

**Report to the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group
Progress of the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) Sub Committee**

**Councillor Sue Brown
Chairman, Low Level Waste Repository Sub-Committee**

This report covers the period October 2006 to March 2007 and is intended to communicate the progress made by the Low Level Waste Repository Sub Committee during that period.

Competing LLWR Contract

The NDA Competition Process has featured heavily in discussions throughout the period with regular updates given at meetings. In addition, a special meeting of the LLWR Sub Committee and Drigg and Carleton Parish Council was held on 7th December 2006 where representatives from each of the three competing consortia for the LLWR contract delivered presentations to the group with specific focus on socio-economic activities and how they would intend to interact/interface with the host and local communities if successful. The event not only afforded an opportunity for stakeholders to meet the prospective new owners of the Repository but provided a chance for them to input into the NDA evaluation process. NDA gave assurances that any concerns raised by stakeholders would be addressed during a series of forthcoming investigative visits to the respective sites run by the various Consortia. It should be noted that participants signed a confidentiality agreement which is binding until NDA announce the successful applicant (October 2007). Once the constraints of the Confidentiality Agreement have been lifted, information on the day's proceedings and a summary report will be made available on the WCSSG web site.

Update on LLWR Planning Applications

LLWR have two separate planning applications in preparation:

- Rail Sidings and Transient Store
- Vault 9

Rail Sidings and Transient Store:

This application was submitted to CCC Planning Authority on 12th January 2007, a response is expected at the end of March following a comprehensive statutory consultation period.

The indicative construction programme for this scheme is approximately 12 months with the earliest construction start date falling in June 2007. Stakeholders key concerns were connected to an increase in HGV traffic through the village, LLWR agreed to revisit associated elements of the application and incorporate a traffic management plan to reduce potential impact on the village/community. They also gave a commitment to involve stakeholders in the development of the traffic management plan. It is anticipated that this plan will form the template for future construction projects on the site.

Vault 9:

This application is under preparation and consultation on the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion is almost complete. This process will inform the submission documentation. We are told that the target submission date is April 2007.

Consultation with the wider community has yet to take place, we believe a road show will be held in Drigg Village Hall to explain how this scheme will impact on the village and address any concerns villagers may have. The Sub Committee will be keeping a close eye on progress throughout the various phases of this scheme.

End States Process

During the period WCSSG embarked on the Sites End States Consultation Process. This has been implemented through a series of workshops, two such workshops have been held at Drigg. The first workshop looked at Site End Uses and was held on 6/1/07 with the follow-up session addressing the Site End States being held on 14/3/07. An interim report detailing findings from the first round of workshops will be produced by Westlakes Scientific Consulting on behalf of the WCSSG and submitted to the NDA. It is anticipated that this report will be available sometime in April with the full report submitted in May/June.

Other Issues

In addition to the above, rumours regarding the down grading of the LLWR site security arrangements have given cause for concern and a presentation was delivered by the Civil Nuclear Constabulary. The Sub Committee will continue to monitor this situation.

Regular updates have been given on the NDA's Community Benefit Package. A funding model has been submitted to the DTI for consideration, we await their decision.

Policy on Radioactive Low Level Waste remains high on our agenda and we have invited DEFRA to deliver a presentation at our June meeting.

15/03/07