

**Minutes of the 58th Depleted Uranium Firing Environmental Review Committee
(DUFERC) of 04 May 2011.**

Held at Kirkcudbright Training Centre, Conference Room

Present:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MoD SO2 RAD (CESOA)

[REDACTED]

MoD KTC Officer Commanding

[REDACTED]

MoD TEST

[REDACTED]

Dst ESD

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Landmarc Support Services Limited KTC

Apologies:

[REDACTED]

MoD SSD&C

[REDACTED]

MoD SSD&C

[REDACTED]

MoD DE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

DIO OPs DTE Sustainable Development

Item

Discussion and decisions

Actions

1. Introduction

1.1 [REDACTED] opened meeting, all present introduced themselves and their role.

1.1.1 [REDACTED] advised that in the absence of [REDACTED] she will try and answer any questions. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will work together for the next year.

1.1.2 [REDACTED] presented email from IR giving his apologies.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 [REDACTED] presented the Management and Remediation Plan For DU Contamination at KTC. [REDACTED] explained some changes had been made. The Plan can be produced if the Scottish Environment Protection Agency arrive on site. [REDACTED] will enter onto Range Standing Orders.

3. Outstanding Actions

3.1 Action (57.1) [REDACTED] to raise the issue of management of health And safety responsibilities during MoD reorganisation with Specific reference to RP advice at KTA at the next RRPDC

Action Closed

meeting and to report back on findings.

■ has concerns as to how Health and Safety is being handled across the new DIO and thinks this should be permanently on the agenda of the DUFERC. (See 7.2)

3.2 **New Action (58.1)** ■ asked all DUFERC members to keep ■ informed. ■ to provide contact details for ■

3.3 ■ raised the requirement for sites to record what is coming onto and leaving site. There must be a clear audit for DU and DU contaminated items.

3.4 **Action (57.2)** ■ to bring the completed presentation to the Next DUFERC Meeting. Action Closed

■ presented the final Stakeholders and their Responsibilities for Campaigning DU trials at KTC, document discussion ensued how this is to be published. KTC and ■ (DIO Ops DTE) to hold a copy.

3.5 **New Action (58.2)**

Presentation to be referred to when a trial is carried out at KTC. ■ to promulgate to interested parties. ■

3.6 **Action (57.5)** ■ to liaise with DE to discuss the matter of LLW disposal plans for Eskmeals. Action Closed

3.7 **Action (57.6)** ■ to monitor progress of ■ study. ■ not present. ■ undertook to look up ■ report. Action Closed

3.8 **Action (57.7)** ■ to initiate contact with Munitions IPT to see if Apr-June was possible to time the 2013 firing tests ■ confirmed that firing would not be until 2014 at the earliest. Action Closed

3.9 **Outstanding Action (56.1)** ■ to talk to DE regarding the DE business case review and inform ■ of the outcome before the next RPPDC meeting. Action Closed

■ advised DTE will be taking over. DIO will carry out annual survey for DU at KTC when funding is transferred from CESO/A.

4.0 **New Action (58.3)**

New contract will be made with DSTL and DIO. ■
■ DIO Ops DTE to be invited to next DUFERC meeting. ■

5. **Eskmeals Report.**

5.1 Phase one of the VJ remediation project is now complete. A total of 10 containers have been sent to Drigg and Sellafield for further processing and disposal.

Four type 0075 containers filled with compactable waste were sent for supercompaction to Sellafield with a total net weight for the waste of **9176Kg**.

Three full height ISO containers were sent to Sellafield which contained **113 210Lt** drums to a total net weight of **16633.5Kg**, also for supercompaction. Each drum is filled to 2/3 full is crushed before burial at Drigg repository.

Three half height ISO containers were sent to Drigg for temporary storage before onward transportation to Germany where the metal will be smelt separated from the nuclides. The contaminated residue will be transported back to Drigg for burial and the remaining clean metal will be recycled. The total net weight for the metal is **53230Kg**. Once the smelting has been completed we will receive a

report stating how much metal has been recovered and how much contamination is going back to Drigg for burial. This task is being carried out by Nuclear Solutions Ltd. This means that following remediation part 1, we have moved **79039.5Kg** of contaminated waste from Eskmeals site.

There have however been some paperwork issues that have come to light during this process. There have been several accounting mistakes on paperwork issued to us by our contractor AMEC that are still going on. We have received several Waste event reports from LLWR and have spent many hours trying to resolve the issues. We are also having an audit from LLWR on May 25th 2011 at which representatives from AMEC will be present and at which point we will hope all issues will be resolved.

Our current Environment Agency permit has expired on April 30th, we are currently talking to them about whether we actually a renewal at this point as we are not actually accumulating waste for disposal. There are a couple of Titanium plates which are lightly surface contaminated. [REDACTED] and I have carried out a survey on the items and believe that they are well below the exemption level Uranium of 11.1 Bq/gm.

A survey of the VJ butt area has been carried out by AMEC to give an indication of the level of contamination found in and around the firing butt buildings. We have not had a report from them yet on this matter. There was however three SA80 type weapons found in one of the filter rooms during the survey. We believe that these weapons came from a previous job that was carried out at VJ on some service vehicles returned from theatre. It was believed that they had been dealt with at that time but they have obviously been missed. They are secure and are badly damaged so are unusable. The plan is to add these to the inventory.

