

**DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP  
SITE RESTORATION SUB GROUP**

Minutes of the DSG Site Restoration sub group meeting held on Wednesday 20 January 2021 at 1900 hours via Microsoft Teams.

Present:	Gillian Coghill	DSG Site Restoration sub group chair (Buldoe Residents Chair)
	Cllr Willie Mackay	Highland Council (sub group deputy chairman)
	Brian Mutch	SGRPID
	Roger Saxon	DSG Chairman
	Thelma Mackenzie	Thurso Community Council
	Cllr Struan Mackie	Highland Council (DSG Chair)
	David Broughton	DSG Co-opted Member of the Public
	Tor Justad	DSG Co-opted Member of the Public

In addition:	Dawn Clasper	DSG Minute Secretary
	June Love	Dounreay Community Relations Manager (DSG Secretariat)
	Sam Usher	DSRL Strategic Director
	Lt Cdr Dave Chisholm	MOD Vulcan
	Wendy Newton	SDA Programme Manager – Head of Vulcan (MOD)
	Ian Rogers	ONR (Dounreay)
	Alistair Hillery	ONR (Vulcan)
	James Bryson	DNSR (Vulcan)
	Samantha Arden	CNC

## **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Gillian Coghill welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. She noted that this was the first meeting to take place since March 2020 using a virtual platform. She assured the group that the Business Meeting has continued to meet on a fortnightly basis to ensure DSG work continued throughout this period and DSG members had been kept informed.

Gillian Coghill provided a brief introduction to Teams, for those members who had not used the virtual platform before and asked that members put their microphones on mute and use the 'hands up' button if they wished to speak.

She noted the announcement that Mark Rouse would continue in the Managing Directors role at Dounreay once the site had transitioned back to NDA. She stated she was really pleased to have heard this and felt that it would bring continuity to the site, workforce and the community going forward.

Gillian Coghill welcomed Lt Cdr Dave Chisholm and Wendy Newton to the meeting noting that Cdr Mark Cleminson would normally attend the sub group meeting and deal with nuclear safety matters while Wendy Newton would attend for overall MOD discussions. Cdr Mark Cleminson had tendered his apologies for the meeting and therefore Lt Cdr Chisholm was deputising on his behalf.

## **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from:

- Roy Blackburn, DSG Co-opted Member of the Public
- Stewart Ballantine, SEPA
- Cdr Mark Cleminson – Lt Cdr Dave Chisholm deputising

- David Craig, Caithness West Community Council

### 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Gillian Coghill noted that the minutes - DSG/SESG\_SRSG(2020)M003 were slightly different due to not meeting as a committee. The minutes reflected questions raised and responses provided from various organisations and included both socio economic and site restoration subject matter. She noted that the minutes had been endorsed via email and therefore were not required to be endorsed at this meeting.

She invited members to raise anything from the minutes. No issues were raised.

### 4. STATUS OF ACTIONS

Gillian Coghill noted that the status of actions has been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. She noted that actions had continued to be progressed and were reviewed at the fortnightly business meeting. Some actions had been put in abeyance due to COVID restrictions as it would be unlikely that these could be undertaken in the short term. These would be reconsidered when COVID restrictions were lifted.

She invited members to raise anything from the actions. No issues were raised.

### 5. DOUNREAY UPDATE

Gillian Coghill noted that a number of written papers had been distributed to members in advance of the meeting including:

- DSG(2021)P001: Dounreay report
- DSG(2021)P003: ONR report
- DSG(2021)P007: CNC

Gillian Coghill invited the following to provide updates:

**NDA:** Gillian Coghill noted that Stuart Pyper was not in attendance. She asked if members wished to raise any questions related to the NDA and if so these would be actioned through the minutes for a response. No issues were raised.

**Dounreay:** (DSG(2021)P001 refers)

Sam Usher, Strategic Programme Director, Dounreay provided the following update:

- Confirmation that Mark Rouse would remain as the Managing Director after the site had transition back to NDA.
- DSRL had 12 reported COVID-19 cases in the last 14 days. Because the Dounreay Fire & Ambulance Rescue Service (DFARS) has reported a number of COVID-19 related absences the decision had been taken to temporarily pause hazard reduction work and reduce the volume of people on site to minimise the demand on the DFARS team. This would ensure core obligations of maintaining a safe and secure site continued to be met. Support was being provided to the individuals affected and site was following the Health Protection Scotland's guidance. Assessments to understand the transmission routes and lessons learnt to continue to improve and increase safeguards continues.
- Workers who live outside of the Highland Council area had been advised not to return to the site before mid-February 2021 at the earliest following the guidance from Scottish Government.

