

**NOTES OF 7<sup>th</sup> MINISTRY OF DEFENCE ISOLUS (Interim Storage Of Laid-Up Submarines) STEERING GROUP (MISG) HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

**Attendees:**

|                   |                                                                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Alasdair Stirling | Ministry of Defence (MOD) – Director In-Service Submarines (Chairman)      |
| Michael Cushen    | MOD – DISM – AD Programme and Change                                       |
| Dr Janice Waters  | MOD - Facilities Group & representing NBC Devonport                        |
| Peter Brazier     | Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)                                    |
| Robert Gray       | Health & Safety Executive (HSE) - Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) |
| Roger Jackson     | Consultant                                                                 |
| Dr Paul Dorfman   | ISOLUS Advisory Group / Warwick University                                 |
| Elizabeth Gray    | Scottish Government                                                        |
| Bruce Cairns      | DECC – Department of Energy and Climate Change                             |
| Deborah Morris    | MOD – DISM – ISOLUS Commercial                                             |
| Maggie Taylor     | MOD – DISM – Assistant Director (AD) ISOLUS (Secretary)                    |
| Jon Mallon        | MOD – DISM – ISOLUS2 (Secretary Support)                                   |

**Apologies:**

The Chairman said that unfortunately apologies had been received from the following members on health grounds and wished them a speedy recovery on behalf of the group.

|                      |                                         |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Capt John R Corderoy | Superintendent Feet Maintenance (Clyde) |
| Phil Davies          | NDA                                     |
| Fred Barker          | Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum (NuLeAF)  |
| Peter Lanyon         | Nuclear Submarine Forum                 |
| Dr Jane Hunt         | Lancaster University                    |
| Les Netherton        | ISOLUS Advisory Group Chairman          |

**1. Welcome by Chairman**

Alasdair Stirling (AS) welcomed everyone to the 7<sup>th</sup> MISG and thanked Peter Brazier (PB) from the NDA for hosting the meeting. He reminded members of the Constitution which states that the purpose of the MISG is to contribute to the timely development of a solution for dismantling of the UK's defuelled nuclear powered submarines in a safe, environmentally responsible, secure and cost effective manner. He advised that there is an increased drive within the MOD to deliver the project and that a programme logic would be presented later in the meeting.

The Chairman introduced Mike Cushen (MC) as the ISOLUS Project Sponsor who has recently joined Directorate In-Service Submarines as the Assistant Director Programmes and Change from Astute Production IPT. He also introduced Jon Mallon (JM) who has taken over from Tony Lokier in the ISOLUS team and Dr Janice Waters (JW) who was representing NBC Devonport. The Chairman extended a further welcome to Dr Paul Dorfman (PD) who was representing the IAG in the absence of the IAG Chairman.

The Chairman asked those present to introduce themselves and give a summary of their current positions for the benefit of the new attendees.

## 2. Notes of last meeting

JM advised that there were 2 comments received from Peter Lanyon (PL) commenting on the previous notes referring to new build submarines and the Civil Service Code of Practice. AS advised that these concerns were raised at the last meeting and it was agreed that the comments from Peter Lanyon would be appended to the notes. AS stated that with no further comments the notes were taken as a true reflection of the meeting.

## 3. Review of Actions

- **Action 5.8:** Chris Hargraves to issue ISOLUS Environmental Strategy. – Action Complete. MT stated that this would be issued and details given in a post meeting note.

**PMN:** Environmental and Sustainable Development Strategy draft issued 20 Nov 08

- **Action 6.1:** Phil Davies to identify Nirex guidance on Preview. – Action Complete
- **Action 6.2:** Maggie Taylor and Les Netherton to produce paper detailing how “Preview” will work (and interface) at MISG and IAG level. – Action Complete. MT stated that a draft had been produced and would be circulated with the minutes. Elizabeth Gray (EG) advised that the NDA had a structured stakeholder engagement programme and it was worthwhile liaising with Dr Elizabeth Atherton from the NDA stakeholder engagement team.

