

## **DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2014 at 1900 hours in the Pentland Hotel (ballroom), Thurso.

Present:	David Flear	DSG Chairman
	Alastair MacDonald	DSG Honorary Member
	Trudy Morris	Caithness Chamber of Commerce
	Roddy Ferrier	North Highland College
	John Deighan	Dounreay Unions
	Murray Lamont	North Highland Tourism
	Eann Sinclair	Caithness & NS Regeneration Partnership
	Ronnie Johnstone	Church of Scotland
	Russ Hayley	Caithness West Community Council
	John Green	Caithness Voluntary Group
	Mike Flavell	Health Service
	Cllr Matthew Reiss	Highland Council
	Cllr Willie Mackay	Highland Council
	Cllr George Farlow	Highland Council
	Cllr Maurice Davidson	Orkney Islands Council
	David Broughton	DSG Member
	Tor Justad	DSG Member
In addition:	Nigel Lowe	NDA Head of Programme
	Mark Rouse	Managing Director, Dounreay
	Cdr Ken Dyke	Ministry of Defence, Vulcan
	Lt Cdr Andy Mole	Ministry of Defence, Vulcan
	Peter Watson	ONR (for Dounreay)
	Roger Wilson	SEPA
	Emma Forbes	Highland Council, Planning
	Phil Cartwright	Socio Economic and Communications Manager
	June Love	DSG Secretariat, DSRL

## **MINUTES**

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

David Flear, DSG chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **2. APOLOGIES**

June Love noted that apologies have been received from:

- Ian Leslie                      SGRIPD
- Sandy Mackie                  Scrabster Harbour Trust
- Roy Kirk                         Highlands and Islands Enterprise
- Bob Earnshaw                 Thurso Community Council
- Cllr Roger Saxon               Highland Council
- Donald MacBeath              North Highland College (Roddy Ferrier deputising)
- Derrick Milnes                 DSG Vice-chairman (Wick and Thurso Trade Union Council)

- David Mudie Highland Council Planning (Emma Forbes deputising)
- Jim Williams ONR (for Vulcan)
- Chris Layton DNSR (for Vulcan)

### 3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

David Flear noted that the minutes of the last meeting – DSG(2014)M002 - had been circulated to all members in advance of the meeting. There were no comments and therefore the minutes were taken as a true reflection of the meeting. This was proposed by Trudy Morris and seconded by John Deighan.

David Flear invited members to raise any issues from the minutes. Tor Justad noted that there was an action to write to Philip Hammond, Defence Secretary to support the review on whether a PWR3 reactor core at Vulcan is required and asked if members could see the correspondence. The secretary confirmed this would be circulated and brought forward at the next site restoration sub group meeting.

There were no further issues raised from the minutes.

### 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. He noted the following:

- **DSG(2014)M001/A006:** Cllr George Farlow to raise with Highland Council the transport of fuel by sea. This action was now complete with a written response provided by Councillor Farlow as follows:

“Highland Council has two main priorities in regard to the nuclear industry in the Highlands:

1. The Council recognises the world-class skills of the workforce of Dounreay. We will work with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, the Cavendish Dounreay Partnership, the Scottish and UK Governments and Highlands and Islands Enterprise to ensure Caithness and North Sutherland reap maximum social, community benefits from the decommissioning process.
2. The Council will work with the Scottish Government to press the UK Government for the same level of protection as previously provided by two emergency towing vehicles covering the Minch and Northern Isles.

Those priorities were re-affirmed in 2013. I [George Farlow] have not been made aware of a recent, specific approach to the Council by the NDA with regard to the shipment of nuclear fuel by sea through The Minch. At first sight, this new approach to remove nuclear fuel off site by sea would appear to have implications to our first priority by reducing planning gain and community benefit. The environmental gain of removing nuclear hazard from Caithness and North Sutherland maybe improved, but to the potential danger elsewhere in the Highlands.

As well as being an active member of the Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership and the Dounreay Stakeholders’ Group, The Highland Council remains active in KIMO, the local authority organisation for the prevention of further marine pollution. I [George Farlow] am aware as an elected member for North West and Central Sutherland the potential dangers to our very long coastline from the unnecessary shipments of dangerous cargoes.

So, with regards to the second priority, unless the full complement of Emergency Tug Vessels were in place along the route, the Council would not be able to fully support at present movements of nuclear fuels through The Minch. There have been, both in fair and foul weather, many incidents of potential devastation to the environment and the economy of the west coast and Western Isles. In conclusion, in regard to transportation of spent nuclear fuel, local consultees are of the view that ships should always be double-hulled and at the absolute “top end” of secure design. A non-negotiable part of the programme must be the permanent deployment of suitable Emergency Towing Vessels based in Wester Ross, Sutherland or Stornoway and capable of total patrol of The Minch, north and south, and, therefore, the Pentland Firth.

Following receipt of this response clarification was sought as to whether this was a Highland Council view and further response was provided by George Farlow:

The Highland Council hasn't had a vote on this specifically because we have not been asked to as far as I am aware. [http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/4611/programme\\_of\\_the\\_highland\\_council\\_2012\\_-\\_2017](http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/4611/programme_of_the_highland_council_2012_-_2017).

However, this was cleared with the Chief Executive's office on 04 Sept 2014 before a recent meeting of KIMO, which was subsequently cancelled because of purdah conditions. As part of the Highland Council administration, the response is within the parameters within which I can work. The council's representation at DSG is of elected members representing their wards. My response is also in the best interests of my ward.”

