

## **DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

**Minutes of the DSG public meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 1900 hrs via Teams.**

Present:	Cllr Struan Mackie	DSG Chair
	David Alexander	DSG Vice-chair
	Gillian Coghill	Bulldoo Residents Group
	Cllr Stephen Clackson	Orkney Islands Council
	Roger Saxon	DSG Honorary member
	Bob Earnshaw	DSG Honorary member
	Cllr Matthew Reiss	The Highland Council
	David Broughton	Co-opted member of the public
	Eann Sinclair	HIE Area Manager, C&S
	Fiona Bruce	Women in Nuclear
	Tor Justad	Co-opted member of the public
	Dave Craig	Caithness West Community Council
	Cllr Willie Mackay	The Highland Council
	Thelma Mackenzie	Thurso Community Council
	Ron Gunn	CHAT
	Trudy Morris	CEO, Caithness Chamber of Commerce
	Peter Faccenda	CNSRP Programme Manager
	Niall Watson	DSRL Trade Unions
	June Love	DSRL, DSG Secretariat
	Mark Rouse	MD, Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd
	David Wallace	NDA Stakeholder Lead, Scotland
	Alan Mackay	NDA Site Facing Team Manager
	Cdr Mark Cleminson	MOD Vulcan
	Wendy Newton	MOD Vulcan
	Ian Rogers	ONR (for Dounreay)
	Stewart Ballantine	SEPA
	Diane Hamilton	Scottish Government Radioactive Waste Team
	Prof Ray Kemp	Independent consultant, DSG review

## **MINUTES**

### **1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Cllr Struan Mackie, DSG Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

He noted that a blended approach had been trailed for one of the sub group meetings but there had been some teething issues. Trials will continue for the future but it was hopeful that the March public meeting would be held in person.

He welcomed Alan Mackay, NDA Site Facing Team Manager and Dave Wallace, NDA Stakeholder Lead for Scotland.

Before moving on, Cllr Mackie noted the recent announcement that Alastair MacDonald had decided to step down from DSG. Alastair had been the founding chair of the DSG

when it first started in this form in 2005 and he had led the way in how the DSG operates today. Alastair had decided to retire from DSG after holding an honorary position for many years. Cllr Struan Mackie placed on record his thanks to Alistair who had worked hard especially in the first five years as chair. And while he was less active in DSG for the last couple of years he had never missed a meeting and was always there to support and advise the chairs that came after him.

Cllr Mackie noted that the meeting tonight was trialling a new format focussing on specific topics rather than updates from sub groups.

Finally, the DSG review continued to progress and Prof Ray Kemp was in attendance at this meeting as an observer to allow him to begin to finalise his report. He invited Ray to provide a short update under Any Other Competent Business.

## 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies have been received from:

- Vik Winspear Roberts      ONR (for Vulcan)
- Gareth Taylor              NDA (Dave Wallace and Alan Mackay attending)
- Michelle Johnstone        NHS
- Christian Nicolson         NHS
- Joanna Coghill             Association of Caithness Community Councils
- Keith McCarthy            CNC (Inspector Jim Finlayson attending)
- Sandy Mackie                Scrabster Harbour Trust
- Debbie Murray              North Highland College

## 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- The minutes of the last public meeting held in September (DSG(2021)M03) were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting. This was proposed by Struan Mackie and seconded by Gillian Coghill.
- The minutes of the DSG Socio Economic sub group held on 30 October (DSG/SESG(2021)M03) were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting. This was proposed by Davie Alexander and seconded by Eann Sinclair.
- The minutes of the DSG Site Restoration sub group held on 3 November (DSG/SRSG(2021)M03) were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting. This was proposed by Gillian Coghill and seconded by Dave Craig.

Cllr Struan Mackie then invited the following to provide any high level updates:

**NDA:** Dave Wallace, Stakeholder Lead, Scotland reported:

- The NDA has published their business plan for consultation. Consultation closes at the end of January 2022.

- Jamie Reed, NDA Director of Socio Economics had visited Caithness and had met with a number of key stakeholders. He was grateful for the welcome he had received and had found the meetings very useful. He was looking forward to revisiting the area to further understand the priorities for the area and where NDA can provide support.
- NDA had recently announced that the AGR fleet would be handed over to the NDA once the sites were ready for decommissioning. EDF would be undertaking the defueling which would last approx. 3-4 years.
- David Peattie, NDA CEO would be meeting with Scottish Government Minister, Mairi McAllan early in January.

**Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd (DSRL):** Mark Rouse reported:

- Work was progressing on the joining of DSRL and Magnox and were currently working on issues around licensing. Overall, plans were to reduce the number of Boards to four (as per David Peattie's 4 pillar model) and to do this Magnox and DSRL would form one Board. The site licence for DSRL would also be transferred to Magnox. The Managing Director of DSRL would become a member of this 'new entity' Board. By the end of next year all processes should be complete with a view to implementation in April 2023. Progress to date has been relatively smooth. He was confident that Dounreay's strong identity and funding would remain.

**ONR:** Ian Rogers noted that there was no further update since the sub group meeting held on 3 November.

**SEPA:** Stewart Ballantine noted:

- The RIFE report 26 had been published on SEPA's website and he would provide a link to that document for DSG members.

**Scottish Government Radwaste:** Diane Hamilton reported:

- The Radwaste team was working with the devolved Governments on the Common Framework. This framework sets out the policy for the four UK nations where powers have been returned from the EU. Under this framework, the aim is to produce, maintain and improve on the radiological, multi-lateral and international, standards common policy. The framework had been agreed and will be published on 16 December. A link to the document would be sent to DSG members once published.
- The Scottish Government Scottish Nuclear sites meeting would be held on 18 January 2022.

**CNC:** Inspector Jim Ferguson reported:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CNC and Police Scotland had now been signed off.

