



Ref: DSG(2013)C005

Business Plan Consultation
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Herodus House
Westlakes Science & Technology Park
Moor Row
Cumbria
CA24 3HU

Please respond to:

**June Love
DSG Secretariat
Dounreay.com
Traill House
7 Orlig Street
Thurso, Caithness, KW14 7BJ**

**Tel: 01847 804612
Fax: 01847 804615
Email: info@dounreaystakeholdergroup.org**

Dear Sir/Madam

NDA DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN 2013-2016

The Dounreay Stakeholder Group (DSG) is represented by over 20 organisations and therefore this response is one that the majority of members support. However, there are some organisations, who may not agree entirely with this submission and therefore have been encouraged to provide their own response.

In general, the DSG welcomes the NDA's draft business plan which sets out a clear and coherent programme for three years which is useful for stakeholder groups to consider topics of interest at an appropriate time.

Specific comments are as follows:

- Planned income and expenditure in 2013/14: We note the anticipated income and expenditure and congratulate the NDA for securing the funding it received from UK Government during the 2010 spending review. We note however the evidence to committee on DECC annual accounts held in January and believe there should be a full response on this subject.

The DSG would like assurances from the NDA that if funding or income is not realised the Dounreay site will not have a reduction in funding. The decommissioning at Dounreay is progressing well having settled down following competition award in April 2012 and a year of consolidating the plan. It is now a time to provide stability to the site to allow it to continue to make good progress with its decommissioning programme. By providing the funding levels required by the site it will allow the NDA to demonstrate that complex nuclear sites can be decommissioned to its interim end state.

- On page 9 the funding level for Dounreay is indicated as £175M. DSG asked for clarification on this figure because the group believed that the funding level was set at £150M (and even allowing for inflation etc) we do not understand the increase to £175M. While this funding is welcome, DSG would welcome clarification on this figure.
- Critical enablers (page 13): We note and agree with your critical enablers to deliver skills, research & development and supply chain development, to consider socio-economic aspects of its programme and to maintain effective stakeholder engagement.

While there is an understanding that the NDA has looked at ways of reducing funding in certain aspects we believe this has been to the detriment of stakeholder involvement. A useful forum was the site stakeholder group chair's forum but this now appears to be ad hoc and bolted on to national event (but organised at the last minute). DSG ask that the NDA clearly sets out dates for meetings on a yearly basis to allow useful planning of local meetings. We also note your engagement documents on the website and would find these more user friendly if dates can be clearly defined in one document rather than having to constantly check individual documents when these documents are revised.

- DSG notes that the Dounreay summary may be subject to change or re-negotiation following consolidation of the plan. We are aware that BDP/DSRL is currently working on information to provide to DSG detailing key milestones within the lifetime plan following consolidation. We are pleased with the way in which the NDA site facing team, BDP and DSRL currently work with us to inform us of any changes as they occur.
- Socio economics: We believe NDA should be reviewing its priority areas for socio economics and provide good reasoning as to why the sites are identified as a priority. Understanding that within the next decade Dounreay will be closed and it is likely that some of the Magnox sites will be in the same situation (following completion of competition) we believe it is a good time for NDA to re-evaluate the priority areas and concentrate on those that will be closing in the shorter term.

Yours sincerely

Sent electronically without signature

Bob Earnshaw
DSG Chairman