- **DSG(2013)M004/A006:** Nigel Lowe, NDA Head of Programme, to provide a comprehensive briefing on fuels strategy and the engagement process undertaken. This action was ongoing. Tor Justad had been provided with all DSG correspondence relating to the fuels strategy and had provided written questions following a review of the documents provided.

David Flear stated he believed that Adrian Simper, NDA Strategy and Technology Director had met with Tor in Inverness to discuss this issue.

David Flear noted that Tor had provided NDA with written questions. He noted that Tor had recently met with Adrian Simper and some of these points had been raised. David added that he believed

Maurice indicated that OIC had a few questions that they were looking for answers to and he invited Nigel Lowe to provide his thoughts. Maurice continued that while talking about rail there had been a recently derailment at Barrow and he wondered whether this had any bearing on a decision to consider a sea route instead. The sea was not a very secure or guaranteed method of exporting exotic materials. What would happen if the ship went down, how would the material be retrieved, what would be the recovery time? The ships are owned by NDA, they are well structured with 2 layers of protection but despite this there had been no testing of any sort of protection for exotic materials and no testing of what would happen if the ship went down.

David Flear asked whether OIC had questioned Adrian Simper on these issues. Maurice Davidson responded that they had asked Adrian Simper to meet with the full council because of the number of years this will take. Adrian had indicated he would consider sending someone else because of his diary commitments but then indicated that a decision would be taken within the next few weeks. David Flear noted that it would be unfair to ask Nigel Lowe to respond to some of this as he had not been present at the OIC meeting and that OIC had raised their concerns on timescale and movements with Adrian. He asked Nigel to make sure that Adrian Simper was aware of all the issues raised and to follow these up. He also suggested that OIC put in writing their concerns to NDA requesting Adrian to come back with responses.

Maurice Davidson responded that he found it confusing that sea shipments were back on the agenda when for many years now discussion had centred on rail movements. He believed an answer had never been forthcoming on why the sudden change from rail to sea.

Nigel Lowe responded that the NDA fully understood the concerns people had and added that the NDA were keen to help communities understand the modes of transport being considered and why the NDA believed them to be safe. He added that he would ensure that Adrian Simpler was indeed aware of everything that had been discussed this evening and would get on to that first thing in the morning. Nigel then went on to describe that :-

- the vessel being proposed for the exotics is designed to INF3 standards (the international Code for the Safe Carriage of Irradiated Nuclear Fuel, Plutonium and High-Level Radioactive Wastes on Board Ships). This standard requires a high degree of redundancy across a number of systems e.g. double hulled, twin engines, twin steering, twin radars, qualifications and experience of crew etc. Detailed information on these ships was available from the INS website.
- The NDA was exploring whether it would be feasible for a small group of stakeholders (DSG and Council representatives) to visit the ship when it was in Scrabster which would allow them to speak to the captain and crew.
- The possibility of using sea had never been taken off the table and therefore it has not been suddenly re-introduced. Furthermore, recent derailments had not influenced the on-going analysis other than to ensure that any relevant lessons from such incidents were acted on.
- Dounreay has a variety of materials of different categories to move. Certain modes of transport are more suitable for certain materials than others. To date, the focus has been on rail because of the nature of the materials being moved. However, sea has always been an option we would look at as we approached the time we would move materials more suitable for sea transport.

Nigel Lowe noted that Maurice Davidson had indicated that the number of shipments may be between 30-40. Nigel added that transporting by sea gave the largest capacity for a single move which, amongst other things, was an attraction of this method of transport since it would reduce the total number of movements.

David Flear asked Nigel to ensure that Adrian Simper was also aware of the Highland Council position.

Nigel Lowe noted that one area of concern was the lack of tug boat vessels which had been raised at various meetings held with Adrian Simper. The provision of a standby tug boat was outside of the remit of the NDA or its sponsoring Government department DECC. Furthermore, the vessels being proposed by the NDA have successfully navigated oceans and some of the most notorious coastlines in various weather conditions without the aid of tug boats. Nevertheless, Adrian had indicated he would write to relevant Government departments to reflect the concerns raised with him on this topic.

Maurice Davidson noted that the ship would be double hulled, etc and that there were life boats on board but these were only on boats in case of the boat running into problems. He added that a double hull had not saved the Titanic. The protective shield for radioactive materials has not been tested and it is totally unknown how it would react under water pressure/corrosion etc if containers were rumbling around the Pentland Firth and will affect under sea activity.

Nigel Lowe stated that SIC had raised similar points and he replied:-

- The ship carries life boats not because the NDA expects it to sink but because international regulations require ships to carry life boats if they are to be deemed sea worthy.
- The containers which would be used on the ship have been tested for submersion in the case of the ship capsizing. If they had not been tested they would not be capable of being licensed by the regulators and therefore could not be used. Further details on their testing regimes would be provided.

Nigel Lowe indicated he would be happy to provide a briefing addressing the issues raised. He reiterated that the NDA fully understood the concerns that had been voiced at DSG and at other meetings. The NDA intended to be as open and honest as it could be recognising security related matters limit what can be said publicly. He emphasised that before the shipments could take place the Regulators, who have access to all safety and security information, would be fully involved and would have to give their approval before any moves can be made. Furthermore, in the final analysis the regulators were there to protect everyone and DSRL could not do anything without regulatory approval. To come back to an earlier point about the length of time decisions would be made in (quoted as within a few weeks) Nigel clarified that this was with regard to the NDA's preferred shipment modes (i.e. road / sea or road / rail or a combination thereof.). Permission from the regulator would still be required before any shipments could take place. This would take a considerable longer time as the detailed information was reviewed by the regulators. Tor Justad asked that if Adrian Simper was to respond to all questions raised at this meeting and at previous meetings with the local authorities whether all information can be sent to all four local authorities involved (Orkney, Shetland, Highland and Western Isles).

