

## **DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at 1900 hours in the Pentland Hotel (ballroom), Thurso.

Present:	David Flear	DSG Chairman
	Bob Earnshaw	Thurso Community Council
	Trudy Morris	Caithness Chamber of Commerce
	Donald MacBeath	North Highland College
	John Deighan	Dounreay Unions
	Roy Kirk	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
	Murray Lamont	North Highland Tourism
	Eann Sinclair	Caithness & NS Regeneration Partnership
	Derrick Milnes	Wick and Thurso Trade Union Council
	Cllr Roger Saxon	Highland Council
	Ronnie Johnstone	Church of Scotland
	John Green	Caithness Voluntary Group
	Cllr Willie Mackay	Highland Council
	Roy Blackburn	DSG Member
	David Broughton	DSG Member
	Deirdre Henderson	Buldoe Residents Group
In addition:	Nigel Lowe	NDA Head of Programme
	Bob Kury	Deputy Managing Director, Dounreay
	Jason Casper	Project Director, Reactors
	Andy Beckwith	Project Director, Fuels
	Cdr Ken Dyke	Ministry of Defence, Vulcan
	Peter Watson	ONR (for Dounreay)
	Roger Wilson	SEPA
	Jim Williams	ONR for Vulcan)
	Ian Miller	DNSR (for Vulcan)
	Chis Layton	DNSR (for Vulcan)
	Andy Brotherston	CNC
	June Love	DSG Secretariat, DSRL

## **MINUTES**

### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

David Flear, DSG chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that a presentation would be provided on DFR reactor decommissioning and therefore sub group reports would be kept to a minimum to allow time for discussion around the presentation.

He welcomed Jason Casper, Project Director Reactors and Andy Beckwith, Project Director Fuels to the meeting. In addition, he noted that this the first meeting for Bob Kury, Deputy Managing Director for Dounreay who had recently taken over this appointment from Dyan Foss. David Flear asked that thanks were recorded to Dyan Foss for her contribution over the past two years.

David Flear also welcomed Andy Brotherston, CNC who was also attending his first meeting.

David noted that it had been another busy time since DSG had last meet and updates would be provided at the appropriate time in the agenda.

## 2. APOLOGIES

June Love noted that apologies have been received from:

- Cllr Matthew Reiss, Highland Council
- Ian Leslie, SGRIPD
- Tor Justad, DSG member
- Alastair MacDonald, Honorary DSG member
- Sandy Mackie, Scrabster Harbour Trust
- Cllr George Farlow, Highland Council
- David Mudie, Highland Council Planning
- Mark Rouse, Managing Director (Dounreay)
- Jean Lipa, Association of Caithness Community Councils

## 3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

David Flear noted that the minutes of the last meeting – DSG(2014)M001 - were circulated to all members in advance of the meeting. He invited members to make any changes to the minutes.

There were no comments on the minutes and these were taken as a true reflection of the meeting. This was proposed by Derrick Milnes and seconded by John Deighan.

David Flear invited members to raise any issues from the minutes.

Cllr Roger Saxon noted that the minutes outlined the reprofiling of the decommissioning plan and asked when an update was likely to be forthcoming. Nigel Lowe responded that this would be covered later in the agenda. However a presentation would be provided, as previously agreed, to DSG in December.

David Flear noted that a number of members had been approached in relation to the morale of the site workforce. John Deighan stated that it would be no shock to management as the unions had raised this with them. He felt that the morale issue was due in the main to the change of programme and the uncertainty surrounding this at present. He emphasised this issue was recognised by management and the Unions would be working with them to respond to this. Bob Kury noted this and stated he would pick this back up during his report later in the meeting.

## 4. STATUS OF ACTIONS

David Flear noted that members had received an update of the progress of actions in advance of the meeting. He stated he did not propose to go through the action status in detail. Of note:

- **DSG(2013)M002/A009:** June Love to invite Paul Dale to the next site restoration sub group meeting to outline PRAG(D) final report. David Flear noted that DSG had been waiting for a quite a while for the Particles Retrieval Advisory Group report on particles. This was now a year late. It was noted that at the last sub group meeting an action was placed on SEPA to clarify the timeline and the response was that SEPA had dedicated their limited specialist resource to other duties in relation to a contaminated site outside of Caithness.

Roger Wilson noted he had nothing further to add.

- **DSG(2013)M004/A004:** Nigel Lowe, NDA Head of Programmes, to provide clarification of the costs for the new low level waste vaults.

Nigel Lowe, NDA Head of Programme responded that a letter clarifying the costs for the new low level waste vaults would be issued shortly to DSG members.

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emphasised that building of trust was key to working with the community for the longer term plans for the site.

Before handing over to Cdr Ken Dyke, David Flear noted that DSG members had also received a written update from Rolls Royce. Of note:

- Rolls Royce remained focused on continuing to safely deliver the current PWR2 Reactor operations and submarine nuclear support programmes at Vulcan.
- Safety performance remained the key priority.
- Continuing to increase the amount of additional contract work on detailed preparations for specific work in the immediate/short term period of 2015-2016.
- Continue to develop Business Planning and maturing options of the future utilisation and deployment of the site's nuclear skills in Caithness in 2025 and beyond.
- 16 apprentices continue in training at Vulcan with 4 new apprentices being recruited and will start in September. Four people who have completed their four year apprenticeships are now in full time positions at Vulcan.

