

## **DOUNREAY UPDATE REPORT as of end June 2020**

### **Introduction**

On Friday 10 July, NDA announced that both DSRL and LLWR will become wholly owned subsidiaries of the NDA next year, after ownership transfers from the Parent Body Organisations (PBO).

DSRL ownership will transfer to the NDA from the Cavendish Dounreay Partnership (CDP, a consortium of [Cavendish Nuclear](#), [Jacobs](#) and [Amentum](#), in March 2021. LLWR ownership will transfer from UK Nuclear Waste Management Ltd (UKNWM), a consortium of Amentum, Studsvik and Orano in July 2021. Prior to ownership transfers, DSRL and LLWR remain under existing management arrangements.

As the ownership of DSRL and LLWR does not change until next year, there will of course be a period of transition. NDA, CDP and DSRL recognise it is important to maintain on-going engagement throughout this period. The NDA has also been clear that the supply chain will remain essential to the successful delivery of the site's mission into the future.

### **Operations during COVID-19**

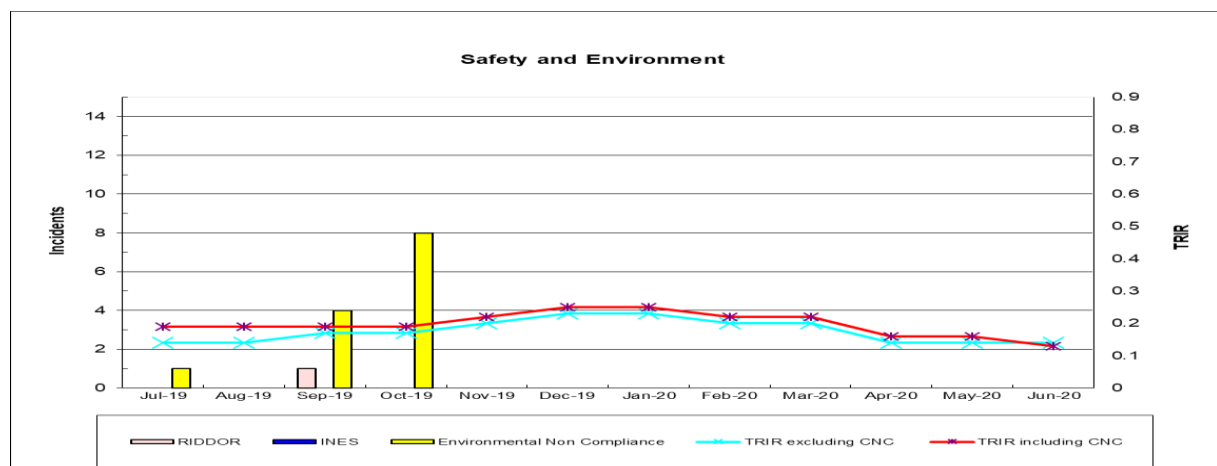
The site continues to follow the current Government guidance on COVID-19. DSRL has maintained a safe, secure and compliant site for over 14 weeks, undertaken weekly maintenance and recently endorsed the controlled resumption of some site activities starting from 29 June 2020, in line with the Scottish Government COVID-19 Route-Map Phase 2.

A DSRL COVID-19 Governance and Management Structure, including a 'Working with COVID-19' steering group, COVID-19 project team and a series of supporting workstreams have helped to co-ordinate, report and respond to site wide COVID-19 related issues.

Our remobilisation strategy and plans are now being implemented, in conjunction with DSRL staff, trade unions and external key stakeholders in order to resume site activity in a deliberate, incremental and controlled manner.

There have been significant learning opportunities identified as a direct result of COVID-19 and these will be considered and taken forward as part of the 'resume' and 're-image' phases of our response. We remain alert to the potential of a future second response to COVID-19 and have revised and developed plans accordingly.

