

**CALDER HALL SUB-COMMITTEE (CHSC) MEETING**

**MEETING REFERENCE 07/M04**

**DATE:** Wednesday 15 August 2007

**PRESENT:**

Cllr Norman Clarkson	-	Cumbria County Council (Chairman)
Mr David Davies	-	Copeland Borough Council ( <i>replacing Frank Duffy</i> )
Mr Terry Benest	-	UKAEA
Mr Paul Brennan	-	Sellafield Ltd, Calder Hall
Mr Phil Campbell	-	Sellafield Ltd, Calder Hall
Mr Ranald Stewart	-	Ponsonby Parish Council
Mr Martin Grey	-	NDA
Mr Stephen Tandy	-	Environment Agency
Mr Stewart Kemp	-	Nuclear Issues Manager, Cumbria County Council ( <i>representing Mrs Sue Brett</i> )
Mr David Moore	-	Chairman, WCSSG
Mrs Gill Marsden	-	Sellafield Ltd, ND&MPG – Agenda Item 10
Mrs Dawn Pickup	-	Sellafield Ltd, Calder Hall (Secretary)

**APOLOGIES:**

Mrs Sue Brett	-	Environment Unit, Cumbria County Council
Mr David Mason	-	Sellafield Ltd
Cllr Elaine Woodburn	-	Copeland Borough Council
Mr Joe Murdock	-	GMB Union, Sellafield Ltd
Mr Frank Duffy	-	Copeland Borough Council
Mr Rob Waters	-	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Cllr Carni McCarron-Holmes	-	Allerdale Borough Council
Mr Craig Lory	-	Cumbria Constabulary

## **MINUTES**

### **1 CHAIRMAN's OPENING REMARKS**

The Chairman welcomed the members and observers to the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group – Calder Hall Sub-Committee (WCSSG-CHSC).

Mrs Gill Marsden was welcomed to the meeting. She was attending the meeting to report on Cooling Tower Demolition – Agenda Item 10.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Stewart Kemp, who was attending on behalf of Mrs Sue Brett and Mr David Davies who is replacing Frank Duffy on the Calder Hall Sub-Committee.

### **2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Members as stated above.

### **3 REVIEW MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2007**

The Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

### **4 REVIEW ACTIONS OF MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2007**

All Actions from the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting are complete and there are no outstanding issues.

### **5 CALDER HALL UPDATE**

The Chairman invited Mr Campbell to address the Committee. Mr Campbell's presentation covered the following topics:

- Safety Performance
  - Conventional
  - Nuclear
  - Environmental
- Work Undertaken Since Last Meeting (February 2007 to July 2007)
- Business Performance 2006/7
- Business Performance 2007/8 – to date
- Look Ahead

The Chairman thanked Mr Campbell for his overview presentation.

The Chairman asked for clarification on the contractor who had twisted his ankle, had he been wearing his own safety shoes or shoes that had been supplied by his contractor. Mr Campbell confirmed he had been wearing his own safety shoes and this issue would be taken forward with the contractor concerned.

The Chairman then went on to congratulate Mr Brennan, his team and workforce for them not having any injuries for 15 months resulting in lost time.

## **6 CALDER HALL DECOMMISSIONING OVERVIEW and LIFETIME PLAN – 2008/9 (Agenda Item 8)**

The Chairman invited Mr Brennan to address the Committee.

Mr Brennan combined Agenda Item 6 and Agenda Item 8 due the recent announcements at Calder Hall. His presentation covered:

- Calder Hall 2007 Lifetime Plan
- Assessment of Funding Prioritisation and the Impact of MOP8 at Calder Hall

### **ACTION 1 - The Secretary to distribute a copy of Mr Brennan's presentation slides with the Minutes.**

Mr Brennan explained that Calder Hall has been working towards Lifetime Plan 2007 which is a parallel programme of decommissioning and defuelling, taking Calder Hall to 2015, when Calder Hall would have achieved reactor Safestores status. This would then be followed by a period of care and maintenance ahead of site clearance. However, after careful consideration of several factors, specifically project and defuelling schedules and the regulatory position on both of these, together with the ongoing need to prioritise funds to higher hazard projects on the Sellafield site, it has been decided that work on the decommissioning of Calder Hall will be substantially reduced by the end of this financial year. This situation will exist for a few years and enable other higher hazard projects, across the Sellafield Site, to be funded and delivered.

