



Committee on Radioactive Waste Management

55 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2EY

To: Mark Rouse, Managing Director, Dounreay Site Restoration Limited  
cc: Mr Nigel Lowe, Head of Programme NDA  
Mr James McKinney, NDA

10 November 2014

Dear Mark

I am writing to thank you for organizing the CoRWM visit to Dounreay on 27 October. As you know, our visit was to obtain further information concerning the treatment and storage of Higher Activity Radioactive Waste at Dounreay.

The presentations given by your staff and the subsequent responses to our questions were excellent and demonstrated a very good understanding of the issues.

In relation to the decision to cancel the D3900 facility, it was demonstrated to us that DSRL fully understood the implications and had satisfied itself that the risks of continuing to run with the current DCP/D1208 facility were manageable. In particular we were told that there were no foreseeable plant life limiting issues and that in the extreme, the most significant plant items could be replaced within 12 months, which would not affect the ability for DSRL to complete the conditioning of all the DFR and PFR liquid fission product waste and deliver the Dounreay site restoration programme agreed with the NDA. We were also told that there was a robust supply chain to provide replacement components.

In relation to our previous concerns regarding the move to the use of shielded containers and storage in unshielded store, we given robust arguments to support the rationale behind this decision.

Regarding the suitability of conditioned ILW for near surface disposal, we were given a comprehensive response. The key points I take away from this presentation is that for by 2025 80% of the conditioned waste will not be suitable for near surface disposal and even after 300 years of surface storage at Dounreay some 62 % of the waste will not be suitable for near surface disposal.

On the basis of the information we were given I will report back to the Committee that DSRL has demonstrated a robust defence of their current strategy for the treatment and storage of radioactive waste.

Thank you once again for arranging our visit and for the open and honest responses to our questions.

Yours sincerely

*Laurence*

Professor Laurence Williams FEng.

CoRWM Chair