

Minutes of the 59th Depleted Uranium Firing Environmental Review Committee (DUFERC)**21st September 2011****Held at HQ Land Andover****Present:**

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

[REDACTED]
 MOD DIO
 MoD TEST
 Dstl ESD
 MoD KTA Commanding Officer
 MoD SO2 RAD (CESOA)
 [REDACTED]

Secretary

Apologies:

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

[REDACTED]
 For QinetiQ HSEA Director
 MoD SSD&C
 [REDACTED]
 MoD SSD&C
 MoD DE

Item	Discussion and decisions	Actions
1.	Introduction [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] welcomed everyone to the DUFERC and thanked Jane Avery for assisting by taking notes of the proceedings [REDACTED] gave the apologies from those not attending and asked that those present introduced themselves and their role.	
2.	Previous minutes Para. 8.3 QinetiQ should read QinetiQ [REDACTED] notes have been distributed Following these amendments, the minutes of the 58 th DUFERC meeting were accepted by the committee.	
3.	Outstanding actions Action (57.3) [REDACTED] to analyse the ToR from Legislative Tracking Group with the aim to use it as a basis for the revision of the DUFERC TOR. [REDACTED] reported that the Draft ToR is now in the same MoD format as the Nuclear and Legislative Group ToR [REDACTED] added that the ToRs should reflect the effect of the committee, laying out its outputs (and relevance) [REDACTED] asked the committee if they accepted this premise? [REDACTED] noted from the draft ToR that the DUFERC reported to the	Action closed

RPPDC and asked the function of that committee

explained that the RPPDC is the MoD committee chaired by that reviews MoD activities involving radiation and is a sub committee of the SSDC. SSDC is to become the Policy Regulation and Development section of the Defence Safety and Environment Authority (DSEA).

added that it was possible that TEST were not aware of the link between DUFERC and RPPDC

New Action 59.1 to send a copy of the DUFERC ToR to Test

New Action 59.2 to Raise the DUFERC ToR at the next meeting of RPPDC

Asked if a flow diagram could be added to the ToR to simplify the structure of command.

New Action 59.3 to seek some clarification from RPPDC regarding the hierarchy of the CESOs in DSEA

It was agreed by all present that the committee should review the draft ToR with a view to producing a more meaningful ToR for the DUFERC

New Action 59.4 on to circulate the draft TOR and all members to review and report back to before the next meeting

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Eskmeals Report

reported that there were two items remaining from the VJ Phase 1 Decommissioning Project. These were two blocks of titanium armour, both DU contaminated. These could not be included with the steel for smelting and did not get included with the LLW sent to Drigg.

It was considered until recently that these items were covered by the RSA EO 2710 as they were surface contaminated to a level that gave a gross activity of <11Bq/g. However the Local EA inspector has ruled that they must be registered as Radioactive material. (that is permitted under the EPR2011)

The committee as a whole agreed that this set a president that could have implications at a national level for the MoD regarding contaminated land

New Action 59.5 to discuss this matter with (DSTL EPR2010/11 Specialist advisor.

asked if there had been any further dialog between QinetiQ and AMEC regarding their preliminary assessment survey of the VJ Butts

said none

New Action 59.6 to discuss with of MoD DIO and obtain a sit rep.

Reported that he had recently attended a LLW workshop in which LLW Ltd had announced their intention to change/improve there conditions of acceptance –these changes will impact upon any “phase2” decommissioning of the VJ Butts.

Stated that this type of specialist knowledge was of key

importance and that DIO must be discouraged from "going it alone" They should include the local expertise and he would encourage them to do so through TEST

pointed out that as QQ were the operator of the controlled area they were the radiation employer (as defined in IRR99) and therefore would still have responsibility for radiological safety within the controlled and supervised areas. He added that he has forwarded his view to DIO.

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Kirkcudbright Report

Reported that there had been no DU firings in this period and that the Bi Annual DU Environmental survey had been carried out by DSTL between the 12-18th August.

Also reported that KTC had been visited by and on the 31st August. The visit was to familiarise with the contaminated sites. During the visit had expressed his concern at the limitations of the contamination monitor that he had for carrying out local area monitoring. had suggested an alternative instrument, the Exploranium GR110G/E and had agreed to loan the site one from his stock.

There was some general discussion concerning the date and likelihood of the next DU firing at KTC.

reiterated that as far as he new the next firing would not be before 2014.

raised the need for good interdepartmental communication when such firings are planned and raised his concern that with the current upheaval within the Mod this may not occur without DUFERC's influence.

also discussed the contingency of future stray rounds and the contamination caused and whose responsibility that would be as it would not fall under DIO's remit for management of the legacy DU contamination. The general view of the committee was that under the principle of polluter pays it would be MoD but a top level decision would need to be made as to which department in the event of an incident.

Suggested that QinetiQ (through TEST) would only take first aid action.

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DSTL Report

stated that up to date he had produced a written report and presented it verbatim. However he submitted the plan that in future the DSTL report could be distributed before the meeting and only the salient points discussed.

This was agreed by all present but on this final occasion read through the DSTL report.

Points Discussed

explained to the committee about the EA review of RSA93 and EOs and some of new requirement stemming from the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2011 (EPR11). He particularly emphasized the new requirement for organisations

that handled radioactive materials as waste to appoint a Radioactive Waste Advisor (RWA). He explained that the RWA was directly comparable to the IRR99 requirement for employers who have processes involving radiation/radioactive material to appoint a Radiation Protection Advisor (RPA) only for advising the employer on the compliance requirement of the EPR11. He added that in the case of the MoD this role could be fulfilled by DSTL ESD.

█████ reported that the ICRP were issuing new guidance to governments concerning significant changes to the threshold for cataract formation from radiation eye dose from Beta radiation. He voiced a specific concern over this advice on the basis that as it is a non life threatening radiation effect it could lead to limitations or at least considerable expense for the MoD with regard to the deployment of DU munitions.

█████ went on to explain that there is currently no data relating to the Beta eye hazard to troops using DU munitions and that reducing the current 500mSv/year to 20 mSv/year (As proposed by ICRP) would mean that there would be a requirement for the armed services to carry out extensive surveys and assessments to evaluate the risk of breaching this proposed limit. The outcome of these assessments may then lead to limitations being put into place that could render DU munitions practically unusable.

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Date of Next Meeting

25th January 2012 10:30hrs at MoD Eskmeals

Summary of Outstanding Actions

- New Action 59.1 █████ to send a copy of the new DUFERC ToR to Test Team (subject to completion of action 59.4)
- New Action 59.2 █████ to submit the new DUFERC ToR to the next meeting of the RPPDC (subject to completion of action 59.4)
- New Action 59.3 █████ to seek clarification from the RPPDC regarding the Hierarchy of the CESOs in the DSEA
- New Action 59.4 █████ to circulate the new draft ToR for all DUFERC members to review and report back before the next meeting
- New Action 59.5 Action 59.1 █████ to seek guidance from █████ re the precedent being set by EA requiring a permit for contaminated items at Eskmeals.
- New Action 59.6 █████ to discuss progress re the AMEC VJ Decommissioning Survey

█████
5th Oct 2011