

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25th September 2013 in the Pentland Hotel, Thurso.

Present:	David Flear	DSG Chairman
	Anne Chard	DSG Vice-chair
	Bob Earnshaw	Thurso Community Council
	Alastair MacDonald	DSG Honorary member
	John Green	Caithness Voluntary Group
	Alan Scott	Caithness Contractors Consortium
	John Deighan	Dounreay Unions
	Eann Sinclair	Caithness & NS Regeneration Partnership
		Trudy Morris Chamber of Commerce
	Cllr Roger Saxon	Highland Council
	Cllr Willie Mackay	Highland Council
	Derrick Milnes	Wick and Thurso Trade Union Council
	David Broughton	Member
	Tor Justad	Member
	Ian Leslie	SGRIP
In addition:	Mark Rouse	Managing Director, Dounreay
	Nigel Lowe	NDA
	Charles McVay	Director, Waste (Dounreay)
	Roger Wilson	SEPA
	Cdr Ken Dyke	MOD, Vulcan
	Peter Watson	ONR (Dounreay)
	Ian Miller	DNSR (Vulcan)
	Martin MacDonald	Scottish Government, Radwaste
	David Barclay	Highland Council Planning
	June Love	DSG Secretariat, DSRL

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

David Flear welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced David Barclay (Highland Council Planning) to the meeting. David noted that Stephen Jack, CNC would now be present at DSG and would attend his first meeting at the site restoration sub group meeting to be held in November. In addition, Rob Wharton, ONR (for Vulcan) was being replaced by Jim Williams who will also attend the November sub group.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

- David Mudie, Highland Council Planning (David Barclay deputising)
- Ronnie Johnstone, Church of Scotland
- Sandy Mackie, Scrabster Harbour Trust
- Roy Blackburn, DSG member

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- Rob Wharton, ONR for Vulcan
- Roy Kirk, HIE
- Stephen Jack, CNC
- Cllr George Farlow, Highland Council
- Deirdre Mackay, Sutherland Partnership
- Deirdre Henderson, Buldoo Residents Group
- Jean Lipa, Association of Caithness Community Councils

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

David Flear noted that the minutes of the last meeting had been circulated to members in advance – DSG(2013)M002 refers.

Tor Justad asked for clarification of a statement made by Cllr George Farlow (page 7). The secretary noted she would take this forward. [NB: Minutes were changed to read 'inclusiveness' rather than "exclusiveness".]

The minutes were taken as a true reflection of the meeting. This was proposed by Derrick Milnes and seconded by John Deighan.

No issues were raised.

4. STATUS OF ACTIONS

June Love noted an updated action list had been circulated to members in advance. Outstanding actions included:

- **DSG(2013)M002/A007:** Nigel Lowe, NDA to ask whether Recruitment Company can identify and provide information on why potential recruits did not want to locate to the area. **Action complete:** Nigel Lowe covered this in his update (see XXXX).
- **DSG(2013)M002/A018:** NDA NNA Project Team to advise DSG, via Anna MacConnell, of the date and location of the Commercial Partner Industry Day, when confirmed.
- **DSG(2013)M002/A020:** Anna MacConnell to share NNA Project Communications Plan with DSG once it is ready and approved.

David Flear noted that he had just received an update from Simon Tucker on the National Nuclear Archives (covering actions A18 and A20 above). Simon confirmed that a focus group would be set up and representation from DSG would be invited to join this group. This will be set up following procurement of a commercial partner which is expected around October.

- **DSG(2013)M001/A007:** Secretary to request NDA's strategy and timeline for the next step for the GDF location. **Action complete:** On 12th September the secretary circulated DECC's consultation on the launch of a public consultation on the site selection process for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) for higher activity radioactive waste. The consultation will run for 3 months and closes on 5th December.

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David Broughton volunteered to draft a response for DSG to DECC's consultation and this was agreed.

Action: DSG(2013)M003/A001: David Broughton to draft response to DECC's consultation on siting for the Geological Disposal Facility.

- **DSG(2013)M002/A009:** June Love to invite Paul Dale to the next site restoration sub group meeting to outline PRAG(D) final report. **Action ongoing** – the report had been delayed and therefore action will continue until final report is finalised.

Tor Justad noted in relation to DSG(2013)M002/A005 (fuel transports) that there had been a recent derailment of a nuclear train at Barrow which highlighted that incidents can happen. He asked for this item to be kept on the agenda so that it can be kept under surveillance. He also noted that the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) had recently held a seminar on post-Fukushima nuclear matters and emergency planning in relation to transportation.

Nigel Lowe responded that on the 16th September at 1400 hrs a 3 carriage train carrying empty fuel flasks had derailed. It had been travelling very slowly (walking pace) and had jumped the track. An incident investigation team were currently investigating and will report back in the next 2-3 weeks. He confirmed he would provide DSG with the findings once the report was finalised.

Tor Justad responded that he felt that this emphasised the need for local community consultation so that more information was available. Nigel Lowe responded that this would be part of the investigation.

Action: DSG(2013)M003/A002: Nigel Lowe, NDA to provide DSG with information on the derailment at Barrow once investigation report is finalised.

5. UPDATE FROM VULCAN

David Flear noted that Vulcan updates continue to be provided via the site restoration sub group meetings. At the last meeting the sub group received written updates from:

- DNSR (Defence Nuclear Safety Regulators) – DSG(2013)P010
- ONR (Office for Nuclear Regulation) – DSG(2013)P014
- Rolls Royce update – DSG(2013)C029

The sub group also received an update on the MOD Police external patrols which have now commenced. Ken Dyke provided information on the powers of MOD police.

From the sub group update the following was reported:

- That the lonestar exercise held on 19th June had been deemed a satisfactory demonstration.
- Iodine tablets had been provided to local residents living within the emergency exclusion zone.
- A security exercise took place week commencing 16th September.

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David Flear also noted that an update had been received from Tom Smith, Vulcan Defuel and decommissioning project. Of note:

- The project is now in an assessment phase and the decision of the future of the site will be made around 2016. Preparations are currently ongoing for the post operational phase.
- Options being considered for the future range from prompt decommissioning to placing the facilities in long term care and maintenance.
- Discussions are also taking place with NDA who have agreed to support decommissioning planning for the site.

