

ACTION: DSG/SRSG(2023)M004/A001: DSG to request a presentation on particles from Adreain Gill.

This was agreed by the subgroup members.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Gillian Coghill noted that the minutes of the last meeting – DSG/SESG(2022)M003, October 2022 – had been endorsed at the public meeting held in December 2022. She invited members to raise any issues from the minutes. No issues were raised.

4. ACTION STATUS

Gillian Coghill noted that the status of actions had been circulated to all members. The majority of these actions had been closed. Of note:

- DSG(2022)M03/A038: DSG to ask to observers to ask to provide written papers in a timely manner.

Gillian Coghill noted that papers have not been received in a timely manner and requested papers be received no later than one week before the meeting.

- DSG(2022)M03/A040: DSRL to provide information on the particles – update provided through the subgroup.

Gillian Coghill noted that this has been tabled and a new action raised DSG/SRSG(2023)M04/A001.

- DSG(2022)M03/A041: Mac MacGill to provide information on the cost of Fit For Future. Action ongoing.
- DSG(2022)M03/A021: Craig Brown to provide the visit report of the recent visit to France. **Action ongoing.** Frederic Stalin will chase this.
- DSG(2022)M03/A015: June Love to ask Commander Ian Walker to provide information on the value of Vulcan as it currently stands.

Cdr Walker will provide a written update based on the Dounreay/Vulcan workforce split using information stated in published Dounreay socio-economic reports.

- DSG(2022)M03/A031: DSG to ask Dounreay what their costs are before any decommissioning work is carried out. **Action ongoing:** Gillian Coghill noted that the Business Meeting had a verbal update but would require a written response.

David Craig asked if the actions could be referenced as per subgroup or meeting to make it clearer. This was agreed by the members.

ACTION: DSG/SRSG(2023)M004/A002: DSG actions to be referenced as SESG, SRSG and BM in the action status.

- DSG(2022)M003/A033: Frederic Stalin to share the Gate B paper with DSG members. **Action complete:** See correspondence DSG(2022)M03/C032.

A discussion followed regarding the contents of the Gate B paper for the low-level waste repository and the long-term plan for the Dounreay end state.

Frederic Stalin responded that this was our repository for the low-level waste. The repository has its own EASR permit with SEPA. The optimised interim end state view for the low level waste pits is covered in the Gate B paper.

Frederic Stalin confirmed SEPA's role and that any waste we produce could be disposed of in the vaults. There was a question on the revision of the EASR permit for the low level waste repository (vaults) being linked to the interim end state. It is not linked and SEPA is in the process of reviewing the application for a revised EASR permit for the low level waste repository (vaults). Stewart Ballantine agreed, and it was confirmed that DSG will be consulted on the final outcome.

Gillian Coghill asked if the filtration issue in the laundry has been resolved. Frederic Stalin responded that they are waiting for the final review from SEPA.

- DSG(2022)M003/A032: Frederic Stalin to find out if GDF would accept the 6m3 concrete box. **Action Complete:** The 6m3 Concrete box is an approved Higher Activity Waste (HAW) package and part of the inventory for disposal in a GDF in England and Wales. The 6m3 Concrete box has been utilised at Sellafield (Windscale) and is now in wider use in Magnox. The suitability is assessed through Nuclear Waste Services Disposability Assessment process to determine the acceptability of the Package and the waste inside. Dounreay has in the past fortnight, received a final Letter of Compliance (LoC) for the packaging of the DMTR Higher Activity Waste in a 6m3 Concrete Box However, Scottish HAW will be disposed of to a Near Site Near Surface Disposal facility. At this time, following the LoC assessment process indicates that 6m3 Concrete boxes would be suitable for disposal in such a facility

5. DOUNREAY UPDATE

Gillian Coghill noted a number of written papers had been distributed to members in advance of the meeting including:

- DSG(2023)P006: Dounreay Report
- DSG(2023)P005: SEPA Report
- DSG(2023)P001: ONR Report

Dounreay: (DSG(2023)P006 refers)

Frederic Stalin, Strategic Programme Director Dounreay stated he would take the paper as read and noted the following:

