

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group (DSG) public meeting held on Wednesday 8 June 2022 at 1900 hrs in the Pentland Hotel (Ballroom) / via MS Teams.

Present:	Cllr Struan Mackie	Chair (The Highland Council)
	Davie Alexander	Vice-chair (Wick and Thurso Trades Council)
	Eann Sinclair	HIE
	Tor Justad	Co-opted member of the public
	Sandy Mackie	Scrabster Harbour
	Giles Huby	North Highland College, UHI
	Peter Faccenda	CNSRP Programme Manager
	Gillian Coghill	Buldoo Residents independent chair
	Dave Craig	Caithness West Community Council
	Thelma Mackenzie	Thurso Community Council
	David Broughton	Co-opted member of the public
	Trudy Morris	Caithness Chamber of Commerce
	Abbe Luckock	Women in Nuclear
	Cllr Kristopher Leask	Orkney Islands Council
In attendance:	Jamie Reed	NDA Director, Socio economics
	Mark Rouse	DSRL Managing Director
	Barrie Cran	DSRL Director of Assurance
	Alan Mackay	NDA Site Facing Team
	SI Ian Davies	CNC
	Ian Rogers	ONR
	Stewart Ballantine	SEPA
	Cdr Ian Walker	MOD Vulcan
	James Bryson	DNSR
	Diane Hamilton	SG Radwaste
	Laura Hogg	NDA secondee to SG radwaste

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Cllr Struan Mackie welcomed everyone to the meeting. He opened by congratulating June Love on being awarded an MBE for services to nuclear industry and Caithness & NS community.

He welcomed Abbe Luckock (Women in Nuclear), Cllr Kristopher Leask (deputising for Cllr Stephen Clackson (Orkney Islands Council) and Jamie Reed, NDA Director of Socio Economics who would be providing a presentation.

Cllr Mackie noted that the Highland Councillor representation for DSG would be ratified shortly and these would be confirmed at a future meeting.

Cllr Mackie added that DSG had received a letter from Gareth Taylor, NDA regarding attendance at these meetings. Gareth's role had broadened to take account of some wider aspects of the NDA Group and therefore had nominated Alan Mackay to take the lead in representing NDA at DSG meetings. Gareth Taylor had intimated he would be willing to attend future meetings if the need arose. Cllr Mackie placed on record thanks to Gareth for

his input to DSG over the years.

He then thanked Navertech for supporting the blended meeting.

Cllr Mackie stated there had been quite a lot of activity since the last meeting and this would be outlined under Any Other Business.

Before moving on, Cllr Mackie stated that DSG were aware of the safety performance of the site over the last couple of months and he, along with the vice-chair and sub group chair, had met with Ian Rogers, ONR to discuss and then followed up with a meeting with Mark Rouse to understand if there was a root cause. Assurances were received from both ONR and the site that they were taking this very seriously and Mark Rouse had indicated there was a need for improvement. Currently the DSG officials were satisfied that the discussions between site and regulators were robust and that site was taking appropriate action. DSG would continue to be updated as the site works towards making improvements.

Mark Rouse stated that the site was taking this very seriously adding that as the site ramped back up following Covid-19 there had been an awareness of a deterioration of the safety indicators. There were plans in place to refocus on safety with safety stand-downs across the site that had been informed by site safety reps and management. The site was in this together and the workforce were being encouraged to come forward with solutions. The safety stand-downs were to allow time for teams to get together to discuss issues and ensure that different people within the business could engage. There would be no silver bullet but there was a recognition that there needed to be a refocus on safety.

Ian Rogers, ONR stated that it was fair to say that ONR had concerns. The site inspection team were on site monthly and on this occasion there was also a visit from one of the ONR specialist inspectors. DSRL were proactively engaged on improvements of activities and ONR continued to be satisfied with the evidence provided. At this time, ONR were broadly content activities were being carried out in a safe and secure manner.

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked both for their updates and invited questions.

- Gillian Coghill asked that considering the enhanced approach of ONR on site, how did this reflect on the leadership team, with the lack of a plan on the table and the low morale on site at the moment? Mark Rouse responded that the site had a plan and at the moment was working to the Near Term Work Plan with a clear timeline for the finalisation of the Life Time Plan. The LTP was taking time as there was a recognition that it was better to do it once and do it thoroughly so there would be surety around the timescales once published. While the safety stand-downs had commenced there were other activities coming forward including a workforce survey to encourage more feedback. He added there were a lot of good things happening on the site and it was important that these did not get lost. Morale at times was likely to be fragile but the response from the workforce on the safety issues was positive.
- Gillian Coghill responded that she had been made aware that there were a number of people on site with low morale and felt this was important to address. There was a need to have more meetings to discuss how improvements could be made. It was imperative that quite a significant sodium incident was thoroughly investigated and was pleased to hear that both ONR and SEPA were on this as well.