- A Project team have been set up to look at a potential testing regime for the site taking into consideration potential workers travelling in from out with the county. This will be developed over the coming weeks. DSRL will continue to comply with Scottish Government guidance as it evolves.
- Communications has been very important during this time and there is a project team led by Mac McGill, Security & Resilience Director, who has previous experience in this kind of operational response.
- DSRL were continuing to play an active part in the community supporting the establishment of vaccine set up with resource to help with problem solving and Project Manager skills.
- DSRL will become a subsidiary of NDA on 1 April 2021. The Management of Change document has been submitted to ONR for assessment.
- Appointment of senior roles are in the process of being made and announcements were expected shortly.
- The Near Term Work Plan continues to develop for site decommissioning and was on track to deliver this.

Gillian Coghill thanked Sam Usher for his input and invited questions from members.

Gillian Coghill noted, on behalf of the community, that Dounreay had been outstanding with the support they have provided within the community and to the NHS. She wished to place on record her thanks for all the support provided so far. Sam Usher thanked Gillied for her kind words and indicated he would feed this back to the site.

Tor Justad asked what percentage of the work DSRL had planned since the pandemic had been completed. Sam Usher responded that effectively from the end of March to June 2020 first lockdown there was very little progress made on decommissioning activity. From July it had taken time to restart facilities and programmes, taking into consideration the preparatory checks, compliance checks and refresher training, and good progress had been made in several areas. The DCP Store extension met a big milestone just before Christmas, and progress made on the ADU Floc construction project and there had been a nuclear shipment to Sellafield (prior to Xmas) and in November repacking operations for remnant fuels had restarted. Since the current restrictions were announced the site reduced its operations significantly and paused return to work in the New Year to take stock of current guidelines and to mitigate against the resilience required for site. Therefore, coming back after the New Year there had been minimum manning levels on site and this would remain until mid-February and therefore there was a limit of operations that could be achieved.

Tor Justad asked what the unconstrained review of site end state was and why was this being relooked at again given the interim end state had been considered already. Sam Usher responded that the IES team were looking at an unconstrained review of the interim end state to ensure consideration of the latest GRR regulations (new guidance for defining end states that had been developed by SEPA and the Environmental Agency with input from ONR).

The current contract between NDA and DSRL established that the end state was that all decontaminated land must be cleaned and managed in an appropriate way and this was what DSRL was aiming for. The GRR regulations sets different guidance and focus of this is on an “optimised” or “sustainable” end state. This guidance allows different end states to be possible. The unconstrained review is looking at the full range of different optimised and sustainable end states for different parts of the site.

Tor Justad noted that there had been an NDA announcement regarding a change to the transport and waste divisions of NDA and asked if there was any implications, for DSRL, on these changes to the NDA structure. Sam Usher responded that he did not expect any significant impacts for DSRL work.

**Action: DSG/SRSG(2021)M001/A001: Stuart Pyper to provide an explanation of any impact to Dounreay with the announcement of the NDA waste division.**

**SEPA:** Gillian Coghill noted that SEPA were experiencing IT issues and therefore had not submitted a written report. She asked if members wished to raise any questions and if so, any questions would be actioned through the minutes for SEPA to clarify.

Gillian Coghill asked what SEPA was thinking about what the position was on the nuclides that are appearing in the seepage out of the LLW pits. June Love stated she would speak with Stewart Ballantine to get a response.

**Action: DSG/SRSG(2021)M01/A002: June Love to speak with Stewart Ballantine, SEPA to get a response to question on LLW Pits.**

**ONR:** (DSG(2021)P003 refers)

Ian Rogers, ONR provided the following report:

