

SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY

**Minutes of Dalgety Bay Forum Meeting
Held on Monday 10th September 2012
Civic Centre, Inverkiething**

Present

Nick Atkins (NA), Morton Fraser (accompanying DIO)
David Brack (DB), DIO
Gareth Brown (GB) Scottish Government (for JC)
Ron Brown (RB), MOD/DSTL
John Burton (JB), HPA
Helen Eadie MSP (HE), Member of Scottish Parliament
Iain Robertson (IR), DIO
Linda Turner (LT), Fife Council
Jackie Hyland (JH), NHS Fife
Donald Grant (DG), Fife Council
Stephen Chorley (SC) DB&HCC (for C McPhail)
Cllr Lesley Laird (LL), Fife Council
Cllr Gavin Yates (GY), Fife Council
Andy Warden (AW), Scottish Government
Janice Milne (JM), Chairperson, SEPA
Jim Gemmill (JG), SEPA
Paul Dale (PD), SEPA
Gillian Sinclair (GS), SEPA
Debbie Storm (DS), SEPA
Mark Toner (MT), SEPA
James Hamilton (JH), SEPA

Apologies

Richard Higgins (RH), Dalgety Bay Sailing Club
Larry Irwin (LI), Moray Estates
Colin McPhail (CMcPh), DB&HCC
Will Munro (WM), FSA in Scotland
Mark Hill, (MH) DIO

Non attendance:

David Burnett (DBur), Dalgety Bay Sailing Club
Edward Coyle (EC), NHS Fife
Jacqueline Campbell (JC), Scottish Government
Donald Adrain (DA), Dalgety Bay Sailing Club
Martin Macdonald (MMac), Scottish Government

Summary of actions from meeting – 10th September 2012		
Action 2012-09-01	Action No: 2012/09/01 JM asked if there were any further comments to the minutes of 11 th June 2012 these should be sent to Gillian Sinclair as soon as possible	All as required
Action 2012-09-02	Action No: 2012/09/02 – SEPA to provide members of the Dalgety Bay Forum with proposals for carrying out a Habit Survey of the beach at Dalgety Bay.	SEPA
Action 2012-09-03	Action No: 2012/09/03 – As agreed by the Forum SEPA to provide a synopsis of work being carried out i.e. present works and what is expected (at Dalgety Bay) along with FAQ's. This could be set up on SEPA's website.	SEPA

1.0	Welcome and Apologies	Actions
1.1	JM welcomed those present at the meeting in particular the new members to the Forum Cllr Lesley Laird and Cllr Gavin Yates.	
1.2	Apologies received from Mark Hill DIO, Larry Irwin Moray Estates, Will Munro FSA in Scotland, Richard Higgins for Dalgety Bay Sailing Club and Colin McPhail DB&HCC.	
1.3	Forum members not in attendance are noted above.	
2.0	Minutes of previous meeting 11th June 2012	
2.1 Action No: 2012/09/01	JM asked if there were any further comments to the minutes of 11 th June 2012 these should be sent to Gillian Sinclair as soon as possible	All

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	Actions arising from meeting held on 11th June 2012	
Action 2012-06-01	Complete. JM asked all Forum members to email any comments on the minutes of 27 th March 2012 to Gillian Sinclair by Monday 25 th June 2012.	<i>Forum Members</i> COMPLETE
Action 2012-06-02	Complete. Action on DIO/FSA/Fife Council: It was agreed that DIO and Fife Council and FSA would need to liaise regarding location of signage at Dalgety Bay to ensure that there was no delay in erection of signage. (Ref: Page 4, Para 3.5.3). Update provided under Paragraph 3.5 of this minute.	<i>DIO/FSA/Fife Council</i> COMPLETE

