

DSG(2009)M001

**DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

**MINUTES OF THE DSG MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009 AT 1900 HOURS IN THE PENTLAND HOTEL, THURSO.**

<b>Present:</b>	Alastair MacDonald	DSG Chairman
	Bob Earnshaw	Vice-DSG Chairman
	Irina Foss	ERI
	Sandra McCaughey	Highlands & Islands Enterprise *
	Eann Sinclair	CNS Regeneration Partnership
	Ronnie Johnstone	Church of Scotland
	Derrick Milnes	Wick & Thurso Trades Council
	John Deighan	Dounreay Unions
	Deirdre Henderson	Buldoo Residents Group
	Anne Chard	Caithness West Community Council
	Rick Nickerson	Shetland Island Council
	Tim O'Brien	Caithness Contractors Consortium
	Rosemary Thompson	North Highland College
	John Green	Caithness Voluntary Group *
	Donald Mackay	Assoc of Caithness Community Councils
	Trudy Morris	Caithness Chamber of Commerce
	Hamish Pottinger	Caithness Against Nuclear Dumping
	Sandy Mackay	Scrabster Harbour Trust
<b>In addition:</b>	June Love	DSG Secretariat, DSRL
	Tony Smithers	NDA (for item 7)
	Byron Tilly	SEPA (for item 6)
	Simon Middlemas	DSRL
	Stuart Chalmers	NDA
	Lyn Bevington	NII (Dounreay)
	Nigel Canty	MOD, Vulcan
	Richard Wilkins	DNSR (Vulcan)
	Ian Bramwell	NII (Vulcan)
	Andrew Parker	Highland Council, Planning *

\* denoted deputies

## **MINUTES**

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

Alastair MacDonald welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that it was a full agenda and therefore the discussions would need to be kept focussed.

He welcomed Colin Bayliss (UKAEA Ltd) who was attending as a member of the public to the DSG and intimated it was nice to see him back in Caithness. He also extended a welcome to Byron Tilly, SEPA and Tony Smithers (NDA) who were both in attendance to provide presentations.

Prior to the meeting the AGM had been held and both he and Bob Earnshaw had been returned to the chair and vice-chair's role respectively.

He also noted that it was pleasing to see that Caithness had been well represented at the National Skills Academy Nuclear annual awards and equally pleasing to see three out of the seven awards coming to Caithness.

Congratulations were extended to Mathew Mackay (who works at Vulcan) who won the Scottish Apprentice of the Year, Jillian Bundy and her team who received the Outstanding Leadership in Skills award and Michael Miller (Dounreay apprentice) who was presented with the National Skills Academy's Foundation Degree HND/HNC student of the year.

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A001: NDA/DSRL to provide regular progress report through the socio economic sub group meetings on the national nuclear archives.**

Lyn Bevington updated on the progress of **Action M015/A017** (ESG to ask NII whether the proposed low level waste facility will be a licensed site).

During the last meeting there was some discussion on the proposed new Low level waste facility at Dounreay and whether or not it would be licensed by NII and some differing opinions were expressed.

As reported, by NII, in previous meetings the issue of licensing for waste treatment and disposal facilities is not something that just affects Dounreay. There are a number of other potential facilities in England and Wales that may be similarly affected and which may or may not be licensed.

No decision has yet been made on licensing of the Dounreay or the other facilities. Because of the range of views on this matter NII is currently involved in discussions with the regional legislators, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Assembly, the central Government departments (such as the Department for Energy and Climate Change) and also with other regulators such as the Environmental Agency and SEPA. The discussions are to better define the term bulk quantities in the Nuclear Installations Act. Interpretation of the term bulk quantities is key to deciding whether a waste treatment/disposal facility should be licensed.

The stakeholder group will be informed as soon as a decision has been made for the Dounreay facility.

## **5. PRESENTATION ON DECOMMISSIONING PROGRESS**

Simon Middlemas provided a presentation on the progress of decommissioning.

John Deighan asked what the employment figures for the Dounreay site was. Simon Middlemas responded that the figures were quite steady and would obviously increase significantly for the short term when the construction projects started.

Deirdre Henderson noted that staff on the site had been asked to take extra care with the increase of traffic on the site. She expressed concern that this had not been passed on to the local residents who have had to endure an increase in traffic with one lorry leaving site every 20 minutes.

Simon Middlemas noted that a liaison group with Buldoo residents had been proposed, and was in fact a condition of planning for the low level waste facility. He intimated he would be happy to set up the liaison group now to cover any related site issues.

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A002: DSRL (Simon Middlemas) to set up liaison meeting with representatives of Buldoo Residents Group as soon as possible.**

Deirdre Henderson noted that the Buldoo residents had witnessed the demolition of one of the buildings on site and the dust that this had created. She asked if this was what the residents should continue to expect. She also queries the fact that the lorries leaving site with the demolition rubble had not been covered.

