

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group (DSG) public meeting held on Wednesday 6 December at 19:00 via MS Teams

Present:	Cllr Struan Mackie David Alexander Peter Faccenda Gillian Coghill David Craig Brian Mutch Trudy Morris Tor Justad Ron Gunn Christian Nicolson Cllr Andrew Jarvie David Broughton Allan Farquhar Niall Watson Thelma Mackenzie	Chair (The Highland Council) Vice-chair (Thurso and Wick Trades Council) Focus North Programme Manager Buldoos Residents Independent Chair Caithness West Community Council Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspection Directorate Caithness Chamber of Commerce HANP CHAT NHS Highland Highland Council DSG co-opted member of the public Royal Burgh of Wick Community Council NRS Dounreay Trade Unions Thurso Community Council
Attending:	Mac MacGill Barrie Cran Alan Mackay Richard Faris Stewart Ballantine Cdr Ian Walker Diane Hamilton Supt Lynsay Hernandez Gail Ross Tina Wrighton Dawn Clasper Emma MacDonald Suzanne Ferguson Linda Ross	NRS Dounreay Chief of Staff / Deputy Managing Director NRS Dounreay Director of Assurance NDA Site Facing Team ONR SEPA MOD Vulcan SG Radwaste CNC NRS Dounreay Head of Communications NRS Dounreay Stakeholder & External Relations Lead Socio Economics Administrator Minute Secretary NRS Dounreay Learning and Development Manager, STEM Ambassador University of Keele

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Cllr Struan Mackie welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting virtually due to the weather. Cllr Struan Mackie also welcomed Linda Ross from the University of Keele who is carrying out a community research project on behalf of the NDA.

2. APOLOGIES

The following apologies were received:

- Sandy Mackie, Scrabster Harbour Trust
- Cllr Michael Baird, Highland Council
- Roger Saxon, DSG Site Restoration sub group deputy chair
- James Bryson, DNSR
- Eann Sinclair, HIE
- Cllr Dr Stephen Clackson, Orkney Council
- Mark Rouse, MD NRS Dounreay

3. STEM PRESENTATION

Suzanne Ferguson, NRS Dounreay Learning and Development Manager, STEM Ambassador gave a presentation on STEM. Suzanne Ferguson covered STEM ambassadors, benefits of the programme, STEM at Dounreay, collaborative working and the activities they deliver.

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked Suzanne Ferguson for her presentation and invited questions from members, of note:

David Broughton asked if there is a programme to bring young children to site. Suzanne Ferguson clarified that there has been in the past through work experience, and she hopes it will continue in the future. There are also summer students and interns.

Tor Justad asked if she could speculate why there are more male engineers than female. Suzanne Ferguson responded that it is male dominated so potentially makes girls less likely to choose to become an engineer but hopes that STEM will help this.

4. DOUNREAY UPDATES

NDA Corporate:

Alan Mackay stated that the NDA UK supply chain event is to be held on the 27 June 2024 in Telford. Alan Mackay also talked about the recent secondments happening in the NDA. Oli Smith was on a secondment from NRS to the Scottish Government Rad Waste team, and Martin MacDonald from Scottish Government has been seconded to the NRS future missions team; both secondments are for 12 months. The NDA also took part in the Nuclear Industry Association's 'Week in Parliament' in September 2023. The CEOs of the NDA and SEPA met recently with the idea to develop a more strategic partnership.

This led to a discussion between multiple members about the strategic way of working together. SEPA then reinforced the arrangements that were in place and working well.

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked Alan Mackay for his updated and invited questions from members. There were no questions raised.

NDA Dounreay:

Mac MacGill gave the following update on behalf of NRS Dounreay:

Dounreay is now very much working within Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) as part of our new working governance and routine. In late October, we launched the new NRS brand as planned, in November we had pleasure of hosting the first NRS Board and Executive meetings at

Dounreay. This included site facility walkdowns, meetings with staff and engagements with our trade unions, safety representatives and network groups.

