

JULY 2011

DOUNREAY NEWS

Testing times for the site

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ON THE RECORD

by **Simon Middlemas**
DSRL Managing Director

I often hear people commenting that nothing is happening in the county to create jobs for people when Dounreay shuts down. Then I cast my eyes around to see what really is happening. And it's better than you'd think.

Now I know that most of you are looking around and thinking where are those 2000 jobs coming from over the next 10 years to replace everything we do at Dounreay?

Well its not quite that easy, no matter how many brain surgeons we stick on this task! There isn't a process we follow that automatically produces these jobs.

What we can do is make the area attractive enough to future employers that want to take a gamble and invest their money in Caithness and North Sutherland. So what do I mean by this?

Firstly, the infrastructure that will help us attract new investment and new companies into the area. Well actually, this is moving forward fairly rapidly.

Look at the training in the area - the new Engineering Skills Centre and the Centre for Energy and Environment at North Highland College. Our own training facilities moving to a point where they are breaking even, our vehicle training facility at Ormlie, the massive investments in Scrabster Harbour and the National Grid. There are activities going on.

Secondly, inward investment. Have you looked at the latest Crown Estate's publication (on their web site) talking about the opportunities in marine energy? One thing's for sure, you can't move the Pentland Firth anywhere else than it is located today, therefore investors will come.

This is a £6bn development over the next 10 years. Current estimates predict that the annual cost to operate and maintain the devices alone will be £100M and potentially employ 650 individuals. Others will come too, possibly in areas that haven't yet been targeted by HIE and others.

It won't happen overnight, but then these things never do. The job numbers so far aren't huge, but there isn't one employer out there who wants 2000 people in 10 years time. The more likely answer is a much larger number of smaller employers. It takes an enormous amount of effort to attract companies to remote areas such as this, even with the tantalising prospect of almost unlimited energy just offshore.

So what can we do to help? Plenty.

Each and every one of us can take advantage of the skills transition programmes that are being provided.


More than £2 million has been poured into a skills development programme for local people run by a newly rejuvenated Chamber of Commerce, called 'Make the Right Connections'. £1.1 million of this comes from the NDA. DSRL's own 'Plan-It' and 'Windmills' schemes will be part of this.

Of course, you can lead a horse to water, and so on. But it's up to you to take the bull by the horns and ask yourself - what do I want to do with the rest of my life? And then get the training to make it happen.

And there is something else we all can do - talk up our county. We have a wonderful and diverse skills base, a growing transport, power, telecommunications and skills infrastructure, and the best renewable energy sources anywhere in the UK.

Coupled with fantastic and friendly people, low crime, and a quality of life that surpasses most other counties on our isles, there's no reason why it shouldn't be an attractive place to invest and do business. We can all play a part in getting that message out.

Caithness is very lucky. It has had Dounreay for the past 50 years to keep the wolf from the door. And now it's getting huge amounts of money invested in its future. There are parts of Scotland that are desperate for the sort of advantages we have got here in the north.

So if you hear someone saying that nothing is happening in Caithness, tell them to think again. 

Atom Town comes to Caithness Horizons

There was no red carpet laid out in front of Caithness Horizons when it hosted the premiere of 'Atom Town', the latest film about Dounreay.

But the people invited to view the 20 minute film were in for a treat.


The film is the creation of Dundee lecturer and artist **Gair Dunlop**. He made the journey to Thurso to show it to an appreciative audience.

Many of the invitees had assisted with the making of the film.

DSRL physical security manager **Malcolm Clark** had offered advice on what could be filmed without flouting the site's security rules, and approved the film footage before it left site.

Heritage officer **James Gunn** had been closely involved with the project and had helped with the historical aspects of the film.

Reactors manager **Mike Brown**, engineer **Neil Buchan** and decommissioning project manager **Gordon Tait** also lent their voices and memories to the film.

And members of the retirees fellowship were also featured. 



Send your stories to the editor at:



sue.thompson@dounreay.com

Dounreay reactors safety record continues

Earlier this month the two former electricity generating plants now being demolished at Dounreay, knocked up a combined total of thirteen years without a lost time accident.

5 years of successful reactor dismantling



NDA
Nuclear
Decommissioning
Authority

www.dounreay.com
public information centre
Obrig Street, Thurso

Dounreay Site
Restoration Ltd

Produced by Dounreay Communications. Designed by J22, Glasgow. ©2011. T. 01847 802121. E. dounreay@nra.gov.uk

This equates to an outstanding 11,887,888 man hours.

As the hazardous decommissioning work rapidly progresses within its redundant nuclear reactors, maintaining a flawless safety record is an achievement the reactor demolition teams are extremely proud of.

As worldwide leaders in the nuclear decommissioning industry, the PFR and DFR teams have proved themselves to be forward looking and safety conscious as they tackle the hazardous clean-up.

Mike Brown, reactor decommissioning manager, said: "The reactor teams, both DSRL and its contractors, recognise that safety must be at the forefront of everything we do.

"Decommissioning plants over half a century old brings with it many challenges and maintaining a safe working platform to do this is essential. I can't commend the teams enough for buying into this culture, and producing this remarkable achievement."

Work carried out on behalf of the NDA to pull apart the two former reactors is rapidly progressing with DFR's successful removal of the highly hazardous liquid metal coolant and the removal of large items of redundant equipment from PFR. ○

News in brief

DSRL sharing expertise with worldwide colleagues

Two of DSRL's project managers have been sharing knowledge with colleagues from around the world working with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Senior project manager **Alex Potts** has been assisting the IAEA with best practice in the management of spent fuel from research reactors. Guidance notes are being developed as a formal publication and will be presented as a compilation of the best practices from across the globe.

DSRL hosted an IAEA conference in September last year. Alex attended subsequent technical meetings on fast reactor fuels and was then invited to a meeting in April at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna.

Alex explained: "Exchanging knowledge and expertise with other countries enables use of best industry and worldwide practices to develop our plans for the management of our own reactor fuel. The experience we have gained can be shared with our counterparts within the nuclear industry around the world and with a total of thirty-seven fast reactors either in operation or shutdown, there are many decommissioning challenges ahead."

Colleagues from India, Japan, Russia, the US and France were in attendance.