David Flear invited Cdr Ken Dyke to provide a verbal update.

Cdr Ken Dyke reported the following:

- Since the last meeting, Vulcan had provided a written report. These reports would be updated for the site restoration sub group meetings and it was hoped that this would provide some confidence that MOD were trying to open the communication channels to rebuild trust.
- Exercise Lonestar 14 had taken place today and the regulators had deemed it an adequate demonstration.
- Consideration had been given as to whether to continue to operate the STF until late 2015 or shutdown earlier and conduct Post Irradiation Examination of the reactor core. The conclusion was, that the balance of advantage, was to continue to operate the STF until late 2015. The annual maintenance period was completed on schedule and critical operations will commence in the next few weeks.
- Lt Cdr Rory Stewart will leave Vulcan tomorrow and his replacement is Lt Cdr Andy Mole who joins on Monday.

David Flear thanked Ken Dyke for his update and asked that thanks were passed to Rory Stewart for his involvement with DSG over the last 3 years. David Flear then invited Jim Williams to provide an update.

Jim Williams, ONR reported the following:

- He had become the ONR Nominated Site Inspector for Vulcan in October 2013 and this was his first attendance at a meeting of the DSG.

- As Vulcan was a MoD Authorised site and not licensed under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (as amended) there was a different regulatory regime to that for Dounreay. Nevertheless, ONR regulates health and safety activities at Vulcan through inspections of compliance against the Health and Safety at Work Act etc 1974 and relevant statutory provisions, principally the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 and the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001.
- He expected to visit the site 3 to 4 times per year.
- From April 2014 ONR had sole responsibility for conventional health and safety on the Vulcan authorised site and there was a team of conventional health and safety experts who could be called on when appropriate.

Ian Miller, DNSR reported the following:

- An inspection, undertaken in May, looked specifically at arrangements to control the modification of equipment of safety significance. In addition inspections were also carried out on safety processes and future operations in relation to fuel handling capability.
- The site had a good track record with compliance of authorised conditions which allows DNSR more freedom to tailor inspections in a structured way.
- Commodore Mike Robinson, Head of DNSR had visited Vulcan recently for the Annual Review of Safety and had left with a favourable impression. This was also a familiarisation visit to allow him to get to know the site better and to understand how it currently operates, as well as looking at future operations.
- DNSR is the lead regulator for emergency exercises and a number of personnel were on site to observe Exercise Lonestar. It had been deemed an adequate exercise demonstrating a high standard of safety, however there were items of detail for improvement but it had been pleasing to see the arrangements had been significantly improved.
- This would be Ian Miller's final DSG meeting as he was moving on and his replacement Lt Cdr Chris Layton would take over in the coming weeks.

Ian Miller thanked DSG members for their support over the years noting that it had been a very interesting forum to attend and he was impressed by how the Caithness and North Sutherland community worked together to minimise the impact of the effects of Dounreay and Vulcan and look towards the opportunities that this can bring. He also acknowledged the support of the other regulators which had grown considerably over the last few years.

David Flear thanked Ian Miller for his input and wished him the best for the future. He welcomed Chris Layton to DSG.

Roger Wilson, SEPA noted that he had nothing to add. SEPA had scheduled three inspections over the year and he would be working closely with Chris Layton and Jim Williams.

Bob Earnshaw asked for an explanation of the different levels of exercise. Ian Miller noted the following:

- **Level 1** mainly concentrates on the operator's actions in the event of a nuclear emergency. They enable the operator to demonstrate the adequacy of its emergency arrangements to the Office for Nuclear Regulation. The emergency services and other external organisations may be involved.
- **Level 2** test the function and arrangements of each Strategic Co-ordination Centre every three years, under REPPiR. All the key agencies and Government departments which have a role in an emergency are expected to take part.
- **Level 3** is an exercise that includes participation at a national level and, in addition to testing the setting up and operation of the Strategic Co-ordination Centre, includes the exercising of the various Government departments at their headquarters and at the Nuclear Emergency Briefing Room for exercises based in England and Wales (there are separate arrangements for Scotland), and the interactions between the various centres. One exercise is chosen each year from the programme of Level 2 exercises for upgrading to Level 3.

**Action: DSG(2014)M002/A002: June Love to provide separate briefing for site restoration sub group on different levels of emergency exercises.**

Ronnie Johnstone stated he was pleased by the step change of reporting by Vulcan following the last couple of DSG meetings which he hoped could now be taken as history. He hoped that this new found spirit of co-operation would continue.