5.2 [REDACTED] asked for an electronic Eskmeals report. [REDACTED] will provide.

RB

6. **Kirkcudbright Report**

6.1 [REDACTED] advised an annual Terrestrial and Maritime DU survey will take place 15 – 21 August 2011.

6.2 [REDACTED] asked if the report for KTC still goes to the House of Commons [REDACTED] replied yes, there is still a Parliamentary interest.

6.3 There are high level concerns about how the regulations are going in the UK. [REDACTED] to communicate with [REDACTED]

7. **DSTL Report**

7.1 *Parliamentary Business*

Ministerial correspondence continues to be triggered by Pressure group internet postings. New issues were "DNA PCR urine essay", "bone marrow testing" and the numbers ill as a result of DU exposure. MOD lines about the use of ICRP recommendations and pressure groups

with a very small membership, no official standing and reports that have been rejected by most scientists were used in replies. MOD stated they were not aware of anything other than DU being used in munitions other than nuclear weapons.

7.2

Legislation

A lack of coordination and cooperation between multiple MOD departments and contractors has led to IRR and MHSWR issues at three sites. More consideration of health and safety and environmental protection during MOD reorganisations would mitigate any future risk and the implementation team is being asked to consider this during the formation of DIO.

Strategic National Guidance on the decontamination of buildings, infrastructure and the open environment exposed to CBRN materials states that infrastructure operators should have decontamination plans and that owner/occupier responsibilities need to be clarified in leases. Contaminated water should be disposed of in accordance with the relevant UK protocol.

7.3

Special Subject Access Request

A Challenger crewman is the first to mention TLD results and gun barrel contamination.

7.4

Media

There have been allegations about the use of DU munitions in Libya.

The main issue is how to respond to demands that the UK should make a public statement about the need for other countries to provide information on locations where DU munitions are used.

7.5

Technical issues

The 2010 terrestrial and marine environmental monitoring reports have been published and the Eskmeals report is being prepared. A study into DU munitions demilitarisation and disposal concluded that although a capability exists, it is fragile. The need for JSP 392 to mention how the Hazardous Waste Regulations apply to DU is being considered.

There are some concerns about a lack of pragmatism and inconsistency at national and regional level in some environmental protection agencies. SSDC is monitoring the situation.

A paper in the International Journal of Environmental research and Public Health concluded that the high prevalence of birth defects in Fallujah "could be due to environmental contaminants which are known components of modern weaponry". This is more of a supposition than a scientifically robust conclusion but media interest seems likely.

IEA draft guidance states that those appointing external experts must have the knowledge to ensure that any expert is impartial and suitably qualified and experienced. Experts should also preferably have codes of ethics and conduct. The document is for regulators, but could apply to anyone needing expert advice.

8.

Any other business

8.1

██████ reported that West Freugh wished to dispose of redundant aircraft. ██████ was dispatched to visit site and carry out a radiation check of the aircraft 8 sources were found, which were removed and dispatched to DSTL Portsmouth. The operation was completed

in two weeks.

requested any photographs of the aircraft, and if anybody new Of any similar cases.

praised the hard work of ADDC. A new DIN will outline the procedures to produce better working relationships with Defence Sales.

8.2 stated that she and had worked with the disposal team.

advised a visit is to be arranged at Eskmeals for

MP - Barrow in Furness for a briefing on DGA.

8.3 Work will take place off shore on underwater bomb trials from QinetQ, Eskmeals. contacted Sellafeld in case anything radio active was stirred up. Sellafeld were pleased to be asked and informed of the nature of the work. As a result a good relationship was established.

asked if Sellafeld were happy with the trials situation. replied yes. A map was provided which outlined the trials area.

asked if the trials customer was aware of the requirement to inform Sellafeld. confirmed that BAE Systems were the customer through the IPT and that monitoring systems were in place.

MBd asked if such trials could be carried out at BUTEC. Discussion followed. Opinion was, this would damage underwater hydrophones and was therefore unlikely.

asked how many coastal monitoring points were around the UK. This was not known.

stated that under water explosions could stir up contamination and Sellafeld should be contacted before any underwater explosive trials take place in northern Irish Sea.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of DUFERC will be Wednesday 21 September 2011 at Andover commencing at 10.30am.

The meeting will be held in the Ramillies Building, Marlborough Lines, Andover.

will issue instructions re carparking.

Summary of outstanding actions

Item	Description	Action
New		
58.1	asked all DUFERC members to keep her informed. to provide contact details for	
58.2	Presentation to be referred to when a trial is carried out at KTC. to promulgate to interested parties.	
58.3	New contract will be made with DSTL and DIO. to be invited to next DUFERC meeting.	

Outstanding

57.3	to analyse ToR from Legislative Tracking Group with The aim of using it as a basis for the revision of the DUFERC ToR	
57.4	A draft version of the revised ToR to be supplied to the Committee prior to the next RPPDC meeting. (16 th Feb)	