DSRL's **Elizabeth Mackenzie**, a project manager for fuels disposition, was also asked by the IAEA to participate in an initial consultancy meeting on the management of research reactor fuels.

The meeting to discuss the feasibility of and interest in a publication on commercial options for management of reactor spent nuclear fuel was held in May.

The publication was given the green light and Elizabeth will be involved in writing the document which will be an IAEA publication and will be a compilation and route map of worldwide best practices.

Elizabeth was the sole UK representative at the meeting which was also attended by colleagues from Russia, USA, Austria, France, Norway, Hungary and Germany.

Elizabeth explained: "The benefit of sharing our own experiences and knowledge with the IAEA and its members helps everyone involved. Finding appropriate, sustainable and cost effective solutions for the management of the fuel cycle is critical to the continued use of research reactors around the world." ○



The whole site also clocked up a year without lost time accident in June, for the second time.

News in brief

Safety staff collect DSRL's international safety award

Graham Dunnett and Jacqueline Budge represented DSRL at the British Safety Council's International Safety award ceremony, which took place in London in May.

DSRL was one of 33 companies who were recognised by the prestigious award.

The award acknowledges the commitment that winners have made to improving their corporate health and safety and rewards the success of achieving high safety standards.

With over 600 applications from across the world, the win is a true testament to a company's dedication to the health and safety of its workforce.

DSRL's director of assurance Alan Scullion said: "The International Safety Awards are judged by an independent panel of experts who looked for hard evidence of how DSRL maintains acceptable standards of health and safety, so it's a real achievement for any company to aim towards."

Dounreay STEM ambassadors present awards to students

Dounreay's STEM ambassadors visited local primary schools to hand out CREST awards to the students.

The awards are a badge-based scheme whereby the pupils are guided through a series of scientific investigations by the STEM ambassadors. After they have filled their log book full of completed activities, they get an award and become CREST Star Investigators at either Star level (5-7 yrs), Superstar (7-11 yrs) or Megastar (8-12 yrs).

DSRL has helped to make these activities possible by supplying the money for the materials and the manpower.

Electrical engineer Ewan Geddes, and his boss, Garry Baxter, were at Castletown Primary to present Star and Superstar awards to 45 pupils.

Gary Strachan, Gordon Mackie and Audrey Chalmers, along with Gary and Audrey's boss Jeremy Andrew, were at Miller Academy presenting Superstar and Megastar awards to 28 pupils. ○

Testing times for Dounreay

Dounreay held its annual emergency demonstration exercise, code-named Delta 47, in May.

Staff on site played out a scenario based on a large NaK fire in the DFR sphere, which caused a plume of caustic gases to cover the north end of the FCA.

The exercise was watched by regulators from the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Office for Civil Nuclear Security.

What made the exercise different this year was that the site's main command and control centre – the Dounreay Emergency Control Centre - as well as the FCA Incident Control Centre, were manned up in the new emergency centre in D9995.

Emergency arrangements manager Pauline Banks thanked everyone who worked on and supported the project to co-locate the emergency centres in D9995.

"The overall feedback from the regulators who observed the exercise was that it was a significant improvement from last year and a good performance," she said.

"This result is due to everyone on the site responding in accordance with procedure.

"It has allowed DSRL to start the implementation of the new arrangements. Over the coming weeks the emergency arrangements will be modified so that the DECC and the FCA/ICC operate from D9995." ○





Site News in brief

- At the end of **May**, Dounreay had clocked up 354 days or 2.40 million man hours without lost time accident.
- WRACS resumed operations following a period of down-time during which a backlog of 900 drums built up. The backlog is expected to be cleared within three months.
- In D1207, floor removal in the main bay was completed, and the demolition of the building's internal walls continued.
- DCP cemented 50 drums of raffinate during May.
- In DN060, eight redundant skips and the redundant road sweeper were size reduced.
- The blockage in the DFR NaK disposal plant has been identified and the affected piece of pipework removed.
- The 2011 offshore particle recovery campaign began in May, and despite the bad weather, had completed a survey of one third of the area to be covered this year and retrieved 50 particles before bad weather temporarily halted the work on May 16.
- Seven particles were retrieved from Sandside beach, all in the minor category.
- The Technology and Innovation exhibition was held in May, with over 40 companies exhibiting.
- During May, the site hosted visits by **Celeste Pendlebury**, Babcock Canada and **Joan Miller**, Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd; **Lord Marland**, **Stefanie Murphy & Anna Butchart** of the Department of Energy and Climate Change; **Campbell Gemmell** and **David Sigsworth** of SEPA; and final year HNC, and HND engineering students from Lews College, Stornoway. ○

Driving training forward

Trainers **Davie Mowat** and **Alan Farquhar** are streets ahead.

They run the specialist vehicle and plant operations training department, now based at Ormlie in Thurso. They are accredited by the National Plant Operators Registration Scheme (NPORS), and are working towards accreditation by the Construction Plant Competency Scheme (part of the CITB). By the end of the year they hope to be able to deliver accredited vocational training such as SVQs.

The premises in Ormlie are deliberately low-key and sustainable. They find that its relaxed atmosphere puts people at ease when they come for training.

The trainers work with small numbers on a course, which means that they can give them valuable practice time on the machinery.

Davie says that three-quarters of the course is practical hands-on training. "We work with all levels of experience and will carry out assessments only if required," he explains.

"We will also give specialist advice on various aspects of training and general compliance with regulations. We realise that cost is a big issue for companies, especially in this economic climate, and so we try to ensure that we are competitive."

Davie and Alan carry out

training for DSRL and other contractors at Dounreay, but are finding that they are getting more work through word of mouth. Local companies who have benefited from training, apart from Dounreay, include Scrabster Harbour and CalMac (Northlink Ferries).

But the Training at Naver vehicle and plant operations training department has set its sights further afield.

Davie regularly travels outwith Caithness to deliver training. He has recently returned from the Isle of Lewis where he carried out training for a company who are refurbishing an enormous fabrication shed at Arnish Point.

"I trained their new starts for working at height, and how to use harness and fall arrest systems," Davie says.

"The company is Mackay Steelwork and Cladding, who clad DCP. They are re-cladding a 30 metre high shed that makes offshore wind turbines."

"I've also carried out training for Aviemore Brewery and Invergordon Distillery, and will be going to do training in Carlisle and East Kilbride in the next few months.