Tor asked what ideally would be the NDA's view as a starting time for these shipments. Nigel Lowe responded that the starting date was a security matter and could not be discussed however he did not believe the timescale would be within weeks. Ronnie Johnstone asked whether NDA was now talking days or months. Nigel Lowe confirmed it was most probably months.

Tor Justad asked whether it would be possible for DSG to have a full presentation on the facts that NDA could report on and added that this was such a huge issue for the 4 authorities and the DSG. Tor also requested that fuels become a standing item on the agenda.

David Flear asked Nigel to ensure that Adrian Simper was updated on these discussions and that a response was forthcoming through the DSG.

**Action: DSG(2014)M003/A001: Nigel Lowe to inform Adrian Simper of discussions at DSG regarding fuels and ensuring a written response was made available through DSG.**

**Action: DSG(2014)M003/A002: Nigel to provide full presentation at next sub group meeting (site restoration).**

**Action: DSG(2014)M003/A003: Business meeting to consider fuels as a standing item on DSG agenda.**

## 5. VULCAN UPDATE

David Flear noted that an update from Vulcan had been provided at the site restoration sub group meeting held in July. Written reports, in relation to Vulcan, had been provided for the sub group meeting including an update from Vulcan, Rolls Royce and ONR. Rolls Royce had written to DSG on 22<sup>nd</sup> September to confirm that there was no change from the high level update provided in June.

David Flear invited Commander Ken Dyke to provide an update. Of note, Cdr Dyke reported the following:

- There had been no lost time accidents since the last meeting.
- The STF continues to operate to programme.
- Discharges remained within the limits agreed by SEPA.
- Regulator inspections and audits continue. SEPA were on site at the time of reporting while DNSR was due to visit site next week.
- As reported at the last meeting, the Chief Scientific Advisor is now undertaking a review on whether a PWR3 reactor core at Vulcan is required. It was expected that a report would be available in October and once this had been considered by the Secretary of State DSG would be informed of the outcome. It was acknowledged that the Secretary of State had received the letter from DSG supporting this work and a response would be forthcoming at the appropriate time.
- The MOD constabulary were recruiting nationally and this had included these posts being advertised locally.
- Lt Cdr Andy Mole (who was attending this meeting) had now taken over from Lt Cdr Rory Stewart.

Tor Justad noted that DNSR had indicated areas for improvement following the recent Vulcan Emergency exercise. He asked whether DSG could be provided with information on what these improvements were. Cdr Ken Dyke noted that the exercise had been an adequate demonstration and agreed to provide the information in time for the next sub group meeting.

**Action: DSG(2014)M003/A004: Commander Ken Dyke to provide information on the areas for improvement, as reported by DNSR, in relation to the Vulcan emergency exercise.**

Ken Dyke also noted that there was a standing invitation for DSG members to visit Vulcan.

David Flear then invited SEPA to provide an update on Vulcan. Roger Wilson noted that SEPA's Radioactive Substances Manager would be visiting Vulcan this week and an inspection would also take place. This would be reported to DSG at the sub group to be held in November.

## **6. BUSINESS MEETING UPDATE**

David Flear noted that the Business meeting had met in August and members had received the draft minutes in advance of the meeting (DSG/BM(2014)M003 refers). Of note:

- The NDA had facilitated a meeting between the DSG chairman and vice-chairman with DRS Chairman, Alan Moore. Trudy Morris had also been invited but unfortunately was not available to attend. The issues arising from the Caithness Transport Forum were outlined and the Chairman agreed to feedback to the Chief Executive. It was further agreed that DRS would attend a future Caithness Transport Forum meeting to address the issues raised.
- The business group met with Phil Cartwright who had provided a breakdown of the spend against socio economic activities. DSG had previously questioned some of the spend as it had been felt it was not all strictly socio economic activities. Following discussion a review of the spend had been undertaken and some costs had been moved. It was noted that this would be further clarified during the socio economic presentation to be held later in the meeting.
- As discussed earlier, there had been some media attention relating to the trial shipment of Exotic fuel and connected to this was Highland Council's decision not to publish emergency plans. Donald Norrie, Highland Council Emergency Planning had informed the DSG Chairman that public versions of the emergency plans for Dounreay and Vulcan were now available on the Highland Council website.
- DSG had attempted to stimulate a conversation in relation to a Caithness-wide community fund with Foundation Scotland. It appeared that the appetite to do this was somewhat disappointing and Foundation Scotland was now considering how to take forward assistance to the local communities who benefit from wind farm funding.
- It had been agreed that DSG would provide early input to NDA and DSRL in relation to funding applications for socio economic activity. While there was an awareness that there may be commercial sensitivities with some applications it had been agreed that the DSG Socio Economic sub group chairman would represent DSG. DSRL had worked up a process for involvement and acknowledged that there would be a flexible approach.

There were no issues raised from the Business meeting.