- ONR had continued with regular site visits as appropriate during restrictions with Covid-19.
- ONR have been assessing site arrangements for the safe restart of operational activities. They are broadly content with the systematic approach to the safe restart of operations. They were impressed with the governance arrangements controlling the restart of operations and the use of the site's independent assurance team
- Progress on construction activities had been significantly impacted due to COVID. There were a number of targeted activities against construction activities to ensure design intent was maintained throughout construction and ONR remain broadly content that adequate arrangements are in place.
- Continue to provide technical assessment supporting the Shaft & Silo project and engagement has commenced for the LLW pits project and irradiated exotic fuels programme.
- ONR are currently involved in formal assessment of the Management of Change documentation outlining the transfer of DSRL to NDA and currently no issues had been identified.
- ONR had been notified about a failure of the safety system relating to a fuel lift and transfer hoist. DSRL had carried out a technical review and identified a particular type of data card which had now been addressed. DSRL were carrying out a review of where the same data card is used elsewhere on site.
- ONR had issued a Licence Instrument to DSRL to implement the revised Emergency Arrangements that had been updated to reflect the requirement of REPP19 and to align with the revised Highland Council Off-Site Emergency Plan.
- The Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) was fined after pleading guilty to an electrical incident. The incident took place in a 'non-nuclear' building, so there was no radiological risk to workers or the public.
- Sellafield Ltd was prosecuted for an electrical issue where an employee sustained injuries.

- Mark Foy, ONR Chief Nuclear Inspector, published the annual report detailing the performance of the UK nuclear industry during 2019/20.
- ONR had now become the regulator for safeguards. Safeguards are measures to ensure that countries comply with their international obligations and not to use nuclear materials from their civil nuclear programmes for any other purposes (i.e. nuclear weapons).
- Chief Executive Adrienne Kelbie and Deputy Chief Inspector and Director of ONR's Sellafield, Decommissioning, Fuel and Waste Division, Dr Mina Golshan were honoured with a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List respectively.
- ONR have announced plans to align their leadership structure to other nuclear regulators internationally. Mark Foy will take up the new combined post of Chief Nuclear Inspector/Chief Executive.

Gillian Coghill thanked Ian Rogers for his input and invited questions from members.

Tor Justad asked, in regards to the REPIR regulations, whether ONR would expect the Highland Council to publish the new regulations on their website, so it is available to the public. Ian Rogers responded that Highland Council do not need to publish the new REPIR19 regulations on their website as they are available on the UK Gov website. The preference is to refer to the source document on the gov.uk webpages.

Tor Justad asked if the new inspection team responsible for safeguards would cover every site in the UK and how would monitoring take place. Ian Rogers responded that the team would cover only those sites subject to safeguard regulations.

Tor Justad noted that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) would come into force on Friday 22 January.

Roger Saxon asked if there were any concerns over the appointment of the other members of the DSRL management team given the time it had taken to announce Mark Rouse as Managing Director. Ian Rogers responded that ONR was interested in who is appointed to key roles in the business and DSRL had submitted a Management of Change plan which included worse-case scenarios and this had allowed ONR to start an assessment and understand what their expectations and requirements would be moving forward for a letter of no objection. ONR were party to the recruitment process and this had provided and enabled their assessment to move at a quicker pace. ONR were aware of where individuals stand at the moment and had their own links into UK Gov. At this point, ONR had no concerns about the recruitment process that would cause ONR to raise any objections to the Management to Change.

Roger Saxon asked if there were any regulatory concerns with the stop/start operations on site due to COVID. Ian Rogers responded that to stop and start operations is where things can potentially go wrong with assumptions that people know what they are doing and equipment not working the way one would expect. ONR are satisfied that the site had taken this into account and had carried out thorough reviews of the evolution of their arrangements as restrictions changed. On balance, the site had demonstrated a systematic approach which had taken into account any concerns ONR would have raised.

**CNC:** (DSG(2021)P007 refers)

Gillian Coghill expressed her condolences on behalf of the Site Restoration sub group on the loss Diana Sinclair, a long serving member of the local CNC team.

Samantha Arden reported the following:

- The passing of a colleague Diana Sinclair who had served with the CNC since 2008 as a civilian Police Control Room Operator at Dounreay. Within the wider constabulary a Sellafield officer had tragically died in a road accident.
- COVID-19 continue to be challenging and CNC continued to review the working practices and had taken guidance from National Police Chief's Council and Scottish government.
- There have been 3 confirmed COVID cases with the local CNC team. All three officers had been on leave at the time and therefore there was no operational cases. Site resilience was CNC's top priority.
- CNC had recently transitioned to the new DECP policing model. This marks a key transition for CNC to align with the decommissioning activity of the site.
- The CNPA Three-year strategic Plan 2020-23 and the Annual Policing Plan are awaiting final approval and would be published shortly.

Gillian Coghill thanked Sam Arden for her input and invited questions from members.

Gillian asked about the new policing model and asked if this would result in a huge difference in working practices. Sam Arden responded that it was not but gave the CNC flexibility to change as the site requirement changed.

