Sellafield & Windscale Information for Decommissioning Sub Committee Report

Safety and Performance Information

At the end of period 5

- The Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) for Windscale is 0.21. The equivalent TRIR rate for Sellafield Nuclear Decommissioning Group (ND&MPG) is 0.46. Both figures are well below the NDAs amber limit of 0.75.

The incident rates take account of the number of man-hours worked and therefore are a reasonable comparator of organisations of differing sizes e.g. Windscale ~ 300 people, Sellafield ND&MPG ~ 2300 people)

- At Windscale there have been no Lost Time Accidents (LTAs) – of 3 days or more (i.e. RIDDOR Reportable). There has been one LTA in the year to date in ND&MPG.

- At Windscale there have been no Days Away Cases (DACs). In ND&MPG there have been four DACs.

- There have been no events at Windscale. Within ND&MPG, there have been four SIRs (SIRs are the Sellafield Ltd. equivalent of Windscale events).

- At Windscale, 169 days have passed since the last event. It is 14 days since the last SIR was raised in ND&MPG

- At Windscale, 94 days have passed since the last Lost Time Accident (LTA). It is 137 days since the last LTA in ND&MPG.

For Windscale, at the end of period 4, the Scheduled and Cost Performance Index figures are as follows:

- SPI = 0.99
- CPI = 1.24

(Period 5 figures are not yet available)

For ND&MPG, at the end of period 5, the equivalent figures are:

- SPI = 0.99
- CPI = 1.02

Key Project Activities completed in this financial year:

- Operational Safety - The Windscale Senior Management Team have undergone World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) Task Observation Training. The team are committed to a programme of safety observations on site to ensure a consistent and best practice approach to safety at Windscale.

- Following successful trials on a mock-up of the manipulator-held torch, the Project Team has completed the removal of the gas baffle in the Windscale Advanced Gas cooled Reactor (WAGR) – This phase of the project has been completed 8 months ahead of schedule resulting in substantial efficiency savings and the achievement of a Performance Based Incentive (PBI).

- Refurbishment and upgrade work to the Active Handling Facility is progressing well in line with the programme. A funding change proposal for an additional £5m of funding for upgrade work in the Active Handling Facility was submitted and subsequently approved by the NDA. A strategic plan has been developed for the facility to ensure that all management and operational requirements are interlinked.

- Work on the Windscale Piles Project is progressing well, with effort being put into design verification and documentation production. Work on the Fuel Channel Retrieval Tool (FCRT) (which will be used to remove the remaining fuel and isotopes in Pile 1), is progressing well with component parts being tested and selected.

  Bore hole operations have commenced in Pile 1 to characterise the land.

- ISO14001 (Environmental Quality Standard) has been obtained through an LRQA audit. The audit found that Windscale Site had demonstrated that mature management arrangements continue to be maintained and routinely Implemented.

- There are currently 32 active decommissioning projects within the Sellafield ND&MPG portfolio (excluding the legacy ponds and silos area)

- In the first generation Magnox Reprocessing plant, an innovative decontamination method involving the use of a “fogging” agent has recently been deployed in the High Active South Cell. Early indications suggest this has had a significant impact on airborne contamination levels and opens up other options for full decommissioning

- Recent trials undertaken in America with Sellafield Decommissioning personnel in attendance have demonstrated real potential for using Ultra High Pressure Liquid Nitrogen as a means of decontaminating heavily contaminated concrete and steel structures. This is currently being considered as an option for the inside of the Pile 1 chimney. The real benefit of the technique is the elimination of secondary waste generation and simple waste packaging processes.

- Construction of the new Encapsulated Product Drum store (South End of site where the tower cranes can be seen) continues at a pace. The project recently poured 1400 m3 of concrete in a single day

- The Gantry Refurbishment System in the first generation Magnox Fuel storage pond has recently been commissioned and put into operation. This allows engineering inspections

and repairs to be undertaken to the main pond crane rails. This is a forerunner to re-commissioning the pond crane which in turn is critical to pond waste retrievals.