## **6. BUSINESS MEETING UPDATE**

David Flear noted that the Business meeting had met in May and members had received the draft minutes in advance of the meeting (DSG/BM(2014)M002 refers). Of note, the business meeting had:

- Considered a rolling programme of presentations and had now identified three moving forward. This included a presentation on DFR reactor decommissioning (June meeting), Dounreay's Socio Economic activities (September meeting) and the ASFL funding profile and its impact on the Dounreay baseline moving forward (December meeting). Further presentations would be identified later in the year.
- Phil Cartwright, Socio Economic and Communications Manager, had attended the Business meeting to discuss aspects of the Dounreay Socio Economic Plan and the funding associated with this activity. An update would be provided prior to the September meeting.
- DSG had written to CNC (DSG(2014)C034 refers) raising concerns about the lack of public information regarding the driver response training which had taken place in Thurso in April. CNC had provided a response (DSG(2014)C035 refers).

Andy Brotherston, CNC stated that CNC were unaware of the scope of the response training and had this been realised a public announcement would have been made. CNC apologised for the lack of information.

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

- DSG (2014)M002/A004: Secretary to draft response to Commodore JR Corderoy's letter of 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

- DSG(2014)M002/A005: Secretary to liaise with Commander Ken Dyke regarding a written update for site restoration sub group meetings which should include the health, safety and environmental matrix for Vulcan.
- DSG(2014)M002/A006: David Flear to respond to Tor Justad's request for expenses in attending DSG meetings.
- DSG (2014)M002/A007: Secretary to liaise with Scottish Government to explore whether a presentation on Higher Activity Waste implementation would be available for the June meeting.
- DSG(2014)M002/A008: Secretary to explore with NDA/DSRL the potential for a presentation at the June meeting (if Scottish Government presentation cannot take place).
- DSG (2014)M002/A010: David Flear to write to CNC in relation to the Driver response training and representative at the DSG meetings.
- DSG(2014)M002/A011: June Love to circulate Website comparison paper – DSG(2014)C024 to members.

## 7. DFR PRESENTATION

Jason Casper, Project Director Reactors and Andy Beckwith, Project Director Fuels provided this presentation. See DSG(2014)C043.

Following the presentation, David Flear invited members to raise questions. Of note:

- Roy Blackburn asked whether the damage to the reactor fuel would impact on timescales of getting the fuel to Sellafield and whether this would impact on the Sellafield plant. Andy Beckwith responded that the Sellafield plant was scheduled to operate until end 2019 and plans were to get the fuel out and finish transport by early 2019 but clearly this could not be guaranteed. Equipment had been redesigned to accommodate the damaged fuel rods and current plans were well within the Sellafield plant (MOP) date.
- Ronnie Johnstone stated he was impressed by the openness of the presentation and especially the details on all the unknowns. This, however, could point towards a cost over-run and asked whether additional funding would be required. Nigel Lowe, NDA Head of Programme, responded that Cavendish Dounreay Partnership was operating to a target cost contract and if the costs increased it would be at their risk within certain contractual boundaries and commercial confidentiality matters. Ronnie Johnstone responded that in his limited experience of contracts he had some mild concerns of significant cost over-runs. Nigel Lowe responded that within the obvious commercial confidentiality CDP would take part of that risk and in parallel to that if they did better they would also gain benefits. This was a benefit of a target cost contract as opposed to the previous cost plus contract where the vast majority of the risk was borne by the tax payer.
- Bob Earnshaw added that there were some significant challenges within this project and there did appear to be a lot of unknowns. He asked whether these unknowns had been evident at the time of the competition. Nigel Lowe replied that it was always known that there were risks with achieving the mission of the Dounreay contract and these risks existed under the previous and current contracts. He further clarified that while it is virtually impossible to get any supplier to

take unlimited liability for decommissioning a nuclear site such as Dounreay, the current contractual arrangements shared those risks between the tax payer and the supplier. Jason Casper added that the strategic approach allowed flexibility to deal with the uncertainties. In general the approach was to go in with eyes wide open but with enough flexibility to address whatever is found.

- Roger Saxon asked what quantities of intermediate level waste would be accumulated. Jason Casper responded that waste minimisation techniques would be used. Consideration would be given to decontamination of certain elements to reduce waste to low level waste.
- Bob Earnshaw asked what the timescale for completing DFR decommissioning was. Jason Casper responded that it would be around 2025 but was still under review.
- David Broughton noted that the NaK processing would involve ion exchange which would result in intermediate level waste. He asked what volumes and containers would be used for storage. Jason Casper responded that significant processing of primary NaK did produce waste volumes, with six ion exchange columns already generated and one further ion exchange likely, to finish the current operation. The waste would be placed in 55 gallon drums.
- Roy Blackburn noted he was interested in the remaining residual NaK and the options for dealing with this. Previously a lot of work had been done on the water vapour nitrogen with regulator involvement. He asked whether all the processes mentioned in the presentation were going through due process with regulators now. Jason Casper responded that discussion was underway with regulators. As an example, festering has been used on sites already and part of one of the processes that could be used.
- John Deighan noted that the DFR dome would be demolished at the end of decommissioning. The dome was synonymous with Dounreay and he asked whether there were plans to mark that. Nigel Lowe responded that there is work continuing to clarify further the interim end state when CDP's contract would also come to an end. A consultant had been employed to look at this and part of that study will be to take this into account. Nigel Lowe added that the consultant was due to report in the near future. Bob Kury responded that he would be happy to share the learnings from the study with DSG members.