Simon Middlemas stated that at this time of the year there was no reason to cover lorries but that he would discuss this with the contractor.

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A003: DSRL (Simon Middlemas) to discuss with contractor requirements for covering lorries when leaving site to reduce the possibility of dust.**

Deirdre Henderson also noted that while the site investigation continued with borehole drilling for the low level waste facility it was noted that a tent had been erected and a bonfire had been set. Simon Middlemas said he would take these points away and investigate.

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A004: DSRL (Simon Middlemas) to find out the circumstances for contractor working on boreholes had erected a tent and set a bonfire.**

## 6. PRESENTATION BY SEPA

Byron Tilly, SEPA provided a presentation on the consultation for the regulation of the low level waste facility.

The presentation provided an outline of SEPA's requirements for environmental protection and the regulatory/policy considerations. He explained what would not be included for consultation and how SEPA would determine the application.

He acknowledged that while the documents could be quite complicated he would encourage anyone to respond to the consultation.

Deirdre Henderson suggested that signs be erected to inform people that a low level waste facility was sited.

Rick Nickerson asked whether the storage of excavated material would be the subject of separate consultation. Byron Tilly responded that the site would have to apply through the PPC regulations. Rick Nickerson asked when and how this would be done. Byron Tilly stated that this was approximately a year away.

Rick Nickerson asked that when any consultation was launched could SEPA avoid summer and Christmas holidays. Byron Tilly took this point on board and said he believed that consultation for the low level waste facility would take place in April/May for a period of 12 weeks.

John Deighan noted that this was quite a technical subject to get to grips with and perhaps a liaison group should be set up to understand what was being asked from this consultation.

Ronnie Johnstone said that he had struggled with the presentation and found it too complicated. He stressed that if SEPA wanted public involvement presentations and information needed to be slick, sharp and focussed.

Rosemary Thompson agreed and said that members of the public would need a source for advice. She suggested that Caithness Horizons could be used as a venue to allow public to meet with a SEPA representative to discuss any issues they may have.

The complexity of the subject was agreed by other members. Byron Tilly acknowledged that this was a difficult subject and SEPA would ensure that efforts were made to make the information as simple as possible.

## **7. UPDATE FROM NDA ON POSSIBLE SALE OF LAND**

Tony Smithers, NDA attended to provide the DSG with an update. He provided a general overview of the progress NDA was making on the sale of land at other sites, especially in the light of new nuclear build.

He stressed that the prime driver for the NDA would be to protect the decommissioning activities at each site.

In summary NDA would be seeking where possible to maximise commercial value from the sale of land which is no longer required.

The NDA were presently at the start of this process. For Dounreay issues Valerie Jappy (DSRL) and John Lawes (NDA) would work with the property team on local issues.

Hamish Pottinger said he could not understand why the sale of NDA land is part of the remit of the DSG. Most of the land surrounding Dounreay was a private matter between tenant farmers. Tony Smithers responded that whatever land the site required for decommissioning would be discussed before NDA could develop a proper picture of potential surplus land. The reason why it had come to the DSG was to provide an overview for the process but any discussions with tenants would be a private matter.

Deirdre Henderson noted that there was supposed to be a transfer from the energy act 2004 and asked whether it was possible to get this in writing. Tony Smithers responded that the transfer scheme in 2007 of UKAEA's assets to NDA were currently with the Scottish land reform registry.

John Deighan asked whether the money raised by the sale of any land around Dounreay would stay in the area. Tony Smithers said that any money raised from the sale of land over the entire NDA estate would be held at NDA headquarters and released to sites to allow progress on decommissioning.

Ronnie Johnstone said that NDA should be aware that Scottish law differs from English law. Rick Nickerson suggested if there was a resourcing problem with the Scottish land registry DSG should take action and write to the MSP to try to make progress.

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A005: DSG members to write to MSP to try to affect progress with the Scottish land registry.**

Alastair MacDonald stated that NDA would be wise to contact all tenants and explain about the possible sale of land as soon as possible. It was right that the overview of this issue was brought before the DSG but discussions on specifics should be held in private with the potentially affected tenants.

A comment from a member of the public explained that Scot's law meant that tenants have the right to buy and that early discussions need to happen as soon as possible.

## **8. ADMIN AND PROCEDURES UPDATE**

Bob Earnshaw reported. The Admin and Procedures sub group had met on 30<sup>th</sup> January and the minutes (M001) were circulated to all members for information in advance of this meeting. Of note:

- AGM paperwork was reviewed and agreed for distribution.
- DSG terms of reference were updated taking into account NDA guidance for site stakeholder groups.
- Membership issues continue to be kept under review. It was agreed that the Caithness Chamber of Commerce would increase their representation at DSG meetings with the addition of the Chief Executive for the time being.
- It was agreed that funding would be made available for David Flear to attend the UK Nuclear Skills awards to be held on 12 March. This was agreed because David was already in Manchester representing DSG at another meeting.

