

## **DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at 1900 hours in the Pentland Hotel (Ballroom), Thurso.

Present:	David Flear	DSG Chairman
	Derrick Milnes	DSG Vice-chairman
	Alastair MacDonald	DSG Honorary member
	Bob Earnshaw	DSG Site Restoration sub group chairman
	Thelma MacKenzie	Thurso Community Council
	Cllr Roger Saxon	Highland Council
	Cllr George Farlow	Highland Council
	Cllr Matthew Reiss	Highland Council
	John Deighan	Dounreay Unions
	Eann Sinclair	CNSRP
	Ronnie Johnstone	Church of Scotland
	Trudy Morris	Caithness Chamber of Commerce
	Mike Flavell	NHS Highland
	Tor Justad	DSG member
	Dave Barclay	Highland Council Planning
	Donald MacBeath	North Highland College, UHI
	Keith Muir	HIE
	June Love	DSRL, DSG Secretariat
	Nigel Lowe	NDA Head of Programme
	Phil Craig	Dounreay Managing Director
	Cdr Ken Dyke	MOD, Vulcan
	Stewart Ballantine	SEPA
	Sheila Hutchison	ONR (for Dounreay)

## **MINUTES**

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

David Flear, DSG Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He made a special welcome to Phil Craig, Dounreay Managing Director who was attending his first meeting in an official capacity. He also welcomed Thelma Mackenzie who had taken over as representative for Thurso Community Council. Bob Earnshaw had stood down from Thurso Community Council but retains his position on DSG as sub group chairman as per the Terms of Reference.

David Flear noted that a presentation had been pencilled in for this meeting by Alan Farquhar from Dounreay who was going to talk about his experience as an apprentice and the career development programme he has been pursuing since he qualified. Unfortunately Alan could not attend this meeting due to other commitments and it was agreed that this would be organised for March 2015. It had been agreed at the business meeting that no presentation would be provided this evening to allow people to get home safely at a reasonable time.

Before David Flear moved on, he indicated that Nigel Lowe, NDA Head of Programme would be relocating to Warrington to take on additional responsibility as head of Programme for Magnox sites as well as Dounreay. He noted he would say something further later in the agenda.

## 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

- George McDougall, Caithness West Community Council
- Alyn Griffiths, ONR (for Vulcan)
- David Broughton, DSG member
- Cllr Willie Mackay, Highland Council
- Linda Buchan, SEPA (Stewart Ballantine in attendance)
- Cllr Maurice Davidson, Orkney Islands Council
- David Mudie, Highland Council Planning (Dave Barclay deputising).
- Sandy Mackie, Scrabster Harbour Trust
- Martin MacDonald, Scottish Government Radwaste team
- Roy Kirk, HIE (Keith Muir deputising).

## 3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

David Flear noted that the minutes of the last meeting – DSG(2015)M003 – had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. This was agreed as a true reflection of the meeting. This was proposed by Derrick Milnes and seconded by John Deighan.

David Flear invited DSG members to raise anything from these minutes. Of note:

- George Farlow asked whether the request for membership from KIMO had been progressed. June Love responded that there were a number of actions on membership topics and she had been waiting for this meeting to take place before progressing these as it would tie in with the Annual General Meeting to be held in March.
- Tor Justad asked whether there had been any progress made by DRS in securing commercial work from Inverness to Caithness. Trudy Morris, Chamber of Commerce responded that a written update from DRS had been provided to the Caithness Transport Forum which had been held last week. The update confirmed that a number of enquiries were being followed up.

David Flear noted that, at a recent meeting with Crimson (NDA Nuclear Archive) he had suggested they contact DRS to consider rail transport of the UK's civil nuclear archive records.

Tor Justad responded that it had been some time since he had provided one potential company and it had appeared nothing was progressing, Trudy Morris stated that she had been assured that conversations with potential customers were ongoing. David Flear suggested that an update from Crimson might be appropriate.

Nigel Lowe re-iterated that while it appeared no progress was being made it did not

mean that leads were not being pursued. The lack of information could mean that they were not at a stage where they can say anything because of ongoing commercial sensitivities at present.

Tor Justad asked if there was a constraint for actively pursuing commercial freight when the movement of nuclear material was continuing. Nigel Lowe responded there was no constraint although clearly various traffic moves would need to be deconflicted.

Action: DSG(2015)M004/A001: June Love to request an update from Crimson regarding transportation of archive documentation.

#### 4. STATUS OF ACTIONS

David Flear noted that members had received the status of actions report. Of note he reported that:

- DSG was still waiting to hear back from Dr Paul Monaghan regarding a meeting with DSG representatives.
- The issue around HC Environmental Health carrying out noise monitoring of the CNC Firing range is still ongoing. Originally Environmental Health had said there was no breach of planning conditions. However it transpired that a number of residents had been provided with noise monitoring sheets to complete but there was a mix up as to whether these were being collected or residents had to post. As a result the noise monitoring sheets have been re-issued and therefore the action is ongoing until such a time that Environmental Health can review the information provided.
- The last two remaining actions from previous meetings related to membership and AGM business and therefore these will be completed during January.
- A number of actions were raised at the sub group meetings held in November and these would be included in this minute.

David Flear then invited members to raise anything from the action list that had not been covered. No further topics were raised.

#### 5. UPDATE FROM VULCAN

David Flear noted that updates from Vulcan were provided at the Site Restoration sub group meeting. Written reports had been provided:

- DSG(2015)P026 – update from Vulcan
- DSG(2015)P023– update from Rolls Royce
- DSG(2015)P019– ONR quarterly report, April to June 2015

David Flear noted that, at the sub group meeting, Lt Cdr Andy Mole had provided an update. Of note:

- A lost time accident occurred on 31<sup>st</sup> July resulting in more than 7 days off work – an operator experienced a calf strain.
- No environmental non-compliances during the last quarter.
- The shore test facility was now at a stage of reducing decay heat following shut down in July.

