

PARTICLES RETRIEVAL ADVISORY GROUP (DOUNREAY)

RECORD OF RECOMMENDATIONS and ACTIONS

2nd MEETING OF THE DOUNREAY PARTICLES RETRIEVAL PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP – 18th November 2009

Present:

Prof Keith Boddy (Chair) - **KB**
 Prof Alex Elliott (Member) (*until 2:15 pm*) - **AE**
 Prof Marian Scott (Member) - **MS**
 Dr Andrew Tyler (Member) – **AT**
 Dr Paul Dale (Technical Secretary) - **PD/Tec Sec**

In Attendance:

Ms Joanne Brown (Observer, HPA) - **JB**
 Mr Phil Cartwright (Observer, DSRL) - **PC**
 Prof Alex Elliott (Observer, COMARE) - **AE**
 Mr Stuart Hudson (Observer, The Scottish Government) (*pm only*) - **SH**
 Mr Trevor Jones (Observer, NDA; alternate for Mr Randall Bargelt) - **TJ**
 Mr Richard Lennon (SEPA) - **RL**
 Dr Will Munro (Observer, FSA) (*morning only*) - **WM**
 Mr Bill Thomson (Observer, DSRL) - **BillT**
 Mrs June Moore (Administration) – **JM**

Apologies:

Prof Tim Atkinson (Member) – **TA**
 Mr Hugh Fearn (Observer, SEPA) - **HF**
 Mr Alastair MacDonald (Observer, DSG) - **AMacD**
 Mr Byron Tilly (Observer, SEPA) – **BT**

Agenda Item	Summary of Discussion	Recommendation /Agreed	Action	Status	Target Date
1 Chairman's Introduction	<p>Chairman welcomed all present to 2nd PRAG(D) meeting. He invited PD to inform Group of new/revised membership under item 2.</p> <p>KB stressed that the Group was under considerable pressure in its deliberations, despite SEPA's extended report deadline to the end of the FY (from end of this calendar year). Nevertheless, he expected the Group to provide a well-considered report and he hoped to have a draft short report prepared by the February meeting.</p>		Draft of short report to be prepared for Members' consideration at the February meeting (KB & PD).	Open	February meeting packs

Agenda Item	Summary of Discussion	Recommendation /Agreed	Action	Status	Target Date
	<p>Timeline on monitoring of Sandside beach was discussed. PC confirmed there is permission for monitoring at present. The status of continued access was discussed during the meeting and PD, AE and SH commented on behalf of SEPA, COMARE, and the SG.</p> <p>Chairman outlined and summarised timescales to be considered.</p>	Cut-off date of 31/12/09 suggested for analysis purposes.	<p>MS agreed to try to produce draft analysis by February meeting.</p> <p>Brief report on offshore recovery work to be available for next meeting (TA).</p> <p>Draft report for February meeting on beach finds to date and analysis/implications (AE, MS + AT).</p>	<p>Open</p> <p>Open</p> <p>Open</p>	<p>February meeting</p> <p>February meeting</p> <p>February meeting</p>
2 Membership of Group	<p>PD outlined changes to membership:</p> <p>Prof Elliott has been appointed a Member of PRAG(D). He also continues to hold Observer status for COMARE.</p> <p>Alastair MacDonald had accepted SEPA's invitation to represent the local stakeholder group as a PRAG(D) Observer. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend today's meeting.</p> <p>The NDA had accepted SEPA's invitation to become an Observer on the group and nominated Randall Bargelt as their representative. Mr Bargelt is unable to attend today; Trevor Jones is here as his alternate.</p> <p>PD clarified his dual role today in Byron Tilly's absence; he was acting for SEPA as well as Tec Sec to the Group.</p>	<p>It was formally noted that AE is now a Member of the Group.</p> <p>It was formally noted that AMacD is now an Observer on the Group.</p> <p>It was formally noted that RB is now an Observer on the Group.</p>			