Cllr Matthew Reiss asked whether the MOU allowed CNC to support such things as road accidents, missing persons etc. Inspector Finlayson responded that if there was a requirement for assistance CNC would be able to provide that support. He emphasised that CNC would not

take over these roles but would provide additional resource if required while continuing to maintain the security of the Dounreay site.

**Vulcan:** Cdr Mark Cleminson reported:

- Internal and independent external assessments of dummy fuel moves were recently undertaken successfully. DNSR are currently on site to carry out their fuel moves readiness inspection.
- Exercise Lonestar (the site's emergency exercise demonstration) was held on 25 November. It went well and confirmation of the assessment is awaited. Early feedback from the regulators was positive. Both DNSR and ONR were on site and agreed it had gone well. Credit was given to Rolls Royce who had undertaken the majority of the preparations for this exercise and provided the majority of the participants.
- The site annual security exercise was held on 3 November. DNSR and other Defence assessors were on site. Again, there was positive feedback given.
- Key members of staff had suffered absence through illness which has caused a delay to the decommissioning programme. This had allowed some discussion with NDA and consideration of the DSG's comments. The Prior Information Notice (PIN) was not quite finalised yet but would be issued as soon as possible.

**ONR:** Ian Rogers (in the absence of Vik Winspear Roberts) stated there was nothing to add to the Vulcan ONR report. He noted that the Vulcan ONR report was issued on a 6 monthly basis.

**SEPA:** Stewart Ballantine confirmed there was nothing to report.

Cllr Struan Mackie then invited questions from DSG members. Of note:

- Tor Justad noted that NDA have provided previous updates on the Scottish Strategy and the inclusion of social impact. He asked how this was progressing. Dave Wallace responded that work continued to develop on social value. He added he would cover the Scottish Strategy in his presentation (agenda item 5).
- Tor Justad asked Mark Rouse whether the skills audit was still on schedule for completion on 28<sup>th</sup> February. Mark Rouse confirmed that it was.
- Tor Justad asked Mark Rouse whether there was an update on the FIDDLER detection system (for particle monitoring). Mark Rouse responded that he did not have an update to hand but would ensure that this information would be provided at the next sub group.

**Action: DSG(2021)M04/A001: DSRL to provide an update on the FIDDLER (related to particle monitoring) at the next site restoration sub group.**

- Tor Justad asked what the route was for the 1800 litres of radioactive sodium coolant. Mark Rouse responded the heel pool sodium was now in storage tanks and will be treated on similar timescales to the water vapour nitrogen process of the remaining pipework. JGC Engineering was providing the plant and this was progressing well.
- Tor Justad noted that Jamie Reed had been appointed as the new NDA Director of Social Economics. He asked whether it would be useful to invite Jamie Reed to provide a

presentation on the NDA's social impact policy. Dave Wallace said he would take this back and explore a suitable date for this.

**Action: DSG(2021)M04/A002: Dave Wallace, NDA to identify a date for Jamie Reed, NDA Director of Socio Economics to provide a presentation to DSG on NDA's social impact policy.**

- Tor Justad noted that Dr Rick Wylie, Lancaster University had recently visited Caithness to undertake research on the public value of the Dounreay site. He asked if a report had been provided yet. June Love noted that this had not been received and was expected to be available next year. Once received she would ensure this was circulated to all DSG members.
- David Broughton noted that contracts had recently been awarded for the shaft and silo. He asked whether there would be a go/no go gate review. In years past there had never been an environmental/safety study to inform the decision to empty the shaft. The decision appeared to be a government one with little underpinning information to get to that conclusion. Mark Rouse responded that the material within the shaft, while originally licensed to be stored, had not been disposed of in a manner that would meet today's standards, hence the need to remove the contents. David Broughton noted that at the last meeting there had been a discussion about studies being developed for the waste in the old low level waste pits to be left in situ. He had just wondered if the same had been done for the Shaft and Silo. He added that he was not advocating the waste remained in the shaft but wondered whether a robust safety/environmental case had been made. Mark Rouse responded that there was a lot of work to do for the shaft and silo retrieval and would ensure an update on the status of this project would be provided at the sub group meeting.

**Action: DSG(2021)M04/A003: DSRL to provide a project update on the shaft and silo at next Site Restoration sub group meeting.**

- Bob Earnshaw commented that he had been involved (with Highland Council) with the licensing of the old low level waste pits and while there had been a management plan in place the operational aspects had been diabolical. Personally he would like to see the waste in the pits removed and packaged into the new low level waste facilities.
- David Craig noted that, in relation to the shaft and silo, an extensive decommissioning study was undertaken in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and a huge amount of work had been carried out to explore the options. The information had been provided to the Scottish Office around 1993 including leaving the waste in-situ to full retrieval and the Scottish Office had reviewed this and come to the conclusion that retrieval was the best option.
- Tor Justad noted the update from Scottish Government Radwaste team re the common framework and asked why Northern Ireland was part of this because they did not have nuclear sites. Diane Hamilton took an action to clarify this.

**Action: DSG(2021)M04/A004: Diane Hamilton to clarify why Northern Ireland was part of the 4 nations to take part in National Framework.**

- Tor Justad asked Mark Cleminson what the pre-inspection by DNSR was looking for. Cdr Mark Cleminson responded that DNSR look at a sample of documents that was provided for forthcoming fuel movements and reference of training records. They sample across a wide piece and are provided with any paperwork they wish to see.

There were no further questions from members. Members of the public were then invited to raise any questions. No questions were raised.

#### 4. STATUS OF ACTIONS

Cllr Struan Mackie stated that the business meeting continued to reflect on the status of actions on a regular basis. He was pleased to see that actions were being closed out in a timely manner.