Before handing over to Commander Ken Dyke, David Flear thanked him for his kind invitation and kind words regarding the DSG at the Trafalgar Night dinner which had been extremely enjoyable.

Commander Dyke provided the following verbal update:

- No further lost time accidents had occurred since the last meeting (sub group).
- No issues with environmental compliance.
- The shore test facility had shut down on 21<sup>st</sup> July and work continued to make preparations for defueling in 2017.
- No events were reported to ONR or SEPA and radioactive waste disposals which are reported monthly, remain below annual limits.
- Audits and inspections from ONR, DNSR and SEPA continue. DNSR had audited in November which had been deemed acceptable.
- The Annual security exercise held in November was a successful demonstration of the security arrangements.
- The Vulcan Defuel and Decommissioning VDAD programme on the future business was being run by Simon Tinling and he was aware of DSG's request for information on the timeline for assessment of the options for the Vulcan site.

Tor Justad noted that at the last meeting DSG had requested a timeline for 2016 for community involvement in the options for the future of Vulcan site following defueling. He noted that the view expressed was to see the site fully decommissioned. He asked what plans were there to include the community and wider involvement in this process. Commander Ken Dyke responded that this would be for Simon Tinling to provide once key dates were identified but felt this would likely happen at the end of 2016/beginning of 2017.

## 6. DSG BUSINESS MEETING UPDATE

David Flear stated that the business meeting had met on the 13<sup>th</sup> November and members had received the draft minutes (DSG/BM(2015)M004 refers). The meeting agreed the agenda for this meeting as well as a discussion around membership issues which will be picked up in time for the Annual General Meeting.

At the business meeting it had also been agreed to write to the Community Sports Hub recording DSG's support for this facility. David Flear intimated he would return to this subject under any other business. There was also a discussion on the Berriedale Braes

which the Chamber, via the Transport Forum, continued to progress. It had been agreed that DSG would also add their support to ensuring Berriedale was progressed.

David Flear noted that the following had been attended, on behalf of DSG:

- Scottish Government Scottish Nuclear Sites meeting (a summary of the meeting was distributed to members).
- A radwaste conference in Brussels which was organised at the time of the tragedy in Paris and therefore security was very tight with a number of participants cancelling attendance at very short notice. It was useful to record that DSG was the only UK representative in attendance.
- The Engineering Policy Group in Edinburgh. This had been billed as “Opportunities for Scottish Engineering” however the discussion went a bit off the track and didn’t really get around to discussing the opportunities in any great detail.
- On the 3<sup>rd</sup> December the DSG chair attended the Nuclear Industries Conference in London entitled Nuclear: Powering the UK. The conference was interesting and it was useful to hear what our MP had to say. In between sessions there had been an opportunity to speak with Paul Monaghan as well as John Clarke/Jon Philips and Mark Rouse (former MD for Dounreay).
- The chairman also met with David Batters, NDA Chief Financial Officer and had had a teleconference with Steve Bithell, NDA Health, Safety and Environment.

There being no issues raised, David Flear handed over to Bob Earnshaw, Site Restoration sub group chairman for an update. For completeness the actions raised at the Business meeting are recorded here:

Action: DSG(2015)M004/A002: June Love to draft letter from DSG in support of Community Sports Hub and circulate to all members encouraging them to support facility if appropriate.

Action: DSG(2015)M004/A003: June Love to send recent P&J article on Berriedale Braes to the Chamber for information.

## 7. SITE RESTORATION SUB GROUP UPDATE

Bob Earnshaw, DSG Site Restoration Sub Group Chairman, noted that the sub group at met on the 11<sup>th</sup> November and the draft minutes have been circulated to members. (DSG/SRSG(2015)M004 refers).

Bob Earnshaw stated that the Vulcan update has been covered already and therefore would concentration on the highlights from NDA, Dounreay and the regulators. Of note:

NDA:

- The Corporate Spend Review which has now been announced and would be updated on later by Nigel Lowe.
- A meeting with Paul Monaghan, MP to update him on NDA and Dounreay issues.
- The progress on the Sellafield contract model.

Nigel Lowe provided a verbal update. He reported the following:

- Progress on the Sellafield contract model change continued on schedule and would be completed by end of the financial year. The NDA, the PBO and SLC were working well together.
- On exotic fuels, Nigel Lowe announced that while he could not go into detail on mode of transport, route and dates he was pleased to announce that the first movement had been successfully transferred. There had been no issues relating to the transportation and there had been a lot of work to pull this together. This programme would continue for a number of years. However, he reassured members that prior permission from independent regulators under a number of regulations is required, including the safety cases before transports are allowed. The Dounreay.com website published a message once the material had been safely delivered to Sellafield.
- On the Corporate Spending Review the Chancellor had announced £1 billion of savings related to the NDA's estate over the spending review period. While confirmation was still awaited (and was caveated as such) it would appear that Dounreay would remain at its current funding level of circa £177M a year (adjusted each year for inflation). He added that the NDA had spent considerable time presenting the case for Dounreay and therefore the site had been challenged to deliver four key things:
  - A site that is safe, secure and environmentally compliant.
  - A culture that continues to change for the better
  - Efficiency savings.
  - Delivery of the programme.

Nigel Lowe noted that the NDA would publish its draft business plan on the 5<sup>th</sup> January. Therefore he re-iterated that this update was with the caveat that it had not yet been confirmed officially.

- With Nigel Lowe's relocation to Warrington, Mark Raffle (NDA Programme Manager) would be taking his place at DSG meetings. Mr Lowe's new role would include responsibility for the Magnox contract as well as for Dounreay and therefore he would continue to be Head of Programme for Dounreay. He added that there was a strong NDA site facing team at Dounreay and that with the combination of roles of

Head of Programme for Dounreay and Magnox should help identify and drive efficiencies as innovation is driven and lessons are learnt at each of the sites.