- Dounreay continues to make good progress against key targets for 2022/23

- At the low-level waste disposal vaults, the first containers were sealed into place using grout to fill the void spaces
- Dounreay has resumed the consignment of legacy low-level containerised waste from D3110 to the D3100 low-level waste vaults, following months of work to create specific procedures for handling legacy waste and ensuring all containerised waste is compliant with waste acceptance conditions
- The internal cell walls of the post-irradiation examination (PIE) cave in D1217 are the latest areas of the redundant building to be decommissioned or demolished
- A robot designed with help from Dounreay has been listed in Time Magazine's top 200 innovations of 2022. Robotics specialists from Manchester University, led by Professor Barry Lennox, worked with Jason Simpson and the D1200 decommissioning team to develop and test the robot, by carrying out a survey of the underground ventilation ducts
- All major concrete pours are complete on the construction of Dounreay's new DCP store extension. More than 15,000 tonnes of concrete and approximately 2,000 tonnes of reinforced steel have been used to reach this important milestone in the project
- TRIR has increased to 0.18. There was an initiative to take time to allow staff to think things through and familiarise themselves with the workplace

David Craig asked why CNC were excluded from the TRIR.

Frederic Stalin responded that it would not affect the statistics if CNC were included; they report separately through their own channels. Ian Davies confirmed that CNC have a robust internal monitoring system for health and safety incidents operationally and confirmed that there are no significant incidents to report.

- PFR Tank Farm - we have received a final warning letter from SEPA and that will complete the investigation
- There was one environmental non-compliance confirmed in writing by SEPA during November 2022 with respect to following company procedural requirements in relation to actions in the event of abnormal readings being recorded on the statutory gaseous sampler check sheets. SEPA recorded DSRL as being non-compliant with standard condition A3.1
- Dounreay CNC took delivery of 2 new ballistically protected vehicles designed to ensure CNC officers are fully equipped for the challenges they face whilst policing on nuclear sites
- There were no particles reported as there were no particles retrieved during this period hence no website updates

David Craig noted that there was some clarity required around the reporting of the particles and updating of the website.

Frederic Stalin responded that the process of surveying is continuous, and recording is regular, however if there is nothing found this is not reported on the website.

- Life Time Plan (LTP) is complete and is now going through internal checks and approvals and is on course for being in place from April 2024

Gillian Coghill asked if there would be an impact on the LTP and FFF when Magnox take over on 1 April. Frederic Stalin responded that this should have no impact and should progress independently of the joining with Magnox.

David Craig noted that we are working to the LTP from April 24 and asked what we are working to from April 23 and will this allow packages to go the supply chain. Frederic Stalin responded that we are working with Near Term Plan 23 for this year. The plan will allow transformation activities which could deliver a significant spend with the supply chain.

- Work continues on the joining of Dounreay and Magnox and is on track for successful completion by 1 April 2023
- Seven newly qualified apprentices received their indenture certificates from MP Jamie Stone and Dounreay MD Mark Rouse at the annual event in Thurso
- Dounreay's Information and Knowledge Manager, James Gunn, presented a paper at the 18th International Congress of the International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH). It was held in the University of Quebec and Montreal and attended by over 300 people from around the world
- Davie Mowat OCS's Dounreay site manager won the OCS internal award for outstanding citizen. The award acknowledges his contribution to the local community during the pandemic
- Innovation manager Gordon Tait attended a meeting on laser-cutting technology in Madrid as a member of the expert group providing peer support to the project

Gillian Coghill invited members to raise any questions.

Roger Saxon noted that thousands of tonnes of concrete have been poured which must raise a lot of Co2 and asked about the carbon footprint. Frederic Stalin responded that Dounreay is compliant with carbon reduction in every project which is closely monitored.

Niall Watson noted that the NDA corporate centre is leading on sustainability (including carbon reduction) across the NDA group of companies. UK Government has greening government commitments which apply to all UK central government departments and their agencies. This includes the NDA and therefore, by extension, its subsidiaries. He noted DSRL has a new sustainability manager, with a key focus of that role being to help the business better embed sustainability into

decommissioning. All sites have a base line carbon footprint and the challenge is to reduce this.

There being no further questions, Gillian Coghill thanked Frederic Stalin for his update.