He further noted that there were no outstanding actions from the last meeting with one action still open from previous meetings. To expedite the meeting, he did not plan to go through the action status in detail but did invite members to raise anything of note.

On action DSG (2021)M02/A007 (NDA to provide DSG with a one page diagram of what the current NDA plethora of Boards is to allow DSG to understand the oversight/sanctioning process) Davie Alexander noted that this action had been outstanding for a while now noting it was expected at the end of September/beginning October but felt it was worrying that this had not been closed out. He asked Dave Wallace to comment on the delay.

Dave Wallace responded that there had been a diagram published recently on the new NDA organisation and he would forward this on for information. He added that NDA was currently working on the group operating framework and it was expected that this would be ready for March/April 2023. The operational framework would look at the decision making, governance and how that would feed into the Board structure. He had spoken with the individual responsible for developing this and he had indicated he would be happy to present to DSG at the appropriate time.

Davie Alexander stated that he was disappointed in the delay given this should have been a fairly simple thing to provide given this was about the current situation and had been ongoing for some time now. David Broughton agreed with Davie Alexander's comments, noting he hoped that the new arrangements would not be overly complex as this could turn into a very expensive process.

Mark Rouse responded that to provide some confidence the governance structure for DSRL was crystal clear. There would be a new Group operating framework and these were the changes that were being worked through at present.

Dave Wallace added that the change in governance structure would not be complex it was just there was more to go through before it would be finalised. He noted that it would eventually result in a much simpler process.

Cllr Struan Mackie stated that DSG would take an interest in this and would await this information.

***[For completeness actions from both sub groups and business meetings are included here for ease of reference].***

DSG(2021)M04/A005: June Love to provide an update on the PhD particles study and circulate to members.

DSG(2021)M04/A006: June Love to seek comments and collate the information DSG members would like to see from the DSRL report.

DSG(2021)M04/A007: Davie Alexander to write to Dave Wallace to progress action (M02/A007) re diagram of NDA Boards.

DSG(2021)M04/A008: June Love to send a prompt to Maree Todd re response to DSG letter on PSO for Wick/JOG Airport.

DSG(2021)M04/A009: Davie Alexander to write to Dave Wallace requesting that written updates be provided to the socio economic sub group for each meeting.

DSG(2021)M04/A010: June Love to speak to Eann Sinclair regarding DSG involvement in Caithness Planning Partnership.

DSG(2021)M04/A011: June Love to circulate the response from M Todd re PSO for airport to the wider distribution list.

DSG(2021)M04/A012: June Love to email members advising the December public meeting will be on Teams.

DSG(2021)M04/A013: June Love to look reschedule the Business Meeting currently in the diary for 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021.

DSG(2021)M04/A014: June Love to provide Marie Mackay with the Note for the Record to circulate to Buldoo residents.

DSG(2021)M04/A015: June Love to invite David Broughton and David Craig to DSG Business meeting.

DSG(2021)M04/A016: : Business Meeting members to write down key principles that we would like to see any bidders meet for MOD contract.

DSG(2021)M04/A017: June Love to write to DSG members requesting any additional questions of the Dounreay transition into Magnox.

DSG(2021)M04/A018: June Love to speak with DSRL Board Company Secretary to organise a discussion with DSRL Board Chair and DSG Chair and Vice-chair..

## **5. NDA STAKEHOLDER PRESENTATION**

Cllr Struan Mackie invited Dave Wallace to provide his presentation on an update of his activities since taking on the role as NDA stakeholder lead for Scotland.

Dave Wallace provided his presentation – see DSG(2021)C056 (subsequently circulated to members on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021).

Following the presentation, Cllr Struan Mackie invited questions. Of note:

- Gillian Coghill asked how NDA envisaged three sites working together when each site/community had different aspirations and needs. How could NDA merge these together and was there something coming out of this that would benefit all three Scottish sites?
- Gillian Coghill asked how the social value work impacted on the socio economics in the future?

Dave Wallace acknowledged all three sites were different, noting that if you looked at Hunterston and Chapelcross they were well connected in terms of infrastructure. Further similarities across the sites was one of skills. Looking at the other Scottish sites there was a need for more apprentices, more training and these skills would be needed into the future with the AGRs coming into the NDA. Other synergies for the 3 sites would be things such as net zero

carbon, internationalisation and therefore there would be lots of common agendas for the Scottish sites. All this work would also link to social value and this would continue to be developed.

Dave Wallace added that it would be important for the NDA to work through organisations such as CNSRP (Caithness & North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership), DSG, CNSF (Caithness and North Sutherland Fund) and NHRF (North Highland Regeneration Fund), DSRL and other organisations to ensure everyone was working towards the Dounreay end state. Socio economics and the skills agenda would be very important.

- Tor Justad noted his working background was in engaging with communities in various ways. He asked what the NDA saw as engagement reflecting that at the recent NDA summit it had been a very top down event with death by PowerPoint. He stated that NDA needed to be carrying out engagement a lot better and asked how NDA saw engagement being carried out in the future.

Dave Wallace noted that the definition of engagement was seen as different things by different people. He believed that engagement was not a useful word and NDA should be talking about involvement. He outlined an example of involvement when working with a previous employer. He added that there were a lot of stakeholders that NDA were simply not getting to and this needed some thought and development to ensure groups of those hard to reach people were targeted and then it would be important to pitch the messages to different stakeholders to tell a better story.

- Davie Alexander said that there had been mention of different administration engagements and asked what the engagement cycle was.
- Dave Wallace responded that there was engagement between the devolved Governments, in Scotland and Wales England and the UK government. As an example, NDA had regular meetings with the Scottish Government Radwaste team so they can work together and advise on nuclear topics. These meetings are held every 2 months and engagement with other Scottish Government departments such as the economic arm of Scottish Government had also commenced. NDA talked to a lot of people but had not all been fixed in terms of a cycle of engagement.
- Cllr Stephen Clackson asked whether the NDA engagement would extend to Orkney Islands Council.