Agenda Item	Summary of Discussion	Recommendation /Agreed	Action	Status	Target Date
	<p>PD introduced Richard Lennon, a new member of the Radioactive Substances Policy Unit within SEPA, who was present to assist with today's meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman confirmed that apologies had been received from TA, HF, AMacD and BT. He noted that SH would join the meeting later and that WM and AE would need to leave early, due to other commitments.</p> <p>KB advised that the invitation extended to Dr Gemmell to become an Honorary member of the Group had been declined, on the grounds that it might cause a conflict of interest.</p>	It was formally noted that there is no Honorary member in the Group.			
3 Edinburgh Group Dounreay Particles Meeting	<p>KB provided an update on the status of the Edinburgh Group Dounreay Particles Meeting, held on 29 September. He confirmed that it had been agreed by the Edinburgh Group that its meetings were no longer necessary and that PRAG(D), with its revised membership of Observers, could now disseminate and discuss the information previously considered by the Edinburgh Group.</p> <p>PD advised that, as a direct outcome of the cessation of the Edinburgh Group meetings, the SG had now confirmed their acceptance of Observer status on PRAG(D).</p>	<p>The Group noted that there would be no further meetings of the Edinburgh Dounreay Particles Group.</p> <p>It was formally noted that Stuart Hudson would attend as the SG nominated Observer.</p>			
4 Minutes Paper 001	PD asked Members to consider paper 001.				
4.1 Format for Recording Minute	Following discussion, the Members confirmed their acceptance of the succinct format for recording the meetings, rather than the full minutes previously established by DPAG.	It was agreed that a summary record of recommendations and actions agreed would be produced.	JM	Ongoing	

Agenda Item	Summary of Discussion	Recommendation /Agreed	Action	Status	Target Date
4.2 Record of Previous Meeting <i>Paper 001</i>	The 'Summary of Discussion and Record of Recommendations and Actions' from the meeting held on 5 th May was accepted, with a minor amendment.		Record of the first meeting of PRAG(D) to be posted on SEPA's website (JM).	Open	
4.3 Actions Arising <i>Paper 001</i>	The Tec Sec led the Group through the actions arising from the previous meeting. Action points were considered and signed off, as appropriate.	Remaining outstanding actions agreed and carried forward.	Actions carried forward recorded as an appendix to this document.	Open	
5 Review of Dounreay Monitoring Regarding Contaminated Land Regulations <i>Paper 012 (tabled)</i>	PD spoke to tabled paper 012; a progress report on the RCLR assessment SEPA is undertaking at Dounreay, submitted by BT for presentation to the Group in his absence. Following extensive discussion and consideration of various points raised, PD advised that SEPA hopes to complete the assessment work next year and a further report will be provided to the Group at that time.	KB indicated that an important commitment was to recommend possible end points for the beach monitoring.	Update to be provided by SEPA in due course.	Ongoing	
6 Surveys Update – Beaches <i>Papers 002, 003, 008</i>	KB asked DSRL to report on recent monitoring. BillIT (DSRL) led the Group through a presentation on the beach monitoring undertaken since the last meeting and summarised the report for each of the beaches surveyed.	It was agreed that the detecting system appears to be working better than anticipated and that improved operator efficiency may be contributing to this.	KB asked the sub-group to begin to assimilate the beach monitoring data for analysis in the PRAG(D) report (AE, MS & AT). Draft of relevant points discussed (and the comments provided) to be prepared (KB & PD)	Open Open	February meeting February meeting

Agenda Item	Summary of Discussion	Recommendation /Agreed	Action	Status	Target Date
6.1 Sandside	<p>Information within the DSRL presentation was considered and discussed.</p> <p>It was noted that during the 'repeat' survey of Sandside a further three particles were detected, indicating that active repopulation from the marine environment was probably occurring.</p> <p>Over a longer timescale it was noted that significant changes to the beach profile had occurred.</p> <p>The Group discussed and considered the possible effect of the offshore recovery work on particle occurrence at Sandside and Dounreay Foreshore and agreed that a much bigger data set, which could only be provided by continuous monitoring access, is vital to facilitate a full assessment of the impact.</p>	<p>KB noted that there was a limited amount of data available due to the periods when monitoring access to Sandside was denied. He suggested that this lack of information on the potential occurrence of particles at Sandside should be considered by the SG.</p> <p>It was suggested that, without access to the beaches for consistent monitoring for at least three years, the Group is 'blind' to the effect that the offshore recovery of particles might be having on particles arriving on Sandside Beach. It was agreed that continuing access to allow sustained monitoring must be recommended again.</p>			
6.2 Dounreay Foreshore	<p>Information within the DSRL presentation was considered and discussed.</p> <p>The possibility of an additional cache of particles was raised and considered. KB noted the Group's concerns that a substantial number of particles are <i>significant</i>.</p>	<p>It was suggested it could be worthwhile reconsidering DPAG's views about a potential in-shore cache which feed the Dounreay Foreshore particles.</p>	<p>KB to review DPAG work to ascertain whether there is information regarding a second cache.</p>	Open	End Jan 2010