Calder Hall now have a provisional start date of 2012 for defuelling to commence. The overall plan for the next few years, therefore, is to keep the Calder Hall reactors as passive fuel stores. The fuel, whilst held in the reactors, is effectively in a Safestore and it is, in the interim, the safest place to store the fuel pending final

defuelling and reprocessing.

Mr Brennan went on to say that this suspension in the defuelling and decommissioning programme for a few years would have a consequential delay on the achievement of reactor Safestores for the Care & Maintenance period.

Mr Benest asked if it was the intention to shorten the care and maintenance period so that the date for final site clearance remains the same.

Mr Brennan agreed that this was correct. The overall lifecycle baseline timescale for Calder Hall does not change as a result of this proposal.

Mr Stewart asked what this meant in terms of cost and employee numbers for Calder Hall.

Mr Brennan responded by saying that in terms of cost, there will be significantly less money spent on the Calder Hall site in the next few years. However, the funding for Sellafield Ltd is not affected, therefore, the funding that is not used at Calder Hall will be re-used elsewhere on the Sellafield Site. There will be no net saving as it is simply managing the funding situation and prioritising the workload accordingly.

Mr Brennan then went on to explain that in terms of the employees this was a very positive picture in that the work has been prioritized across the Sellafield Site in line with risk, creating opportunities for work on the high priority projects. For example, the asbestos strip is classed as high priority and our partner organization, Hertel, will continue working to its completion in another two years time. In terms of the rest of the employees, Calder Hall management are at present working on a plan to redeploy the workforce, in line with a skills match, to other opportunities across the Sellafield Site.

Mr Stewart enquired that if any under-spending, ie savings in budgeted finance, would this be spent on the Sellafield Site.

Mr Brennan replied that this was correct.

Mr Stewart then went on to ask if discussions had taken place on any funding saved being spent at other sites, for example Winfrith or Harwell, for accelerating their decommissioning programmes.

Mr Grey replied that this decision as to whether funding can be moved from one site



to another was within the NDA domain as this could result in money literally being moved from one organisation to another within the NDA portfolio. He then went on to explain that whilst the funding looked to be ring-fenced for Calder Hall the money is actually supplied to the Site Licence Company, of which Calder Hall is part. Therefore, there is no difference in the supply of funding it is just being re-allocated to higher priority work within the Sellafield Site. If there was a requirement to re-allocate funds to another site in the NDA portfolio this would be done on a prioritised basis.

Mr Moore said he welcomed the comment from the NDA that the £35m is safe as this must remain on the Sellafield Site and this is a strong message that must go back to the NDA. If there was a saving on the Sellafield Site it has to go back to the Sellafield Site and there should be no intention from the NDA to reduce the site budget because of the reduction in work at Calder Hall. Mr Moore reported that, in his capacity as Chairman of West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group, he had written to Dr Roxburgh of NDA concerning stakeholder group involvement in the allocation of funding between sites, stressing that the WCSSG is primarily concerned with the running of the West Cumbria Sites.

**ACTION 2 - Mr Moore to forward a copy of his letter to Dr Roxburgh to the CHSC Secretary for distribution to Mr Clarkson and Mr Stewart.**

Mr Davies asked Mr Brennan if there was a risk of losing any key skills specific to Calder Hall during the reallocation of staff.