**Action: DSG(2014)M002/A012: Bob Kury, Deputy Managing Director, Dounreay to share learnings from the study into the Interim End State with DSG when available.**

- A member of the public noted that the work carried out by Dounreay was exportable around the world and was therefore an opportunity for the future of Caithness and North Sutherland. He asked whether this was being exploited. Andy Beckwith stated that there had been a great deal of interest from abroad on the work being undertaken at Dounreay and this was evidenced by visits to the site from representatives from Japan, Hungary, Canada etc. As an example, the camera which had been used to examine the DFR reactor core had been designed locally (Kongsberg Maritime) and this had been of interest to the Japanese. This would continue as decommissioning progressed on the site.

## **8. SITE RESTORATION SUB GROUP MEETING**

Bob Earnshaw, DSG Site Restoration sub group chairman, noted that the sub group had met in April and the minutes had been circulated to members in advance – DSG/SRSG(2014)M002 refers. Key points from the meeting were as follows:



- DSG had submitted a response to DECC's consultation on the management of overseas nuclear fuels held in the UK.
- NDA had provided an update on progress on the re-profiling of the plan.
- The National Audit Office had visited Dounreay in early May to carry out a major project review which concentrated on how the NDA Site Facing Team managed the Dounreay contract.

David Flear stated that he had been invited to take part in the major project review. He had found it a good experience and it had been pleasing to have been asked to take part.

- Cavendish Fluor Partnership had been announced as the preferred bidder for the Magnox/RSRL competition.

Bob Earnshaw noted that recent press had intimated that there would be a legal challenge from one of the bidders. He asked whether this would affect the contract award. Nigel Lowe responded that Energy Solutions, who was the organisation currently running the Magnox sites, had provided notice of legal intent. The timing was important because the legal challenge came after a particular date in the process whereby the contract could not be stopped. The NDA's position was that they had conducted the competition in compliance with UK Government processes that NDA is required follow and this had been followed rigorously. NDA would be defending the case.

- Last financial year, NDA had provided an additional £10M to the site and this funding was spent in accordance with the plan. This was another example of the NDA not cutting funding to Dounreay but indeed increasing it.
- There had been a discussion around the health, safety and environmental performance and both SEPA and ONR had intimated they had discussed with site management their concerns regarding the trend of occurrences.
- An update on site end state work had been provided with a lot of preparation work being carried out and continuing discussions with SEPA to ensure compliance in proposals going forward.
- SEPA and ONR both reported they were continuing to investigate a number of occurrences.
- An update on the heritage strategy had been received and these will continue at sub group meetings.
- David Broughton had been DSG's representative at Scottish Government's Higher Activity Waste Implementation Project Board. These meetings are now at an end with the culmination of a consultation document produced by Scottish Government which will be published sometime this year.

David Broughton noted that Scottish Government was intending to provide a presentation to the DSG on the Higher activity waste implementation. The draft consultation document had now been produced and this would be published later this year. The secretary noted she was in correspondence with Scottish Government regarding a suitable date for a presentation.

- DSG had also received a paper from ONR on how they plan to regulate the site during 2014/15. This would be taken forward at our next sub group meeting for discussion.

Bob Earnshaw then invited the following to provide a verbal update.

**NDA update:** Nigel Lowe, NDA Head of Programmes reported the following:

- The ASFL funding reprofiling following the inclusion of additional scope to the contract , as reported at the last DSG, was continuing to make progress. DSRL, on behalf of NDA, were exploring a number of options and four main options had been identified. Since then these options have gone through the QBR (Quarterly Business Review) meeting which includes representation of the PBO (Parent Body Organisation) Board, NDA Executive Board along with Dounreay Managing Director and NDA Head of Programmes for Dounreay. A review of the options had been undertaken and this was down-selected to one option which is known as Scenario B. It involves re-profiling the baseline looking at reactors, shaft and silo, FCA, etc and the detail of this is what is proposed to be presented to DSG in December with a detailed presentation on this, the other three options, why the preferred option was selected and how DSRL will implement the preferred option.
- The National Audit Office had carried out a major project review. The report has just been received last week but direct quotes from the report were :-
  - “A skilled & highly effective NDA Programme Team has developed excellent working relationships with delivery partners and the contract is being well managed.”
  - “Milestones set for the first two years of the contract have been delivered to time, quality and budget .....”
  - “The review team was impressed with the contract management and stakeholder relationships that have developed.”
  - “Governance arrangements are robust and focused ensuring delivery of the agreed contract.”

The next stage will be to update the original Dounreay PBO business case when the current contract was let for Dounreay and put back to Central Government the request for additional funding to allow the additional scope to be managed without detriment to the IES date.

- DECC’s consultation on virtual reprocessing had resulted in 10-12 responses with the majority agreeing that this is the preferred way forward.
- Euratom has also visited the site undertaking standard review of their processes in security of materials. This had gone well and DSRL have had a good report.
- The NDA had now agreed terms with the previous owner to purchase Sandside beach. A process of reviewing signage is underway as some of the original signs had been vandalised.

