

Minutes of the Fortieth Depleted Uranium Environmental Review Committee (DUFERC) Meeting held at MOD Main Building Whitehall on the 14th June 2005

Present:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (Acting Chairman
and Secretary)

[REDACTED] CUSEA

SO2 RAD (CESO A)

VPU MOD

DRPS (DSTL) QQ RPA

Commandant Kirkcudbright ATA

Apologies: [REDACTED]

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

1.1 [REDACTED] asked for clarification on paragraph 4.8 regarding Byelaws at Kirkcudbright. [REDACTED] Replied that the issue of byelaws was being investigated for MOD ranges in Scotland because of safety issues for the public but it would be up to 3 years before they were likely to be in place.

1.2 [REDACTED] Also pointed out that the word knew in paragraph 6.4 was the wrong "new"

2. Matters arising

2.1 Actions

38/1 Extension to Kirkcudbright Marine Survey

[REDACTED] stated that the MOD VPU had funded the survey.

[REDACTED] informed the committee that it had been carried out by DSTL and the analysis was complete but the results were yet to be produced as a report. However there were no positive findings

[REDACTED] stated that as the survey was over and above the routine monitoring there would not need to be any ministerial submission but the results would be published

[REDACTED] asked that the report could be discussed at the next meeting with a view to reviewing the Kirkcudbright Marine Sampling.

[REDACTED] added that the matter of reducing the Kirkcudbright environmental survey programme would be raised with the minister in line with the DU oversight board's recommendation to curtail urine sampling for Gulf and Kosovo veterans.

**Action 40.1 on [REDACTED]
to report on the Kirkcudbright Marine Survey at the next
DUFERC. meeting**

2.2.1 Expanding on the preceding discussion [REDACTED] suggested that this may be a suitable time to raise the issue of reducing the Eskmeals environmental programme.

[REDACTED] recommended that it would be wise to wait for the outcome of the DU research programmes investigations regarding the behaviour of DU in the environment as their initial findings were indicating that respirable oxides may be appearing in contaminated soils at Eskmeals.

[REDACTED] Stated that in his experience respirable transuranic particulate, when in the ambient British, environment usually bonded to larger non respirable particles

[REDACTED] asked if the High Volume Air Sample (HVAS) result could not be a more accurate indicator of any respirable hazard rather than what was being found in core samples from below the soil surface.

[REDACTED] said that the basic gross alpha screening currently used for HVAS would be too crude to detect this subtle change.

[REDACTED] reinforced the view that it was only the respirable material that was of any direct concern. This was agreed by the committee.

[REDACTED] added that more information regarding initial particle sizes created at the time of firing would be valuable.

[REDACTED] advised that some research had been carried out during early firings.

[REDACTED] asked if he was referring to the work carried out by [REDACTED] for SSO

[REDACTED] said it was and that the results of [REDACTED] work should be available as it had been published at the time.

[REDACTED] stated that some further definitive research regarding DU oxide particles production in the environment would be of interest.

[REDACTED] replied that this aspect of the behaviour of DU in the environment was being addressed as part of the DU research programme. He went on to say the research programmes initial report would be discussed should be discussed at the next DUFERC meeting

Action 40.2 on [REDACTED] to produce an update on the findings of DU Research Programme for discussion at the next DUFERC Meeting

3. Kirkcudbright Report. [REDACTED]

3.1 [REDACTED] reported that there had been no firings of DU since the last meeting, but KTA had had an approach from Abbey Wood regarding some planned DU proof firing. However this had not taken place and it now appeared that this plan was being reviewed.

[REDACTED] Asked if it was necessary to proof DU shot as it had no components that would degrade

[REDACTED] Stated that the MOD reserved the right to carry out firings of DU if it was required.

[REDACTED] stated that proof/ training firing of DU would be required prior to use but added DU would only be used in combat situations.

[REDACTED] Added that he would seek clarification from his point of contact at Abbey Wood

3.2 [REDACTED] went on to report that the NERC/ CERN representatives from the universities carrying out the DU environmental studies (part of the DU research programme) would be visiting Kirkcudbright Training Area next week to review the work that they will need to undertake.

3.3 [REDACTED] also reported that there was no change in the plans to build an off shore wind farm at Robin Rigg.

3.4 Miscellaneous KTA

[REDACTED] reported that the MOD and the Scottish Parliament were due to meet in July regarding the enforcement of byelaws for Scottish Ranges.

With reference to pending court case regarding DU, a report is due soon

Neither the G8 Summit nor the Wicker man Festival had any impact on the KTA.

4. [REDACTED] Report on DU

4.1 [REDACTED] reported that after consultation with the RPA, QinetiQ Health Physics and the MOD IPT, the QQ Project management team had made the decision to allow the SIB enquiry investigation to go ahead prior to the installation of the Rubb buildings infrastructure. As a consequence of this decision the first stage of the investigation had been completed and the facility had now been returned to a CDM site (i.e. had been made radiologically safe and been handed back to AMEY to complete their installation work). Amey are scheduled to hand the building over to QinetiQ on the 8th August as a functioning facility.

4.2 [REDACTED] reported that other MOD IPTs had approached QinetiQ to carry out further DU related tasks at the VJ facility. One of these tasks was to assist with the disposal of the MODs stock of DU material (including the DU plates that were discussed at the previous DUFERC meeting

4.3 [REDACTED] informed the committee that a planning meeting had taken place and that the MOD's focal point for this task is now [REDACTED] of DETEG. QinetiQ had consequently appointed a project manager for the forthcoming programme

4.4 [REDACTED] added that the DU in question was currently held at Eskmeals and Fort Halstead, with possibly a further 300Kg of ammunition held at Longtown. When appropriate it is to be packaged into transport containers supplied by the US DoD ready for shipping.

5. DRPS Report. [REDACTED]

5.1 [REDACTED] reported that the outstanding environmental reports were in the process of being produced.

5.2 [REDACTED] also suggested that, as there had been interest expressed concerning the building of a wind-farm at Robin Rig a might be prudent to include that area into the existing marine sampling programme

5.3 [REDACTED] stated that as far as he knew the interest that had been expressed concerned unexploded ordnance rather than DU and as there were likely to be traces of other isotopes originating from historic discharges from the Sellafield Reprocessing Plant, survey results could be misinterpreted.

5.4 It was agreed not to carry out sampling unless a specific requirement arose.

6. Any other business

None

7. Date of next meeting

██████████ stated that the next DUWG was on the 6th October 05 and it was customary for the DUFERC to precede this meeting.

██████████ offered Never Avon as a venue. It was agreed to hold the next meeting there at 11:00hrs on Wednesday 5th October 05.

Summary of outstanding actions

Action 40.1 ██████████ and ██████████ to present Kirkcudbright Marine Survey report for December special survey at the next DUFERC

Action 40.2 ██████████ and ██████████ to present an update on the DU research programme at the next DUFERC

Distribution:

All present+

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30/08/05