



## Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd

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Mr R Stewart  
25 Duncan Street  
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Caithness

25 June 2013

Dear Roger

### DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

At the Dounreay Stakeholder Group (DSG) held on 12<sup>th</sup> June you asked a number of questions which resulted in an action for Dounreay to respond. Please see below our response.

Before responding directly to your questions may I remind you that the main focus for Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd (DSRL) is to clean the Dounreay site to its' interim end state (IES) to a programme which currently ends in the range 2022-2025. While there is an obligation within the Parent Body Organisation (PBO) and Site License Company (SLC) contracts to support socio economics it is clear that our role is to support the Caithness & North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership (CNSRP) and not lead this activity. Our aim is to support the NDA in delivering their Socio-Economic commitments as per their Policy and Priority Area Plan.

*Q1. What plans have they in place to assist Caithness in the development of a viable economic long term future for the area during the rundown and completion of decommissioning of Dounreay, and in particular to develop the employment skills for young people of all education abilities?*

DSRL works in partnership with the NDA (Nuclear Decommissioning Authority) and Babcock Dounreay Partnership (the PBO) and as an alliance are key partners in CNSRP. The response provided below relates to activities carried out Babcock Dounreay Partnership and Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd. It does not attempt to outline all the work being undertaken by other partners within CNSRP, nor does it set out the considerable socio economic funding provided by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, which since its formation in 2005 has directly invested some £15m into Socio-Economic and infrastructure improvements in our area.

Our socio economic plan which is produced on a yearly basis is published on our website and can be found at: <http://www.dounreay.com/site-closure/socio-economics/dounreays-strategy-and-plans/plans> and clearly sets out our commitments for the year. This is discussed and agreed with CNSRP and the DSG before publication.

To pick up on some of the activities we are carrying out to develop the employment skills for young people of all education abilities. We are actively involved with the North Highland College and are looking to increase our apprentices and graduates over the next couple of years with a review taking place for 2015 and beyond. We are actively supporting HIE with inward investment activities and are currently developing a Marketing plan for the area.

We encourage the DSRL workforce to think about their future beyond Dounreay and have, this year, carried out one to one discussions with a number of them to find out what their plans are.

*Q2. Have the management of the facility shown their commitment to the area by moving themselves and their families to Caithness/N Sutherland? This was a commitment shown by many employees of Dounreay and their subcontractors when the facilities were operational, effectively these families became part of the community.*

*Q3. Are plans in place to recognise the year 2014 represents 20 years since PFR shutdown? This could be an opportunity to formally recognise the success of Dounreay in laying the foundations of the successful utilisation of the fast reactor (cheap) energy resource worldwide? Have the site received any of the ideas that I and others have suggested to mark this occasion.*

*Q4. Have the site ever considered making contact with ex engineers and scientists who previously worked on the site and have much information and knowledge to share to assist in the successful site decommissioning and also present some ideas on how work could be attracted to Dounreay site (many of these are retired, but some are still taking a keen interest on nuclear matters).*

We are happy to have your questions and we will do our best to answer them as best we can. The decommissioning of the site is a major project and we are always looking for ways that we can help our local community. We are always looking for ways that we can help our local community and we are always looking for ways that we can help our local community. Many of the people who have worked at Dounreay have been re-deployed by local contractors to assist them in working within the nuclear industry. We are always happy to listen to any views and I would encourage anyone to contact the site, keep abreast of the information regularly updated on the web site or provide us with comments on our socio-economic plan. We are very open with the CNSRP, including their advisory board which has a wide range of community representatives on it, and also regularly update the DSG which is, of course, a public meeting and regularly has members of the site team there who are always happy to have discussions.



*Q5. Are the site keeping abreast of the fast reactor progress worldwide and the progress made by such organisations as WANO (world association of nuclear operations) and the Gen IV international programme for future reactor development/research on which the sodium cooled fast reactor plays a predominant part?*

The mission of the site has changed and as a result, our external focus is on safe and effective decommissioning. We actively support WANO and have hosted two of their international conferences on Fast Reactors at Dounreay (in 2004 and 2010). We use the team of people we know from our WANO meetings to advise us on liquid metal technology and fast reactor decommissioning.

We are very aware that consideration is being given to fast reactor progress worldwide and indeed have hosted two visits recently, both from abroad, to outline the expertise and experience which exists in the county. These discussions include having those from the supply chain present as well.

Our objectives in part have been to ensure that those developing future fast reactors take account of the experience in our area. This has included discussions with GE-Hitachi who are seeking to build a Sodium Cooled Fast Reactor in the UK as part of the NDA Plutonium disposition programme. More information can be found at <https://www.nda.gov.uk/news/plutonium-management-alternatives.cfm>.

There is so much more going on in the area to attract new business and capitalise on the experience and expertise that already exists in the county. Our response here is simply a snapshot of what is happening that directly related to DSRL and the Dounreay Site. Each of the partner organisations of the Dounreay site has a different and complementary approach to dealing with the closure of Dounreay and the impact and opportunity that brings. I would like to assure you that there is a dedicated and committed team working across a number of organisations to help secure a future not only for the workforce that exists at present but for future generations.

On a personal note, my involvement with Dounreay has been over many years as an operating site as well as when it moved into decommissioning. My involvement on the site included managing the decommissioning of PFR as well as leading the Programmes Department to develop decommissioning plans before I moved to the USA to complete a secondment with CH2MHILL. On award of the new management contract, I was delighted to be brought back to Dounreay where my current role as Change Director makes me responsible for delivering our contribution to socio economics.

I would be delighted to meet with you, at your convenience, to discuss this response in more detail and look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Yours sincerely



**Alastair J MacDonald**  
Change Director

cc June Love, DSG Secretary  
Eann Sinclair, CNSRP Programme Manager  
John Thurso, MP

**Useful web site links:**

[www.dounreay.com](http://www.dounreay.com)

[www.nda.gov.uk](http://www.nda.gov.uk)

[www.cnsrp.org.uk](http://www.cnsrp.org.uk)

[www.hie.co.uk](http://www.hie.co.uk)

[www.caithnesschamber.com](http://www.caithnesschamber.com)

[www.caithnesschamber.com/projects/invest-caithness](http://www.caithnesschamber.com/projects/invest-caithness)