"I have found that working for external companies is good experience, and broadens the training that I can provide." ○

Davie Mackay is a contractor working in D1207. He was getting his ticket on forklift trucks. Although he had some experience of working with them, he had never been offered training before.



Craig Nicolson is a DSRL third year craft apprentice on a placement with Nuvia in the health physics workshop. He was carrying out the training as part of his overall apprenticeship. He is pictured here with Alan Farquhar, right.



Davie Mowat

Dounreay PBO competition - are we nearly there yet?

The final stages of the Dounreay PBO competition start in late summer when the two bidding consortia - Caithness Solutions and Babcock Dounreay Partnership - will lodge their bids to become the Parent Body Organisation (PBO) for the Dounreay site.

The bid teams formed in the early part of 2010 prior to the pre-qualification stage of the competition. Following the issue of the draft invitation to submit final tender on June 1, both teams have been beavering away to produce their plans to take Dounreay to interim end state. One team's bid is being produced in the United States, and the other in offices near Swindon. The bids must be lodged at the end of August.

Following its assessment of the bids, the NDA will announce in November which consortium has been identified as the preferred

bidder. PBO transition will run from mid-December to March 31, 2012 and, subject to that being successful, contract award and share transfer will take place at the end of the financial year.

During transition, representatives of the preferred bidder team will base themselves in Caithness and will carry out a "due diligence" process to verify their understandings and information given to them during their pre-discussions and visits to site. They will also start to speak to DSRL employees and managers to introduce themselves, and outline their plans for the site. However, it is

very important to emphasise that the current DSRL management team remain in sole charge right up to the date of share transfer. During this period, it is essential that communication between the different parties is clear to ensure a smooth handover.

Graeme Rankin, the NDA's competition programme manager, said: "Following bid assessment and announcement of the preferred bidder, the transition period will run from December 2011 to the end of March 2012, during which the preferred bidder's leadership team will begin to receive handover from

the incumbent team.

We are pleased at the way DSRL staff have handled the competition process so far, and their co-operation and support in the process has been essential in helping us keep to the programme.

I'm looking forward to the final stages of the Dounreay competition, and very much value DSRL's continued support in this.

This competition has been a lengthy process. But this is one of the most significant public sector contracts to be let in 2012, and so the complexity and thoroughness of the competition must reflect this." 

Nigel Lowe joins NDA

The NDA site facing team at Dounreay will shortly be welcoming **Nigel Lowe**, currently with AWE, as their Head of Programme for DSRL.


He takes up the position later this summer, replacing **Randall Bargelt** who left in October 2010 to work for the US National Nuclear Laboratory in Idaho.

Nigel will bring to the NDA a wide range of experience of delivering safety imperative, cost effective, value for money solutions via his contract and commercial experience gained not only in the nuclear industry but in equally highly regulated industries such as petrochemical and pharmaceuticals.

Nigel is a graduate chartered engineer in two professional institutions and has held various honorary positions in them. He is experienced in programme and contract management through assignments both in the UK and

overseas as well as providing expert advice in contract disputes.

Commenting on his appointment Nigel said: "I am extremely pleased and excited to be joining the NDA as it continues to meet the challenges of the United Kingdom's nuclear legacy.

"For me these challenges are about delivering tangible results, providing value for money for the tax payer, serving the local community and achieving all of this without ever compromising safety. The NDA, as a relatively young organisation, has made an excellent start and I look forward to playing my role within the team." 



Nigel is joining the NDA from the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston, where he has worked since October 2006.

He started his career in the nuclear industry with the UKAEA before moving to fast moving consumer goods, management consultancy and pharmaceuticals.

He has more than 20 years managerial experience of engineering, contract and commercial management gained in highly regulated, safety conscious industries in the UK and overseas.

Nigel has drafted, managed and operated target cost (and other format) contracts together with incentivisation mechanisms designed to deliver tangible results and value for money. He has also provided University guest lecturer services on programme and contract management.

Nigel graduated with a B.Eng degree and is a chartered engineer, a member of the IMechE and a fellow of the IET.

Boston Camp

Retired Dounreay worker, crofter and writer **Alistair Fraser** recalls his memories of long ago, when Dounreay was a construction site, and Boston Camp housed the workers. *Dounreay News* is printing an extract of his article, which can be read in full on the DSRL website.

There is an air of eeriness about the place today. An eeriness that tells you that once people lived and worked here.

Once, it had a population of over two thousand people with up to eight thousand meals served daily. There were two shops, sick bay, barber, post-office, police station, cafeteria, cinema, snooker and table tennis halls, licensed club and two beer-only bars, or 'wet canteens', as they were called.

This 'village', remnants of which can still be seen today on the landward side of the A836, opposite the site, became home for the men who came from every corner of Britain, in the 50s, to build Dounreay.

It was also home to many of the first UKAEA employees, including the constabulary, before houses were completed on Pennyland Farm, on the western outskirts of Thurso.

Much of this camp was already there, built in the '40s, as part of the airfield complex. The buildings were the nissen-hut type, and formed a number of individual groupings.

The accommodation was 'open-plan', with rows of folding iron beds, laid out hospital style, around the sides. Each person was supplied with a chair and locker.

Depending on the size of the hut, there would be either one pot-belly stove in the middle, or one at either end. Some huts had washing and toilet facilities attached whilst others had large communal facilities. Thick brown linoleum was the sole floor covering. Conditions were pretty spartan.

The new accommodation was modern in comparison. Each unit was of 'H-block' design, each leg having two rows of four-bedded

rooms separated by a corridor, with toilet and washing facilities, including showers, in the link section. Each room had a chair and locker per person.

The accommodation provided for managerial and supervisory staff was marginally better. Although they lived in the older nissen-huts, these were adapted to form single rooms. The beds had wooden ends, the floor-covering was linoleum plus a rug. Instead of a locker, there was a wardrobe and a chest of drawers.

The three staff quarters each had a lounge with easy chairs and small tables. In the corner was the latest invention, a radiogram. It was the era of the balladeer and orchestra. But Dennis Lotus, Teddy Johnson and Joe Loss were facing competition with newcomers like Bill Haley, Elvis Presley and Tommy Steele vying for attention.

Feeding this army of construction workers was a major undertaking. Canteen staff worked round the clock preparing from scratch.

