

PARTICLES PROGRESS REPORT – AS OF AUGUST 2006

1. Scoring panel update

A Scoring panel consisting of 4 UKAEA and 5 non-UKAEA personnel was established and met on 13th July to set the methodology for assessing and combining the options. During 25-27th July the panel met to screen out options which were illegal or not technical feasible, then scored the options against the criteria, combined the options and rescored. At the end of the process there were 11 combinations of options to take forward into full consultation in 2007. Iain Baikie, KP Technologies Ltd, member of the External Consultation Steering Group took part as an observer.

2. ROV offshore mapping results

A three month programme of offshore monitoring surveys to map the location of particles in offshore sediment has now concluded. Early indications are that the geographical spread and concentration of particles in the survey area is less than that projected by the computer model. UKAEA are currently discussing the findings of this survey with SEPA.

3. COMARE monitoring tests

COMARE carried out field trials on Sandside beach to test the performance of the old monitoring vehicle (Groundhog mk 1) and the present system (Groundhog Evolution). Results showed that under the realistic test conditions at Sandside, Groundhog Evolution did meet (and even exceeded) the previous detection criteria as laid down by SEPA, while Groundhog Mk1 did not meet all requirements all of the time. Further improvements to the system will allow even better detection of caesium137 and cobalt 60 particles. COMARE's report is now available on their website at http://www.comare.org.uk/documents/Beachmonitoringvalidation-v5_000.pdf.

4. DPAG date for publication

On 9th August SEPA and DPAG issued press statements confirming a delay to the third report of the Dounreay Particle Advisory Group due to the possibility of prejudicing legal proceedings. SEPA has submitted reports to the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service and is currently awaiting a decision on whether proceedings will go ahead against UKAEA. It is considered by SEPA that the DPAG report contains information which if published at this time may jeopardise any future court case.

5. Monitoring of beaches

Monitoring of the local beaches continues. Dunnet beach survey for 2006 has been completed and no particles were detected. UKAEA has been back on Sandside beach where a total of 8 particles have been detected and removed since getting back on the beach. Access to monitor Sandside has just been extended until further notice. Plans are in hand to start monitoring Murkle beach and Peedie Sands, near Dunnet.

6. Sandside Mediation Process Ended

UKAEA regrets to announce that the mediation process, which we began with Geoffrey Minter in May 2005, has ended. We wanted to ensure that we could find a fair, reasonable and documentable resolution to this issue. Unfortunately, despite every effort, it has not been possible to achieve this.

UKAEA will continue to seek the best environmental option for the long-term management of the particles found in the marine environment around Dounreay, with full public consultation. We will also continue to monitor beaches including Sandside to detect and retrieve any particles, so long as we are allowed to do so. We believe this is in the best interests of public safety and the local community.

7. Assessment of beach monitoring systems

Four different systems for monitoring, including an enhanced version of the system currently in use, have been selected by a panel of experts after a series of trials to test their performance against the current system. The companies will be invited to tender for the contract to monitor local beaches once UKAEA know the details of the revised monitoring specification

8. Progress on actions from Steering Group meeting

Action 1: June Love to forward relevant information as and when it arises regarding particles and any other relevant finds to Iain Baikie. *Action ongoing.*

Action 2: Fiona Henderson to arrange for brief quarterly reports to be forwarded to the ECSG including status of actions from the ECSG minutes. *Action complete – action transferred to June Love and this note closes out this action.*

Action 3: Daren Luscombe to note high representation from the <16 age group, to revise wording in 5.2.1 and clarify issue and clarify issue around the socio-economic outreach group. *Action complete.*

Action 4: Phil Cartwright to address issues raised by SEPA regarding the Technical Resume and to ensure that SEPA and external stakeholders have the opportunity to see consultation prior to use. *Action ongoing.*

Action 5: Fiona Henderson to invite Iain Baikie to observe the Scoring Panel. *Action complete.*

Action 6: Iain Baikie to attend Scoring Panel meetings as an observer. *Action complete.*

Action 7: Daren Luscombe, June Love and Martin Howse (transferred from Fiona Henderson) to build up and refine the Stage 3 consultation process taking account of suggestions made. *Action ongoing.*

UKAEA, Dounreay
2nd August 2006