George Farlow noted an article in the Sunday Herald which had been an in-depth report from Cumbria regarding people's antipathy for receiving fuels from the rest of the UK and asked whether emergency tugs had been provided down the West Coast when the fuel was transported.

Nigel Lowe responded that he had not seen the article being referred to but understood that the NDA was aware of this view from Cumbria. NDA had consulted extensively and the programme was now being implemented. However, the matter of a tug was for the Department of Transport and not DECC (the sponsoring department of the NDA.)

Roger Saxon said it was good to hear that the level of funding would not be affected. He noted that one of the key drivers would be to deliver the plan and asked whether any changes to that plan were expected. Nigel Lowe responded that the Life-Time-Plan for Dounreay was regularly reviewed and updated. If in the future, spending reviews reduced funding then its impact on the LTP and the Interim End State Date would be assessed.

Roger Saxon asked if there would be any change to the emphasis of the decommissioning plan. Nigel Lowe responded that there would be no change and has already indicated to the site that the NDA would like to see the programme optimised.

Tor Justad asked whether the timelines for the transport of exotic fuel remain as previously reported. Nigel Lowe responded that because he did not have the exact dates with him he would respond in writing to ensure the information was factual.

Action: DSG(2015)M004/A004: Nigel Lowe to provide the expected time for the transport of exotic fuel.

Tor Justad asked what the reason for the level of secrecy because if anyone had gone on line earlier they would have been able to track the Ocean Pintail movements. Nigel Lowe responded that it meant that the boat was not carrying nuclear cargo at that time. He stressed that security guidelines came from UK Government and it was for the NDA to follow them.

Tor Justad understood that the movements could not be divulged before it happened but asked to be re-assured that the NDA took this issue, especially relating to tug vessels, as seriously as those who had voiced this issue. Nigel Lowe responded that the NDA took its' responsibility very seriously and stressed again that the procedure for transporting nuclear materials was heavily regulated. With regards tug vessels the NDA were not responsible for this but had taken community views to the Department of Transport. Tor Justad requested that these concerns were again raised with the relevant organisations responsible. Nigel Lowe said he was happy to raise this with his NDA Executive.

David Flear noted he was conscious of the terrible weather being experienced by Cumbria and asked if the safety case for nuclear transports had included scenarios such

as the flooding and whether NDA could confirm that the route taken was safe. Nigel Lowe confirmed this. Sheila Hutchison added that ONR require robust safety cases and plans.

Action: DSG(2015)M004/A005: Nigel Lowe to take views on emergency tug vessels to the NDA executive for the executive to decide whether to raise again with the Department of Transport.

Tor Justad noted that there had been reports of two different ships getting into trouble, one just off Stroma. Nigel Lowe said he was not aware of these reports. Tor Justad agreed to provide a link to the information.

Action: DSG(2015)M004/A006: Tor Justad to provide website link to the sea related reports.

Tor Justad noted that in the minutes of the previous meeting there was a statement (page 6: DSG(2015)M003) referring to errors in the environmental reporting. Nigel Lowe responded that the NDA had asked site to ensure that sustainability was built into the new plan and improvements being made. The NDA committed to carrying out an independent report and this had been done.

Bob Earnshaw thanked members for their input and moved on to the Dounreay report.

### Dounreay

Bob Earnshaw noted that a written update had been provided at the sub group meeting, DSG(2015)P22 refers. Of note:

- It was agreed that the Dounreay Improvement Team activities were now an integral part of the Dounreay report and therefore was no longer on the agenda as a separate item although updates continued to be provided.
- The Dounreay Improvement Team was on track to deliver on the milestones and actions identified previously.
- The site had a run of 124 days without a lost time accident until a contractor's employee injured his knee.
- SEPA had provided the site with a warning letter relating to the corrosion found in the ventilation system.
- The programme is back on schedule for the fuel transportation to Sellafield.
- NaK extraction from the hot traps in DFR had commenced.
- Tanks 3 and 4 at the PFR Tank Farm have now been sealed which allows for final treatment.
- Recruitment levels are increasing with the DSRL headcount currently sitting at 1,237. The site had also completed the recruitment of 15 graduates, 8 apprentices



and 6 trainee project control programmers.

- Ella Feist, the Environmental Closure and Demolition Manager attended her first sub group meeting. She reported that a review would be undertaken on the site end state, remediation of the diffuser system and a landscape concept design. These projects, along with other activities, will help inform the Highland Council Planning Development Framework 3 which is currently being developed and will cover the period 2018 to interim end state. Engagement activities on these projects would take place next year.

Bob Earnshaw invited Phil Craig to provide a verbal update. Phil Craig, Dounreay Managing Director reported:

- As noted by Nigel Lowe (above), the NDA had provided Dounreay with the report from the independent assessment. The site had fully accepted the findings of the report and was aware that the site continues to be on a journey to make improvements. The report helps to shape and inform the direction of travel at the site. There were some detailed recommendations and a briefing has been provided to the Dounreay unions and Employee Reps and a briefing will be provided to all staff over the next week where feedback will be welcomed. ONR and SEPA have both been provided with a verbal update at this stage and the DSG Chairman received a briefing last night. At moment the information is at high level and the report will be available within the next week or so for wider distribution. The DIT implementation plan, along with the NDA assessment will help inform this phase. The senior team were looking forward to working with everyone to ensure the measures in place are robust and sustainable.
- At the last DSG, the LEAN team was mentioned. They are looking at all types of activities and processes across the site with a view to suggesting improvements with workable solutions.
- As mentioned previously, the site had gone 124 days without a lost time accident and then unfortunately there had been an injury to a contractor. Last week there was a slip which resulted in an employee having time off work. The site has organised a safety pause for Friday which will concentrate on winter preparedness including winter weather conditions with the potential for an increase in slips, trips and falls.
- DFR completed processing of the NaK fourth batch from its hot traps. This had emptied the first of seven hot traps.
- PFR lifted an instrument liner tube from the reactor to characterise its radiation levels and temporarily stored it in a flask. This provided additional characterisation information for the region above the core. The radiation level (5 Sv/hr) was lower than we had projected. The move also made room to remove additional components for characterisation, including the upcoming characterisation of the 5-inch neutron reflector.