It was half carcasses of meat, hundredweight sacks of peas, lentils, flour, sugar, potatoes and vegetables. Tea and butter came in tin-foil lined crates. Bread was delivered from Inverness, by the vanload, every second day. Milk came from Scrabster dairy farm in twenty gallon churns.

Workers were conveyed to and from the site in a convoy of buses. Meals had to be served quickly in order to keep the queues of men moving. They wanted it quickly because they were hungry, and because they did not want to be late for work, otherwise they would lose time. An army of time checkers employed by UKAEA would see to that.

Thursday, being pay-day, was an important day. Then, all pays

The Boston block (main recreational and mess facilities)



Couples enjoying an evening at the Boston camp



were made up in pay packets. The money was delivered from a bank in Thurso to Dounreay under police escort. The Boston Camp post-office stayed open until nine in the evening to allow the men to telegraph money to their homes in the south.

Social life in the camp centred round the cinema, the snooker hall, the wet canteens and the cafeteria. The cinema also served the spiritual needs of many of the camp residents. Each Sunday evening religious services took place.

By 1958 the first phase of construction was over. There were less construction workers and most of the UKAEA personnel moved into newly built houses in Thurso. In 1960 it ceased as a residential camp. The kitchen and dining room facilities remained in use for a couple of years longer, to cater for those still involved in construction work on site.

With the government announcement in 1966 of a prototype fast reactor at Dounreay, it was felt that Boston camp would again be required for incoming workers. In the end it never re-opened.

When it became clear that there was no further need for Boston camp UKAEA decided to remove the majority of the buildings. They were dismantled, concrete bases removed and services isolated and sealed off. Gradually much of the area was returned to farmland, its original use.

Boston block was stripped of all items that had re-sale value. Doors, beds, wash basins, baths, WCs, shower trays and hundreds of taps were laid out in an open space at the camp and auctioned off.

The accommodation blocks were mostly sold off. All that remains now are buildings that were left at the request of the individual farmers to whom the land was returned. The place had witnessed great change and upheaval but, as always, only the land endures.

These are extracts from Alistair's article, "Boston Camp", which is available to read on <http://www.dounreay.com/online-archives/archived-records?folder=/History> ○



The well stocked shop

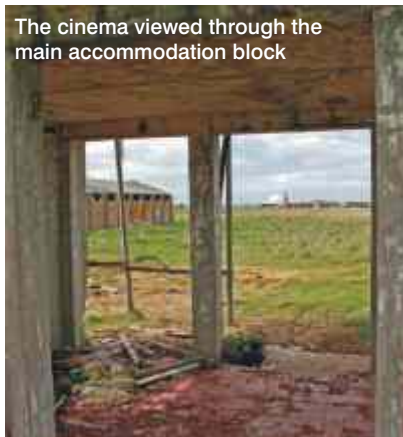
These ladies are believed to be canteen staff - can anyone name them?



The blocks were named after historic naval aircraft – Boston, Blenheim, Corsair, Hurricane, Martinet, Swordfish, Reliant and Havoc.

The roads that connected each block were named after famous British admirals – Nelson, Beatty, Rodney, Somerville and Fraser.

The cinema viewed through the main accommodation block



The remains of Havoc block



The recreation building



Dounreay gift saves bed

Scott Manson was grateful for a safety promotion run at Dounreay when fire broke out at his home in Thurso.

He was watching television when he heard the scream of his partner **Karen** from their upstairs bedroom of their house in Carnaby Place.

She'd been reading in bed when their electric blanket caught fire.

Scott rushed up the stairs where he found Karen on the landing and the bedding well alight.

He knew there was a fire extinguisher in the house – every worker at Dounreay had been given one when the site completed a 60-day fire safety challenge.

So he belted downstairs, collected the extinguisher and put out the flames.

He has no doubt the presence

of the extinguisher prevented a much more serious outbreak.

"The bed was well alight," he said. "The flames weren't far from the ceiling. I used up the whole extinguisher and it was still smouldering, so when the police and fire brigade turned up we dragged the bedding out the house."

Scott suffered a minor burn to his hand that needed hospital treatment.

"I'll certainly be buying more fire extinguishers. I wouldn't like to imagine what might have happened if I hadn't been given one from Dounreay to take home."

Scott (37) works for Nuvia on the decommissioning of the uranium recovery plant. ○



Training at Naver

To arrange your training please check the training event calendar and SAP for dates, or call us at Naver on 01847 804735. ○

July	Course Title	Venue
1	Emergency first aid	Dounreay
1	Operational monitoring theory (3 sessions)	Naver / Dounreay
5-6	Unusual occurrences	Naver
5	Site induction	Dounreay
6	Confined space operator	Dounreay
7	Asbestos awareness	Naver
11	Forward control point liaison office	Fire Station, Dounreay
11-14	Counterbalance (novice)	Ormlie
12	Site induction	Dounreay
13	Basic radiological induction	Dounreay
13	RMC refresher	Dounreay
14	Temporary containment	Naver
14	Risk assess and specialist advice (Dne)	Dounreay
14	Safe systems of work upgrade	Dounreay
15	Safe systems of work upgrade	Dounreay
15	Emergency first aid	Dounreay
18	Tent assessor	Dounreay
19	Site induction	Dounreay
21	Manual handling (high risks)	Naver
22	Emergency first aid	Dounreay
25	Forward control point liaison officer	Dounreay
26	Site induction	Dounreay
27	Basic radiological induction	Dounreay

Word Ladder



Move from the first word to the last word by changing just one letter at a time, creating a valid word on each rung of the ladder. There may be several different ways of doing this. ○

Answers in next months issue

+ OHD BULLETIN +

Travelling abroad safely

The number of British nationals travelling abroad is on the increase again this year after a few years of decline. OHD's **Marleen Leighton** highlights some simple steps to prevent health issues from ruining the experience.

BEFORE YOU GO:

Take out travel insurance: research policies available and ensure they are appropriate for the area you are visiting and the activities you may be involved in. Disclose all health information requested. The European Health Insurance Card entitles you to free or discounted health care in identified European countries.

Need vaccinations? Make an appointment with your GP/practice nurse or attend OHD to obtain advice on vaccinations or anti-malarials as soon as you know you are travelling. There can be a delay before vaccines are considered to offer full protection so sooner is better.

