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### DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

DSG/SRSG(2025)M002

### SITE RESTORATION SUBGROUP

**Minutes of the DSG Site Restoration subgroup meeting held on Wednesday 16 July 2025 at 19:00 in the Dounreay Public Information Office, Thurso and via MS Teams.**

#### Present:

Roger Saxon (RS)	DSG Site Restoration subgroup chair
Cllr Andrew Jarvie (AJ)	Highland Council
David Broughton (DB)	DSG co-opted member of the public
Christian Nicholson (CN)	NHS
John Deighan (JD)	DSG co-opted member of the public
Ken Nicol (KN)	DSG co-opted member of the public
Niall Watson (NW)	NRS Dounreay Trade Unions
Blair McGeachin (BM)	WIN
Jillian Bundy (JB)	Caithness West Community Council
Cllr Stephen Clackson	Orkney Islands Council

#### In attendance:

Alex Pitsillos (AP)	ONR
Lt Cdr Phillip Alexander (PA)	MOD Vulcan
Ferne Mill (FM)	NRS Dounreay Communications
James Francis (JF)	ONR (Dounreay)
James Bryson (JB)	DNSR
Stewart Ballantine (SB)	SEPA
Megan Watson (MW)	NRS Dounreay
C/Insp Paul Gilmartin (PG)	CNC
Gail Ross (GR)	NRS Dounreay Head of Communications

### MINUTES

#### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Roger Saxon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

- Tina Wrighton Stakeholder & External Relations, NRS Dounreay

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- |                      |                                  |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Lynsay Hernandez   | CNC                              |
| • David Craig        | Caithness West Community Council |
| • Frederic Stalin    | NRS Dounreay                     |
| • Cmdr Ian Walker    | Vulcan                           |
| • Gillian Coghill    | Buldoo Liaison Group             |
| • Lauren Mackay      | WIN                              |
| • David Alexander    | Thurso and Wick Trades Council   |
| • Cllr Struan Mackie | Highland Council                 |

### 3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Roger Saxon noted the minutes of the last meeting – DSG/SRSG(2025)M001 – had been circulated to members in advance. He invited members to raise any issues from the minutes.

No changes were raised.

It was noted a vice chair of the Site Restoration subgroup was still to be appointed.

RS proposed DB as vice chair and JD seconded this.

### 4. ACTION STATUS

- DSG/BM(2025)M004/A001: NDA to provide a full breakdown of the total NDA socio-economic funding by travel to work area for every site. This action is ongoing.

KN discussed the previous action on emergency arrangements with senior staff, he asked if there is a possibility to have a visit looking at emergency arrangements in the future. This has been noted.

### 5. DOUNREAY UPDATE

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

**Dounreay:** (DSG(2025)P022) refers; Megan Watson noted:

The improvement notice for alkali metal storage has now been closed. Breeder fuel removal work is progressing well. 20% of the annual targets have already been completed. Positive steps are being made on FCA in relation to the target for D1217. Crane issues are ongoing, operations are expected to resume later this month. The Dounreay Cementation Plant business report was presented to the NDA.

A regulatory action improvement plan for the laundry handling issue has been compiled. Waste investigations have been completed and passed through

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governance, with stop work lifted in most areas and procedural gaps addressed. The project remains on track to return waste to the vaults by the end of July.

Consultation is underway for the transfer of 80 contractors by 1 April 2026. Dounreay has received two NDA awards in recognition of its achievements. The first-year apprentices in the early careers programme have successfully completed college and transitioned into regular working days at Dounreay.

RS asked if the group had any questions.

KN inquired about the plans for the D1310 labs, and MW confirmed we still have fume cupboard capability available in D1310 to carry out faecal analysis.

KN also asked whether the 80 individuals have officially become Dounreay staff; MW clarified that it depends on whether the individuals choose to accept the contracts. Another discussion followed regarding the decommissioning operatives contracts.

JD noted it was encouraging to see Dounreay receiving awards.

DB asked about the placement of design apprentices, and MW confirmed they are assigned to the design office.

RS queried the meaning of a tension level strategy date, and MW explained it refers to the plan for exiting regulatory attention, with recovery plans to be submitted to the ONR by the end of July.

RS then asked what the NDA 19 machine is, MW clarified it is used to monitor drums in WRACS.

MW also discussed the NRS Dounreay targets with the group. SC asked why the targets were not reported using a RAG (red, amber, green) status. MW was unsure as that is how they are reported to the NDA. NRS will look at a simpler way to present this information to the group. NW continued the discussion, emphasising that the targets should reflect that the site is safe, environmentally responsible, and beneficial to the community.

RS thanked MW for her update.

