

## **Dounreay Stakeholder Group - Site Restoration sub group, July 2020**

### Update report from the NDA

#### On-site

The situation on site remains dominated by the measures in place in response to the current COVID 19 Pandemic situation, with a gradual increase in activity beginning to be implemented.

- The safe, quiescent state to which the site was brought at the beginning of lockdown has been maintained throughout the period since the last report.
- The NDA note the good communication that has been maintained by DSRL through this period, including providing information required by Govt, often on short timescales.
- NDA continues to interface with both Scottish and UK Govts regarding support offered during this period.
- We would like to note the rapid and efficient work done by DSRL to equip staff with IT equipment to allow working from home where this has been found to be possible and appropriate. We also note the work done to ensure the phased return of staff on to site complies with all safety requirements and has been implemented with staff welfare as a leading priority.
- NDA continue to support DSRL, and the other Site Licence Companies across the estate, in empowering their staff to volunteer during the 'lockdown' and we are supportive of donations, both monetary and of equipment, to the locally coordinated resilience efforts in the battle against COVID 19.

#### Parent Body Organisation (PBO) Model Change

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020, NDA announced that DSRL and LLWR (Low Level Waste Repository) in Cumbria, would become wholly owned subsidiaries of the NDA. The move completes the process to create a close and cohesive One NDA Group that supports more effective and efficient delivery of the NDA's decommissioning mission. DSRL will change ownership on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021, with LLWR ownership changing in July 2012. These transfers follow previous successful transfers of Sellafield Ltd and Magnox.

The changes have no effect on the decommissioning work already in progress and that work will continue to be undertaken by DSRL – the Site Licence Company. There will be no reduction in jobs or any changes to staff terms and conditions as a result of the changes. Neither will there be any negative impact on the local supply chain – going forward it's business as usual.

As a consequence of the changes, a small number of job roles currently filled by individuals on secondment from a PBO partner organisation are now being advertised internally, with an external recruitment campaign expected to follow soon. Successful applicants will take up positions at an appropriate time following transition next year. Until then, existing arrangements and job holders remain in place. People currently in these posts will be welcome to apply for these positions, however, they may choose to continue their careers within the individual PBO partner organisations.

Questions relating to the announcement have already been submitted by DSG members, and NDA will be responding to these questions in due course. The changes have been received positively by stakeholders, however, we do understand that we need to provide reassurances to stakeholders

around issues such as maintaining the local supply chain, as well as our continuing commitments to our socio-economic investment and funding. In addition, we fully appreciate the need for continued engagement of the DSG and stakeholders throughout the transition period.

#### Annual Report and Accounts

Our latest Annual Report and Accounts covering the period 2019/20 were published on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The report highlights our progress and shows spending remains below the annual limit set by UK Government. Within the report, we highlight Dounreay and the successful transportation of all separated plutonium from Dounreay to Sellafield for storage.

#### Strategy 4

Our fourth draft Strategy is due to be published in mid August. It will be subject to a 12 week public consultation and we look forward to receiving your comments during this period.

A pre consultation information pack was circulated to stakeholders in June highlighting some of the changes that you can expect to see in draft Strategy 4. We hope that you found this useful in preparing for the launch of the consultation in August. If you didn't receive a copy of this document, please email [Kelly.anderson@nda.gov.uk](mailto:Kelly.anderson@nda.gov.uk)

#### Caithness Business Fund

As part of the NDA's response to the COVID19 crisis, we provided £100,000 of match-funding to the Caithness Business Fund. The original £100,000 being provided by DSRL. The funding, administered through the Caithness Chamber of Commerce, supported local businesses recovery plans emerging from pandemic. We are glad to see that the funding has helped many local businesses in the recovery planning process as well as the local economy.

#### Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership

NDA was also delighted to support additional funding to create a more robust CNSRP. We feel this additional support will allow CNSRP to harness and give additional focus and momentum to partnership programmes that support our Social and Economic Development plans going forward.

#### Social and Economic Development Plan

Due to the pandemic, our plans to publish our Socio-Economic Plan 2020-2026 was delayed. We were keen to understand the impact of COVID19 and how this might affect our plans going forward. We have now published our latest update as well as feedback from the consultation we launched in January 2020. You should have received these documents, but if not, both can be found on the NDA website. We have also come to the conclusion that the plan will require to be updated going forward. It is not possible to yet foresee some of the impacts the pandemic has had on local communities, therefore, we must be allow the plan to be flexible whilst understanding that our commitment to socio-economic investment is more crucial now than ever.

### SSG Chairs meeting and Stakeholder Summit

We are also in the process of arranging our SSG Chairs meeting and we're looking towards a date in August 2020. In-keeping with previous commitments, both our Chair and Chief Executive will be in attendance and we'll keep you posted on a confirmed date.

You will also be aware that we have taken the difficult decision to postpone this year's Stakeholder Summit and propose that it, along with the NDA's Supply Chain event, will now take place in 2021, with dates to be confirmed in due course.

John McNamara our Head of Stakeholder Relations has already written to many of you and we've received a number of responses saying although it was disappointing news, you understood the reasons why we had to postpone. Given the current circumstances, we feel that bringing more than 200 people together in one place for an event, even though it could be run along social distancing guidelines, would be contravening the overwhelming advice from Government.

John and David will keep you posted on developments, including the possibility of running a virtual meeting later in the year to "bridge the gap" until next year's event.

### Performance Plan

Agreement has been reached with DSRL as regards a 12-month Performance plan that takes us towards the transfer of ownership date of March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021. A full programme of decommissioning work activity is planned. Work has also commenced to develop the Lifetime Plan which will be developed over the coming months.

ENDS