

**EDINBURGH GROUP  
DOUNREAY PARTICLES MEETING**

**Date:** Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2006  
Hilton Hotel, Edinburgh Airport

<b>Present:</b>	Elizabeth Gray	Scottish Executive (chair)
	Kerrie Campbell	Scottish Executive
	Sandra Jack	Scottish Executive
	Arthur Johnston	Scottish Executive Health Dept
	Ian Hall	Scottish Executive
	Ray Waters	COMARE
	Keith Boddy	DPAG
	Paul Dale	SEPA/DPAG
	Hugh Fearn	SEPA
	Ian Robertson	SEPA
	Ian Laidlaw	NDA
	Ian Hargrave	Highland Council
	Peter Kayes	Environment Advisor, Highland Council
	Bill Fernie	Particles Consultation Steering Group
	Simon Middlemas	UKAEA
	Peter Kent	UKAEA
	Phil Cartwright	UKAEA
	Joe Toole	UKAEA
	June Love	UKAEA
<b>Apologies:</b>	Alex Elliot	COMARE (Ray Waters deputising)
	Byron Tilly	SEPA (Hugh Fearn deputising)
	George Hunter	SEPA

**MINUTES**

**1. WELCOME**

Elizabeth Gray chaired the meeting. Main points included:

- Making the meeting notes available for websites – UKAEA were keen to publish.

**Action (Oct)1: June Love to circulate back minutes to the group to allow publication on the website.**

**2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

**3. ACTIONS**

Action(Feb)1: Paul Dale to amend para 1.2 of July meeting and send to June to finalise minutes. **Action Complete.**

Action(Feb)2: Joe Toole/Paul Dale/Alex Elliott to discuss density issues outside the meeting. **Action Complete.**

Action(Feb)3: UKAEA to produce data on the density of ten particles before the next DPAG meeting in March 2006. **Action complete** - The density results were presented to DPAG at their March meeting and a full report was distributed at the following meeting in May.

Action(Feb)4: UKAEA to set up a distribution list to ensure documents, such as technical résumé, will be sent to those at this meeting to ensure everyone is kept informed to arrive at a positive outcome. **Action complete** - distribution as email addresses and list of contacts and contact numbers has been circulated.

UKAEA stated that the technical resume was currently being updated and would be circulated to the group for their comment before publication.

**Action (Oct)2: UKAEA to circulate updated technical resume to group once drafted. Draft Tech Resume sent last week (10<sup>th</sup> Oct) to K Boddy, P Dale and I Baikie for external review and will be issued to the Group once approved.**

Action(Feb)5: Joe Toole to consider whether it would be possible to extend existing contract (for monitoring) for a further year and ensure NDA are content. **Action complete** – contract extended to December 2007.

*UKAEA noted that an OJEU advert had been issued for expressions of interest. Tests were carried out on alternative technologies and four companies would be invited to tender for the next monitoring contract. It was premature to disclose the identities of the companies involved. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting.*

**Action (Oct)3: Monitoring contract to be put on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.**

Action(Feb)6: Alex Elliott to inform Joe Toole of the programme for COMARE trials on Sandside beach. **Complete** - trials took place in April.

Action(Feb)7: Highland Council should consider the sorts of questions they would like to see answered and feed them to everyone. **Action complete** - Highland Council has provided a list of questions to UKAEA. UKAEA will consider response and circulate round Edinburgh distribution for comment.

Action(Feb)8: All members to make comments on the two progress documents to Joe Toole by 28th February. **Action complete** – no comments were recorded.

#### **4. SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE UPDATE**

Scottish Executive were keen to ensure that the momentum of progress was maintained. It was important that all the organisations worked together in parallel and this meeting should focus on that.

#### **5. NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY (NDA) UPDATE**

The NDA noted:

- Reference strategy for the old diffuser and options were currently being considered. Costs will be included in the next life time plan..
- A reference strategy for dealing with particles would be planned for but it was recognised that this would not pre-empt the BPEO or the DPAG report in any way. Any assumptions made now would be for planning purposes only, to provide a baseline against which any change could be referenced.
- Until the particle plume was delineated it would be difficult to plan for.

## **6. DOUNREAY PARTICLES ADVISORY GROUP (DPAG) UPDATE**

DPAG noted:

- DPAG 3<sup>rd</sup> report had been published and delivered to SEPA on time.
- Distribution of the report was delayed due to legal proceedings.
- That continuation of the advisory group for the next 18 month to deal with further work which was expected to culminate in a fourth and final report.