3.0	Update from Forum Members	
3.1	SEPA	
3.1.1	JG advised that since the last Dalgety Bay Forum Meeting (DBFM) SEPA has engaged with DIO regarding proposals for the ground investigation work at Dalgety Bay. This has included presentations from DIO on the proposals for the ground pits.	SEPA
3.1.2	(JH, NHS Fife entered the meeting at this point)	
3.1.3	SC asked if there were proposals to look at potential hazards and beach usage and stated that there had been no scaling or surveying work done for the area on the usage of the beach.	
3.1.4	JG stated that this was a valid point which is to be addressed and said that DIO proposed to carry out a survey on people using the beach, however, now that the exclusion area has been cordoned off people's habits are different than that of 5 years ago. Also with the potential longevity of the contamination usage of the beach could change significantly in the future.	
3.1.5	Following discussion it was agreed that SEPA would undertake a "Habit Survey" of the beach at Dalgety Bay similar in approach to that undertaken around nuclear licensed sites.	
3.1.6	Prof. Sanderson Presentation to Expert Group (EG) RB asked if there was a report available on the use of 16l Nal technology for detecting particles, which was presented verbally to the EG. PD advised that there is no (hard copy) report and that the presentation was gratis to SEPA. PD stated that David Sanderson's verbal report to the EG stated that using the (16l Nal) detectors had little additional benefit.	
3.1.7	Ingestion Report RB asked about the report mentioned in Para 3.1.3 of the previous minutes (June 2011) and stated that this was still not available on SEPA's website. This refers to SEPA's laboratory work being undertaken and will be submitted to the EG after which SEPA's report on ingestion doses would be released (Title: Dalgety Bay radium contamination August 2012).	
3.1.8	COMARE Report (Title: Cancer Incidence rates at Dalgety Bay) JH stated that Dalgety Bay Forum Members will get sight of the COMARE report. PD stated that he and JG will be in attendance (as observers) at the next COMARE meeting in London in early October after which will be able to update Forum Members on the status of the Ingestion Report.	

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3.1.9	For ease of reference HE asked that the full titles of reports are stated in the Forum meeting minutes.	
3.1.10	GY asked if there had been any significant particle finds since the last Forum Meeting. (See DIO update below)	
ACTION 2012/09/01	Action No: 2012/09/01 – SEPA to provide members of the Dalgety Bay Forum with proposals for carrying out a Habit Survey of the beach at Dalgety Bay.	SEPA
3.2	DIO	
3.2.1	DB advised that DIO have been finalising the Conceptual Site Model and will be finalising reports on this in the next few weeks.	
3.2.2	DB stated that the DIO contractors can mobilise to commence works in seven days, however, prior to this DIO need clarification (from SEPA) on some minor issues. DB handed Forum Members a draft flier describing the planned investigation work to be undertaken in Dalgety Bay and the impact on the local community. He stated that this would be issued to houses in the immediate vicinity of the works being undertaken. Discussion ensued regarding the wording and content of the flier and who the recipients would be. IR reiterated that it would be delivered to households in the vicinity of the works, however, a copy could be sent to “The Diary” (local publication from DB&HCC). In addition DB asked Forum Members to forward comments on the flier to him asap in order for DIO to liaise and take guidance from SEPA on its content. In addition when the start date is agreed a wider communication can be made to the public through, for example, the Dunfermline Press.	
3.2.3	With regard to GY question above (para 3.1.10) DB advised that AMEC (DIO’s contractor) is continuing to monitor and recover radioactive particles on the beach. With respect to Very High Radioactive Activity particles if AMEC did find anything “of significance”, although all particle finds are recovered, DIO would inform SEPA immediately should anything significant be detected.	
3.2.4	LL stated that she understood from the aforementioned update that DIO are nearing a point to going ahead with ground work and agreement with SEPA was imminent. Thereafter, work would be able to commence in seven days. DB stated that only minor issues need addressed i.e. location of trial pits and local access concerns. SC asked what access problems were being encountered. JG stated that there are 3 different landowners involved whose land will be affected by the investigation work and access permission needs to be sought from them prior to commencement of investigation work.	
3.3	Scottish Government (SG) Update	
3.3.1	AW advised that ministers are keeping an eye on matters at Dalgety Bay. Mr Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Environment is keen that the work at Dalgety Bay is as thorough and definitive as possible and remediation is reached to ensure the area is safe in years to come. Investigation work has not happened as quickly as possible and SG would like to see barriers dropped between agencies and work to be underway in order to progress to a state of a clean beach at Dalgety Bay.	
3.3.2	Regarding the communication (DIO flier) he would emphasis HE’s point	