The majority of actions identified at the last sub group meeting have been completed but for clarity will be transferred to the minutes of this meeting and progress reported.

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A006: Secretary to update finance, attendance, website, reports and forward look diary by end of February and distribute to members with AGM agenda and minutes.**

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A007: Secretary to contact NDA Stakeholder Relations to agree a new date for discussion of the NDA Guidance for SSGs.**

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A008: Secretary to ensure with site management that the representative for the Caithness Young Farmers could continue with her role.**

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A009: Secretary to write to Caithness Chamber of Commerce to confirm attendance of George Bruce and AN Other until after the Chamber's AGM to be held in May 2009.**

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A010: Secretary to write to all members inviting them to provide any nominations for Chair/Vice Chair before the AGM.**

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A011: Secretary to put presentations by DSRL (update on decommissioning) and SEPA (RSA authorisation consultation of low level waste facility) on the agenda for the DSG on 18<sup>th</sup> March.**

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A012: Secretary to book seat at 2009 UK Nuclear Skills Awards to be held on 12 March for David Flear.**

## **9. SITE OPERATIONS SUB GROUP**

Tim O'Brien updated. The site operations sub group had met on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009 and the minutes (M001) were circulated to all members for information. Of note:

- There was one revision to the minutes of the previous meeting – On page 1, item 4, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph after first bullet point should read “Stuart Chalmers noted that the NDA action should be closed out”. This correction has been made to the minutes.

- All actions relating to the site operations sub group have been closed out.
- Vulcan update included:
  - Operations restarted at Christmas following some minor repairs. The plant shutdown on the 29<sup>th</sup> for further repairs before getting back up and running.
  - A planned shutdown took place in February.
  - No events of note since last meeting.
  - Next emergency exercise is scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> June.
  - Reports from NII and DNSR were noted with no issues raised.

Nigel Canty, Vulcan, noted that the spring/summer shutdown was now taking place and future planned shutdowns are likely to take place between February and June for the next three years.

The newly appointed Director of Submarines, Admiral Simon Lister, was suitably impressed with the Site during his recent acquaint visit.

The REPIR (radiation emergency preparedness and public information regulations) 09 submission was on target and a reduction in the emergency planning zone had been recommended.

Ian Bramwell, NII (for Vulcan) noted that NII and DNSR work closely together. A report from each of the organisations covering the period October to December 2009 had been distributed to DSG members for information. Both regulators were continuing to look at recommendations from the last emergency planning exercise. One aspect of this had been re-demonstrated and had resulted in a good outcome.

Written arrangements for emergency planning were being reviewed and feedback would be forthcoming as soon as the inspection was complete.

An improvement programme for safety culture for the site had been welcomed by the regulators and they had also looked at incident reporting.

- DSRL update included:
  - The criticality lab was demolished after more than 20,000 airline suit entries with doses kept to a minimum.
  - Health and safety record remained positive.
  - It was expected that the NaK Disposal Plant at DFR would restart in February.
  - DSRL's application for the low level waste disposal facility was granted by Highland Council on 13<sup>th</sup> January. The application has gone to Scottish Government for approval by ministers.
  - The emergency planning zone was being reduced to 1.15 km reflecting the lowering of radiological hazard at Dounreay.

Simon Middlemas added that a construction industry day was to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> March. Over 70 companies had registered to attend.

Lyn Bevington noted that the NII report had previously been submitted. Issues relating to NII included the DFR NaK plant restart, the proposed reduction of the emergency planning zone and the low level waste facility which had all been mentioned previously in the meeting.

NII were also pleased with the progress of the cementation plant and were also involved in plans for the new cementation plant (D3900).

On the reduction of the emergency planning zone from 5km to 1.15km Highland Council had confirmed they have amended their off-site emergency plan and NII were currently considering this.

Deirdre Henderson asked how many households would be affected by the reduction of the zone. Simon Middlemas responded that the zone had been extended to take into account residents living in the Buldoo area. Lyn Bevington stated that the reduction was worked out on the basis of the hazard that currently exists from site decommissioning activities.

Rick Nickerson noted he had raised this at the environment sub group held that afternoon. While he understood the justification for the reduction he questioned the process and the lack of consultation which was unfortunate. He believed that something as significant as a 90% reduction should have resulted in prior consultation with the near neighbours and stated that it went against the grain of public consultation especially since the site had gone a long way to address an open and transparent approach over the last 10 years.

Rick asked if the 1.15 km zone went out to sea as well. Simon Middlemas confirmed the 1.15km was a circle. Rick Nickerson reminded the group of the OSPAR convention. Simon Middlemas felt that the reduction of the zone should be seen as a good thing but recognised that while the 1.15km zone was a technical argument a pragmatic view should also be considered. Lyn Bevington noted that this would be processed under the REPPIR regulations and that there was no mechanism for public consultation by NII.