Medications for pre-existing conditions: take an adequate stock of any medications. If you must carry needles to administer medications, contact your GP for a letter stating why you must be allowed sharps in your hand luggage. Check your medication is legal in the country you are visiting - the British Embassy can advise you. Carry a doctor's letter and any ongoing prescriptions in your hand luggage.

First aid kit: carry an appropriately stocked first aid kit that will allow immediate treatment of injuries.

ON LONG DISTANCE JOURNEYS:

Contact your GP for advice before undertaking a long haul journey if you are pregnant or have given birth in the last six months, have a blood disorder, are taking hormonal medication, have a heart condition, cancer or recently had surgery.

- Wear loose, comfortable clothes.
- Drink plenty of water and avoid alcohol.

- Move around and do regular leg and arm stretching exercises as suggested in the in-flight magazines.
- Ensure you carry necessary medications in your hand luggage

WHILE YOU ARE THERE:

Ensure you observe food and water hygiene principles:

- Do not drink water if advised not to (this includes brushing teeth). Use bottled water and check seal is intact.
- Ensure cooked food is piping hot
- If you can't peel the food, wash it with bottled water
- Seek attention for nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea if it persists for 48 hours
- Do not use medication to inhibit diarrhoea unless you have to travel or have been advised by a medical professional.

Protect yourself in the sun:

- Avoid the sun between 11am and 3pm
- Use a high factor sunscreen and reapply as recommended (above factor 25)
- Wear a wide brimmed hat and loose fitting breathable clothing
- Use appropriate sunglasses

Drink alcohol in moderation only, particularly in the heat when dehydration is more likely.

COMING HOME:

Jet Lag: Be aware of jet lag and the associated symptoms and adjust your activities to accommodate these safely in the few days following return.

Delayed Onset of Symptoms:

If you develop any symptoms on your return, consult your GP as some conditions may have a delayed onset and should be investigated. ○



Consult relevant websites and educate yourself regarding health risks:

www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living

<http://www.nathnac.org/travel/index.htm>

LOCATE:

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office recommend that you register with LOCATE, an organisation that will contact you to check your safety and offer advice in the event of a local disaster, or if friends and family need to get in touch with you urgently.

<https://www.locate.fco.gov.uk/locateportal/>

Their 24/7 helpline is: 020 7008 1500 (+44 20 7008 1500 from abroad)

Unleashing Pentland Firth energy may cost £6bn

Local partners have welcomed the publication of a Crown Estate report into the likely timescales and requirements for wave and tidal devices in the Pentland Firth and around Orkney.

The report predicts that delivering the 1.6 gigawatts of generating capacity announced last year as part of the world's first commercial scale marine energy leasing area may cost up to £6 billion.

The technologies being developed to generate power from wave and tidal energy in the north are world-leading. CNSRP partners have been working closely with developers to understand their requirements for infrastructure, skills, and a supply chain network; and with local companies and potential inward investors to ensure that the area is able to meet those requirements.

CNSRP Chairman **Sir Anthony Cleaver** welcomed the report as another important step towards

understanding what this new industry needs as it goes through the crucial stages of attracting finance and achieving planning consents.

"Caithness and North Sutherland businesses have the potential to win valuable business from this industry in the coming years, and as partners we are focused on attracting new businesses into our area to help turn the north into a global centre for marine energy," he said.

Scottish Government Finance Secretary **John Swinney** said: "This report highlights the massive economic opportunities that lie ahead as we build a world-leading wave and tidal energy industry in Scotland, with around £6 billion potential investment in the Pentland Firth projects alone." ○

Key highlights from the report:

- During the consenting phase (where developers will carry out detailed environmental impact and licensing work) it is estimated that £100 million will be spent. Much of this is expected to be spent by 2015.
- If development sites are granted planning permission then projects will enter fabrication, installation and commissioning stages. Total capital spend is expected to be up to £6 billion by 2020.
- Once projects reach their operations and maintenance phase it is expected that a typical device lifecycle of around 25 years can be expected, with associated operations and maintenance work over that period.

Superfast broadband coming north

Access to superfast broadband for homes and businesses in the north will be a reality in the next few years, reports Eann Sinclair of CNSRP.

One of the early priorities identified in the Caithness and North Sutherland Action Plan was the development of better IT links to and from the north.

In October 2010, HIE successfully bid to be one of the initial four rural areas in the UK to receive a funding package from the UK Government's Broadband Delivery UK. The investment is targeted at exploring ways to bring the faster speeds currently being enjoyed primarily in some city locations to more rural areas.

Alex Paterson, Chief Executive of HIE, and member of CNSRP's executive board, said: "Fast, reliable broadband links are a cornerstone in delivering the services our communities need every day and in the ways we as a region can do business."

HIE expects to sign contracts by July 2012.

The multi-million pound project will roll out next generation access in phases to communities and businesses across the Highlands and Islands. Details of the plan will be confirmed shortly after the contract is awarded.

Mr Paterson commented: "Understandably, everyone wants to know if faster broadband capability will reach them. We want all our communities to benefit, throughout all parts of the Highlands and Islands. At this first stage we are committed to seeing a fair spread across the region. The winning tender will need to demonstrate the best options for value and reach."

The broadband project is part of a wider programme of activity which HIE is leading to keep the north globally accessible and its businesses highly competitive. ○

£8m engineering centre opens September

Apprentices from local engineering companies will be among the first students to register at the new engineering wing at North Highland College.

The centre is believed to be amongst the largest and best equipped of its type in the north of Scotland. A flexible curriculum will adapt to support the engineering needs of the area.

The NDA has invested £2m into the project. Their HR director, **Jim McLaughlin**, toured the engineering centre on a recent visit north.

"The NDA is pleased to be part of the continued drive for skills improvement in the north of Scotland," he said.

"This area already has a strong engineering capability due to its association with Dounreay. The new centre will provide a high quality learning environment that mirrors workplace conditions, bringing engineering practice and theory more closely together and giving NHC engineering students, and the companies they work for, a

competitive edge."

DSRL head of HR **Michael Dunn**, added: "DSRL is delighted to be supporting this exciting development alongside the NDA.

