

**Minutes of the 46th Depleted Uranium Environmental Review Committee (DUFERC) Meeting held at MOD Netheravon on the 9 May 2007**

**Present:**

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] Eskmeals (Chairman)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	SO2 RAD (CESO A)
[REDACTED]	Dstl Focal Point DU
[REDACTED]	MOD DTEG
[REDACTED]	MOD Commandant KKA
[REDACTED]	MOD Defence Equipment & Support, In-service
[REDACTED]	Surveillance Manager
[REDACTED]	Secretary

**Apologies:** [REDACTED]

**1. Introduction**

[REDACTED] welcomed the committee to MOD Netheravon for the 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of the DUFERC. He will be chairing this meeting from today onwards.

**2. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the 45<sup>th</sup> DUFERC Meeting were approved by everyone.

**3. Actions**

**Action 43.2** - [REDACTED] to write to [REDACTED] asking [REDACTED] the MOD long term plan for VJ Area.

[REDACTED] response will be distributed by [REDACTED] when it is received. [REDACTED] stated that an Environment Agency inspector called last month and is also looking for MoD commitment to proceed with remediation.

Action Ongoing

**Action 44.1** - [REDACTED] to investigate feasibility of using QinetiQ as MoD's disposal agent for DU contaminated sabots

[REDACTED] stated that this investigation has been done and it is feasible. The last sabots have been picked up from Kirkcudbright and brought back to Eskmeals. They are slightly contaminated and should not present a big problem as the contamination is very low. Although there is no health issue PR could become a problem. It was suggested that a proposal be prepared to send to the Environment Agency stating how we intend to go about disposing of the sabots. [REDACTED] stated that the sabots would be relatively easy to decontaminate but expensive and he would prefer to return them to the aluminium stock. [REDACTED] to look into the disposal options for the DU contaminated sabots before the next DUFERC Meeting.

Action Ongoing

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

[redacted] stated that Dstl is in the process of producing a second version of the report.

**Action 45.1 - [redacted] to get [redacted] contact details [redacted] to write a letter to him, copy to [redacted], highlighting the issue to him.**

Action Ongoing

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

When the report comes out, [redacted] will produce 30 copies. These will go to the parliamentary offices to be put into the library.

Action Ongoing

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

Action Ongoing

#### 4 Kirkcudbright Report

[redacted] presented the following report:

*'There have been no firings or monitoring activity since the last meeting on 17 January 2007.*

*During March 2007 Kirkcudbright Training Centre received an unconfirmed email request from the Project Delivery Manager QinetiQ, Eskmeals [redacted] for a CHARM 3 Life Extension Trial (LET) Qualification Firing during March 2008. Confirmation of the DU LET is still awaited.'*

This needs to be given a 5 year extension. Last night a contract was signed. There are 32 rounds at Shoeburyness. Environmental testing will commence today and will take 130 days. 17 of the rounds will be taken to Kirkcudbright and fired. We are firing a limited number of rounds i.e. the very hot and the very cold. The greatest risks include gaining approval to fire in the first instance and then getting a tank and crew. We need to look at the energetics from a safety perspective. The programme has started and the contract has been signed. [redacted] would like to meet up with DUFERC members to discuss this matter further, including how to progress this forward.

**New Action 46.1 - [redacted] to meet with DUFERC members to discuss and report progress at next meeting**

## 5 Eskmeals Report

presented the following report:-

*EA Inspection* – Vehicle 2 scimitar has been disposed of and left the site in a clean state and just the ammunition is left.

*Challenger* – A large amount of dismantling has been done. The engine compartment and turret are known to be contaminated but the remainder still requires monitoring to see whether it is clear from contamination. It is planned that the engine compartment will go into a specially built ISO container. The turret will go into a standard BNG half height ISO freight. IPT are pursuing the concept of a bespoke container and are arranging for its design and build. The disposal costs will increase as a result.

stated that a lot of dust has been found and has not been characterised. This needs to be organised and financed as we have little knowledge of what material is in this tank.

stated that he had concerns about the suitability of the current urine sampling programme. stated that the use of urine sampling is for reassurance purposes i.e. to be used in conjunction with the other sampling. for reassurance purposes. stated that he can ask a couple of companies to do this sampling. We do not have the information whereby we can say 'If someone inhales this amount of dust, this is how much will appear in their urine.' It would be useful to have some baseline data.

**New Action 46.2 – to obtain funding for the characterisation and sampling activities to be carried out in relation to the 'Challenger' project and when doing so, indicate why this activity needs to be done?**

When the Environmental Agency visits, we are hoping that this is an area of work that they can look at. We are waiting for an assessment for the amount of DU in the vehicle.

**New Action 46.3 – to chase up the assessment for the amount of DU in the 'Challenger' vehicle and report at next meeting**

## 6 Dstl Report

presented the following report:-

At a recent conference a paper was presented which looked at the way DU behaves in soil. The speaker did not truly put things into perspective and as a consequence sensationalised some of the findings

The resulting research paper is due to be put to the MoD customer, , at the end of this month. If he is happy with it, it will be published.