For completeness the actions of the Business meeting are recorded below:

- **DSG(2014)M003/A005: June Love to provide David Flear with all DSG/Caithness Transport Forum correspondence relating to DRS.**
- **DSG(2014)M003/A006: June Love to request a written statement from Donald Norrie regarding Highland Council's position on publishing emergency plans.**

- **DSG(2014)M003/A007: June Love to write to JRC regarding open seminar on public participation in radioactive waste management.**
- **DSG(2014)M003/A008: June Love to ask Ken Nicol to provide final process for funding applications once considered internally.**

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

David Flear noted that sub group chairman, Bob Earnshaw, had tendered his apologies for the meeting. The sub group had met in July and the minutes had been circulated to members in advance – DSG/SRSG(2014)M003 refers. Key points from the meeting were:

### **NDA update**

- NDA were continuing to monitor the re-profiled decommissioning plan being developed by DSRL.
- Baroness Verma had visited site and had also met with some of the beneficiaries of the North Highland Regeneration Fund.
- A delegation from Japan visited Dounreay in August and as part of this visit the Chamber, on behalf of DSRL, had organised a networking event with some local businesses. This appeared to be a very positive visit and will continue to put Dounreay on the map for decommissioning excellence.
- The NDA Assurance Director visited site and Derrick Milnes and Bob Earnshaw had met with her in the evening.
- Feedback to NDA on virtual reprocessing consultation had been positive with no issues raised which would change NDA's thinking.

David Flear invited Nigel Lowe to provide an update on behalf of NDA. Nigel Lowe noted the following:

- On the virtual reprocessing consultation, NDA would be happy to feedback on the report once it was available for public release. As noted the responses received had not given rise to NDA changing the option for virtual reprocessing.

Tor Justad asked what the outcome was of the National Audit Office review of how the Dounreay contract was being managed by the NDA. David Flear noted that this had been discussed at the June meeting and was fully minuted on page 10 of the minutes. Tor Justad responded that this was an important report considering the highly critical report for Sellafield. Nigel Lowe replied that the NAO Major Project Group assessment of how the NDA was managing the Dounreay contract was a "green" status report out of the three possible states of red, amber or green. In addition, there were a number of complimentary remarks which are listed in the June minutes. Tor Justad added for Dounreay to get a good report was a 'feather in the cap' for Dounreay and the NDA.

There were no further issues raised with the NDA.

### **Dounreay update**

David Flear noted that Dounreay had provided a written report to the sub group (DSG(2014)P015 refers). Of note:



- An additional £50M had been provided by the NDA over the next two years for planned additional scope. This funding had changed the baseline outlook and work was ongoing to finalise the reprofiled plan in time to submit to NDA for review at the end of October. A presentation would be provided to DSG in December on this topic.
- There had been an in-depth discussion on fuel transport with varying views coming forward. Adrian Simper, NDA Strategy and Technology Director visited site on 15<sup>th</sup> August and also took time to meet up with stakeholders in the early evening to answer any direct question on fuel movements. While the numbers attending were low there was a good discussion around this issue. It was also noted that a series of meetings had been held with local authorities in the Western Isles, Orkney, Shetland and Highland Councils.
- There had been questions raised on the type of containers to be used by the shaft and silo project questioning who would make the final decision on what type of container would be used.
- The CNC firing range had also been raised as a number of issues relating to noise had been raised by local residents to both local Councillors and the DSG Chairman.
- DSRL reported that elevated levels of radioactivity had been discovered in a redundant offsite drain. A subsequent update informed DSG that following further samples it had been ascertained that this was natural uranium.

David Flear invited Mark Rouse to provide a verbal update. Mark Rouse reported the following:

- On safety, some encouraging signs were emerging that the data was improving. At times, when improvements are instigated it takes a little bit of time for these improvements to come to fruition. The site was currently concentrating on spatial awareness and the workforce had been set a challenge to go 90 days without an incident in relation to spatial awareness. The clock had been reset a few times and a lot of effort was being placed on this.
- Environmental compliance was also a challenge on the site and an Environment Improvement Programme had been developed. While there were areas that were improving there were also legacy issues which were being identified. One such example was the occurrence in February when a spent fuel can was being lifted to empty the PFR fuel pond and the lifting pintle became detached as a result of corrosion. Closer inspection indicated the possible leakage of gases. This had been reported to SEPA and DSRL assumed that the full gaseous contents had been released. The discharge was fully accommodated within the extant Authorisation. Further releases of gas were noted during the period May and June. DSRL proposed a methodology to allocate the release over a longer period of time and following agreement with SEPA reduced the estimated release in March and allocated proportions of the inventory for release for future months. This revised approach meant that the new stack group limit, as stated in the new RSA Authorisation which came into effect in April 2014 were exceeded. DSRL remained well within the overall site limit.
- In terms of nuclear safety there were signs of improvements and while it was acknowledged that ONR continued to carry out inspections to ensure these issues were being rectified feedback from ONR was positive.

- Earlier in the year a decision to stop/start work had been taken to allow a review of processes across the site. However, recently failure of a fan in the laboratories showed that the backup fan did not kick in. An investigation was ongoing to look into the causes of this with a particular focus on checking that it was not a repeat of the issues that led to the stop work.
- The addition £50M from the NDA for additional scope has ensured that work has not been deferred, in fact in some cases it is allowing work to be accelerated. This has also ensured that the workforce is busy and subsequently is improving morale.
- In terms of normal business, out of reactor DFR breeder fuel movements are continuing.
- The low level waste vaults are slightly delayed because of minor issues with the encapsulation plant commissioning. It is expected that this will be resolved by the end of the calendar year. Local residents had recently visited the encapsulation plant.
- The CNC firing range is now operational. While recognising that the range complies with planning conditions DSRL also recognised the on-going issues with near neighbours. Improvements were made to curtail the noise however issues surrounding the noise are ongoing. The site recognises the need to be a good neighbour and strives to do this.