- Shaft and Silo project went through a Gate 1 review which was successfully completed on 12<sup>th</sup> November. The Gate Review Team score is Amber and it will now proceed to scheme design.
- The successful transportation of nuclear material to Sellafield which had been previously covered in discussions.

On more general topics, Phil Craig reported:

- The NDA hosted a three-day visit from the National Audit Office last week who had visited a number of facilities and received presentations from senior managers. The feedback was very positive.
- This week Alex Anderson, Dounreay had updated the Caithness councillors on the ongoing programme of defueling.
- A contractor working on the Shaft and Silo Project was recognised by the NDA Estate Supply Chain Awards. Oxford Technologies Ltd won the Minister's award for their innovative idea to clean out the shaft stub tunnel. The site had challenged the company to get creative and they identified an economical way to clean out the 19m long stub tunnel that connects at right angles to the shaft.
- Dounreay supported the Vulcan Counter-Terrorism exercise on 25<sup>th</sup> November and also held a site counter-terrorism exercise on the 19<sup>th</sup> November. ONR had observed the site's exercise and reported it had been a 'good' demonstration.
- The first of the CNC's ballistically protected vehicles (BPVs) had arrived on site.
- The new Managing Director of Cavendish Nuclear, Simon Bowen, had visited Dounreay on 19<sup>th</sup> November. Simon Bowen had taken over this role from Roger Hardy and this visit was to familiarise himself with the site. His first impression was very favourable and he noted a great deal of pride from a receptive workforce. Mr Bowen has a wealth of experience on safety and will provide leadership on the site's continuing journey. He is visiting again shortly and a series of external meetings will be organised with external stakeholders.

David Flear said he was looking forward to meeting with Mr Bowen as he believed he had been part of the regeneration of Swansea and would be interested to hear about the challenges that had to be addressed.

Tor Justad asked if the dates had been identified for the construction of the two low level waste vaults. Phil Craig responded that this was currently under review to see whether this work could be brought forward and therefore dates had not yet been identified.

#### SEPA

Bob Earnshaw noted that SEPA had provided a written report to the sub group meeting (DSG(2015)P24 refers). Of note:

- A number of inspections had been undertaken including the close out of the Environmental Improvement Plan and this had led DSRL to close out these actions.
- SEPA was currently developing guidance for the revocation of Authorisations under RSA 1993 and this is expected to be available for use by sites in the form of a consultation type document early in the New Year.
- SEPA had issued a warning letter related to the corrosion of the ventilation ducting at the on-site laboratories.
- The RIFE (Radioactivity in Food and the Environment) report had been published which had resulted in press coverage of contaminated honey. .
- In response to a question on what progress had been made with the Particles Retrieval Advisory Group final, SEPA indicated that there had been no change to what had been previously reported.

Bob Earnshaw noted it would be useful if SEPA could look at providing a timeline for when the PRAG report would be finalised.

Action: DSG(2015)M004/A007: Stewart Ballantine to provide a timeline for the completion of the PRAG report.

Stewart Ballantine provided a verbal update:

- A number of compliance inspections had been undertaken where a few actions had been raised.
- SEPA had taken part in LEAN team briefings to learn what was being done. This had been a positive briefing and SEPA was supportive.
- David Flear noted the media articles relating to honey and asked if SEPA could quantify this. Stewart Ballantine responded that calculations showed that 1.5kg of honey could need to be eaten before challenging the legal dose limit for Caesium-137.
- Tor Justad asked what progress had been made on the erroneous environmental monitoring reporting. Stewart Ballantine responded the site had originally identified and had corrected the errors found. This would continue to be reviewed as part of routine compliance assessment, however no further errors had been reported by the site.

#### ONR

Bob Earnshaw noted that a written report had been provided at the sub group (DSG(2015)P021 refers). Of note:

- Site inspectors had generally found an adequate standard of compliance against the Licence Conditions.
- ONR were content that the corrosion of the ductwork investigation had been followed up and relevant actions had been identified.
- The industrial safety inspector had taken a broad view on how conventional health and safety was being managed and found this to be satisfactory.
- Richard Savage had been appointed as Acting Chief Nuclear Inspector following the retirement of Andy Hall.
- Peter Watson officially retires from ONR on 31 December.

Bob Earnshaw stated he would like to take the opportunity, through the minutes, to wish him good luck in his retirement.

- The number of organisational changes was questioned as to whether it remained high. ONR confirmed that while there were still changes being made they were not at the same level as before.

Bob Earnshaw invited Sheila Hutchison to provide a verbal update. Sheila Hutchison reported the following:

- Since the November meeting, ONR had continued with planned interventions looking at Licence Conditions against compliance.
- ONR continued to interface with Dounreay Improvement Team and this will continue for the foreseeable future.

Sandra Owsnett (member of the public) asked ONR if they had any comment on the NDA independent assessment report. Sheila Hutchison responded that they had been verbally briefed on the contents of the report but had not been provided with a formal copy of the report as yet. Phil Craig, Dounreay MD, added that a full copy of the report would be provided to ONR and SEPA to get feedback from them.

Bob Earnshaw also stated that the sub group had also discussed the following:

- A brief from the Scottish Government's Higher Activity Waste Project Board which David Broughton attended on behalf of DSG. A written report – DSG(2015)C057 refers.). This was the last meeting of the Project Board and higher activity waste issues will continue to be discussed at the Scottish Government Scottish Nuclear Sites meeting where DSG is represented.
- The Parida investigation report, as discussed at previous meetings, had been circulated to members. As part of this discussion there was a further discussion on emergency tug vessels and the DSG secretariat had provided previous

correspondence on this topic.