We continue to drive forward delivery of our in-year commitments through monthly Dounreay executive and NRS CEO accountabilities. We have experienced a few in quarter challenges, but our targets are now generally ahead of or on schedule to meet agreed timescales with one exception: our Shaft & Silo target will be missed due to an emergent challenge in enabling works. We have experienced a few challenges such as: a crane mechanical failure jeopardised our Breeder material removal related target – now recovered. Concrete not setting appropriately in waste management and the impact of weather across the estate have all had a detrimental impact on delivery.

Our Total Recordable Incident Rate has increased to 0.22 following several minor injuries. This has been an increasing trend that we are actively seeking to reduce. We have picked up an increase in ‘misalignment’ between the written arrangements / works control documentation and the work as conducted. There are indications that this is occurring in several areas. As such, Dounreay is rolling out a safety campaign building on Human Performance to address this from December through to March. During this period of major change, our wider leadership and management team are increasing their presence, visibility, and engagement on the shopfloor. Progress with regulatory actions and commitments is on track with updates delivered on time. Significant progress on relationship with safety representatives; We continue to work with our trade union representatives on key issues. Recertification to key ISO standards (9001, 14001 and 45001) recommended by AFNOR¹, although two major and three minor non-conformances were identified. Action is underway to address these non-conformances. Highland Council and COMAH Competent Authority (ONR and SEPA) received the formal notifications on 31 October. We have had minor particle finds this year with our last on 16 Oct 23. Feedback is shared with members and TUs; action plan developed; good progress is being made.

The Lifetime Plan remains robust, but slightly delayed, through significant, but healthy NRS, NDA and NAO scrutiny. It goes to the NDA board in January – staff briefings have started. Our rolling 4-year near-term work plan is now mature and will be enacted from 1 April; Mac MacGill noted that next year’s funding has been confirmed at £225m up from £215m this year. Our near-term work plan is designed on programmatic principles, and we continue to make progress putting in place our new organisation structure to deliver this.

Mac MacGill informed the DSG that based upon our future business structure; our new level two leadership posts are now being recruited internally. Barrie Cran, our Director of Assurance, is joining the technical and regulatory affairs team at Great British Nuclear on secondment as Head of Technical Assurance from 2 January 2024. This is a fantastic opportunity to help shape and deliver the country’s nuclear renaissance. Mike Potts, head of our design authority, will provide interim cover to 1 April. Mac MacGill thanked Barrie Cran for his superb support, contribution to both Dounreay and the DSG. Dr Naomi Mawby has been appointed as the Balance of Site Programme Director. Dr Naomi Mawby joins us in February next year from Nuclear Waste Services where she is currently head of strategy. Prior to this, she was head of strategy and technical at Sellafield Ltd, with 20 years of experience in nuclear decommissioning, land remediation and high-hazard waste retrievals.

A discussion regarding the LTP followed and a question was asked about whether or not resource profiles will be issued along with the LTP. Mac MacGill responded by saying that they have spent 2 months looking at resourcing, but the profiles will not be released to the general public.

¹ AFNOR are Dounreay’s external auditors for ISO 9001, 14001 and 45001.

Mac MacGill made a commitment to share strategic workforce plans with the DSG subgroups in the next quarter.

David Craig noted that we expected to have completed the top two tiers of the new structure by the end of October 2023 - has this been completed and when will we see it. Mac MacGill responded that the new organisational structure is complete, and Dounreay met the target of setting the top two tiers without names. We have advertised jobs in November and December which have slipped, and we look to publish and inform people of jobs late February / early March with the organisational structure being made available in late February.

Tor Justad asked what the major non-conformances were. Mac MacGill responded that the two major non-conformances were some areas of the COSHH regulation not being properly addressed and an investigation into a CNC RIDDOR incident that we had failed to apply the Dounreay process to and it had not been formally closed out.

