

**Report to the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group
Progress of the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) sub-committee**

**Questions to be fielded at the next West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group
meeting on Thursday 6 April**

by

**Cllr David Moore
On behalf of Cllr Sue Brown
Chairman, Low Level Waste Repository sub-committee**

This report is to communicate the progress made by the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) sub-committee since October 2005. Cllr Sue Brown, Chairman for the group, is unable to attend the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group meeting on Thursday 6 April. Cllr David Moore will answer questions fielded on this report in her absence.

This report is broken down into subject headings, in line with the main issues discussed during the last six months.

Transport through village

When the sub-committee first met in March 2005 the issue of transport through the village of Drigg was raised as an area of real concern for the local community.

The issue of transport has also been discussed in the context of the construction of Vault 9 and the final cap for the site.

Mr Anderson from British Nuclear Group gave a presentation to the committee on the transport and modular vaults project at the Low Level Waste Repository.

The presentation covered:

- Bulk Material Handling and External Transport
- Key quantities of material involved in the construction of Vault 9
- Key quantities of material involved in the capping of all vaults up to 2067
- Programme to extend the railhead and create a buffer store
- 'Holistic' planning application for Vault 9.

The presentation also included reference to plans to move the existing rail sidings from their current position near to the perimeter fence to a more central position on the site. The movement of the rail siding could also help tackle another issue of concerns for the local community, that of the number of containers stored on the sidings.

Feedback from the committee and members of the public who attended the session included:

- The committee would like some assurance that the LLW stored in Vault 9 will all be below ground. They don't want to see an application for higher stacking in Vault 9 in the future.
- The infrastructure/roads in the village are still not suitable for heavy plant equipment. Is it possible to use other entrances to site for heavy plant?
- The local community would still like to see tangible evidence of community benefit.

Higher Stacking in Vault 8

British Nuclear Group's planning application for temporary higher stacking in Vault 8 has now gone through due process and was granted by Cumbria County Council's Development Control and Regulation Committee in January.

The committee has continued to seek assurances that the higher stacking is a temporary measure and that the Isofreights will be taken down once Vault 9 is operational.

Signage

The sub-committee has continued its work to seek to disassociate the name of the repository from the name of the village.

The sub-committee is pleased to report that, as part of this work, road signs on the A595 and the B5344 which previously directed people to the 'Drigg Depot' have now been replaced. In accordance with a decision reached by the sub-committee, the new road signs now direct people to the LLW Repository.

Rail Sidings

British Nuclear Group has continued to update the committee on the number of ISO containers stored on the rail sidings at the repository. The numbers reported have been steadily declining and the committee will continue to seek assurances from the management team that this trend will continue.

Community Support

The issue of community support for the village of Drigg remained an underlying theme in many of the sub-committee meetings. A separate stream of work is being undertaken by Drigg and Carleton Parish Council and British Nuclear Group to address this issue.

Mr Weatherburn also informed the sub-committee that the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority is developing a national approach to socio-economic support, with their strategy expected imminently.

In addition, Mr Hetherington from Cumbria County Council informed the committee that a local group of Government experts called 'New Leaf' are looking at international best practice for local community development including legal frameworks and how it could be implemented in the UK. Their report is also expected imminently.

Terms of Reference

At the last meeting of the sub-committee at the beginning of March work started on drawing up a formal Terms of Reference for the sub-committee. These draft Terms of Reference will be ratified by the group at the next meeting.