Derrick Milnes noted that at one stage there was a local emergency planning group which included Vulcan and Dounreay. At that time iodine tablets were distributed to all households within the 5km zone. Nigel Canty noted that Vulcan was different with a 2km zone centred on Vulcan. The Vulcan site continued to distribute iodine tablets to those within that zone. He stressed that if residents received iodine tablets then they should be aware they are in Vulcan's emergency planning zone. Ian Bramwell noted that leaflets explaining the emergency zone were also distributed along with iodine tablets. Nigel Canty said that Vulcan would be recommending a reduction of 1km and this would be assessed by NII/DNSR. He believed that the reduction would allow Highland Council to have one plan for the area. Ian Bramwell agreed to report back to the meeting on progress at the appropriate time.

Bob Earnshaw noted that emergency planning arrangements had been the subject of discussion at previous local liaison meetings. He recommended that DSG request attendance at the emergency planning meetings set up by Highland Council. This was agreed.

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A013: DSG to write to Highland Council requesting a DSG representative attend emergency planning meetings.**

- NDA update included:
  - Oldbury power station had received an extension to its operations and it was expected that Wylfa would also receive an extension.
  - The competition for the NDA sites had now been announced. The competition team had visited Dounreay to hold initial discussions to work up



a protocol between NDA and the site and also the site and the parent body organisation.

- The Dounreay competition would be the first where the incumbent contractor (UKAEA) would also be part of the bidding process for the new contract.
- UKAEA would be bidding under the name of the Pentland Alliance and will be partnered by AMEC and CH2MHILL.
- It is expected that the competition will be run out of London.
- An industries day will take place for all companies considering taking part in the competition.
- NDA have requested to meet with DSG to discuss issues relating to the sale of land.

Stuart Chalmers reported that there was nothing to add to the report except that the joint team of DSRL and contractors should be congratulated for the successful demolition of the criticality building which had been an extremely difficult clean-up job. The team were now being utilised in other areas of the site where the lessons learnt from decommissioning this facility could be passed on to other facilities.

- The DSG submitted a response to the NDA draft business plan and this has been circulated to all members and is available on the website.
- Minutes of the Scottish sites meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> October were circulated to the sub group and members are invited to provide input before the next meeting due to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

For completeness actions from the site operations sub group are transferred and recorded here:

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A014: Secretary to put DSRL presentation on next full DSG agenda.**

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A015: Secretary to put NDA sale of land issues on DSG agenda for appropriate meeting.**

#### 10. ENVIRONMENT SUB GROUP

Alastair MacDonald reported that the meeting had been held this afternoon. Therefore there was no written minutes available at this time. Of note:

- An update had been provided on the inspection of the diffusion chamber.
- One part of site had gone 11 years without a lost time accident.
- An update on the particles clean-up project had been received:
  - A smaller independent group would replace the Dounreay Particles Advisory Group (DPAG).
  - Monitoring of Melvich beach had been carried out and no particles were detected.
  - Off-shore retrieval of particles and an area of the seabed had been identified for re-monitoring to ensure that the off-shore work did not have an adverse impact on the movement of particles.

- An update on the contaminated land strategy
- SEPA had reported on various matters, most of which had been covered during previous discussions at this meeting.
- An update on the all waste options study had been received.
- Nigel Canty had provided an update on environmental matters relating to the Vulcan site.

Rick Nickerson thanked Nigel Canty for his contribution at the sub group and looked forward to an update at the June meeting which would address the questions submitted (DSG(2009)C021 refers).

For completeness actions arising from the environment sub group are transferred and recorded here:

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A016: Secretary to amend minutes (DSG/ESG(2008)M013) to reflect amendments as noted in minutes.**

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A017: Tony Wratten to provide details of the waste streams which have the potential to be sent to Sweden for smelting.**

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A018: ESG to write to Scottish Government and HSE to stress that a date for a decision on whether the low level waste facility should be licensed was given greater priority to allow a decision to be made.**

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A019: Tony Wratten to find out why lorries leaving site with rubble and spoil were not covered.**

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A020:: DSRL (Doug Graham) to provide an explanation on the new authorisation at the next meeting.**

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A021: Graham Beaven to continue to update ESG on progress with the all waste options study**

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A022: Nigel Canty to respond to questions listed in DSG(2009)C021 at the DSG meeting to be held in June 2009.**

## **11. SOCIO ECONOMIC SUB GROUP**

Derrick Milnes reported. The socio economic sub group had met on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009. The minutes of the meeting (M001) had been circulated in advance to all members of DSG. Of note:

- On the actions placed at this sub group
  - Progress on the nuclear archives had been discussed earlier in the meeting.
  - The concept drawings for the North Highland College's proposed engineering training facilities were tabled at the meeting. NDA have committed £2M of funding towards the facilities and North Highland College are currently trying to secure additional funding.