Mr Brennan's response was yes and it was a key feature of the Management of Change assessment that was being put together. He went on to say that it was now intended that the Calder Hall workforce will align with Magnox Operations. This will provide a good home for the workforce and enable a degree of skills to be maintained. Also, consideration is already being given to how to finally de-fuel Calder Hall and the indicative time-scales do align with the Magnox Operations Lifetime Plan such that there will be opportunity for the workforce to be deployed on both fronts. Mr Brennan then went on to talk about knowledge retention and the need to have residual staff at Calder Hall who will be the "intelligent customer" for defuelling and other activities relating to Calder Hall.

Mr Grey added that he felt that the management team was working to see what options were available to the Calder Hall site and the NDA portfolio to address the risks that were being faced. Whilst there is not yet a defined plan, there was a range of options available to the operators and contractors to mitigate the risks involved.

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Mr Benest asked if there was going to be any redundancies.

Mr Brennan replied that he did not envisage any redundancies as a result of this proposal. In fact, it was the opposite, the skills matching exercise that was taking place at present includes the whole of Calder Hall workforce, not just Sellafield Ltd employees.

The Chairman stressed that he knew Mr Brennan was working hard towards redeploying the workforce. He went on to enquire about the movement of funding on the Sellafield Site.

Mr Grey replied that the decision on the movement of money, to be spent, was clearly with the Site Licence Company. They are the ones who are provided with a budget from the NDA and they decide where that money is being spent on the basis of agreed prioritisation criteria.

The Chairman asked if a bid for extra funding could be made to the DTI for the Sellafield Site.

Mr Grey said that he did not have the relevant information to talk about the Sellafield Site as a whole but what he could say was that Dr Roxburgh has been forthright in saying that there is no more money available from the DTI. The NDA have been provisioned with a budget for this year. The budget for the next two years is still in the process of being ratified, this being due in October, following the ratification of the comprehensive spending review through Parliament.

Mr Moore emphasised that Stakeholder Groups and Local Authorities can still continue to lobby Government to provide NDA with more resources because of the risks the Stakeholders perceive on the Sellafield Site. Mr Moore then asked Mr Brennan what the view of Regulators and the Unions was on this issue.

Mr Brennan stated he had held a meeting with the Trade Unions on Friday 10 August 2007, ahead of the workforce brief, and they took reassurance that a redeployment plan was in place and that thought had also been given at the optioneering stage around demonstrating that the reactors could be configured as Safestores for the fuel and that there would be no increased risk to the site. He added that, in terms of the Regulators as soon as the facts came to light, the NII had been engaged in discussions, principally to talk through potential options for Calder Hall. Clearly, they had been supportive of a parallel programme of defuelling and decommissioning

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when the timescales for defuelling had been imminent. They are now consistent in their views that there are higher priorities for defuelling at other reactor sites and higher priorities for decommissioning elsewhere on the Sellafield site.

Mr Grey thought it was worth mentioning at this point the level of funding to Sellafield. The first years funding from NDA for the Sellafield portfolio had been just in excess of £1.05b. This has been increased by more than 20% to the funding for the Sellafield portfolio this year which is £1.25b. There is no indication that the funding has been reduced to the Sellafield Site.

Mr Moore asked if it would be fair to say that there is a reduction in the amount of funds available for decommissioning due to the fact that income from Thorp and Mox was not available.

Mr Grey said this was correct but that the situation is more complex. There are two factors as NDA see it – firstly, the income stream being reduced and secondly the fact that Sellafield Ltd had initially produced an over ambitious programme for the funding that was actually available.

Mr Stewart stated it was his understanding that funding has now been promised for the next three years and he hoped that there will not be another issue like last year when the finance did not come through until the middle of March 2007.

Mr Grey stated that funding could not be confirmed until October this year.

Mr Stewart said he just could not understand how work could be prioritised if you do not know whether the money is going to be available or not.

Mr Grey stated that the decision of where and when the work is done is down to the Site Licence Company. The NDA are the provider of the budget and they oversee the provision of the delivery of that work as defined by the SLC in the Lifetime Plan.