**Action 7.1:** Jon Mallon engage with NDA stakeholder Team.

- **Action 6.3:** DISM to recommend to MoD Centre that a Ministerial Statement is required covering the transition from CIOP to date, and the way ahead after approval of review note planned for Autumn 08. – Action ongoing. AS advised that the Investment Approvals Board<sup>1</sup> (IAB) would be advised of the programme via an Information Note at the end of the year. Once the IAB had been informed it was agreed that this would be the appropriate time to seek a Ministerial statement for next spring that would cover developments since the CIOP. This would fulfil the sentiments of Peter Lanyon’s comments at the previous meeting.
- **Action 6.4:** IAG secretary to issue link to the SECA consultation documentation. – Action Complete. Issued as a Post Meeting Note of the previous notes.
- **Action 6.5:** Peter Brazier to provide links to relevant NDA documents supporting his brief to MISG. – Action Complete. PB advised they were available on the website.
- **Action 6.6:** ISOLUS team to consider the ISOLUS requirement in the filling schedule for the geological waste disposal facility and to inform the NDA accordingly. – Action Ongoing Mike Cushen advised that he would be writing formally to the NDA by the end of the month detailing the weight and volumes of the liabilities. PB advised that in the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) Lifetime plan the funding for the facility was split 95% NDA and 5% MOD although this funding split was currently under review based on the volumes and weights across MOD holdings. PB advised that the MOD lead for this area was DES SM

---

<sup>1</sup> The IAB is MOD’s senior Approving Authority for investment in new defence capability. The IAB considers cases involving equipment, estates and work projects and business change programmes. It is also responsible for the development and management of the approvals and scrutiny processes.

CES-SSD Mr Franz Pearson. It was agreed that the financial review was not appropriate for discussion at the MISG.

#### **4. AD ISOLUS Update**

Maggie Taylor (MT) advised that the AD's brief had been sent with the calling notice and will be attached to the minutes.

MC presented a 5 stage programme (presentation annex A) that covered the logic of the ISOLUS programme including the proposal to change the name to the Submarine Recycling Project. Generally the MISG thought that a name change was appropriate at this stage to demonstrate that a programme of work was being established to move on from "Interim Storage" and that recycling the materials was wholly appropriate. PD advised that although he was in support of a name change calling the programme the Submarine Recycling Project would raise concerns with the public perception of what was happening with the intermediate level waste in that we may be hiding the issues with regards to radioactive waste. He also raised concerns over the dose that would be received by operators/dismantlers during the disposal process and questioned the NII view point on this. Robbie Gray (RG) advised that it was appropriate to put the radiological inventory in context, that appropriate controls to enter and work in a reactor compartment are in place, and that these legislative controls are enforced by the NII. MT stated that the concerns and issues from the previous consultations would be taken forward and that MOD policy to maintain sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibilities would be adhered to. After discussion it was concluded that a name change was wholly appropriate, however it was more appropriate from a PR perspective to call it the Submarine Dismantling Project. A further discussion took place on how the transition from ISOLUS to the Submarine Dismantling Project should be managed to ensure that the name change is seen as a positive move with the direction of the programme.

EG raised concerns on the public perception of the down selection of the Interim Storage site for ILW and whether differentiation of the waste-stream for short lived and long lived ILW would be considered ie whether some of the waste-stream destined for the GDF could be removed. PB advised that the MOD and NDA are working on a broad spectrum of waste-stream issues and that ISOLUS is part of the whole waste-stream and will continue to work for a common solution in a systematic, structured approach.

Bruce Cairns (BC) enquired whether a decision on the interim ILW storage site had been made. MC advised that options for the ILW storage site were subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment that covered both MOD and NDA storage locations. PB advised that if the conclusion was that it was appropriate that an NDA site was the solution then the MOD will need to write to the NDA to advise what is available. Currently 6 in number NDA sites are being utilised for the storage of MOD nuclear material.

During the presentation MC advised on the proposal for a Technology Demonstrator / Pathfinder project stating that it was the MOD's intention to work with industry to develop detailed dismantling, recycling and disposal techniques, rebase-lining the Technical Studies, whilst proving the recycling and disposal routes. He advised that it would not be a siting demonstrator highlighting that there was potential to gain information and experience from the prototype DSMP1<sup>2</sup> facility at Vulcan and potentially decommissioning the DSMP facility early.

---

<sup>2</sup> DSMP1 – Dounreay SubMarine Prototype 1 at Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment, Dounreay Caithness, Scotland.

In general the use of the prototype facility at Vulcan was well received, however RG advised that Vulcan is an Authorised Site and that he had concerns over who would be controlling activities on the site ie should it transfer to a licensed site for decommissioning.

EG reminded the MISG members of the original Lancaster University presentation on desktop studies and the Rosyth unsolicited proposal for the dismantling of a Submarine, stating these may be useful reference documents.

AS advised that the Technology Demonstrator was there to assist in the development of the Main Gate Business Case<sup>3</sup> and was to be used to fully dismantle a submarine providing information on the timescales and costs that should fit within the current programme.

PD raised issues over the sequential/parallel running of the Technology Demonstrator and the Public Consultation process, reminding the MISG of how long formal consultation takes.