Ian Rogers emphasised that ONR were not currently carrying out enhanced monitoring. The site inspectors have a schedule for visits and it just happens that a team of specialist inspectors have also been scheduled to visit this month to discuss the CDM regulations.

ONR had carried out preliminary enquiries on the sodium tank farm and wished to see progress on the LTP noting that ONR were also concerned about the pockets of low morale on site. ONR had undertaken a formal review in relation to the culture at the site and DSRL had received ONR's feedback in an open and pro-active manner. Ian Rogers also pointed out that just this week he had sensed a change in attitudes and behaviours across the site. ONR continues to conduct visits to facilities to get a feel from the workforce and from the discussions held to date it is clear that staff want to get involved, working with the management team to get Dounreay back to where they want to be. His sense was that the site had done this before and he had every confidence that they will do it again.

- Gillian Coghill stated that it appeared that this was work in progress. Ian Rogers confirmed this adding it would be fair to say that the current situation at Dounreay was due to a number of factors, some out with their control, and that this would take time to recover fully. He stressed that the site needed time to settle down and he had every confidence that this would be the case.
- Tor Justad asked how long would ONR's investigation take? Ian Rogers responded that the investigation would take as long as was necessary. Preliminary enquiries would conclude next week. At present ONR were on a fact finding exercise to inform considerations concerning the need for a full investigation or the application of other available enforcement options. This would be reported in due course.
- Tor Justad asked if there were key factors for low morale on the site. Mark Rouse responded that this was not what he recognised acknowledging that there were some people disappointed in relation to the sodium tank incident but feedback, through surveys, from staff showed there was a lot of good things going on. The site had just hosted a visit from the NDA Chair and feedback had been that there was recognition that there were issues and challenges to address but that every person spoken to had shown so much pride in their work.

Cllr Struan Mackie stated that one thing he would take away from this discussion was not to whip up mass hysteria and that it was comforting that the regulators and site had taken prompt action. The outcomes had to be safety first for site and community.

2. APOLOGIES

June Love noted apologies had been received from:

- Roger Saxon, DSG Honorary member
- Brian Mutch, Scot Gov Rural Payments
- Ron Gunn, CHAT
- Niall Watson, DSRL Unions
- Cllr Willie Mackay, The Highland Council
- Debbie Murray, North Highland College – Giles Huby deputising
- Cllr Matthew Reiss, The Highland Council
- Vik Winspear Roberts, ONR

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Cllr Mackie noted that the minutes of the last public meeting – DSG(2022)M01 refers – had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. It was agreed this was a true reflection of the meeting and this was proposed by Dave Craig and seconded by Peter Faccenda. No issues were raised.

Cllr Mackie tabled the DSG site restoration sub group minutes – DSG/SRSG(2022)M01 refers – held on 27 April. No changes were requested and it was agreed this was a true reflection of the meeting. This was proposed by Gillian Coghill and seconded by Thelma Mackenzie. No issues were raised.

Cllr Mackie tabled the DSG Socio Economic sub group minutes – DSG/SESG(2022)M01 refers – held on 27 April 2022. No changes were requested and it was agreed that this was a true reflection of the meeting. This was proposed by Sandy Mackie and seconded by Dave Craig.

Cllr Mackie noted that the DSG business meeting continued to meet on a fortnightly basis and that minutes were ratified by email. No issues were raised from the business meeting minutes.

4. STATUS OF ACTIONS

Cllr Struan Mackie noted that members had received an updated status of actions. He felt that actions continued to be closed out in a timely manner and proposed not to go through these in detail. He invited members to raise anything from the status of actions. No issues were raised.

For completeness, the actions from the sub groups and business meeting are recorded here for ease of reference.

- DSG(2022)M02/A01: June love to draft a remit for the new working group on Magnox and Vulcan.
- DSG(2022)M02/A02: June Love to re-issue the DSG review to the DSG business meeting in preparation for review meeting on 28th April.
- DSG(2022)M02/A03: Dawn Clasper to issue a diary invite and confirm the location for DSG review.
- DSG(2022)M02/A04: Dawn Clasper to issue email members requesting response to attendance at DSG review (in person or via Teams).
- DSG(2022)M02/A05: June Love to draft a response to Maree Todd requesting a date for a meeting with DSG members.
- DSG(2022)M02/A06: June Love to request a site visit and meeting with the Dounreay Executive Team and DSG business reps.
- DSG(2022)M02/A07: June Love to ask about progress in identifying a new DSG secretariat with Mark Rouse MD and Josh George Organisation Excellence Director.
- DSG(2022)M02/A08: Dawn Clasper to issue email to members requesting response to attendance at DSG review in person or via MS Teams after DSG Public meeting.
- DSG(2022)M02/A09: DSG to request feedback from the NDA Business plan not bearing relation to the new Life Time Plan.
- DSG(2022)M02/A11: June Love to contact John Saunders for an update on the DFR Crane rail replacement.