Mr Stewart asked what would happen if the money was not forthcoming in October.

Mr Grey stated that it was up to the Site Licence Company to decide how the work was prioritised to meet any budget constraints.

Mr Benest stated for clarity that it would be the Government who would dictate the overall budget constraint in October, not NDA.

Mr Moore stated it is expected to be a 3 year settlement when it is announced in October.

Mr Brennan closed out his presentation by summarising the workscope that will now take place at Calder Hall in the near term, ie:

- To continue the installation of the modified fuel routes on Reactor 2 and Reactor 1, (Reactor 3 and Reactor 4 are now complete),
- To complete the waste characterisation for the control rod legacy waste store.
- To complete the asbestos removal project which will run until 2009/10
- To complete the cooling tower demolition.

Beyond this, the essential plant maintenance that is required to confirm that the fuel remains in a passive and safe state will continue as will any asset care that is required to keep the infrastructure at Calder Hall in appropriate order.

Mr Davies enquired as to what impact this would have on the supply chain.

Mr Brennan responded by saying that although several projects would be closed down, only one supply chain contract will be prematurely terminated; the project led by Nukem to remove the heat exchangers. This was a pilot project that was to have been carried out on behalf of the Magnox reactor fleet. An early conservative decision has been taken to terminate this project so that the plant can be returned to a known and safe state and imminent sub-contracts could be cancelled before being placed.

## 7 UPDATE FROM NDA

Mr Grey, through the meeting Secretary, had already forwarded an advanced copy of the NDA Report for Calder Hall Sub-Committee of WCSSG – 9<sup>th</sup> August before the meeting. This covered the following topics:

- Safety and Environment
- Programme
  - 2006/07 Schedule
  - 2007/08 Schedule
  - 2006/07 Budget
  - 2007/08 Budget
- Risk Management
- Regulator, Site and NDA
- NDA
- English Heritage and Site Preservation

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



➤ Review of WCSSG Calder Sub-Committee

The Committee took Mr Grey's report as read. The Chairman thanked Mr Grey for his update and asked the Committee members if there were any questions.

Mr Stewart asked Mr Grey to enlarge on the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence under NDA, on page 3.

Mr Grey commented that prior to Calder Hall submitting their Lifetime Plan to the NDA, NDA go through a process of reviewing the quality of that Plan on the basis of how it is put together, how it is linked together, what it includes and how good the estimates are. This is quite a detailed assessment and has been done each year since 2005. The NDA have noticed a yearly improvement but the last submission represented a step change in improvement. It had all come together a lot better than previously and he wanted to recognise that improvement.

Mr Stewart also asked for clarification on the paragraph under "Review of WCSSG Calder Sub Committee" – page 3.

Mr More responded on this stating that he had held a meeting with Mr Grey and Mr Clarkson looking at a review of all of the WCSSG Sub-Committees. He intends to submit a paper to the main WCSSG in October 2007 proposing a way forward. He thinks it will probably be recommending changing the Sub-Committee remits to cover issues such as commercial, decommissioning, socio-economics etc.

Mr Grey stated he welcomed Mr Moore's paper.

**8 LIFETIME PLAN – 2008/9**

Mr Brennan covered this Agenda item as part of Agenda Item 6.

**9 UPDATE ON POTENTIAL LISTING OF REACTOR 1 AND TURBINE HALL 'A'**

Mr Grey expanded on this paragraph in his report by saying that the original application to list a Reactor and a Turbine Hall had also included a Cooling Tower. English Heritage have now agreed that it is not appropriate to retain a cooling tower within the application.

The NDA commissioned a feasibility study to consider potential uses for a reactor building and turbine hall if they became listed, for example as 'museums'. This was



concluded not very long ago and the results were presented to the NDA Business Management Board (BMB). The decision from the BMB was not to support the preservation of Calder Hall after considering all the factors in the assessment, eg benefit, cost etc. The BMB therefore made the decision to oppose the listing of a Reactor and a Turbine Hall. The NDA are using the findings from the feasibility study to prepare their response to the application.

