

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group (DSG) public meeting held on Wednesday 7 June at 19:00 in the Pentland Hotel/Teams

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| Present: | Cllr Struan Mackie (SM) David Alexander (DA) Peter Faccenda (PF) Gillian Coghill (GC) Roger Saxon (RS) David Craig (DC) Trudy Morris (TM) Thelma Mackenzie (TM1) David Broughton (DB) Cllr Kristopher Leask (KL) | Chair (The Highland Council) Vice-chair (Wick and Thurso Trades Council) Focus North Programme Manager Buldoo Residents Independent Chair DSG Honorary Member Caithness West Community Council Caithness Chamber of Commerce Thurso Community Council DSG subgroup Orkney Islands Council |
| Attending: | Mac MacGill (MM) Barrie Cran (BC) Alan Mackay (AM) James Francis (JF) Richard Faris (RF) Stewart Ballantine (SB) Cdr Ian Walker (IW) James Bryson (JB) Diane Hamilton (DH) Josh George (JG) Neil Cook (NC) David Calder (DC) Magnus Davidson (MD) Gail Ross (GR) Mary-Jane Stratham (MJS) Dr Christopher Sneddon (CS) Tina Wrighton (TW) Carol Wood (CW) | Dounreay Chief of Staff / Deputy Managing Director Dounreay Director of Assurance NDA Site Facing Team ONR ONR SEPA MOD Vulcan DNSR SG Radwaste Dounreay Director of Organisational Excellence Dounreay Director of Finance Dounreay Head of Socioeconomics & Sustainability Dounreay Socioeconomics Manager Dounreay Head of Communications Women in Nuclear and Gender Balance Network Dounreay Environmental Specialist Dounreay Stakeholder & External Relations Lead Minute secretary |

MINUTES

1. Welcome and introductions

SM welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted a change had been made to the running order of the agenda. SM stated he was trying to ensure access to the public meetings was as easy as possible. SM confirmed the protocol when going through the agenda items he will ask any of the presenters or observers to give their high-level updates and then proceed to members of the stakeholder group and then in turn will go to members of the public. This will be in tandem with members here, then online then back to the room for members of the public.

SM asked if anyone had a conflict of interest that needs to be declared in respect to any of the items on the agenda and confirmed he had been given a question from a member of the public that relates to Thurso High School and education and on that basis, declared an interest as Councillor for Thurso and North West Caithness.

2. Apologies

The following apologies were received:

- Tor Justad, HANP
- DI David McIntosh, CNC
- Sandy Mackie, Scrabster Harbour Trust
- Brian Mutch, Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspection Directorate
- Christian Nicolson, NHS Highland
- Debbie Murray, UHI North Highland College
- Michelle Johnstone, NHS Highland
- David Wallace, NDA Stakeholder Lead, Scotland
- Ron Gunn, CHAT
- Niall Watson, Dounreay Trade Unions
- Eann Sinclair, Highlands and Islands Enterprise
- Joanna Coghill, Assoc. of Community Councils
- Cllr Andrew Jarvie, Highland Council
- Cllr Karl Rosie, Highland Council
- Dan Couldridge, SG Radwaste
- Murray Lamont, North Highland Tourism

3. MOD (Vulcan) high level updates

MOD Vulcan: IW reported:

- No lost time accidents or reportable events have been reported since the last meeting in April.
- There have been no challenges to our Approval of Arrangements (AoA). However, We did report to SEPA a breach of one of our conventional discharge permits. This occurred in May, and the breach was due to a flowmeter reverting to a default setting as a result electrical switching, this went unnoticed for a period of time. Thus the flowmeter was operational and showing readings, though on closer inspection it could be seen that the figures were not representative of the actual discharges. The permit requires us to keep accurate records and equipment is good working order. Whilst this was a breach I must emphasis that using other methods and records we can demonstrate that no discharges above our permitted volumes occurred in this period. SEPA have acknowledge our notification and asked to be informed of the outcome of the investigation. This investigation is still in progress.
- As previously briefed during a routine inspection of our arrangements for Ionising Radiation Regulations (IRR) and Carriage of Dangerous Goods (CDG), ONR identified two principal issues in our ability to demonstrate compliance with the Regulations (that is our demonstration of compliance to the regulations was lacking and that our application of Radiation Risk Assessments could be improved for the more routine tasks). This resulted in ONR raising a Regulatory Issue. The improvement plan continues to be delivered and we are on track to close the Regulatory Issue in Q4 as agreed by ONR.
- Improvement plan continues to be delivered and we are on track to close regulatory issue in Q4 as agreed by ONR
- Site programme is continuing to plan with the approval of the next phase in operations and fuel management activities within the Shore Test Facility being provided in early May.
- Joint teams continue to assess the feasibility of transferring the liability for decommissioning Vulcan to the NDA. A decision is expected later this year.
- Vulcan continues with its collaboration with the Submarine Dismantling Project in Rosyth, as both projects are within the Submarine Delivery Agency (SDA), we have been identifying

