

**Minutes of the 61st Depleted Uranium Firing Environmental Review Committee  
(DUFERC) 23rd May 2012  
Meeting held at DTE Kirkcudbright**

**Present:**

[REDACTED])	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Dstl Environmental Sciences Department Principal Scientist
[REDACTED])	MoD SO2 RAD (CESOA)
[REDACTED]	MoD KTA Commanding Officer
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	MoD DSEA
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	MoD TEST Team

**Apologies:**

[REDACTED] (SP)	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	for [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	MoD DIO
[REDACTED]	MoD TEST Team

Item	Discussion and decisions	Actions
1.	<b>Introduction</b> [REDACTED] welcomed all those present and asked all present to introduce themselves (in order around the table).	
2.	<b>Apologies</b> [REDACTED] gave apologies from [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].	
3.	<b>Matters Arising</b> Actions 59.1; 59.2; 59.3. <i>DUFERC ToR</i> [REDACTED] explained the DUFERC now reports to the RPPDC as it is now a subcommittee of that group. [REDACTED] went on to reaffirm that DUFERC through the RPPDC reports to [REDACTED] DSEA. The DSEA would pass the DUFERC ToR's to TEST (MoD to MoD)	Action closed
	<b>Action 60.1</b> [REDACTED] to progress the issue of contaminated titanium armour with EA [REDACTED] reported that several approaches had been made to the regional EA inspector but as yet no response had been obtained. Although this does represent a worrying president he does not yet consider that this is the time to escalate the request to the EA policy unit and the matter should stay at site level unless it cannot be resolved. [REDACTED] added that as he would be retiring next week the action should be passed to QQ Eskmeals. [REDACTED] accepted this action	Passed to [REDACTED]
	<b>Actions 59.6; 60.2; AMEC</b> [REDACTED] Reported that he had discussed the survey report with AMEC. They had informed him that the survey and report was commissioned by DIO.	Action closed

therefor the report had been sent to [REDACTED] However they agreed to send a hard copy to him as the TEST representative.

[REDACTED] added that he too had approached AMEC as the secretary of DUFERC. AMEC had sent him an electronic copy which had been issued to the members with the DUFERC minutes

[REDACTED] stated that he had not received it.

[REDACTED] suggested that as all QQ members had received it that it was possible that such a large file it might have failed to get through the MoD system.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] also reported that they did not receive a copy

**New Action 61.1 [REDACTED] to send copies of the document by post to [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]**

[REDACTED] continued that he had circulated the report within TEST

[REDACTED] added that DIO [REDACTED] needed to be aware of the underlying issues that QQ had with AMEC.

[REDACTED] stated the he was due to have a meeting with [REDACTED] soon during which they would discuss the report. With this in mind he would like the members to comment on the report before close of play next week (1<sup>st</sup> June)

**New Action 61.2 All members to send comments on the AMEC report by close of play next week 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012**

#### **Action 60.3 [REDACTED] Report**

[REDACTED] reported that the summary of the report was attached to the minutes.

#### **Action 60.4 Review of Eskmeals Environmental Sampling Programme**

Action closed

[REDACTED] Reported that he and [REDACTED] had met with DSTL ES and they had agreed to produce a new protocol

[REDACTED] stated that this had been done and a draft document was attached to the DUFERC DSTL report.

Action closed

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] took an action to look into the likely costs of implementing the new protocol

**New Action: 61.3 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to progress new environmental sampling programme plan.**

#### **Action 60.5 Eskmeals Remediation Plan**

Action closed

[REDACTED] stated that Eskmeals now had a remediation plan –in the AMEC report

[REDACTED] agreed that this was the case

#### **Action 60.6 MoD/ QQ EPR Interface**

Action closed

[REDACTED] Reported that he had discussed this matter with the DSTL EPR specialist ([REDACTED]) [REDACTED] felt that as QQ carried out work on behalf of the MoD these activity could, particularly in the case of UORs be considered to be covered under the MoD letter of Understanding with the EA rather than the QQ EPR Permit.

## **4. DUFERC ToR**

**Action 59.4 [REDACTED] to circulate the new draft ToR for all DUFERC members to review and report back before the next meeting.** Action closed

5. **Eskmeals Report**

██████████ (With reference to the issues involving AMEC assay of waste) ██████████ stated that he would make ██████████ of DIO aware as such discrepancies need to be avoided for future MoD decommissioning projects

██████████ Stated that these discrepancies had caused QinetiQ a number of problems with the regulator (EA) so were serious and that all future contracts should include payment retention to encourage greater commitment from decommissioning contractors.

██████████ asked what the underlying cause the breach of EPR permit was.

██████████ explained that it was all due to the differences between QinetiQ's original estimate, AMECS assay based estimate and Siemplekamp's final definitive assay of the scrap metal.-in fact no breach of permit had actually occurred other than a failure of the management system.

██████████ added that the failure had also highlighted a weakness in the QQ Action Plan system that had no provision for radiation issues being recorded-he added that this matter had been raised with ██████████ of QQ Safety Assurance and Sustainability for action.

