

**Minutes of the Thirty Second Meeting of the
Depleted Uranium Firing Environmental Review Committee
Held at St Georges Court on 18th of February 2003**

Present

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] (Chairman)
[REDACTED]	GVIU 3a
[REDACTED]	GVIU
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] S&EA
[REDACTED]	DSTL
[REDACTED]	MoD Eskmeals
[REDACTED]	CESO(A)
[REDACTED]	Kirkcudbright Training Area
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] als
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] als
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 32nd DUFERC Meeting at St Giles Court, and thanked GVIU for hosting the event..

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for their absence were received from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting.

Actions from the 31st and previous meetings were discussed:

Action 27/4 - [REDACTED] distributed a paper discussing the decommissioning of VJ Battery. The main issue seems to be that there could be quite a bit of DU left in the facility and burial pit as well as some contamination in the controlled area and known spot points outside the controlled area. We need to establish estimates for the amounts of DU in the butt, within the controlled area and at the gun position, NNC did provide an unsolicited bid at some time in the past which [REDACTED] will forward. [REDACTED] suggested there may be funding for this study available under the LTPA capital plan - **Complete.**

Action 32/1 - [REDACTED] to forward NNC unsolicited bid to [REDACTED]

Action 32/2 - [REDACTED] to investigate funding route through LTPA Capital plan

Action 30/2 - [REDACTED] is no longer available for this work, [REDACTED] Phillips is looking at DU disposal routes through the US. [REDACTED] is still looking for a costed estimate before he will commit any funding for disposal of the DU plate. The contaminated steel plate has been prepared for

road transport in parallel with looking at the landfill options. All this is due to be completed this financial year just leaving the DU plate problems – ongoing.

Discussions took place on whether DSTL (Fort Halstead) still had facilities where they could cut up the plate for disposal.

Action 32/3 – [REDACTED] took an action to check whether facilities at FH are in good order to carry out the cutting up of the DU plate.

Action 30/5a – Rig Report – ongoing.

Action 30/5b – Kirkcudbright Report – SEPA have had draft copies of the 1999-2000 report for information only, 2001 data is available but no funding has been forthcoming to produce the reports. The second lot of samples are in deep freeze awaiting analysis when funding appears. – ongoing.

The report has nothing new in its conclusions, with no unexpected results. Some recommendations were included on some of the contaminated spot sites. All were below regulatory limits, and are within 500m of the firing point within the fenced area, but DRPS need to consult SEPA on disposal. The report looked at surface contamination, and routine sampling is being done at appropriate places. Reports are stopped now, due to lack of funding, and are stalled at Army Training Estate. This issue is to be discussed at the DUWG, with CESO(A) still recommending a reduction in monitoring, but SEPA will need to be consulted. The local council also takes samples and there may be an opportunity for amalgamation of the sampling regimes.

Action 31/1 – complete.

Action 31/2 - overtaken by events – complete

Action 31/3 - complete

Action 31/4 - overtaken by events – complete

Action 31/5 - [REDACTED] to ask [REDACTED] – ongoing

Action 31/6 - Needs to be discussed with EA – ongoing

Action 31/7 - currently with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] – ongoing

Kirkcudbright Report

192 rounds have been fired mostly from Chapmans firing point but some from Ballig. None went astray, and grid references of firing points and splash points have been collected.

There were no protests at the time of the firing, some local press, and a statement that the local Scottish Nationalist Member of the Scottish Parliament (MSP) is making a big issue of environmental issues, and has suggested that some statements from the MoD are "cynical".

The article in Sanctuary has come in for some criticism with someone saying that the MoD was going to prove that there was not a problem with DU, which is a distortion of what was actually written.

All the gun barrels have been monitored, and all were below threshold of "declared contaminated". There was some evidence of contamination on two of the barrels, but as the monitoring was only done after the firing this may have been there already. It seems that an opportunity was missed to monitor barrels before and after this firing, so that we would know exactly when the contamination occurred.

The RAC were happy with the way the trial was conducted and monitored, though there was some discussion as to the poor information available to the army personnel. DRPS have prepared some briefing material, but it does not seem to have filtered down to the working level.

Eskmeals Report

Not much to report that has not already been covered on the disposal of DU plate and Contaminated steel issue earlier in the meeting.

DRPS report

Again – not much to report, after the Kirkcudbright firing report above..

The Research Programme continues slowly with the independent review board having been formed recently.

AOB

██████████ has now moved to support other areas of QinetiQ as RPA.

██████████ suggested that ██████████ report will be passed to interested parties for comment, before it is released.

██████████ suggested that D Sef Pol had passed on some information that Euratom may have to be adhered to by MoD. This should not have much affect on current business, and application of existing practices should not present a problem.

Action 32/4 – ██████████ will contact ██████████ in D Sef Pol to get further information.

Kirkcudbright range are still looking for advice from DRPS on what signs are required on site and what can be removed.

Action 32/5 – ██████████ to advise ██████████ on this requirement.

Date of next meeting

24th June 2003 at Eskmeals.

List of Actions Outstanding

Action 30/2 – DU plate & Contaminated Steel disposal.

Action 30/5 – DRPS to keep the meeting informed on progress of the report on the rig and the Kirkcudbright 2000 report.

Action 31/1 – [REDACTED] to chase up how the request for exemption from REPPIR is going. Needs feedback from HSE.

Action 31/5 - DRPS [REDACTED] and QinetiQ [REDACTED] to work out a funding route for sampling at Kirkcudbright.

Action 31/6 Tim Goss to liaise with DRPS on the way forward on sampling at Eskmeals.

Action 31/7 – [REDACTED] to find out internally to QinetiQ to see if Eskmeals can carry out the calibration of equipment fitted with GTLS.

Action 32/1 [REDACTED] to forward NNC unsolicited bid to [REDACTED]

Action 32/2 – [REDACTED] to investigate funding route through LTPA Capital plan

Action 32/3 – [REDACTED] took an action to check whether facilities at FH are in good order to carry out the cutting up of the DU plate.

Action 32/4 – [REDACTED] will contact [REDACTED] in D Sef Pol to get further information.

Action 32/5 – [REDACTED] to advise [REDACTED] on the signs required at Kirkcudbright.