**Dounreay update:** Bob Kury, Dounreay reported the following:

- Thanked DSG for welcoming him to the meeting and looked forward to working with the group in the future.
- On morale, he recognised that the uncertainty of the programme was having an impact on the workforce. He noted that he was also new to the facility having just transferred in April and he was part of the team that was going through uncertain times until the ASFL funding issues are resolved. The programme, at the time of contract, had now significantly changed with additional scope.

Senior management understood the issues surrounding staff morale and indicated that this was one of the biggest challenges the site had. He acknowledged the work being done to re-profile the decommissioning plan had caused uncertainties and likened it to a big ship which was being steered in the right direction but was slow to respond to course directions..

During the process of re-profiling the plan he accepted that uncertainty amongst staff had risen and added that some groups would be affected more than others. He emphasised however that the workforce were continuing to carry out some very challenging work and should be commended for this.

While recognising communication was key Bob Kury stated it was difficult to provide any meaningful information while issues in the programme funding were still being considered. This meant that any information provided today could still potentially change tomorrow. Therefore it was important to understand the full extent of the impacts of the changing programme and how it would affect the workforce. As an example, someone who had worked in the Fuel Cycle Area (FCA) all their working life may find themselves working in a different part of the site in the short term with a need to develop some additional skills.

Bob Kury noted that communications to staff would be key and management were fully committed to ensuring staff were fully briefed at the right time.

In addition, while these uncertainties continue the site continues to deliver on all its key milestones. He recognised there had been a number of minor environment non-compliances over the last few months which were not acceptable. Pro-active measures were being taken to address these including the introduction of a safety and environmental pause for all staff to focus on environmental compliance and safety related issues. The site management are confident that the overall control required is there but that there were issues along the way.

Summing up, Bob Kury re-emphasised the site management team understood the morale issues and acknowledged that without the DSRL workforce's commitment the plan would not be successful.

- The site is engaging in an environmental improvement plans and will move forward to improve performance in this area.
- Safety and security remains the number one priority. Mind safety training has been rolled out to all staff and the leadership team to ensure safety is at the forefront of everyone's actions.
- SEPA had now provided the new RSA authorisation which allows the site to complete the programme of work.
- A Level 1 emergency exercise had been held in May. Regulators had deemed this an adequate demonstration with some learning points.
- The PRAG(D) report was still awaited.
- A new civilian guard force would be starting operations in July. Ian Kennedy, was responsible for the new guard force and had taken up his position in June. The recruitment process was now complete and training had now commenced.

**ONR update:** Peter Watson, ONR reported the following:

- ONR's report for January to March 2014 had been published on the website.
- ONR's plan for regulating Dounreay in 2014/15 had been published and DSG members had received a copy of this report. This report encapsulates all the work within ONR to show an integrated regulatory approach. Progress against the plan will be reported in quarterly reports to the DSG.

**Action: DSG(2014)M002/A013: Secretary to put ONR's report on site planning to the next site restoration sub group meeting.**

- The Level 1 emergency exercise which took place in May had been an adequate demonstration. It had been a relatively low consequence scenario, complicated by a number of separate and disconnected challenges, and had been a pretty tough day for those taking part. A few learning points had been identified and these would be considered going forward.
- One of the specialised areas that ONR had recently inspected was in relation to the asset management of civil engineering structures. The specialist inspector leading the intervention reported that the condition of buildings was generally good but there was concern about the lack of inspection carried out in inaccessible areas and structural inspections were not necessarily informed by the safety case. ONR will continue to look into this.
- Last month, a specialist inspector undertook an inspection of compliance with the Ionising Radiations Regulations. The inspector concluded that compliance was adequate with several positive aspects identified.
- ONR were continuing to track a number of relatively minor incidents which, taken together, were cause for concern. Each is being dealt with on its merits, and consideration is being given to potential generic issues. It was re-assuring that DSRL had been keen to point these out in a timely manner and that sufficient action was being taken. ONR will continue to focus on this over the next few months.
- ONR had closed out its review of actions taken following the DSRL decision to stop operations, as a result of an ONR inspection which revealed that safety case limits and conditions appeared not to be implemented properly. ONR has inspected revised arrangements and conclude that they are sufficiently robust.

**SEPA update:** Roger Wilson, SEPA reported:

- SEPA had now issued the new RSA authorisation for Dounreay.
- There have been a number of minor events that SEPA was looking at. The incident relating to the fuel can in PFR had indicated that the discharges, if they had occurred, were well below the authorised limits.
- SEPA were looking at the way DSRL characterises low active waste.
- DSG had previously been informed of the ignition in the waste handling cell. SEPA had investigated and there had been no indication of a release of activity into the environment.

- A number of project update meetings had been held with Mark Rouse during May.
- SEPA were currently awaiting some information from DSRL before the new low level waste facility could become operational.
- SEPA were also involved with NDA strategy meetings including the NDA spent fuel and nuclear materials oversight group and Magnox Regulatory forum. Last week meetings with ONR and SEPA in relation to Exotic fuel had also been held.