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked the CNC for their continued work, noting this did not end when Covid struck. He added that he had seen the CNC and emergency services at Dounreay join the 'clap for carers' and noted that the Dounreay emergency teams were also on the front line in many respects whether that was to continue to keep the site secure or the support out into the wider community. He also thanked CNC for their effort at Remembrance Day in November as they continued to lay wreaths to mark this special day.

Gillian Coghill noted that Caithness was a much safer place with the CNC on site and commended the work that they undertook.

## **6. VULCAN UPDATE**

Gillian Coghill noted the following written updates had been provided.

- DSG(2021)P008: Vulcan update
- DSG(2021)P004: Rolls Royce update
- DSG(2021)P006: DNSR

**MOD Vulcan:** (DSG(2021)P008 refers). Lt Cdr Dave Chisolm highlighted the following:

- Vulcan site continues to actively deliver key defence outputs.
- Operations are still ongoing in line with the COVID-19 security measure in place.
- Preparations to defuel of the Shore Test Facility (STF) have continued. Training continues and a recent external MOD assessment was content with the training.
- Progress had been made on DSMP, with modifications to the building to allow preparations for the pond clearance. Of note the loading pier and additional doors were complete.

- All personnel and contractors continued to work from home where possible and the site was constantly reviewing site operations and the requirement to travel from outside the Highlands, for those that are directly supporting the Critical and Essential operations on site this is under continuous and critical examination and review.

Gillian Coghill thanked Lt Cdr Dave Chisolm for his input and invited questions from members.

Tor Justad noted that the Prior Information Notice (PIN) for decommissioning had been withdrawn and asked for an update as to when this work would recommence. Wendy Newton replied that this was part of the re-scoping exercise being developed now and as soon as the programme had been defined it would be published. Wendy Newton added that she was hoping to attend the March Public Meeting and provide an update on progress with this.

Tor Justad asked if the previously projected number of 12 shipment of material off site was still the plan. Wendy Newton replied that MOD would provide no update to its published numbers due to security reasons.

**ONR:** Alistair Hillery provided the following verbal update:

- Vik Winspear-Roberts would replace Alistair Hillery as the Vulcan ONR inspector as of 1<sup>st</sup> February.
- There had been no reported incidents or events in this reporting period.
- ONR were content with the COVID arrangements and that the Vulcan site remained compliant with Scottish Governments guidance.
- ONR has engaged remotely with the site to discuss decommissioning operations and compliance with construction design and management regulations.

Gillian Coghill thanked Alistair Hillery for his update and invited questions from member. There were no questions.

**Rolls Royce Update:** (DSG(2021)P004 refers)

Gillian Coghill noted that there was no Rolls Royce attendance at this meeting but noted that if any questions were raised from the RR report these would be actions through and written response requested.

Gillian Coghill also noted that the Business Meeting would be meeting with Andy Maxwell in February by way of introduction as he had taken over at a time when COVID restrictions were just being put in place and therefore it had been difficult to meet in person.

Tor Justad asked what Rolls Royce's current position was with apprentices and if they were able to work on site.

**Action: DSG/SRSG(2021)M001/A003: DSG to write to Rolls Royce asking if the apprentices were currently able to work on site.**

**SEPA:** Gillian Coghill noted as per earlier discussion SEPA had been unable to connect electronically for this meeting. She asked if any members had questions relating to Vulcan and SEPA. No

questions were raised

**DNSR:** (DSG(2021)P006 refers)

James Bryson highlighted the following:

- During this period, no routine visits had been made to Vulcan due to COVID Restrictions. Meetings had resumed on a regular basis via virtual platforms.

Gillian Coghill thanked James Bryson for his update and invited questions from member. There were no questions raised.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

Gillian Coghill noted that a number of correspondences had been issued to the sub group and emphasised that all correspondence had been dealt with through the business meeting at the appropriate time. The following was noted:

- DSG(2020)C047, C051 and C057: all related to DRS commercial freight trial. DRS had identified a date (w/b 25<sup>th</sup> January) to carry out this trial albeit that stakeholder presence would have been limited. Due to the tightened COVID restrictions and travel restricted DRS have had to postpone this and will revisit once restrictions are eased.
- DSG(2020)C048: DSG's response to the NDA Strategy.
- DSG(2020)C052: Note for the Record by David Broughton, following attendance of the NDA Integrated Waste Management Workshop.

