

Dalgety Bay Particles Advisory Group

Media release

Dalgety Bay Particles Advisory Group Second Meeting

The Dalgety Bay Particles Advisory Group met today for the second time at Dalgety Bay Sailing Club.

Alex Elliott, DBPAG Chairman, said:

“The Dalgety Bay Particles Advisory Group met today for the second time and heard from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) on all of the work which has been carried out recently.

“We expressed our continuing concern at the recent number and activity of sources detected by SEPA and MoD monitoring and the continuing apparent inadequacy of the MoD’s current contractor in failing to detect particles which could pose a significant hazard to public health. We were pleased to learn from MoD that it is expected that our advice on the monitoring criteria is implemented from the February 2012 survey. We have recommended that, in the event that the current contractor used to monitor Dalgety Bay is unable to meet the criteria set, the MoD should seek to employ a contractor which can meet those criteria. The area involved appears to be larger than thought in September and some of the sources recently recovered are more hazardous than those found previously.

“There have been a high number of sources recovered at the start of 2012. This work followed the removal of large numbers of sources in late 2011 which indicates that there has been a rapid re-population of sources at Dalgety Bay and that the total number of radioactive sources present at Dalgety Bay may well be significantly more than the low hundreds indicated previously. Without ongoing precautions, this greater number would clearly result in an increase the possibility of human exposure to a radioactive source at Dalgety Bay.

“The public should not enter the area of the beach which is currently clearly demarcated.

“We have re-iterated our earlier recommendation that further efforts should also be made to determine the terrestrial extent of the contamination which should include investigation of all areas of made ground at Dalgety Bay and should include recent findings at Ross Plantation and Crow Hill.”

These measures will permit the appropriate management arrangements to protect the public to be taken.

Ends

Editors Notes:

If you have any enquiries or would like to speak to Alex Elliott, Acting DBPAG Chairman, please email rsenquiries@sepa.org.uk, or telephone 07768846662, and we will arrange for him to call you back.