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	<p>that it is important that any message issued to the public should not get bogged down technically but provide the necessary public information. Information (re Dalgety Bay) made available to people normally comes via the media. If there is an opportunity to speak to people, take this chance and place things in context. SG is keen to ensure that agencies are engaging comprehensively with the community. Anything sent out should reassure the public with a degree of explanation and people should feel comfortable with the message. We (SG) stand ready to support in any way possible.</p>	
3.3.3	<p>RB stated that although DIO can help distribute public safety messages in its documents the text needs to come from the responsible Government Department(s).</p>	
3.3.4	<p>AW asked if a quote from the minister would give some reassurance and said they would be happy to respond to any requests.</p>	
3.3.5	<p>JM stated that this (the flier) required to be looked at and thought through. She said the Forum needs to think about the message being put across.</p>	
3.3.6	<p>IR stated that a quote from the minister would not be required (on the flier). AW stated he did not suggest a quote from the minister on the flier and advised that if anything he said at the meeting was unclear or misunderstood he would provide his feedback to SEPA.</p>	
3.3.7	<p>HE stated that people want to see timelines for the work involved through to remediation. IR stated that in the first instance the investigation work requires to be carried out and what happens thereafter will depend on the results arising from the investigation.</p>	
3.3.8	<p>SC asked if following the distribution of the flier would it be possible to issue a communication informing the public of a list of what is being done and timescales. PD said that SEPA could provide a synopsis of work being carried out ie present works and what is expected (at Dalgety Bay) along with FAQ's. This could be set up on SEPA's website.</p>	
3.3.9	<p>JM asked the Forum if they agreed with this approach to expand the information available to the public via SEPA's website. The Forum agreed.</p>	
3.4	FSA	
3.4.1	<p>As WM was not present at the meeting there was no update from FSA in Scotland.</p>	
3.5	Fife Council	
3.5.1	<p>LT advised that permission was given from Shell to erect signs on their land and all signs are now in place regarding the FEPA ban. The telephone number for Fife Council's Out of Hours Service is listed on the sign who can alert officers to act appropriately if anyone is reported removing shellfish or bait from the area. To date no calls have been received. IR stated that his observation was that the signs were disorientating and gives the impression of standing on the headland and not in the bay. LT said she would pass his concern to the FSA.</p> <p>RB asked about results of shellfish samples which were taken (from the beach) of which reports are not yet available (para 3.4.1 previous</p>	

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	minutes). PD said this monitoring is undertaken by SEPA and the programme is currently being reviewed. Current results show no elevated Radium 226 in the samples taken to date and this is being relayed to the FSA. PD advised that SEPA is looking for this to be published (once agreed with the FSA) through either the SEPA or the FSA website. RB suggested that release of these results should be expedited as the absence of contamination (in the samples) would provide valuable public reassurance.	
3.6	HPA	
3.6.1	JB confirmed that nothing has been found which would change the position of HPA that the risks to the public are low given the current protection measures in place.	
3.6.2	<p>NA asked about the report on the comprehensive review of the HPA's position on scoping public health assessment. JB stated this report has not yet been released but will be in the next month. HPA carried out the study for Scottish Government and it will provide the supporting justification to HPA's conclusions.</p> <p>[Post meeting note. The HPA report "Scoping Health Risk Assessment for Beach Users at Dalgety Bay to Support Advice to Scottish Government Given in February 2012, HPA-CRCE-040 was published on 29 October 2012.]</p>	
3.7	NHS Fife	
3.7.1	JH referred to the aforementioned COMARE Report (para 3.1.8) and said that NHS Information Services Directorate (ISD) is collecting and analysing data in response to a request from the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radioactivity in the Environment (COMARE) and NHS Fife is assisting in providing them with this. She advised that cancers in the area do not relate to radiation and currently COMARE is waiting on more detailed information from ISD on this. SC asked if we could put pressure on COMARE to produce this report in order to allay fears in the community. JH explained that due to the nature of the data being gathered patients approval has to be obtained which takes time and diplomacy. PD reiterated this, explaining that COMARE are keen to complete this report as soon as possible, however, due to the nature of the information being gathered (personal information) appropriate checks need to be carried out. He stated that COMARE needed no extra encouragement.	
3.8	Dalgety Bay Sailing Club	
3.8.1	As no representatives from Dalgety Bay Sailing Club were present there was no update at the meeting.	
3.9	Dalgety Bay and Hillend Community Council	
3.9.1	SC summarised the 4 important areas of work which had been discussed at the meeting namely, COMARE Report, Technical Work on Ingestion, Proposals for a Habit Survey and the Shellfish Report. He stated that communication on these would be useful and asked if there was anything else of interest being carried out.	
3.9.2	PD said that this did summarise the position and they would be pulled together with all the strings of work being undertaken.	