SEPA: (DSG(2023)P005 refers): Paul Dale and Stewart Ballantine noted the following:

Paul Dale, SEPA Head of Radioactive Substances, noted the renewed awareness in the particles. He noted that SEPA place the monitoring requirements on DSRL, assess the hazard and risk and define the monitoring criteria. SEPA update the DSG on various issues and this forms part of their core brief to the stakeholder groups. He noted a number of challenges the site faces, recognising the regulatory effort required going forward.

Gillian Coghill thanked Paul Dale for his comments and handed over to Stewart Ballantine.

- SEPA has concluded its investigation into the PFR sodium tank farm and the final warning letter to DSRL has been issued
- SEPA is investigating a leak from a sodium drum in the store at PFR and the discharge of a small amount of tritium. This investigation is ongoing
- SEPA has a public consultation on implementation of Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations (EASR)
- The latest Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) report has been published

Gillian Coghill thanked Paul Dale and Stewart Ballantine for their input and invited questions from members. There were no questions from members.

ONR: (DSG(2023)P001 refers): James Francis noted the following:

- ONR safety inspectors have made three visits to site covering a broad range of subjects
- ONR inspectors, alongside the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and representatives of the local planning authority, attended interactions with Dounreay on potential modifications to the site's current end state. ONR, alongside the other regulatory bodies, will continue to maintain contact with Dounreay on this matter to ensure a suitable end state is established to inform development of Dounreay's lifetime plan
- ONR specialists continue to review Magnox Limited's application to hold the nuclear site licence for the Dounreay site. This process is still ongoing with

currently no substantive concerns surrounding the transfer of the site licence having been identified

- ONR has continued to remain informed on all major site activities that affect health and safety and continues to undertake proportionate assessment activities necessary to support the release of regulatory hold-points placed on a number of the projects on site
- No matters of significance were reported to ONR during this period. There was one reportable RIDDOR, but this was not related to DSRL; it was concerned a sub-contractor and was minor in nature

Gillian Coghill thanked James Francis for his input and invited questions from members. Of note:

David Craig noted there was no mention of the PFR tank farm. The April – June 2022 report noted preliminary enquiries were complete, an update was requested.

James Francis responded that ONR has concluded their investigation noting there had been breaches which were highlighted in the letter from SEPA. The appropriate enforcement action was taken, and they have been engaging with DSRL to monitor the situation. There is no further enforcement action expected from ONR.

Roger Saxon noted the RIDDOR and asked if someone was off work. James Francis stated this was due to a broken foot. A member of staff was walking on uneven ground and the injury was later identified as a broken bone.

CNC: SI Ian Davies reported:

- CNC continue to monitor compliance with obligations under the nuclear site security plan and meet all their obligations
- Exercise and testing programme has moved from silent hours to mid-week working days
- CNC have a full fleet of ballistically protected vehicles
- CNC continue to support Police Scotland as and when requested
- CNC have been asked to supply officers to The King's coronation and some of the events
- SI Ian Davies noted that this was his last meeting as he will be taking up a new role at HQ. Chief Inspector David McIntosh will attend the meeting in the interim

Gillian Coghill thanked Ian Davies for all his support and wished him all the best for the future. This was echoed by all members.

Roger Saxon asked if the new ballistically protected vehicles would restrict CNC's ability to assist the local police. SI Ian Davies noted they are not used routinely.

There being no further questions relating to the Dounreay site, Gillian Coghill thanked everyone for their input.

6. VULCAN UPDATE

Gillian Coghill noted the following written updates had been provided:

- DSG(2023)P007: Vulcan update
- DSG(2023)P002: Rolls Royce update
- DSG(2023)P005: SEPA
- DSG(2023)P008: DNSR

MOD Vulcan: (DSG(2023)P007refers) Cdr Ian Walker highlighted the following:

- Cdr Ian walker noted that the safety and environment statistics include everyone on site, but will not include anything that has happened off site.
- The site has reduced its COVID-19 mitigation measures; though continue to advise anyone displaying symptoms of contagious illness (including COVID) not to attend site.
- The investigation into the RIDDOR occurrence has been completed.
- There have been no challenges to the Approval of Arrangements (AoA) limits during this period.
- There was a breach of conventional discharge. A small amount of boiler effluent was discharged to the sea due to a failure of a pump in the system. This was reported to SEPA with no further action being required.
- The programme to defuel the Shore Test Facility is complete. The support equipment is now being dismantled and removed using a local scrap contractor.