Roger Jackson (RG) reminded the group that Submarine Disposal is not starting from square 1 for public consultation but has been developing over a number of years with the Steering Group, Advisory Group, and the Front End Consultation documents; however it was duly noted that we should not be skimping on public consultation.

## **5. ISOLUS Advisory Group Update**

In the absence of the IAG Chairman MT advised that the IAG were engaged in the Technical Options Studies that were well underway and that there had been a significant amount of information exchange that proved to be useful for the programme. MT stated that the proposal for a Technology Demonstrator strategy would be fed down to the Advisory Group and that future work for the IAG would be providing advice on the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the other work-streams.

PD requested that the IAG should be given access to information in order to be making informed decisions; he was particularly interested in inventory levels of contamination.

AS responded that the MOD, as part Open Government, would provide information as requested and required, however if the information was not available the reasons would be given at the time. He then commented that the Technical Options Studies had proved that early advice from the IAG was useful and stated that the MISG should be giving the IAG direction on issues that arose, with the IAG providing advice on data gaps within the consultation process. The Chairman placed an action on the Secretary to produce a programme for the Consultation Process reviewing both the timings of the MISG and IAG to ensure appropriate advice was received from each group.

**Action 7.2:** Secretary to produce a programme for Consultation including MISG and IAG meeting dates.

## **6. Industry Update**

In the absence of a formal industry representative the Chairman requested an update from RG who advised that VT and Babcock's had been gathering technical risk reduction work at Rosyth. He also advised that VT had been working with the French company Areva Technicatome to

---

<sup>3</sup> Main Gate Business Case – The formal documentation for submission to the IAB to proceed with a project.

develop international best practice radiological techniques for the dismantling of reactor compartments and packaged waste and that the two companies would be visiting Cherbourg.

The Chairman raised the question whether the an Industry representative was still required and if so who was in the best position to provide an independent view, noting that the MOD would be looking to maximise competition at the Tier 2 and below levels.

EG agreed that the requirement for an Industry Representative to attend the MISG was no longer relevant, noting that Industry was involved in the Technical Options Studies.

MT advised that currently there was representation from Industry and BNES on the IAG.

AS provided a brief on SECA advising that it was not a Contract but an agreement to work together with Industry, providing a holistic approach to design, build and support submarines. It is based on a collaboration, that will sit above the existing and future contracts, projects (including ISOLUS) and change initiatives that will provide Industrial Advice.

## **7. Civil Nuclear Update**

### **(a) Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)**

PB gave an update on the developments in the NDA over the last 6 months. He advised that the NDA Strategy Management document was originally published in March 2006 and that a review was required every 5 years, therefore the new Strategy Management System (SMS) would need to be complete by March 2011. He advised that the new SMS was being developed to provide governance over the implementation of 27 topic strategies and this would be developed with the MOD to include the Submarine Dismantling Project within the work scope.

PB advised that the MOD and NDA had produced an interface report in December on Liabilities Management covering interfaces between the whole submarine enterprise. He advised that work was currently progressing to align the mismatch between the Through Life Management Plans (TLMPs), Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment and the Life time Plan for Dounreay.

PB further advised the National Site Stakeholder Group had met recently and discussed what the NDA should be doing about non-NDA liabilities. EG suggested that for the MOD to understand the NDA supply chain a meeting is convened with the NDA Commercial Director (Mr John Clarke).

**Action 7.3:** Secretary to arrange meeting with NDA Commercial Director (Mr John Clarke)

PB concluded by advising that the NDA Business Plan for 2009/10 to 2011/12 had started their consultation process on 3 November 2008 with consultation closing 26 January 2009.

### **(b) CoRWM**

BC provided an update on the latest CoRWM activities. He advised that various CoWRM working groups (WG) were now up and running including WG "B" on interim storage WG "D" on the Government's Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) programme and the GDF working group. He advised that reports were to be issued to Government commencing March 2009.

## **8. Other Issues Notified**

No issues had been notified in advance of this meeting

## **9. MISG Membership**

The Chairman advised that he would be looking for constructive, reliable and credible challenge from all members of the MISG and advised that he thought that the levels of discussions and challenges received at this meeting were of the standard that he wanted. He requested that all members of the MISG should review the membership and sought views from the group.

**Action 7.4:** All review MISG Membership

## **10. AOB**

No AOB was raised.

## **11. DONM**

The Chairman advised that the date of the next meeting would be advised in due course noting action 7.2 and the review of the Constitution; offers were invited for locations to host.

The Chairman thanked those who had attended.