- DSG(2022)M02/A12: DSG to respond and ask for clarity around the Higher Activity Waste Policy Review.

5. PRESENTATION

Cllr Mackie, again, welcomed Jamie Reed, NDA Socio Economic Director noting that he had visited the area shortly after his appointment and had been back up since. Jamie had been invited to the meeting this evening to provide a presentation. He handed over to Jamie Reed.

Jamie Reed thanked Struan Mackie for inviting him and provided an update on socio economics. DSG(2022)C018 refers. During the presentation he noted the appropriate legislation and stated he would provide these to members.

Action: DSG(2022)M02/A13: Jamie Reed to provide details of the legislation covering social value and socio economics.

Cllr Mackie thanked Jamie Reed for his presentation stating from a DSG perspective there was a good knowledge of socio economics but less so on social value. The DSG wished to make sure that the area gained the greatest amount of impact via the various legislation. He then opened up for questions. Of note:

- Sandy Mackie noted the major projects on the CNSRP programme and that this could be quite complex when it involved a number of funders. He asked whether NDA was assured that CNSRP partners would take a similar approach on social value, adding that having alignment between funders would be an important factor because when these are not aligned it becomes an obstacle and brings in delays for projects. Jamie Reed acknowledged that social value applied to every publicly funded body and therefore applied to some CNSRP partners including HIE and The Highland Council. Jamie indicated he was relatively new to CNSRP and that Simon Middlemas had just been appointed as the independent chair of the group. Simon Middlemas was already picking up these issues and Jamie felt they were clearly on the same page.
- Tor Justad asked about the approach to impact assessments asking whether this would be measured using the social auditing model. He wondered if this would be included in future NDA assessments. Jamie Reed responded that NDA impacts were measured in terms of the number of jobs created or sustained. He added that he was aware of the social auditing model noting it was an interesting approach. NDA would look at sustainability (four pillars) in the round and within that look to gain the greatest socio economic impact possible for the communities affected. He also noted that the NDA had just completed social impact studies across the NDA estate and taking on board comments that these documents were full of statistics NDA would, when ready to publish, make it a readable document.
- Tor Justad asked about fair trade in relation to social value and asked whether this was something that NDA considered. Jamie Reed responded this was something he would explore and report back.

Action: DSG(2022)M02/A14: Jamie Reed to report back on the extent that NDA uses fair trade across the NDA estate.

- Tor Justad asked Jamie Reed if he was aware of the work carried out by Professor Andrew Blowers in relation to international comparisons for social value in particular the Swedish example. Jamie Reed responded he was aware of this work and when he was an MP he had always been keen to benchmark across other countries especially looking

at the responsibilities of the sites to address the community impacts and that was where his interest had always been.

He added that UK does exceptionally well but recognised there were always lessons to learn adding that the adoption of social value activities took the UK closer to the Nordic communities. The UK approach continued to be a flexible and emerging agenda and the social value approach would be driven by the Treasury. Jamie Reed also noted that a paper on Sellafield and the SIX approach had recently been submitted to IAEA for an internal conference.

Action: DSG(2022)M02/A15: Jamie Reed to provide IAEA paper on Sellafield and SIX approach.

- Mandy Barnett (member of the public) noted a recent statement by Jacob Rees Mogg that suggested he wished to weaken the legislation on social value. She asked if there was a risk to this or whether it was completely embedded into the organisation. Jamie Reed responded that this was now well established and David Peattie and his Executives had considered it so important that this was now an NDA Beacon project to roll this out across the NDA estate. Along with himself, Mark Rouse was also involved to take this project forward. Effectively the Beacon project would lift every stone to consider how best to maximise positive impacts for the communities. Legislation was legislation and therefore there was no wriggle room to change it. The NDA team commitment was very strong and there would be a lot more coming out of this project over the coming months.
- Eann Sinclair stated, in response to Sandy Mackie's question, he was very confident that CNSRP was in a good place in terms of partner relationships.

There being no further questions, Cllr Mackie thanked Jamie Reed for his input and looked forward to receiving a further update in due course.

6. DOUNREAY UPDATE

Cllr Mackie reminded those attending that each update should be kept to topics that were not already being discussed at the sub group meetings. He then invited updates and questions.