opportunities for better working and efficiencies, mainly in project management and development of SDA personnel. This will include short placements at Vulcan for MoD Apprentices/Graduates.

- The annual Security demonstration took place last week and whilst awaiting the formal report, a self-assessment concluded it was a successful demonstration of the arrangements in a challenging scenario. LfE was identified, and those minor improvements will be made to our arrangements in the next few months.
- The Vulcan sign at the start of the approach road will be refurbished over the next few months.

SM thanked IM for the update and invited questions. None received.

DNSR: (Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator) JB confirmed no further update to the report submitted to the sub group.

SM invited questions, none received.

SEPA: SB confirmed there was nothing to add to Cdr Walker's update and the previously reported updates.

SM invited questions, none received.

ONR: JF confirmed there were no updates for the Vulcan site.

- No attendance during the last reporting period
- No incidents or notifications received from Vulcan

4. Dounreay high level updates

SM invited updates and questions.

NDA: AM reported:

- Two regional events on the theme of "Innovation" will be held in June. West Cumbria on 8 and Glasgow on 28 June. Dounreay will be presenting on innovation, socioeconomics and sustainability
- Jamie Reed, Jeremy Gilmour, and Andy Harper are visiting the area from 19 – 22 June.
- On 14 June, Chair Dr Roz Rivaz and CEO David Peattie are meeting with Just Transition and Net Zero Cabinet Secretary, Mairi McAllan MSP to present the annual briefing on the Scottish update from the NDA.

SM invited questions:

DB noted that the paper stated they were meeting with the Minister for Environment, Biodiversity and Land Reform, however the document stated Minister for Net Zero and Just Transition.

SM confirmed this was a new appointment for Mairi McAllan, following changes within the Scottish Government.

DB commented there were the three Scottish sites, but because of the decommissioning he was surprised it was not four, including Vulcan.

AM confirmed Vulcan is not within NDA's remit.

Dounreay: MM spoke of four key areas:

Stewardship:

- Safety – Our Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) dropped in the last quarter to 0.11 against a target of 0.1
- Security exercise took place in May and scored a green grading
- Recent electrical and sodium storage related concerns raised by ONR and SEPA. Good stewardship of our site and aging assets is paramount. ONR has issued an Enforcement letter for electrical safety. SEPA issued a Final Warning letter for sodium storage.
- The site has self-identified it may be a lower tier COMAH site and is negotiating with the competent authority (ONR & SEPA)
- Annual Review of Safety, Security and Safeguards takes place on 28 June
- Trade Unions & Safety Representatives have written to management raising several concerns. This feedback is seen as positive and helpful; enables us to refocus our energy on areas that matter to members and to the business

Mission Delivery:

- Working to an agreed near-term work plan (NTWP) for 2023/24 making progress against 10 key targets
- Working on next year's plan (NTWP24) which is directly linked to our new life-time plan (LTP24) - our route map
- Continue to strengthen relationships with supply chain and focus efforts ensuring innovation, socioeconomics and sustainability is high on agenda

Investments:

- Two key investments for 2023/24 – Life Time Plan (LTP) and Fit For Future (FFF)

LTP

- Programme business case approved by our board and acknowledged as credible and realistic
- LTP – next stage in the assurance process will go to the NDA Group Investment Committee later this year
- On track from implementation from 1 April 2024
- Commitment to brief DSG in detail later this year

Fit For Future

- Transforming our people, processes, systems and structure to deliver new programmes at the core of the Life Time Plan
- PA Consulting joined the team
- New organisational structure for Dounreay emerge in the autumn
- Spending power being eroded by inflation, vital we are more efficient if we are to deliver against the plan

Corporate:

- Joining together with Magnox completed seamlessly on 31 March
- Now functioning as Dounreay Division under one board for all sites
- Next to join will be redundant EDF Energy sites

- Magnox will be rebranded with a new name, scheduled for the autumn
- Dounreay's name and identity continues to be important and will play a key part in rebranding journey
- Dounreay Family Day will take place on 26 August. Family members will be able to come on site and see what we do

SM invited questions:

GC made comment the sodium storage will have to be addressed quickly as SEPA had issued a Final Warning. GC enquired if it was a "chicken and egg" scenario that regulators seem to be more involved because there are more safety issues or are there more safety issues because of regulator involvement?