"This is a major investment to ensure that we have a skilled and competent workforce to support the nuclear industry in Scotland but also to support the offshore renewable developments which are planned around the coastline of Caithness and north Sutherland. This facility will be a major asset to the area." ○



Let's learn from our experiences....

Kirsten Johnson reminds us that we never stop learning.

Every day of our lives from the minute we are born the process of learning begins and a great deal of that learning comes from what we are taught by others and through personal experience.

When we are children our mothers teach us that in order to cross the road without getting hurt we need to use the "green cross code". We also learn lots of other skills throughout our childhood and into adulthood through our experiences. My son recently learned through experience that climbing trees in the back garden will hurt if you misjudge the strength of the branch!

This learning does not need to be limited to our personal life and it's my job as Learning from Experience (LfE) co-ordinator to encourage the sharing of knowledge derived from experience to reduce accidents, improve processes and control the risks we encounter at work.

Learning from experience uses operational experience advisors (OEA) to promote good practices and provide information on bad practices. Each area of site has its own appointed OEA. Their job is to make personnel aware of the lessons so they can benefit from other's experiences. This makes

the next job more efficient; safer, faster or cheaper.

So how is this experience passed on? There are a number of different methods used with one being the SHE Alert. The Dounreay SHE Alert has been in use for many years now and provides details of what happened, why it happened and the lessons to be learned.

In order to make the severity of the incident more easily recognisable an improved colour coding system for the alerts is about to be introduced. There will now be Red, Amber and Green SHE alerts:

- **RED** alerts will be used when there has been a major incident or event where mandatory action must be taken immediately to prevent a reoccurrence.
- **AMBER** alerts will be for bad practice warnings or when action is recommended.
- **GREEN** alerts will be for good practice advice or when there are general lessons to be learned

For more information on LfE 

Laurence Campbell works for the site decommissioning works delivery team. He is the OEA for lifting equipment and operations and his job entails informing all appointed persons (lifting), lifting supervisors and any other pertinent groups of people when any alerts come out with regards to accidents/incidents involving lifting equipment or operations. This may range from a simple fault with a safety harness to a major incident such as a crane collapse.

Andrew Clarke works as a safety trainer, and through his role as the HR OEA, he can ensure all the relevant LfE information is passed on to other trainers and included in the training courses.

Stewart Webster is the safety advisor within SDU and he pictures LfE as a two way process where lessons from around site are passed on to the relevant personnel in his area and any information or lessons from his area are passed to the LfE team and hence the other OEAs on site.

DSRL COMPETITION UPDATE

The competition remains on programme for the Preferred Bidder to be announced by NDA on **November 29, 2011**.

This will be followed by a transition period from mid December 2011 to March 30, 2012.

During this transition period the successful bidder will be on site to receive handovers from the current PBO secondees, inductions and site visits.


During the transition period the current PBO secondees remain in charge of their teams. Transfer of responsibility only occurs when the shares in DSRL are transferred from the current PBO to the new PBO on 30 March 2012. Future articles and other communications will give more detail of the transition period.

A further one day visit to site by each of the two bidder organisations is expected in July.

A Management of Change document and Transition Plan have been approved by the Dounreay Nuclear Safety Committee to allow the transition to a new PBO to take place. This transition also requires the agreement of our Regulators.

A number of rules for competition were previously published and continue to apply – the rules and other information can be found on the DSRL intranet under "Useful pages/DSRL PBO Competition".

The DSRL competition support team are **Mark Raffle** (Tel 6670) and **Rhona Gill** (Tel 6067) D2003 Zone 9, or email "dsrl competition support". Please get in touch if you have any questions.

To ensure that only work formally agreed with NDA is carried out, all requests for competition support should be routed through this team. Please let the team know if you are asked directly by NDA, bidders or anyone else to carry out any work connected with the competition. 

Pennyland Goblins reign supreme at Alford

Michael Bailey, DSRL STEM ambassador, a team of seven P7 pupils and two teachers, battled through the driving rain at the Grampian Transport Museum to become the overall winners of the Scottish Goblin Challenge on Saturday June 18. They beat off opposition from 27 other Scottish schools to come first in the slalom and second in the sprint events. They won the qualifying heats of the track race to get into the final. Even without finishing the final lap, they still romped home with the overall title.

Pennyland were at the forefront of the charge from five North schools, with teams also entered from Melvich, South, Halkirk and Thrumster.


An early disappointment for Thrumster came in the shape of a hole where their

car should have been. The carriers had somehow delivered their car to Glasgow. Fortunately, the other teams rallied round, offering their car when it was not needed. A spare set of batteries and the Pennyland car eventually filled the gap and allowed the Thrumster pupils the experience of whizzing round the track at a dizzying 15mph, six inches above the ground.

Thanks goes to DSRL for the initial finance for most of the cars and to Babcock Dounreay Partnership for the supply of the Pennyland car and finance towards accommodation and travel for all five teams. Thanks also to Maclean Electrical who supplied the bodywork panels for many of the cars.

The project would also have been difficult to run without the ceaseless

support of a number of local companies which allow engineers and apprentices the time to mentor the pupils in the construction of these vehicles.

Schools or STEM ambassadors interested in getting involved in the new school year should contact Pat Kieran on pat.kieran@dounreay.com 



“Quotable Quotes”

“To replace current UK nuclear output of 10.5GW with onshore wind, at 2MW per turbine...you would have to find an area the size of 750,000 football pitches. If the UK was to follow Germany and shut down its entire nuclear industry...an area the size of Oxfordshire and Derbyshire combined would be needed to locate [the wind farms].”

Professor David Phillips, president of the Royal Society of Chemistry, warning the UK Government not to follow Germany by shutting down its entire nuclear industry (The Engineer)

“I have seen what's happening and I am told it is being done in case terrorists make their way up river and use sniper rifles against workers. All along the banks contractors are stripping fully mature trees, every branch on them, and shredding them into large heaps...it is sheer devastation of thousands of breeding bird habitats. Deer, foxes, otters, owls, weasels and stoats have all lost what, for scores of years, they would have looked on as their homes.”

Anonymous Sellafeld employee, telling of the work being carried out along the banks of the river Calder to improve the site's security (The Whitehaven News)

“The closer the country was to Chernobyl, the stronger the effect. We do not know how much radioactivity was emitted through Fukushima and how it will spread throughout the world. Maybe it's confined to just Japan, but if it gets in the water and the air, it's possible that we could see a similar effect, especially on the west coast of America.”

