

Scottish Government Update

Hunterston SSG – 3 September 2020 Meeting

Scottish Government Radioactive Substances Team

James Fox continues to assist the wider division on general waste issues as a result of COVID-19. Martin MacDonald and Pat McAuley are the main points of contact for any matters relating to nuclear decommissioning and radioactive substances should any members wish to contact them (Martin.MacDonald@gov.scot Pat.McAuley@gov.scot).

Update on Dounreay

The NDA announced on 10 July 2020 that Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd (DSRL) would become a wholly owned subsidiary of the NDA in 2021 after ownership transfers from the Parent Body Organisation (PBO).

This follows the approach taken in 2016 when Sellafield Ltd became an NDA subsidiary, and in September 2019, Magnox Ltd also transitioned from the PBO model. Both have proved successful and allowed the NDA to operate more effectively.

As the ownership of DSRL does not change until next year, there will be a period of transition. Policy officials in the Scottish Government are therefore in regular contact with the NDA to ensure that this work is progressed in an effective manner with engagement with key stakeholders and the wider community of Caithness taken forward as required.

BEIS Policy Review

As a result of COVID-19 and the redeployment of staff, the policy review on radioactive substances and nuclear decommissioning being taken forward by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) remains delayed. The Scottish Government previously provided comments on BEIS latest draft consultation document ensuring matters relating to Scottish policy and priorities are incorporated and will provide further updates to the Hunterston SSG as this work develops.

Scottish Higher Activity Waste (HAW) Policy Review

Following the meeting of the Higher Activity Waste Scottish Strategy Implementation Group (HAWSSIG) this year, the Scottish Government is now starting to collate and analyse feedback from members on what the 10 year review should encompass. This feedback will form a draft policy document which will be further refined as required. The policy team ensure all interested parties in the Hunterston SSG are kept up to date on progress with this work.

NDA Strategy IV

The public consultation on the NDA Strategy IV was launched on 17 August (available via the following [link](#)). Once the consultation ends, the NDA will share responses and feedback with The Scottish Government so that the policy team are aware of any aspects which need to be captured in the final Strategy from a Scottish perspective.

ONR – 7th Joint Convention report

Engagement also continues on the work being lead by ONR on the 7th Joint Convention report (to the International Atomic Energy Authority on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management) with the policy team ensuring that Scottish polices and priorities are captured as required. The report is due to be published in the autumn.

NDA local social and economic impact strategy

In July, the NDA published a local social and economic impact strategy update. This document is available through the following [link](#).

As will be noted, the original intention had been to publish a multi-year strategy running from 2020 to 2026, however in the current circumstances the NDA have made this a 2020 update.

Policy officials remain engaged with the NDA in respect of Scottish sites and any developing or new opportunities for funding as appropriate.

Scottish Government Resilience Division

Resilience Division continues to prioritise Covid19 related work. This continues to result in enhanced liaison with Hunterston sites to ensure that any effects of the pandemic are minimised.

Most Scottish Government work associated with the nuclear sector has now resumed in line with regulators, operators and UK Government departments returning to more normalised work priorities.

Resilience Division maintains close liaison with the UK Government to ensure optimal joined up working across the nuclear resilience sector.

The April meeting of the Scottish Government chaired Nuclear Resilience Group was postponed and is now scheduled to take place virtually on 18th September. The Resilience Division has maintained close contact with all stakeholders throughout the Covid period.

David Gurney took over the nuclear resilience portfolio from Alan Horberry in early June 2020.