- DSG had responded to the early draft of NDA Strategy III.

As there was no further business, Bob Earnshaw thanked everyone for their input.

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

DSG(2015)M004/A008: Nigel Lowe, NDA Head of Programme to provide an update on DRS and passing loops from Inverness to Thurso.

DSG(2015)M004/A009: Bob Kury, Dounreay Deputy Managing Director to provide the timeline for receiving a Letter of Compliance for the PFR raffinate cementation.

DSG(2015)M004/A010: June Love to recirculate all correspondence on emergency tug vessels.

DSG(2015)M004/A011: June Love to finalise DSG's response to NDA Draft Strategy III and submit to NDA.

## 8. SOCIO ECONOMIC UPDATE

Derrick Milnes, DSG Socio Economic Sub Group Chairman, noted that the sub group had met on 11<sup>th</sup> November and the draft minutes had been circulated to all members.

Derrick Milnes highlighted the following from the sub group:

### NDA

- A brief had been provided on the NDA Nuclear Archive. The construction project was progressing well and anyone who had visited the airport lately could see the progress of the build.
- NDA had committed £180,000 over three years to the Chamber's Developing the Young Workforce project.
- NDA were currently reviewing a request for funding support to Wick Harbour for a high water gate. This follows on from the funding provided by Dounreay to support the investigation work for this project.

Derrick Milnes invited Nigel Lowe to provide a verbal update.

Nigel Lowe responded that he had no further topics to discuss which had not already been covered.

David Flear stated that he would be visiting the NDA Nuclear Archive with the NDA Site Facing Team on Friday. He added that he had seen progress albeit from the roadway towards the airport but had been amazed at the rate of progress with the construction of the building.

## Dounreay

- The socio economic budget for 2015/16 had now been committed and it was pleasing to see it is starting to align to the CNSRP high priority projects.
- An outline budget for 2016-19 is being prepared and DSG will get an opportunity to discuss this at the next sub group meeting.
- DSG were also aware that Cavendish Nuclear was looking at potential long term projects for the area and this forms part of the CNSRP programme. These projects, while the detail cannot be provided because of commercial confidentiality the projects were progressing as per schedule.
- Funding had also been committed by Dounreay to undertake cost comparison studies. One of these studies is being taken forward by Scrabster Harbour. The information from these studies will allow more robust discussions with potential inward investors.
- In terms of Dounreay site activities, a recruitment update was provided and it was good news to hear that a number of graduates and apprentices have now been taken on as well as six local trainees for project controls. In terms of graduates and apprentices it is expected that further recruitment will take place in 2016/17.
- The site had also signed up to the Women in Nuclear Charter which is also supported by the NDA and across the NDA estate. DSG were told that Dounreay's proportion of women in the workforce was higher than all of the other sites.

Derrick Milnes invited Phil Craig to provide a verbal update. Of note, Phil Craig reported the following:

- With regards the Women in Nuclear Charter, while the site was proud of what had already been achieved there was a commitment to grow this further. Some meetings are being put in place to explore this and there will be short term events and longer term pledges to get into skills from a STEM Ambassador point of view.
- On a skills front, Billy Husband had led the development of a Professional Development Scheme which had now been accredited by IMechE, IET and IoP (Institute of Physics) to allow qualifications to be achieved at Incorporated and Chartered Engineers and Chartered Physicists. At present there were 27 on the scheme which lasts for three years.
- As Managing Director, Phil Craig said he had been delighted with the very positive recruitment of graduates, apprentices and trainees and commended the calibre of people who had applied for these positions.
- DSRL apprentice Brian Wade had been selected as one of the maintenance apprentice finalists by the National Skills Academy Nuclear.
- While strictly not related to socio economics Dounreay had, once again, co-ordinated the Christmas Friday buses for the 18<sup>th</sup> December. The buses were open for

everyone to use and was funded by a number of local contractors in the county and, on behalf of everyone who contributed, it was their way of encouraging everyone to use this and get home safely.

David Flear noted that discussions were ongoing with Dounreay regarding local benefit in site contracts. Phil Craig responded that he was looking at this and had instructed his Commercial team to look at this with a view to moving forward ensuring NDA was on board and that it was compliant against the procurement legislation. John Deighan noted that this was something he had been pursuing for a while and welcomed the statement made. However he had heard this before and looked forward to seeing some positive results soon. David Flear responded that he felt there was more commitment from the site but agreed that it would be good to see benefits coming forward.

Cllr Matthew Reiss noted that the Christmas Friday buses should not be played down as this was community involvement by ensuring everyone had the opportunity of accessing the buses to get home safely. Given the reason of the buses had arisen from a safety point of view he felt this was a very good thing to do and continue with.

David Flear noted the comments made on Women in Nuclear and said that he had listened to a discussion on this subject at the recent NIA conference. In answer to a question raised it appeared that the Women in Nuclear initiative was also open to men.

David Flear noted that, as Chairman of DSG, he had written to the Community Sports Hub supporting, in principle, their project. This had resulted in correspondence being received, signed off by local residents asking a number of questions and for more details of what inaccuracies had been made in the local press. This letter would be circulated to all DSG members for views in how to respond and a response would be provided. However, David Flear felt it may be useful if DSG offered to facilitate a meeting by those local residents involved and the Community Sports Hub Committee in order that everyone was provided with the same information at the same time. He further noted that there was still a planning process to go through which would allow residents to lodge objections if they felt their concerns had not been addressed.

Action: DSG(2015)M004/A012: June Love to circulate local residents letter regarding the Community Sports Hub, collate views and draft a response including an offer of a facilitated discussion.

Derrick Milnes noted that a number of updates from various representative organisations had been provided at the sub group. He then invited the following to provide an update:

CNSRP: Eann Sinclair noted:

- The CNSRP Advisory Board had met last Friday and SSE had provided a very interesting presentation on the Caithness to Moray grid upgrades. The project costs are in the region of £400million and there is about 700 people working on this. SSE now have more formal links with North Highland College, UHI and SSE also have their own apprentice scheme.