Hagen Scherb, biostatistician at the German Research Centre for Environmental Health, on his study that claims nuclear radiation from bomb testing and power plant leaks hits the female birthrate (The Daily Mail)

“There's more (radioactive) tritium in the atmosphere from cosmic rays from the sun than what we'd ever emit from there.”

EnergySolutions spokesman Mark Walker reassures the public that the company's nuclear waste incineration facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee is 100 percent safe (www.gawker.com)

To see these and more visit the communications homepage at: <http://dnotes6.ukaea.org.uk/dsrl/external-headlines.asp>

Looking back at the DSRL network separation

“Breaking up is hard to do” goes the song, and we can now confirm that this applies to networks as well, says **Jamie Robson**. When the intention to dissolve the UKAEA and compete the sites became a reality, it was just a matter of time before the IT systems were separated.

Wanna be starting something

The first stage was called “logical IT separation” and basically ring-fenced the various SLC resources on the shared network. This was completed in early 2008, ready for the creation of DSRL. It involved a fair amount of work, but the changes were largely cosmetic e.g. email addresses changing from @ukaea.org.uk to @dounreay.com. Things may have looked a little different, but all the ex-UKAEA companies still shared just about everything.

Let's get physical

A far bigger challenge beckoned when the NDA instructed us to physically separate the IT network in readiness for DSRL Competition. This would involve a brand new infrastructure (servers, network devices, backup devices, etc.), improved disaster recovery, new processes, new technologies – in essence a completely new IT system. This would be a major project in itself, but the added complication was that we required (amongst other things)...

- Several key systems to be moved from Harwell to Dounreay
- 1,157 Lotus Notes accounts and mail-files to be moved
- 1,237 Network accounts and H:\drives to be moved
- 637 Notes databases to be moved
- 611 Gigabytes of user data to be moved
- Nearly 2 Terabytes of shared data (and associated access rights) to be moved
- Every networked building to have it's network reconfigured
- 140 network printers to be individually reconfigured

...on a live system, with as little disruption to our users as possible. It was, without a doubt, the biggest IT project DSRL has ever undertaken.

The NDA funding covered the separation of both DSRL and RSRL (Harwell / Winfrith) and this resulted in reduced costs at the outset. Both organisations have very similar IT requirements, have a good working relationship and have collaborated successfully on IT projects previously.

The final countdown

An initial meeting to discuss the scope of

the project took place in June 2008, with detailed workshops taking place in December that year. There then followed a lull for over a year whilst funding was secured but the purchase order was finally raised on CSC in early 2010 and the project started in earnest.

Now we really began to see the advantages of the move to outsource our IT service. CSC is a major international IT supplier and the project was able to draw upon that expertise and experience.

Is there something I should know?

Without going into the technical aspects of the project, it is worthwhile explaining the impact this new network will have for its users.

First, it removes a great deal of dependence on other organisations for our key IT systems. We still share some services like SAP and the internet but this is solely because having dedicated DSRL systems would be extremely expensive.

Having a dedicated DSRL network allows us greater customisation. One immediate example was integrating local public holidays into the Lotus Notes calendar. Another immediate change was the new DSRL Start Menu which (hopefully) makes the common programs much easier to find. We'll be able to do more with resource reservations, like integrating meeting rooms with Notes so you can “invite” a room as well as people when arranging a meeting. Basically it allows us to better tailor the service to the organisation, which is how it should be.

Don't you worry 'bout a thing

It wasn't without issues though. Some of these revolved around the fact that some services like payroll claims, still needed to be available to other organisations,



CSC Account Executives visit Dounreay to see the results of the IT Separation Project for themselves (May 2011). Front row (l to r) Fiona Ritchie (CSC Client Service Manager), Donald Omand (DSRL IT Manager), Bev Duckworth (CSC Programme Manager). Back row (l to r) Jamie Robson (DSRL Technical Manager), Dave Jones (CSC Account Director), Alan Sinclair (CSC Technical Architect).

now sitting on a completely separate network. This involves creating multiple copies of databases for each organisation and keeping them in synchronisation via the CSC support network.

Additional problems came to light when we realised that some Notes databases were designed many years ago and weren't particularly suited to the new environment. Each issue was dealt with on a case by case basis and hopefully any problems were quickly resolved.

Thank you and goodnight

The project completed by the end of March and during April we held a series of lessons learnt workshops with CSC. During these sessions we looked at all stages and all aspects of the project. One immediate beneficiary of this was RSRL who went through the separation process shortly after we did.

DSRL IT services would like to thank everyone for their cooperation during the project, in particular those who took part in various pilot stages to test changes before they were rolled out to everyone. We genuinely appreciate your patience.

TOPIC OF THE MONTH



Electronic Permit System – the right thing to do

Dounreay's electronic permit system (EPS) is now being launched at selected locations within general site areas. EPS project implementation manager, **David Taylor-Winn** introduces the system and its capabilities.

What is a permit system?

A permit system is a formal system of work that is used to:

- Manage, control and record significant workplace risks.
- Ensure that controls are designed, applied and authorised before work commences.
- Ensure that controls remain in force while work continues.
- Ensure that controls are only removed (restored) when work has ceased and the work force withdrawn from the workplace.
- Manage a work permit as an individual stand alone work activity or as part of a collective group of work activities that are electronically linked (cross-locked) to a master work permit.
- Undertake EPS audit and self audit functions.

information from archive records to new work order activities for reassessment and approval.

- AP excavations
- AP lifting
- AP hot work (Fire Brigade)
- AP mechanical
- Tent assessor
- Area health physicist
- AP work at height

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- AP work at height

A read-only access is also provided to allow users to interrogate and manipulate EPS reports. This role is known as the EPS project representative.

What happens next?

