

**DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP  
DSG SITE RESTORATION SUB GROUP**

DSG/SRSG(2019)M004

**Minutes of the DSG Site Restoration sub group meeting held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 1900 hrs in the Pentland Hotel (Georgina suite), Thurso.**

Present:	Cllr Willie Mackay	Highland Council (sub group chairman)
	Gillian Coghill	Buldoe Residents Group (deputy chair)
	Roger Saxon	DSG Chairman
	Sand Owsnett	Dounreay Unions
	David Broughton	DSG Co-opted Member of the Public
	Cllr Struan Mackie	Highland Council

In addition:	Dawn Clasper	DSG Minute Secretary
	Stuart Pyper	NDA Programme Manager
	Steve Beckitt	Operations Director, Dounreay
	Cdr Shaun Southwood	MOD Vulcan
	Ian Rogers	ONR (Dounreay)
	Stewart Ballantine	SEPA
	James Bryson	DNSR (Vulcan)
	Pat Green	CNC
	Cllr Struan Mackie	The Highland Council
	Tony Perry	NDA Head of Programme (Observer)
	Lt Cdr Chisolm	MOD Vulcan

## **MINUTES**

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

Cllr Willie Mackay welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced Tony Perry NDA Head of Programme who was attending as an observer. Introductions were made round the table.

### **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from:

- Brian Mutch, SGRPID
- Roy Blackburn, DSG Co-opted Member of the Public
- Ian Rogers, ONR (Dounreay)
- Alistair Hillery, ONR (Vulcan)
- George MacDougall, Caithness West Community Council
- Bob Earnshaw, DSG honorary member
- Alastair MacDonald, DSG honorary member

### **3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Cllr Willie Mackay noted that the minutes – DSG/SRSG(2019)M003 – had been endorsed at the DSG public meeting held in September. He invited members to raise any issues from the minutes.

No issues were raised.

Cllr Willie Mackay thanked Gillian Coghill for stepping in to chair the July meeting.

### **4. STATUS OF ACTIONS**

Cllr Willie Mackay noted that the status of actions had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

- **DSG(2019)M001/A015:** Cllr Struan Mackie to contact the defence minister with a view to holding a meeting with DSG on MOD's plans to decommission the site. **Action ongoing:** Cllr Struan Mackie provided an update and noted that we have a new defence minister, however they had indicated that they were keen to have as much engagement as they could. He had received a letter from the previous Defence Minister Penny Mordaunt that talked about the basic level of consultation that will be required for the Vulcan decommissioning. Following the site visit to Vulcan Cllr Mackie believed consideration should be given to an element of socio economic value after visiting the Shore Test Facility building as there are parts of the establishment that could be used for legacy projects going forward.
- Cllr Willie Mackay noted that there were a number of actions to take to the Scottish Government Scottish Nuclear sites meeting which will be completed after the meeting which is due to take place on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

## 5. DOUNREAY UPDATE

Cllr Willie Mackay noted that a number of written papers had been distributed to members in advance of the meeting including would be taken as read:

- DSG(2019)P027: Dounreay report
- DSG(2019)P031: SEPA report
- DSG(2019)P028: ONR report

Cllr Mackay invited the following to provide updates:

**NDA:** Stuart Pyper, NDA reported the following:

- Dounreay has completed the floor slab of the DCP store extension ahead of schedule.
- Further decommissioning work in the FCA Lab facilities has been completed. It was important to recognise that decommissioning progress was ongoing even though the focus remained on the exotics programme.
- The Performance Plan has been received by the NDA.
- Representatives of the Atomic Energy Canada had visited and held in-depth meetings with the site facing team to discuss similar issues facing them in Canada. Atomic Energy Canada is acting as the intelligent customer for a number of Canadian sites being decommissioned under a similar framework as the ongoing work at Dounreay.
- Dounreay had hosted a visit of representatives from the International Atomic Energy Authority. Technical workshops had been held in North Highland College and a number of activities took place on the Dounreay site. They received very good feedback and these types of visits helps to cement Dounreay's reputation within the international decommissioning community.