Alexander Glasgow asked about information relating to medical radio isotopes and was any case still being made. Cllr Struan Mackie noted that in discussion with David Calder the site receives a number of requests from groups and organisations. It is really important that we are not left out of the conversation as medical isotopes are very important and there remains a global need.

ACTION: DSG/PM(2023)M04/A001: DSG to look into the provision of medical isotopes.

Alan Farquhar asked for clarification of what AFNOR is. Mac MacGill responded that AFNOR is a certified body that carries out independent audits.

Alan Farquhar noted it was mentioned about the Near Term Work Plan (NTWP) and the Life Time Plan (LTP) being issued next year - he asked if the resource profile would be issued alongside this as it would be a confidence booster for the county. Mac MacGill responded that we have had to do a resource plan and we have fixed the work we want to do, and he will share this with the subgroups as it's not an external document.

ACTION: DSG/PM(2023)M04/A002: Mac MacGill to share the resource profile with the Site Restoration sub group.

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked Mac MacGill for his update.

Cllr Struan Mackie expressed kind words about Barrie Cran and his support for the DSG, which were endorsed by Gillian Coghill and Davie Alexander.

SEPA:

Stewart Ballantine stated that there were no further updates to be given.

Tor Justad asked if there were any updates on the cyber security issues that happened in December 2020. Stewart Ballantine responded that they are rebuilding the system to work more efficiently but it is an ongoing process of work and will continue for many years.

Tor Justad noted that there were a number of issues recently in the press with cyber issues at other sites and he asked the NDA if there were any updates. Alan Mackay responded that there were no updates at this time.

ACTION: DSG/PM(2023)M04/A003: Tor Justad would like a formal answer from NDA on the impacts of the cyber issues and around recent Sellafield media coverage.

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked Stewart Ballantine for his update.

ONR:

Richard Faris noted ONR had been on site for a week every month for inspections which are going well. They are also looking at the decommissioning and FFF progress and they are getting assurance from site which has a very long and complex plan. Recently they attended a site exercise which went well and thanked everyone who participated in it. Richard also spoke about Dounreay's new emergency plan. It is a frozen plan so anyone wishing to change it must go to ONR for agreement for changes to be made. The plan will be published on the ONR website when ready. ONR completed a waste themed inspection that has highlighted some areas where legacy waste has been stored on site for long period of times; this is being addressed going forward.

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked Richard Faris for his update and invited questions from members, of note:

Tor Justad asked if the emergency plan is the same plan as the local authority plan on the website or is it different. If so, when does it get updated and when will this be available for public viewing. Richard Faris responded this is the REPPIR process and it has reduced the area - there are two plans - the onsite plan that has been approved and the offsite plan that is updated on the Highland Council website. It is Dounreay's decision when it gets updated. Mac MacGill supported by explaining that the offsite emergency plan must be published to the public and is available, but the on-site emergency plan does not need to be published. DSG can however be given access to the plan.

ACTION: DSG/PM(2023)M04/A004: Mac MacGill to provide emergency on-site plan to DSG Site Restoration subgroup.

CNC:

Superintendent Lynsay Hernandez introduced herself. She reported that CNC has been working with partners and stakeholders building good relationships. They have also had on site exercises and training events during working hours and thanked the participants. The exercises were well received by all teams and CNC are very grateful for the support. They have recently secured a chance to run a training course locally for new recruits and there is a proactive recruitment campaign for Caithness and Sutherland. CNC know that local people stay the longest which is why the recruitment campaign is only in Caithness and Sutherland. Lots of effort has been made to advertise the recruitment campaign, including MFR for 3 months, drop-in sessions and the leaflet drop.

There is an update to legislation which has gone through the government which has been approved and there is no change in their core process which means they can apply to do work beyond 5 km of the site.

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked Supt Lyndsay Hernandez for her update and invited questions from members, of note:

Tor Justad asked if the training is firearms training or just local general training and if the results with recruitment are early or concrete with people who want to join.