Preparations and training are now underway to set EPS in live operation at the general site areas permit office on the ground floor at D8538. Following successful conversion, the system will then be rolled out across the remaining GSA satellite permit offices, followed by the FCA permit office locations. Conversion is planned for completion by the end of this financial year. ○

Electronic Permit System

EPS system gives users new capability by providing for system of work preparation which seamlessly integrates with the work control process. When you are equipped with EPS you will have the ability to:

- Plan the design and application of permit system control following the initiation of work activities in the work control process.
- Manage work permit initiation that is always linked to a MAINSAVER work order record.
- Initiate e-mail requests for specialist advisor involvement at key stages of the EPS process.
- Co-ordinate the activities of site specialist advisors.
- Attach any amount work permit support information to be maintained by EPS as a legitimate permit record.
- Manage and track work permit status information by the use of EPS reporting tools.
- Retrieve and copy work permit

When do I need a permit?

You will need an EPS permit when there is a need to manage and control the following types of workplace condition:

- Work under abnormal plant or area conditions
- Asbestos work
- Confined space work
- Electrical systems work
- Excavations work
- Lifting operations work
- Hot work
- Mechanical systems work
- Tenting operations work
- Work at height

Who is involved in the EPS process?

EPS is a user authorised workflow process. It assigns appropriate electronic sign on powers to persons who have SERP or other appointments in one or more of the following:

- Permit issuer
- Permit receiver
- AP asbestos
- AP confined space
- AP electrical

Contacts

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FCA work control coordinator
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Nuclear news

Texas nuke dump residents get health checks

Residents living next to a low level waste burial site in Texas will be asked to complete a health survey.

The University of North Texas will assess about 24,000 people living within a 35-mile radius of the site, as part of a survey commissioned by the State of Texas.

The survey will be used as a baseline of the health of the residents before the first radioactive material is buried at the site later this year.

The waste will include worker's clothing, glass, metal and other objects generated by nuclear power plants, hospitals, universities and research laboratories.

(AP Texas News)

Germany to go nuclear free

The German government has formally approved a plan to shut down all the country's nuclear reactors by 2022.

But the decision has been criticised by some members of the country's governing coalition.

The Christian Democrats and the Free Democrats are unhappy with the decision, which they consider to be "one of the most disastrous mistakes in German politics since 1949", according to the head of the Christian Democratic Union parliamentary party.

To compensate for the loss of nuclear power, the government will now increase its investments in renewable energy research.

(CNN and The Local)

Nuclear ship to be scrapped

A nuclear ship which served Sellafield and nuclear sites in France and Japan is to be sent for scrap.

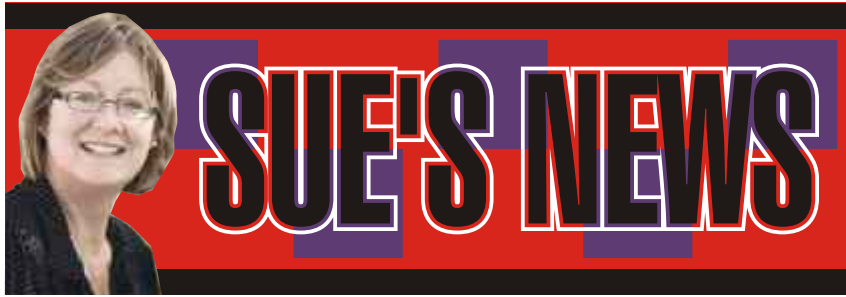
The Pacific Sandpiper, which was built in 1985, was based in Barrow. It has been decommissioned and its equipment donated to community groups in Barrow and France. About 95% of the structure will be recycled.

The ship has travelled 1.2 million miles in its lifetime, and transported 500 flasks of nuclear fuel and waste between Europe and Japan, all without incident.

It also had an encounter with a tsunami in deep water off the coast of Japan in the 1990s.

The ship is making way for three more vessels, the Pacific Grebe, Pacific Heron and Pacific Egret, who arrived in Barrow earlier this year.

(North-West Evening Mail) ○



In June, Dounreay said goodbye to **Iain and Phyllis Outlaw**, and **Randall Walker**.

Congratulations to **Mary-Jane Statham** and husband **Anthony**, who gave birth to a daughter, **Jolee**, on June 9.

There may be one or two people on site who remember **Al Mills** when he worked on site as a chemist from 1952 through to 1980. Sadly he died in May this year, aged 80. He met his wife **Sylvia** at Dounreay; they were married for 51 years and had two children. **Alec Ines**, the LETP Facility Manager for RSRL at Harwell, remembered visiting Al at Dounreay in the 70s and his two assistants then were **John Crofts** and **Lawrence Weatherly**; John later became UKAEA Head of Safety.



The second Cancer Research UK Relay For Life in Caithness will take place on Saturday August 27, with 71 teams already booked to take part.

If you would like to get involved, please contact a member of the committee. At Dounreay, these are **Theresa Mackay** (Secretary), **Carol Rosie** (Treasurer) or **Farr MacDonald** (committee member).

You can obtain Candle of Hope dedication bags and other merchandise from the Cancer shop in Thurso or directly from Theresa

Also any teams wishing to order personalised clothing along with the logo on them for fundraising events for the Relay for Life, can do so by contacting **Stuart Rollinson** of Carbon-Co. Twenty percent of all these orders will be donated to Cancer Research UK Relay For Life Caithness 2011.

Lord Lucan pays a visit to Caithness Horizons

Staff in Thurso's popular museum took a second glance when flicking through the pages of the visitor book last month.

It would appear that a rather elusive character had recently passed through without being spotted.

Was the lure of the five star quality visitor attraction really too much to keep the infamous Lord Lucan in hiding any longer? Was the new Dounreay exhibition enticing enough to bring him out of hiding after nearly forty years? Or was it the reputation of the tastiest shortbread in the Highlands that he found too tempting?



It was "uniform to work day" on June 22, to raise awareness of the Armed Forces Day on June 25. From left: **Bryan Dods**, **Lynda Macaskill** and **Neil McLean**, who wore their Army cadets uniform for the occasion. They were given special dispensation to be photographed without hi-viz. ○

Need help to stop smoking?



You are four times more likely to succeed if you use the smoking cessation service and appropriate nicotine replacement therapy.

Occupational Health Department will be hosting smoking cessation support sessions on site, which will be provided by NHS smoking cessation advisor **Arlene Gunn** over the coming months. The sessions will be held in OHD on Thursday mornings on a one to one basis.

If you believe you are ready to stop smoking please call **Arlene** on 07748761749 for an appointment. For more information please phone 01847 802187 to talk to an Occupational Health advisor. ○

Answer to Arrow Word puzzle

1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0
1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1

