

Memorandum

Large
and
ASSOCIATES

Consulting Engineers

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To: **Graham Wyeth** Emergency Planning & Business Continuity Manager M3185-A3
From: **John H Large** 23 October 2009
Cc: David Hoadley – SCANS

Subject: **SOTONSAFE – WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER PRESENTATION**

Large & Associates has been instructed by the Solent Coalition Against Nuclear Ships (SCANS) to present its interests at a forthcoming public meeting to be convened by Southampton City Council (SCC) on 4 November 2009. Confirmation of this instruction may be obtained from David Hoadley, Chair of the Coalition (dhoadley@phonecoop.coop).

I have been copied your e-mail of 22 October 2009 giving the availability of projection facilities; I note the time limit for the presentation of the Coalition's interests and concerns; and, of course, the Coalition would not wish for me revisit previously raised issues.

I know that the Coalition has already requested SCC to provide certain information and, in addition to this, I ask if you would address the following:

- 1) First, could you please direct me to a URL where the current SOTONSAFE plan is available to download.
- 2) My understanding is that the *Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001* (REPPPIR) provides for the protection of the public and other persons from exposure to radiation by emergency preparedness from radiation accidents by the provision, inter alia, of an adequate emergency plan. It follows that the off-site emergency plan relates the countermeasure strategy and the need to compare the projected dose exposure with the current ERLs, these being key decision-making aids in planning and, indeed, implementing protection of the public.

I assume, therefore, that in order to recommend and define the emergency areas and zones, the operator (MoD) and the HSE have detailed knowledge of these projected dose rates and cumulative exposures in order to recommend and determine the emergency areas for the off-site plan should the *Reference Accident* occur and, moreover these should have been passed to SCC ready for implementation of the off-site plan.

Since there is now a recommendation to reduce the zone to a 1.5 km radius then, it follows, the projected radiation dose rates and cumulative exposures must also have been revised. Accordingly, I ask SCC to provide a copy of these revised projected dose rates and cumulative dose exposures applied to the following

- i) Individual members of the public, particularly with respect to triggering countermeasures;
- ii) those SCC employees who are be engaged in the radiation emergency (ie *Reg 14* of REPPiR) public management (sheltering and evacuation control, PITs distribution, radiation monitoring and dissemination of information); and
- iii) the emergency services personnel engaged in the activities prescribed in the SOTONSAFE plan;

noting that these are likely to be expressed as p^{th} percentiles (ie *Average* or *Mean*, *Expectation Value E* and *99th*) in account of the variation of atmospheric stability prevalent at the time and following the incident.

- 3) In previous editions of SOTONSAFE there is reference to Southampton University personnel undertaking monitoring but I have been unable to trace any contract or agreement between SCC and the University.

I ask if this arrangement between SCC and Southampton University still stands; if there is available a protocol on the type and extent of monitoring to be provided; and if the contract or arrangement, and/or protocol are publicly available documents?

As previously noted, this information requested is in support the presentation to be given the SCC on 4th November and, accordingly, it would assist if you are able to respond to this request and provide the information in good time before the presentation date. In your response, please refer to my order of itemisation above.

If you consider this to be a request under the *Freedom of Information Act 2000* then it is appropriate that I note to you that S10 of the Act requires you to respond '*promptly and in any event not later than the twentieth working day*'. Since all of the information that I have requested would be held at a central source and catalogued, I reasonably expect your response to be prompt and well within the ultimate 20 working day limit.