Cllr Willie Mackay thanked Stuart Pyper for his input and invited questions from members.

Sand Owsnett noted at the last meeting it was mentioned there was an organisational change to the NDA and asked if there were any changes to the local site facing team or if any local posts had been moved to NDA headquarters. Stuart Pyper responded that they are still in the process of change and there would be an increase to the number of posts on site rather than jobs going to headquarters. There would be some changes in terms of site facing team with retirement or taking early release, but these posts would be replaced or a similar post would be brought in, there would be no reduction of numbers overall. Tony Perry confirmed that this was correct and there were 3-4 new posts being advertised nationally seeking to get people to work and live here in the community.

Sand Owsnett asked if they would still focus on socio economics. Stuart Pyper responded there may be some changes to job titles and content, but re-iterated there would be no change to the number of site facing team and focus on socio economics would remain.

There being no further questions, Cllr Willie Mackay thanked Stuart Pyper for his input.

**Dounreay:** (DSG(2019)P027 refers)

Steve Beckitt, Operations Director, Dounreay provided the following update:

- TRIR has decreased to 0.14 as of October 2019.
- SEPA had issued a regulatory notice following an investigation into the ventilation contamination incident which had been reported in February. This related to the release of activity in one of the FCA facilities following the malfunctioning of damper on the main FCA ventilation systems. An action plan was now in place and a dedicated team had been identified to focus on these actions from the notification
- Dounreay had submitted the Performance Plan to the NDA on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
- 50% of the breeder elements had now been removed from DFR and the cutting up of the grid structure on top of the reactor had now commenced which allows access to the difficult elements. This was commencing while Sellafield reprocessing plant was in shutdown for annual maintenance.
- Installation of the petal heaters in the PFR reactor vessel had begun. These heat up the base of the reactor and will allow the start of the removal of the alkaline metal residue from the bottom of the reactor.
- The modifications to the High active liquor storage plant have been completed to allow the commencement of treating the floc liquid waste streams on site and it was expected that this would begin in November.
- The new Higher Active Waste Store floor slab was completed ahead of schedule and work has now started on building the first of the end walls.
- The first phases of groundwater monitoring boreholes had been completed successfully, phase 2 and 3 will progress throughout the financial year.
- The annual inspection of the offshore effluent diffuser had been completed.
- Fourteen new graduates recently started their two year development scheme at the end of August.

- Seven apprentices received their indenture certificates in August.
- Two new carpentry and joinery apprentices started on site. They are the first apprentices in 46 years to be recruited in this discipline.
- Representatives from the Monju reactor in Japan visited site at the end of August.
- Representatives of CoRWM visited at the beginning of September and had been impressed with what they had seen and the progress that was being made.
- Representatives from the International Atomic Energy Authority visited site in October for a technical workshop looking at the end state work currently ongoing at Dounreay.
- Dounreay has submitted the Technical Assessment under the new REPPiR regulations that will come into effect in May 2020. There had been a reassessment of the emergency and planning zone. The REPPiR responsibility sits with Highland Council with them taking guidance from the regulators.
- A local resident had recently identified an issue and had contacted the site to make them aware that they had seen a fishing vessel in the fishing exclusion zone. Dounreay had notified the authorities and DSRL understands that the Food Standard Scotland (FSS) had investigated and found no evidence of unlawful activity. The Dounreay exclusion zone does state clearly that there is a fishing ban in an area of sea within 2k of the discharge pipeline remains in force.

Cllr Willie Mackay thanked Steve Beckitt for his input and invited questions from members.

Gillian Coghill stated, regarding the fishing ban zone, that there had been an issue on how to take this forward and noted that this issue had been a good learning curve for CNC, site and the other agencies involved. She had gone back to FSA and had made contact with Dr Will Munro who had advised that she could assure her members that he had investigated this and a copy of the email had been forwarded to NDA and DSRL representatives.