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3.10	Moray Estates	
3.10.1	As LI was not present at the meeting there was no update from Moray Estates.	
4.0	Future Actions	
4.1.1	Key actions will be moving on the start of Investigation Work at Dalgety Bay.	
4.1.2	COMARE Report findings	
4.1.3	The next meeting of the Expert Group will take place on 25 th October 2012.	
5.0	SEPA Press Statement	
5..0.1	<p>DS advised that SEPA usually issues a press statement following DB Forum meetings. However, as the DIO investigation at Dalgety Bay was imminent it has been decided that SEPA would issue a statement at this time. LL asked if a press statement was not issued after today's meeting would this raise concerns. DS advised that as SEPA did not issue dates of DB Forum Meetings therefore no press statement was expected. However, should SEPA receive any enquiries following today's meeting she would be able to answer these appropriately. Additionally this evening she would be attending (along with PD), the DB&HCC meeting in Dalgety Bay in order to assist with any press or other enquires which arise.</p> <p>GY stated that SEPA and other agencies are welcome to future Community Council meetings.</p>	
6.0	Next Meeting	
6.1.2	The next DB Forum meeting will be held on 5 th December 2012. The location for this meeting is yet to be advised.	
	Other Business	
	<p>IR referred to the reports mentioned by SC (para 3.9.1) especially the HPA report and stated that these are key to community engagement. He feels that even if a summary of the HPA report was issued this would provide a positive message to the community. These are 4 "good news" stories. DB stated that these reports would not impact on the DIO investigation works which would still take place at Dalgety Bay.</p> <p>HE stated that "good news" for the public would be at the remediation stage. She also stated that the contractors on site have not been thorough until SEPA get involved.</p> <p>DB advised that in respect of AMEC (contractors) DIO has worked with SEPA and pushed the boundaries of current practice. There were some issues with the clarity of the early EG requirements and with the relative importance of the different parameters in the methodologies that might be employed. DIO understand that present arrangements are appropriate for ensuring public safety. DIO would continue to liaise with SEPA. RB asked whether inter-comparisons of the monitoring techniques that might be employed have been carried out. LL asked about the implications if doubt is raised in the validity of the inter-comparisons. DB advised that Amec monitoring and source removal is continuing and that the signage is also an important aspect of ensuring safety of beach users. The EG is also asked for their opinion. DB said it would be disingenuous to say that</p>	

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one method of monitoring is necessarily "better" than another.

PD summarised and said the current position is much better than it was 12 months ago. Criteria for monitoring is now set by the EG additionally SEPA is auditing the monitoring which is carried out by DIO contractors. If SEPA has concerns they will be addressed with DIO.

SC mentioned the 2007 report on Dalgety Bay by Enviros. PD stated that different work is now being proposed to be undertaken by AMEC.

LL asked if anything arose from SEPA's audit and was not resolved would this have an impact (on the monitoring) at the end of the day. PD said that SEPA was happy that DIO will address any issues as they have done so far, however, if not this would be noted and reported and all work streams will be addressed.

HE asked if the Forum would have access to all the individual reports before SEPA pulls all the information together. PD confirmed that subject to data protection the reports would be made available.

END