

Minutes of the Thirty Seventh Depleted Uranium Environmental Review Committee (DUFERC)

Meeting held at QinetiQ Farnborough on the 8th September 2004

Present:

[REDACTED]	QinetiQ Radiation Adviser
[REDACTED]	(Acting Chairman & Secretary)
[REDACTED]	MoD RSO (DTEG) Eskmeals
[REDACTED]	SO2 RAD (CESO A)
[REDACTED]	QinetiQ HSEA
[REDACTED]	VPU MOD
[REDACTED]	DRPS(DSTL)

Apologies: [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

1. Opening remarks

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies from those unable to attend

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters arising

3.1 Actions

34/7 (A Fort Halstead representative should report to the committee)

The DU facility at Fort Halstead is no longer supported by the MOD as a "Strategic Facility" This change of status means that QinetiQ is investigating decommissioning of the DU facility and returning the DU stock to the MOD.

[REDACTED] explained that if this material is to be regarded as surplus it could not be disposed of within the UK. If regarded as waste such material falls into the category of Intermediate Radioactive Waste. The UK does not currently have a long-term repository for dry intermediate radioactive wastes. There is a considerable amount of DU is stored at the Fort and that much of its security status was unknown to the committee, as this would impinge on the cost of viability of disposal the classification of the material will need to be resolved.

[REDACTED] asked if the Intermediate Radioactive Waste status also applied to contaminated items. [REDACTED] explained that previous experience of dealing with DU

contaminated wastes demonstrated that such material fell into the "Low Level Radioactive waste category and such materials could be disposed of to BNFL Drigg.

It was agreed by the committee that the secretary would endeavour to arrange for the next DUFERC meeting to be held at Fort Halstead and that a representative from the DU Facility would give a presentation to the committee. **Action Number 37.1**
on [REDACTED]

35/1 (DRPS to report on the negotiations with SEPA regarding agreeing a reduction in the environmental monitoring programme at Kirkcudbright)

[REDACTED] reported that agreement had been reached to reduce the monitoring from six monthly to annual. In addition the number of samples and the complexity of the analysis have been reduced.

Action Complete

35/2 (Disposal of DU Action on [REDACTED])

This had been dealt with under 34/7. However the committee agreed that this should become a standing agenda item

36/1 (Progress report on the DRPS reports being passed to GVIU)

[REDACTED] stated that he had forwarded all the reports that he had received to all the interested parties.

[REDACTED] gave an update on which reports had been published and which were being compiled. In short all reports up to 2001 are now issued, 2002 are ready to be published. 2003 are being produced and 2004 are at the sample stage.

[REDACTED] asked if DTEG had been consulted regarding the contract between QinetiQ and DRPS. [REDACTED] replied that they had but took an action give [REDACTED] an update at the DU Working Group. **Action**
[REDACTED]

36/2 (DRPS to give update on DU Research Programme)

[REDACTED] gave a current progress report to the committee

Action Complete

3.2 General

██████████ brought to the committees attention that the MOD Directorate of Safety, Environment and Fire Policy (an organisation that forms part of the DUFERC) was now the Directorate of Safety and Claims.

4. Kirkcudbright Report

- 4.1 As a representative for Kirkcudbright was not available ██████████ gave an update on the ongoing case of an ex Kirkcudbright employee who is currently taking legal action for suffering injury due to radiation exposure allegedly received during his employment at Kirkcudbright. This lead to some discussion regarding monitoring of personnel by urine sampling.

██████████ asked if it was likely that the current programme for monitoring service personnel would be extended to civilians that had worked on DU trials.

██████████ said it was not currently planned to do so but it was possible

██████████ asked if such a programme would include ex DERA staff ██████████ stated that DERA staff had all received monitoring during the DERA firing programme.

██████████ went on to state that no pattern was emerging from the investigations into the nature and cause of "Gulf War Syndrome"

5. Eskmeals Report. ██████████

- 5.1 ██████████ reported that the decommissioning survey and indeed the decommissioning project had been put on hold until after the Challenger investigation project had been completed. Further more there could be other vehicles to process. This would mean that further decommissioning work could be on hold for at least two years.

- 5.2 He went on to give an update on the progress on the challenger investigation. Which in short is that the project is planned to be carried out at Eskmeals and that the minister's office has now acknowledged notification of the planned work and had raised no objection. Planning permission for the necessary facility has been sought and the Environment agency have been notified. Detailed planning meetings between the IPT, AVS and QinetiQ are now taking place, although the formal contract is not yet in place.

- 5.3 ██████████ produced a copy of the submission to the minister for the committee.

6. DRPS Report. ██████████

- 6.1 ██████████ stated most of the items he was going to address had already been thoroughly covered. But he did note that although the decommissioning survey at Eskmeals was on hold DRPS have a dual role within the Challenger Investigation. As well as being the RPA to the project they are also QinetiQ's RPA. As such they are supporting QinetiQ Health Physics Section and have been approached by

QinetiQ to carry out the baseline survey of VJ battery for the project and will also be producing the "Prior Risk Assessments."

- 6.2 He went on to state that they had also been approached to quote for a decommissioning survey of the Fort Halstead DU facility. They had however heard nothing following the initial discussion.

7. Any other business

- 7.1 [REDACTED] ask if [REDACTED] could update [REDACTED] re DU issues at the DUWG.

Action 37/1 [REDACTED]

- 7.2 [REDACTED] wished to make clear that the decommissioning of the Fort Halstead DU Facility would be a long-term project with the subsequent time-scales and costs. He stated that he was concerned that there may be a perception within some areas of the MOD that it was a low cost option or easy option.

8. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be on the 07/12/04 to be held at QinetiQ Fort Halstead commencing at 1030hrs.

Summary of outstanding actions

- 37.1 - [REDACTED] to arrange next DUFERC meeting to be held at Fort Halstead and for a representative of the DU facility to give a presentation on the facility

- 37/2 - [REDACTED] to brief [REDACTED] of DTEG on DU matters at the DUWG

- 37/3 - As above

Distribution:

All present

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]