

P380 Dounreay Public Inquiry 1986

RECORDS' IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference number:	P380
Alternative reference number:	
Title:	Dounreay Public Inquiry 1986
Dates of creation:	1955-1998
Level of description:	Fonds
Extent:	9 boxes
Format:	Paper

RECORDS' CONTEXT

Name of creators: UKAEA, the Highland Council and related agencies

Administrative history: In late May 1985, a joint application in the name of the UKAEA and British Nuclear Fuels plc. (BNFL) was made to Highland Regional Council for planning permission to construct the proposed European Demonstration Reprocessing Plant (EDRP), at Dounreay. Given the scale of the project and the wider implications of such a proposal, the application was called in by the Secretary of State for Scotland in order that a public inquiry could be held. Dounreay was established in the mid-fifties as the centre for Britain's fast reactor research programme, and in 1959 the Dounreay fast reactor (DFR) became the first experimental power-producing fast reactor. This reactor, which operated until 1977, had its own reprocessing plant, as did the prototype fast reactor (PFR) which ran successfully for twenty years before being closed down in 1994. Therefore Britain, and in particular Dounreay, had extensive experience in operating fast reactors and in the management of reprocessing facilities. Concurrent with this research and development, similar work was being carried out in other European countries. Given this apparent duplication, the British government decided that its best interest lay in a

collaborative arrangement with countries committed to the fast reactor, thereby making best use of all the available expertise and technical facilities. Within the UK, the government believed that no site could lay such a powerful claim for consideration as Dounreay which had been successfully and safely reprocessing plutonium fuels for many years and was considered a world leader in the development of the necessary technology. Importantly, there was sufficient capacity for further development on UKAEA-owned land adjacent to the existing licensed site. The government was also aware that over the thirty years it had been established a very good relationship had developed with the local community; it also employed over 2,000 people, making it by far the largest employer in the area, and further expansion would probably be welcomed. It was also felt that the infrastructure of the area – railway, road and airport facilities – had the capacity for further expansion to cope with traffic of all types. An important element, although not alluded to, was that a successful outcome would almost certainly give Britain, and Dounreay, a vital advantage should there be an eventual need for an EDRP.

The stakes were therefore high when the Public Inquiry opened in the Town Hall, Thurso, on 7th April 1986. The Inquiry ran until 19 November 1986, making it the longest Public Inquiry to be held in Scotland. It included a two-day session in Kirkwall, and a one-and-a-half-day session in Invergordon. The Reporter ruled against holding a session in Shetland.

The Reporter also carried out external inspections of areas central to the Inquiry both in Caithness and Easter Ross where the use of the ports in the latter area were being considered.

He also travelled in the driver's cab of a passenger train from Invergordon to Georgemas (Caithness), observing the line and its built-in safety features.

Over 2,700 written submissions were received of which only twelve, mostly

from Caithness residents, were in favour. A petition, containing 10,000 signatures from addresses within the highlands and islands, and a further 10,000 postcards addressed to Greenpeace, all opposing the proposal was presented to the Inquiry.

The Inquiry was wide-ranging and very detailed but two events, both occurring within the first three months, were to play a significant part in the proceedings.

On 25 April 1986, an accident took place at the nuclear plant in Chernobyl in the former USSR, now the Ukraine. Over thirty people were killed instantly. A radioactive plume was released into the environment and floated across Europe. It was graphic evidence that a nuclear accident can happen, and when it does, it cannot necessarily be contained. In July, the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE), produced their report into the possible increased incidence of cancer in West Cumbria. This report confirmed that there appeared to be a higher incidence of leukaemia in young people residing within the (Sellafield) area but with the caveat that the estimated radiation dose from Sellafield could not account for the observed leukaemia incidence on the basis of available knowledge. The Inquiry had before them a report prepared by the © UKAEA 2007 Scottish Home and Health Department (SHHD) which also pointed to a small number of leukaemia cases living close to the Dounreay site. Both these health reports and the Chernobyl incident provided ammunition for the objectors. At the conclusion of the Inquiry, the Reporter determined that given the evidence submitted and his Finding of Fact, he would determine the outcome of the Inquiry under four separate headings, viz. whether, (a) the proposal is in accordance with national and local planning issues; (b) there is any reason that the EDRP cannot be built and operated within the safety requirements of the regulatory authorities; (c) there is a reasonable prospect of the special transport links (for transporting the 100 tonne flasks of spent fuel) being provided

within the construction period; and (d) EDRP is likely to have an unacceptable impact on the community or on the environment.