Rolls Royce also provided a written update – DSG(2013)P019 refers. Of note:

- They were continuing to safely deliver their current PWR2 Reactor operations and submarines nuclear support programmes.
- There had been no injuries since the last update.
- Additional contract work continued to increase for the immediate/short term period of 2015 to 2021.
- The design, development and manufacture of the Next Generation PWR3 reactor cores and plan for UK's submarine fleet were now well advanced.
- 16 apprentices continue in training – 4 new apprentices started in August.

David Flear invited verbal updates.

MOD, Vulcan: Cdr Ken Dyke reported:

- A security exercise had taken place last week which had been a successful demonstration.
- Vulcan had extended an invitation to DSG members to visit Vulcan on the afternoon of the 13th November.
- Vulcan continues to operate as per programme.

DNSR: Ian Miller reported:

- DNSR had observed the exercise Lonestar held in June which was an exercise to demonstrate emergency arrangements and strategic response from off-site agencies. The exercise was deemed a satisfactory demonstration.
- On 25th July DNSR inspected arrangements for the accumulation of radioactive material.

SEPA: Roger Wilson stated he had nothing to add.

No issues or questions were raised.

6. BUSINESS MEETING UPDATE

David Flear reported that the business meeting had met on 16th August – DSG/BM(2013)M003 refers. The draft minutes had been circulated in advance to all members. Discussion at this meeting included:

- Progress on the national nuclear archives.
- Vulcan familiarisation visit for members will be held on 13th November. He reminded members if they wish to visit Vulcan they should confirm with the secretary as soon as possible.
- There had been a number of changes to sub group members and representation at various external meetings:
 - Association of Caithness Community Councils will now attend the socio economic sub group.
 - CNC is now an observer at the site restoration sub group meeting.
 - David Flear becomes DSG representative on the CNSRP Advisory Board and Caithness Transport Forum.
 - David Broughton has become DSG rep for the Scottish Government's Higher Activity waste implementation strategy group.
- A request to visit to the new low level waste facility to see the progress had been requested. This visit had taken place on 24th September with a number of DSG representatives attending.

David Broughton noted that the low level waste facility was unique, not just in Scotland but in the UK. He was not aware, through his professional observations, that the facility had been highlighted enough by Dounreay or Graham Construction. He felt this facility was a good example of highlighting the decommissioning excellence which is taking place at Dounreay. Charles McVay, Dounreay Waste Director, responded that the facility was a key project and a number of high level visitors to the site had viewed the facility. In addition, there have been regular features of the project in various trade magazines and Graham Construction was leveraging their experience with this to secure future projects. Dounreay personnel also provided presentations on this project at various conferences. Nigel Lowe added that the project would be presented at an international conference in Florida in October.

- Community Funding was discussed at the Business meeting and it was agreed that DSG would try to facilitate a discussion on an area wide fund.

David Flear noted that DSG had been contacted by Foundation Scotland who had undertaken the Caithness conversation, on behalf of RWE NRL, to ask if DSG would become the stakeholder group to look at the number of recommendations that have been made to take this forward. At the business meeting it was agreed that this will be a working group of DSG because most of the stakeholder organisations are already part of the DSG and others will be co-opted on if they have an interest but were not necessarily represented at DSG. The secretary will be writing to all DSG members to ensure that

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the appropriate person within the represented organisations become members of this working group. David Flear emphasised that DSG have no wish to set up a funding body nor get involved in handing out money – the working group would simply help facilitate a discussion to see if a mechanism could be identified that would benefit the county as a whole. Further details of this would be available shortly.

A request had also been made to the NDA to provide updated information on their socio economic spend (across the NDA estate) since the NDA had been established.

For completeness the actions from the Business meeting are recorded here:

DSG(2013)M003/A003: June Love to request information on all NDA's contribution to socio economics for Caithness and North Sutherland. In addition to ask for a list of funding provided across the NDA estate.

DSG(2013)M003/A004: June Love to ask Ken Nicol to provide a timeline for the production of the measuring impacts paper.

DSG(2013)M003/A005: June Love to circulate to DSG Socio Economic sub group members the short document on skills and the decision of the Business meeting not to progress with a working group.

DSG(2013)M003/A006: June Love to arrange for David Flear to meet with CNC representation for CNC.

DSG(2013)M003/A007: June Love to ask for clarity on extent of 'local residents' re CNC patrols and car registrations.

DSG(2013)M003/A008: Secretary to request a presentation on Higher Activity Waste. **Action complete:** presentation to be provided at DSG on 25th September 2013.

DSG(2013)M003/A009: Secretary to update sub group remit and membership and circulate to all members.

DSG(2013)M003/A010: June Love to look at travel arrangements for InSOTEC seminar in Berlin, November 2013.

DSG(2013)M003/A011: June Love to identify a date for DSG business meeting members to visit new low level waste facility (and extend to other DSG members who had not already visited).

7. SITE RESTORATION SUB GROUP UPDATE

Bob Earnshaw reported that the site restoration sub group had met on 24th July – DSG/SRSG(2013)M003 refers. The draft minutes had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

He noted that the Vulcan update had been provided earlier in the meeting and therefore he would not cover this again. From the sub group meeting, the following had been reported:

Dounreay

- Work to continue to improve the safety of the site continues with a number of initiatives underway.

David Flear noted that he had held discussions with both Nigel Lowe and Mark Rouse and had been comforted to hear that safety continued to be the site's priority. He noted that it had been a particularly challenging time for the site with two years' of competition and another year of settling down under a new management team. Mark Rouse had invited David to attend quarterly staff talks and he had been pleased to accept this offer.

Nigel Lowe responded that safety and security was the NDA number one priority. He noted that the contract could be terminated by NDA if safety was breached in a very serious way, eg if there was a fatality. DSRL's safety metrics was compared with all other NDA sites.

Mark Rouse added that safety was also his priority and noted he would cover this issue further in his verbal update.