- A response from the Highland Council following a request from the sub group on the status of the report on sports/arts facilities was tabled at this meeting. It would appear that any proposal for such facilities would not be realised until the 2020s and therefore support for other projects should come forward in the shorter term.
- Members of the Viewfirth redevelopment project presented a concept design for the proposed community facility. A public meeting was held in February to outline the proposal in detail. The Steering Group will continue to meet to agree the next stage in this project.
- Community fund requests had been endorsed at the sub group and were detailed in Correspondence C231 which is available on the website.
- Ronnie Johnstone provided a verbal update on his attendance, on behalf of the DSG, at the Caithness & North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership Advisory Board which was held on 15<sup>th</sup> December. It is recognised that the Advisory Board continues to evolve and is a welcome step forward in ensuring transparency on the progress being made. The Advisory Board met again earlier this month.
- Following updates from the Caithness & North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership, HIE, NDA and DSRL it was agreed that one combined report would be tabled at DSG for review and comment. This paper would also be made available to the Advisory Board and other relevant meetings. This is a welcome step forward as a combined report from all the key agencies involved in delivering or supporting the regeneration activities will make things clearer as to how progress is being made.

Eann Sinclair updated the group.

- Rapid progress continues to be made in some of the main projects including the Pentland Firth and inward investment. Crown Estates were currently working through the expressions of interest from developers and is expected to be complete by the end of June. Work for the local supply chain would be encouraged.
- A joint event held by North of Scotland Industries Group (NSIG) and HIE had seen over 40 companies visiting Caithness and Orkney to consider the opportunities for marine renewables.
- The Advisory Board of the Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership had taken place in early March. The Advisory Board is now working well and a series of meeting dates have now been identified for forthcoming meetings throughout the year.

Sandra McCaughey provided an update on behalf of HIE:

- Making steady progress to support the Government's economic strategy and have identified over 40 local companies with significant growth potential.
- There had been a positive response to the account management approach.

- Continued to work on transformational projects which will have a significant impact for the regeneration of the area.
- Support for activities continue in the food and drink, tourism, energy, inward investment and engineering sectors.
- Provided funding support for the Caithness Chamber of Commerce over the next three years. HIE were pleased to see Trudy Morris in post and welcome the initiative for a stronger business voice in the area.
- Business gateway will be transferred to Highland Council responsibility on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Trudy Morris, Caithness Chamber of Commerce provided an update:

- Early days for the Chamber with 20 new members on board. Membership would continue to be a priority for the Chamber throughout the year.
- Held two well-attended business breakfast networking events in Thurso and Wick.
- Plans were in place to hold a banking/finance event in the near future.
- Considering how best to support retail and internet marketing.
- The Chamber had registered both Thurso and Wick in the 'help our high street' campaign to try and secure some funding from this initiative to support town centre regeneration.
- The Board of Directors each had a different sector to represent.
- Consideration was been given to co-ordinate attendance of local companies at the All Energy conference/exhibition in Aberdeen in May. This would be dependent on funding as it was too early for the Chamber to fund this.
- A range of benefits are available for members of the Chamber through the wider Chamber network. Encouraging local companies to offer local trading incentives also.
- The website is constantly being updated and it is hoped that businesses will come on board so the area is well represented to ensure strong business representation across the community.

Stuart Chalmers provided an update from NDA:

- £500K funding had been provided to the North Highland Regeneration Fund which brings NDA funding to £1.5M for this initiative.
- NDA have revised its socio economic plan and highlighted the four priority areas. Caithness and North Sutherland is included in the priority areas. In recognition of this a full time socio economic manager has just been appointed and will be based in the Forss office.

Derrick Milnes added that:

- The Caithness LEADER plan has been approved which opens up potential to secure up to £1M funding.
- DSG and Wick & Thurso Trades Council representatives attended the Labour and Lib Dem political conferences earlier this month to ensure that the regeneration of the area remained high on the political agenda. A number of follow up invitations resulting from discussions at these conferences will be followed up.

For completeness actions arising from the socio economic sub group are transferred and recorded here:

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A023: Rosemary Thompson to see what accommodation was being offered at Ormlie Lodge (as part of discussion on Viewfirth redevelopment project) and report back to next meeting.**

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A024: Marie Mackay, DSRL, to provide justification for those requests for community funding which were queried at socio economic sub group.**

**ACTION: DSG(2009)M001/A025: Eann Sinclair to co-ordinate information on socio economic activities from all agencies/organisations to provide one single report for future meetings.**

## 12. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No issues were raised from members of the public.

## 13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **Low level waste facility:** Bob Earnshaw reported that David Mudie has tendered his apologies for this meeting. He had provided a statement on the status of the low level waste planning application as follows:

At its meeting on 13 January 2009 the Council's Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross Planning Applications and Review Committee decided to grant planning permission for the new LLW facilities at Dounreay subject to conditions and the need to refer the application to Scottish Ministers.

