

# Scottish Environment Protection Agency

## Minute of Dalgety Bay Forum Meeting held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at SEPA, Stirling

### Present

Janice Milne – SEPA (JM) Chair  
 Jim Gemmill – SEPA (JG)  
 Paul Dale – SEPA (PD)  
 Dave Stone – SEPA (DS)  
 Mark Toner – SEPA (MT)  
 Iain Robertson – DE (IR)  
 Debbie Storm – SEPA (DSt)  
 Gillian Sinclair (Minutes) – SEPA (GS)  
 David Brack – Defence Estates (DB)  
 Ron Brown – MoD (RB)  
 John Burton - HPA (JB)  
 Cllr Dave Herbert – Fife Council (DHer)  
 Jackie Hyland – NHS Fife (JH)  
 Will Munro - FSA (WM)  
 Sara Reed – MoD (Press Office)  
 David Redden – Fife Council (DR)  
 Linda Turner – Fife Council (LT)  
 Ewan Young – Scottish Government (EY)  
 Colin McPhail – Dalgety Bay and Hillend  
 Community Council (CM)

### Apologies

Gayle Howard – SEPA (GH)  
 David Burnett – Dalgety Bay Sailing Club  
 (DBur)

### Actions arising from meeting – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2011

Paragraph:	Details of action:	Action by:
3.3	PD to try and place a link to DE Report on SEPA website.	PD
6.7	JG/PD (SEPA) liaise with other competent agencies to review signage at Dalgety Bay. SEPA will arrange a meeting with agencies and members of the Forum would be kept informed.	SEPA (lead) / other agencies
7.3	SEPA/DE to liaise on appropriate wording of a joint press release which would be supported by CM and DHer.	SEPA Comms /DE Press Office

No:	Item:	Action:
1.0	<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b>	
	JM welcomed all to the meeting and apologised for the slight delay to the start.	
2.0	<b>Minute of Last Meeting – 27<sup>th</sup> September 2010</b>	
	The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.	
3.0	<b>Actions Arising (Not covered elsewhere)</b>	
3.1	Last dot point, page 3: <i>There was some discussion of the costs of an on-going monitoring programme and following this discussion DBur was asked if on behalf of Dalgety Bay Sailing Club he would be able to obtain a costing of a remediation programme if a cache of sources were located in the headland which was 'feeding' the beach particles.</i>	

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<p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p>	<p>No costs had been obtained by the Sailing Club to date.</p> <p>DHer stated that the damage is not being covered up by Fife Council. The Council would like to see a report from Local Area Council to Fife Council which deals with DB. DHer continued "It is about time the public should know and he is here today to see where things have got to in the last few months.</p> <p>DS stated that the Defence Estates report was not published on the SEPA website. PD endeavour to make sure people were aware of the location.</p> <p>DE requested that actions from today's meeting were made clear within the minute. JG assured that a table of actions would be issued with the minute from today's meeting.</p>	
<b>Action</b>	PD to provide members with a link to the DE Report.	PD
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Presentation of SEPA Work Carried Out to Date</b>	
<p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p>	<p>PD advised that the technical work had been completed and he hoped SEPA's report would be published in the summer 2011.</p> <p>PD gave a presentation on the technical work carried out to date.</p> <p><b><u>Skin Dose Tests</u></b> Skin thickness is not an issue (in terms of radioactive contaminated land regulations). There is no reason to believe that present findings of material at Dalgety Bay in 2010 are more hazardous to skin than those in recovered 2008.</p> <p>Inhalation of the point sources could give a dose but no further work at present on this pathway, as the intertidal area is wet and therefore it is unlikely that material would become airborne.</p> <p><b><u>Solubility Test</u></b> PD said that ten sources were tested for solubility using a replicated stomach acid and the lower ingestion solution. The maximum solubility was 25% of the total activity of point source which was greater than the previous maximum of 15%. PD stated that it was impossible to determine whether this was attributable to the use of a more realistic solution or variation between sources.</p> <p>For the most soluble source the dose to a 3 month infant would be 128mSv. HPA confirmed this result.</p> <p><b><u>Pathways</u></b> PD advised that members of the public are known to remove stones and objects from the beach which could lead to children picking up artefacts. One person who has done so said they did not see the signs. PD suggested a review of the signage at Dalgety Bay.</p>	