There was some parliamentary interest in the DU activities. There has also been the usual interest from members of the public.

DU monitoring for the services has petered out. All urine samples collected from service men have shown no trace of DU.

Belgium is banning DU use in 2 years time. At the end of the DU programme, it will be up to the Research Acquisition Office as to what will happen to all the

## 7 Shoeburyness

█████ reported that we are set up to carry out contract activities but stated that they had not seen the contract yet. █████ stated that it should be with the QQ PM today. At the end of the trial the remaining shells will be packed up, marked 'Condition D2' and sent back to MoD. █████ stated that he believed that radiography is included in the current proposal. If this is not the case, JB stated that he would look into this being paid for.

**New Action 46.4 – █████ to check that radiography is included in the Shoeburyness proposal and if it is not, try to obtain financing for it.**

We are supporting the air sampling for the firings at Kirkcudbright.

## 8 DUFERC Terms of Reference

The DUFERC members need to look into MoD accountability and a point of contact is required. A question needs to be put to █████ as to who in MoD should receive the minutes of the DUFERC Meeting.

**New Action 46.5 – █████ to write a letter to █████ posing the question 'Who in MOD should receive the minutes of the DUFERC Meeting?' and including the minutes of this meeting.**

█████ stated that there is a complete withering of health physics going on in the MoD.

2 minor modifications to be made to the DUFERC Terms of Reference, namely:

- Point 2 - 'VPU' to be changed to the department agreed with █████
- Point 6 - 'MOD Kirkcudbright Training Area (KTA)' to be changed to read 'MOD Kirkcudbright Training Centre (KTC)'.

## 9 Any other Business

█████ stated that we have done a years trial of dual track sampling. The migration of DU is better analysed in water samples - our sampling will be simplified by taking water from run off from the range boundaries. The preferred water sampling locations have to be confirmed and this is now to be proposed to SEPA. █████ stated that we should not ask for approval, rather advise them of our intent.

**New Action 46.6 – █████ to draft a letter to SEPA. Send the draft letter to DUFERC members for comment prior to sending to SEPA.**

*Eskmeals* – The Environmental Sampling Programme (ESP) is no longer appropriate and needs to be reviewed.

**New Action 46.7 – █████ to prepare a draft proposal for the Eskmeals ESP for discussion at the next DUFERC Meeting. █████ to ask an environmental specialist to help TG with this activity.**

*Kidney Sampling* – This is to be carried out by Eskmeals using deer and rabbit.

**New Action 46.8** - [REDACTED] to include this activity when reviewing the sampling programme.

[REDACTED] stated that there is still a marine survey continuing at 17 points. If you are going to fire again, it is not a good time to change sampling.

*Dumfries and Galloway Councils* – They have been informed that low levels of DU were found during a survey.

*Scimitar incident* - [REDACTED] posed the question 'What is the DUFERC going to do to make sure it does not lose the information about what it learns from the scimitar incident?'

#### **10 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 10:00 hrs on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August at Kirkcudbright.

#### **Summary of outstanding actions**

**Action 43.2** - [REDACTED] to write to [REDACTED] asking him to clarify the MoD long term plan for VJ Area.

**Action 44.1** - [REDACTED] to investigate feasibility of using QinetiQ as MoD's disposal agent for DU contaminated sabots

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

**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.

**Action 45.2** - [REDACTED] to speak with the Dstl Secretariat today to request 20 copies of the DU Environmental Reports.

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

**Action 46.1** - [REDACTED] to meet with DUFERC members to discuss and report progress at next meeting

**Action 46.2** - [REDACTED] to obtain funding for the characterisation and sampling activities to be carried out in relation to the 'Challenger' project and when doing so, indicate why this activity needs to be done.

**Action 46.3** - [REDACTED] to chase up the assessment for the amount of DU in the 'Challenger' vehicle.

Action 46.4 - [REDACTED] to check that radiography is included in the Shoeburyness proposal and if it is not, try to obtain financing for it.

Action 46.5 - [REDACTED] to write a letter to [REDACTED] posing the question 'Who in MoD should receive the minutes of the DUFERC Meeting?' and including the minutes of this meeting.

Action 46.6 - [REDACTED] to draft a letter to SEPA. Send draft letter to DUFERC members for comment prior to sending to SEPA.

Action 46.7 - [REDACTED] to prepare a draft proposal for the Eskmeals ESP for discussion at the next DUFERC Meeting. [REDACTED] to ask an environmental specialist to help [REDACTED] with this activity.

Action 46.8 - [REDACTED] to include deer and rabbit kidney analysis when reviewing the sampling programme.

**Distribution:**

All present+

[REDACTED] - Dstl

[REDACTED] - MOD

[REDACTED] - MOD VPU

File ESK/327/001

[REDACTED]  
17/05/2007