



West Cumbria Sites  
Stakeholder Group

# COMMUNITY AND PERCEPTION

David Moore

Chairman

West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group -  
WCSSG



- My name is David Moore, Chairman, WCSSG and Leader of the Opposition Group, Copeland Borough Council.
- Family has farmed in Seascale for generations

# Ernest Moore



- Windscale built to support armsrace.
- Cold War - information provided on 'need-to-know' basis
- Seascale had 250 people before site was built – soon grew to 2,500
- Land was bought under compulsory purchase
- So, some resentment and a huge change in lifestyle



- Queen opening Calder Hall Power Station
- Early example of spin: “electricity too cheap to meter” promises made
- Two communities: original village and incomers
- Growing distrust because scientists did not communicate about their jobs or how the nuclear plant worked



- Windscale fire - 1957
- Grandad only found out 3 days after fire
- Created huge distrust
- Communications on a “need to know” basis only
- No mechanism for engagement or communication between site management and community



- Slide shows – Thorp under construction
- 60's and 70's: Nuclear workers became part of community so trust improved.
- However, there was no credible, formal communications mechanism until the Sellafield Local Liaison Committee was established as a result of the Parker Inquiry.
- Independent Chairman, Billy Minto set standards for openness and scrutiny.
- Now formed into the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group - 2005

**A-plant cloud hangs over  
the holiday**

**Fears for children on  
atom scare beaches**

WN.26-4-84

**Atom levels fall  
but Whitehall  
beach ban stays**

- 1983 Beach incident: major impact on community confidence.
- Fears for tourism industry.
- Headlines in all the newspapers.
- Community very disappointed that BNFL didn't act quickly enough to restore confidence



**Beach pollution and  
BNFL publicity**

**Atom leak  
threat to  
fish contest**

- Throughout the 80's there were a series of headline –grabbing events
- Leukaemia scares; Chernobyl, Windscale the Nuclear Laundry
- We felt as though the anti-nuclear lobby was making progress at the expense of our community's reputation.



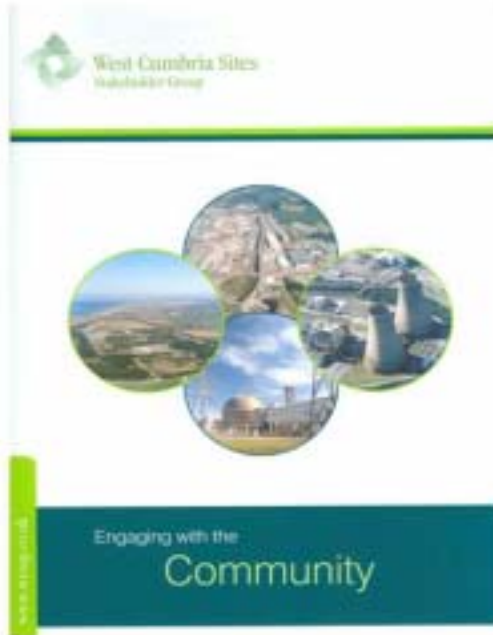
- BNFL did at last respond effectively.
- Launched their policy of openness and transparency
- Opened the Sellafield Visitors Centre in 1988
- Used TV ads to invite the public to come and see for themselves



Intelligent nuclear clean-up

- Throughout the 90's, BNFL developed its communications programmes and placed greater emphasis on providing information to the public.
- BNFL National Stakeholder Dialogue started to bring stakeholders into the decision making process

# West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group website and Sellafield Ltd website



- The site now has an extensive programme of community engagement, consultations and interactive dialogue.
- Both Sellafield Ltd and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) engage regularly with the community.
- Indeed the industry is now very much at the heart of our community



- The industry has come a long way in its relationship with local communities.
- We now have a policy of no surprises.
- We can scrutinise lifetime plans and input into strategic decisions
- A lot of this is achieved through the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group – evolved from the SLLC in 2005

**Sellafield Ltd Consultations Schedule 2007/08**

SUBJECT	BUSINESS GROUP	NOTES	CONSULTATION PERIOD
<b>Integrated wastes strategy</b>	Strategy and Integration	Follows from Integrated Strategy for Sellafield (consultation Jan 2006). Workshop output to be appended to V2. Full consultation output to be analysed and fed into V3.	Consultation 3 May to 3 August 2007. Workshop 5 June 2007. Report published on <a href="http://www.Sellafieldsites.com">www.Sellafieldsites.com</a> Nov 2007
<b>PCMBPEO (to include inter-site transfers)</b>	ND&MPG	Joint BNGSL/UKAEA issued 3 January 2007 inviting participation by West Cumbria and Harwell communities in two separate consultations: 1. Harwell PCM to be considered as part of Harwell Site Waste BPEO 2. Sellafield PCM BPEO on current and future risings of PCM at Sellafield. Will raise questions on impact of wastes from other sites, so testing sensitivities on inter-site transfers Results from both consultations to be delivered to NDA to underpin business decision on PCM.	1. Harwell wastes phase 1 complete. Stage 2 consultation Oct 2007 to 11 Jan 2008 - workshop 29 Nov 2007, Chilton. 2. Sellafield PCM consultation period end-Feb to mid-May 2007. Workshop 16 May 2007. Report published on <a href="http://www.Sellafieldsites.com">www.Sellafieldsites.com</a>
<b>Sellafield Low level and exempt wastes</b>	Nuclear Decommissioning and Major Projects Group (ND&MPG)	Following agreement at local stakeholder symposia on 14 Dec 2006 - stakeholder engagement on 5 key waste streams see next column). Separate workshops for Sellafield Ltd employees. Presentations for Cumbria CC, Copeland BC, Allerdale BC and Isle of Man Govt.	2 November 2007 Oil 21 November 2007 Metal 10 Dec 2007 Process Wastes Asbestos 21 Jan 2008 HVLLW 11 Feb 2008
<b>Contaminated land</b>	ND&MPG	Sellafield contaminated land and groundwater management programme began in July 2007 to characterise Central (Separation) area and develop conceptual and numeric models. Consultation will follow this 2 year programme, although engagement with key stakeholders will continue throughout. Future programmes will characterise remainder of site.	Initial presentations Cumbria NWG 5 March, Copeland NWG, 15 March, Allerdale NITG 29 March. Formal consultation ~2009 but continuing engagement throughout.

- In fact, its ironic that in the early days the community knew nothing that was going on.
- Now there is an expectation that we are involved in the wide ranging decisions
- While I welcome this, it does put a huge burden on communities such as ours perhaps the next step should be greater discrimination about which decisions should be subject to consultation.
- A better understanding of the forward plan of key decisions would help us all use our time more effectively and play a more responsible role in deciding the future of the industry.