Gillian Coghill asked what the progress was in D1208 and whether it was on schedule to be completed by November. Steve Beckitt responded that the new plant was under construction and connected to the existing facility for the destruction of the legacy waste and confirmed it was on schedule to be actively commissioned in November.

Gillian Coghill stated that following the potential to send further waste south to be recycled this may mean that the number of low level waste vaults would be less. She emphasised that, from a Buldoo point of view, any waste that was not going into the vaults as a result of recycling and/or re-use would negate the need for six vaults to be built. She added she would be interested in attending any workshops on the end state to understand these issues better. Steve Beckitt responded that they were waiting for feedback from the contractor on the recycling of the metal waste that had trialled and noted that there was a balance between the cost of transportation and the scale of material being moved.

Sand Owsnett made a statement on behalf of the Dounreay Trade Unions. "The Dounreay trades union would like to record that we have serious concerns over the impact and implications of the performance plan. We raised our concerns about the plan and in particular rumours about the scale and immediacy of job cuts, as the last joint council 3 – 4 weeks ago. But we have not been provided with anything substantive by senior management to give us confidence that plan(s) is credible or even provides the basis for the way forward. The lack of meaningful engagement and

consultation on the matter with TU's gives us no confidence in the process. We are taking this further through our fulltime officials."

Cllr Willie Mackay noted the statement made.

David Broughton asked if the diffuser inspection was for the old and the new outlets. Steve Beckett responded that this particular inspection was for the old outlet.

David Broughton asked whether the issues with the ventilation was because the plan was getting older and asked whether the new performance plan would take into account ageing plants and the potential need to invest in these. Steve Beckett responded that the site wide impact changes had factored in the increase investment required in the ageing infrastructure. The performance plan included all of the site wide impact changes.

Cllr Willie Mackay thanked Steve Beckett for meeting the Councillors in Wick earlier in October and providing them with an update on the decommissioning progress.

Cllr Willie Mackay noted it was good to see traditional skills like joinery and carpentry being introduced again after 46 years.

Cllr Willie Mackay was please to read the ambulance crew at Dounreay assisted the Scottish Ambulance Service. June Love noted that Dounreay ambulance crew act as First Responders and Steve Beckett noted that Dounreay has an arrangement place to assist where possible.

Cllr Willie Mackay noted he was happy to see STEM activities being delivered at the Mey Highland Games by the Dounreay apprentices.

There being no further questions, Cllr Willie Mackay thanked Steve Beckett for his input.

**SEPA:** (DSG(2019)P031 refers).

Stewart Ballantine, SEPA provided the following report:

- SEPA had issued a Regulatory Notice to DSRL following on from the D1203 investigation.
- SEPA's Radioactive Substances Unit restructure was now complete. Mark Toner had been appointed as a Manager of the Science function and additional inspectors would be recruited in the following months which would allow them to dedicate more resource to Dounreay in the future.
- Compliance inspections had taken place in September which had identified a number of non-compliances and further details would be provided at the next meeting.

Cllr Willie Mackay thanked Stewart Ballantine for his input. There were no questions from members.

**ONR:** (DSG (2019) P028 refers).

Cllr Willie Mackay noted that Ian Rogers had tendered his apologies. He asked if members wished to raise anything from the ONR report and if so any questions raised would be actioned through the minutes for ONR to clarify.

David Broughton enquired about the Construction (Design & Management) Regulations (CDMR) at DMTR with the principle contractor role being kept in house while it was a consortium of contractors undertaking the work. Steve Beckett responded that the Authority to Operate (ATO)

was the responsibility of DSRL and by keeping this under DSRL control it demonstrated that there was an air of independence and external governance of the contractor's performance. Roger Saxon asked who the client was under the CDM Regulations and whether this was the same person. Steve Beckitt responded that the client was a different person.

