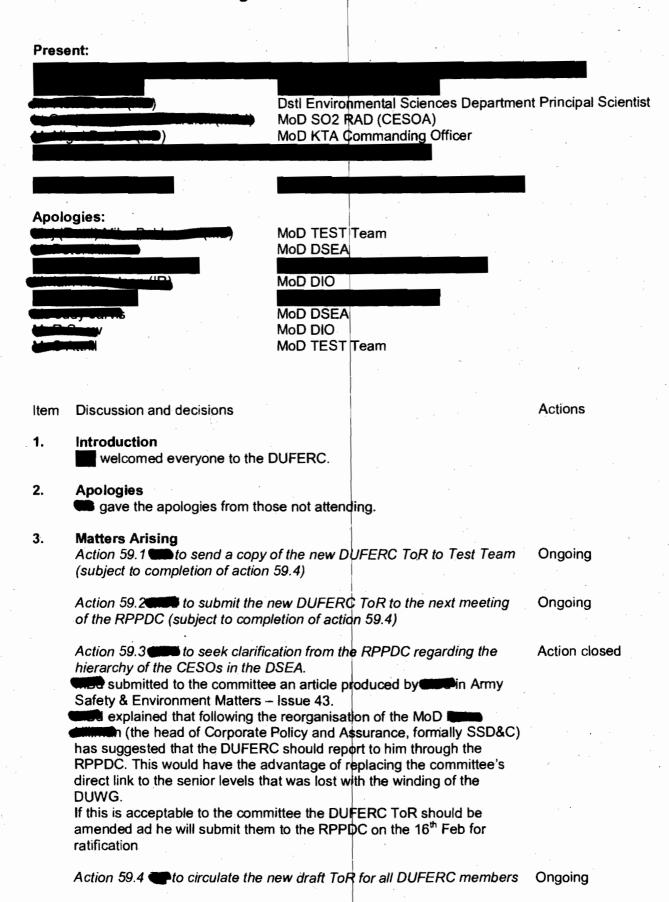
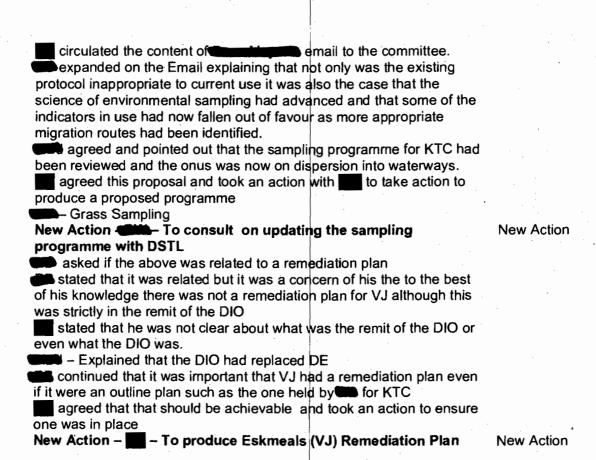
# Minutes of the 60<sup>th</sup> Depleted Uranium Firing Environmental Review Committee (DUFERC) 25<sup>th</sup> January 2012 Meeting held at Qinet Q MoD Eskmeals



to review and report back before the next meeting.

Action closed Action 59.5 Action 59.1 to seek guidance from the precedent being set by EA requiring a permit for contaminated items at Eskmeals. reported that he has spoken about this matter to the DSTL Radioactive Waste Advisor (SC) and the Dstl view is that Para 2.32 of the "Guidance on Scope of and Exemption from Radioactive Substances Legislation in the UK" applies and therefore these items, under present conditions are not radioactive material. agreed that this was QinetiQ interpretation and agreed to carry the matter forward with MoD. agreed this approach but added that if not successful DSTL would need to escalate the matter to a more senior "policy level" within the EA New Action - to progress with EA. New Action Action 59.6 to discuss progress re the AMEC VJ Decommissioning Ongoing Survey: Stated that he was concerned that no progress was being made as he had not seen any results from this survey The committee agreed that no members present had seen the results or any report on the outcome of the survey. took an action to contact the AMEC project manager New Action - to contact **New Action** 4. **DUFERC TOR** reported that he had received all of the responses from the committee and that an up to date draft was now available for the committee Pointed out that there would need to be some further amendment in line with recommendation that he would no longer be part of the DUFERC and the committee should reported to the CPA through the RPPDC. He added that Para 7 should read "thorough" (not through). Para 23 SSDC should be DSEA Corporate Policy and Assurance (CPA). said that this would be swept up within action 59.4 Ongoing 5, Paper reported that he had been in contact with Manchester University and they had informed him that an analysis and now completed his first year Ph d report outlining the progress that he had made in the study into land remediation on DU contaminated sites. had given permission to release the paper and I submitted it to the committee commented that it contained fairly specialised language and was not in the most readable format so took an action to produce a summary of the report that was understandable to the lay members of the committee No produce Executive Summary of the report **New Action** reported that he had raised the matter of updating the Eskmeals (VJ) monitoring protocol with the Eskmeals RPA had sent an email to submit to the DUFERC stating he felt that the existing monitoring programme had been established in the early 1990s during the DU firing programme and was no longer suitable for monitoring emissions from care and maintenance, legacy contamination and decommissioning



## 6. Eskmeals Report

From

EA

QinetiQ is going to purchase a nuclear soil density gauge for trials use which will be stored at VJ Battery in the source store. This requires us to have a Cat 4 permit.

The application generated an EA audit just before Christmas which was followed by a further audit on January 13th.