Gillian Coghill noted that this was very good, reducing their carbon footprint and also a good use of the local supply chain.

- There have been no events that meet the Regulator mandatory reporting criteria.
- The site conducted its annual nuclear emergency response demonstration in December. This was an adequate demonstration of their arrangements.
- The annual security response demonstration exercise will take place in June 2023.

- An inspection of their arrangements for Ionising Radiation Regulations (IRR) identified some shortfalls in their ability to demonstrate compliance with the regulations. ONR raised a regulatory issue.
- Decommissioning programme feasibility continues - a workshop with regulators was held late last year and this was a positive engagement, with a number of points raised for further investigation
- Commodore Mark Prince is retiring from the Royal Navy. Cdre Elton Sharkey will be his replacement and is expected to visit Vulcan in the next couple of months

Gillian Coghill asked Cdr Ian Walker to pass on our best wishes to Commodore Prince and invited members to raise any questions. Of note:

David Alexander asked was there a timeline for outcomes or decisions around the future of Vulcan. Cdr Ian Walker responded that the Outline Business Case is due to be submitted in the near future but could not advise on timelines.

Rolls Royce Update: (DSG(2032)P002 refers)

Gillian Coghill noted that there was no Rolls Royce attendance at this meeting. If members wished to raise any questions that could not be responded to these would be actioned through the minutes. No questions were raised.

SEPA: (DSG(2023)P005 refers) Stewart Ballantine highlighted the following:

- Stewart Ballantine echoed Cdr Ian Walker's comments on the future of Vulcan. SEPA is fully engaged as one of the key regulators and continue to be involved until a conclusion has been reached

Gillian Coghill thanked Stewart Ballantine for his input and invited questions from members. No questions were raised.

ONR: Vik Winspear-Roberts, ONR (Vulcan) apologised for the paper not being available and provided the following highlights:

- ONR met with Vulcan safety representatives and they were engaged and open about health and safety improvements on site
- ONR followed up the RIDDOR reportable incident and was content with the investigation and the outcome

Gillian Coghill thanked Vik Winspear-Roberts for her input and invited questions from members. No questions were raised.

DNSR: (DSG(2023)P008refers) James Bryson highlighted the following:

- DNSR conducted IRR 17 inspection on 1 November 2022
- DNSR held the Level 3 regulatory interface forum meeting on 2 November 2022
- The regulatory workshop held in November 2022 was very good and enabled discussion on progress of the future handover to the NDA

Gillian Coghill thanked James Bryson for his input and invited questions from members. No questions were raised.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Gillian Coghill noted correspondence DSG(2022)C033 Letter from HANT/NFLA re Particles would be taken as read. She noted that all correspondence received had been circulated to members and had been dealt with.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Before opening up to other members, Gillian Coghill noted the following:

- In 2008 John Thurso had a discussion with John Swinney regarding medical nuclear isotopes. She noted these are imported from the Netherlands and there is an industry in Canada. She asked if there is a possibility that Dounreay would consider medical nuclear isotopes.

A discussion on the options and feasibility of Dounreay using medical isotopes followed. There is a government programme supported by the NDA and BEIS which is ongoing.

ACTION: DSG/SRSG(2023)M004/A003: Frederic Stalin to share the programme of medical isotopes with DSG.

Niall Watson noted the Scottish Government position on new nuclear, stating we could waste a lot of energy trying to get Scottish Government to change their position. That doesn't mean there is no nuclear future, as there is a large body of nuclear decommissioning work ongoing. We have an industrial site and skilled workforce in Dounreay with transferrable skills for the renewable energy sector. As a DSG we should be continuing to press Scottish Government on what they are going to help create a successful future for Caithness and North Sutherland post the decommissioning of Dounreay.

Frederic Stalin and David Craig noted the potential work to be generated by the offshore wind farm projects and use of the electrical substations.

9. CLOSE

Endorsed on 22 March 2023

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

Gillian Coghill
DSG Site Restoration subgroup chair
17 February 2023

OFFICIAL

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

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