David Flear asked whether the improvements taken were above the planning conditions. Mark Rouse confirmed that this was the case. Ronnie Johnstone commented that if the neighbours were still upset he would need to question whether the application for planning provided had been inadequate or whether it was Highland Council's assessment of the application that was inadequate. Emma Forbes, Highland Council Planning, responded that the decision on the planning application was based on information submitted by DSRL. She added that Highland Council Planning were aware of some complaints and said these would be taken forward by the Environment Health department. David Flear noted that DSG would continue to monitor this. Mark Rouse confirmed that the weapons being used in the range were as per the application.

**Action: DSG(2014)M003/A009: Emma Forbes, Highland Council Planning, to look into the issue of excessive noise at the CNC Firing Range and report back to DSG.**

- The new active analysis labs were now moving into commissioning phase. The ventilation system remained a challenge.
- An article in the Scotsman recently on fuel in DFR had been slightly misleading. The site had reported more damage to the fuel that had been anticipated. However the Scotsman had misinterpreted this as there was more fuel found in the reactor. It was pleasing to see that the local paper had reported this factually.

David Flear noted that Mark Rouse had mentioned staff morale earlier in the meeting. He asked the Dounreay Union representative whether the unions felt that morale was getting better. John Deighan, Dounreay Unions, responded that there was an on-going dialogue between union representatives and site management and the unions were keeping a watching brief.

David Flear noted that during the decommissioning activities a number of buildings would be demolished. Early discussions had commenced with HIE on off-site office accommodation for site staff. Mark Rouse confirmed that he was in early discussion with HIE on options for accommodating staff off-site. These discussions would continue and a decision was likely in the next few years.

Russ Hayley, Caithness West Community Council, asked whether the CNC firing range was a shared facility with the MOD police. Mark Rouse confirmed that the firing range was for the sole use of the CNC.

Tor Justad asked what the target date for the completion of the DFR breeder rail movements was. Mark Rouse responded he would come back with a response.

**Action: DSG(2014)M003/A010: Mark Rouse to confirm target date for the completion of DFR breeder fuel movements by rail.**

David Flear thanked Mark Rouse for his update.

### **SEPA update**

David Flear noted that SEPA had provided a written update – DSG(2014)P014 refers – at the last sub group meeting. Of note:

- The sub group had voiced their disappointment that Paul Dale had been unable to attend the last sub group meeting to provide an update on the Particles Retrieval Advisory Group. Assurances have been provided that he will be able to attend in November and that resource had now been made available from Dalgetty Bay to finalise the PRAG report.
- SEPA were undertaking an inspection of the discharges to the non-active drainage network.
- Monitoring of particles had commenced on both Strathy and Murkle and continued to be monitored at Sandside and the Dounreay foreshore.
- A project manager had been appointed by SEPA to take forward the site end state work.
- And last, but not least, SEPA had distributed a consultation on the new Environmental Enforcement Framework. DSG would be responding to this consultation.

David Flear invited Roger Wilson to provide a verbal update. Of note, Roger Wilson reported the following:

- **Site Inspection Work and Radioactive Substances Act (RSA) Compliance:**
  - Further to the issue noted in SEPA's April and July reports, in respect of a fuel can being damaged within the PFR facility and the potential for the release of activity into the pond water and a potential for gaseous discharges of Krypton-85 and tritium to have occurred from the facility's authorised discharge stack, SEPA has the following update. During the interim period between the initial release of gas from the fuel can (in March) and the removal of the fuel can from the pond (in June), small increases in radiation readings above the pond occurred, indicative of further releases of gas from the fuel can. This indicated that the gaseous discharges from the fuel can did not all occur within the month of March and as a result DSRL considered it was appropriate to assign a portion of the discharges to several months, although the total reported amount of the discharges has not changed. DSRL has now informed SEPA that during the compilation of the May 2014 discharge report it was noted that based on the allocation of the discharges from the fuel can, the reported discharges of tritium in May and June will exceed a sub-limit for gaseous disposals from the site. The assessed tritium discharges arising from the fuel can are well below the annual

site limit. On the basis of the sub-limit compared to the actual authorised site limit and the risk assessments undertaken against the authorised limits, SEPA is confident that there is no risk to the public or the environment from this discharge. As noted in SEPA's July report, SEPA has written to DSRL to request that DSRL undertake a detailed review of the site's arrangement for the sampling of authorised discharges.