██████████ With reference to the Nuclear Density Gauge ██████████ explained the context of the equipment's use within the HITS trial and the importance of this trial to the NATO armed forces.

██████████ With reference to the LLW scrap metal smelting by Siempelkamp.

██████████ asked if there was any further information regarding the origin of the water contamination within the isofreight

██████████ explained that the water was found to be condensation.

██████████ expanded on this and explained that contamination in this context was not radiological. It referred to the problems that can be caused if significant moisture appears within the smelting process i.e. the creation an explosive atmosphere due to hydrogen stripping from water molecules in the extreme heat

7. **Kirkcudbright Report**

██████████ reported that it was very much business as usual for the last reporting period. However the following was worthy of note..

██████████ has now retired and has been replaced as commandant by ██████████

2 Sabots possibly ex charm had been found on the shore. Both were monitored and no DU contamination was detected. They are currently in storage at Raeberry Battery

At a recent inspection of the facility by the MOD Technical Advisory Service (TAS) Questions were raised regarding the competence of ██████████ to carry out monitoring and as to whether special allowances should be paid for working with an ionising radiation hazard.

██████████ suggested that these issues should not just have been discussed locally but should be with the Army Chief Radiation Safety Officer – ██████████

██████████ stated that he would speak to ██████████ DIO as the inspection was within his remit.

On completion of the report ██████████ asked if there were any plans to fire mortars in the DU contaminated areas of the site

██████████ replied that there was no longer any requirement to do this

There followed a general discussion regarding the pros and cons of possible land remediation and it was generally agreed that the best

option was to maintain the status quo.

8. **DSTL Report**  
**DSTL REPORT FOR DUFERC – JAN 2012**

Since the last DUFERC meeting, there has been an unprecedented increase in the number of Freedom of Information enquiries related to MOD's development and use of DU munitions. This has been accompanied by a very considerable increase in the level of complexity and depth of the enquiries that are being made. The involvement of at least one member of a pressure group known as the 'Campaign Against DU Munitions' (CADU) has been confirmed. There was also one Parliamentary Question.

Topics included: DU testing of UK veterans, access to MOD's DU database, the presence of transuranic materials in DU munitions, DU malfunctions at Kirkcudbright, application of the precautionary principle to the use of DU munitions, MOD support to veterans with health conditions related to DU exposures, proceedings of MOD and UN Workshops on DU research and training, disposal of DU contaminated Iraqi vehicles, MOD's work on characterising DU particulate, tests on the "Destiny Round" recovered from the Solway by fishermen in 1997, Eskmeals monitoring and remediation work and derivation of the DUFERC Action and Investigation Levels.

An important discovery was that a report entitled "Complete Record of DU Rounds Fired at Kirkcudbright 1982 – 2001" contained different information to a later report entitled "Record of Depleted Uranium Rounds Fired at Kirkcudbright Training Area 1982 – 2004". It was stated that the aim of the latter report was to provide definitive information for use in future Parliamentary Questions.

**Technical Issues**

There has been further criticism over the work of [REDACTED] who is well-known as someone who believes that the MOD and scientific consensus underestimates the radiation risks from DU munitions. Unfortunately the somewhat intemperate language limits the usefulness of the document to MOD.

The MOD study into the legality of DU munitions is continuing. Revision of the DU-related sections of the MOD web site continues to be delayed pending completion of this work.

[REDACTED] expressed concerns that lately the approach to answering PQ etc had become fragmented. This was leading to a lack of continuity in answering that could lead to misleading or even spurious answers being given. To help mitigate this risk he asked the committee to ensure that the various stake holders at least make him aware of questions before they are answered.

There was some discussion concerning the proposed changes to the Eskmeals Environmental sampling programme.

[REDACTED] stated that the discussion document was written by environmental scientists to provide a basis for modelling any movement of DU contamination within the VJ/ Eskmeals environment, therefore cost and logistic was not factored into the proposal.

[REDACTED] advised that as the budget holder responsible for the work it was in

QQ and TEST interests to ensure that the costs were managed with due regard to his overall budget. To this end he asked [REDACTED] to work through the likely cost of the changes and define whether the recommendations of the paper are achievable within the current costs

**Action: 61.3 [REDACTED] to work with [REDACTED] to progress new environmental sampling programme.**

**9. Any Other Business**

[REDACTED] notified the committee that this was her last DUFERC meeting in the role of DSEA representative as her secondment was now declared redundant and she would now be returning to DSTL ES.

[REDACTED] also notified the committee that as he was retiring this was his last DUFERC meeting.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

10:00 Hrs. 11/10/12 at Alverstoke

**Summary of Outstanding Actions**

**60.1 Action Passed to [REDACTED]**

**61.1 New Action [REDACTED] to send copies of the document by post to [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]**

**61.2 New Action All members to send comments on the AMEC report by close of play next week**

**61.3 New Action: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to progress new environmental sampling programme.**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Thursday, 31 May 2012