

DSG action close-out

DSG(2022)M03/A021: *Craig Brown to provide the visit report of the recent visit to France*

DSRL staff Charlie Graham, Graham Carle, Michael Tait, Simon White, Andrew Macdonald and Graeme Sutherland (D1206 plant team) attended La-Hague nuclear fuel reprocessing site in France during summer 2022.

The original reprocessing plant is being decommissioned and they have already decommissioned a similar plant to D1206. The site is operated by Orano (formerly AREVA). The Decommissioning and Waste Alliance has been contracted to work for Dounreay in D1206 as part of the FCA North programme which includes Orano as a sub-contractor to Jacobs.

This was a knowledge sharing and learning visit to see how they are decommissioning their facility and what we could learn and develop for our own plant decommissioning approach for the site.

Key areas of interest and learning:

- Understand the post operational clean out (POCO) approach
- Types of chemicals and how these were used in the plant
- How successful certain techniques were in the past and present
- Hazard management for dismantling and decommissioning
- Safe systems of work, PPE, ventilation, containments
- Significance of pre-work investigations
- Planning and implementation of investigative work
- Use of offsite trials facilities, incl. manufacturing of specialist equipment and full mock-ups
- Commercial approach – make/buy strategies and work with supply chain
- Waste containers, waste consignment, waste routes, waste costs
- Use of decommissioning planning tools and digital information management
- Organisational structure – roles and responsibilities – how the team operates
- Decommissioning legacy work – LfE
- Regulator engagement and interaction
- Timescales/delivery/planning – how they decommission the plants and leave the buildings standing – decommissioning end state LfE

Key takeaways:

- POCO approach for D1206
- More realistic ILW costs
- Alternative dismantling approach
- Importance of planning, investigations and trials facilities to provide more confidence in delivery
- Significance of staff investment for T&D, tailored to support decommissioning
- Distinction between decommissioning and operational/compliance project teams