### **Health, Safety, Security and Environment (as at end June 2020)**



- The latest total recordable incident rate is 0.14 (June 2020). No RIDDOR events were reported during the period.
- A formal readiness review has been part of the work undertaken in preparation for a resumption of work on site in accordance with Scottish Government guidance. This helped to review risk assessments and ensure the site was ready for more people returning to work.

The numbers on site remain significantly lower than pre-COVID, with the majority of office-based work being carried out from home. Preparations are now being made for the Scottish Government's Phase 3, which will enable a limited amount of office-based work to recommence. As part of this, consideration is currently being given to the availability of office space to ensure social distancing guidance is observed. A number of options, including the potential for some off-site office space, are being considered. No specific premises have been confirmed.

The engagement of staff, safety representatives and the Trade Unions is a key part of this preparations. ONR is also scheduled to visit the site week beginning 13 July.

- Work has continued to progress the steps specified in SEPA's regulatory notice received last year relating to an FCA ventilation issue in February 2019. A variation was issued extending some timescales due to COVID and all revised deadlines have been achieved with evidence being assessed by SEPA.
- There has been ongoing dialogue with SEPA regarding compliance with SEPA's temporary regulatory position statement that sets out expectations for the Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR) authorisations. DSRL has submitted a "Contingency Plan" which is updated to reflect the current situation in managing compliance; current updates are concentrating on the staged return to full compliance while meeting COVID-19 controls.
- Low levels of radioactivity were found in an external sump for collecting ground water. The discharge has been redirected to the active drains system and an investigation has been conducted and reported to SEPA. The activity was confirmed as groundwater with low levels of contamination.
- The site marked World Environment Day on Friday 5 June with Julie Robinson, Environmental Manager writing a short blog for staff on the flora and fauna that is protected at Dounreay.
- Staff are regularly provided with external 'learning from experience' topics recorded by other businesses and organisations. One such external reminder was about not using hand sanitiser near naked flames. A truck driver returned to his vehicle cab and used an alcohol-based hand sanitiser from a 1 litre container. After applying the hand sanitiser, the driver proceeded to light a naked flame which appears to have ignited the hand sanitiser residue on his hands, within the bottle and the cab. This caused an explosion and fire within the cab and the driver had to be treated for burns to his hands and forearm at hospital.

### **Dounreay decommissioning update**

As temporary working practices have been put in place, there will be an impact on a large number of programme activities and there is therefore limited decommissioning progress to cover in this report. Some work is progressing where it can be undertaken either via remote

working, or through small teams on site providing maintenance and shift cover in a controlled manner. Teams are now beginning to restart small amounts of decommissioning on site and this is expected to grow in a controlled manner in the coming weeks.

- NDA and DSRL continue to work together to agree an updated decommissioning programme for the site. This process is continuing.
- Milestones for the current year continue to be developed as they have to be considered in light of the COVID-19 restrictions. It is expected that these will be in place by the end of July 2020.
- Essential maintenance has continued during COVID-19 restrictions. During these inspections it was discovered there was a burst section of the site's raw water main and this was successfully repaired.
- An engineering review has been undertaken of the air condition system within D2003 (main admin block). The engineer was satisfied that the air is not circulated and therefore deemed the air condition system safe to be used with regards to COVID-19.
- Trial 7 (of 10) for the shaft and silo advanced vacuum drying system has been completed. These trials are providing valuable information with regards to evaporation rates and drop off rates.
- In line with Scottish Government guidelines, final preparations have been carried out for both the DCP store extension and the ADU floc plat to restart construction. During week beginning 22 June, a small number of construction workers have returned to work to prepare areas for work to be undertaken. Prior to commencing work, they received a full return pre-brief before going on site.