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4.4	<p>RB asked in what situation is it a value to use a 3 month infant as a group – a 1 year old child would be a lower result.</p> <p>PD said he looked at the data as a whole and all ages were considered.</p> <p>RB asked if the scenario of a 3 month infant ingesting material was plausible.</p> <p>PD stated the as the half-life of the material is 1600 years. It does need to be explored further and tests have been carried out for the ages of 1yr, 5 yrs, 10yrs, 15yrs and adults.</p> <p>CM advised that people of Dalgety Bay take rocks from the beach for their garden rockery and felt that the signs were adequate but not being read.</p> <p>JG stated that it would be prudent to review the signage. CM said it would be ludicrous to review the wording again. JG said it &lt;the signs&gt; needs to be kept under review and stated that future work proposals would be discussed and signage would be reviewed.</p> <p>JH asked what the purpose of this report would be and questioned if it was to warn the public or to get the contaminators to do something about it?</p> <p>PD stated that this question would be answered when he went on to explain SEPA's future work programme under Agenda Item 6: "Future Actions".</p> <p><b>PD Presentation in Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skin – hazard remained similar</li> <li>• Inhalation – no further work undertaken</li> <li>• Ingestion – previous estimates of dose may have under estimated the true dose</li> <li>• Doses from inadvertent ingestion would be above the 100mSv level for at least very young children</li> </ul>	
5.0	<b>Discussion</b>	
	<p>The Forum agreed that further monitoring was needed at Dalgety Bay. DE has considered this and is willing to monitor annually over a period of 3 years.</p> <p>PD advised :</p> <p>ENTEC (sub contractor) reports that there is a repopulation of sources of about 100 per year.</p> <p>DE has explored the slipways and no significant cache of particles which could explain such a repopulation rate.</p> <p>Offshore – SEPA's Marine science will investigate if there is a cache offshore – SEPA.</p> <p>Headland – SEPA will be concentrating on a programme of trial pits to see if there are source points in the headland boreholes.</p> <p>PD advised that he had spoken to DBur and the Sailing Club supports this programme of work.</p>	

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<b>6.0</b>	<b>Future Actions</b>	
6.1	<p>The Forum was in agreement and supported the way forward, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future monitoring, detection and removal over 3 years by DE.</li> <li>• Marine Science (SEPA) to investigate possible cache of sources offshore</li> <li>• SEPA will be investigating the headland and by digging trial pits to determine if this is the source of the contamination</li> <li>• Issue of a hazard assessment report in May.</li> </ul>	
6.1	Discussion followed regarding Future Actions:	
6.2	<p><b><u>Point Source Detection and Removal</u></b></p> <p>PD said there will be more data on the sources. Data will be reviewed in 2011. At the moment the symptoms are being treated, if the source is found then we can mitigate the contamination.</p> <p>IR stated that anything that SEPA find in the core will be taken by DE and disposed of appropriately. This work will hopefully start early 2012. SEPA welcomed this support from DE.</p> <p>CM asked what would be the point of finding something in the headland 6m down. PD explained that the ½ life of any radium found would be 1600 years removal will stop further contamination and that the eroding edge of the headland could be the source of the re-population of the beach which is occurring.</p> <p>JG reiterated that armouring the headland will stop erosion, however, the radium could be leaching out. DE has looked between slipways and more sources were found. By locating the source we can do something about the repopulation of sources.</p> <p>RB stated that investigation of the beach has ruled out this &lt;the beach&gt; being the location of the source.</p> <p>RB questioned whether the point sources could be encountered if so these would be too big to ingest.</p> <p>JG said this work could answer that question instead of research finding the source is another way of tackling this.</p> <p>PD said we need to focus on the point sources which are ingestible.</p> <p>DHer said that the public needs to be made aware of this.</p>	
6.3	<p><b><u>DE Remedial Work Funding?</u></b></p> <p>CM asked DE if there was money for remedial work as Liam Fox had said there would be money for funding monitoring over the next 3 years. RB stated that the fund remediation would decide this and it depends on other work being taken forward whether money is spent on this. CM then tabled a rough estimate on remediation works which included steel sheet piling around the foot of the headland and concreting between the slipways. This was passed to</p>	

