



## West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group – Windscale Sub-committee (WCSSG – WSC)

### Report for October 2007 Meeting

#### Issues Arising since April 2007

- Since the last meeting of the WCSSG, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Windscale Sub-Committee chaired two scrutiny meetings of the Windscale Head of Site Community Fund and were briefed on Windscale Issues.

#### Feedback from the Windscale Sub-Committee Meeting

- The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group - Windscale Sub Committee (WCSSG-WSC) was held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at Cleator Moor Civic Hall and Masonic Centre. The meeting was open to the public.
- Mr Ranald Stewart was reappointed as Chairman of the sub committee.
- As Mr Ronald Hargreaves has retired from St Bridget's and Thornhill Parish Council, a new Vice Chairman of the Sub-Committee was elected. Cllr Raymond Cole has been elected as the Vice Chairman of the Windscale Sub-Committee. Mr Ronald Hargreaves has agreed to be a member of the Sub-Committee in an advisory capacity.
- There have been a number of member changes on the Windscale Sub-Committee as follows:
  - Mr Ian Gibson has replaced Mr Tony Willets as the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) Representative.
  - Dr Matthew Emptage has replaced Mr Mike Scott as the Environment Agency (EA) Representative.
  - Cllr Mike Davidson has replaced Cllr Carni McCarron Holmes as the Allerdale Representative on the Sub-Committee.

#### **Presentations to the Windscale Sub-Committee**

- Presentations were made to the meeting as follows:

## **Mr Peter Mann – Windscale Update**

Mr Mann updated the meeting on issues of Safety and the Safety Improvement Programme (SIP) which the Windscale Team have embarked upon to great effect. The meeting members were informed of the elements of the SIP and the benefits which are being witnessed on site as a result of the programme.

Mr Mann advised the meeting members that the Transition of the Windscale Team to Sellafield Ltd is still programmed to take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008.

The meeting members were informed that performance at Windscale was good, especially during the period when effort is being expended on the Transition Project.

Mr Mann updated the meeting on two key achievements of the Windscale Piles Team during the period, namely;

- Isotope removal from Pile 2
- Intrusive Surveys in the Pile 1 Fire Affected Zone

Recruitment continues at Windscale to strengthen the team.

## **Mrs Felicity Wilson – Windscale Pile 1 Fire, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Mrs Wilson updated the meeting members that the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Windscale Pile 1 Fire will take place on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2007 and as a result, work has been ongoing to develop information factsheets which can be used to brief stakeholders including the media and community. While it is not UKAEA's intention to celebrate the event it has been agreed that UKAEA will commemorate the event.

Mrs Wilson updated the meeting that a BBC radio play will be aired on the 10<sup>th</sup> October and BBC 2 will be airing a documentary which has been partially filmed at Windscale and which contains interviews with former UKAEA Windscale employees.

## **Mrs Alyson Armett – Windscale Update including Windscale Transition Project**

Mrs Alyson Armett updated the meeting members on the performance of the Windscale Team and the funding availability for the forthcoming financial year.

Mrs Armett also noted that the Transition Project continued with the Windscale and Sellafield teams working together to ensure the success of the project. Shadow working is due to commence in October 2007 with Transition to Sellafield Ltd in April 2008.

## **Reports to the Windscale Sub-Committee**

- Reports were submitted to the meeting with updates given as follows:

### **Mr Ian Gibson – NII**

Mr Gibson advised the meeting that the Transition Project is a priority at the moment at Windscale and it is imperative that this is progressed in a safe and timely manner. Management of Change assessments have been submitted by UKAEA and are currently being assessed by the NII.

Mr Gibson also noted the importance of the work at Windscale to upgrade the Shielded Facility.

### **Dr Matthew Emptage – EA**

Dr Emptage updated the meeting that from the Environment Agency's perspective, the Transition Project is progressing well and an application to transfer the Windscale Discharge Authorisation to Sellafield resulting in one Discharge Authorisation for the two sites has been received by the EA. This application is being assessed and will go out to consultation later in the year.

## **Issues of Concern for Local Stakeholders**

- Mr Davies asked as to whether Windscale was currently included in the Sellafield Site Characterisation regarding Land Contamination and Beach Monitoring. It was noted that the current Windscale Environmental Monitoring programme does take account of the Sellafield Land Quality project, however, future Discharge Authorisations from Windscale will be included in that of Sellafield and would therefore be part of the site wide programme.