NDA: Alan Mackay, NDA reported:

- The NDA offices (across the estate) were now open and an adoption of a mix of home and office working had been implemented where appropriate. More face to face external engagement was currently being considered and will be based on the wishes of stakeholders and government guidance.
- Reprocessing operations in Sellafield's Magnox Reprocessing Plant would end in July 2022 when the plant will be shutdown. The fuel from Dounreay would continue to be transported to Sellafield in an alternative manner.
- NDA had continued to hold stakeholder summits on a virtual platform during Covid. This year's Stakeholder Summit would be an in-person event, held in Edinburgh on 7-8 September.
- The Gender pay gap report had been published in March 2022 and while this showed an improvement there was a recognition there was still a significant way to go.

- An NDA secondment had just commenced into the Scottish Government Radwaste team. Laura Hogg had been seconded into Scottish Government initially for six months with a review following that. The secondment would support preparatory work as Scottish Government take forward work to progress the Higher Activity Waste (HAW) policy. This was something that the DSG had previously raised and it had helped to develop the relationship between Scottish Government and the NDA sites in Scotland.
- BEIS had recently announced that the NDA would work with Cwmni Eginio to develop proposals for new nuclear development at Traws. NDA was being “trusted to do more” and this allows NDA to link into proposals for new nuclear development in Wales.

Cllr Mackie thanked Alan Mackay for his update and invited questions.

- Tor Justad noted the comment on the Magnox reprocessing plant and asked whether it would be the material or the destination that would be different. Alan Mackay responded that the configuration of the material would be slightly different but that it would continue to be transported to Sellafield.

Dounreay: Mark Rouse, DSRL Managing Director, reported:

- The investigation into the sodium tank farm had concluded. There had been a number of lessons identified and the report had been passed to both ONR and SEPA. The incident was initially categorised as an INES level 1 and this had been confirmed by ONR. This would be reported in the next Chief Nuclear Inspector’s report.
- DSRL continues the journey to join with Magnox. A good level of consultation with the unions on TUPE had commenced and discussions were ongoing. The joining of Dounreay with Magnox provides a focus for Dounreay as a clear entity within the NDA group.
- Decommissioning activities continue on site and a number of people who have recently visited the site have commented favourably on the work being undertaken on site.
- Gamechanger is the UK’s leading nuclear innovation programme, finding solutions and developing technologies to overcome some of the most complex challenges facing the nuclear industry. The DFR team have been working with Gamechangers to identify a method of removing the contaminated concrete from the pond walls without exposing operators to high dose rates. Sellafield have similar ponds and a combined challenge statement had been written and interest invited. The preferred solution for Dounreay was by Barron whose remotely operated roto cutter had been successfully used to remove hard heel waste from tanks in Hanford (USA). Recent trials of the equipment showed that the system was capable of cutting to the required depth required for the Dounreay site and could also cut through rebar.
- The shield door from a microscopic cell in D2001 was removed. The team designed and built the support frame, installed anchor points on the floor and worked with Hugh Simpson employees to carry out the rigging to move the 7.5 tonne door through the building.
- Two large chemical tanks, previously used to hold sulphuric acid and caustic liquor have been removed from the low level liquid effluent treatment plant. As waste liquid is treated at source, operators rarely have to neutralise effluent before it is discharged to sea so the tanks were drained of the remaining chemicals, cleaned out and sent for

recycling to a specialist facility in Chesterfield.

- Working with Robotics and Artificial Intelligence in Nuclear (RAIN) a robot has successfully surveyed an underground radioactive ventilation duct in one of the site's redundant laboratories. This was in areas where it was inaccessible or unsafe for humans to work in. RAIN had been on site in 2020 for initial trials and this visit was to trial a second generation robot called Lyra that improved on the prototype with an improved package of surveying measures. The latest survey was carried out in a 140m long underfloor duct running from the central corridor between the labs.
- An old supercompactor containment unit, removed from the WRACS facility in 2011 had now been transported offsite for disposal in a licensed landfill site in England. This was a new offsite disposal route that would allow the site to dispose of large bulk items with low activity that were not suitable for disposal within the low level waste vaults or for metal recycling.
- An Innovation Day at Dounreay was recently held to showcase how different techniques and equipment are deployed to work safer and more efficiently. This included using robotic technology ranging from small tracked remotely operated vehicles to 'Spot the dog' a sophisticated four-legged Boston Dynamics robot, supported by colleagues from Sellafield.
- In April, 8 of our apprentices received their indenture certificates after successfully completing their 4-year apprenticeship. Jamie Reed, NDA Socio Economic Director presented the certificates and delivered the keynote speech. All of the apprentices have successfully secured full time roles at Dounreay. At the same event, the 2nd year apprentices received their SVQ2 certificates after completing their first year of their apprenticeship at North Highland College.
- The Green Network at Dounreay recently won the Sustainability Trailblazer at the recent NDA awards.
- One of the site's chemical engineers was recently involved in a 2 week exchange programme with Sellafield for the Alpha Resilience and Capability. This programme aims to develop and enhance skills and knowledge across the NDA Group related to alpha activities. Last year there had been an exchange when Sellafield reps came to Dounreay.
- Today, the site had hosted a visit by Ros Rivaz (NDA Chair) and a number of Non-Executive Directors and senior officials from BEIS. During their visit they had spoken to a number of the workforce. While visits needed to be managed to ensure they did not distract from decommissioning activities it was encouraging to have these visitors on site to see for themselves the progress being made.