- The CNSRP programme is about half way through the current period and are now at a point where the companies who had committed to just over 250 jobs had already been delivered which meant it was on target to achieve the 350-470 jobs within the 3 year period.

Chamber of Commerce: Trudy Morris reported:

- The progress on Berriedale Braes had been reported at the last Caithness Transport Forum. A date was still awaited for the public enquiry.

Eann Sinclair added that he was aware that there was mention of this on the environmental appeals body website pages. It appeared that the expected outcome of the appeal would be April 2016. Trudy Morris responded that was consistent with had been reported at the Transport Forum. The Chamber had taken the opportunity to write to a number of Scottish Government Ministers and MSPs to continue to ensure that Berriedale Braes remain as a priority for funding from Scottish Government. David Flear noted that the DSG would also write to MSPs re-iterating the issues around Berriedale.

- The Caithness Transport Forum had also received an update that a suitable replacement vessel for the Hamnavoe's dry docking in 2016 had been secured. The replacement would be the Isle of Lewis Calmac Ferry which will be utilised for 2 weeks in March. The Isle of Lewis has a bigger capacity for both vehicles and passengers.
- Funding had now been confirmed from Scottish Government and the NDA for the Developing the Young Workforce, North Highland Regional Group. Tom Sayles had agreed to chair the regional group with recruitment of Sutherland members still ongoing. Activity for this financial year will concentrate around audit of work experience/placements and careers development activities with employers/schools and colleges. One of the things that the Chamber will seek to do is work with Dounreay to encourage commitment from contractors coming onto the site to take on work experience or apprentices. Dounreay had committed to work with the Chamber on this.

A North Highland College business student had been provided a work placement with the Chamber and would continue with this until Mach working one day per week as the DYW Youth Engagement Officer.

- The North Highland Regeneration Fund (NHRF), working in conjunction with North Highland College, run an entrepreneurial challenge (iStart). The finals would be held in the Weigh Inn on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. The challenge was for 18-24 year olds in teams or individuals to pitch a business idea with a dragon den style critique. This had been a very successful event with 19 entries which had been reduced to 8 with 7 entries competing in the finals.

North Highland College, UHI: Donald MacBeath reported:



- NHC were working with the Chamber on the Developing the Young Workforce project. In addition, the NHC was also involved with high school partners working closely with 11 secondary schools in Caithness and Sutherland.
- NHC, for the first time, would be providing foundation apprenticeships in health and social care.
- Last week representatives of NHC visited two colleges which both had links with the nuclear industry. They were given valuable access to how they do things and those who visited learned a lot from the experience.
- From a higher education perspective, a new masters in Engineering was successfully validated and that will now be offered at the college from September 2016.
- It was pleasing to hear that the Scottish funding Council achievement rate was the highest in the Highlands and Islands, which says something about the quality of the student and staff in the area and bodes well for the future.
- The ETEC facility would be hosting the Scottish Engineering Craft competition in 2016. This is a national competition for engineering apprentices.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise: Keith Muir reported:

- HIE had recently undergone a re-organisation with greater focus on account management and community support.
- The local office was very close to achieving their targets for this financial year.
- The Corporate Spending Review could also have the ability to impact on HIE however at this time the impact for next years' budget was unknown at this time.

Highland Council: Roger Saxon reported:

- The Planning, Development and Infrastructure Committee had approved the Caithness and Sutherland plan on 4<sup>th</sup> November.
- Caithness Councillors had agreed to set aside £30,000 from their individual ward discretionary budgets for a community project event. "Your cash, your Caithness" allowed applications for community projects, each providing a 5 minute presentation to pitch their project and those attending voted on their favourite projects. This event had been very successful and it is hoped that this will repeated next year. Scottish Government had pledged to match fund.
- The first Caithness Area Committee will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016 which replaces the Caithness and Sutherland Area committee.
- The Caithness flag would be unveiled on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Lord Lyon had registered the design although the winning design would not be made public until January.

Cllr Matthew Reiss noted that there were four councillors leading on budget matters with Caithness being well represented (Bill Fernie and Matthew Reiss). He also noted that the landward area may disappear and that in terms of participatory budgets would have an impact, if the landward area did not exist the discretionary budget would be reduced. Planning budgets for the forthcoming year would be difficult and at this stage everything was being considered including reduction of teaching hours and increase of council tax.

Tor Justad stated he was part of a citizen's panel regarding Highland Council services. One of the questions that had been asked was whether people were in favour of an increase in Council Tax. The response from the panel was that it would lead to people expecting to see better services.

NHS Highland: Mike Flavell reported:

- An ambulatory care unit opened in Caithness General hospital on 30<sup>th</sup> October, following redesign of the east wing. The new unit provides renal dialysis, chemotherapy and medical infusion services. This also allows for additional capacity for day care surgery and opportunities to develop nursing staff skills and competencies.
- The new occupational therapy department has also been developed and in addition to existing services this facility has a multi-purpose room which includes telemedicine facilities for consultation bringing benefits for patients and staff.
- Work continues on patient efficiencies and this is starting to have a positive impact on patient flow and discharge planning.
- A rural practitioner has been appointed and will take up post in February. A rota is in place to support the rotation of surgeons from Raigmore to Caithness for 2016.
- Caithness General Hospital continues to have 8 vacancies and no junior doctor rotation. Services are being maintained with locums and rotating consultants.
- Recruitment of GPs in Caithness continues to be a challenge and NHS is working with GP practices to look at common themes and support joint working, sharing and learning. Further meetings will be held.
- On a more positive note, Pulteney House care home had been inspected on both health and social care. A number of themes were considered and are graded 1-6 (6 being excellent). Pulteney House had expected 5s across the board but were graded 6 in two themes which is the highest score possible. Feedback provided was excellent.