- The sub group asked if the site was any clearer in the timing for the construction of the 3rd low level waste vault and had been told it would be in about 18 months time.
- The timescale for the repair to WRACS had been requested and this was provided following the meeting. It is expected that operations will resume in April 2014.
- Dyan Foss had provided information on an event associated with reactor work where there had been an inadvertent spread of a small amount of contamination. An investigation had been undertaken and some cultural issues were being addressed. ONR had indicated they were taking an interest.
- The site was continuing to work with regulators to develop the clean-up standards for the site. Regular workshops were taking place and consideration was being given to background levels.
- The site's all waste BPEO had been tabled at the meeting. It had been noted that some members had been involved in the consultation on the first BPEO undertaken to manage the waste. This document is reviewed periodically to ensure it was still best practice.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)

- The NDA were considering which option to progress with the Sellafield contract.

The Magnox competition was progressing to plan.

- A number of high level visits had taken place recently which showed how much interest there is in the progress of the site's decommissioning programme.

SEPA

- DSRL had submitted an application for a variation of the site's gaseous waste authorisation.

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- They had written to Scottish Government confirming they were content with DSRL's RSA submission.
- Additional support has been secured for a hydro-geologist to support SEPA with the end state work. Paul Morrison would join the team, on an almost full time capacity, to support SEPA's Radioactive Substances function.
- Feedback had been received on the reports in respect of the low level waste thermal cracking. The review found that best practice had been followed.

ONR

- They had undertaken a number of inspections relating to licence conditions. A number of safety cases are currently under review.

Bob Earnshaw invited the following to provide verbal updates:

Dounreay: Mark Rouse reported the following:

- Safety was improving on the site. There had been no lost time accidents during July and August and the statistics were heading in the right direction.
- In saying that, Mark Rouse stated that safety was only as good as the last incident. As a result of an ONR inspection which showed some documentation shortcomings in the implementation of operating rules a decision was taken, on 14th August, to stop operations on all major plants until a thorough check had been carried out. An investigation was immediately instigated. Work had now restarted and the site is working with ONR to ensure that there is robust actions in place for improvements. Safety of the workforce was paramount and Mark stated he would have no hesitation in stopping operations again if any shortcomings on safety systems were even suggested.
- While testing the foam fire fighting system in the Fuel Cycle Area the foam delivery line did not freely operate. There was leakage from the lagged pipework. Work was stopped immediately and an investigation commenced on the equipment which showed corrosion on the lagged pipework.
- A safety challenge, to go 60 days without a hand injury, was launched on site on 12 June 2013. Each directorate was also asked to identify 20 issues of good practice. On 27 August the site completed the number of days with no injuries and 25 good practices have been identified, some of which still need to be verified.
- The site annual demonstration exercise was held on Wednesday 18th September. It was a challenging and unique scenario and everyone learnt a huge amount about how to take forward the complex interaction that DSRL and CNC have. Overall DSRL deemed it an adequate demonstration of the arrangements. Similar (verbal) feedback had been received from ONR and a formal report was awaited.
- Work was ongoing to close out the site's Article 37 submission to Scottish Government.

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- At DFR, work was progressing to deal with the residual NaK.
- At PFR, the generators and ancillary equipment had been removed. These were sold for reuse by an external organisation for power generation using bio fuels.
- A lot of good decommissioning work is being carried out in the Fuel Cycle Area, plants are being cleaned out and decommissioned and allows people to stand in areas which previously were too radioactive to get close to.
- Safety cases were being produced for the shaft and silo projects. ONR were working closely with the site on this.
- The 9th fuel shipment had been undertaken by rail. DSRL stopped the transportation of fuel until they had received assurances about the recent derailment at Barrow.

NDA: Nigel Lowe reported:

- On the stop/start work, NDA had been pleased with the way the site had responded to this and equally pleased that the site had chosen not to bury the issue but to be open and honest about it. The cost and schedule of the programme had not influenced the decision to stop work and this showed that safety always took precedent.
- Two key members of NDA would be leaving the organisation by the end of the year – Mark Lesinski, Chief Operating Officer and Jim McLauchlin (Human Resources Director).
- On the action discussed earlier (DSG(2013)M002/A007: Recruitment of a Programme Manager) it appeared that the salary level was the main reason for not being able to recruit earlier. The recent recruitment campaign had attracted 40 applications with 10 being selected for interviews, some of whom live in the local area.
- A decision on the Sellafield Contract would be taken next week and then would go through due process before any announcement would be made.
- The Magnox competition was continuing to schedule.

ONR: Peter Watson reported:

- The ONR report for April to June 2013 had been published. The next report (covering July to September) was currently in draft and would be available for the site restoration sub group meeting.
- The stop work instruction had arisen due to a plant compliance inspection. Three nuclear safety inspectors attend the site on a regular basis to inspect different aspects of the Site Licence. In this particular instance ONR found what was thought to be an anomaly however this was not clear and discussions took place with senior management to consider whether it was local to the plant in question or generic to

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the site. It was important that inspectors continue to ask questions and challenge the site.

- The leakage detected from the fire fighting system was of concern as ONR would expect this to be in good working order. A letter has been written to the site to seek a response.
- ONR were among the observers for the site emergency exercise held on 18th September. Observations included a large number of people looking pretty harassed (a sign that people were playing this for real) to deal with a very tough scenario. As with all exercises, areas for improvements were identified.

SEPA: Roger Wilson reported:

- Work with Scottish Government was ongoing to determine the variation of gaseous waste authorisation relating to the new discharge stack. This did not change the current discharge limits.
- Determination of the main decommissioning authorisation is ongoing with further information was received.
- Site inspections, in August, included the new active labs and gaseous/liquid discharge arrangements.
- Shortcomings in training records and organisation are being discussed with the site in relation to the Environmental regulations.
- A number of meetings had taken place between SEPA, ONR and the site with regards the shaft and silo.

Scottish Government: Martin MacDonald reported:

- Scottish Government had attended the NDA's national SME Steering Group in July. This group is to provide SME's with support to access the nuclear supply chain and contract opportunities.
- Skills Development Scotland and Scottish Government were in discussions with NDA on including nuclear decommissioning skills within the Scottish Energy Skills Action Plan.
- The next higher activity waste project implementation board would meet again in November. Scottish Government welcomed DSG's involvement with this.

There being no further updates Bob Earnshaw opened the discussion to members.