Agenda Item	Summary of Discussion	Recommendation /Agreed	Action	Status	Target Date
	DSRL confirmed that the area between the Foreshore and Sandside had been monitored.	For clarity, it was recommended that DSRL provide a record of the area monitored to allow changes in the density of particles (per unit area) to be assessed. It was noted that this was at PRAG(D)'s request.	DSRL to provide further information.	Open	End Jan 2010
6.3 Dunnet	Information within the DSRL presentation was considered and discussed.				
6.4 Others	Information within the DSRL presentation was considered and discussed. PC advised that it had not been possible to access Melvich beach for monitoring until recently, due to a substantial change in the beach profile. Frequency of monitoring was discussed and it was suggested that PRAG(D)'s ToR enabled it to consider the monitoring frequency recommended in DPAG's Fourth Report.	It was agreed that PRAG(D) endorsed the recommendation by DPAG on frequency of monitoring for public beaches.	DSRL to continue monitoring beaches, including Melvich, as recommended in DPAG's Fourth Report, with the caveat that, where possible, the survey be undertaken when there has been an accumulation of sand.	Ongoing	
7 Offshore Retrieval Work	KB invited PC to speak to the report, seen previously by the Group but subsequently subject to corrections and amendments, and re-submitted to PRAG(D) as Paper 004.				
7.1 Offshore Work Undertaken 2008	The report was discussed and specific points were considered. Previous calculations and work undertaken by Professor Clayton in DPAG's Second and Third reports was discussed.	Following discussion, it was recommended that there should be an improvement in the way this information is presented.	DSRL to consider presentation of the information. KB agreed to review DPAG's work on half-	Open Open	End Jan

Agenda Item	Summary of Discussion	Recommendation /Agreed	Action	Status	Target Date
<i>Paper 004</i>			clearance times to determine if these were consistent with the initial data from the offshore work undertaken in 2008.		
Access to Sandside Beach	<p>SH joined the meeting after lunch and KB invited AE to raise the matter of the SG's position on access negotiations with Sandside.</p> <p>PC informed the Group that discussions are ongoing between the owners of Sandside Estate and UKAEA Limited, on behalf of the NDA. He said that a move has been made towards putting in place an external panel of experts to assess the existing and future damage to the Sandside Estate and recommendations are currently being put forward to the Minister.</p> <p>During discussion, SH advised the Group that the SG is proceeding with implementing the RCL regulations and, as far as he was aware, their involvement does not extend beyond that on this issue.</p> <p>AE said he had expected to hear something from the SG on this matter in September. PC advised that UKAEA are awaiting a response from the Minister.</p>	<p>It was noted that this was raised due to its relevance in providing sufficient base-line data for PRAG(D)'s report.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Group requires information based on data obtained throughout the whole year. KB noted that this Group shares the concerns COMARE has expressed; that it does not have sufficient data to make any robust assessment regarding Sandside.</p>	SH agreed to take comments from the meeting and endeavour to clarify the position of the SG regarding access at Sandside.	Open	Next meeting
7.2 Offshore Work Undertaken 2009 <i>Papers 002,</i>	<p>PC and BillIT led the Group through the DSRL presentation.</p> <p>The new specification for sub-contractors' tenders was discussed. PC stressed that there is now a requirement by DSRL for retrieval to be directly linked to detection. BillIT provided</p>	<p>It was recommended that the sentry box should be checked annually. It was agreed that the pre-</p>			