Scottish Government Ministers have considered Highland Council's notification to them of the planning application for a Low Level Waste Facility which is part of the decommissioning programme at Dounreay. Ministers concluded that the proposal is an essential part of that programme, is in line with Government policy and does not conflict with the approved policies in the Council's Development Plan. Consequently, the planning application has been cleared back to the Council for it to deal with.

In reaching that decision, Ministers considered that a condition should be added by the Council to any consent granted to reflect the applicant's agreed commitment to the provision of a community development fund.

The addition of such a condition responds to the representations received in

respect of community benefit

The Council is currently considering this but a formal decision from the Council is imminent.

Bob Earnshaw reported that as a result of the planning application being approved he was pleased to announce that a funding package had been agreed totalling £4M over the lifetime of the facility. £1M will be made available in 2011 when construction begins with payments of £300K per year as soon as the facility becomes operational which is expected to be 2014.

There was still a lot of work to be done and a meeting will be organised as soon as possible with the DSG working group, Highland Council, NDA and DSRL to agree a way forward to the point where a funding committee is appointed.

- Hamish Pottinger asked the DSG to consider the timing of coffee breaks during the meeting. He felt that if the meeting had continued without a break for coffee the meeting would have been finished at a reasonable time to allow people to get home. Bob Earnshaw said the Admin and Procedures sub group would consider this for future meetings.
- Alastair MacDonald noted that two members of DSG – Sandy Mackie (Scrabster Harbour Trust) and Anna MacConnell (Caithness Partnership) would be standing down from DSG due to the fact they would be taking up new positions within the NDA. Alastair thanked them both for their contribution to the DSG and wished them well for the future.]

There being no further business the meeting closed.

**Alastair MacDonald**  
DSG Chairman

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2009

## **APPENDIX 1**

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

DSG(2009)M001/A001: NDA/DSRL to provide regular progress report through the socio economic sub group meetings on the national nuclear archives.

DSG(2009)M001/A002: DSRL (Simon Middlemas) to set up liaison meeting with representatives of Buldoo Residents Group as soon as possible.

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DSG(2009)M001/A014: Secretary to put DSRL presentation on next full DSG agenda.

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DSG(2009)M001/A016: Secretary to amend minutes (DSG/ESG(2008)M013) to reflect amendments as noted in minutes.

DSG(2009)M001/A017: Tony Wratten to provide details of the waste streams which have the potential to be sent to Sweden for smelting.

DSG(2009)M001/A018: ESG to write to Scottish Government and HSE to stress that a date for a decision on whether the low level waste facility should be licensed was given greater priority to allow a decision to be made.

DSG(2009)M001/A019: Tony Wratten to find out why lorries leaving site with rubble and spoil were not covered.

DSG(2009)M001/A020: DSRL (Doug Graham) to provide an explanation on the new authorisation at the next meeting.

DSG(2009)M001/A021: Graham Beaven to continue to update ESG on progress with the all waste options study

DSG(2009)M001/A022: Nigel Canty to respond to questions listed in DSG(2009)C021 at the DSG meeting to be held in June 2009.

DSG(2009)M001/A023: Rosemary Thompson to see what accommodation was being offered at Ormlie Lodge (as part of discussion on Viewfirth redevelopment project) and report back to next meeting.

DSG(2009)M001/A024: Marie Mackay, DSRL, to provide justification for those requests for community funding which were queried at socio economic sub group.

DSG(2009)M001/A025: Eann Sinclair to co-ordinate information on socio economic activities from all agencies/organisations to provide one single report for future meetings.

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

M011/A008: Secretary to organise a meeting with Dr Ian Roxburgh, NDA Chief Executive and DSG members. *Action ongoing – this will be put on hold until new Chief Executive is announced and then an invitation will be extended. Topics for discussion are funding, socio-economic activities and site competition.*

M014/A011: Secretary to progress the etching of the winning design on a plaque for display in Caithness Horizons. *Action ongoing – awaiting costing for simplifying the drawing, etching and materials required.*

M015/A009: Nigel Canty to provide a brief to the environment sub group meeting on the future of the Vulcan site in about six months time. *Action ongoing – DSG(2009)C021 is a list of questions provided to Vulcan. These will be addressed at the June DSG meeting.*

M015/A021: Secretary to put heritage strategy presentation on September DSG agenda. *Action ongoing - This will come forward at a future meeting once project team has developed strategy and discussed with Historic Scotland.*

M016/A014: Doug Graham to consider how best to present the information on environmental aspects and the frequency of this report.

