

**Report to the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group
Progress of the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) Sub Committee
April 2007 to September 2007**

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

This report covers the period April 2007 to September 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 continued to feature heavily in discussions throughout the period with regular updates given at meetings. Recently NDA announced the Preferred Bidder for the LLW Repository Site contract as UK Waste Management Limited, a consortium of Washington Group, Serco, Areva and Studsvik. There now begins a period of detailed contract negotiations between the NDA and the Preferred Bidder, satisfactory conclusion resulting in contract award in October.

A special LLWR Sub Committee meeting will be arranged with the new Parent Body Organisation (PBO) for LLWR in October, where we hope to learn more about their plans for the site and how they intend to engage with community and stakeholders.

Update on LLWR Planning Applications

Rail Sidings & Transient Store:

LLWR gained planning approval for new rail sidings and transient store at the beginning of this period. They have subsequently informed this group that they are deferring construction of the rail sidings in light of more detailed information on material receipts/traffic management and as a consequence of successful acceleration of Vault 9.

Vault 9:

This application was submitted to CCC in June following consultation with stakeholders and the local community.

Progress on the Vault 9 application has been monitored closely by this committee with our concerns regarding minimising disruption to the local community through maximising rail use being reflected in the application.

A road show was held over two days in May in the Drigg Village Hall to explain how the scheme will impact on the village and address any concerns raised by the villagers. It is my understanding that concerns have been addressed in the application documentation.

Other Issues

Our concerns regarding the down grading of the LLWR site security arrangements were communicated to the site operators and the Civil Nuclear Constabulary at a special joint meeting of the LLWR Sub Committee and the Emergency Planning Sub Committee in June. We await the outcome of negotiations between these two organisations and will continue to monitor this situation closely.

Robert Jackson of DEFRA gave a presentation to the Sub Committee in June following publication of DEFRA's policy on the Management of Radioactive Low Level Waste. He explained that government were looking to develop a UK strategy for the management of non-nuclear low level waste whilst tasking the NDA with the responsibility for development of a UK strategy for the management of nuclear industry low level waste. Government expect a coherent statement within the next year.

Regular updates have been given on the NDA's Community Benefit Package. We are aware that a funding model was submitted to the DTI (now DEBBR) earlier in the year for consideration, DTI consulted with Treasury and concerns were expressed about setting a precedent. Much discussion has subsequently taken place with no resolution to governments' dilemma apparent. We learned at our meeting on 12/09/07 that NDA have asked the planning authority to attach the community benefit package to the Vault 9 application as a 106 agreement. This announcement received mixed views and concerns were expressed about viability. The planning authority will engage with relevant local authorities, the NDA and the Site Operator in a bid to reach a satisfactory outcome. We will continue to monitor this situation.

18/09/07