Agenda Item	Summary of Discussion	Recommendation /Agreed	Action	Status	Target Date
005, 006	<p>further information on the anomalous finds. It was noted that there were no items detected at the sentry box and the frequency of future checks was discussed.</p> <p>During discussion regarding the re-population area, PD asked when the area was last surveyed.</p>	retrieval activity check had now established a baseline and one check each year, post-retrieval work, would be adequate.	PC agreed to check the date of last survey of the re-population area.	Open	Next meeting
7.3 Implications <i>Papers 009, 010, 011</i>	<p>AT spoke to papers 010 and 011 and provided the meeting with further information and clarification. The content of these papers was discussed and considered by the Group.</p> <p>KB referred to recent correspondence on “Density, etc” and led the Group through this information, tabled as Paper 013. The various comments were considered and discussed.</p> <p>PC distributed a document referring to the number of particles retrieved (tabled as Paper 014) and provided further information and clarification during the ensuing discussion.</p>	<p>KB noted that the Group appeared reasonably content with what has been achieved so far. It was agreed that this aspect be ‘parked’ for the moment, while the Group is very busy with other issues for the report.</p> <p>It was noted that PC had informed the Group that the particle finds for this year are within the bounds of DPAG predictive figures.</p>			
8 Preparation of Group’s Report to SEPA <i>Paper 007</i>	<p>The work programme suggested by KB in Paper 007 was considered and discussed.</p> <p>PC raised the issue of next year’s work and sought the Group’s advice on an area for overlapping the monitoring undertaken in 2009. This was discussed and the importance of the overlap acknowledged. PC circulated a map,</p>	<p>It was accepted that the timeline for the work was tight.</p> <p>The Group recommended than an area at the South-east corner of the 2009 monitoring envelope should be re-monitored for</p>	Sub-Group to pick up Item 5 (implications of limited data available from beach monitoring) (AE, MS & AT).	Open	By Feb meeting, if possible.

Agenda Item	Summary of Discussion	Recommendation /Agreed	Action	Status	Target Date
	<p>tabled as paper 015.</p> <p>The question of implications for the retrieval programme and for the potential end point were considered and discussed.</p> <p>Trevor Jones was invited to address the meeting regarding NDA funding for the offshore recovery work.</p>	<p>a distance of 30m, moving North-wards until the 10 metre contour is encountered.</p> <p>The Group noted TJ's comments, and reiterated that funding of this work may allow closure of this issue within a few years.</p>	<p>KB asked FSA, HPA and SEPA Observers to give consideration to the end points of monitoring and provide this to the Group. (WM, JB & BT/HF)</p>	Open	By June 2010
9 Future Meetings	<p>The proposed date for the next meeting was discussed.</p> <p>Suggested dates for future meetings during 2010 were considered. PC informed the meeting that DSRL would be commencing next year's work at the beginning of June and it might be possible to have some information to the Group by early July.</p>	<p>It was agreed that the previously proposed date for the next meeting could now be confirmed. It was noted that the next meeting will consider the draft report, to be prepared by KB and PD, also the work of the sub-group on beach monitoring.</p> <p>Provisional 2010 dates agreed for future meetings: 23 June 2010; and 27 October 2010. These dates will be reviewed, if necessary.</p> <p>It was noted that the Group should have comments on end-points from the statutory bodies by June.</p>	<p>Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 17th February 2010. JM confirmed that the meeting will be held at the Carlton Hotel, Edinburgh. (PD & JM)</p> <p>Tentative booking of venues for provisional dates to be arranged (PD & JM).</p>	<p>Open</p> <p>Open</p>	<p>Papers by 27/1/10</p> <p>Meeting packs to be issued on 3/2/10</p>

Agenda Item	Summary of Discussion	Recommendation /Agreed	Action	Status	Target Date
10 Chairman's Summary	<p>The Chairman wished to record the Members' congratulations to: Professor Marian Scott on the award of an OBE last summer; Allyson Wilson on her recent engagement.</p> <p>The Group also asked the Tec Sec to convey their best wishes to Dr Philip Day for a speedy recovery.</p> <p>KB noted that the Group had made progress in identifying the content of its report to SEPA, albeit, due to the tight timescale and incomplete data, the report may have to be restricted to limited conclusions.</p> <p>The Chairman emphasised the importance of the Regulator trying to achieve a long run of continuous monitoring on Sandside beach.</p> <p>KB thanked Members and Observers for attending and for their contributions. He was also grateful for the written contributions received from those who were unable to attend.</p>	<p>It was hoped that more time and data would be available to the Group next year and that more material would be available from continuous monitoring at Sandside.</p>	<p><i>[Tec Sec, post meeting note: Dr Day died on 26th November 2009].</i></p> <p>The Chairman asked the Tec Sec to inform the FSA and SEPA Observers that the Group is seeking their contributions into possible end points (PD).</p>	Open	
11 AOB	None presented.				

Acronyms

DSG	Dounreay Stakeholders Group
DSRL	Dounreay Site Restoration Limited
FSA	Food Standards Agency (Scotland)
HPA	Health Protection Agency
NDA	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
PRAG(D)	Particles Retrieval Advisory Group (Dounreay)
RCLR	Radioactive Contaminated Land Regulations
SG	(The) Scottish Government
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
ToR	Terms of Reference