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



M014/A018: Simon Middlemas to provide information on efficiency savings from the site at the end of the financial year. *Action complete – see DSG(2008)C230.*

M015/A017: ESG to ask NII whether the proposed low level waste facility will be a licensed site. *Action superseded by new action - [Dec 2008]. The NII position on this matter has not changed. The NII Chief Inspector considers that the proposed low level waste facility at Dounreay should be a nuclear licensed site. Further, NII indicated at the DSG meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December that their position had not changed. The decision making on nuclear safety matters is not a devolved matter and the decision will be made by the Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations.*

*[March 2009]: Statement from Scottish Government]: The Scottish Government is taking part in preliminary discussions with the Department for Energy and Climate Change, Welsh Assembly Government, Health & Safety Executive, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Environment Agency and Better Regulation Executive to define the term ‘Bulk quantities’ under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965.*

*Defining the term will clarify the scope of the Act with respect to installations designed or adapted for the storage and/or disposal of radioactive matter.*

*Until the discussions are complete it is not possible to speculate what sites may or may not be licensed, however, any proposal for licensing will be proportionate and is unlikely to include low risk sites.*

*The Dounreay Stakeholder Group will be kept informed of developments*

M015/A022: ESG members to consider sub group chairman and come forward with a proposal at the next meeting. *Action complete – George Farlow is now sub group chairman (as agreed at meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008 – ESG(2008)M013).*

M016/A011: Secretary to clarify with Shetland Islands Council what information they wish to see in the action assigned to Vulcan to provide a brief on the future of the Vulcan site. *Action complete – questions from SIC now received and passed to Vulcan for response (5<sup>th</sup> March 2009).*

M016/A013: Secretary to ask Roger Wilson to clarify SEPA's responsibility in relation to environmental aspects for the Dounreay site at the next meeting. *Action complete – Roger Wilson provided brief at ESG meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December (ESG(2008)M013).*

M016/A020: John Lawes to provide a written detailed update on progress with the National Nuclear Archives project for the next meeting. *Action complete – action superseded by M017/A001.*

M016/A026: Eann Sinclair to inform the socio economic sub group whether representation of an elected member on the CNSRP Executive Board had been addressed. *Action complete – this issue had been raised again on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December and the Executive Board's stance at not changed. There was a long discussion at the DSG meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December and these would come forward at the Advisory Board meeting due to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> December.*

M017/A001: NDA (Stuart Chalmers) to report progress on the national nuclear archives at the next Socio Economic sub group in January 2009. *Action completed – superseded with DSG(2009)M001/A001.*

M017/A002: Anna MacConnell to speak to Young Farmers representative re attendance at meetings. *Action complete.*

M017/A003: Bob Earnshaw to discuss deputy arrangements for the Association of Community Councils. *Action complete.*

M017/A004: Secretary to contact Tim O'Brien to request additional representation from the Caithness Contractors Consortium for the site operations sub group. *Action complete – email sent to Tim O'Brien before xmas.*

M017/A005: Secretary to contact DSG Highland Council reps to ensure they have nominated deputies to cover absences, *Action complete – emailed David Flear and Bill Fernie on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2008.*

M017/A006: Secretary to recirculate DSG(2006)C192 (as of 11<sup>th</sup> August 2008) to remind representatives of membership remit of each sub group. *Action complete – this was circulated with paperwork for meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December.*

M017/A007: Secretary to invite Jamie Stone, MSP to the next meeting of DSG. *Action complete – invite sent – Secretary will provide forward meeting dates to Jamie Stone and John Thurso to allow attendance at an appropriate time.*

M017/A008: DSG Chairman (Alastair MacDonald) to speak to Randall Bargelt, NDA re issues in relation to consultation. *Action complete – discussions have taken place and pre-briefing arrangements have been put in place to ensure that the DSG is updated in a timely manner.*

M017/A009: Secretary to work with site management to clarify the topics in C221 which are relevant to the Dounreay site and to define the issues. *Action complete: A rolling programme of issues/topics has been developed and will continue to be updated as topics are identified.*

M017/A010: Bob Earnshaw and June Love to identify any revisions to the Terms of Reference taking the NDA guidance document into account. *Action complete – ToRs sent to members for comment.*

M017/A011: Secretary to distribute revised Terms of Reference to the APSG for comment/review. *Action complete.*

M017/A012: Secretary to distribute revised Terms of Reference to full DSG membership once reviewed by APSG. *Action complete.*

M017/A013: Secretary to reduce the amount of paperwork sent out to DSG members by sending the full minutes, status of actions and sub group minutes only to members for main meetings. *Action complete – this was done for meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008.*

M017/A014: Secretary to raise issue of representation for site operations sub group at next Admin and Procedures sub group meeting. *Action complete – this was discussed at ASPG on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008.*

M017/A015: Sub group chair to raise issue of members' disappointment that the subject of whether the proposed low level waste facility would be a licensed site had still not been agreed. *Action complete – issued raised at DSG meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008 – see minutes for details.*

M017/A016: Tony Wratten to provide copy of environment report electronically to Secretary. *Action complete – See DSG(2008)C237.*

M017/A017: ESG members to consider whether the environmental monitoring report would be useful to receive on a regular basis. *Action complete – comment was made that the data contained in the report was too raw and detailed to be of great use. It was suggested that a text summary reporting on any trends and other issues would be more beneficial.*