Dave Wallace responded that he would be happy to speak with the Council and would make contact shortly.

**Action: DSG(2021)M04/A019: Dave Wallace to make contact with Cllr Stephen Clackson on NDA engagement.**

Cllr Struan Mackie noted that the boundaries in some aspects of DSG work was set in stone, i.e. the Dounreay Travel to Work area. He also added that engagement was a two way thing.

- Cllr Matthew Reiss asked how many people were in the Scottish Government Radwaste team?

Dave Wallace said there was a team of 3 currently. Diane Hamilton confirmed that the Radwaste team did have regular meetings with NDA along with SEPA and other bodies.

There being no further questions, Cllr Struan Mackie thanked Dave Wallace for his presentation.

## 6. MOD DECOMMISSIONING

Cllr Mackie reminded members that Commodore Mark Prince had attend the last public meeting to provide an update on procurement for the decommissioning phase of the Vulcan site. After that presentation there had been a number of questions raised by various members of the DSG and therefore it was felt appropriate to bring this back to the table so there was an opportunity for these questions to be responded to.

He thanked Cdr Mark Cleminson for his attendance this evening and before opening up to members for questions, Cllr Struan Mackie asked

- whether MOD would retain management control of the site during decommissioning? **Response:** MOD want to decommission the site and at some point this will move to the NDA. Consideration of when the handover will be was still in discussion.
- Roger Saxon asked whether a cost benefit analysis been done (for the UK tax payer) in terms of what was the best model for undertaking decommissioning of the Vulcan site. Had anyone costed out MOD taking forward the contract in comparison to the NDA and what the pros/cons of both would be? He also asked what were the likely costs associated with each organisation taking this forward? **Response:** MOD had carried out an initial investment appraisal. Further reviews would be undertaken in terms of safety, security and other key factors. For projects such as these, there is a defined process to follow. The initial investment appraisal has been completed and consideration continues on the options to ensure best value for the UK taxpayer as well as considering the local context.
- Roger Saxon asked whether this also included benefits for the community? **Response:** Yes it would be linked into local benefit for social value. Social Value would be part of the tendering process.
- Gillian Coghill wondered if the MOD knew how much the decommissioning contract would be worth and if funds had been set aside for this activity. She also emphasised the need for consistency around the decommissioning programme linking this to a consistent plan which in turn would support the local supply chain. She asked if all this was in place. **Response:** MOD has funding provision within its 10 year budget planning cycle. In terms of ensuring consistency the Vulcan plan would be aligned to the DSRL plan as some site services were shared between the sites and therefore decommissioning would be carried out in a parallel.
- Trudy Morris asked what assurances could be given to the national companies likely to bid for this contract. She added that it can cost up to millions of pounds to bid for such a contract and if the site was handed over to the NDA what assurances were there that the contract would not be taken back in house under the OneNDA remit. **Response:** Until discussions have developed further it was difficult to provide a definitive answer at this time.
- Cllr Matthew Reiss noted previous discussions around social value that seeks to benefit UK plc as opposed to socio economic benefits for the Caithness & North Sutherland area. These needs could be quite different and his concern was that the criteria for social value would be made by people in London who had no idea where Caithness was let alone understand the issues the community was facing in term so future employment for the rea. He asked how MOD was going to ensure that the social value benefited the community that, for the past 50+ years, had been a supportive community for MOD. **Response:** The Commodore had touched on this topic at the last DSG meeting. Early discussions had taken place with

CNSRP, Chamber of Commerce and representatives of DSG and these discussions would continue. Social Value was a criteria that would be assessed in awarding the contract and would have a 10% weighting applied. Personally, Cdr Mark Cleminson had worked in the area twice and he was keen to ensure that this process was done correctly as he wanted to be welcomed back when he came to visit in future years.

- Eann Sinclair noted that Matthew Reiss has touched on the topic and noted that the previous presentation given had re-iterated the importance of community input. He noted that a lot of people attending this meeting had been heavily involved in the Dounreay site competition and believed that those bidding for the work had found it beneficial. He wondered if there were any views in repeating this process?
- Peter Faccenda noted that a couple of meetings had taken place which involved DSG, CNSRP and the Chamber of Commerce. All these organisations understood what the process for competition would be and it would be important to ensure that there was meaningful discussions with meaningful input to help shape what the social value offering was for the area. It would be useful to ensure these discussions continued in a timely manner to allow local organisations to influence the social value criteria within the tender documents.
- Bob Earnshaw commented that he too had been involved in the engagement of bidders for the Dounreay contract and while socio economics had been included in the contract it had a lower weighting. He felt that there was appropriate representation within the DSG to get really involved with helping influence the social value criteria.

**Response:** Social value is now mandated through procurement processes and the weighting would be set at 10%. As for meaningful discussion with DSG representatives it was anticipated that those most appropriate organisations from DSG would be invited to the market engagement day to ensure those bidding for the contract understood the importance of the community desires.

- David Craig commented on an earlier question from Trudy Morris relating to contractual arrangements. While currently MOD operates the site it appeared that NDA would take over the site in the future. There were no private operators now working on the NDA estate as all the contracts had been terminated early and all operations were now back in-house. How likely was it that a contract awarded under MOD would continue under the NDA? As a person who formerly worked within the private sector it takes a lot of time, effort and money to bid for contracts of this scale with the potential for that contract to be cut short.
- Dave Craig also asked if there was any information that can be shared in terms of the discussions between MOD and NDA?

**Response:** Discussions between MOD and NDA were happening and have been for some time. MOD understand the concerns of issuing a contract and work is ongoing with the PIN (Prior Information Notice) at the moment. At present this is all that could be said about the process but would take this away and explore whether more information could be provided.

