

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATE: 29 JUNE 2021

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic the Dounreay Stakeholder Group has continued to meet virtually adhering to restrictions on multiple household gatherings.

Throughout 2020 meetings were kept to a minimum with full virtual meetings returning in January 2021. During 2020 the DSG Business meeting met fortnightly, and continues to do so, to ensure timely information was cascaded to the members for their input or information.

On 9th June the DSG held a full public meeting via Microsoft Teams. Of note at that meeting:

- Confirmation that DSRL had successfully transitioned back into the NDA Group.
- An extensive summary of DSRL operations and activities covering the period March to June.
- A short presentation on the key activities for the Near Term Work Plan (NTWP). The NTWP covers the next three years with a Life Time Plan currently being reviewed by the new DSRL Executive Team. DSG members were informed that it will take around a year to have a full LTP in place. The presentation also included a brief update on work ongoing to review site end states. (DSG members are invited to be involved in workshops to discuss various options on certain aspects of site decommissioning.)
- DSG members had been left frustrated and disappointed at the lack of information provided by Ministry of Defence (MoD) regarding the timelines for decommissioning and the proposed market engagement of the NRTE Vulcan site. As no information was forthcoming and reflecting that a presentation to DSG had been proposed in March and had been pulled at very short notice members were asked to vote on a proposal that if MOD could not demonstrate 'real' community engagement then DSG would consider asking them to leave DSG and set up their own local liaison group. This decision was not taken lightly however having made representation to UK Government and the MOD over many years about their lack of engagement it was felt this was the only action left to DSG. *NB: following the meeting, MOD has provided DSG with the ministerial statement issued on 17 June and indication that MOD would come to the next DSG public meeting in September to provide further information.*
- DSG members queried the position of Scottish Government's policy on energy with regards the Fusion STEP reactor. DSG members support the CNSRP's application to site the Fusion reactor in Caithness and believe we have the infrastructure, skills and supportive environment for this project. Noting 15 sites were taken into the next round of application with five of these being sited in Scotland it is urgent now that Scottish Government provide a definitive statement on whether Fusion fits within the new energy policy. DSG would be very disappointed if CNSRP continued to progress this application without a clear policy statement from Scottish Government.

In other areas, DSG:

- meets regularly with the NDA SSG Chair's forum.

- will be undertaking a review of DSG in terms of its capacity and capabilities.
- consider how to provide a blended approach to meetings when restrictions are relaxed enough to allow some members to attend in person while others can continue to opt to join by Teams.
- have held, along with a number of other local stakeholders, initial discussions on NDA's plans to develop a Scottish Strategy. Initial discussions were held week commencing 14th June.

Cllr Struan Mackie

DSG Chair

18 June 2021