

Minutes of the Forty Fifth Depleted Uranium Environmental Review Committee (DUFERC) Meeting held at QinetiQ Farnborough on the 17 January 2007

Present:

[REDACTED] (Acting Chairman and Secretary)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Eskmeals
[REDACTED] SO2 RAD (CESO A)
[REDACTED] Dstl Focal Point DU
[REDACTED] MOD DTEG
[REDACTED] MOD Commandant KKA

Apologies: [REDACTED]

1. Introduction

[REDACTED] welcomed the committee to Farnborough for the 45th meeting of the DUFERC.

2. Previous minutes and Matters arising

It was agreed that the minutes of DUFERC 44 were accurate.

3. Actions

Action 42.1 [REDACTED] to approach Defence Estates on the subject of future (DU) land quality surveys for MOD ranges.

[REDACTED] stated that most sites have done a desk top study and they will not go into any more depth unless asked to do so. If the question was asked 'Who is the management person we should send the note to?', then the answer is 'The DTE man at Rosyth call [REDACTED]'. It was hoped that he would be at this meeting. Action Closed

New Action 45.1 [REDACTED] to get [REDACTED] contact details from [REDACTED] and draft a letter to him, copy to [REDACTED] highlighting the issue to him.

[REDACTED] stated- There is no reason other than political reasons to clear up the land but this point must be made. The policy of SEPA, the regulator at Kirkcudbright, is, if it is within defence land but does not cause any problems, then they are not really interested. [REDACTED] stated that he would like to see a consensus between MoD, the regulator and the local council. He suggested sending something to Defence Estates North from the political side. [REDACTED] had a letter from [REDACTED] a while ago

asking 'Was he responsible for service at Kirkcudbright?' The committee was agreed that answer was Defence Estates.

Action 43.2 [redacted] to write to [redacted] asking him to clarify the MOD long term plan for VJ Area.

[redacted] wrote [redacted] times. The essence [redacted] was that there were no future plans for this battery and it should be returned to a green field site [redacted] to get the cost of re [redacted] is nothing [redacted] between us and DTE [redacted] a mediation plan. There is intent to do this but this needs to be clarified. [redacted] to continue discussions with [redacted] and seek further clarification. You need a firm directive from DTEG as to what you have to do [redacted] stated.

Action Ongoing

Action 43.9 [redacted] to contact CSEO and DTEG to clarify who is responsible for the distribution of DU Environmental Reports.

[redacted] has spoken to [redacted] and he wants no part in the reporting process. [redacted] stated that if we asked Dstl, they will produce 20 reports to go to the parliamentary part of MoD.

Action Closed

New Action 45.2 [redacted] to speak with the Dstl Secretariat today to request 20 copies of the DU Environmental Reports.

Action 44.1 [redacted] to investigate feasibility of using QinetiQ as MOD's disposal agent for DU contaminated sabots

This action has been done to some extent. [redacted] stated, At present we do not have a formal disposal route for DU contaminated sabots. [redacted] stated that looking at how the waste is going to be disposed of, is something that needs to be included in future planning processes. [redacted] stated. We have good grounds to continue the monitoring of sabots that we have on Kirkcudbright at present

Action Ongoing

New Action 45.3 [redacted] to approach our novel projects people to ask them to ensure that disposals are contained in contracts.

Action 44.2 [redacted] to produce footnote for the next KTA Environmental Monitoring Report referring the BGS Report.

[redacted] and [redacted] have had discussions regarding this. [redacted] reported- The first draft of the report had been proofread before Christmas but needed some

amendment so a second draft had been produced when after Christmas which he needs to look at.

Action Ongoing

Action 44.3 [redacted] to call for a meeting with MOD HQ Scotland and MOD Defence Estates regarding remediation of DU contaminated land at KTA

Action Completed

4 Kirkcudbright Report

[redacted] reported- Various visits have taken place from the universities. There have been 3 visits from SUERC/NERC to take a sample from Raebury. SUERC/NERC work - This arose in order to reduce the public concern over DU work carried out on the ranges. It involves measuring any movement of known DU contamination. The programme was due to be finished in March 2006 but it will probably be extended. The research work is due to be published and it will cover Kirkcudbright and Eskmeals. The basic question being asked was 'Where is the DU going?' [redacted] stated. The answer that came back was 'There were gaps in the knowledge and the data process.'

With regard to the existing DU Environmental monitoring programme [redacted] stated that DSTL would like to receive some form of sample, possibly an animal kidney. A deer kidney may be the best choice as they are already being culled at the moment. [redacted] added that the main purpose of this is to find out if the DU is getting into the food chain and using deer as a sample was the best way to find this out.

5 Eskmeals Report - [redacted]

[redacted] presented the following report:-

Challenger and other vehicles: Decommissioning of the vehicles has begun. However human remains have been found which have been taken away by military police. Fragments of DU slugs have also been found inside an engine block and within the debris being removed from the light armoured vehicle. The ammunition from the Challenger has been decontaminated and weighed and it has been found that the DU rods are badly eroded. The amount dispersed within the vehicle is therefore much greater than originally estimated. So DSTL will have to carry out a reassessment before waste disposal can continue. Disposal of the rods is to be discussed later with the IPT and MoD.

Operation Diamond: This is ongoing. The company, Active Collection Bureau, are currently at Eskmeals carrying out the packaging. The material is being put into transport containers. It will be sent in a ISO to ACB Kent and then shipped to the USA.

Future work: We have been approached to decontaminate gun barrels for BAe. We have also been approached by [redacted] regarding carrying out some DU firings on behalf of AWE. [redacted]

[redacted] AWE is yet to get ministerial approval. [redacted] stated that he had the impression that the government did not

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want any DU firings in any form to be carried out. [REDACTED] stated that QinetiQ could only proceed if the MOD gave its approval and DTEG sanctioned the project

6 DSTL Report – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] presented the following report:-

[REDACTED] gave a brief report on his experience as a witness in the recent court case involving a DU injury claim

The Kirkcudbright marine work has been reasonably successful. Nothing more will be done on it.

7 Shoeburyness

[REDACTED] Reported that, as part of the in service proof of DU ammunition QinetiQ was to carry out Storage and transport testing at the Environmental Test Centre at Shoeburyness. This work is still at the planning stage but will take place latter this year

8 DUFERC Term of Reference

[REDACTED] stated that we have improved the DUFERC terms of reference (ToR) and submit them for review at this meeting.

9 Any other Business [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] asked [REDACTED] for guidance on the proposal to change the environmental sampling protocol for KTA. This was with particular regard to water catchments. [REDACTED] replied the DSTL are still waiting for firm proposals on where the water catchments areas are going to be. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was going to see [REDACTED] to discuss this.

10 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 10:00 on Wednesday 9th May at Netheravon.

Summary of outstanding actions

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Action 45.3 [REDACTED] to approach QQ novel projects people to ask them to ensure that disposals are contained in contracts.

Distribution:

All present+

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] QinetiQ Eskmeals

[REDACTED] MOD

[REDACTED] MOD VPU

File ESK/327/001

[REDACTED]
22/01/2007