

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

SITE RESTORATION SUBGROUP

Minutes of the DSG Site Restoration subgroup meeting held on Wednesday 24 January 2024 at 19:00 in the Georgina lounge, Pentland Hotel and via MS Teams.

Present:	Gillian Coghill	DSG Site Restoration subgroup chair
	Roger Saxon	DSG Site Restoration subgroup deputy chair
	Thelma Mackenzie	Thurso Community Council
	Niall Watson	Dounreay Trade Unions
	Cllr Struan Mackie	Highland Council (DSG Chair)
	Cllr Andrew Jarvie	Highland Council
	David Craig	Caithness West Community Council
	David Broughton	DSG Co-opted member of the public
	David Alexander	Thurso and Wick Trades Council
	Allan Farquhar	Royal Burgh of Wick Community Council
	Tor Justad	HANP
In addition:	Tina Wrighton	Stakeholder & External Relations, Dounreay
	Dawn Clasper	Socioeconomics & Sustainability Administrator
	Emma Macdonald	NRS Dounreay Business Apprentice
	Frederic Stalin	NRS Dounreay Strategic Programme Director
	Cdr Ian Walker	MOD Vulcan
	James Francis	ONR (Dounreay)
	Stewart Ballantine	SEPA
	James Bryson	DNSR (Vulcan)
	Supt Lynsay Hernadez	CNC
	Sarah Wilcox	Head of Special Projects (Nuclear Propulsion Project Team)
	Laura Tarpe	Project Manager (Nuclear Propulsion Project Team)

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Gillian Coghill welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a belated Happy New Year. Gillian also welcomed Sarah Wilcox from the Head of Special Projects (within Nuclear Propulsion Project Team) and Laura Tarpe, Project Manager (within Nuclear Propulsion Project Team).

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

- Richard Faris, ONR – James Francis deputising

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Gillian Coghill noted that the minutes of the last meeting – DSG/SESG(2023)M03 October 2023 – had been endorsed at the public meeting held in December 2023. She invited members to raise any issues from the minutes. No issues were raised.

4. ACTION STATUS

Gillian Coghill noted the status of actions had been circulated to all members. Following a discussion, the status of each action will be updated.

- DSG/PM(2023)M04/A001: DSG to look into medical isotopes. **Ongoing.**
- DSG/PM(2023)M04/A002: Mac MacGill to share the resource profile with the Site Restoration sub group. **Complete:** Frederic Stalin noted this could not be distributed to members. An in-depth discussion about the resource profile took place. Frederic Stalin contributed by saying that the Lifetime Plan (LTP) is becoming more and more precise as time goes by. The plan is still yet to be shared completely with staff members. The LTP is going to the board in March. Frederic Stalin then said that the plan is still currently changing and that they will start to be more open with staff about the LTP and will communicate much better.

Niall Watson also contributed to the discussion by saying that having sight of the LTP as soon as possible is very important for the workforce and supply chain as it allows individuals and companies to plan. He also said that he believes this LTP is, in effect, more accurate but less precise than previous iterations of the LTP, as in it will set out the direction of travel whilst avoiding being too specific with timings for longer-term activities where the detail is not yet available to identify precise dates. Niall Watson believes the DSG should be seeking to assure itself that the plan, in big handfults, makes sense and that the community can have confidence in it.

- DSG/PM(2023)M04/A004: Mac MacGill to provide emergency on-site plan to DSG site restoration subgroup. **Complete:** This was shared with the DSG Business Meeting, although it cannot be distributed to the wider DSG members.

Gillian confirmed that each action has been updated and that all other actions have been closed.

5. DOUNREAY UPDATE

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

- DSG(2023)P042: Dounreay Report
- DSG(2023)P043: SEPA Report
- DSG(2023)P039: ONR Report

Dounreay: (DSG(2023)P042 refers)

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

- Dounreay continue to make good progress against key targets. The Shaft and Silo performance is the only milestone which has been missed. The Shaft and Silo target is forecast to be missed by one month.

David Craig asked what the difference between missed and threshold is in the performance summary. Frederic Stalin responded the milestones are to be completed within a year; a milestone is missed if not achieved within the year. These milestones are very mechanical and are near term focused. They try to reach the NDA expectation targets.

David Craig asked if we could get a brief textual summary for each of the delivery targets.

Action: DSG/SRSG(2023)M04/A001: To include a summary of the delivery targets in future papers.