MM responded it was not a single drum there were other matters that also had to be dealt with and like everything else that we do and deal with like the aging assets issues there is risk, and we have to sequentially look at how this is dealt with proportionally and understand the likely consequences. Whilst these are recent interventions there are topics which have been known about, it's how we prioritise that against everything else in the plan.

MM responded that we are going to publish what 80/90% solution looks like to the organisation in the autumn in iterations. We are going to take a programmatic approach with three delivery programmes. We know we are going to have an independent challenge and oversight function which will work with ourselves, and the Magnox group and we know that we are going to have a Dounreay enhancement that will see control measurement sitting at the centre of running Dounreay. The functional review has been carried out, we now need to put the right people to the right place and operate properly. In the autumn the staff will be briefed and from January onwards change the organisation to fit. This is a fundamental change to the way we do business at Dounreay adopting a more delivery centred approach.

GC asked about investments and organisational structures for Dounreay, can you explain in more detail what it will mean to the community at large and if your spending power is going to be eroded by inflation how this is going to impact?

SM asked how correlated is core inflation with what is required from a decommissioning perspective or are there unique inflationary pressures that Dounreay has that is not in the rest of the private sector market or are you seeing the same things that other areas are?

MM responded that he would defer the detail to Neil Cook and the team but would say the general response to that is we are not unlike others in what we are feeling in the round but we do have some unique elements in the nuclear industry - we are blessed with a strong and high ASFL when it comes to the annual site funding limit being given to us which gives us consistency for planning.

ACTION: DSG/PM(2023)M02/A001: NC core inflation – respond in detail to DSG the issues inflation is having on site budgets

DB stated the update focused on organisational issues and senior management but the decommissioning projects and jobs at Dounreay have not changed. It is important to retain the experience and knowledge of personnel who have been working in these plants over years especially within the FCA where historical knowledge is important.

MM thanked DB for his comments and confirmed he would not be responding as he believed we are in that space. We recognise the depth of knowledge within the workforce which will be a continuum along the way.

DB asked about the organisational charts, which are included in the paper, if all the decommissioning and waste management activities come under Mick Moore?

MM confirmed Mick Moore does manage at the highest-level for waste but also manages a component of the decommissioning mission across the FCA, PFR and DFR. Whereas Fredric Stalin owns another component of the decommissioning mission. Going forward there will be three programme directors doing three bespoke programmes of FCA, Balance of Site and Reactors.

DA noted the unions were unhappy regarding several matters, are you prepared to say what these matters are? Is it linked to safety or personnel issues or concerns relating to something else?

MM responded both Trade Unions and Safety Reps categorically confirmed the site is safe. It is how they interact with management, being valued, and listened to on a number of fronts over a long period of time. They are raising general concerns across the board. Working out how we step forward together, utilise our time better and build on our future.

DA asked about current staffing numbers and the number of vacancies on site. With the LTP how is that going to affect staffing levels, will there be casualties?

MM confirmed there were 1450 staff at Dounreay, 1265 were Dounreay the last time he looked at the data. Currently there was no intent on reducing the staffing numbers as the plan requires the staff numbers we currently have. Depending on what option is taken on the LTP going forward will vary those numbers over time.

SM invited questions from the public:

John Crowden – given the site has received Final Enforcement letter obviously things have happened previously to that, is it a case that assessments have not been robust enough?

BC confirmed the ONR Enforcement letter on electrical matters is about two specific issues. The first being the way certain switchgear was operated. The switchgear was a particular type and vintage. The second was related to operational suitability of a couple of transformers. Those transformers have a package of work associated with them. In both cases ONR placed requirements on us within the Enforcement letter to which we have replied and given both our plan of action for the transformers, and we have taken steps to adjust our risk assessment for the switchgear concerned. We are operating that switchgear well below its rated values but as a precautionary measure we will not be operating that switchgear live unless there is a specific reason to do so with a risk assessment that will go through additional checks before it happens. This has been submitted to ONR as the response to our enforcement.