In reaching his decision to grant outline planning permission, Mr Rifkind accepted the Reporter's finding. In respect of the COMARE Report, Mr Rifkind formed the view that it did not contain new evidence representing a significant advance over mwhich was available to the Inquiry. By the time the Secretary of State announced the outcome some years later, however, it was academic. Britain had pulled the plug on its own fast reactor programme, so there was no prospect of the plant being built to reprocess the European fast reactor being built there. As it turned out, no country has built the fast reactors either.

Custodial history:

Deposited in the Archive by the Library Service

RECORDS' CONTENT

Description:

Reports and other papers relating mainly to the Public Inquiry of 1866

Appraisal:

Accruals:

RECORDS' CONDITION OF ACCESS AND USE

Access:

Open

Closed until:

Access conditions:

Available within the Archive searchroom

Copying:

Copying permitted within standard Copyright Act parameters

Finding aids:

Available in Archive searchroom

ALLIED MATERIALS

Related material:

Publication:

Notes:

Date of catalogue:

July 2012

Ref.	Description	Dates
P380	Dounreay	1955-1998
P380/1	Folder containing correspondence, articles, reports and statements relating largely to the public inquiry of 1986 and also proposed development of Dounreay in 1979 [2 folders]	1979-1986
P380/2	Highland Regional Council local plan proposals maps of West Caithness [3 maps]	c.1980
P380/3	Mounted black and white photographs of Dounreay: Main entrance Gas control console M.T.R. type fuel plates being assembled in a jig to make a fuel plate box One of the apprentice supervisors gives a practical demonstration View of Dounreay from the south The glove box line of the M.T.R fuel element fabrication plant operated by locally recruited process workers Scrabster fishing boat 'Primula' who was part of the extensive radiation background survey [7 photographs]	c.1955
P380/4	Public local enquiry 'Precognitions and list of productions, the construction and operation of a reprocessing plant for fast reactor fuel, Dounreay Caithness' [1 folder]	1985
P380/5	The Highland Regional Council Structure Plan, report of survey, changes likely to occur (1978-1988), written statement and statement of publicity, representations and consultations [1 volume]	1979
P380/6	Highland Development of Roads and Transport, EDRP Dounreay, transportation planning study [1 volume]	February 1986
P380/7	Highland Regional Council and Caithness District Council draft plan for Local Authority Arrangements for Dealing with the Effects of an Emergency at Dounreay [1 volume]	1986
P380/8	Control of Pollution Act 1974, chapter 40, Arrangement of Sections, part 1 Waste on Land [7	1974

	photocopied and stapled sheets]	
P380/9	'Re-analysis of data relating to the Banford study of the cancer risks of radiation workers' by G.W. Kneale, A.M. Stewart and T.F. Mancuso [13 sheets]	c.1980
P380/10	'Emergency plans for civil nuclear installations', Health and Safety Executive, Her Majesty's stationery office [1 booklet]	1982
P380/11	'Health and Safety Executive, Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, EDRP Production no. 5, Dounreay: The Management of Safety March 1983' [1 booklet]	March 1983
P380/12	'Supplementary information (including certain environmental issues) relating to the outline planning application for a European Demonstration Fast Reactor Fuel Reprocessing Plan at Dounreay, Caithness' British Nuclear Fuels plc. [1 volume]	May 1985
P380/13	'Aquatic Environment Monitoring Report, Number 13, Radioactivity in Surface and Coastal Waters of the British Isles, 1984' by G.J. Hunt of Lowestoft [1 volume]	1985
P380/14	'Report of the Independent Review of Disposal of Radioactive Waste in the Northeast Atlantic' Her Majesty's Stationery Office [1 volume]	1984
P380/15	'Assessment of the outline planning application for the fast reactor re-processing plant at Dounreay Caithness' A report prepared for the Highland Regional Council by Cremer and Warner, Consulting Engineers and Scientists [1 volume]	November 1985
P380/16	'Radioactive Waste Management Policy in the UK (with particular relevance to Scotland), Statement by the Scottish Development Department [1 volume]	n.d.
P380/17	Statistical Bulletin, Radioactive Waste Disposals from Nuclear Sites in Scotland 1980-1984 [1 booklet]	February 1986
P380/18	'Environmental monitoring for radioactivity around the Dounreay Nuclear Power Development Establishment 1981-1985' Scottish Development Department, HM Industrial Pollution Inspectorate [1 booklet]	March 1986
P380/19	Safety Series no. 37, IAEA Safety Guides 'Advisory Manual for the Application of the IAEA Transport Regulations Second Edition [1 volume]	1982
P380/20	Department of Transport 'Code of Practice for the Carriage of Radioactive Materials by Road' [1	1985