Tor Justad noted on the onshore monitoring of radioactive particles that the graph did not show any figures for 2023 and that the statutory surveys achieved is 50% and not 100%. Frederic Stalin noted that the last data point would be the information for 2023, this will be reviewed for the next update. Niall Watson responded that the text accompanying the graph indicated why it is 50%, i.e. either because there was insufficient material (sand or gravel) to sample or due to the presence of nesting birds. Samplers still have to go out even though there are no particles to retrieve or sand to sample, and report to SEPA.

Gillian Coghill noted that there was an underspend and NRS Dounreay are reviewing what work could be accelerated from the next financial year into the final quarter of this year. Given the recent report from ONR any extra money should surely be used to remedy this potentially dangerous situation. Frederic Stalin responded that the underspend is against what was planned to do. The plan should always prioritise regulatory requirements and delivering regulatory commitments. He noted that there was work continuing on staff welfare and that they were unable to start any large projects early.

Gillian Coghill also wanted to thank the Dounreay staff for keeping the road open during the recent bad weather.

Gillian Coghill invited members to raise any questions. There being no further questions, Gillian Coghill thanked Frederic Stalin for his update.

SEPA: (DSG(2023)P043 refers): Stewart Ballantine noted the following:

- Engagement with site continues and a number of inspections have taken place.
- Variation applications are proceeding from Magnox Limited to add an additional discharge stack for PFR which should be this quarter.
- LLW facility variation has been delayed in the peer review process and is expected to take place towards the end of the first quarter 2024.

Gillian Coghill invited members to raise any questions. Of note:

Roger Saxon noted the additional stack required at PFR - is this for a different part of a new process that needs a new stack. Stewart Ballantine responded that this was permitting of a new stack to support decommissioning.

There being no further questions, Gillian Coghill thanked Stewart Ballantine for his update.

ONR: (DSG(2023)P039 refers): James Francis noted the following:

- ONR had completed four site regulatory visits. Topics covered included managing radiological waste, safeguards compliance, testing and exercising the security response, periodic reviews, and safety walkdowns.
- ONR continue to work with Dounreay on a number of matters and the LTP. There is a large amount of work going on and having a plan and flexibility allows Dounreay staff to recognise how the site will be decommissioned and what the future looks like which is a credit to the site. We interact with various issues on site.
- Dounreay has reported three safety events to ONR. An asbestos event that resulted in a failure of asbestos arrangements - no inhalation is suspected during the event but it did result in a breach of arrangements. The other 2 were more routine; a twisted ankle slip trip and fall and a work place related injury.
- ONR conducted an inspection of the alkali metal storage arrangement within PFR. They previously conducted a similar inspection in April and wrote an enforcement letter seeking improvement to storage arrangements. A follow-up inspection has found little improvements to storage locations and as yet a lack of definition provided on how arrangements will be enacted. This is going through the enforcement management process.
- Raised concerns around asset management - concerns about water ingress and lack of heating in facilities and the time that these conditions were allowed to persist - this will also go through ONR's enforcement management process.

Gillian Coghill noted that this is a concern as this should be a priority. James Francis responded that the heating and rain water issues have been rectified.

Gillian Coghill invited members to raise any questions. Of note:

Rogers Saxon asked if these buildings were operational or unoccupied. James Francis responded that they were occupied buildings and operational.

Tor Justad noted the inspection of alkali metals storage issues - there was limited improvements and looking at this did you identify why this was the case; is there a shortage of staff to carry this out or some other reason. James responded that the issue has existed for a prolonged length of time, and it is a HSE and SEPA joint issue. The change of management sites could also be a factor as this is not a small issue. It will take a long time to resolve. Condition of buildings won't help the matter.

Tor Justad noted there was a number of ONR senior management stepping down – will this have any effect on staff being promoted as there will be less staff on the ground? James Francis responded there is going to be a large amount of change. There is a new inspector training programme launching which will help to gain new inspectors.

Roger Saxon asked if ONR is content that there is a plan to deal with the sodium drums in a timely manner and have the resources to do this. James Francis noted that a technical plan is being developed and there is an additional strategy on how they will be stored in the interim and there have been movements on these aspects.

There being no further questions, Gillian Coghill thanked James Francis for his update.

CNC: Supt Lynsay Hernandez noted the following:

Supt Lynsay Hernandez updated that it has been a very challenging week with weather. CNC had many officers and many staff members who had to work 24 hour shifts due to weather. She wanted to thank everyone who helped during the blizzards and noted that it was a great opportunity to learn and if this weather is to ever come again, they will be better prepared for it.