Supt Lynsay Hernandez responded that they have always run initial courses in Oxford but have an 18-week apprenticeship training course which includes 9 weeks police training and 9 weeks firearms training locally. The pipeline has fluctuated and there are about 30 people who have applied. Local people have been contacting the team with lots of questions.

5. MOD (VULCAN) UPDATES

MOD Vulcan:

Cdr Ian Walker delivered the MOD Vulcan update starting with health and safety. He said there has been no incidents or accidents since the last meeting. He did however mention that a low voltage cable was damaged in a car park, no one was hurt, or other equipment damaged; however, since the root cause was the cables being installed incorrectly they are determining if other cables were installed at a similar time and thus may present additional risk when undertaking excavations. He stated that there were no challenges to SEPA or Approval of Arrangements. Cdr Walker reported that the flowmeter measuring the sewage discharge once again revert to a default setting and thus for a period of time, the Site were not recording the discharge as required by the SEPA discharge consent. The investigations are ongoing to determine the root cause, though he emphasised that by other means they could demonstrate the discharge volume limits had not been breached.

The operations have continued with all the programmes on schedule and there were no events that required mandatory reporting to the Regulators.

The nuclear exercise was meant to be held on 18 October but was called off due to bad weather. It has been postponed to June 2024, combined with next year's exercise.

A recent ONR inspection went well, with a green rating, though one Regulatory Issue was raised, an improvement plan to address this has already been agreed with the ONR. The SEPA report from the recent inspection had been received, and had a positive rating, though two non-conformances were raised. These were around the reporting periodicities used which did not quite align with our Approval of Arrangements. The improvement plan for the non-conformances has been submitted to SEPA, though we are awaiting confirmation this is acceptable.

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked Cdr Ian Walker for his update and invited questions from members. Of note:

Alexander Glasgow asked about the medical isotopes and the change in business model and as Vulcan is a licenced site would that be feasible.

Cdr Ian Walker responded that Vulcan is an authorised site which is different - both reactors are shut down and have been since 2015. Vulcan is a small site and is currently committed to support the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Programme and there is no spare capacity to do work outside this.

DNSR:

Cllr Struan Mackie noted that there was no DNSR representative in 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:

Stewart Ballantine reported that there was a site inspection to Vulcan and there were a couple of issues with the timeframes of reporting as briefed by Cdr Ian Walker. SEPA was very impressed with the maintenance of the site as a whole.

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked Stewart Ballantine for his update and invited questions from members. There were no questions asked.

ONR:

Richard Faris noted that Vulcan is an authorised site so only has one regulatory process, compared to Dounreay with five. All proposals from Vulcan are on target for meeting the correct date.

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked Richard Faris for his update and invited questions from members. There were no questions asked.

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the last public meeting (DSG(2023)M03) held on 20 September 2023 were ratified, proposed by Tor Justad, and seconded by Gillian Coghill.

The minutes of the DSG socioeconomic subgroup (DSG/SESG (2023) M03) held on 18 October 2023 were ratified, proposed by Davie Alexander, and seconded by Gillian Coghill.

The minutes of the DSG site restoration subgroup (DSG/SRSG(2023)M03) held on 18 October 2023 were ratified, proposed by Gillian Coghill, and seconded by David Craig.

7. STATUS OF ACTIONS

The status of actions were taken as read.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business raised.

9. CLOSE

Cllr Struan Mackie thanked everyone for their input and formally closed the meeting.

Cllr Struan Mackie
DSG Chair
6 December 2023

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

DSG/PM(2023)M04/A001: DSG to look into the provision of medical isotopes.

DSG/PM(2023)M04/A002: Mac MacGill to share the resource profile with the Site Restoration sub group.

DSG/PM(2023)M04/A003: Tor Justad would like a formal answer from NDA on the impacts of the cyber issues and around recent Sellafield media coverage.

DSG/PM(2023)M04/A004: Mac MacGill to provide emergency on-site plan to DSG Site Restoration subgroup.