Struan Mackie congratulated the Green Network for their recent award of which he had seen a lot of social media reports. He asked for this to be passed on. He then invited questions.

- Tor Justad asked what progress was being made on the comparison of systems for detecting particles. June Love noted that a response was awaited from PRAG(D). Stewart Ballantine, SEPA said he would take this as an action and report back.

Action: DSG(2022)M02/A16: Stewart Ballantine to provide an update on PRAG(D) findings on comparison of systems for detecting particles.

Scottish Government Radwaste: Diane Hamilton reported:

- A written report had been provided prior to the meeting – DSG(2022)C014 refers.
- The date for the next nuclear sites meeting had been confirmed for 23 August at 1400 hrs and would be held virtually. The Minister for Environment and Land Reform had provisionally agreed to attend for part of the meeting and questions would be invited.

Action: DSG(2022)M02/A17: DSG to provide questions for the Scottish Government Scottish Nuclear sites meeting for Minister for Environment and Land Reform by 1 July 2022.

- Laura Hogg, NDA had been seconded into the Radwaste team to support the HAW work. Currently, the team was in the process of developing a timeline for engagement on this subject. Laura Hogg introduced herself noting she had previously worked on NDA's waste strategy and prior to that she had been almost 20 years working within waste management, with six years working at Dounreay. She was looking forward to working with the Radwaste team.

Cllr Struan Mackie welcomed the secondment by NDA to the Radwaste team noting that this would be a benefit and was looking forward to seeing the policy come forward. Having NDA support from the technical side was very welcome. He then invited questions.

- Dave Craig welcomed Laura Hogg noting that concerns had been raised by DSG about the technical experience of Scottish Government. He was delighted to see this secondment taking place and from the brief introduction felt that Laura would be perfect for what was required and looked forward to seeing the outcome at the appropriate time.
- Tor Justad asked about Scottish Government's policy on Fusion noting that Ayrshire was still in the running to host the STEP reactor. Diane Hamilton said that the position was much the same, whereby SG wish to understand the costs and waste implications. At this stage they were firmly on the fence. Tor Justad clarified that Scottish Government were undecided. Diane Hamilton responded the implications of the technical details were still unknown and these would be considered and refreshed within the energy policy.

Struan Mackie noted the discussion held recently between DSG and Maree Todd, MSP in relation to Fusion and the energy policy. He added it would be important that meaningful consultation on the energy policy was undertaken. While Ayrshire continued to be identified as a potential site there could also be major benefits for the Caithness & NS local supply chain etc.

SEPA: Stewart Ballantine reported:

- SEPA's investigation into the sodium tank farm was ongoing and confirmed that DSRL had submitted their investigation report. Preliminary meetings would be held and then a visit to site would follow to take this forward.
- The investigation into the laundry was still ongoing but should conclude soon.

No questions were raised.

ONR: Ian Rogers reported:

- Noting that the sodium tank farm had already been covered earlier in the meeting Ian Rogers noted that there was nothing else to add from the sub group held on 27 April.
- In terms of the sodium tank farm, ONR had confirmed that the incident rated a Level 1 on the International Nuclear Event Scale corresponding to an 'anomaly'. ONR were undertaking preliminary enquiries and would then consider what regulatory action was required.

No issues were raised.

CNC: SI Ian Davies reported:

- The annual security exercise had been undertaken and had endorsed the operational effectiveness of the model. It had been pleasing to see that, as part of the exercise, the intruders had been apprehended within minutes of accessing the site. As always with exercises there were some lessons that could be learned.
- CNC had recently launched a local recruitment campaign. Last time this was carried out there had been a number of local people who had joined the CNC and continued to be employed at Dounreay today. One recruitment event had already been undertaken with another one shortly to be carried out. Campaigns were also advertised on radio and within other media and it was hoped that there would be a good local presence.

Struan Mackie said he was conscious that CNC seemed to constantly be on a recruitment drive and the local campaigns were good to see. He asked if there was a particular issue around those leaving. As an example he had been told that security jobs on site offer more of a complementary package. SI Davies responded that CNC and the site benefits from cross-pollination. On retention of officers, generally people who come to work at site simply wish to return home at some stage. The local campaign was to encourage local people to apply as they generally wish to stay in the area. In terms of salary, there was an issue with starting rates of pay which was not great but quite often people did not see the longer term benefits.