	booklet]	
P380/21	Statutory Instruments 1985 no. 1333, Health and Safety 'The Ionising Radiations Regulations 1985' [1 booklet]	1985
P380/22	Approved Code of Practice 'The protection of persons against ionising radiation arising from any work activity' The Ionising Radiation Regulations 1985 [1 volume]	1985
P380/23	'Class 7 Radioactive Substances' [1 booklet]	n.d.
P380/24	'Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air' Appraised and published by decision of the Council of ICAD [1 booklet]	1986
P380/25	'Safety Assessment Principles for Nuclear Chemical Plant' HM Nuclear Installations Inspectorate [1 booklet]	1983
P380/26	Radioactive Waste Management 'Statement by HM Industrial Pollution Inspectorate' Scottish Development Department [1 booklet]	November 1985
P380/27	Atlas of the Seas around the British Isles, compiled in the Directorate of Fisheries Research, Drawn by the Survey Section, Agricultural Development Advisory Service [1 large volume]	n.d.
P380/28	Production D/1 "Disposal facilities on land for low and intermediate-level radioactive wastes" [1 booklet]	1984
P380/29	Production D/2 Inter-Governmental memorandum "Memorandum of understanding for cooperation in the field of liquid metal fast reactors [1 booklet]	c.1980
P380/30	Production D/3A "Radioactive waste management advisory committee" [1 booklet]	1984
P380/31	Production D/3B "Radioactive waste management advisory committee" [1 booklet]	1985
P380/32a	Production D/4 NIREX nuclear industry radioactive waste executive Third Report [1 booklet]	1985
P380/32b	Production D/5 Annals of the ICRP "Recommendations of the international commission on radiological protection [1 booklet]	1977
P380/33	Production D/6 "National radiological protection board" [2 sheets]	1977
P380/34	Production D/7 "National radiological protection	1977

	board" [3 sheets]	
P380/35	Production D/8 "Royal commission on environmental pollution" Sixth Report [1 volume]	1976
P380/36	Production D/9 "Nuclear power and the environment" [1 booklet]	1977
P380/37	Production D/10 "Radioactive waste management" [1 booklet]	1982
P380/38	Production D/11 "Living with radiation" [1 booklet]	1984
P380/39	Production D/12 "The radiation exposure of the UK population-1984 review J S Hughes and G C Roberts" [1 volume]	1984
P380/40	Production D/13 NRPB-DL1 "The estimation of derived limits" [1 booklet]	Aug 1979
P380/41	D/14 "Main economic benefits of Dounreay nuclear establishment and HMS Vulcan to Caithness" [1 booklet]	Oct 1985
P380/42	D/15 " Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the European Atomic Energy Community and the International Atomic Energy for the application of Safeguards in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" [1 booklet]	6 th September 1976
P380/43	D/16 "IAEA Definitions of 3 main stages of decommissioning" [4 sheets]	1980
P380/44	D/17 "Radioactive waste disposals from nuclear sites in Scotland" [1 booklet]	May 1984
P380/45	D/18 "Environmental monitoring for radioactivity in Scotland" Statistical Bulletin [1 booklet]	Nov 1984
P380/46	D/19 "Annual report & accounts" BNFL [1 volume]	1984-85
P380/47	D/20 "Annual report" UKAEA [1 volume]	1984-85
P380/48	D/21 "Fast reactor fuel cycles" [1 booklet]	1982
P380/49	D/22 "Dounreay" Dounreay Nuclear Power Development Establishment [1 folder]	n.d.
P380/50	D/23 PFR fuel cycle, PFR fuel reprocessing at DNE, Fast reactor fuel reprocessing building, typical fast reactor fuel sub assembly, mixer settler, principles of solvent extraction, origins of waste from PFR	n.d.