**CNC update:** Andy Brotherston, CNC reported:

- CNC firing range was nearing completion. A noise assessment had recently taken place and the results of this were currently being reviewed.
- CNC would be happy to provide DSG with a presentation on CNC's role following the changes with the new guard force.

Bob Earnshaw thought that this would be a useful presentation and suggested that this took place at the site restoration sub group meeting.

**Action: DSG(2014)M002/A014: CNC to provide presentation on CNC's role to the next site restoration sub group meeting.**

For completeness the actions arising from the Site Restoration sub group are recorded here:

- DSG(2014)M002/A015: Stewart Ballantine, SEPA to ask Paul Dale for a deadline date for the production of the PRAG(D) report.
- DSG(2014)M002/A016: David Flear, DSG Chairman to issue a short update to the silo incident report following the DSG Business meeting.
- DSG(2014)M002/A017: All DSG members to provide June Love with any questions/ comments on Vulcan reporting.
- DSG(2014)M002/A018: June Love to circulate note to all DSG Site Restoration sub group members to see if anyone is interested in attending Vulcan emergency exercise in an observer capacity.
- DSG(2014)M002/A019: June Love to liaise with Commander Ken Dyke on arrangements for DSG observer to attend Vulcan emergency exercise.
- DSG(2014)M002/A020: June Love to take the suggestion of a health, safety and environment matrix for Vulcan to business meeting for consideration
- DSG(2014)M002/A021: June Love to write to members requesting comments/ questions on DECC's consultation on the management of overseas origin nuclear fuels held in the UK.

- DSG(2014)M002/A022: June Love to collate responses from DSG members for approval and submission to DECC in response to consultation on the management of overseas origin nuclear fuels held in the UK.
- DSG(2014)M002/A023: Dyan Foss to provide details of who the supplier was low level waste containers.

#### **9. SOCIO ECONOMIC SUB GROUP UPDATE**

Derrick Milnes, DSG Socio Economic sub group chairman, noted that the sub group had met in May and the draft minutes had been circulated to members in advance – DSG/SESG(2014)M002 refers. Of note:

- The sub group continues to oversee the Dounreay Communities Fund and a number of funding applications were endorsed.
- NDA provided an update on three funding applications which were currently being considered – two are based on renewable energy and were commercially sensitive and the third was for tourism activities.
- NDA continue to provide updates on the Viewfirth land.
- Anna MacConnell, NDA, had been involved in an Enterprising Scot event where groups of college students had put proposals together on various business ventures.
- NDA had provided an update on the progress of the national nuclear archive.
- DSRL provided an update on progress against the Dounreay Socio Economic Plan and also presented a summary on the assessment of projects which had received either NDA or DSRL funding to measure the impact of these interventions.
- DSRL also provided a brief on Dounreay procurement activities and members have asked for a quarterly report outlining all contracts awarded to allow an understanding of the ratio of contracts which have a socio economic element included.
- It was very pleasing to hear that 10 apprentices had been recently recruited which was an increase in apprentice numbers.
- CNSRP had provided a progress report and it was good to hear that Scrabster's planning application for the farm land development was now approved.
- The Chamber reported that URS had held a public exhibition to show the preferred option for the hairpin bend at Berriedale Braes.
- The Caithness Transport Forum met on 11<sup>th</sup> June and Direct Rail Services attended to provide an update. A number of DSG members also attended this meeting. This had been covered previously in the meeting.
- The Chamber was considering a follow up programme to Make the Right Connections.

- And the North Highland Regeneration Fund was rebranded and re-launched at an event which took place at the Castle of Mey.

Derrick Milnes invited the following for verbal updates:

**NDA update:** Nigel Lowe, NDA Head of Programme reported the following:

- The PBO was supporting the community sports hub project and the project manager had been in discussions with NDA relating to the Viewfirth land.
- Progress was being made on the National Nuclear Archives with four potential commercial partners identified. The facility was still on schedule to open in 2016. Since it was last discussed there had been a meeting with Highland Council in relation to land transfer and to discuss the end user agreement because the NNA will house the North Highland Archive as well as all the nuclear records. The meeting had been a positive one.
- Baroness Verma, senior Government Minister, would be visiting Dounreay next week and would also visit Caithness Horizons where she would meet with representatives from the North Highland Regeneration Fund to gain an understanding on the NDA supported socio economic activities in the area.

**Dounreay update:** Bob Kury noted the following:

- Phil Cartwright, Socio Economic and Communications Manager, would be coming forward to DSG socio economic sub group to outline current thinking on new plan and the funding.
- There had been a high number of visits to the site, notably the Shadow minister, Tom Greatrex as well as PBO and DSRL Boards.
- The PBO had held a stakeholder event in the new low level waste vaults to mark the 2<sup>nd</sup> year anniversary of the contract. There was also a family day event held at the site for the families of those working on the site.
- A delegation of Hungarian mayors who were interested in waste management had visited along with interest from the Japanese. European Reference site for decommissioning has been adopted by Dounreay and there were lots of organisations and government bodies showing an interest in the decommissioning activities.
- Almost 30 PFR retirees visited site to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of closure of PFR.
- The first instalment of £300K had been presented to the Caithness and North Sutherland Fund in relation to the new low level waste facility ,community benefit funding.