Mr Moore said he was a little disappointed in the fact that this was the first he knew about what the decision of the Board had been. He had been a consultee for the feasibility study. He felt it would have been useful to communicate this out to those people who were consultees. David Davies also seconded Mr Moore's comments.

**ACTION 3 - Mr Grey to take these comments back to the NDA.**

Mr Moore also asked that if English Heritage decided to put a listing on the buildings, would the responsibility go back to the NDA to keep that building in a safe and secure manner so that it would be preserved in the way that it is being kept at the moment.

Mr Grey said he felt it was safe to say that this would be the subject of discussions between the NDA, English Heritage and Calder Hall. In principle the decision to maintain the reactors as fuel stores in the interim would keep them in the same state over the next few years as they would be under listed status.

Mr Moore sought clarification on whether we now consider Calder Hall as a waste store.

Mr Grey replied saying that this depended on how you classified the fuel in the reactors. At present the Government policy is that after the fuel is reprocessed, the main part of the residues (97%) are considered to be strategic reserves. It is not therefore appropriate to say that the reactors be considered as a waste stores – they are fuel stores.

The Chairman asked if any costings had been done of the potential listings if a reactor and turbine hall was to be preserved.

Mr Grey said the costings are in the feasibility study. Some of the elements may be may not be appropriate to listing but the indicative figures that went into the feasibility study was a lifetime cost at a current value of £128m. The majority of this would have been spent in the early phases in making the facilities suitable and

available to public access. Listing does not demand “available for visit” so it would then be a debate as to what condition they would be preserved in if the listing application was supported by English Heritage.

The Chairman asked who did the assessment. Mr Grey stated this assessment was carried out by Atkins.

Mr Moore said we should not lose sight of this topic if English Heritage decline to list anything. The WCSSG should keep this open so they can come back at a later date.

The Chairman asked Mr Grey to keep himself, Mr Stewart and Mr Moore informed of what is happening on the preservation situation.

**ACTION 4 - Mr Grey to keep Mr Clarkson, Mr Stewart and Mr Moore informed on the preservation situation.**

Mr Kemp asked if the feasibility study was available publicly. Mr Grey said he was sure it was in the public domain but he would find out and respond to Mr Kemp.

**ACTION 5 - Mr Grey to confirm whether the Feasibility Study is still in the public domain and respond to Mr Kemp accordingly.**

## 10 COOLING TOWER DEMOLITION

Mrs Gill Marsden addressed the meeting to provide an update on the Cooling Tower Demolition project, in particular the test blast that was held on Saturday 11 August 2007. This covered the following topics:

- Shell protection before test blast
- Shell after blast following removal of the protection
- Leg before blast
- Leg post blast

Mrs Marsden went on to explain that a test blast was always carried out as standard practice by all demolition contractors. This enables the contractor to know how much explosive is needed to be used and where to put it so that a successful demolition can be obtained. Also, the opportunity was taken at the test blast to rehearse all arrangements for the demolition day, eg Regulators (NII) being present, Site Inspection teams on hand, command and control and exclusion zones. All these

arrangements went very well and the Regulators and Site Inspectors were more than happy.

She then went on to say that the results from the test blast are now being reviewed and evaluated prior to the NII granting the Licence Instrument to allow the final demolition of the four cooling towers.

Mr Tandy asked about the status of the BPM statement for the cooling tower demolition. Mrs Marsden said Andrew North would be sending this to him directly and all the changes Mr Tandy had asked for had been incorporated in the document.

#### **11 ISSUES OF CONCERN FOR LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS**

The Chairman stated that there were no pressing issues and those that had been discussed would be detailed in the Minutes.

#### **12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business raised.

#### **13 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 20 February 2008, commencing 1400 hours, at the Ennerdale Country House Hotel, Cleator.

The meeting concluded at 1515 hours.

#### **6 September 2007**

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