- Tor Justad noted that the ONR had reported that a number of anomalies had resulted in work being stopped on the site. He asked what had been the cause of the stoppage? Peter Watson responded work had been stopped so that checks could be made to find out whether the problem was (localised) within one area or (generic) across the site. Tor Justad acknowledged this but asked what had

happened to stop all work. Mark Rouse responded that the site has a number of safety cases with working procedures which flow down from these documents. During the inspection it was found that some of the underpinning documents could be open to translation and it was agreed with the management team, that it was worthwhile stopping all work until checks across all major safety cases were carried out. This showed there were some areas with the same issues. Bob Earnshaw noted that this was a process matter. Tor Justad stated that given that explanation it appeared it was a paperwork problem rather than a people one. Mark Rouse confirmed this but noted that the safety case paperwork was important.

- John Deighan noted Scottish Government's involvement with NDA re the skills agenda and asked for further information. Martin MacDonald responded that he believed the group were defining the Scottish Skills Action Plan which had originally focussed on oil & gas and renewables. Nuclear decommissioning skills would now be included. Martin agreed to provide further information.

Action: DSG(2013)M003/A012: Martin MacDonald to provide DSG further information on the Scottish Skills Action Plan.

- Roger Saxon noted that Babcock Nuclear Services (BNS) were being transferred across to DSRL and that there was rumours of others following. He asked if there was further information on this. Mark Rouse confirmed that BNS personnel were transferring back to DSRL under TUPE arrangements. Following consideration of the future of the FM (facilities management) contract it had been decided to bring it back in-house and therefore Johnston Controls personnel would also TUPE across to DSRL. There would be no increase to the site's liabilities as these already existed with the site.
- Roger Saxon noted the Sellafield box contract and asked if there was potential for this to be done in Caithness. He asked if this was one large contract or could be split into smaller contracts. Nigel Lowe responded that this had been discussed at one of the sub group meetings. The contract was open to any company and is yet to be finalised. Local companies should be encouraged to tender either as the primary contractor or as a sub contractor. OJEU regulations will be followed.
- David Flear noted that Roy Blackburn had tendered his apologies for this meeting but had raised a query with regards to the NDA's Monthly Update report regarding the item entitled Plutonium report submitted to DECC. The NDA had submitted its conclusions from a recent study on the UK's separated plutonium stocks to DECC. The item mentions some options but does not provide the conclusions. There is no further information on NDA's website and the request was for further information on NDA's conclusions. Nigel Lowe responded that the report commissioned by UK Government was a technical analysis of the options. The report had now been provided and will be published once UK Government has reviewed it.
- Bob Earnshaw noted that DSG had received a letter from David Atkinson, NDA Head of Property Services regarding a property review of the NDA estate, including assets at Dounreay that are no longer required for current operational and decommissioning requirements. A response was sent to David Atkinson with a number of questions regarding the agriculture ground around the site and whether the Viewfirth site was part of this consideration. A response was currently awaited.

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Roger Saxon added that the Viewfirth land had originally been offered to the community and while the proposal for use of the site had not gone ahead he asked whether it was still possible for the land to be donated for community use or if otherwise sold, the proceeds be donated for some community use (ie the community).

David Barclay, Highland Council Planning, responded that he was, unfortunately, not up to date with the Viewfirth site. However, if proposals came forward pre-application advice would be available from the Highland Council which would include what the land could be used for and what is prohibited. Bob Earnshaw noted that the site had been included in the local plan for recreation use. David Flear added that he believed some local groups had already approached NDA. Information would be circulated once David Atkinson had responded to initial enquires. David Barclay noted that further information with regards the Highland Council's call for sites would be forwarded to the NDA and relay information back to the group in respect of any comment made for this site from the Thurso Planning Charrette undertaken earlier this year.

Tor Justad asked if there was a precedent already set with gifting of land to communities at other NDA sites. David Flear responded that Viewfirth site had originally been the Dounreay sports and social club and was built for community use. The site had been offered back to the community a number of years ago but this had not come to fruition. He thought it was best to wait for a response from NDA before discussing further.

- David Flear noted that he was delighted to see David Broughton was now the DSG representative for the Scottish Government's higher activity waste implementation strategy group.
- Bob Earnshaw noted that Anne Chard had attended, as an observer, the site's emergency exercise. Anne Chard added the exercise had been a combined safety and security event. There had been a number of observers involved and they were primarily allowed to observe the interactions in the emergency control centre, incident control centre, the personnel accountancy and communications process. Her observations were that the exercise seemed to go smoothly and efficiently. It was extremely interesting to see the interplay between all the staff in the exercise and get a sense of how a real emergency would be handled. She thought it was useful as a lay person to see how all the 'parts' played by each staff member fitted into 'the whole'. She thanked the site management for allowing DSG to be involved in this noting it was a very worthwhile and interesting exercise and showed the site's openness in accommodating this.

For completeness the actions arising from the site restoration sub group are recorded here:

DSG(2013)M003/A013: Ken Dyke to consider if information on the powers of MOD Police for external patrols can be shared with DSG.

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DSG(2013)M003/A014: Christine Lee/Marta Green to continue to update DSG of any changes to the interim end state in relation to DSG's consultation and recommendations.

DSG(2013)M003/A015: DSG Site Restorations sub group members to raise any questions on DSG(2013)C037 "The 2013 Review of National and International Best Practice on Waste Minimisation and its application to establish the Waste BPEO for Dounreay."

DSG(2013)M003/A016: June Love to put Scottish Government's HAW Implementation Strategy on next site restoration sub group agenda.

DSG(2013)M003/A017: June Love to put HAW Implementation Strategy on Business meeting agenda to discuss merit in requesting a presentation by DSRL on what the strategy means for Dounreay.

DSG(2013)M003/A018: June Love to write to CNC to confirm their place as observer at the DSG Site Restoration Sub Group and main DSG meetings.

8. HIGHER ACTIVITY WASTE PRESENTATION

David Flear introduced Charles McVay, Director of Waste, Dounreay who provided the presentation (see DSG(2013)C050 for presentation).