- Given the increasing importance of sustainability (as evidenced, for example, through government greening commitments, net zero targets and social value obligations) Niall Watson asked whether the MOD could confirm that sustainability will be integral to the development of the decommissioning programme for Vulcan and not simply an add on or a tick box exercise? In tabling this question Niall Watson made the point that the perceptions

of the unions (both locally and nationally) was that the socio-economic criteria used to assess the bids for the Dounreay contract in 2011 had to a large extent been a box ticking exercise. **Response:** MOD's understanding is that there will be a Sustainability regulator and MOD were taking this very seriously. Sustainable skills could be part of the social value criteria and the site was also looking at the route to net zero. The precise make-up of social value scoring is in the early stages of development and it was stressed that MOD would take Sustainability very seriously.

There being no further questions, Cllr Struan Mackie thanked Cdr Mark Cleminson for his responses. He added that while a number of themes were known he expected that there would be another opportunity closer to the PIN for future discussions. He would also expect to see DSG involvement in the Market Day and discussions with potential bidders to ensure that those bidders could see the depth of what was already in the area that they could capitalise on.

## 7. DSRL/MAGNOX

Cllr Mackie noted that DSG would be taking a keen interest in the joining of Dounreay and Magnox and had welcomed David Peattie's comments that the site would continue to be unique and the funding for the site would be ring-fenced. There had been a number of meetings with NDA, DSRL and the DSRL Board chair on this topic but he felt it was equally important to ensure that questions raised could be responded to in public to allow all members to keep updated on this topic.

Cllr Struan Mackie added that since Mark Rouse had provided an update under agenda item 2 he would hand over to members for questions.

- David Broughton noted that, in the past, he had been involved in a number of advisory committees that had helped formulate decommissioning strategies and financial cases to (the then) DTI. These committees had external representation from Sellafield members who were working in identical areas to those of the advisory committees. This input was very relevant and helpful. (It was also reciprocated). In 2007-2012 CoRWM representatives had the opportunity to visit the Magnox decommissioning sites. These were of course of great interest but the observation was that these were much simpler sites to decommission and had none of the experimental fuel decommissioning problems Dounreay and Sellafield have. The few similarities appear to be the provision of HAW stores and Trawsfynydd having similar rural problems of staffing and future alternative work to Dounreay.

Given this why was Dounreay not being linked to Sellafield which has similar decommissioning challenges but on a larger scale rather than Magnox, and would there not be much more opportunity for interactive working on similar projects with Sellafield and for a much longer timescale than working with Magnox? **Response:** It was correct to say that Dounreay has a lot of synergies with Sellafield but it was felt that having considered the options of joining with Magnox or Sellafield the decision was taken that if DSRL had joined with Sellafield, DSRL would have been a micro-dot within that structure. Collaboration was already happening, and would continue, with Sellafield as there were a lot of synergies, i.e. fuel routes, joint working groups with Dounreay having the opportunity to be a 'lead and learn' site for Sellafield and for Magnox. Therefore this relationship would remain even with DSRL joining Magnox which allowed DSRL to be a big and important player within that structure. David Broughton responded that the evidence of this would be seen in the next 6-12 months as to how this goes.

- Roger Saxon noted that he had worked at Dounreay since he had left school and had gone through many changes of companies, from UKAEA, AEA Technology, RWE Nukem, Nukem and then latterly Nuvia. Every time there had been a change of organisation it had resulted in a

very expensive cost to rebrand. He noted that DRS (Direct Rail Services) had been able to retain its brand even after being re-organised into NTS (Nuclear Transport Services) and hoped that this could result in DSRL keeping its strong 'Dounreay' identity. The brand could also change further down the line as the AGR fleets also join the Magnox structure. **Response:** There are no plans to change the Dounreay identity. DSRL would disappear (as the site licence company) but Dounreay would remain. There would be some costs to this as DSRL would need to be taken away but mostly it was expected that the site would be badged as Dounreay (as it currently is). Roger Saxon said it would be good to see the Dounreay name continue as it was well known and well understood.

- Gillian Coghill commented that there had been a number of new recruits to the Dounreay Executive structure and noted that if the DSRL Board disappeared it was unlikely that those sitting in these Executive positions (other than the DSRL MD) would be appointed to a Magnox Board. It could be, with the joining of Magnox and DSRL, the jobs those individuals had applied for would not be the same in the future and asked for assurances that these roles would continue and not become part of a massive restructure further down the line. **Response:** It was acknowledged there had been a number of new recruits to the Executive team and this would not change. Basically the Dounreay structure would be a plug and play into the Magnox structure which allowed the team to remain consistent. Rather than a big restructure he imagined there would be dotted lines to others within Magnox.
- Gillian Coghill also commented that, not directly related to the Magnox/DSRL joining, it would be useful for DSG to understand that when DSRL reports on delivery of projects it is made clear whether these have been completed to time and on budget. She added that DSG's remit was to ensure there was a value to the taxpayer and this was the type of information that would be useful. **Response:** Consideration of good use of the public purse was something that was constantly considered when working through the requirements for site projects. It was suggested taking this discussion through the sub group meetings as while the information would be available there was a need to respect the supply chain (in terms of commercial confidentiality). He stated that there was no reason why this information in some form could not be provided.