- In August SEPA undertook an inspection of DSRL's arrangements for the consignment of liquid waste to its non-active drainage system. The inspection identified some shortcomings in DSRL's processes and arrangements and as a result SEPA will be undertaking further inspection later this week. SEPA notes that some of the issues identified during the August inspection had also been identified by DSRL as part of its implementation of the new RSA authorisation and WML and as a result DSRL has produced a Forward Action Plan and a draft copy of the Forward Action Plan was provided to SEPA.
- An inspection in early September of the labs involved in the analysis of liquid wastes prior to its sentencing to the non-active drainage system found that the labs had robust systems in place but that there were shortcomings in the analysis customers' specification of criteria against which the results were assessed. This ties in with the findings of the previous inspection.
- As discussed during the July Site Restoration Sub group meeting, DSRL notified SEPA of the detection of a small quantity of radioactivity in a sample of sludge taken from a manhole within a foul drain system, outwith and upstream of the Dounreay site. Following the initial notification DSRL undertook subsequent analysis work to help determine the source of the radioactivity. DSRL has now completed this work, which has demonstrated that the radioactivity detected in the sludge is due to naturally occurring radionuclides and is not associated with Dounreay site activities.
- **New Low Level Radioactive Waste Facility:** As part of the RSA93 authorisation for the new facility there is a requirement for DSRL to provide to SEPA a number of submissions prior to the vaults becoming operational. SEPA has recently received the submissions relating to operational management plans and are currently reviewing these submissions. SEPA plan to undertake an inspection of the facility's compliance arrangements, as required by the LLWF's RSA Authorisation, during October and prior to giving DSRL written permission for disposal operations to begin.
- **Other Site Work**
  - A site visit was undertaken by SEPA to look at ground and surface water monitoring arrangements and to visit a number of groundwater seeps along the Dounreay foreshore. Discussions were also held with DSRL on Priority Hazardous Substances and future groundwater monitoring requirements. The purpose of the visit was to inform future SEPA work in relation to groundwater impacts from the Dounreay site.
  - In September, the Dounreay Deputy Managing Director met with SEPA and presented details of DSRL's Environmental Improvement Programme.
  - SEPA has attended meetings of NDA's Spent Fuels and Nuclear Materials Strategic Theme Oversight Group and the Dounreay Exotics Regulatory Forum. DSRL has given SEPA a detailed update on progress on Exotics and DFR Breeder Material and an updated Best Practicable Means study for the Unirradiated Fuels Characterisation Facility.

Tor Justad asked whether SEPA had the resource required to finalise the ongoing work on particle clean-up. Roger Wilson responded that the area where SEPA had been short of resource was around contaminated land. This had now been prioritised and given that Dalgetty Bay is now essentially sorted out resource would now be available to move forward with PRAG(D).

George Farlow noted that hydrogeologists appeared to be in short supply and asked how many did SEPA have and how many would be required for the future. Roger Wilson responded that he would respond to this in due course.

**Action: DSG(2014)M003/A011: Roger Wilson to provide information on the number of hydrogeologists that SEPA have at present and what would be required for the future.**

### **ONR Update**

David Flear noted that Peter Watson had not been available for the last sub group meeting but had submitted a written report – DSG(2014)P019 refers. Of note:

- ONR had also provided two further reports – ONR’s plan for regulation of the Dounreay site in 2014/15 (Correspondence 40) and ONR’s annual report and strategy for 2015-2020 (Correspondence 49). ONR’s strategy is currently out for consultation and we will be submitting a response. The plan for regulation was viewed as a useful document by members of the sub group and we have asked Peter to report progress on the regulation plan via his normal report.

David Flear invited Peter Watson to provide a verbal update. Peter Watson reported the following:

- The quarterly report covering April to June 2014 was now available on ONR’s website.
- During this week a team of ONR inspectors, one of whom was a specialist, were considering leadership and management for safety. The inspectors will be talking to a range of people (senior team, facility management, operations and safety representatives) to get a feel for where the safety culture on site is at the moment. The inspection relates to an intervention project scope contained in ONR’s plan for regulating Dounreay in 2014/15.
- Also on site this week ONR will be undertaking a ‘system based inspection’ of equipment claimed in facility safety cases for responding to nuclear emergencies. (‘System’ in this context refers to compliance inspections of a complete safety system as opposed to individual plant items.) For example, a safety case will make claims on certain equipment and ONR will consider the adequacy of this equipment and the competence of staff to operate it.
- Work carried out from July included the management of operations within a fuel storage facility. The inspector looked at the processes for examining fuel assemblies and was impressed by the preparations for the work and the explanation to operators of the hazards involved. Discussions had also taken place with contractors who work exclusively in that plant and they had provided good detail of assurance that they were treated as a member of the team and that the safety culture within the facility was good.
- Licence Condition 32 (Accumulation of Radioactive Waste) was also inspected this quarter. The inspectors considered the practices of various plants and overall some good practices have been identified. The inspections showed that radioactive waste was being managed adequately and in accordance with arrangements made by the licensee under Licence Condition 32.

- ONR were in the process of closing out investigations into the electrical power failure in April and the small fire in FCA in May. Inspectors were satisfied that these could now be closed out.
- ONR will look into the failure of the ventilation system in the laboratories this week and will include the outcome in the next quarterly report.

David Flear noted there was no representative from CNC present.

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

- **DSG (2014)M003/A012: June Love to write to John Hook, Rolls Royce to enquire whether their apprentice training scheme included adult apprentices.**
- **DSG(2014)M003/A013: Bob Kury to clarify whether ONR approval had been received for using superheated steam for cleaning PFR.**
- **DSG (2014)M003/A014: June Love to draft letter of thanks to Jason Casper/Andy Beckwith for their informative presentation at June DSG on DFR decommissioning.**
- **DSG (2014)M003/A015: June Love to circulate SEPA's consultation on the new Environmental Enforcement Framework for DSG comments.**
- **DSG (2014)M003/A016: June Love to write to Peter Watson to ask whether the activity outlined in the plan for regulation of the Dounreay site could be reported through into ONR's quarterly reports and verbal updates.**
- **DSG (2014)M003/A017: June Love to circulate ONR's strategy 2015-2020 for comment by DSG members and submit a response to ONR's consultation.**
- **DSG (2014)M003/A018: June Love to ask the Heritage Officer to identify the six objects that had been collected.**
- **DSG (2014)M003/A019: June Love to co-ordinate meeting between James Gunn (Heritage Officer) and David Broughton to record his memories of working on the site.**

#### **8. PRESENTATION ON DOUNREAY'S SOCIO ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**

David Flear introduced Phil Cartwright, Socio Economics and Communications Manager. Phil Cartwright provided the presentation. See DSG(2014)C062.