The warning letter from SEPA is chronologically coincidental but relates to a different topic and is from something that was discovered at the back end of last year and we reported it during the DSG meeting, and it is going through the process. While the two have come together in time they are not connected.

DB enquired about electrical switchgear and whether it was a particular piece of equipment or was the issue generic due to the age of the site?

BC responded it was a specific instance of a type of switchgear of a particular vintage of which there are several instances across the site.

SEPA: SB reported:

- PFR drum incident – SEPA issued a warning letter which is a lower level from Final warning letter but still part of the process. SEPA carried out a worst-case assessment and confirmed it was below public dose limit. Storage arrangements were looked at and failures were related to the unauthorised disposal and maintenance of those storage facilities. Regulator on site last week and visited all the alkali metal storage arrangements across the PFR facility as part of a compliance inspection in line with the permit, which should be concluded before the next subgroup meeting. Dounreay proactively reported this incident when they became aware.
- Local interest in the non-radiological incident reported previously in terms of waste going to Seater landfill, the local team have been engaging with site and continue to update with progress.

ONR: JF reported:

- ONR safety inspectors continue to make routine monthly visits to site covering a broad range of subjects
- ONR have undertaken numerous inspections which included fire inspection at PFR and nuclear ventilation systems inspection within the FCA both receiving green ratings
- ONR inspectors carried out an electrical safety inspection, nuclear safety aspects of the inspection were rating green. As previously mentioned, conventional health and safety inspection was rated amber and prompted an Enforcement letter being issued. This related to using equipment which dated back to the 1950's and 1960's which had known safety concerns surrounding it. Dounreay has stopped using this equipment and has responded to our Enforcement letter with an account of additional protective measures along with a programme to use their transformers
- ONR carried out an inspection of the alkali metal storage arrangements across the site, a large amount was rated adequate. However, the storage arrangements in certain areas of PFR fall short of expectations. A further Enforcement letter has been raised. Due to previous regulatory action, senior management have been invited for a Holding to Account meeting to ensure regulatory expectations are met going forward
- Two events have been reported during this period – a lightning strike which was previously reported and a series of slips, trips and falls relating to cold weather earlier in the year. ONR is satisfied with Dounreay's response to both events
- ONR will be on site next week to interact further with the update that was given about the potential for site to enter the lower tier of the COMAH regulations and our COMAH expert will also be attending
- ONR senior management will attend site at the end of the month for a routine annual review of safety, security and safeguards with Dounreay's senior management.

SM invited questions, none received.

CNC:

DM was not in attendance. SM commented if there are any questions, comments, or issues that either DSG or public members wish to raise within the CNC remit please put them to the members of the business meeting or secretariat which will be reported back in due course.

5. Presentation – Dounreay site monitoring programme

Dr Christopher Sneddon gave an extensive overview of the site monitoring programme which included environmental radioactivity, regulatory oversight, site water quality monitoring network, environmental monitoring programme and environmental monitoring dissemination. Dr Sneddon gave a detailed account of each heading in his presentation to the meeting.

SM invited questions:

DB queried the interim end state being released from regulation. Under Scottish Government policy there will still be intermediate level storage on site for approximately 100 years so you will be subject to regulation.

CS responded the site was looking towards the Guidance on Requirements for Release from Radioactive Substances Regulation (GRR). The implementation of the waste management plan and part of that might be partial deauthorisation of the site. However, this was not part of scope to comment on.

BC added we are already planning how the end state through the Gate B paper is brought to the subgroup.

RS asked if there was any modelling or sampling on foraging? RS was aware of at least one person within the Thurso area who conducts foraging trips looking for herbs or fungi. Is that sampled?

CS confirmed that foraging is called novel pathways, we look at research on what is called emergent pathways. There is a recognition that a substantial increase in people wanting to buy locally as well as foraging. We take advice from National Dose Assessment Working Group (NDAWG) which is a national working group on dose assessments as they have papers looking at these novel pathways. There is scope to add local foraging going forward.

6. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the last public meeting (DSG(2022)M01) held on 22 March 2023 were ratified, proposed by SM and seconded by DC.

A question was asked regarding green jobs and there was some confusion regarding which set of minutes/paper this belonged to. An in-depth response was given.