**Action: DSG(2021)M04/A020: DSRL to take forward discussions on the information in terms of project progress, against schedule and cost at the next site restoration sub group meeting.**

- Roger Saxon asked if ONR accepted that the site licence would transfer from DSRL to Magnox? **Response:** DSRL had been working with both ONR and SEPA on both re-permitting and re-licensing. By keeping the model simple DSRL believes that the changes to the Management of Change documentation (Licence Condition 36) would be relatively straight forward. Dialogue would continue with both Regulators as these documents were developed.
- Roger Saxon commented that every time there was a change of organisation structure (Dounreay to PBO to NDA) there was a hiatus in decommissioning planning. When he was chair of DSG, he never quite got to the bottom of this. Programme dates were always changing and promises of a Life Time Plan was always a year away. NDA has known everything about the Dounreay site for some time now and yet the site cannot give the community an end date yet. DSG members had recently taken part in a virtual tour of the site and all the introductions around this were fixed on short term and long term challenges. It was hard to understand what long term challenges there were considering this is all meant to be dealt with within the next 10 years. By not being able to define an end date it is worrying for the community and people at Dounreay who just simply don't believe it will ever close down. **Response:** It is well understood that DSG has frustrations about the lack of detail of the Life Time Plan. A lot is

well known about Dounreay and how it all stacks up. However, after the development of the Life Time Plan there is a number of processes to go through before this plan can be made public. The Life Time Plan was being rebuilt and at present the site executive team were looking at the uncertainties and assumptions which underpinned the PBO plan. The development of the LTP would be finalised at end March 2022 but it would then go through a number of challenges by the Board (Magnox were continuing to work on their plans also). Following the Board review and challenge, it would then go through NDA, BEIS and Treasury before being finalised and made public. It was expected that it would take approx. 18 months to get this through due process and ensure all the building blocks were in place. Therefore the lifetime plan would not be finalised and approved before April 2023. Mark Rouse added that he would be happy to provide some updates to the business meeting to ensure they were informed on the progress being made.

Roger Saxon added that while he understood there were processes to go through and these could be time consuming as a stakeholder group they were here to represent the community. He did not feel it was a good look if private updates were provided. Mark Rouse responded that he only meant by way of ensuring DSG were kept up to date with the progress on the process and not provide 'private' updates on specific elements of the plan.

- Davie Alexander, noted that Niall Watson, Chair of DSRL TUCC, was at the meeting this evening and expected this was something that the Dounreay unions had already asked. The question for him was how confident was DSRL that Dounreay would continue to keep all of its support roles in place locally or whether Magnox would try to centralise some of these functions which could mean early job losses in this area? **Response:** The structure as proposed means that Dounreay would maintain its structure in its entirety. If there was any discussion on centralisation then there was no reason why that could not happen at Dounreay. However, at this time this was not something that was being considered as the focus right now was to ensure a robust life time plan and a period to settle down. There will be lots of lessons to be learnt with the joining of the two structures and these will be discussed at the GLT (NDA Group Leadership Team) of which the MD of Dounreay would be a member. If there was any discussion on centralisation of roles he would fight hard to ensure that these could come to Dounreay. Cllr Struan Mackie noted that given past centralisation of other organisations it was apparent that within the county that centralisation always went in the opposite direction. He recognised that other Magnox sites would also have the same views.
- Cllr Struan Mackie noted that he had received a couple of questions from a member of the public who could not attend this evening. At present DSRL continue to recruit personnel to replace those who leave/retire and also to supplement their current resources. This adds to the decommissioning liability for the taxpayer in the form of future pension and redundancy liabilities. Is this likely to be the Magnox model or will they make more use of the local supply chain, which would minimise these liabilities? The need to maintain and enhance a thriving local supply chain needs to be considered from a perspective of providing a source of well-paid employment for DSRL staff post decommissioning of Dounreay. **Response:** This will be something that will be looked in the future.
- Cllr Mackie then noted many members of our local supply chain, as well as DSRL employees, have both supported and relied on work on the Dounreay site ever since the site was founded. Many of the local supply chain have indeed used the skills learned at Dounreay to good effect in other industries and countries. Why are those supply chain skills not included in the current Skills Survey exercise? **Response:** The skills audit currently being carried out is focussing on the skills of the direct DSRL employees. The supply chain will be included once the DSRL survey is complete. These will be on different timescales.

- One initiative being proposed at present is the establishment of a local ‘nuclear skills hub’. Shall the local supply chain be part of this hub, or shall they be competing against the hub for the same work outside of the Dounreay site? **Response:** The word ‘hub’ is being a lot these days and means many things. Right now, DSRL is talking about a building for offsite offices for the DSRL workforce to work from where they do not need to have a permanent presence on site. By doing this it allows less people to be working on a daily basis on the nuclear licensed site and also brings some spending power into the town centre. With the restrictions of Covid a temporary office space was opened up at Ormlie but it is recognised that this is not big enough to continue future working arrangements. We will go away and better define the office needs for this new facility. In the longer term it is hoped that the new office premises would also provide some collaborative space that might include the supply chain.
- Thelma Mackenzie noted that there had been discussions previously on driving safety and serious concerns had been raised about speeding especially on the Reay and Forss roads. A working group had been set up with Highland Councillors, Transport Scotland and other organisations to look at how these driving concerns could be addressed. She asked if Dounreay and Vulcan management would consider the proposals coming forward and support this initiative. **Response:** It was agreed that the driving speeds within these areas were of concern and that the sites would provide support where appropriate.

There being no further questions, Cllr Struan Mackie commented that while questions had strayed away from the Magnox/Dounreay joining it had been useful to raise these other issues here. He thanked Mark Rouse for providing responses noting that DSG would continue to raise questions in this public forum or via the sub groups as they arose.

## 8. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Cllr Struan Mackie handed over to Prof Ray Kemp for a short update on the progress of the DSG review.

Prof Ray Kemp thanked DSG for giving him some time to provide feedback. He apologised for his late arrival at the meeting but had been having broadband connection issues due to the weather. He introduced himself for those who had not met him before noting he had been commissioned by the DSG to provide an independent review of the DSG to identify areas where things could be improved. His working background had been focussed on risk management within the nuclear industry and he was also a member of both CoRWM and COMARE.

