Dounreay Stakeholder Group Review

Ray Kemp March 2022

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1

Summary of Work Undertaken

- Desk review of background documentation
- Meeting attendance to observe engagement between DSG members, stakeholders and others:
 - ✓ Socio-Economics
 - ✓ Site Restoration
 - ✓ Business Group
 - ✓ DSG Public meeting
- Semi-structured interviews (17) conducted with members and observers
- On-Line Questionnaire Survey
- Research into "Social Value"
- · Draft and Final Reports

2

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Oversight

• DSG should continue to emphasise to the NDA that the greatest similarity to Dounreay in terms of safety and environmental challenges is the Sellafield site.

Promoting Dounreay as a "lead and learn" site –makes a great deal of sense and would be of potential benefit to both sites and their local communities.

 DSG would benefit from access to occasional independent technical advice regarding site restoration of both the Dounreay and in due course the Vulcan site.

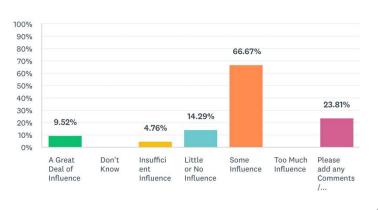
Effective oversight requires the ability to ask the "right" questions of the responsible site operators. It is likely going to be increasingly difficult for the DSG to retain sufficient expertise within its own ranks to hold the sites to account without knowing what are the "right" questions to ask.

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3

Oversight

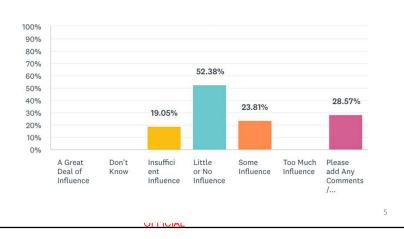
Regarding the work of the DSG and its influence over the future decommissioning the DOUNREAY site. Do you think it has:



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Oversight

Regarding the work of the DSG and its influence over the future decommissioning the VULCAN site. Do you think it has:



5

Socio-Economics

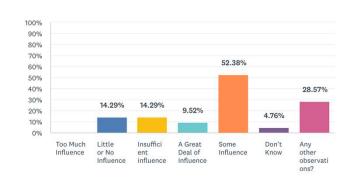
- DSG needs to "punch above its weight" to secure greater access and opportunities and this can only be achieved through collaboration. The current leadership team of the DSG clearly recognise this. The challenge is to maintain a coherent plan of action for the medium term.
- DSG should be wary of the introduction of concepts such as Social Value that have been developed by advisers at UK national government level but which have little or no relevance to the context in which Dounreay is placed. A strategy is required to maximise the chance of extracting local socio-economic benefit from decommissioning at the Vulcan site.

6

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Socio-Economics

Regarding the work of the DSG and its influence over the future well-being of the Dounreay / Caithness / Sutherland Region. Do you think it has:



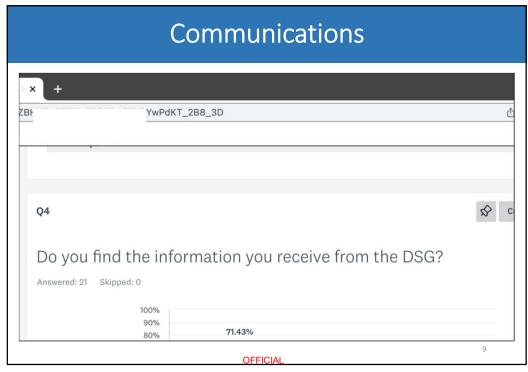
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7

Communications

- DSG has extensive antennae and a network of connections linking it
 into the Caithness and Sutherland area and beyond. The concern is the
 need to bring in some "new blood" to secure the future of the DSG and
 ensure that its continuing contribution is both effective and
 meaningful. This is a common problem in public life and there is no
 "quick fix".
- Links with the North Highland College and the University of the Highlands and Islands should be developed further through for example encouraging project work or inviting external speakers to raise awareness encourage engagement around the core issues of interest to the DSG.

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9

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"Top Line" Findings

- All respondents speak highly of the work of the DSG and the commitment shown to secure the socio-economic and environmental well-being of Dounreay, and of Caithness and Sutherland more broadly
- The remit of the DSG is broad and complex
- · The workload of the DSG is correspondingly heavy
- The work of the DSG has continued in the face of difficult challenges presented by CoVID-19, structural changes in the management of the Dounreay site
- A number of challenges ahead deserve further dialogue and consideration
- The DSG leadership team and its supporting secretariat are acknowledged as both hardworking and effective, and should be congratulated for providing a model of stakeholder engagement among the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency's fleet of operations

10

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Dounreay Stakeholder Group Review Thank You!