

# NEWS Committee

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June 2009

Welcome to the June issue of the Committee News. This is the twelfth issue of the information bulletin designed to keep you up to date with activities occurring in between the quarterly meetings of the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group (WCSSG).

This issue includes news on the recent event at Studsvik to open the facility, progress on the new WCSSG website, report on Professor Jones' attendance at a Plutonium workshop and information on the National Stakeholder Group Chairs forum.

## Official opening of Studsvik metal recycling facility



Chairman, David Moore accepted an invitation by Studsvik metal recycling facility to attend the opening of its plant on Wednesday 6th May.

The UK's first recycling plant for the treatment of contaminated scrap metal from the nuclear industry was officially opened by Phil Davies, Head of Waste and Nuclear Materials at the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and Malcolm Smith, Special Projects Director of Babcock Marine.

Active commissioning of the plant is planned for mid July when the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) will be requested to give the final consent for the receipt of contaminated metals onto the site.

President Mark Lyons described it as a 'hugely significant' step forward in implementing the UK's strategy for dealing with low-level radioactive waste. There is hundreds of thousands of tons of scrap metal arising from the decommissioning of UK nuclear sites waiting to be cleaned and recycled, he said not only will this drastically reduce the amount of low level waste going into the Low Level Waste Repository near Drigg, prolonging its life expectancy, but also salvage valuable metal for further industrial use'.

Chairman David Moore said: "As recent members of the WCSSG, I felt it was right and proper that I attended this event to see at first hand the new site and hear about its future operations. I think that Studsvik will make a valuable contribution in terms of the future strategy for Low Level Waste."

## WCSSG – New Website

Work is progressing with the re-vamping of the WCSSG website, with a prototype expected very soon. One of the new features will include a web alert, ensuring that members are informed whenever new material is loaded onto the site. Another feature will be that the website will be uploaded by our own secretariat rather than having to go through an outside body. Members will be alerted when the website is ready to launch.

## Low level waste sub-committee

The June LWR Sub Committee which is scheduled to meet on 10th June will feature presentations on the work of the LLW National Strategy Group, Sellafield Ltd's Low Level Waste Strategy, Waste Treatment and Segregation and Very Low Level Waste.

The Draft LLW National Strategy Document was launched for public consultation on Friday 5th June 2009 and over the next three months provides an opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the detail and provide feedback on the content. Copies of the strategy can be found on the NDA web site, [www.nda.gov.uk](http://www.nda.gov.uk) hard copies can be requested via e-mail [llwstrategy@nda.gov.uk](mailto:llwstrategy@nda.gov.uk)

Options for the disposal of very low level waste has been very topical during the past few months and members may have seen comments in the local press with a number of operators expressing an interest in pursuing this line of enquiry and more than one local site being identified as a possible option for VLLW. The debate is running and stakeholders can have their say by responding to the Draft LLW National Strategy.

# DECC consultation on long term management of the UK's civil separated plutonium

## - 21st May 09

Professor Steve Jones attended this meeting on behalf of WCSSG. DECC (Department of Energy and Climate Change) had invited separate representation from Allerdale, Copeland and Cumbria councils together with a range of other stakeholder organisations including the Nuclear Industry Association, the Nuclear Institute, NuLeaf, the Dounreay Site Stakeholder Group, the Isle of Man and Irish Governments, and environmental campaign organisations.

Attendees were given a presentation on the NDA's work on options for the management of separated plutonium, as discussed at earlier stakeholder meetings conducted by the NDA including the workshop held for WCSSG in October last year. The outcome of the NDA's work to date can be found at:

<http://www.nda.gov.uk/documents/upload/NDA-Plutonium-Topic-Strategy-Credible-Options-Summary-January-2009.pdf> ;

<http://www.nda.gov.uk/documents/upload/NDA-Plutonium-Topic-Strategy-Credible-Options-Technical-Summary-January-2009.pdf> ;

and:

<http://www.nda.gov.uk/documents/upload/NDA-Plutonium-Topic-Strategy-Credible-Options-Technical-Analysis-January-2009.pdf>

Views were then sought from attendees on whether any other options should be considered, what factors should be taken into account in judging the options, and whether stakeholders had firm views on an option or options that the Government should favour. In these discussions it was apparent that there were widely divergent views; some stakeholders strongly support re-use of plutonium as fuel, some have open minds, and some are strongly opposed to any re-use of this material. There was, however, some consensus that NDA has not yet done enough work on the options to support a sufficiently robust decision and that the work should be progressed with some urgency.

Attendees were asked whether at this stage Government should proceed to consultation having stated their preliminary view. The outcome of the meeting will be published on the DECC website in due course, but it appears likely that the outcome will be consultation on the process for stakeholder involvement in further evaluation of the options and final decision making.

# National stakeholder group chairs forum

Tuesday 16th June sees the fifth meeting of the National Stakeholder Group Chairs forum. David Moore Chairs this meeting and will be attending along with Elaine Woodburn, Shirley Williams and Rosina Robinson.

The agenda will cover amongst other things, the purpose and role of the National Stakeholder Group Chairs forum, discussions on whether the decommissioning sites will benefit financially from the sale of NDA land and other assets and feedback on £2.5 m socio-economic awards to Chapelcross.

Further feedback will be given in the next edition of the committee news

## Next Meetings

The next meeting of the WCSSG will be on Thursday 2nd July at the Sellafield Centre at Hall at 1400hrs.

The meeting will be utilised to hear progress from Sellafield Ltd on the work of the PAIS teams and to gain an understanding of what recommendations have been reached.

## Future Meetings

Tuesday 9 June	Commercial sub committee, Ennerdale Country House Hotel	1230 - 1530
Wednesday 10 June	Low Level Waste sub committee, Drigg Village Hall	1400 - 1600
Thursday 2nd July	WCSSG meeting Sellafield Centre	1400 – 1600
Tuesday 1 September	Socio economic sub committee, Ennerdale Country House Hotel	1300 - 1500



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