

**Minutes of the Thirty Ninth Depleted Uranium Environmental Review
Committee (DUFERC) Meeting held at QinetiQ Eskmeals on the 8th March 2005**

Present:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Chairman
New Area Manager for Eskmeals
QinetiQ CHSEA
SO2 RAD (CESO A)
MOD Rep Eskmeals
DRPS (DSTL) QQ RPA
Commandant Kirkcudbright ATA
QinetiQ Radiation Advisor (Acting Secretary)

Apologies: [REDACTED]

1. Opening remarks

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the site safety Briefing followed by apologies from those unable to attend. He went on to introduce [REDACTED] who will replace [REDACTED] Eskmeals Area Manager in April of this year

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

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

3. Matters arising

3.1 Actions

- 37/1 A representative from the Fort Halstead DU facility should be invited to join the DUFERC

[REDACTED] queried why no Fort Halstead representative was present. This was debated by the committee and it was agreed that as DETEG had made it clear that as the DU facility at Fort Halstead was not required by the MOD (see action 37/3), A full time representative from the "Fort" would not be required as part of the committee. Closed

- 37/3 DUFERCs representative at the MODs DU Working Group should raise the issue of the MODs future requirement for the DU facility at Fort Halstead

[REDACTED] took this matter forward to the DUWG. At that meeting the MOD, through [REDACTED], stated that the MOD had no future requirement for that facility. Closed

- 38/1 DUFERCs representative was to raise the issue of funding the Kirkcudbright Supplementary Marine Survey with the DUWG.

██████████ and ██████████ raised this matter with the MOD. ██████████
██████████ Dep. Director VPU agreed to fund the extra survey. Closed

4. **Kirkcudbright Report** ██████████

- 4.1 ██████████ reported that a report was now being compiled regarding the ex employee who had cited working with DU at Kirkcudbright as the cause of his current illness. The committee will be kept advised on the progress of the case.
- 4.2 ██████████ went on to update the committee regarding the "DU garden" at Kirkcudbright. The project is now being managed by NERC and the garden phase is to be run down
- 4.3 ██████████ asked if there were plans to monitor the area occupied by the garden and decontaminate to the natural background level.
- 4.4 ██████████, speaking on behalf of DSTL stated that it was planned to finish work on that project by September and that he was sure proper clearance would be carried out.
- 4.5 ██████████ stated that the decontamination should definitely take place. ██████████ agreed and stated that DSTL should carry out that work.
- 4.6 ██████████ asked if SEPA would be involved in that process and ██████████ stated that they would and the process would be properly recorded.
- 4.7 ██████████ went on to raise the issue of the Land Reform Act (Scotland) and how the act would impinge on site activities. Because of the liability issues the KTA would be exempt from aspects of the act that include unlimited public access.
- 4.8 ██████████ asked if the area was covered by bye laws and ██████████ stated that bye law limitations and the use of Red Flag areas were being investigated. ██████████ pointed out that in fact all UK byelaws were under review.
- 4.9 The matter of the proposed off shore wind farm to be built on the sand banks at Robin Rig was raised with regard to the possibility of DU and UXB contamination. ██████████ stated that the MOD had issued a general statement to the Hydrographic Office but it was limited in its scope. ██████████ added his concern that sampling of that area had been proposed by the WSA Report in 1996 but the action had not been carried out. He felt that if any radiological problems were encountered this lack of action had the potential to cause some embarrassment to the MOD. ██████████ noted that the then chairman of DUFERC ██████████ did in fact recommend that sampling should take place but for some unrecorded reason it did not occur. ██████████ added that during the sampling carried out earlier this year they (DSTL) had asked to carry out some sampling in that area but the boats master had declined due to the lack of daylight.
- 4.10 ██████████ went on to report that 10,000 tonnes of shell fish (shells) were to be put back into the sea of KTA but not into the area where DU had been fired.

5. **██████████**

- 5.1 ██████████ reported that the preparation work for the investigation (Ch 2) was continuing but it was unlikely that the RUBB shelter would be ready in time for

the delivery of the vehicle planned for the 6th April 2005. This was due to contractual issues between QinetiQ and the building contractors

5.2 [REDACTED] raised the issue of the proposed decommissioning of VJ battery. [REDACTED] confirmed that decommissioning was officially on hold until the Challenger Project was complete.

5.3 [REDACTED] asked if the disposal of DU plate was still being carried forward by the MOD. [REDACTED] confirmed that it was still very much in the planning stage and [REDACTED] of the MOD VPU had been in contact with representatives of the US government. [REDACTED] had reported that it was possible the US would be prepared to receive this material and the VPU had approached QinetiQ to act as the MODs agent in this matter.

5.4 The final subject discussed in relation to Eskmeals was a query from [REDACTED] regarding whether the contaminated sabots from Kirkcudbright were still being held at VJ Battery. [REDACTED] confirmed that they were still at VJ and were awaiting pre disposal monitoring. However sabot monitoring is a very time consuming (and tedious) process and as yet there was no spare staff to carry out this task.

6. DRPS Report. [REDACTED]

6.1 [REDACTED] reported that the marine survey of the splash down areas off Kirkcudbright had been successfully carried out and the preliminary results looked favourable. There had been slight changes to the original plan, in so far as samples had been taken over the splash point and from around a 100m radius but nothing was found. He added that the full report would be available in due course.

6.2 [REDACTED] also reported that a sample taken from a crab in 2002 had appeared to be positive but not of a level that was significant in radiological terms. As this was the first ever positive sample it could be regarded as of scientific interest and further analysis was carried out, however no further samples from that batch or the crab itself were found to be contaminated with DU so it can only be assumed that this was an anomaly.

6.3 The current situation regarding the production of reports is as follows
2003 Kirkcudbright Report half complete

The 2000-2004 Eskmeals reports had been produced but had not passed DSTL QA. These have now been reproduced into one comprehensive report.

6.4 [REDACTED] asked if anyone knew the whereabouts of the round that had been accidentally trawled up from the sea off Kirkcudbright. [REDACTED] replied that it was currently in safe storage at Eskmeals awaiting disposal to the US with the other DU.

6.5 [REDACTED] asked how the new DRPS contract was working out. For the benefit of the committee [REDACTED] gave a brief overview of the changes to the contract and the reasons for the changes. He went on to state that there was a measurable improvement on the internal financial management of DRPS services within QinetiQ.

7. Any other business

7.1 Mr [REDACTED] announced that this was the last DUFERC that [REDACTED] would be chairing as he was changing his role within TES and would no longer be

the Area Manager of Eskmeals. [REDACTED] thanked him for his service to the committee and on behalf of the DUFERC wished him luck in his new post.

7.2

[REDACTED] stated that he felt that, as the positive result relating to the 2002 crab sample was to be published in the report for that year, there was potential for adverse publicity. He suggested that the army should prepare a press brief to respond to any questions raised. [REDACTED] replied that press briefs regarding DU should only be issued by MOD VPU so the Army and QinetiQ should always refer enquiries regarding DU to [REDACTED]

8. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be on the 015/06/05 to be held at Meeting Rm. 09, Floor 3, Spine 2. MOD Main Building Whitehall commencing at 1400hrs.

Summary of outstanding actions

Distribution:

All present+

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

File ESK/327/001

[REDACTED]
27/04/05