**SEPA:** (DSG(2025)P020) Stewart Ballantine noted:

The carbon bed filter issue was noted; a resolution timescale has not yet been established.

Three compliance inspections have been completed, covering waste transfers, solid waste management, and the gaseous discharge system. The site was found to be fully compliant in all three inspections.

Discussions are ongoing regarding drainage-related issues, with progress being made.

RS invited the group to raise any issues.

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No questions were raised

**ONR:** (DSG(2025)P023) refers: James Francis noted the following:

ONR has reinspected the sodium storage facility. The inspection was successful, with current improvements deemed suitable for short-term storage. Further improvements are being progressed by Dounreay.

ONR has issued an improvement notice regarding manual handling practices. Dounreay has reviewed the notice, requested an extension, and this has been granted.

The Level 1 exercise was rated as adequate by ONR, which is a positive outcome.

A meeting with senior management regarding the transition to routine action was held and deemed successful. A subsequent meeting focused on safety matters also concluded positively.

RS asked if there were any questions:

RS asked how short term the short-term storage arrangements are? JF said ONR is happy with the arrangements to be adequate until a new store is built.

SC asked what the purpose of long-term storage is for alkali metals, JF stated to dispose of the metal not to reuse it.

DB asked about the interim ILW store and where the safety cases are for these? JF has not received a safety case for the operational phase yet, but has the design safety case.

RS thanked JF for his update.

**CNC:** C/Insp Paul Gilmartin verbally reported:

Traffic concerns are being patrolled by CNC to try and calm speeds down in the Buldoo area.

PG has been working on local community engagement and will have a group of volunteers to continue on building on these relationships

A new and refreshed recruitment campaign is soon to launch, and the aim is to deliver another local course early 2026.

Three officers on our current local course graduate on Saturday 19 July and will arrive at the unit soon after.

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Several officers from Hunterston have relocated to Dounreay on either a permanent or long-term temporary basis, some have already arrived, and some are still to arrive over the next few months once Hunterston closes.

Officers from other units continue to attend Dounreay on 'Operation Mobilise' duties to support the overall resourcing picture which has improved.

Local officers have recently been successful in becoming sergeants.

Recruitment campaigns continue as far south as Edinburgh.

The annual site exercise will be taking place on the evening of Wednesday 24 September.

PG welcomed questions.

JD asked if there's been difficulty recruiting since taking on non-nuclear sites; PG says there's been no issue for those sites but it has continued to be hard to recruit people into Caithness.

RS thanked PG for his update.

### 6. VULCAN UPDATE

**MOD Vulcan:** (DSG(2025)P019) refers: Lt Cdr Phillip Alexander reported:

There have been three reported injuries on site since the previous meeting.

The issue concerning the sewage discharge flow meter remains ongoing; remedial work is in progress.

Efforts continue towards securing the EARS18 permit.

The Vulcan Lonestar exercise was conducted at the end of June. ONR assessed the exercise as adequate. PA extended appreciation to all participants.

Regulatory inspections have taken place, including visits from two DNSR inspectors, ONR, and SEPA.

A recent BBC News article regarding the Vulcan transfer contained no new information beyond what has already been communicated to the DSG.

PA invited questions:

KN asked about the sewage system and who the emails for this issue go to; PA explained it's the health and safety team and the shift manager.

RS thanked PA for his update.

**Commented [NW1]:** Believe this should read EASR 18. EASR stands for Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations.

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**Rolls Royce Update:** (DSG(2025)P021) refers:

No one was in attendance from Rolls Royce

RS welcomed questions

No questions were asked.

**SEPA** (DSG(2025)P020) Stewart Ballantine reported:

SEPA had nothing to add to the written report.

RS asked what a medium combustion plant is, PA explained it provides the site with heat.

No other questions were raised.

RS thanked SB for his update.

**ONR:** Alix Pitsillos provided the following highlights:

ONR have been to site for a general walk round and update, nothing has been raised since.

AP welcomed questions.

None were raised.

RS thanked AP for her update.

**DNSR:** (DSG(2025)P024) James Bryson reported:

No significant issues were noted.

The Lonestar exercise was observed by DNSR and was rated adequate.

JB welcomed questions.

KN asked what an extraordinary site meeting was for. JB said it was for providing safety documents, whereby Vulcan had invited the regulator to help with the assessments process.

RS thanked JB for his update.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETING**

RS asked if anyone has any questions from the correspondence provided (DSG(2025)C012).

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No questions were raised.

#### **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A discussion was held around the set up and location of the meeting. This will be monitored going forward.

There was no other business discussed. RS closed the meeting.

Roger Saxon

**DSG Site Restoration subgroup chair**

16 July 2025

#### **ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING**

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