The following was raised following the presentation:

- David Broughton noted that recycled lead would be used with the Tru-shields and that this would be a significant contract to make these. Charles McVay responded that Deva has the licence for the production of Tru-shields and work was ongoing to seek approval from regulators. He added that if it was feasible there was no reason why Tru-shields could be manufactured from Caithness. It was estimated there would be a requirement for 5000-6000 of these containers.
- Tor Justad noted that near surface could not be below 99m and asked why this was? Charles McVay responded that 99m was selected by Scottish Government and would apply to all types and quantities of waste. For some of the long-lived plutonium or uranium contaminated waste there was not a viable disposal route. Dounreay has approximately 70% of waste that could not be disposed of near surface.
- Tor Justad asked what the reason was for 100 years for the life of the store. Charles McVay responded that NDA had chosen this as a realistic timescale for the design life of a building. Tor Justad responded that this would have implications for monitoring and security. Charles McVay responded that this was correct, over the period of the design life checks would be required to ensure there were no adverse conditions. The facilities would have inspection capabilities. The current contract takes the site to the interim end state and following that there would be a requirement for staff to maintain and monitor the stores for a period of time. The design of the stores takes into account monitoring and maintenance for the equipment and waste packages.

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- Tor Justad asked what the difference was between the UK and Scottish Government's policy. Charles McVay responded that Scottish Government want to see storage with retrievability in an above-ground building. Disposal would be with the intention not to retrieve. Monitoring for disposal would be carried out to ensure no adverse effects of the ground water, etc but would not include inspection of the waste packages.
- Roger Saxon noted that DECC was consulting on the GDF (geological disposal facility). He asked if the waste packages being used for Dounreay would conform with disposal and transport to the GDF in the future if required. Charles McVay responded that part of the process is to work with RWMD (Radioactive Waste Management Directorate) who will evaluate the waste streams and packages for disposal suitability if that decision was made.
- Roger Saxon asked whether packages would be changed. He recalled Nirex changing the package specification sometime ago. Charles McVay answered that the specification has stayed relatively the same. Evaluations would consider both short and long term use.
- David Broughton noted the NDA were considering selling off surplus land and questioned this in terms of value for money. He wondered what would happen if NDA required the land further down the line for storage purposes. He asked whether the study commissioned by NDA for near surface ILW disposal was credible and value for money. Nigel Lowe responded that NDA were content with DSRL's proposals and believed that these represented value for money.
- Alastair MacDonald asked how much of the waste would decay in store and over what period. Charles McVay responded that some of the waste from the reactor and reprocessing areas were contaminated with tritium which has an 11 year half life which meant that in about 50 years it would reduce from intermediate level waste (higher activity waste) to low level waste. However, 70% of the waste streams at Dounreay had a half life of 40,000 years.
- Alan Scott noted that work was ongoing at other sites and asked what these sites were doing (Chapelcross and Hunterston). Charles McVay noted that these sites were currently building waste storage facilities. All Site Licence Companies (SLCs) worked with Scottish Government, regulators and site stakeholder groups to try to create the right answer going forward.
- Alan Scott added that one of the guiding principles was to make most efficient use of material. He questioned whether a cylinder inside boxes was inefficient. Charles McVay responded that cylinders of waste were dealt without human interaction in the process cells. As the existing cells accept a cylinder, it would be a major undertaking to change them.

There being no further questions David Flear thanked Charles McVay for a very useful and informative presentation.

9. SOCIO ECONOMIC SUB GROUP UPDATE

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Derrick Milnes noted that the sub group had met on 24th July. Members had received the draft minutes – DSG/SESG(2013)M003 refers. Derrick took the minutes as read. He noted the following:

- John Henderson, Caithness and North Sutherland Fund provided an update.
- DSG continues to take an interest in the National Nuclear Archives, the development of commercial rail freight and progress on the Berriedale Braes study.
- DSG had been working with the NDA and DSRL on local benefits from procurement. While there was recognition of the OJEU requirements it had been felt that there was more that could be done to benefit the local area. Following discussions, DSRL had now published a paper which provides guidance on socio economic elements for tendering. Derrick Milnes noted that it was pleasing to see all supply chain companies will be actively encouraged to consider local socio economics with their proposed activities.

David Flear added that he was pleased that this had moved forward and wished to place on record thanks to the NDA and DSRL for being open to these discussions. He also thanked Alan Scott and Trudy Morris who were the DSG representatives who took this forward. He felt it was a big step in the right direction, did not encroach on the tendering rules and looked forward to seeing the benefits coming from contracts.

- Funding was secured from NDA, HIE and European funding for Wick harbour's re-development – they had secured enough funding to allow dredging to be undertaken and the purchase of a heavy lift pad. NDA had also provided a small amount of funding to secure a consultant to support phase 1 development and assist in a business case to take phase 2 forward.
- The possibility of a DSG visit to the Sellafield area was discussed and this will be followed up through the business meeting in the coming months.
- DSRL provided an update of their socio economic activity. A socio economic impacts assessment paper is currently being developed and a copy of the report will be provided when it is available, expected to be around January 2014.
- DSRL, on behalf of CNSRP, had commissioned a consultant to look at a marketing strategy for the area. The summary report has been presented at the CNSRP Advisory Board. Further work was being carried out to identify the funding required for the activities identified.
- DSRL also provided an update on skills and it was good to hear that there had been an increase in the apprentice intake (an increase of 3 this year (total of eight new apprentice starts). Graduate intakes will also increase to 6 (from 3) and internships will be introduced this month and will offer work experience to 4 graduates.
- CNSRP had provided a written update – DSG(2013)P012 refers. The paper was taken as read.

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- It was good to hear on 16th September that Meygen had been awarded consent to build the first tidal energy project in the Pentland Firth. This is good news for the county and for Scrabster harbour.

Derrick invited the following to provide a verbal update.