Following the presentation the following was raised.

David Flear complemented DSRL for having early engagement with DSG on this subject. David noted that DSG had made it clear that they were not happy with last years' plan and had been pleased that these issues had been addressed.

David Flear also noted that there had been discussions relating to DSG's input into early applications for funding for both NDA and DSRL and this was now being taken forward. He felt this would add to the due diligence required before applications could be approved.

John Deighan stated that there was a lot of things going on but asked how the unemployed were being supported.

Tor Justad noted that there would be a balance between requirements for the site and the workforce as opposed to the needs of the community in terms of employment. He asked if it was possible in future to see some figures and projections for 5 and 10 years to see what the likely outcome in terms of site requirement was. Mark Rouse responded that the site has some good data and once the re-profiling of the decommissioning plan was complete this information would be available. The secretary noted there was a contract obligation on DSRL to produce the staffing profile information on a regular basis to CNSRP and others.

Phil Cartwright stated that he agreed with everything that had been voiced regarding the unemployed but did not think that the site was in a position to answer that question. However, the site saw the North Highland College and education as one of the ways to improve people's careers and increase skills. The site would continue to focus on this via the North Highland College.

Eann Sinclair added that this had been discussed at a couple of meetings and subsequently CNSRP had spoken with Job Centre Plus about centre-based work academies trying to take people off the long term unemployment list. However, he noted that it was essential to ensure that the opportunities for employment were at a certain level. He re-iterated that CNSRP, via Job Centre Plus, was working on both of these.

Maurice Davidson noted that 25% of the socio economic funding was against staff costs which appeared to be out of proportion. Phil Cartwright responded that this was the way that the funding was set up and is representative of the people who are carrying out the work. He emphasised that the site had a number of others working on this who were not funded against the socio economic budget. David Flear noted that staff costs were legitimate as it was a means of pump-priming some of the work going on. If those members of staff were not doing this a number of activities would not be followed through.

Ronnie Johnstone stated that this had always been a problem with an organisation spending its money on itself but on the other hand he recognised that if, for example, people in the North Highland College wasn't paid then training could not be provided. He added that the balance had to be right and stressed the importance of keeping this under review. The importance here was to ensure that there were real impacts and not just a tick box exercise.

David Flear stated that one of the things that ensure that impacts were being delivered was the DSG sub group which oversaw and scrutinised the socio economic activities. As part of this early interface with DSG when considering applications at an early stage is now included in the process.

There being further no questions David Flear thanked Phil Cartwright for his presentation and looked forward to continuing the dialogue between NDA/DSRL and DSG in the future.

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

David Flear noted that sub group chairman, Derrick Milnes was unable to attend this meeting. The sub group had met in July and the minutes had been made available to members – DSG/SESG(2014)M003 refers.

David Flear stated he would take the minutes as read. For completeness actions from the Socio Economic sub group are recorded below:

- DSG(2014)M003/A020: June Love to invite Mike Muir, Commercial Department to next Socio Economic sub group meeting in November.
- DSG(2014)M003/A021: Ken Nicol to consider how the DSG Socio Economic sub group chairman could be included in the consideration of funding applications for socio economic funding.
- DSG(2014)M003/A022: Anna MacConnell to consider whether there was value in considering a paper, similar to Sellafield's, summarising the positive contribution to the regional economy.
- DSG(2014)M003/A023: DSG members to consider DRS's information and provide DSG secretary with comments for onward transmission to Trudy Morris to provide a joint Caithness Transport Forum/DSG response.
- DSG(2014)M003/A024: Anna MacConnell to explore with NDA the possibility of holding the NDA National event in Caithness.

David Flear invited the following to provide a verbal update.

**NDA:** Nigel Lowe noted that a number of points had already been covered in the presentation and subsequent questions. He added the following:

- The reprofiled decommissioning plan would be outlined in detail at the December DSG. This would include input from NDA and DSRL to outline what had happened and why while DSRL would provide detail of what the baseline programme will look like going forward.
- The National Nuclear Archives work was continuing. Information had been provided to bidders outlining the contractual obligations.
- Nationally, the NDA have commenced work on the forthcoming spending review for 2017 onwards.

George Farlow asked what the status was of NDA's surplus land. Nigel Lowe responded that, for Dounreay, some aspects of discussions were private between the individuals involved. The NDA's central property team are continuing to work on this. Throughout the NDA's estate there are large amounts of land which are outside the nuclear site perimeters. Government policy is to sell as much of that land as possible either for socio economic activities or for private development thereby reducing the amount of money from Central Government needed by the NDA. David Flear noted there was a local prospect with related to the Viewfirth land and a community sports hub.

**Dounreay:** Mark Rouse noted he had nothing to add to the previous discussions from a site point of view.

**CNSRP:** Eann Sinclair noted the following:



- At half way through the financial year about 107 FTEs (full time equivalents) jobs had either been retained or created by local companies. This is already ahead of the CNSRP targets for this year.
- PSS (Process Safety Solutions) has now moved part of its operation to Wick. This is the first inward investment activity to have taken place.
- Meygen had successfully completed financial closure and as a result a number of local companies are set to benefit including the multi-million pound contract recently announced by JGC.
- SSE had announced that Wick was the preferred base for operations and maintenance of the Beatrice off-shore wind farm and MORL had signed a memorandum of understanding with Wick harbour.
- The airport was benefitting from NVH's helicopter operations who were operating on behalf of Chevron. NVH, with support from HIAL, had provided a new helicopter hangar.
- Dunnet distillery was now operational and had launched its new gin. While Wolfburn distillery, in Thurso, had cast its whiskey and will be available from 2016.