Since the audit all of the local rules and Prior Risk Assessments have been updated as they highlighted some minor issues as to how the documents tied up with the new EPR 11 regulations and our own company P236 document.

We currently hold a Cat 5 registration, however the sealed radioactive sources that we hold are exempt under EPR and therefore we are cancelling the Cat 5 registration.

At the audit requested that the EA inspector re look at the permit to hold the two titanium blocks as under the EPR the blocks should not require a permit to be held. The inspector has agreed to this and we await a response.

If the EA are in agreement this reduces our authorisation to one Cat 4.

The pre fabricated buildings that form the control to VJ battery have had some serious maintenance work done on them which should ensure that they will remain fit for purpose for a few more years and the building which houses the radioactive sources has been re-floored and re-roofed.

asked if would removing Cat 5 cause any problems with MoD trials

e.g. MLRS replied that as any MoD equipment that needed a mobile permit should already have one that should be extant on the site on which it is being used. said that this may be the case but there might be difficulties as the MoD worked from EA "Noting Letters" rather than permits however the Eskmeals range was in effect MoD property so it should be acceptable -he did however take an action to clarify the issue with DSTLs RWA New Action - to speak to concerning **New Action** MOD/QinetiQ/EA interface 7. Kirkcudbright Report reported that had carried out a routine inspection of the fences surrounding the contaminated areas at India Target and To assist Eskmeals loan and administer two radiation monitoring instruments and he had been received two replacements for those returned for calibration from asked if one of those instruments was the Exploranium that he had recommended to the state of the fragments. confirmed that it was but added that the had not yet had the opportunity to try it out. continued that (DTE) Had visited KTC to look at the DU contaminated areas and his new regional manager expressed desire to remediate all DU areas – so more areas for troops. It was generally agreed by the committee that while this was laudable was unlikely to have sufficient budget to finance this work vent on to report that w emailed (DIO) discussing the high cost of remediation agreed and stated that a phased approach would be best. added that he thought that would was considering putting some remediation into next year's work. stated that he personally would be retiring on the 29th Feb 2012 and that likely to replace him as the DUFERC member for KTC Next terrestrial marine survey to take place 17-24 June 2012.

# 8. DSTL Report DSTL REPORT FOR DUFERC - JAN 2012

# Parliamentary, Media and Public Enquiries

MOD announced that statements concerning the existence of a UK study on the legality of DU munitions were incorrect and that a study into this would now be carried out. There is confidence that this formal study will endorse earlier verbal advice that use of DU munitions is "legal".

Revision of the MOD web site was delayed by the legality review mentioned above.

MOD have no plans to commission any further studies on DU munitions health risks although they will maintain a watching brief on developments. This will include limited informal liaison/discussions with allies.

There was media speculation about future DU testing at Kirkcudbright.

An ex-MSP who had previously corresponded with Ministers produced a media article criticising the MOD. The existence of radium contamination at a former MOD site at Dalgety Bay was compared to the use of DU munitions in Iraq.

#### Freedom of Information

Copies of MOD advice to humanitarian agencies were provided following the request reported at the last DUFERC meeting.

MOD confirmed that a Life Extension Programme was being developed for CHARM 3 and that the Challenger 2 hull and turret would need to be reconfigured if smoothbore barrels were introduced.

### **Personal Monitoring**

A soldier who had been involved in a DU munitions incident requested information on the intake and any associated risk.

#### **Environmental Monitoring and Remediation**

The Eskmeals monitoring report was finalised and issued on 9 Jan 12.

Dstl supplied information to assist in land management planning for Kirkcudbright.

# Technical Issues - DU

There is ongoing interest in DU remediation by microbes as well as in the remediation by plants being researched at Eskmeals.

There is continuing MOD concern about proposals for new dose limits for the eye. The topic will be raised during a cross-government meeting on the development of the EU Basic Safety Standards on 25 Jan 12.

SEPA have formed an independent expert group to advise on the health risks from radioactive objects at Dalgety Bay. As for the Sellafield work reported at the last DUFERC meeting, this is of interest as methods for assessing the risks from inhomogeneous contamination of the type arising from DU munitions are not well developed.

Advised that following the e		
concerning training for handling DU	he had re	commended that the
contact .		

Expanded on comment regarding replacement of DU munitions that replacement CHARM 2 was likely to be a tungsten alloy

possibility? stated that there was to be an HSE sponsored meeting concerning New European Safety Limits - Meeting 25 Jan 2012 Stated that the Dalgety Bay report due out soon 9. **Any Other Business** ToR's required 16 February 2012 asked that as there were likely to be two members of the DUFERC retiring before the next meeting, what were the arrangements for hand over. would be taking over his position as replied that Secretary and the would be representing KTC in place of **Date of Next Meeting** 10. 23rd May 2012 10:30hrs at Kirkcudbright **Summary of Outstanding Actions** 59.1 to send a copy of the new DUFERC ToR to Test Team (subject to completion of action 59.4) 59.2 to submit the new DUFERC ToR to the next meeting of the RPPDC (subject to completion of action 59.4) Amended—to send the new draft ToR to for submission to the 59.4 RPPDC. New Action — to progress Ti issue with EA. 59.6 to discuss progress re the AMEC VJ Decommissioning Survey. 60.2 New Action - to contact re the outcome of VJ Survey 60.3 to produce Executive Summary of 60.4 New Action - To consult with DSTL about updating the VJ sampling programme New Action - To produce Eskmeals Remediation Plan 60.5 New Action -- to speak to ne MOD/QinetiQ/EA **EPR** interface

There was some discussion concerning the use of microbes to digest DU to chemically alter pollutants and whether this was a research