Prof Ray Kemp commented that it had been really helpful looking at the process of DSG and to view some of the content that was provided to DSG members to consider what the issues were. To date he had conducted 17 face to face interviews and a survey monkey had been developed that would be issued to all participants of the meeting this evening and he encouraged everyone to complete the short questionnaire. He noted that this would be circulated by the DSG secretariat on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

**Action: DSG(2021)M04/A021: June Love to circulate DSG review survey to all members of DSG and members of the public in attendance.**

Noting the various discussions this evening, in terms of social value, socio economic impact and socio economics his colleague, Andrew Walters, had been picking up this thread and talking to people in Government to try and get some clarity on these topics. At present there appeared to be a number of interpretations around the various topics.

With his CoRWM hat on, Prof Kemp, assured David Broughton that CoRWM had recently visited Sellafield and had spoken with various project managers who had talked about the collaboration of various activities between them and Dounreay. With reference to the links between Sellafield and Dounreay it is considered very important to ensure these links were maintained and assurances had been provided.

Back to the DSG review, a draft report would be provided by the end of December. This would then be discussed in terms of providing clarity and the document would be refined and then provided to DSG to take forward. He added that he had been very impressed to hear the depth of discussion and information. He looked forward to having further discussion on the draft plan with a view to finalising it early in the new year.

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked Prof Kemp for taking forward this work and looked forward to receiving the draft in due course. He encouraged all those attending the meeting to respond to the survey when issued.

With no further business, Cllr Mackie thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their input. He wished everyone a peaceful Christmas and New Year break and looked forward to seeing everyone and continuing the work for DSG in 2022.

Cllr Struan Mackie formally closed the meeting.

**Cllr Struan Mackie**  
**DSG Chair**  
11 December 2021

**ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING**

DSG(2021)M04/A001: DSRL to provide an update on the FIDDLER (related to particle monitoring) at the next site restoration sub group.

DSG(2021)M04/A002: Dave Wallace, NDA to identify a date for Jamie Reed, NDA Director of Socio Economics to provide a presentation to DSG on NDA's social impact policy.

DSG(2021)M04/A003: DSRL to provide a project update on the shaft and silo at next Site Restoration sub group meeting.

DSG(2021)M04/A004: Diane Hamilton to clarify why Northern Ireland was part of the 4 nations to take part in National Framework.

DSG(2021)M04/A005: June Love to provide an update on the PhD particles study and circulate to members.

DSG(2021)M04/A006: June Love to seek comments and collate the information DSG members would like to see from the DSRL report.

DSG(2021)M04/A007: Davie Alexander to write to Dave Wallace to progress action (M02/A007) re diagram of NDA Boards.

DSG(2021)M04/A008: June Love to send a prompt to Maree Todd re response to DSG letter on PSO for Wick/JOG Airport.

DSG(2021)M04/A009: Davie Alexander to write to Dave Wallace requesting that written updates be provided to the socio economic sub group for each meeting.

DSG(2021)M04/A010: June Love to speak to Eann Sinclair regarding DSG involvement in Caithness Planning Partnership.

DSG(2021)M04/A011: June Love to circulate the response to the wider distribution list.

DSG(2021)M04/A012: June Love to email members advising the December public meeting will be on Teams.

DSG(2021)M04/A013: June Love to look reschedule the Business Meeting currently in the diary for 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021.

DSG(2021)M04/A014: June Love to provide Marie Mackay with the Note for the Record to circulate to Buldoo residents.

DSG(2021)M04/A015: June Love to invite David Broughton and David Craig to DSG Business meeting.

DSG(2021)M04/A016: : Business Meeting member to write down key principles that we would like to see any bidders meet for MOD contract.

DSG(2021)M04/A017: June Love to write to DSG members requesting any additional questions of the Dounreay transition into Magnox.

DSG(2021)M04/A018: June Love to speak with DSRL Board Company Secretary to organise a discussion with DSRL Board Chair and DSG Chair and Vice-chair..

DSG(2021)M04/A019: Dave Wallace to make contact with Cllr Stephen Clackson on NDA engagement.

DSG(2021)M04/A020: DSRL to take forward discussions on the information in terms of project progress, against schedule and cost at the next site restoration sub group meeting.

DSG(2021)M04/A021: June Love to circulate DSG review survey to all members of DSG and members of the public in attendance.

#### **ACTIONS ONGOING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

DSG(2021)M02/A007: Following on from the recent announcement on the NDA Review, can NDA/DSRL provide DSG with a one page diagram of what the current NDA plethora of Boards is to allow DSG to understand the oversight/sanctioning process.

**Action ongoing:** See discussion within DSG(2021)M03 for update. **Expected to be available in March/April 2023.**

#### **ACTIONS COMPLETED**

DSG(2021)M02/A002: Diane Hamilton, Scottish Government Radwaste Team, to provide a more detailed organisation chart to provide background of those involved. **Action complete:** see DSG(2021)C050

DSG(2021)M02/A003: Diane Hamilton, Scottish Government Radwaste Team, to ensure Ministers were aware of urgency to reach a decision on whether Fusion was new nuclear and would be part of the Energy policy. **Action complete:** Scottish ministers confirmed their intention to update Scotland's energy strategy in 2021. SG have now started this work and these fusion issues are now being considered in more detail. A draft of the strategy for consultation is expected in 2022. New action raised – see DSG(2021)M03/A028.

DSG(2021)M02/A009: June Love to ask Dave Wallace to provide an update at the next Socio Economic sub group meeting and have this as a standing agenda item. **Action complete:** This action was closed due to the NDA Scottish Strategy being on hold. It will be re-introduced once this piece of work restarts.

DSG(2021)M03/A001: Rebecca Marshall to provide slide presentation to June Love to cascade to DSG members. **Action complete:** see DSG(2021)C034.