David Flear noted he had read the NHS update for the CNSRP Advisory Board. He asked for an update on the Town and County. He also noted the financial position and that a recovery plan was in place to break even at the end of March. He asked if this was possible. Mike Flavell responded that the Riverview practice had been contracted to support the Town and County but had lost three GPs over the last year and therefore were currently operating with 2.5 full time equivalents. The Town and County was

being supported by consultant physicians and junior doctors.

On the finances, there was a saving plan in place which was now being delivered. The aim was to get all departments to save 1.4% and a number of departments have already reached this target. Efficiencies were also being driven down to ensure savings could be made there also, ie bulk buying across NHS Highland.

There being no further business, Derrick Milnes thanked everyone for their input and handed back to the Chairman.

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

DSG(2015)M004/A013: DSG Secretariat to send Scottish Government Radwaste Team (through Ewan Young) the written update regarding NDA Nuclear Archives.

DSG(2015)M004/A014: Cllr Matthew Reiss to find out if Highland Council were offering upfront loans to LEADER applicants.

## 9. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions or issues raised from members of the public.

## 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Before opening up to members, David Flear noted:

- The Chair and vice-chair had attended an Engineering Policy Group meeting in Edinburgh held in November which had been covered earlier in the meeting. There had been a discussion on small modular reactors and by coincidence the chair had then received a telephone call from a stakeholder who asked him to raise this subject at this meeting. The person who had made contact noted that he had been speaking with a number of people in London and believed there was around £250 million to be made available for research and development work and asked a) if this was for research and development would Scottish Government oppose it and b) was this something that the NDA or the Parent Body could do to encourage some of the R&D up in Caithness. David Flear invited Nigel Lowe to respond.

Nigel Lowe, NDA responded that he was aware of the funding for R&D whoever the NDA was a government body and could not lobby one way or other. In addition Scottish Government policy was not to pursue nuclear new build whether it be big or small reactors. The funding associated with this funding was for R&D feasibility for using small modular reactors and NDA would not do anything against Scottish Government. Phil Craig, Dounreay Managing Director said he had nothing to add.

- Scottish Government (Radwaste team) had provided a written update for this meeting. This was reported as follows:
  - The Scottish Government welcomes appointment of the new Dounreay Managing Director, Phil Craig. The Scottish Government also wishes to place on record it's thanks to Mark Rouse, for all his hard work and leadership during his time as the

Dounreay Managing Director.

- Mr Ewing will be visiting a number of local businesses and community representatives as part of a business trip to Caithness and North Sutherland on 18 and 19 January 2016.
- The Minister for Business, Energy and Tourism, Fergus Ewing, looks forward to meeting Phil Craig next month to discuss the Dounreay decommissioning programme and the site's socio-economic activities.
- As part of this business trip, the Minister looks forward to meeting with the Chair of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group and trade union representatives to discuss the Dounreay programme, stakeholder engagement and wider economic issues.
- Scottish Government officials are working to finalise the higher activity radioactive waste implementation strategy. Subject to Ministerial clearance, the strategy is expected to be ready for publication in early 2016.
- The Scottish Government thanks the Chair, the secretariat of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group and the DSG representative for their participation in the Project Board that oversaw the development of the strategy. The Scottish Government also thanks the many organisations who make up the group for their detailed and helpful response to the public consultation on the draft strategy in August 2015.
- David Flear noted Nigel Lowe's new role within the NDA and that he had spoken with the NDA Chief Executive because there was a concern that this would lead to a dilution of the NDA site facing team at Dounreay. It had been stressed there would be no dilution of the oversight at Dounreay and indeed it was hoped that lessons across the Dounreay and Magnox sites would become more robust.

David Flear thanked, on behalf of all DSG members, Nigel Lowe for his commitment not only to the work at the Dounreay site but also to the DSG. He stated that Nigel had been a pleasure to work with and had been very open and honest in his approach. Along with Anna MacConnell, Nigel had been instrumental in supporting the socio economic endeavours for the area and DSG was grateful for his support. The NDA Nuclear Archive was a perfect example of something that Nigel Lowe had helped move forward at a time when the community was beginning to feel that it would never happen. David ended saying Nigel would be missed in Caithness and on behalf of everyone he wished him well for the future and looked forward to continuing discussions when he visited Dounreay.

Phil Craig, Dounreay Managing Director echoed David's sentiments regarding Nigel Lowe. Mark Rouse (previous Managing Director) had asked that his thanks be conveyed also. Phil Craig stated that while he had only been at Dounreay for a very short time Nigel had helped him settled him in. He also noted that the site facing team was a strong one and that Nigel would continue with his work at Dounreay. On behalf of the Dounreay workforce he thanked Nigel for all his support over the years.

Endorsed on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016

- David Flear also placed on record his thanks to the Pentland Hotel owner and staff for their services for sub group and public meetings throughout the year.

There being no further business raised, David Flear thanked everyone for their input, wished everyone a merry Christmas and formally closed the meeting.

David Flear  
DSG Chairman  
15<sup>th</sup> December 2015

## ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

DSG(2015)M004/A001: June Love to request an update from Crimson regarding transportation of archive documentation.

DSG(2015)M004/A002: June Love to draft letter from DSG in support of Community Sports Hub and circulate to all members encouraging them to support facility if appropriate.

DSG(2015)M004/A003: June Love to send recent P&J article on Berriedale Braes to the Chamber for information.

DSG(2015)M004/A004: Nigel Lowe to provide the expected time for the transport of exotic fuel.

DSG(2015)M004/A005: Nigel Lowe to take views on emergency tug vessels to his executive for the executive to decide whether to raise again with the Department of Transport.

DSG(2015)M004/A006: Tor Justad to provide website link to the sea related reports.

DSG(2015)M004/A007: Stewart Ballantine to provide a timeline for the completion of the PRAG report.