	reprocessing, high active liquor storage cell, effluent "FLOC" treatment plant, Dounreay effluent disposal tunnel general arrangement, ILW- high alpha high beta gamma store, ILW-high alpha low beta gamma store, ILW-high beta gamma store [1 booklet]	
P380/51	D/24a "EDRP Process: Fuel receipt to clarification" [1 sheet]	n.d.
P380/52	D/24b "EDRP Process: Accountancy to product stores" [1 sheet]	n.d.
P380/53	D/25 "EDRP Ventilation systems" [1 sheet]	n.d.
P380/54	D/26 "Two stage precipitation process" [1 sheet]	n.d.
P380/55	D/27 "Proposed high beta/gamma waste facilities" [1 sheet]	n.d.
P380/56	D/28 "1 st stage precipitation recycle" [1 sheet]	n.d.
P380/57	D/29 "2 nd stage precipitation recycle" [1 sheet]	n.d.
P380/58	D/30 "District emergency scheme in the event of an incident at the Dounreay site" [1 booklet]	n.d.
P380/59	D/31a "Radioactive substances act 1960 Certificate of authorisation for the disposal of liquid radioactive waste [3 sheets]	6 th June 1967
P380/60	D/31b "Radioactive substances act 1960 Certificate of authorisation for the disposal of gaseous radioactive waste [2 sheets]	25 th November 1963
P380/61	D/31c Certificate of authorisation for the disposal of solid radioactive waste [3 sheets]	25 th November 1963
P380/62	D/32 "Scottish salmon and sea trout catches: 1983" [1 booklet]	March 1985
P380/63	D/33 "Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistical Tables" [1 booklet]	1983
P380/64	D/34 "Restricted dispersion of zirconium-95 and of Niobium-95 after release to the sea in nuclear fuel reprocessing effluent" [1 booklet]	1967
P380/65	D/36 "The intertidal fauna of sandy beaches-a survey of the Scottish coast" by A Eleftheriou and A D McIntyre [1 volume]	1976
P380/66	D/37 "Aquatic environment monitoring report" by G J Hunt [1 booklet]	1985

P380/67	D/38 "A report by the radioactivity monitoring management group to the steering committee for environmental monitoring and assessment" [1 volume]	1983
P380/68	D/39 "Geochemical associations of plutonium and-Emitting radionuclides in Caithness soils and marine particulates" by G T Cook, M S Baxter, H J Duncan and R Malcolmson [1 booklet]	1984
P380/69	D/40a "Environmental monitoring associated with discharges of radioactive waste during 1964 from U.K.A E.A. Establishments" [1 booklet]	1965
P380/70	D/40b "Environmental monitoring associated with discharges of radioactive waste during 1971 from U.K.A E.A. Establishments" [1 booklet]	1972
P380/71	D/40c "Environmental monitoring associated with discharges of radioactive waste during 1974, 1976, 1978, 1979, 1982 from U.K.A E.A. Establishments" [5 booklets]	1975-1983
P380/72	R-72 "Environmental monitoring associated with discharges of radioactive waste during 1965 from UKAEA establishments" [1 booklet]	1966
P380/73	R-79 "Environmental monitoring associated with discharges of radioactive waste during 1966 from UKAEA establishments" [1 booklet]	1967
P380/74	R-86 "Environmental monitoring associated with discharges of radioactive waste during 1967 from UKAEA establishments" [1 booklet]	1968
P380/75	R-97 "Environmental monitoring associated with discharges of radioactive waste during 1968 from UKAEA establishments" [1 booklet]	1969
P380/76	R-105 "Environmental monitoring associated with discharges of radioactive waste during 1969 from UKAEA establishments" [1 booklet]	1970
P380/77	R-111 "Environmental monitoring associated with discharges of radioactive waste during 1970 from UKAEA establishments" [1 booklet]	1971
P380/78	DL 2 "Derived limits for surface contamination" [1 booklet]	1979
P380/79	DL 2 Supplement "Derived Limits for Surface Contamination supplement to report" [1 booklet]	1982