Struan Mackie asked whether it would be helpful to lobby for a change of terms and conditions for the area in terms of uplifts similar to what the Islands had adopted for care recruitment. SI Davies responded it would be difficult to affect T&Cs for one site without impacting other sites. There were inducements for officers as there were financial benefits for being on call.

Cllr Mackie then opened up for further questions. Of note:

- Tor Justad clarified that 27 local people had been recruited in the last local recruitment round. He asked when people join locally did they get transferred to other sites after an initial 3-4 years on the Dounreay site? SI Davies confirmed the figure of 27 and noted that it was always a personal choice for officers to choose to move to other sites but that it was extremely unlikely, unless they wished to do so for personal or professional reasons, that anyone would be compulsorily posted away from Dounreay.

There being no further questions, Cllr Mackie thanked everyone for their high level updates.

7. VULCAN UPDATE

Cllr Mackie then invited updates for Vulcan.

MOD Vulcan: Commander Ian Walker reported:

- Site was back to operating under pre-Covid-19 rules with some minor adjustments. The site continues to provide advice and guidance in managing the risk and were encouraging people to make a personal choice as to whether they wear masks or not. The workforce are now encouraged not to come to site if they felt unwell and work from home where appropriate.
- Since the last update there had been no instances of challenge to the SEPA Approval of Arrangements.
- 'No Mow May' had been adopted as a trial on some areas of Site, initial results were looking positive and the trial has been extended. Vulcan had now joined the Dounreay Green network.
- A new decommissioning project manager had been appointed. Glenn Dawkins was based in Bristol and would be visiting Caithness in July.
- The site security exercise would be held on Thursday 9th June and would take place during the day.
- Vulcan was supporting the RNLI summer fayre on the Saturday 18th June 2022.

No issues were raised.

DNSR: James Bryson reported:

- No further update to the sub group report provided for April.

No issues were raised.

SEPA: Stewart Ballantine confirmed there was nothing to add from April update.

No issues were raised.

ONR: Ian Rogers confirmed, on behalf of Vik Winspear Roberts, that there was nothing further to add from the April report.

No issues were raised.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Prior to opening to DSG members, Cllr Struan Mackie noted the following;

- On 20th May he and the vice-chair had attended a virtual SSG Chair's forum meeting. A presentation from NuLeaf had been provided (a Local Government Special Interest Group for Radwaste and nuclear decommissioning that covers England and Wales). The Scottish equivalent is SCCORS (Scottish Councils Committee on radioactive substances).
- The Chair and Vice-chair had attended a public value conference in London in early May. DSG members may recall earlier work carried out with Rick Wylie of Lancaster University and the conference was the cumulation of that research. It was a wide and varied agenda with Mark Rouse presenting on the public value that was derived from the

early years of the atomic era in Caithness. Roy Kirk had also attended, presenting on the aspirations of Space Hub Sutherland.

While in London they had also taken the opportunity to meet with Jamie Stone, MP and with Douglas Ross, MP. Both meetings had focussed on the Vulcan decommissioning.

- At the last public meeting it had been agreed that it would be useful to set up a short-term working group to look at the Vulcan decommissioning option and also Dounreay joining with Magnox. Following discussion at the business meeting, the working group consists of DSG Chair, Davie Alexander and Gillian Coghill with representation from Peter Faccenda, Trudy Morris and Niall Watson. Jamie Stone, MP had also indicated that he would also like to attend (where his diary would allow). The working group met for the first time on 13 May and discussed the remit of the group. This was currently drafted and going through the working group and once finalised would be issued to all DSG members for information. The group had written to Commander Walker and NDA requesting that the working group has one point of contact and had also requested a timeline for key decisions.
- DSG members had also met with Maree Todd, MSP on 23 May. The business meeting had taken the decision to keep this a 'DSG members only' meeting as there was a need to keep the discussion focussed on nuclear issues, especially around the skills in the area. While there was obviously disagreement from the majority of members on the Scottish Government's opposition to new nuclear reactors, discussions focussed on how to capitalise on the skills in the area that could continue to support nuclear programmes elsewhere, whether that be decommissioning or new operational reactors. It had been a constructive meeting and a number of actions were placed.