Dounreay: Mark Rouse reported:

- That the procurement guidance was now being implemented and stressed it was important to define the socio economic criteria to ensure balance against other criteria.
- Joe Kane, Commercial Manager, had recently left Dounreay (following the end of his secondment) and had been replaced by Kenneth Linn. He noted this was the start of the PBO secondees being replaced.
- Was pleased that the site had been able to increase the intake of apprentices, graduate and internships. Consideration was being given to apprentice in-takes for 2015 and beyond.
- Nuvia has been awarded a ~£2M contract for the concept and scheme design of the new Fuel Cask Handling Facility.
- DSRL continued to support a number of activities relating to CNSRP in addition to closing out actions from the site's socio economic plan.
- When considering socio economic issues the site's focus is to ensure the workforce is aware of the activities ongoing to create jobs beyond Dounreay. The site has recently set up three work streams with volunteers from the workforce being involved to look at the vision, mission and values for the site. The vision is to become the European Reference site for decommissioning excellence and this will be done by advertising and celebrating successes. The mission is to decommission the site responsibly achieving the interim end state safety, securely and environmentally while transitioning our people. By becoming the most successful decommissioning site in the UK allows the workforce to put this on their CVs for future work. Dounreay had a highly regarded reputation for operational matters and the vision is to ensure that this remains while decommissioning.
- And to end of a positive note, BDP were winners of the Scottish Council for Development and Industry Highlands and Islands Business awards. BDP won the Benromach Award for excellence in international business, in recognition of the work being done by the consortium to develop the potential to export its expertise in nuclear decommissioning.

NDA: Nigel Lowe reported:

- The National Nuclear Archives project was ongoing. Supply chain engagement will take place before the end of October with Invitation to Tender expected to be published at end of November.

CNSRP: Eann Sinclair reported:

- The recent Meygen announcement.
- Wick harbour funding. In addition, HIE had sponsored a visit to Lowestoft for a number of local companies to visit SSE's operations and maintenance site for off-shore wind.
- John O'Groats continues to develop with the official opening of the hotel and chalets last weekend.

Chamber of Commerce: Trudy Morris reported:

- The Chamber would launch a World Host Training initiative at John O'Groats on Friday 27th September. World host training was being offered to all retailers and those working in the tourism sector and is recognised for customer services. This initiative came to the UK for the Olympics and the Chamber was attempting to raise the bar in Caithness by offering this training to ensure Caithness becomes a World host destination.
- The Chamber team had recently undergone World Host training and had become the first Chamber in the UK to be a World Host recognised business.
- The Chamber's AGM would take place on 3rd October and would be held in Thurso Cinema.
- A Caithness Business Fund had recently been launched following funding from the Baillie Wind Farm. The Fund would provide grants to young people starting up a new business or growing existing ones. Two young people had recently been awarded funding of £500 each to support them with their businesses going forward. It was hoped that other funding bodies would consider contributing to this fund.
- The Chamber was also supporting the Baillie Wind Farm community funding of £100K by providing the administration for this fund.
- And to finish with good news, the Chamber has had its' first baby – Nicola Dreaves gave birth to a health baby boy (7lbs 6 oz) named Alexander.

David Flear noted that there was a number of positive stories being reported and hoped that the local paper would ensure these were published.

For completeness the actions arising from the DSG Socio Economic sub group are recorded here:

DSG(2013)M003/A019: June Love to put Community funding on Business meeting agenda for discussion.

DSG(2013)M003/A020: Anna MacConnell to pass comments to Tom Curry re freight transport and appropriate calming measures at Georgemas Junction.

DSG(2013)M003/A021: Ken Nicol to feed comments on socio economics in procurement back to Commercial Department for consideration before document was finalised.

DSG(2013)M003/A022: June Love and Anna MacConnell to get together to consider options for a representative group of DSG to visit Sellafield/Cumbria.

DSG(2013)M003/A023: Ken Nicol to provide report on the development and deployment of measuring achievement of socio economic interventions when available.

DSG(2013)M003/A024: Ken Nicol and Anna MacConnell to explore a different format of reporting socio economic activities to the DSG.

DSG(2013)M003/A025: DSG Socio Economic sub group members to provide any information they wish to include in skills discussion.

DSG(2013)M003/A026: Eann Sinclair to discuss idea of Recruit Caithness event for the wider Caithness Community, including health service provision, education, etc with CNSRP Delivery Team.

10. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

David Flear noted he had attempted to involve members of the public as the meeting progressed. He invited public members to raise any questions or issues that had not been raised previously in the meeting.

No questions were raised.

11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The following was noted:

- Bob Earnshaw had attended the Nuclear Free Local Authorities special seminar on nuclear emergency planning and the safe transportation of weapons conveyors.

Bob Earnshaw noted that three main topics had been discussed – emergency planning, safety transportation of weapons and post-Fukushima. Following a freedom of information request it appeared that there had been a communications breakdown between some of the civil emergency services in relation to the transportation of weapons. It had also been noted that iodine tablets were held in Torness but it had been unclear how far the zone extended and therefore local communities were unsure as to whether they should have received tablets in case of an emergency.

Tor Justad added that, in relation to, the weapons convey exercise it had taken five hours to get a team to the site.

- David Flear had attended a number of individual meetings with NDA and Dounreay and looked forward to attending DSRL's staff presentations held on Thursday 26th September.

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- David Fear would be attending the InSotec seminar in Berlin in November – this is something that he and the DSG secretary had been involved in for a number of years and it was always pleasing to see that Dounreay continued to have a good reputation when it comes to stakeholder engagement and consultation. David would continue to fly the flag for DSG at this meeting and would offer support in hosting the next stakeholder seminar in Caithness.
- David Flear will also attend the NDA National Stakeholder Group and SSG Chair's forum in October. This will include a site visit to Bradwell. Following on from this meeting he would also be attending the Scottish Government's Scottish Sites meeting in Edinburgh.
- David Flear congratulated the Chamber of Commerce for yet another successful annual dinner which had been held last Friday.
- David Flear asked David Barclay what progress was being made with the Dounreay Planning Framework. He recalled a presentation from Highland Council back in December where it had been indicated that this document was almost ready to publish. David Barclay said he did not have the answer to hand but would come back to DSG.

Action: DSG(2013)M003/A027: David Barclay to inform DSG when the Highland Council's Dounreay Planning Framework would be ready to publication.

- The secretary noted she had received a follow-up letter from Roger Stuart (who had previously raised questions at an earlier DSG meeting). She did not read the letter out in full at the meeting but agreed to minute the contents for information. The letter is set out below:

Re: Response to the Reply sent to Mr R Stuart from DSG Dated 25th June 2013-09-25

I was hoping to attend the next meeting of the Stakeholder Group tonight but unfortunately I have been required to attend to urgent family business further south and therefore cannot attend. I wish therefore to make a few comments regarding my original questions put to the DSRL and the subsequent meeting I had with DSRL - Alastair MacDonald.