DSG(2021)M03/A002: June Love to provide email introductions to the Chamber of Commerce and CNSRP for follow up discussions. **Action complete:** Introductions provided by email on 22 July 2021.

DSG(2021)M03/A003: June Love to circulate final scope for DSG review to all DSG members. **Action complete:** circulated to all DSG members on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

DSG(2021)M03/A004: DSG Socio economic sub group members to provide any comment on DSRL's Social Impact Plan and programme. **Action complete:** no comments received.

DSG(2021)M03/A005: June Love to speak with Dave Wallace re an update of the NDA Scottish Strategy at the December public meeting. **Action ongoing:** Emailed on 26<sup>th</sup> July to request presentation in December.

DSG(2021)M03/A006: June Love to send Tor Justad the DSG status of actions to reflect the responses to actions raised in January 2021. **Action complete:** sent on 21 July 2021.

DSG(2021)M03/A007: Sam Usher to liaise with June Love re setting up meetings with Frederic Stalin to allow introductions to DSG and Buldoo residents. **Action complete:** invites out in diary – meeting with DSG Business meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September.

DSG(2021)M03/A008: June Love to circulate final DSG review scope to all DSG members for information. **Action complete:** circulated to members on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021

DSG(2021)M03/A009: June Love to invite John West, HLH to business meeting to discuss progress on the re-opening of the North Coast Visitor Attraction (former Caithness Horizons). **Action complete:** attended DSG Business meeting on 31 August 2021 – minutes provide update.

DSG(2021)M03/A010: June Love to commence the DSG review by inviting tender responses to the DSG review scope. **Action complete:** Two proposals received and after consideration Prof Ray Kemp was selected to undertake the audit.

DSG(2021)M03/A011: June Love to ask SSG Chair of Chairs for an update on the NDA SSG guidance and prompt for copy of email relating to NDA topics for discussion. **Action complete:** NDA SSG Guidance now received and will be taken on board when review is undertaken.

DSG(2021)M03/A012: June Love to invite Jill Tilt to a meeting of the DSG business meeting. **Action complete:** invite sent by email on 17<sup>th</sup> August and Jill Tilt attended business meeting in August.

DSG(2021)M03/A013: Davie Alexander to write to Maree Todd requesting support for the PSO for Wick/JOG airport. **Action complete:** Letter sent to Maree Todd on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021 (DSG(2021)C038 refers).

DSG(2021)M03/A014: Davie Alexander to write to Highland Council expressing disappointment of delays to maintenance for North Coast Visitors Attraction (formerly Caithness Horizons). **Action complete:** Letter sent – see DSG(2021)C039.

DSG(2021)M03/A015: Dawn Clasper to circulate DSG review proposals to business meeting for discussion at the meeting to be held on 31 August 2021. **Action complete:** Circulated to discuss at Business meeting on 31 August.

DSG(2021)M03/A016: June Love to check status of DSG representation at the Caithness Community Planning Partnership. **Action complete:** Confirmation received noting DSG is still on membership. The CPP did pivot to working via the Resilience Group during Covid. Planning first CPP meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> August and DSG should receive an invite.

DSG(2021)M03/A017 Cllr Struan Mackie to write to NDA requesting update on NDA property regarding the SimBA charity. **Action complete:** see DSG(2021)C040

DSG(2021)M03/A018: Dawn Clasper to circulate response from Maree Todd. **Action complete:** see DSG(2021)C041 – circulated to business meeting on 31/8/2021 and to members on 6/9/2021.

DSG(2021)M03/A019 Dawn Clasper to circulate the NCVC brief. **Action complete:** circulated to business meeting on 31/08/21.

DSG(2021)M03/A020: DSG to arrange a meeting in the NCVC once back to normal meeting arrangements. **Action closed:** Business meeting agreed to close this action out as it will be something that DSG continues to consider alongside encouraging use from other organisation groups.

DSG(2021)M03/A021: Dawn Clasper to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposals. **Action complete:** meeting arranged for 7<sup>th</sup> September

DSG(2021)M03/A022: June Love to contact John West regarding the soft opening for the NCVC. **Action complete:** NCVC will re-open at the beginning of November. A HC press release will be issued shortly.

DSG(2021)M03/A023: June Love to draft response from DSG group re CNSRP Advisory Board. **Action complete:** See DSG(2021)C049

DSG(2021)M03/A024: June Love to invite Gail Ross to a Business Meeting. **Action complete:** will attend meeting scheduled for 26 October 2021.

DSG(2021)M03/A025: June Love to put options for site end state on agenda for a public presentation at the appropriate time. **Action complete:** this has been added to rolling topics for future meetings on the DSG calendar and therefore will be picked up at the appropriate time.

DSG(2021)M03/A026: June Love to invite David Broughton and Dave Craig to a business meeting to discuss way forward to closing out action on Scottish Government Radioactive Waste Team. **Action**

**complete:** D Broughton to attend Business meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> October (Dave Craig has provided D Broughton with update for this discussion as he is not available to attend).

DSG(2021)M03/A027: June Love to co-ordinate a date for all interested DSG members to take part in the site's virtual tour. **Action complete:** virtual tours arranged for 23<sup>rd</sup> November and 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

DSG(2021)M03/A028: Diane Hamilton to contact the Energy policy team to request clarity on dates for review and consultation. **Action complete:** Fusion energy will be considered as part of work to refresh Scotland's energy strategy. Work on that process is currently getting underway, with the aim to publish a draft of the energy strategy refresh in spring 2022. (NB follow up actions identified via Business meeting held on 9 November 2021).

DSG(2021)M03/A029: Gail Ross, Dounreay Head of Communications to contact Cllr Matthew Reiss re driving safety messages to be incorporated into site briefing. **Action complete:** Communications Team is working up the road safety communications and have been in touch with Cllr Reiss for his input.