

# NEWS Committee

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March 2009

Welcome to the March issue of the Committee News. This is the eleventh 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).

In this issue is information about the resurgence in interest surrounding New Build, news on an updated WCSSG website and feedback from a workshop held on the NDA's Interim Storage Review.

## WCSSG Hosts New Build Event



On 18 March, the WCSSG hosted a public meeting for key stakeholders, members of the public and Site Stakeholder Group members to find out about the nomination process for new nuclear build sites. The event took place at the Civic Hall, Whitehaven and provided information on the nomination process for new nuclear build in West Cumbria. The Chairman said: "The people of West Cumbria showed how committed they are to being involved in the new build process, with over 300 people attending the two meetings. I was very impressed with the level of expertise and the quality of the questions from the audience".

# NDA Workshop on Interim Storage Review

In February the NDA held a workshop on its review of the interim storage of higher activity radioactive waste. Stewart Kemp kindly attended on behalf of the WCSSG and gave the following feedback -

The main aim of the NDA interim storage review was to demonstrate that existing storage is capable of, or can be made capable of, providing safe and secure storage for existing and projected ILW and HLW arisings for at least 100 years. The 100 years target was recommended to Government in 2007 by CoRWM, and subsequently accepted by Government, as a contingency against a geological disposal facility not being available before 2100.

The main aim of the workshop was to agree the review conclusions and map the way forward.

The agreed review conclusions will feed into the overall NDA strategy review and into NDA Research & Development strategy. (The Ministry of Defence is also developing strategy for their waste arisings to dovetail with NDA strategy review.)

There was a good deal of discussion throughout the day. The report conclusions that 100 year storage across NDA's estate is achievable was broadly accepted but many concerns were raised including:

- **The review gave insufficient priority to the need to condition and package raw wastes for interim storage. High hazard facilities must be dealt with first and the uncertainties about conditioning and packaging some waste streams needs to be understood.**
- **'Fit for purpose', not 'standardised' packaging is required.**
- **The review conclusions lacked a sense of urgency and do not say what decisions are required, and when, to condition and package, and to increase storage capacity or refurbish existing stores.**
- **NDA must not hide from Government the challenges and costs of ILW conditioning and storage. NDA needs a 'funding strategy' and make the case to Government early for additional funding to accelerate conditioning and packaging programmes.**
- **A separate briefing was required on the issues around site optimisation (e.g. when, where, and with what impacts) - (though one regulator at the meeting considered better progress would be made if NDA and SLCs simply concentrated on conditioning, packaging and storing using existing authorisations rather than developing new strategies that would require new authorisations)**
- **Insufficient consideration had been given to transport optimisation. Logistics for regional storage and transfers from storage locations to a future repository will be significant. This work needed moving into the transport 'topical strategy' within the overall NDA strategy review**
- **The NDA needed to incentivise site operators to work harder to implement Government policy on waste minimisation**
- **NDA needed to look at buffer storage requirements in their GDF designs**

Workshop facilitators will be producing a full report of the workshop by the end of March and NDA will circulate this to SSGs. Further information about the workshop, background papers and full draft interim storage review conclusion are available at: <http://www.nda.gov.uk/news/events/int-waste-storage.cfm>

# WCSSG – New Website

We are currently working on re-vamping the WCSSG website, hopefully you'll like what you see. The aim of the new website is to become a tool that WCSSG members will use more often and for members of the public to find out about the nuclear industry's West Cumbria sites.

## Next Meetings

The next meeting of the WCSSG will be on Thursday 2 April 2009 at Whitehaven Civic Hall at 1300hrs.

The meeting is a scrutiny meeting where reports are expected from site operators, regulators, the NDA and the sub committees.

## Future Meetings

Thursday 28 May	Environmental Health sub committee, Cleator Moor Civic & Masonic Centre	1300 - 1600
Tuesday 2 June	Socio economic sub committee, Ennerdale Country House Hotel	1300 - 1600
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



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