**CNC:** Pat Green reported the following:

- Deputy Chief Constable Chris Armitt had now been confirmed in post. A recruitment process was now underway for a new Assistant Chief Constable.
- CNC continued their involvement with Project Servator deployments alongside Police Scotland across the county which had helped CNC Officers gain experience. They had also seen an increase in calls to the Project Servator hotline at Dounreay from local residents which was very encouraging.
- There were 2 new recruits due to start on Monday if they successfully completed their training with the potential of another 6 over the next 5-6 months. This was a mixture of local and external people who are looking to relocate to Caithness.
- CNC have a transferee course currently running comprised, of police officers from other forces who joined the CNC.
- CNC would be facilitating a visit from colleagues from Sellafield to look at operations in the site's police control room and how this had been integrated with Dounreay activities. This had been recommended by ONR as they recognise there are lessons that can be shared from the Dounreay operations. A Dounreay CNC representation will also attend the Sellafield annual site exercise to see what learning can be taken away from them to ensure sharing of good practices between both sites.
- During the summer CNC completed a series of responsive testing by the firearms training unit with some being observed by ONR to see how officers responded tactically to any threats on the site.
- CNC have also had a weekend of exercises observed by ONR to demonstrate the preparedness for the new policing model once the exotic programme has finished.
- During the festive season, CNC are re-iterating the messages that everyone should stay focussed on security and remain vigilant and continue to encourage people to report anything suspicious to them.

Cllr Willie Mackay thanked Pat Green for his input and invited questions from members. There were no questions from members

As there were no further questions relating to the Dounreay activities, Cllr Willie Mackay thanked everyone for their input.

## **6. VULCAN UPDATE**

Cllr Willie Mackay noted that a small group of DSG representatives visited Vulcan in September and were given a site tour along with a presentation. The presentation provided at that visit had been circulated to all members (DSG(2019)C036 refers). He noted that any questions on the presentation would be taken later in the discussion.

Cllr Willie Mackay noted the following written updates had been provided.

- DSG(2019)P030: Vulcan update
- DSG(2019)P023: Rolls Royce update
- DSG(2019)P031: SEPA report
- DSG(2019)P032: DNSR

**MOD Vulcan:** Cdr Shaun Southwood highlighted the following:

- Vulcan has reported no loss time accidents in that last 2 years.
- There have been no environmental non compliances.
- With regards to the Radioactive waste disposal report the figures for August were missing as there had been a defect on the flow meter and therefore could not be reported. This had been repaired and the statistics were now reflected in the report.
- REPPIR 19 Legislation had been submitted to Highland Council.
- An Operation Readiness Inspection had taken place and was now completed.
- Cdr Shaun Southwood would be leaving Vulcan in December and will be replaced by Cdr Mark Cleminson as Site Authorisee.

Cllr Willie Mackay thanked Cdr Shaun Southwood for his input.

Roger Saxon thanked Cdr Shaun Southwood for the Vulcan site visit and noted that the visit had included the old reactor area, Shore Test Facility and the boiler house.

Roger Saxon asked if Vulcan clearly understood all their waste route requirements and enquired how dependent Vulcan were on the Dounreay services and how much liaison did Vulcan have with DSRL to ensure that these waste routes could be accommodated. Cdr Shaun Southwood responded that there is an agreement in principle where Dounreay will take low level and Intermediate waste and the site would need to characterise and provide the volumes expected.

Roger Saxon noted he had asked Wendy Newton what the biggest hazard was on the Vulcan site, and had also asked about filtration systems and resin exchange columns. Cdr Shaun Southwood responded that characterisation of these still had to be undertaken.

Roger Saxon added that there would be large volumes of water from the pond and the biological shield and asked whether Dounreay would be able to support the disposal of this. Cdr Shaun Southwood responded that Vulcan were reliant on getting the liquid waste through to DSRL and was therefore working with DSRL's current plan of interim end state between 2030-33.