The minutes of the DSG socioeconomic subgroup (DSG/SESG (2023) M01) held on 26 April 2023 were ratified, proposed by DA and seconded by GC.

The minutes of the DSG site restoration subgroup (DSG/SRSG(2022)M01) held on 26 April 2023 were ratified, proposed by GC and seconded by TM1.

ACTION: DSG/PM(2023)M02/A002: SM asked if demarcation could be made between the references from the above meetings as some members found it hard to distinguish between them.

7. Status of actions

SM noted the rebranding exercise ongoing for the Magnox joining, following a meeting in London with fellow SSG chairs and vice-chairs, there is an expectation of more visibility in the coming months. SM stated it is near impossible to get every site from across Magnox and Dounreay to agree on one vision going forward together.

SM asked members for high level updates to streamline the meetings. Today has gone well with changing of the agendas. SM stressed that submission of papers as early as possible to enable early scrutiny would be beneficial.

DB raised a question on DSG(2023)CO22 regarding the pilot scheme in 2021 for Quantity Surveyors. DA stated it was unfortunate the applicants weren't successful and noted it had been discussed in some length at the socio-economic subgroup. DB expressed surprise as being a Quantity Surveyor is a transferrable skill.

8. Any Other Business

Alan Scott – understanding what current skills are within the region, who possess them, what demographics they are, where they are located. In the past it has been communicated to the DSG there have been several skills audits undertaken by site and external agencies. Where did the reports go and how widely were they circulated?

PF commented work was carried out on site approximately two years ago. In terms of getting all the skills in the region identified Skills Development Scotland is the partner who can give us high level information.

MM explained as part of FFF and looking at our structure we know what our general demand and capability is and currently looking at strategic workforce planning and how this will translate into need over time.

ACTION: DSG/PM(2023)M02/A03: DA to ask observers to report to one of the subgroups the outcome of an internal skills audit and also contact external agencies.

SM confirmed written correspondence had been received from Mr Alexander Glasgow which was read verbatim

“So regards to the Caithness committee resolving to rebuild Block A at Thurso High School at an estimated cost of £7.5 million it is my belief that this is the wrong decision as well as being doomed to failure because it is not in their gift to make. Thurso High School was opened in 1958 with a projected lifespan of 70 years. 60 years on our community has no clear plan for a school. All schools in Thurso are classed as category C that's the classification Highland Council gives to building conditions and are in need of replacement. There was an opportunity in the 2010's for a rebuild but stakeholders asked to be removed from that process.”

SM stated Mr Glasgow was asking if the NDA will approve in principle, to work with the NHS Redesign, UHI, Scottish Government and UK Government to see if we can have a genuinely transformative far north campus. It was Mr Glasgow's view that a 3-21 campus in Thurso would retain more students in the area, particularly those that study STEM.

SM confirmed he was pleased this had come to the DSG because of the STEM element and the importance of educational throughput to apprentice schemes and those coming onto both nuclear estates. Thurso High School Block A had to be condemned because of the type of cement and structural work which was undertaken when it was built. A large part of the school is no longer available for pupils and this is not just a loss of classrooms but social space inside which is equally as important to development. Highland Council acted quickly and had installed temporary classrooms. However, the spaces that the students used have been lost and it was the view of councillors at the last Caithness Area Committee that they would not wait for the Highland Council to implement a plan for the school estate to rebuild, we wanted to see demolition and the school replaced. The decision was made to demolish and rebuild.

SM invited comments and questions:

TM1 commented during the last local elections, one of the leaflets stated it would be looked at within the next 10 years?

SM confirmed he would not comment on what people put on their electoral literature. However, the only councillor that has been publicly fighting for a new school for some time is Cllr Karl Rosie. Many have not been content with the school estate but certainly believe that improvements around the school estate were preferable to a brand-new campus. SM noted being in a unique position in Caithness where there are local authority schools, a college and university within the same area which could be transformative. This will require political will behind it and potentially going to the NDA.

9. Close

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

Cllr Struan Mackie
DSG Chair
20 June 2023

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

DSG/PM(2023)M02/A001: Neil Cook to respond in detail to DSG the issues inflation is having on site budgets

DSG/PM(2023)M02/A002: SM asked if demarcation could be made between the references between the DSG public and subgroup meetings as some members found it hard to distinguish between them

DSG/PM(2023)M02/A03: Ask observers to report to one of the subgroups the outcome of an internal skills audit and also contact external agencies