Firstly I would like to thank DSRL for the prompt reply to my questions, this is probably the first detailed response I have had to many letters I have written to others regarding the issues relating to Dounreay particularly those sent to the NDA before the Dounreay management contract was let, with only receiving responses when I phoned them to insist on a reply.

A follow up meeting was held with DSRL but unfortunately the meeting was cut short due to the understandable attendance at a funeral of a past colleague who had worked at Dounreay for many years. The main points which I got from the meeting were briefly as follows:

- With respect to senior management at Dounreay moving up to Caithness, he acknowledged that many had not made the move because of the family disruption

that this would cause. This was particularly the case as the contracts let were so short and the future of further work in the far north being uncertain. This comment was further endorsed at the last DSG meeting by the NDA who stated the difficulties that they were having getting a programme manager to move up to the area with his family. I think the words used were that additional incentives might have to be used to encourage someone to move to the Caithness. This, to my mind, underlines the difficulties that professional services have in the North in getting suitably qualified medical staff and teachers to move up into the area.

- Some discussion took place on what the site is doing to develop business in Caithness, DSRL sited that they have put money into organisations like the chamber of commerce, and assistance to the Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership but are otherwise not actively engaged with companies in the area to assist them directly, as that is being done directly by HIE. I reflect on a comment, made by a member of the public, that Babcock with all their experience and expertise could offer this direct to businesses in the area particularly those with manufacturing skills. One suggestion here would be for DSRL to visit every company in Caithness to assess their potential skills for not only for work at Dounreay but other sites across the UK and overseas. This hopefully would provide the basis for increase manufacturing employment in the area.
- Some discussion took place on the training of young people of all educational abilities. DSRL admitted that whilst they do support employment of graduates from the Universities and offering some craft training to apprentices on the site, the numbers are small
- There is no intention for DSRL to mark the 20th anniversary of the shutdown of PFR in 2014.

Finally whilst DSRL would like to do much more in the community they are limited by what they can achieve within the terms of their contract with the NDA. It is my opinion that the NDA have underestimated the social impact of what the rundown of Dounreay has on the future wellbeing of Caithness and the surrounding areas. There appears to be very little in their contract that might encourage them to achieve a healthy vibrant economy as the run down progresses. It is my view that despite the glossy image displayed by the press on Wind Farm construction (so called green energy!) and the development of tidal energy, much of the technical and manufacturing input is from elsewhere further South with Caithness just becoming a warehouse for storage of components for erection by others. Even a recent press report highlights how the French are pushing to build wind turbine components in France, this is yet another good manufacturing opportunity for Caithness that will be missed. **Roger Stuart**

- David Broughton asked whether the DECC consultation on site selection for the GDF would include interested parties in Scotland? Nigel Lowe responded that he did not have the answer to hand but would take advice and provide a response.

Endorsed on 11th December 2013

Action: DSG(2013)M003/A028: Nigel Lowe, NDA to provide response to whether the site selection process for GDF would include any interested parties from Scotland.

- Tor Justad noted that there had been an action placed on NDA to suggest to DRS that they should speak to the Co-op re commercial freight. Nigel Lowe confirmed that this had been passed on and believed that DRS had now spoken with the Co-op.
- Alastair MacDonald noted there were a number of contractor vans in the town. David Flear responded that this was good for the hoteliers if there was an upsurge in contractor vans in the area.

There being no further business David Flear thanked everyone for attending and formally closed the meeting.

David Flear
DSG Chairman
29th September 2013

STATUS OF ACTIONS

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

DSG(2013)M003/A001: David Broughton to draft response to DECC's consultation on siting for the Geological Disposal Facility.

DSG(2013)M003/A002: Nigel Lowe, NDA to provide DSG with information on the derailment at Barrow once investigation report is finalised.

DSG(2013)M003/A003: June Love to request information on all NDA's contribution to socio economics for Caithness and North Sutherland. In addition to ask for a list of funding provided across the NDA estate.

DSG(2013)M003/A004: June Love to ask Ken Nicol to provide a timeline for the production of the measuring impacts paper.

DSG(2013)M003/A005: June Love to circulate to DSG Socio Economic sub group members the short document on skills and the decision of the Business meeting not to progress with a working group.

DSG(2013)M003/A006: June Love to arrange for David Flear to meet with CNC representation for CNC.

DSG(2013)M003/A007: June Love to ask for clarity on extent of 'local residents' re CNC patrols and car registrations.

DSG(2013)M003/A008: Secretary to request a presentation on Higher Activity Waste.
Action complete: presentation to be provided at DSG on 25th September 2013.

DSG(2013)M003/A009: Secretary to update sub group remit and membership and circulate to all members.

DSG(2013)M003/A010: June Love to look at travel arrangements for InSOTEC seminar in Berlin, November 2013.

DSG(2013)M003/A011: June Love to identify a date for DSG business meeting members to visit new low level waste facility (and extend to other DSG members who had not already visited).

DSG(2013)M003/A012: Martin MacDonald to provide DSG further information on the Scottish Skills Action Plan.

DSG(2013)M003/A013: Ken Dyke to consider if information on the powers of MOD Police for external patrols can be shared with DSG.

DSG(2013)M003/A014: Christine Lee/Marta Green to continue to update DSG of any changes to the interim end state in relation to DSG's consultation and recommendations.

Endorsed on 11th December 2013

DSG(2013)M003/A015: DSG Site Restorations sub group members to raise any questions on DSG(2013)C037 "The 2013 Review of National and International Best Practice on Waste Minimisation and its application to establish the Waste BPEO for Dounreay."

DSG(2013)M003/A016: June Love to put Scottish Government's HAW Implementation Strategy on next site restoration sub group agenda.

DSG(2013)M003/A017: June Love to put HAW Implementation Strategy on Business meeting agenda to discuss merit in requesting a presentation by DSRL on what the strategy means for Dounreay.

DSG(2013)M003/A018: June Love to write to CNC to confirm their place as observer at the DSG Site Restoration Sub Group and main DSG meetings.

DSG(2013)M003/A019: June Love to put Community funding on Business meeting agenda for discussion.

DSG(2013)M003/A020: Anna MacConnell to pass comments to Tom Curry re freight transport and appropriate calming measures at Georgemas Junction.