Supt Lynsay Hernandez noted that the new recruitment drive is ongoing and there has been a leaflet drop to 12,000 houses and they used an online portal for anyone with questions. There have been over 40 applicants which is the busiest it has been in many years. CNC has advertised very well as many people are talking about it as it is such a great local opportunity. CNC is now preparing for the delivery of a local training course. There is a maximum 16 candidates who can go forward to do the course, but there are more plans to recruit again and run another course. People can train elsewhere and then apply for a job locally. So far the recruitment drive has been very well received. Socio economics are helping CNC work in the community. They aim to build a Scottish delivery centre and run initial courses every year.

Gillian Coghill thanked Supt Lynsay Hernandez for her update and invited questions from members:

Tor asked out of 16 candidates how many will be successful? Supt Lynsay Hernandez responded that it varies. With a smaller cohort more of them will be successful, but a bigger cohort will be more difficult for everyone to be successful. They are planning to develop a new apprenticeship scheme which will last 2 years and has a better success rate and expect 80-90% of apprentices should be successful to gain a job.

Gillian Coghill and Supt Lynsay Hernandez discussed that some people are put off applying for CNC as you may not be successful after 12 weeks training, so people do not want to leave good jobs in case they end up unemployed.

Supt Lynsay Hernandez added that there is now an appeals process, most people get back on the course, so can do the parts of the course they were not successful in. This gives them an extra, and more likely, chance of completing the course and getting the job. CNC has a very high standard so that is why the training is very difficult.

Roger Saxon noted that if someone did not meet the standard for CNC could they be offered a job with Guard Force. Supt Lynsay Hernandez responded that this is in discussion to have a future partnership but currently there is nothing in place.

There being no further questions, Gillian Coghill thanked Supt Lynsay Hernandez for her update.

6. VULCAN UPDATE

Gillian Coghill noted the following written updates had been provided:

- DSG(2023)P040: Vulcan update
- DSG(2023)P037: Rolls Royce update
- DSG(2023)P043: SEPA
- DSG(2023)P036: DNSR

MOD Vulcan: (DSG(2023)P040 refers)

Cdr Ian Walker noted the last few weeks have been challenging due to the weather conditions and thanked Police Scotland, NRS Dounreay and the community for keeping the roads clear.

Cdr Ian Walker expanded on the issues being experienced with the sewage discharge flowmeter system. He explained that they do not know why the installed flowmeter reverts to a default setting every few months and are engaged with the manufacturer. He also stated they are investigating alternative flowmeters from different suppliers. In the interim additional manual checks have been instigated to ensure any failure of the flowmeter is identified within 24 hours.

Cdr Walker made the following statement:

In March 2022 we announced that a joint project team had been put in place to assess the option of transferring responsibility for decommissioning the Vulcan site to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) once the Ministry of Defence's (MOD) operational activities have ceased.

UK Government approval has now been given to implement the arrangements that would enable the safe and efficient transfer of the Vulcan site to the NDA through a series of transitional workstreams.

Whilst the transition work progresses, there are still a number of operational activities which need to be completed at Vulcan in accordance with the MOD approved programme and Vulcan will continue to focus on the safe and secure delivery of these activities.

Further updates on the transfer will be given in due course and we will continue to keep you informed of progress.

The site's annual nuclear response demonstration was due to be held in November but due to severe weather conditions this has been rescheduled to June 2024.

A new member of the team (civil servant) has joined on Monday 22 January, replacing an individual who left in August 2023.

Gillian Coghill invited members to raise any questions. There were no questions raised. Gillian Coghill thanked Cdr Ian Walker for his update.

Rolls Royce Update: (DSG(2023)P037 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)P043 refers)

Stewart Ballantine noted there were no issues. No questions were raised.

ONR: James Francis provided the following highlights:

- ONR has not attended site during the reporting period.
- ONR's principal engagement has been Project Saltus and merging the sites.
- ONR will attend site in March 2024 for an electrical safety inspection.

Gillian Coghill invited members to raise any questions. No questions were raised.

DNSR: (DSG(2023)P036 refers)

James Bryson noted there were no issues. No questions were raised.

7. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETING

Gillian Coghill noted no correspondence has been received since the last meeting.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Gillian Coghill noted that the NHS review of the health redesign plan has been paused by the Scottish Government and will have a huge impact in this community. Gillian Coghill and others noted disappointment as this will be a massive blow to the NHS staff and the local community. There was further discussion on this around the table.

9. CLOSE

Gillian Coghill thanked everyone for their input and formally closed the meeting.

Gillian Coghill
DSG Site Restoration subgroup chair
13 February 2023