## **7. UKAEA UPDATE**

UKAEA noted:

- Particle finds – Dounreay foreshore (240), Sandside (68), Dunnet (1), Dounreay site (85), Offshore retrieved by divers (929) and mapped by ROV (203).
- Particle types – MTR, DFR, pieces of irradiated fuel clad and irradiated uranium oxide.
- Beaches monitored with no particles detected – Melvich (2 surveys), Crosskirk (10), Brims (19), Scrabster (14), Thurso (14), Dunnet (second survey in 2006), Murkle (1, Sept 06).
- Monitoring to meet SEPA criteria – detection requirements, locations, area coverage and frequency. UKAEA await SEPA's further recommendations following publication of DPAG report
- Current onshore monitoring is undertaken using Groundhog Evolution – under the realistic test conditions presented by the COMARE trials, this system meets requirements of SEPA. Further improvements will be made.
- Offshore surveys – Divers used since 1997 and stopped in 2005 in favour of remotely operated vehicle. 2006 offshore mapping concentrated on testing the computer model and the identification of the northward edge of the main plume.
- Future offshore monitoring will be discussed with SEPA and DPAG.
- ROV retrieval tool is being designed
- BPEO consultation will await the DPAG report and it is hoped that consultation can take place early next year on 11 combined options.

Questions raised were:

- How many clear surveys would be required before a beach was deemed clean and signs could be taken down. SEPA responded that because of the make-up of Dunnet beach some confidence can be gained by monitoring results. DPAG noted that information in the Third Report should help to inform regulators, public, elected representations, etc to make a sound judgement on these issues.

It was agreed that UKAEA should discuss the issue of signs with all relevant parties.

**Action (Oct)4: UKAEA to set up a meeting with Highland Council, SEPA and the Health Board to discuss issues relating to signs at Dunnet. *It was suggested that this wait until the DPAG report was made public.***

- Would using a ROV retrieval tool affect the marine environment. UKAEA responded that the type of remote retrieval system for targeted retrieval should have minimal impact.
- Are particles turning up on beaches today all historical? DPAG's Second Report intimated that most likely source was diffuser and low active drainage system from early 1960s to 1984. After that time filters had been fitted. Detailed consideration is presented in DPAG's Third Report.
- What further work is DPAG carrying out? DPAG will agree a work programme with SEPA. Further work identified includes ROV data and particle density work. UKAEA are working with DPAG to agree the list of work required for 4<sup>th</sup> report. It was noted that information supplied to DPAG by UKAEA may lead to further requests.

**Action (Oct)5: UKAEA to make available all identified information to DPAG.**

- When is the DPAG report likely to be available? UKAEA reported that the next stage of the legal proceedings was likely to be in January 2007. Professor Boddy indicated that such a delay in issuing the report was not acceptable. DPAG had agreed reluctantly to the postpone issue of the Report until November and would be averse to extending the hiatus. He would pursue issue of the report in November as agreed. *[Secretary's note: DPAG's Third Report was formally presented and issued at an open meeting in Thurso on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2006.]*

**Action (Oct)6: UKAEA to provide a process timeline for BPEO process.**

- It was noted that UKAEA are currently discussing a survey of Peedie Sands (small beach near Dunnet) with the owner.
- Following recent offshore mapping it was acknowledged that the computer model was not validated in areas of headlands offshore. It was thought that the model released buried particles too readily. This may mean that the model might be restricted to projecting locations into the future, which could be still a useful source of information.

## **8. SEPA UPDATE**

Issues had been mostly covered above. SEPA noted:

- Discussions with UKAEA regarding concerns about the monitoring of the Dounreay foreshore. This had now been dealt with satisfactorily.

## **9. COMARE UPDATE**

COMARE noted:

- information on uranium oxide particles had been released to COMARE but that this should have been referred to much earlier.
- they shared the concerns of SEPA in regards to the Dounreay foreshore.
- they had written to UKAEA Chief Executive expressing concern about releasing information. However it was noted that since the new project team had been in place the information flow was much improved. It was noted that UKAEA had provided COMARE with a full listing of over 650 documents of which 15 documents had been requested. Some documents were released straight away while the others were currently undergoing de-restriction to allow release.

**Action (Oct)7: Information sent to DPAG or SEPA should also be made available to COMARE.**

**Action (Oct)8: June Love to re-circulate contacts list so that members can update information.**

- COMARE beach trials had taken place in April.

## **10. HIGHLAND COUNCIL UPDATE**

Highland Council had no issues to raise.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Radioactive Contaminated Land Regulations: Work in progress to complete and issue pre 2007 election . Update at next meeting.
- It was noted that in terms of moving forward it would be useful to define a particle. At this time, a particle could be from 0 Bqs to 100000s of Bqs and a definition to bound a particle would be important for the future. DPAG had reported on this issue in the Third Report.

The next meeting would be scheduled for March/April 2007 dependent on availability of DPAG report.

**Action (Oct)9: June Love to organise next meeting for March/April 2007.**

**Elizabeth Gray, Scottish Executive**  
13<sup>th</sup> October 2006