M017/A018: Secretary to send RIFE report to ESG members. *Action complete – RIFE report circulated to ESG members on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2008.*

M017/A019: ESG members to consider RIFE report and raise any issues/questions with Roger Wilson, SEPA. *Action complete – no issues were raised with SEPA.*

M017/A020: Secretary to send website link to video footage of off-shore particle clean-up. *Action complete – link sent on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.*  
<http://www.dounreay.com/news-room/video-library>

M017/A021: Secretary to send website link of DPAG Fourth report to DSG members. *Action complete – link sent on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.*  
[www.sepa.org.uk/radioactive\\_substances/rs\\_publications/dounreay\\_reports.aspx](http://www.sepa.org.uk/radioactive_substances/rs_publications/dounreay_reports.aspx)

M017/A022: Roger Wilson to ask SEPA if they could carry out water sampling for the 'Keep Scotland Beautiful' award for beaches. *Action complete – Roger Wilson has been in touch with George Farlow regarding this.*

M017/A023: Graham Beaven to provide the weighting information for the all waste options study. *Action complete – DSG(2009)C026 refers.*

M017/A024: Sandra Jack, Scottish Government, to forward timescale for developing the policy for higher activity wastes as soon as it is available. *Action complete - The Scottish Government plans to publish a detailed statement of policy by Summer 2010, based on the Policy announcement on 25 June 2007. (See attached two documents below). The Scottish Government will be consulting on a draft statement in late 2009 on which it will be seeking the views of stakeholders.*

M017/A025: Sandra Jack to take message back to Scottish Government that clarity on the higher activity waste policy was required as soon as possible. *Action complete – Sandra Jack provided email to confirm that message had been taken back and Scottish Government were currently developing policy. Action A024 will provide timeline for developing policy.*

M017/A026: All DSG members to raise any issues/views on the Caithness & North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership with Ronnie Johnstone in time for the Advisory Board to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> December. *Action complete – the minutes outline the views discussed at the meeting.*

M017/A027: Norman Harrison, UKAEA Ltd to provide timescales for the relocation and outsourcing of IT staff. In addition to provide information on the selection

criterion. *Action complete* – Information was received from Norman Harrison on 4<sup>th</sup> November). The target is to have a contract in place with the NEW ICT service provider at the end of March 2009. There will then follow a transition period of about a month during which the arrangements for the transfer of staff will be finalised.

*In parallel, with the competition we have been exploring the feasibility of moving some of the Dounreay-based ISaT staff into alternative premises, from which it will be easier for them, and their new employer, to develop the business. We expect that the new service provider will be likely to want to implement this at an early stage.*

*The procurement process is currently at the pre-qualification stage. We will produce a short-list from those firms who submit completed questionnaires. The criteria for short-listing include the ability to be an acceptable employer of the staff, ability to develop the ISaT business and staff, and capability and track record in managing outsourcing and in provision of ICT services. UKAEA will then conduct a 'competitive dialogue' with 3 or 4 short listed firms, at the end of which each will submit their final tender. UKAEA have not yet announced the detailed criteria which will be used for the final selection, but essentially it will be looking at cost and quality of future service, alongside their detailed plans for developing the business.*

M017/A028: All members to provide any views on Snapshot 4 of the CNSRP Action Plan to Ronnie Johnstone for discussion at the Advisory Board on 15<sup>th</sup> December. *Action complete* – meeting took place on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

M017/A029: All DSG members to consider appropriate articles for the Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership newsletter and send either directly to Eann Sinclair or through June Love. *Action complete* – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of newsletter nearly completion and will be distributed shortly.

M017/A030: Ken Nicol to provide drawings for the engineering training facilities at the next socio economic sub group meeting. *Action complete* – see DSG(2009)C006

M017/A031: June Love to contact David Sutherland, Highland Council to check the status of the Highland Council report on sports/arts facilities. *Action complete* – see DSG(2009)C002.

M017/A032: All members to consider Ronnie Johnstone's comments and provide views/comments to June Love on Highland Council's report on sports/arts facilities. These comments will be collated and sent to Highland Council. *Action complete* – discussed at Socio economic meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009 in conjunction with Highland Council's response and update on proposal for the Viewfirth redevelopment.

M017/A033: All DSG members to read DSG(2008)C219 (Briefing on LEADER programme) and cascade to their respective organisations. *Action complete* – information was cascaded to all DSG members with a request to ensure they cascade to their respective organisations.

M017/A034: Secretary to ensure Fiona MacPherson is included in future meetings of the socio economic sub group. *Action complete* – Fiona MacPherson is now on the distribution for the socio economic sub group and full DSG meetings.

M017/A035: Secretary to draft letter to Highland Council on the importance of education services in the area and urging priority be given to Wick, Thurso and Farr High Schools. *Action complete* – see DSG(2009)C005.