

Scottish Government written update to the Dounreay Stakeholder Group - 10 December 2013

Collaboration with UK Government and industry

1. The Scottish Government and our delivery partners are working with the UK Government and industry representatives to deliver the nuclear decommissioning and radioactive waste management actions as set out in the UK's Nuclear Industrial Strategy.
2. Areas of particular interest to the Scottish Government include: R&D, energy skills and supply chain development.

Research and Development

3. Scotland's Chief Scientific Adviser, Prof Calder, has accepted an invitation to become a member of the NDA Research Board.

Skills

4. Scottish Government, Skills Development Scotland and the NDA are working together to refresh the Energy Skills Investment Action Plan. We hope that a draft version of this new plan will be available in Q1 of 2014.

Supply Chain

5. The Scottish Government will be working closely with the Department of BIS, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise to help deliver the decommissioning actions set out in the UK's Nuclear Supply Chain Action Plan.
6. The Scottish Government continues to participate in the NDA's SME national steering group.

Higher Activity Waste Implementation Strategy

7. Since the last update work has been on-going to help inform different sections of the proposed Implementation Strategy. The NDA, regulators, waste managers and other stakeholders have been engaged in the work as appropriate and work on the different issues is progressing.
8. One of the work packages that is being undertaken is to look at the waste arising in Scotland in greater detail. This work which is being carried out by the SLCs on behalf of the NDA will allow us to have a better understanding of the possible long-term options for the waste and provide an indication of how much of the waste might be suitable for near surface disposal if such an option was to be pursued.

9. As part of the work to inform how the policy should be implemented consideration is also being given to an alternative baseline strategy for the NDA sites in Scotland, which is compliant with the Scottish Government's HAW policy. Current NDA plans for the management of higher activity radioactive waste do not all fully align with Scottish Government policy as they still reflect the previous policy for storage of higher activity radioactive waste at the sites pending the availability of the planned geological disposal facility from around 2040.
10. The Scottish Government is hoping to consult on a draft Implementation strategy in Spring 2014.

Scottish Government White Paper on independence

11. 'Scotland's Future' was published on 26 November 2013. Pages 347 and 520 of this document refer to nuclear decommissioning.

Martin Macdonald
10 December 2013