Maree Todd had been encouraged to visit the Dounreay and Vulcan sites and there would be an opportunity, via Maree, to encourage Scottish Government Ministers to visit the area. One such visit already underway is with Richard Lochhead, Minister for Just Transition, Employment and Fair Work, who had written in response to a letter from Maree Todd to indicate he plans to visit the area in the summer to hear views of stakeholders on ways to improve current national radioactive waste management policies and the NDA's 5 year strategy, that could help increase socio-economic investment to the region. He would also like to hear views on the Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan that is set to be published in the autumn this year and would be conducting a series of engagements with local communities. DSG members would be informed as soon as a date was identified.

For completeness the actions arising from the discussions with Maree Todd, MSP are recorded here:

DSG(2022)M02/A17: Maree Todd to clarify whether Scottish Government will consult on the Energy policy.

DSG(2022)M02/A18: DSG to write formally to Maree Todd to identify and request visits of appropriate SG Ministers to visit area.

DSG(2022)M02/A19: Maree Todd to research and respond to job creation in relation to renewables.

DSG(2022)M02/A20: Maree Todd to encourage SG to paint the picture of future renewable opportunities including opportunities around green hydrogen production.

DSG(2022)M02/A21: Maree Todd to visit the Dounreay (and Vulcan) site at the earliest opportunity.

- The chair and vice-chair had also met virtually with DSRL Board Chair, Lawrie Haynes and Paul Vallance, NDA Director of Communications (and a member of the Board). There had been a number of subjects discussed but mainly updates on the progress of the joining of Dounreay with Magnox. Assurances had been re-iterated that the reason for making these changes was to streamline the number of NDA Boards and that there was no intention to merge the two organisations and the Dounreay budget was ring fenced for Dounreay only. There was also a discussion on the need for Scottish Government briefings to demonstrate the benefits of the decommissioning £ in Scotland.
- Earlier this evening, the DSG Chair and Vice-chair had met with NDA Chair, Ros Rivaz and some non-executive Directors of the Board. It had been a useful meeting where discussions centred around the skills and other opportunities in the area. The NDA chair had indicated they had been very impressed with what they had seen on the site and were pleased to hear that the majority of discussions held while here were all on similar lines and that it was nice to see the area joined up.
- Looking ahead, a date for the DSG review was still outstanding due to the availability of members. New dates would be circulated and it had been agreed to hold this in the early evening to allow those who work during the day to attend. The meeting would be blended to accommodate members who could not travel to attend in person. He urged members to provide availability as quickly as possible so that this meeting could be organised.
- A full meeting of the Chair's forum was scheduled for an in person meeting in Manchester at the beginning of July. The agenda for this meeting was awaited but if there is anything that members wish to be raised they should make contact with either the chair, vice-chair or secretariat.
- The DSG business meeting would be meeting on the Dounreay site on 23 June and this provided the opportunity to meet with the new Executive Team.

Cllr Mackie then invited members to raise any other business. No issues were raised.

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

Cllr Struan Mackie
DSG Chair
12 June 2022

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

DSG(2022)M02/A01: June love to draft a remit for the new working group.

DSG(2022)M02/A02: June Love to re-issue the DSG review to the DSG business meeting in preparation for review meeting on 28th April.

DSG(2022)M02/A03: Dawn Clasper to issue a diary invite and confirm the location for DSG review.

DSG(2022)M02/A04: Dawn Clasper to issue email members requesting response to attendance at DSG review (in person or via Teams).

DSG(2022)M02/A05: June Love to draft a response to Maree Todd requesting a date for a meeting with DSG members. .

DSG(2022)M02/A06: June Love to request a site visit and meeting with the Dounreay Executive Team and DSG business reps.

DSG(2022)M02/A07: June Love to ask about progress in identifying a new DSG secretariat with Mark Rouse MD and Josh George Organisation Excellence Director.

DSG(2022)M02/A08: Dawn Clasper to issue email to members requesting response to attendance at DSG review in person or via MS Teams after DSG Public meeting.

DSG(2022)M02/A09: DSG to request feedback from the NDA Business plan not bearing relation to the new Life Time Plan.

DSG(2022)M02/A10: Frederic Stalin to find out where the blocks from D1217 will be disposed.

DSG(2022)M02/A11: June Love to contact John Saunders for an update on the DFR Crane rail replacement.

DSG(2022)M02/A12: DSG to respond and ask for clarity around the Higher Activity Waste Policy Review.

DSG(2022)M02/A13: Jamie Reed to provide details of the legislation covering social value and socio economics.

DSG(2022)M02/A14: Jamie Reed to report back on the extent that NDA uses fair trade across the NDA estate.

DSG(2022)M02/A15: Jamie Reed to provide IAEA paper on Sellafield and SIX approach.

DSG(2022)M02/A16: Stewart Ballantine to provide an update on PRAG(D) findings on comparison of systems for detecting particles.

DSG(2022)M02/A17: Maree Todd to clarify whether Scottish Government will consult on the Energy policy.