David Broughton asked whether Meygen's financial closure was public or private sector funding. Eann Sinclair responded that it was both but would take an action to provide the information.

**Action: DSG(2014)M003/A025: Eann Sinclair to provide information on the funding provided for Meygen.**

**Caithness Chamber of Commerce:** Trudy Morris noted the following:

- The Chamber's AGM would take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> October at Dunnet Bay and would include a hog roast and a visit to the distillery for gin tasting. Dunnet Bay Distilleries were one of the companies which had benefited from the North Highland Regeneration Fund (NHRF) and it was good to see such a positive impact on the funding which was provided.
- The Chamber's annual dinner had been held on 19<sup>th</sup> September and had been a very successful evening. Annie Body, of Annie's Bakery, had been awarded the George Bruce Young Entrepreneur of the Year award. Annie's Bakery was a great example of someone working out of Canisby and exporting their produce out of the county into the Cairngorms.
- Discussions with Thurso High School in relation to a Young Enterprise programme had been received positively. This was geared towards S6 pupils running their own company for a year. Both Wick and Thurso High Schools were taking part this year.
- An audit on Make the Right Connections had taken place and the Chamber had been congratulated on the systems in place to ensure a good audit trail had been available. Make the Right Connections, a training programme funded by NDA, DSRL, Skills Development Scotland, and European funding, was now coming to an end and it an independent evaluation of the programme would be carried out. Once finalised it was expected that the outcome would be that there was around 800 people through this programme.

- World host training – a customer service programme – was continuing. Funding had been secured to delivery 10 pilot regions and Caithness is one of these regions. Only 30 businesses within Caithness needed to go through this training before the area achieved its world host destination.
- The Caithness Chamber was working with Scottish Chambers, following the referendum, to ensure that the promises made are now delivered on both sites to ensure the climate is right for businesses to prosper and grow.

David Flear noted the recent fatality at Berriedale Braes and recognised this was the fourth accident within a short period of time. Given the work the Chamber and the community had already done to raise the awareness of the Berriedale Braes and the work undertaken to realign the hairpin bend he felt it would be useful to raise this again with Scottish Government. Trudy Morris responded that, following the last accident, the Chamber had got Scottish Chamber's involved. This would be taken forward at the Caithness Transport Forum and further noted that URS' report on Berriedale was due to be complete next month. John Green also noted that the Association of Caithness Community Councils had written to Scottish Government regarding the recovery of vehicles.

- Scottish Chambers held business awards in Edinburgh recently which was the first time they have done it on a national stage. Caithness was represented by four companies that went forward after shortlisting. Two were in the international categories – JPL Shellfish and Reid's of Caithness, with JGC being represented in the engineering category and Mackay's hotel was also represented. In addition, the Caithness Chamber had been nominated for the Chamber of Commerce of the year and from a list of 10 Chamber's was shortlisted with Glasgow and Aberdeen. Glasgow ultimately came out as the winner.

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

There were no questions raised.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

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

**David Flear**  
**DSG Chairman**  
28<sup>th</sup> September 2014

**ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING**

DSG(2014)M003/A001: Nigel Lowe to inform Adrian Simper of discussions at DSG regarding fuels and ensuring a written response was made available through DSG.

DSG(2014)M003/A002: Nigel to provide full presentation at next sub group meeting (site restoration).

DSG(2014)M003/A003: Business meeting to consider fuels as a standing item on DSG agenda.

DSG(2014)M003/A004: Commander Ken Dyke to provide information on the areas for improvement, as reported by DNSR, in relation to the Vulcan emergency exercise.

DSG(2014)M003/A005: June Love to provide David Flear with all DSG/Caithness Transport Forum correspondence relating to DRS.

DSG(2014)M003/A006: June Love to request a written statement from Donald Norrie regarding Highland Council's position on publishing emergency plans.

DSG(2014)M003/A007: June Love to write to JRC regarding open seminar on public participation in radioactive waste management.

DSG(2014)M003/A008: June Love to ask Ken Nicol to provide final process for funding applications once considered internally.

DSG(2014)M003/A009: Emma Forbes, Highland Council Planning, to look into the issue of excessive noise at the CNC Firing Range and report back to DSG.

DSG(2014)M003/A010: Mark Rouse to confirm target date for the completion of DFR breeder fuel movements by rail.

DSG(2014)M003/A011: Roger Wilson to provide information on the number of hydrogeologists that SEPA have at present and what would be required for the future.

DSG (2014)M003/A012: June Love to write to John Hook, Rolls Royce to enquire whether their apprentice training scheme included adult apprentices.

DSG(2014)M003/A013: Bob Kury to clarify whether ONR approval had been received for using superheated steam for cleaning PFR.

DSG (2014)M003/A014: June Love to draft letter of thanks to Jason Casper/Andy Beckwith for their informative presentation at June DSG on DFR decommissioning.

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DSG(2014)M003/A024: Anna MacConnell to explore with NDA the possibility of holding the NDA National event in Caithness.

DSG(2014)M003/A025: Eann Sinclair to provide information on the funding provided for Meygen.

#### **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 November 2014.

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). Emailed Tor on 6<sup>th</sup> August for clarification as to whether he has any outstanding questions to be addressed.

**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:** *Emailed Claire Dodd for clarification on timescale for presentation.*

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

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

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