#### **The Interim End State Delivery Team**

- Phase 3 of developing a site-wide groundwater flow model is complete. A 3D groundwater flow model has been built and calibrated.
- The full monitoring programme, which includes environmental monitoring programme (EMProg) and groundwater monitoring in support of our permit and licence has now restarted.
- An unconstrained review of the site end state is ongoing. A contract to prepare a Gate B Paper, which will describe the preferred end state option has been awarded to the 'COSMIC' consortium of companies (NSG, Quintessa and Golder Associates). An initial list of 'key components' for the site has been identified. These are facilities or areas of land whose individual end state could significantly influence the overall site end state. An initial series of assessment workshops will be undertaken to determine end state options for each of the key components. Further workshops will then be held to integrate the end states for the key components into a site wide solution which will comprise the preferred site end state. DSRL will be inviting DSG representatives to attend assessment workshops to ensure that local views are adequately represented.
- One of the most significant key components has been identified as the existing LLW Pits on the site. A separate contract has been awarded to Jacobs to develop concept designs for the

decommissioning and closure of the LLW Pits. Assessment workshops will be undertaken to consider the concept designs and agree a preferred decommissioning approach. The outcome of this work will then be input into work on the overall site end state review. Again, DSRL will be inviting DSG representatives to attend assessment workshops to ensure that local views are adequately represented.

### **Particles update**

- Since January 2020 particles have been detected and recovered from:
  - Dounreay foreshore: 4 particles (2 in Jan (1 significant/1 relevant, 1 in February (significant) and 1 in March (significant)).
  - Sandside beach: 2 particles (1 in January (minor) and 1 in March (minor)).
- In 2020 work continued normally until the COVID-19 lockdown response. Survey activity for March was completed as normal with the last survey taking place on the West Foreshore on 23 March. Following this the site was closed to all but essential personnel. The beach monitoring programme was suspended in agreement with SEPA as part of the BPM position for site activities during the lockdown response. This included postponing the scheduled statutory surveys on Strathy and Murkle.
- Survey work resumed on Wednesday 1 July and the monitoring team started with the Strathy beach. This month, surveys on the East Foreshore, Sandside, Strathy and Murkle are planned and expected. The West Foreshore will be surveyed taking nesting birds into consideration.
- Over the course of the remaining year, surveys are expected to take place as scheduled prior to COVID-19. Strathy and Murkle will be surveyed again in November (in line with the permit), the foreshore will be monitored fortnightly depending on nesting birds until September and if there is available sand and gravel to survey. For Sandside beach, the total survey area of 0.25km<sup>2</sup> of sand will be met and the team will (as normal) survey as much as possible and recover part way of the sand coverage requirements average for the year.
- The laboratory analysis of the unusual particle is now complete, and the results have been communicated to SEPA. Owing to COVID-19, the planned PRAG(D) meeting was postponed so DSRL have yet to discuss the interpretation of the results. The meeting will be rescheduled shortly.

The intended beach monitoring trial, supplementing the site's BPM (best practical means) position for finding similar particles which had been agreed with SEPA to take place in August 2020, has unfortunately had to be postponed due to the lockdown response. This has meant the equipment from Sellafield which would have been available to perform the test is busy recovering the Sellafield beach monitoring programme. The next available time for that equipment to be free for a trial in Dounreay is April 2021. DSRL is in dialogue with SEPA on how best to proceed.

### **Socio economics**

*At this difficult time, there is recognition that some of the conditions linked to drawdown of funding for socio economic projects will be difficult to deliver. A flexible approach will be taken to continue to support these projects into the 2020/21 financial year.*

The NDA and the site also recognise that while our collective socio-economic support is focussed on economic growth there is a need to be respond to business recovery as we ease out of COVID-19 restrictions. Consideration has been given to ensure that the Dounreay Socio

Economic Alliance (DSEA (NDA, PBO and DSRL) is able to maintain the governance around consideration of socio-economic funding, while allowing quicker decisions to be made.

### **Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)**

- The NDA has now published its updated Local Social and Economic Impact Strategy and this can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/working-with-our-communities>. The strategy was finalised following consultation with a number of organisations and the feedback provided is also published. The document also reflects the impact of COVID-19.
- NDA has also worked to improve and standardise an electronic system to ensure applications for grants are handled more transparently and consistently. The new system and processes are being used across the NDA estate.