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	<p>DE with a copy to SEPA.</p> <p>CM asked when the next monitoring programme would take place. RB said this would be perhaps May of after the next spring tide. DB stated this would be a programme of monitoring and collecting.</p> <p>CM stated that other agencies have done this. DE reiterated that this would be a programme of detection and collection.</p> <p>JH asked if the sources were not harmful would this exercise matter.</p> <p>PD stated that small point sources can be ingested and would be harmful.</p>	
6.4	<p><b><u>Robust Risk Assessment</u></b></p> <p>CM stated a robust risk assessment was required. PD stated that an assessment was undertaken in 2006 although if the hazard is removed a risk assessment is not needed. CM said that particles have been removed and they are repopulating.</p> <p>DHer stated that the question is where they are coming from and that we are trying to remove the source.</p> <p>CM asked DE if the particles were still being stored in the container and if it was still being monitored. DE confirmed this was the case.</p>	
6.5	<p><b><u>Radioactive Contaminated Land Regulations</u></b></p> <p>DHer asked if we were contravening the law which empowers SEPA to take action. JG said he did not think the council was breaking the law. He went on to advise that the Radioactive Contaminated Land Regulations enable SEPA to investigate land which might be contaminated and the regulations allow SEPA to designate Radioactive Contaminated Land. If there are point sources on the land greater than 100mSv by a feasible pathway land is amenable to designation. SEPA has not taken this course of action because of the action currently being undertaken at Dalgety Bay eg signage and the monitoring and collection programme. This doesn't mean that, once we get to the end of the investigation and if we do not find a source and carry out the solubility work that SEPA would not designate it.</p> <p>CM said that Byron Tilly (previous chairman of DBF) said that designation would be a last resort. Designation would have a major effect on the community and this should not be publicised.</p> <p>DHer reiterated that he would like to more work done on explaining this to the public.</p> <p>CM welcomed the method that SEPA is proposing to employ now.</p> <p>All members of the Forum were in agreement with the proposed actions by SEPA.</p>	

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6.6	<b><u>Removal of Memoirs from Beach</u></b> RB asked PD how the person who removed memoirs from the beach knew to contact SEPA. PD said they had obtained SEPA's contact details from the press coverage of the issue.	
6.7	<b><u>Signage</u></b> JM (Chair) asked that the wording of the signage be revisited and asked that SEPA and other competent agencies with statutory duties undertake this. SEPA will lead on this and liaise with other agencies.  It was agreed that SEPA would arrange a meeting with other agencies to take this forward. Forum members would be copied in on wording of the signs. JG said that the location, wording and attraction of the signs would be looked into.  PD and DS left the meeting. JG would lead on SEPA Press issues for the duration of the meeting.	
<b>Action</b>	JG/PD (SEPA) liaise with other competent agencies to review signage at Dalgety Bay. SEPA will arrange a meeting with agencies and members of the Forum would be kept informed.	<b>SEPA (lead) / other agencies</b>
<b>7.0</b>	<b><u>AOCB</u></b>	
7.1	<b><u>RCL Legislation</u></b> DB asked if there was a review of RCL legislation in light that SEPA could be in a position to designate the beach and asked if such a designation could be lifted.  JM stated that this is a new regime which is being amended and amendments made in 2008 changed this and SEPA lawyers said the designation can be lifted.  DB felt that the damage to the community would have been done by then if this route was taken.  DE stated that where land has been designated in England and Wales it does not cause "blight". CM said that this situation has already affected the community. DHer stated that with no disrespect the constituents are intelligent people and know the effects of this.	
7.2	<b><u>SEPA Reports</u></b> RB asked if DE could have sight of a draft copy of SEPA's reports prior to them being issued this would be purely for factual accuracy.	
7.3	<b><u>Press Statement</u></b> JM stated that accurate communication was required and today we have seen the results of studies and a way forward. A draft press statement has been prepared and this was shown to the forum.  SR (DE Press Office) said they would welcome a joint statement with SEPA.  Discussion followed on the draft press statement and comments	

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	<p>were taken on board. It was agreed that SEPA and DE would liaise on the press statement to be issued. The content of the press statement would also be supported by CM and DHer.</p> <p>Until the release of the joint press statement all enquiries would be advised that a statement will be issued soon.</p>	
<b>Action</b>	SEPA/DE to liaise on appropriate wording of a joint press release which would be supported by CM and DHer.	<b>SEPA Comms /DE Press Office</b>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	
8.1	The next Dalgety Bay Forum meeting will be held in 12 months time. An earlier meeting can be arranged if the need arises.	