DSG(2015)M004/A008: Nigel Lowe, NDA Head of Programme to provide an update on DRS and passing loops from Inverness to Thurso.

DSG(2015)M004/A009: Bob Kury, Dounreay Deputy Managing Director to provide the timeline for receiving a Letter of Compliance for the PFR raffinate cementation.

DSG(2015)M004/A010: June Love to recirculate all correspondence on emergency tug vessels.

DSG(2015)M004/A011: June Love to finalise DSG's response to NDA Draft Strategy III and submit to NDA.

DSG(2015)M004/A012: June Love to circulate local residents letter regarding the Community Sports Hub, collate views and draft a response including an offer of a facilitated discussion.

DSG(2015)M004/A013: DSG Secretariat to send Scottish Government Radwaste Team (through Ewan Young) the written update regarding NDA Nuclear Archives.

DSG(2015)M004/A014: Cllr Matthew Reiss to find out if Highland Council were offering upfront loans to LEADER applicants.

## ACTIONS CONTINUING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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. Action ongoing: Environmental Health is content that there is no breach of Planning conditions. The nuisance aspects have not been able to be verified. On 19<sup>th</sup> March Environmental Health had posted out noise recording sheets to four of the residents but none have been returned so far. (These will be posted out again). Based upon the monitoring that has been undertaken to date, the conclusion is that there is no noise nuisance for Environmental Health to address. This action is ongoing has it transpired that there was a misunderstanding of whether the noise sheets distributed to neighbours were being collected or not. The noise sheets will be redistributed to neighbours and collected three weeks following receipt.

DSG(2015)M002/A002: June Love to draft letters to all members asking for confirmation of the nominated representative and emphasising the importance of deputies.

DSG(2015)M002/A005: June Love to write to all members with proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for agreement and endorsement at the next Annual General Meeting.

DSG(2015)M003/A010: June Love to speak to Dr Monaghan's Chief of Staff to identify a convenient date for a meeting with Dr Paul Monaghan, MP. [Secretary's note: the secretary had received a phone call from the MP's Chief of Staff and was currently looking for a date to hold this meeting.]

### ACTIONS COMPLETED SINCE LAST MEETING

DSG(2015)M002/A027: Highland Council representatives on DSG to provide an update on Highland Council issues at DSG meetings (this would be co-ordinated by Cllr Roger Saxon). Action complete: Roger Saxon provided update from Highland Council at meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September. The report will be circulated to all members for update.

DSG(2015)M003/A001: June Love to circulate link to R&D projects to DSG (Chamber of Commerce). Action complete: website link circulated on 28<sup>th</sup> September - <http://www.nda.gov.uk/research-and-development>

DSG(2015)M003/A002: June Love to circulate NDA's draft strategy III and NDA presentation (DSG(2015)C055 to all members. Action complete: Website link recirculated - <http://www.nda.gov.uk/2015/09/strategy-review> - on 28<sup>th</sup> September along with first draft of DSG response.

DSG(2015)M003/A003: All members to provide June Love with any comments, views or observations on NDA's draft strategy. Action complete: all comments received.

DSG(2015)M003/A004: June Love to bring forward at next site restoration sub group meeting with draft response for discussion. Action complete: on agenda for 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015

DSG(2015)M003/A006: Bob Kury, Dounreay Deputy MD to clarify what information could be released with regards the determination to empty the existing low level waste pits. Action complete: In the process of producing an Environmental Safety Case and supporting documents for the LLW Pits, some uncertainties were identified. It was therefore not certain that it would be possible to resolve these issues and obtain regulatory agreement for closure of the LLW Pits with the waste *in situ*.

Those uncertainties included issues such as:

- the potential for contamination to migrate directly to the foreshore north of the LLW Pits via the groundwater pathway when the current pumping regime ends, leading to unacceptable levels of radioactivity on the foreshore.
- the potential for coastal erosion to breach the facility within a few hundred years, leading to exposure of radioactive and chemically hazardous material on the foreshore
- Historic practices and record keeping were such that there is an uncertainty in the inventory of wastes disposed.

The issues above determined that it would be difficult for DSRL to oppose the findings of the previously published, very comprehensive, LLW BPEO study which favoured retrieval of the waste. DSRL could not advise that a strategy of closure of the LLW Pits with the waste *in situ* should be pursued and the previously agreed plan to retrieve the waste remains the proposed way forward.

DSG(2015)M003/A007: Stewart Ballantine to provide feedback from SEPA's meeting with DSRL on interim end state following meeting in August. Action complete: covered in SEPA's update report (see DSG(2015)P024).

DSG(2015)M003/A009: June Love to request update from NDA on the comments received from DSG on NDA's socio economic paper. Action complete: The comments were taken on board, and included in the version distributed.

DSG(2015)M003/A008: All DSG members to consider the Scottish Government's Higher Activity Waste Implementation consultation and DSG draft response and provide comments to DSG secretariat by end of July. Action complete – see DSG(2015)C052.

DSG(2015)M003/A011: June Love to finalise arrangements for meeting with Margaret Davidson, Leader of the Highland Council. Action complete.

DSG(2015)M003/A0012: Tor Justad to provide DSG Secretariat with link to investigation report on Parida. Action complete:  
<http://www.dmaib.com/News/Sider/MarineaccidentreportaboutthefireonPARIDAon27October2014.aspx>  
[x](#)

DSG(2015)M003/A013: June Love to circulate Parida investigation report to Site Restoration sub group members. Action complete: report circulated and brought forward for next Site Restoration sub group meeting (November 2015).

DSG(2015)M003/A005: Lt Cdr Andy Mole to enquire about timelines in 2016 for the assessment of options for the Vulcan site. Action complete: It was noted that this was likely to be around the end of 2016 or beginning of 2017. Therefore it was agreed to close out this action at present and include it on the rolling list of topics to be brought back to the table around September 2016.