DSG(2022)M02/A18: DSG to write formally to Maree Todd to identify and request visits of appropriate SG Ministers to visit area.

DSG(2022)M02/A19: Maree Todd to research and respond to job creation in relation to renewables.

DSG(2022)M02/A20: Maree Todd to encourage SG to paint the picture of future renewable opportunities including opportunities around green hydrogen production.

DSG(2022)M02/A21: Maree Todd to visit the Dounreay (and Vulcan) site at the earliest opportunity.

ACTIONS ONGOING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

DSG(2022)M01/A017: DSG business group to consider membership of a new working group to focus on Vulcan decommissioning options and the joining of Dounreay/Magnox. **Action ongoing:** discussed, draft remit and membership provided, awaiting response.

DSG(2021)M04/A001: DSRL to provide an update on the FIDLER (related to particle monitoring) at the next site restoration sub group. **Action ongoing:** Information provided as part of DSG site restoration paper update (DSG(2021)P003). Will continue to be updated via site restoration sub group.

ACTIONS COMPLETED

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:** With the One NDA model, we have reduced the number of Boards, and the creation of a new Group Leadership Team (GLT), we now have all our Operating Companies represented on the GLT. This means much closer working and sharing of information at the highest levels of the organisation. Mark Rouse, MD of Dounreay, is a member of the GLT. Recognising the important role the GLT has to play with the One NDA Group going forward, we are looking to 'fine tune' how it interacts with the rest of the organisation by developing a new Operating Framework. The OP will reflect how we are organised, our interfaces and our interactions across the Group. **Action complete: see DSG(2022)C008.**

DSG(2021)M04/A016: : Business Meeting member to write down key principles that we would like to see any bidders meet for MOD contract. **Action superseded:** options for Vulcan decommissioning being reconsidered (.i.e NDA option). Therefore action is superseded and will be taken up at the working group if required.

DSG(2022)M01/A001: June Love to a draft agenda for an ad hoc meeting in February to discuss the DSG review and Vulcan MOD principles. **Action complete:** Date identified for 28 April 2022.

DSG(2022)M01/A002: Dawn Clasper to email DSG member to find a suitable date in for February meeting. **Action superseded** – new date to be identified following the public meeting in March 2022.

DSG(2022)M01/A003: June Love to confirm that Debbie Murray is attending the Socio Economic sub group meeting on January 26th to discuss the NHC merger. **Action complete:** Information was provided as NHC reps were unavailable to attend.

DSG(2022)M01/A004: Business Meeting to provide comments (on NHC merger) to June Love to collate by Friday 18 February. **Action complete.**

DSG(2022)M01/A005: Dawn Clasper to email DSG member to find a suitable date in for March /April meeting. **Action complete:** identified for 28 April 2022

DSG(2022)M01/A006: June Love to liaise with Caithness Chamber of Commerce regarding company hosting there meet the executive event. **Action complete:** Navertech providing technical support for blended meeting on 23 March.

DSG(2022)M01/A007: June Love to email DSG member to advise of hybrid AGM and public meeting and ask if anyone requires copies of the paperwork. **Action complete:** emailed on 16 February 2022.

DSG(2022)M01/A008: June Love to arrange a meeting with Mark Rouse and to enquire about the direct employees. **Action complete** Meeting to be held on 2 March 2022.

DSG(2022)M01/A009: June Love to distribute the DSG Review Report to the wider DSG members. **Action complete:** emailed out on 4 March 2022.

DSG(2022)M01/A010: June Love to arrange a Teams meeting to discuss the Permit Variation for Dounreay Low Level Waste Facility once SEPA open up the consultation. **Action complete:** meeting held on 10 March 2022.

DSG(2022)M01/A011: Frederic Stalin to provide an update on the Breeder Fuel removal. **Action complete:** update included in written report (DSG(2022)P010).

DSG(2022)M01/A012: June Love to include a list of glossary of the acronyms used in future reports. **Action complete:** included in DSG(2022)P010.

DSG(2022)M01/A013: June Love to request questionnaire for North Highland College proposed merger to allow a combined DSG response to be submitted. **Action complete.** This was submitted following business meeting approval to consultation process.

DSG(2022)M01/A014: Dawn Clasper to co-ordinate a date in February with all DSG members to discuss DSG review and key principles for engaging with contractors for Vulcan contract. **Action superseded** – new action to identify a date following the AGM and public meetings on 23 March.

DSG(2022)M01/A015: June Love to distribute the draft response to SEPA consultation to DSG members. **Action complete:** distributed on 25th March 2022.

DSG(2022)M01/A016: June Love to circulate Just Transition report to DSG members for information. **Action complete:** [Supporting documents - Just Transition Commission: A National Mission for a fairer, greener Scotland - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)