Roger Saxon noted that DSG had been asking DSRL for a jobs profile and presumed that Vulcan would have done a similar exercise. Cdr Shaun Southwood responded that MOD has a nuclear baseline that identifies the minimum people required to keep the site safe. They could run the site with a number of people as long as it did not drop below the contracted baseline.

Roger Saxon asked when MOD selected the decommissioning contractor there was a possibility that Rolls Royce may not be interested in this work and asked whether MOD were considering looking at integrating its decommissioning activities with Dounreay. Cdr Shaun Southwood responded that any contractor would have to demonstrate the required skills to meet the decommissioning requirements.

Gillian Coghill thanked Cdr Shaun Southwood for the visit which they found very informative and noted that all DSG questions had been answered. She had been delighted to see that the recycling programme was ongoing and very stringent. Wendy Newton had emphasised the importance of recycling not only for the bigger items but also down to paper cups. Cdr Shaun Southwood responded that a lot of the work was being driven by Dounreay and re-iterated that if MOD wants to send things to DSRL it had to meet DSRL's requirements.

Gillian Coghill noted that she had asked about the Rolls Royce apprentices and had been assured that the apprentices would still be in work in the future regardless of what Rolls Royce were doing in the area. She stressed that this was important for continuity especially for young people as it was important to retain those young people in the area.

Cllr Struan Mackie echoed the comments of the fellow members about the visit as he too had found it very informative. On a positive side, he noted the investment in the new boiler as the site was going to be there for a few years yet and felt it was a pro-active move to invest in the plant and equipment to allow the decommissioning job to be easier in the longer term. Cllr Mackay also noted the work under development to characterise the waste streams of the site and noted that at the visit Wendy Newton had highlighted the characterisation of the non-nuclear waste as well including asbestos. He asked whether there were issues with asbestos.

Cdr Shaun Southwood responded that STF building had been built in the late 80's and therefore asbestos was not an issue. The DSMP however was an older plant and under the metal cladding there was asbestos. Just this week, MOD have had AMEX and Arch Henderson on site and they have been doing a massive piece of work characterising and making sure everything is labelled correctly to ensure safe working conditions.

Roger Saxon recorded his thanks to Cdr Shaun Southwood for his help and assistance with the work of the DSG and the subgroups.

Cllr Willie Mackay thanked Cdr Shaun Southwood for his input and wished him all the best for the future.

**Rolls Royce update:** (DSG(2019)P034 refers).

The paper was taken as read and no questions were raised.

**SEPA:** (DSG(2019)P031 refers).

Stewart Ballantine, noted here were no issues. No questions were raised.

**DNSR:** (DSG(2019)P032 refers).

James Bryson highlighted the following:

- DNSR reported no reportable events this quarter or over the previous 2 years demonstrating a good safety culture.
- DNSR carried out a Permission activity recently to release hold point which was a key milestone in the programme. This had been a successful demonstration showing that the arrangements were adequate. This also included an adequate demonstration of the organisation and safety arrangements.

Cllr Willie Mackay thanked James Bryson for his input and invited questions from members. There were no questions from members

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

Cllr Willie Mackay noted that the correspondence received since the last meeting. These were:



- DSG(2019)C031: MOD response C025
- DSG(2019)C032: NDA SSG Brief September
- DSG(2019)C035: NDA SSG Brief October
- DSG(2019)C036: Vulcan DSG visit Presentation

Cllr Willie Mackay noted that DSG(2019)C031 would be taken forwards at the next Business meeting to explore what further could be done.

