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MEMBERS of the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group (WCSSG) have been told about exciting plans for a major project at Sellafield.

The Evaporator D project, which is now well under way, will see large modules floated to the Sellafield site via the sea. This is the first time Sellafield has used the technique, which is common in the oil and gas industries.

Evaporator D is required to provide additional capacity to process highly active liquid waste. The project, which will cost £400 million overall, has been approved by the NDA.

Tom McClain, a URS secondee working for Sellafield Ltd on reachback, told the meeting of the plans to build modules off site and then install them into a building shell, which enables parallel working on construction and equipment fabrication.

A video simulation of the process was shown, and WCSSG members were impressed by the technique and by the fact that by using the sea to transport the modules there would be less pressure on the local road network.

The quarterly meeting, held at Cleator Moor Masonic Hall, heard that the first phase of construction work had started in May last year when the foundations were installed. The project is scheduled to be completed by July 2014 – but Tom said they were already ten months ahead of schedule.

“We will deliver it not later than July 2014 – but we are confident that we can actually deliver it sooner,” Tom said.

The meeting also heard an update from Ian Hudson and Brian Hough of the NDA on the organisation’s future and a document called strategy II, a draft of which will soon be out for consultation.

Members were reminded that the NDA, set up in 2005, was originally designed to support policy in the Energy Act 2004.

It has a statutory obligation to revisit its strategy every five years and the consultation on strategy II begins in September. Members of the WCSSG will be fully engaged in that consultation process and in helping to shape the future of the NDA.

WCSSG chairman David Moore said: “This meeting was reasonably well attended and those who came along enjoyed the Sellafield Ltd presentation on Evaporator D.

Engaging with the Community

Chairman Cllr. David Moore Vice Chairman Cllr. Elaine Woodburn
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“It was particularly interesting to see the computer generated video which showed the way the modules will be delivered to Sellafield, transported and then constructed in far more clarity than you can ever hope for when just explaining or using slides.

“I was also pleased to hear the NDA speak directly about Strategy II and I hope that as many people as possible will feed in their views because as communities we have a chance to shape what the NDA do for the next five years. It is a chance we should take, and WCSSG will certainly be doing all we can to influence it.”

ENDS

Engaging with the Community

Chairman Cllr. David Moore **Vice Chairman** Cllr. Elaine Woodburn
Secretary Shirley Williams