P380/80	DL 3 "Domestic Quantities and Basic Data for the Evaluation of Generalised Derived Limits" [1 booklet]	1980
P380/81	DL 4 "A Procedure for Estimating Site-specific Derived Limits for the Discharge of Radioactive Material to the Atmosphere" [1 booklet]	1983
P380/82	DL 5 "Generalised Derived Limits for Radioisotopes of Plutonium" [1 booklet]	1982
P380/83	DL 6 "Generalised Derived Limits for Radioisotopes of Americium and Curium" [1 booklet]	1982
P380/84	DL 7 "Generalised Derived Limits for Radioisotopes of Caesium" [1 booklet]	1983
P380/85	DL 8 "Generalised Derived Limits for Radioisotopes of Strontium" [1 booklet]	1983
P380/86	DL 9 "Generalised Derived Limits for Radioisotopes of Iodine" [1 booklet]	1984
P380/87	Dounreay annual reports with accompanying reports, statements and papers [1 bundle]	1976-1985
P380/88	Annals of the ICRP, Part 1 including addendum 'Limits for the Intakes of Radionuclides by Workers', Production D/51A [1 volume]	1979
P380/89	Annals of the ICRP, Supplement to Part 1 'Limits for the Intakes of Radionuclides by Workers', Production D/51B [1 volume]	1979
P380/90	Annals of the ICRP, Statement and Recommendations of the 1980 Brighton Meeting, Part 2 'Limits for the Intakes of Radionuclides by Workers', Production D/51C [1 volume]	1980
P380/91	Annals of the ICRP, Supplement to Part 2 'Limits for the Intakes of Radionuclides by Workers', Production D/51D [1 volume]	1981
P380/92	Annals of the ICRP, Part 3 including addendum to parts 1 and 2 "Limits for the Intakes of Radionuclides by Workers", Production D/51E [1 volume]	1981
P380/93	Annals of the ICRP, Supplement A to part 3 'Limits for the Intakes of Radionuclides by Workers', Production D/51F [1 volume]	1982
P380/94	Annals of the ICRP, Supplement B to part 3 including addendum to the supplements of parts 1 and 2 'Limits for the Intakes of Radionuclides by Workers',	1982

	Production D/51G [1 volume]	
P380/95	Annals of the ICRP, Index 'Limits for the Intakes of Radionuclides by Workers', Production D/51H [1 volume]	1982
P380/96	Papers relating to development of UKAEA sites in Caithness, BSI on Noise Control on Construction and Open Sites and The Windscale Inquiry Report, Productions D52-D56 [1 bundle]	1954-1974
P380/97	Papers relating to the building of an AEA site, local considerations, staff considerations and practicalities of working with and transporting of dangerous substances and annual reports [1 box]	1975-1985
P380/98	Papers relating to safety considerations of a nuclear power plant, the impact on the surrounding environment and community. There are also folders containing pro-nuclear papers and anti-nuclear papers [1 box]	1975-1987
P380/99	Papers relating to the EDRP public local inquiry in Caithness and Orkney including; policies, precognitions and reports addressing matters of concern and the potential impact on the local environment and community [1 box]	1986-1989
P380/100	Bundle of correspondence, minutes and reports from various Dounreay Committees, including annual safety reports [1 bundle]	1986-1996
P380/101	Bundle of Dounreay newsletters and circulars [1 bundle]	1988-1998
P380/102	UKAEA reports including; annual review for 1996-7, radioactive waste disposal, environmental reports and Dounreay Emergency Plan [1 bundle]	1972, 1989-1997
P380/103	Bundle of papers relating to a proposal for a low level solid waste pit extension including; planning application, environmental statements and plans [1 bundle]	1992
P380/104	Health and Safety Annual Reports for Dounreay [1 bundle]	1975-1995