These were noted with no issues raised.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Before opening up to members, Cllr Willie Mackay noted the following:

- The Chamber of Commerce had held their annual dinner and a number of DSG members had attended. The Dounreay Decommissioning Services framework companies had held a supplier's day prior to the dinner which meant that the majority of the contractors had also attended the dinner.
- The Caithness Transport Forum had met on 10<sup>th</sup> September.
- Roger Saxon and David Flear had attended a three day heritage workshop – Interpreting Nuclear Imaginaries and Mediators in Caithness.
- Roger Saxon had also attended the North Highland College, UHI Academic Award Ceremony held on 14<sup>th</sup> September.
- There had been a CNSRP Advisory Board had met on 26<sup>th</sup> September.
- Cllr Struan Mackie acting as DSG Vice-chair had visited Japan as part of a UK delegation building on the good work of David Flear had started on an earlier visit.

Cllr Struan Mackie stated that he had a good visit and felt that Dounreay was well recognised by the Japanese Atomic Energy Agency and private utility companies. They viewed Dounreay at the forefront of what was going on in decommissioning and the standard of work and what the workforce were doing. Cllr Mackie added that he had been amazed and blown away by how aware the Japanese were of the Dounreay site. The visit to Monju had been excellent. He thought some of their staff did not realise that they were now in a decommissioning plant yet it was recognised there was a big cultural change ongoing and this was why they were interested in how the Dounreay site had managed its transition from operational to decommissioning.

They have 5 nuclear sites with the potential to restart only one and were looking closely at how the site engages with DSG and the community. Cllr Mackie felt that the visit, and the previous one made by David Flear, had cemented a healthy relationship with the site and also on the wider community engagement. They were also interested in the socio economic agenda and were looking to see if they could learn lessons from Caithness/North Sutherland. Knowledge sharing on site was continuing and secondments had been seen as a useful conduit to learn from. There was a great opportunity to foster links with Tsuragu. At the Tsuragu city meeting with the mayor and his community discussions were centred on how information could be exchanged both ways.

- Wick and Thurso Trades Council had facilitated a visit to Graham Smith and Helen Barton, STUC recently. While in Caithness they visited the airport, Nucleus, Wick Harbour and met with

representatives of BOWL. Later in the afternoon they had met with a number of key stakeholders to discuss issues around regeneration. Economic studies had also been discussed and agreed that working in partnership and aligning to other economic study requirements in the near future would be useful.

Gillian Coghill noted that this had been a very informative meeting and STUC had outlined some work they were doing in the south and Aberdeenshire around the economic studies. Helen Barton hoped to visit again and provide information on these models to allow the pertinent areas to be utilised for a further study in Caithness and North Sutherland. She re-iterated that this would be done in parallel with CNSRP's economic update.

Looking forward Cllr Willie Mackay noted:

- A community drop in session to provide an updated on the Space Hub Sutherland project was scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> November in the Boys Brigade Hall, Thurso from 1530 to 2000 hrs. He encouraged members to attend and provide feedback.
- The DSG business meeting would be held on 15<sup>th</sup> November and, election dependents, the agenda for the December DSG would be agreed. MOD had indicated that the Admiral would be attending the December DSG to provide a presentation on Vulcan decommissioning. A decision on whether this meeting would take place would be dependent on the date of the forthcoming election.

Cllr Willi Mackay then invited members to raise any other business. Of note:

- Gillian Coghill wished Cdr Shaun Southwood the best for the future and added it had been a pleasure working with him.
- Cllr Struan Mackie thanked Shaun Southwood for the work he has done and also with the community and Women in Nuclear networks.
- Tony Perry thanked the members for allowing him to sit in on the meeting and had found it informative.
- David Broughton thanked Cdr Southwood especially when he had commented from the floor at DSG when others had been absent and felt this had been handled correctly at that time.
- Lt Cdr Chisolm thanked members for their kind words regarding the visit and emphasised that MOD wished to be as open and honest as they could be.

## **9. CLOSE**

There being no further business, Cllr Willie Mackay thanked everyone for their input and formally closed the meeting.

Cllr Willie Mackay  
**DSG Site Restoration Sub Group Chair**  
**5<sup>th</sup> November 2019**