### **Dounreay**

- The aims and objectives for the Dounreay Socio Economic Board (involving all three nuclear partners – NDA, PBO and DSRL (known collectively as Dounreay Socio Economic Alliance (DSEA)) have been reviewed and will be implemented this year.
- Now that the NDA has published its socio-economic strategy, DSRL is considering a revision to its plan for 2022/23 to recognise the need to support business recovery in the light of COVID-19.
- In June, DSRL announced its largest ever grant award in support of local business. £100k was provided to the Caithness Business Fund, managed by the Caithness Chamber of Commerce, to help local companies prepare for the re-opening of their businesses whilst remaining compliant with COVID-19 restrictions. It very quickly became apparent that the applications submitted far outweighed the funding provided and the NDA made the decision to match fund to allow a 2<sup>nd</sup> round of funding applications. Overall, around 140 local businesses benefited from funding.
- Discussions have continued on the re-opening of Caithness Horizons. This was due to be open earlier this year but became a casualty of COVID-19. A meeting between DSRL, The Highland Council and High Life Highland is due to take place at the end of the August to review the potential re-opening of the facility.
- The Dounreay Socio Economic Board met on 26 June and approved an application to support the creation of a CNSRP Support Hub. The aims are to aid rapid recovery and support future sustainability. The Hub activities would include an agreed integrated programme of projects, delivery co-ordination against SMART milestones, development of a communications strategy, inward investment/business development capability whilst ensuring that sustainability is at its core by a structured organisational analysis and strategic direction setting tool using sustainable principles (environmental, economic, social, cultural).

The funding requested for one year was £150-190k, with recruitment of 4.5 fte, with funding also for pilot projects to develop opportunities presented by a carbon neutral future.

It is intended that this Hub would be operated through the CNSRP Partnership collaboration and priorities would be steered on a day to day basis by the CNSRP Delivery Group. The DSEB considered this application carefully and recognised that further funding for future financial years may be required. It was agreed to fund this activity for one year (August 2020 to August

2021) with a view to holding a review of progress and impacts prior to considering whether future funding requests are considered.

### **CNSRP Secondments**

- Stakeholder engagement for the proposed Space Hub Sutherland continues to be provided by a DSRL. On the 26 June 2020, The Highland Council approved the planning application for the spaceport. Scottish Government directed The Highland Council to provide them with the application information and THC decision. This has been provided to Scottish Government and it is expected they will review and report back by the end of July.
- Cavendish Nuclear secondment to support programme activities of CNSRP continues and work to develop and implement a new programme of activity is currently ongoing.

### **COVID-19 support**

- The site's occupational health team has carried out 150 respirator fit tests to support the NHS.
- Two DSRL people have been volunteering to support laundry services at Bayview care home on a daily basis.
- As a result of a funding contribution to the North Highland Initiative COVID-19 fund, more than 30 community groups have received help with small grant funding. The funding was aimed at communities that are experiencing particular hardship as a result of the ongoing crisis and is to identify areas, projects and local initiatives for which Government support packages may not be able to assist.
- DSRL provided grant funding of £10,000 to Highlands and Islands Blood Bikes. The cash enabled the charitable organisation to establish a permanent presence in Caithness. This will speed up turnaround times for samples such as COVID-19 tests between hospitals and healthcare facilities in the north Highlands and the medical laboratories at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness. Until funding was provided the charity had been running the Inverness to Caithness route from Inverness but the financial support has allowed the purchase of a motorcycle based in Caithness with fully trained riders to serve the local community.
- Following earlier support to provide portacabins at local medical practices, a request was submitted by Canisbay and Castletown Medical Practice who had lost the use of temporary facility to segregate any patient who was displaying symptoms of COVID-19. One of the earlier portacabins to support the medical practice at Riverview in Wick had been procured on a rental basis. Having reviewed the potential requirement for these portacabins to remain in place for a long time and, with the help of local contractor Blargoans having identified two surplus portacabins for sale, DSRL agreed to fund both portacabins to allow these facilities to continue for the longer term. DSRL did request that if/when the medical practices felt there was no longer a need for these, they look at donating these to community groups who may have a requirement.
- To date, the total PPE and risk assessment support provided to various organisations is:

Masks	Gloves	Suits	Googles	Overshoes	Aprons	Bottles	Screens	RA
6,420	12,970	1,354	30	100	1,400	168	11	2

## Our People

	<b>FTE Target</b>	<b>FTE Actual</b>
<b>Current - DSRL</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>1,165.3</b>
<b>Current - ASW</b>		<b>97</b>

- Apprentice interviews will commence week beginning 20 July utilising IT technology. The practical assessments will be carried out ensuring social distancing measures are in place. It is expected that up to an addition 8 apprentices will be employed this year.
- As the majority of the workforce are working remotely from their homes at present, a number of laptops have been upgraded and Microsoft Teams has been rolled out to ensure meetings can continue to take virtually.
- The NDA has launched an LGBT+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, +) Group Network across the whole of the NDA group. Membership of the network is open to both members and allies of the LGBT+ community.
- DSRL's Greg McEwan recently achieved incorporated Engineer status. The workforce has been encouraged to pursue online training while working remotely. A number of online training courses have been identified and made available.
- Seven trainee health physics surveyors have passed their NVQ level 2 exams.

## Dounreay Heritage

- No heritage objects were collected in the period.
- One leaver completed a Dounreay Memories form.
- James Gunn, Heritage Officer, gave a presentation on the early history of Dounreay to the graduates, craft apprentices and trainees (via Microsoft Teams) – 59 in total. This is part of a project initiated by the Training Dept, to pass on site knowledge to young staff. There is a series of presentations by more experienced staff.
- As part of the NDA's heritage programme, each site has been requested to write their site history for inclusion into the NDA's overall report on the history of the UK civil nuclear industry. James Gunn has started to draft sections with review/comment by more experienced staff.
- The National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL) has been contracted by the NDA to co-ordinate and write aspects of the overall report on the history of the UK civil nuclear industry. In his role as the NDA Heritage Officer, James Gunn has:
  - co-ordinated with NDA site representatives and numerous national heritage organisations covering Scotland, England and Wales
  - provided guidance and advice to NDA and NNL

- liaised with NNL to write guidance documents for the heritage programme

### **Visits**

With COVID-19 restrictions still in place no visits have taken place on site since lockdown began in March 2020.

Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd  
9 July 2020



## GLOSSARY

Abbreviation	
BCP	Baseline Change Proposal
DACR	Days Away Case Rate
DCP	Dounreay Cementation Plant
DFR	Dounreay Fast reactor
DIT	Dounreay Improvement Team
DMR	Dounreay Modification Report
DMTR	Dounreay Materials Test Reactor
DPF	Dounreay Planning Framework
DSRL	Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
IFBS	Irradiated Fuel Buffer Store
IFC	Irradiated Fuel Cave
INF	Incident Notification Form
LLLETP	Low Level Waste Effluent Treatment Plant
LLW	Low level waste
LTA	Lost Time Accident
mSv	milli Sieverts
NDP	NaK Disposal Plant
OJEU	Official Journal of the European Union
ONR	Office for Nuclear Regular
PBO	Parent Body Organisation
PCP	Project Control Procedure
PFA	Pulverised Fly Ash
PFR	Prototype Fast Reactor
PSR	Preliminary Safety Report
RAMT	Radioactive Material Transport
RIDDOR	Reporting of injuries, Diseases & Dangerous Occurrences Regulations.
RSA	Radioactive Substances Act
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SID	Sodium Inventory Destruction Plant
STA	Sample Tank Annex
TRIR	Total Recordable Incident Rate
WRACS	Waste, Receipt, Assay, Characterisation and Supercompaction