note provided in March (Correspondence 162 refers).

DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A012: DSG Site Restoration sub group members to consider the DECC consultation on the management of plutonium (DSG(2011)C154) with a view to agreeing if a response should be submitted.

DSG/SRSG(2011)M004/A013: Secretary to put the use of videoconferencing facilities on the DSG business meeting for discussion.

ACTIONS CONTINUING 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. *Action ongoing – for update see DSDG(2011)C162.*

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/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. *Ongoing – the barge is due in at the end of April and there will be a tight window of opportunity to visit the barge.*

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.

DSG(2011)M005/A017: Simon Middlemas to circulate socio economic benefits in contracts when complete.

ACTIONS COMPLETED

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 complete – COMARE report will be published on 6th May. New action raised to consider COMARE report and KIKK report at next meeting.*

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. *Action complete – new format report issued – members will comment back.*

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

DSG(2011)M005/A001: Secretary to write to Hamish Pottinger thanking him for his involvement with DSG over the years. [Secretary's note – a letter would also go to Katrina MacNab]. *Action complete.*

DSG(2011)M005/A006: Secretary to circulate work package for attendance at the Forum of Stakeholder Confidence in Sweden for comment. *Action complete.*

DSG(2011)M005/A011: Secretary to speak to Anne Chard to check availability for attendance at FSC conference in Sweden. *Action complete – Anne Chard has confirmed availability for attendance.*

DSG(2011)M005/A013: Secretary to write to Vulcan Trade Unions to invite them to become a member of the DSG. *Action complete – an invitation has been sent to the Vulcan unions inviting them to become a member of DSG and to indicate their representative and deputy arrangements.*

DSG(2011)M005/A014: Secretary to write to Anne Bergmans indicating DSG's interest in being involved and also offering to host one of the project workshops in Caithness.

Action complete – emailed Anne Bergmans on 14th February confirming DSG's interest and offer to host a project workshop in Caithness. Response received saying that they would keep invitation on file to consider when project is developed in full.

DSG(2011)M005/A015: Secretary to invite DSRL's Commercial Manager to socio economic and site restoration sub group meetings on 20th April 2011. *Action complete.*

DSG(2011)M005/A016: Trudy Morris to make contact with Graham Construction to discuss the use of local gain within the low level waste contract and report back, via the Site Restoration sub group. *Action complete – The Chamber has made contact with Graham Construction and they are encouraging them to use the local supply chain. Grahams have provided a list of subcontractors and materials they wish to procure locally. A meeting with Grahams will be organised shortly.*

DSG(2011)M005/A018: All site restoration sub group members to provide comment on the Scottish Governments consultation on Dounreay's Radioactive waste substitution. *Action complete.*

DSG(2011)M005/A019: Secretary to write to authors of the Dounreay heritage (save the sphere) to acknowledge receipt of the report. *Action complete – see DSG(2011)155.*

DSG(2011)M005/A024: June Love to finalise response to NDA's business plan consultation and submit by the 26th January 2011. *Action complete – DSG(2011)C132.*