DSG(2013)M003/A021: Ken Nicol to feed comments on socio economics in procurement back to Commercial Department for consideration before document was finalised.

DSG(2013)M003/A022: June Love and Anna MacConnell to get together to consider options for a representative group of DSG to visit Sellafield/Cumbria.

DSG(2013)M003/A023: Ken Nicol to provide report on the development and deployment of measuring achievement of socio economic interventions when available.
Action ongoing – will be available in January 2014.

DSG(2013)M003/A024: Ken Nicol and Anna MacConnell to explore a different format of reporting socio economic activities to the DSG.

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DSG(2013)M003/A027: David Barclay to inform DSG when the Highland Council's Dounreay Planning Framework would be ready to publication.

DSG(2013)M003/A028: Nigel Lowe, NDA to provide response to whether the site selection process for GDF would include any interested parties from Scotland.

ACTIONS ONGOING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Endorsed on 11th December 2013

DSG(2013)M001/A007: Secretary to request NDA's strategy and timeline for the next step for the GDF location. **Action ongoing:** UK Government launched (on 13th May) a consultation on the Siting Process for a Geological Disposal Facility. Consultation closed on 10th June 2013. Acknowledgement of submission received with indication that consultation will proceed summer/autumn 2013.

DSG(2013)M001/A012: Request to Vulcan for site visit and a presentation at main DSG meeting. **Action ongoing** – presentation on future of Vulcan provided at December 2012 meeting. An invitation to members has been sent for the 13th November in the afternoon.

DSG(2013)M001/A036: June Love to send DSG document on socio economic elements within contracts to Simon Tucker once finalised. **Action complete:** Anna MacConnell provided copy of the DSRL's guidance document re socio economics in procurement. This was sent to NNA project team including Head of Legal, Head of Competition and various commercial people

DSG(2013)M002/A009: June Love to invite Paul Dale to the next site restoration sub group meeting to outline PRAG(D) final report. **Action ongoing** – report delayed – likely to be early 2014.

DSG(2013)M002/A007: Nigel Lowe, NDA to ask whether Recruitment Company can identify and provide information on why potential recruits did not want to locate to the area.

DSG(2013)M002/A018: NDA NNA Project Team to advise DSG, via Anna MacConnell, of the date and location of the Commercial Partner Industry Day, when confirmed.

DSG(2013)M002/A020: Anna MacConnell to share NNA Project Communications Plan with DSG once it is ready and approved.

ACTIONS COMPLETED

DSG(2013)M001/A029: Secretary to invite John Henderson, CNSF to attend next Socio Economic sub group meeting to update the group on the funding support provided from the Fund. **Action complete** – John Henderson attended July 2013 sub group meeting.

DSG(2013)M002/A001: Lt Cdr Rory Stewart to provide a clear and concise statement of the situation regarding MoD police in relation to patrolling outside the Vulcan site. **Action complete.** See DSG(2013)C032. In addition, see agenda item no 5 for further information.

DSG(2013)M002/A002: Secretary to put skills update on the next socio economic sub group agenda. **Action complete** – discussed at July socio economic sub group – see DSG(2013)C039.

DSG(2013)M002/A003: Secretary to request a presentation on the progress of CNSRP for the June meeting. **Action complete** – on June DSG agenda.

DSG(2013)M002/A004: Secretary to write to those members identified with reference attendance at meetings. **Action complete.**

Endorsed on 11th December 2013

DSG(2013)M002/A005: Nigel Lowe to provide a written statement on commitments made by NDA with regards engaging with communities along the railway line for fuel transports. **Action complete:** The NDA wrote to all the local authorities in Scotland offering engagement on fuel transport. Highland Council alone sought further information/contact. NDA's Head of Strategy attended The Highland Council PED committee – the meeting was webcast live and gained considerable press coverage including a live interview with BBC Highland and several local press articles.

DSG(2013)M002/A006: Secretary to put thermal cracking of demolition low level waste vault on agenda for next site restoration sub group meeting. **Action complete** – on site restoration sub group agenda for July.

DSG (2013)M002/A008: Dyan Foss to provide DSG secretary with the results of the safety culture survey when available. **Action complete** – see DSG(2013)C042.

DSG (2013)M002/A010: Stewart Ballantine to feedback the outcome of the review of the thermal cracking report undertaken by ONR on behalf of SEPA. **Action complete** – an update was provided. See agenda item no 6.

DSG (2013)M002/A011: All members to consider the draft paper on “The supply chain and Dounreay – socio economic considerations” by Friday 19th April 2013. **Action complete.**

DSG(2013)M002/A012: Nigel Lowe, NDA Head of Programme to provide a written update on progress with DRS pursuing commercial freight by next Socio Economic sub group. **Action complete.** DRS continues to work, via Tom Curry, DRS Commercial Manager based in the north, to seek commercial opportunities for freight on the Far North Line. There are a number of these being discussed, including taking cargo north for distribution to the Northern Isles. Commercial sensitivity precludes fuller information being provided at this stage. A trial taking liquid cargo north to Inverness is ongoing, and if successful may also present future commercial opportunities.

DSG(2013)M002/A013: DSG Chairman to write, on behalf of DSG, to Rob Gibson, MSP to outline concerns regarding the delay in completing the Berriedale Braes study. **Action complete – see DSG(2013)C035.**

DSG(2013)M002/A014: All members to provide comment to June Love on “The Supply Chain and Dounreay – Socio economic considerations” by Friday 19th April 2013. **Action complete.**

DSG(2013)M002/A015: All members to provide June Love with comments on the Socio Economic Annual Report 2012/13 by Friday 26th April 2013. **Action complete - no comments received.**

DSG(2013)M002/A016: All members to provide June Love with comments on the Socio Economic Plan 2013-2016 by Friday 26th April 2013. **Action complete – no comments received.**

Endorsed on 11th December 2013

DSG(2013)M002/A017: DSRL to respond to Roger Stewart's questions within one working week. **Action complete – see DSG(2013)C035**

DSG(2013)M002/A019: Simon Tucker/Anna MacConnell to produce a press release on NNA progress/timescales. **Action complete** – press article appeared in John o'Groats Journal on 26th July 2013.

DSG(2013)M002/A021: NDA to arrange for NNA model to be displayed locally. **Action complete** – model now in Wick library.