**Caithness Chamber of Commerce:** Trudy Morris reported:

- The Chamber was looking to recruit a graduate under HIE's graduate scheme following the success of the previous graduate placement.

- Through make the right connections, the Chamber was looking to identify 20 mentors to coach others in areas and hopefully help young people come through into business.
- The Chamber was working with skills and the young entrepreneurs programme and was looking to involve Thurso High School. In addition, the Chamber would be taking on a work experience student.

**CNSRP update:** Eann Sinclair reported the following:

- The CNSRP Advisory Board and Executive Board had met this week. Highlights were that there was a lot of work being done around education, skills and young people. In addition inward investment activities have started to make progress and it was hopeful that there would be a couple of announcements in the short term. In terms of business growth the area was doing well.
- Previously mentioned but of significance was Meygen's project which was nearing financial closure as well as the announcements of the two offshore wind farms (BOWL and MORL).
- Finally Chevron is again operating out of Wick JOG airport for the next six months. HIAL and Chevron were working with NVH and work is in progress to provide suitable hangars for helicopters. In addition a study into the current airport hangar has now commenced.

**North Highland College update:** Donald MacBeath reported:

- The college was actively working on a strategy to respond to the 32 recommendations from the Wood commission published earlier this month.
- The college had been asked by SDS to consider new formulae for advanced apprentices – the outcome being to allow young people to leave with graduate status as well as vocation skills.

David Flear noted that Donald MacBeath had recently been appointed as Principal of North Highland College and congratulated Donald on his appointment.

John Deighan noted that the Trade Unions had always encouraged adult apprentices and asked whether this was something North Highland College would look at. Donald MacBeath responded that they were working with SDS to provide apprenticeships but the priority was to grow full time opportunities for young people. That said it was not exclusive and any ideas that could provide opportunities for more mature people would be most welcomed.

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

- DSG (2014)M002/A024: Anna MacConnell, NDA to provide the list of projects against the spend outlined in DSG(2014)C014.
- DSG (2014)M002/A025: Eann Sinclair to provide a timeline of actions generated from the Tourism meeting.
- DSG (2014)M002/A026: Ken Nicol to provide a quarterly report on procurement to outline all contracts awarded and highlighting those with a socio economic commitment.



- DSG (2014)M002/A027: Phil Cartwright to consider publicising increase in apprentices intake.
- DSG (2014)M002/A028: June Love to invite Phil Cartwright to the next DSG business meeting.
- DSG (2014)M002/A029: Ken Nicol to respond to questions raised on one projects within the impact assessment report.
- DSG (2014)M002/A030: Ken Nicol to clarify the wage uplift for ETEC.
- DSG (2014)M002/A031: Eann Sinclair to provide clarity on the jobs created/ forecasted and lost.

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

There were no questions raised.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

David Flear noted the following:

- Scottish Government had recently mentioned the CNSRP as a role model for community planning and had endorsed this type of partnership working for other areas to consider.
- CoRWM (Committee on Radioactive Waste Management) would be visiting Caithness on 1/2 July and will hold a public meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The secretary had provided details and had distributed to members for information.
- DSG members took part in the PBO Low Level Waste Vault's stakeholder event. It was certainly the most unusual place to host a stakeholder event and it really showed off the extent of the vault. Credit was given to those who organised this as it was not the easiest place to access but arrangements went very smoothly and it was a good event all round.

There was no other business raised. Therefore David Flear thanked everyone for taking part and formally closed the meeting.

**David Flear**  
**DSG Chairman**  
22<sup>nd</sup> June 2014

### **ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING**

**DSG(2014)M002/A001:** Secretary to draft a letter to Philip Hammond, Defence Secretary to support the review on whether a PWR3 reactor core at Vulcan is required.

**DSG(2014)M002/A002:** June Love to provide separate briefing for site restoration sub group on different levels of emergency exercises.

**DSG (2014)M002/A007:** Secretary to liaise with Scottish Government to explore whether a presentation on Higher Activity Waste implementation would be available for the June meeting.

**Action ongoing:** Scottish Government confirmed they would not be in a position to do this presentation at June meeting. Further discussion will take place for an appropriate date.

**DSG(2014)M002/A009:** Phil Cartwright to meet with the DSG business meeting, at an appropriate time, to discuss the socio economic budget breakdown.

**DSG(2014)M002/A012: Bob Kury, Deputy Managing Director, Dounreay to share learnings from the study into the Interim End State with DSG when available.****DSG(2014)M002/A013:** Secretary to put ONR's report on site planning to the next site restoration sub group meeting.

**DSG(2014)M002/A014:** CNC to provide presentation on CNC's role to the next site restoration sub group meeting.

**DSG (2014)M002/A024:** Anna MacConnell, NDA to provide the list of projects against the spend outlined in DSG(2014)C014.

**DSG (2014)M002/A025:** Eann Sinclair to provide a timeline of actions generated from the Tourism meeting.

**DSG (2014)M002/A026:** Ken Nicol to provide a quarterly report on procurement to outline all contracts awarded and highlighting those with a socio economic commitment.