David Broughton noted one thing that had come out of this conference was the NDA's enthusiasm for a waste strategy and felt that they should have been completely aware of the work that UKAEA (under the management to the then DRAWMOPS Director, Roy Nelson) had developed when they created a 100-year, 10 year and 4 year site decommissioning and radioactive waste management strategies. It was heartening to hear ideas of waste management across the sites.

He noted, that under the one NDA, a single waste management division was being created and asked if the waste operation at Dounreay would be separate from the Dounreay management. Sam Usher commented that there were things that DSRL could learn from across the NDA estate and equally DSRL had good practice and experience to share. DSRL was feeding into that programme of work but essentially the waste operations will remain under DSRL programme and control.

Gillian Coghill noted that she had also attending the NDA conference on integrated waste management and thought that NDA were re-inventing the wheel.

Tor Justad asked whether there had been anything new came from the discussions. David Broughton responded that regarding new ideas the one thing he had detected was more discussion on storage above ground or near surface disposal for Higher Activity Waste that may degrade over a number of years, i.e. what would be acceptable to leave in situ and he had felt that NDA were confusing their views with Scottish Government policy. Gillian Coghill noted there were several issues discussed.

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked Gillian and David for attending these events on behalf of DSG adding it was really good to see members of DSG taking part in events especially with some previous knowledge of the subject matter.

- DSG(2020)C055: letter Buldoo Residents to clarify topics raised by local residents.
- And lastly, DSG(2020)C058: NDA stakeholder update for December 2020.

## 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Before opening up to other members, Gillian Coghill noted the following:

- NDA had issued its draft business plan for 2021 onwards – a draft DSG response had been circulated for final input from members. This would be finalised and submitted next week as consultation closes on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021.
- As noted previously, there had been a lot happening over the year and Gillian, on behalf of the business meeting, hoped members had felt they were being kept up to date. She stressed if any member felt unsighted or was in need of clarification they could raise anything now or get in touch with the business meeting for an update/response.
- The next scheduled meeting (apart from business meetings) would be the March meeting which would start with the AGM and continue to a full DSG meeting. With meetings still to be held on virtual platforms it was felt that the full (public) meetings should focus on 1 or 2 specific topics. For March requests had been made for DSRL to provide an update on site transition and MOD to provide an update on decommissioning programme and timeline for new PIN for market engagement.
- David Broughton had attended the Aarhus roundtable discussions last week on stakeholder engagement. The discussions were mainly based on the transparency and information to the public on environment matters including nuclear. There were discussions about stakeholder involvement on radioactive waste management but was pretty focused on the proposed GDF. Discussions made him reflect that the UK was somewhere between 4 and 10 years behind other countries. The UK presentation talked about England and Wales but not Scottish policy.. David Broughton noted that he had found this very interesting and would be providing a written paper to the DSG.

Tor Justad asked if there was a list of participating countries and a link to the presentation material. June Love said she would circulate this out to members once this information had been received.

**Action: DSG/SRSG(2021)M001/A004: June Love to circulate the link and list of participants in attendance for Aarhus roundtable discussions.**

- Dates for future DSG meetings had been identified for 2021 and would be issued to all members in advance of the AGM.
- Gillian Coghill and David Broughton would be attending a Dounreay workshop to look at the options for the Low Level Waste Pits 1-6 which was scheduled to take place at the end of January 2021.

Gillian Coghill then invited members to raise other topics. Of note:

- Tor Justad asked if anyone was aware of any difficulties from the fishing industry caused by the Brexit. Cllr Struan Mackie replied that there have been issues with producers, wholesalers and exporter and appeared that the change of rules was causing hours of delay getting fish to market.

Tor Justad congratulated June Love on receiving the Steve Beckitt award at the annual site's award event.

#### **9. CLOSE**

There being no further business, Gillian Coghill thanked everyone for their input and formally closed the meeting.

**Gillian Coghill**  
**DSG Site Restoration sub group chair**  
**29 January 2021**

**ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING**

DSG/SRSG(2021)M001/A001: Stuart Pyper to provide an explanation of any impact to Dounreay with the announcement of the NDA waste division.

DSG/SRSG(2021)M01/A002: June Love to speak with Stewart Ballantine, SEPA to get a response to question on LLW Pits.

DSG/SRSG(2021)M001/A003: DSG to write to Rolls Royce asking if the apprentices were able to work on site.

DSG/SRSG(2021)M001/A004: June Love to circulate the link and list of participants in attendance for Aarhus roundtable discussions.