**DSG (2014)M002/A029:** Ken Nicol to respond to questions raised on one projects within the impact assessment report.

**DSG (2014)M002/A031:** Eann Sinclair to provide clarity on the jobs created/ forecasted and lost.

### **ACTIONS ONGOING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**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** – not expected until later this year.

**DSG(2013)M004/A004:** Nigel Lowe, NDA Head of Programmes, to provide clarification of the costs for the new low level waste vaults.

**DSG(2013)M004/A006:** Nigel Lowe, NDA Head of Programme, to provide a comprehensive briefing on fuels strategy and the engagement process undertaken. **Action ongoing:** Awaiting Tor Justad to come back with specific questions (Tor has received all DSG correspondence relating to the fuels strategy and engagement process undertaken).

**DSG(2014)M001/A002:** Secretary to co-ordinate a potential visit to Vulcan site for those DSG members who had not visited. *[Requested response from DSG members to see who was interested in visiting – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014.]*

**DSG(2014)M001/A005:** Alex Anderson to confirm whether network rail had carried out a review on the infrastructure of the rail network.

**DSG(2014)M001/A006:** Cllr George Farlow to raise with Highland Council the transport of fuel by sea.

#### **ACTIONS COMPLETED SINCE LAST MEETING**

**DSG(2014)M002/A003:** June Love to circulate incident report summary to DSG members. **Action complete:** see DSG(2014)C032.

**DSG (2014)M002/A004:** Secretary to draft response to Commodore JR Corderoy's letter of 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014. **Action complete:** see DSG(2014)C033.

**DSG (2014)M002/A005:** Secretary to liaise with Commander Ken Dyke regarding a written update for site restoration sub group meetings which should include the health, safety and environmental matrix for Vulcan.

**DSG (2014)M002/A006:** David Flear to respond to Tor Justad's request for expenses in attending DSG meetings. **Action complete:** Letter written and sent to Tor Justad.

**DSG(2014)M002/A008:** Secretary to explore with NDA/DSRL the potential for a presentation at the June meeting (if Scottish Government presentation cannot take place). **Action complete:** presentations now identified for June, Sept and December meeting.

**DSG (2014)M002/A010:** David Flear to write to CNC in relation to the Driver response training and representative at the DSG meetings. **Action complete:** see DSG(2014)C034.

**DSG(2014)M002/A011:** June Love to circulate Website comparison paper – DSG(2014)C024 to members. **Action complete:** circulated on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

**DSG(2014)M002/A015:** Stewart Ballantine, SEPA to ask Paul Dale for a deadline date for the production of the PRAG(D) report. **Action complete:** SEPA has had to dedicate the limited specialist resource required to complete the PRAG(D) report to other duties in relation to another site, which presents a greater risk to the public. SEPA will complete the next PRAG(D) report as soon as resource becomes available to do so. SEPA and members of PRAG(D) continue to maintain a watching brief on beach monitoring undertaken by DSRL and should any unusual monitoring results or changes be noted then this will be given appropriate scrutiny by SEPA as a priority.

**DSG(2014)M002/A016:** David Flear, DSG Chairman to issue a short update to the silo incident report following the DSG Business meeting. **Action complete:** see DSG(2014)C032,

**DSG(2014)M002/A017:** All DSG members to provide June Love with any questions/ comments on Vulcan reporting. **Action complete.**

**DSG(2014)M002/A018:** June Love to circulate note to all DSG Site Restoration sub group members to see if anyone is interested in attending Vulcan emergency exercise in an observer capacity.

**Action complete:** Roger Saxon attending on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 0800 hrs.

**DSG(2014)M002/A019:** June Love to liaise with Commander Ken Dyke on arrangements for DSG observer to attend Vulcan emergency exercise. **Action complete:** date is 29<sup>th</sup> May 2014 (see action above).

**DSG(2014)M002/A020:** June Love to take the suggestion of a health, safety and environment matrix for Vulcan to business meeting for consideration. **Action complete:** discussed at BM meeting in April.

**DSG(2014)M002/A021:** June Love to write to members requesting comments/ questions on DECC's consultation on the management of overseas origin nuclear fuels held in the UK. **Action complete:** request sent to DSG members on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

**DSG(2014)M002/A022:** June Love to collate responses from DSG members for approval and submission to DECC in response to consultation on the management of overseas origin nuclear fuels held in the UK. **Action complete:** see DSG(2014)C037.

**DSG(2014)M002/A023:** Dyan Foss to provide details of who the supplier was low level waste containers. **Action complete:** Contract awarded under a Framework Agreement went to Creagh Concrete, based in Northern Ireland with manufacturing taking place at their facility in Livingston.

**DSG (2014)M002/A027:** Phil Cartwright to consider publicising increase in apprentices intake. **Action completed:** Publicity planned for September when new apprentice in-take commences.

**DSG (2014)M002/A028:** June Love to invite Phil Cartwright to the next DSG business meeting. **Action complete:** attended on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

**DSG (2014)M002/A030:** Ken Nicol to clarify the wage uplift for ETEC. **Action complete:** see DSG(2014)C030.