

West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group (WCSSG)

Community Engagement Co-ordinating Sub-committee

Minutes from the second Meeting of the Community Engagement Co-ordinating Sub-committee held on the 24th June 2005 at the Copeland Centre.

1 Welcome and apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Elaine Woodburn (Copeland Borough Council, Chair)
Mr Tony Bishop (UKAEA)
Mr Peter Clarke (British Nuclear Group)
Mr Phil Hallington (British Nuclear Group)
Mr Ron Hargreaves (6 Parish Councils)
Rev John Hetherington (Cumbria County Council)
Prof Steve Jones (Westlakes Research Institute)
Mr John Knox (Westlakes Renaissance)
Mr Fergus McMorro (Copeland Borough Council)

Ms Shirley Williams (British Nuclear Group, Secretary)

Apologies received: Mr R Roper, Mr K Thompson, Ms S Brown, Mr P McKenna, Cllr C McCarron-Holmes, Mr P Kane, Mrs F Wilson.
Watching brief: Mr G Williams (NII), Mr A Mayell (Environment Agency).

2 Ratification of minutes from previous meeting

Minutes from previous meeting (2) were ratified, with one amendment (item 7: change May 24th to June 24th).

3 Actions from previous Community Engagement Co-ordinating Sub-committee held on the 27th May 2005. meeting (2)

Action 2.1 - A.Mac to amalgamate comments and re-circulate for final review by members prior to ratification at the next meeting. Final comments to be received by A.Mac by the 20th June 2005.
Action complete. See agenda item 4.

Action 2.2 - The chairman requested an official letter of thanks be drafted to send Alan Whittaker to recognise his efforts over the months. (EW/A.Mac)
Action complete.

Action 2.3 - Letters inviting core members to become involved in the CECSG to be drafted by the secretariat, to be circulated prior to the next meeting for comment and agreement.
Action complete. See agenda item 5.

Action 2.4 - John Hetherington to provide to British Nuclear Group, Sellafield secretariat regarding his views on web-site design for the WCSSG.

Action 2.5 - Shirley Williams to co-ordinate the CECSC's suggestions for the WCSSG mechanism of the consultation process. Provide an update of the development of the WCSSG web-site for individual comment and discussion at the next meeting.

Agenda item 7,

Action 2.6 - A.Mac to identify if a report exists to show progress on the 4 NTWP's and its location.

No such report exists in a suitable format for the requirements of the WCSSG. Phil Hallington and Tony Bishop agreed to meet in order to develop a common approach (Action 3.1).

Action 2.7 - Shirley Williams to circulate clarified single issue topics that have been identified as topics for consultation. To be circulated prior to the next meeting.

The topics agreed to date are i) site end points; ii) integrated waste (British Nuclear Group and UKAEA); iii) AGR fuel. The next meeting of the WCSSG on 7th July would be used to draw further topics from the general public.

Action 2.8 - Steve Jones and Ron Hargreaves to progress setting the question for the site end points framework document to be circulated prior to the next meeting.

Action 2.9 - Site end points framework document to be ready for comment at the next meeting on the 24th June.

Action complete: see agenda item 7.

4. Review and ratification of the Terms of Reference

Members received the ToR for comment and further discussion. Comments focussed primarily on the nomination process for parish council representatives. It had been suggested that the Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) nominate representatives. However, Ron Hargreaves felt strongly that this reduced the opportunity for local parishes to obtain representation. He argued that the original SLLC had included Six Parish Council members in recognition of their role in representing the communities immediately adjacent to the nuclear facilities.

It was agreed that CALC should be asked to nominate members, but bearing in mind the role of the Six Parish Council group.

A number of amendments were made (see attached), subject to which the Terms of Reference were ratified.

5. Letters of invitation

The attached letters were agreed.

Action 3.2: SW to send appropriate letter to the organisations outlined in the core membership list.

6. Advertising meetings

SW proposed that the current media advertising process was not cost effective. Given that the WCSSG meetings were being established on set days, an annual calendar of events could be produced and advertised via websites, local media etc. A laminated version could be made available in public spaces such as council offices, libraries etc.

Media (both advertising and editorial) will be used to raise interest and participation in the single issue process.

Action 3.3: SW to produce an annual calendar in format suitable for distribution in various media.

7. Site end points

The committee thanked Steve Jones and Ron Hargreaves for their work in developing the framework document (although Ron added that most of the work was Steve's).

The group discussed whether site end points was the appropriate term for the subject, and advocated the alternative, "Future of Sellafield". They debated what the key question the public would be asked to comment on, or contribute to. Key comments were:

- The concept of end points is built into the NDA's thinking and is therefore a valid point of discussion
- Key choices need to be made, but these are difficult to deal with now whilst a number of policy decisions are outstanding
- Using 2150 as a nominal end date distorts discussion, it would be better to look at the next 50 years
- Key factor is to understand what the community wants to see in 50 years (1 man and a dog? Large waste store? Working production site?)

It was agreed that the single issue process on this subject should be:

1. Circulate invitations to participate with appropriate background information
2. Convene a workshop(s) using independent facilitation
3. Give participants a general background briefing
4. Gain an understanding of what the community believes to be the key issues (e.g. what does the current generation feel about impact on future generations? What are the key national policy decisions that are required?).

Output from the workshop(s) should take the form of a report to be submitted to the WCSSG and circulated (e.g. to the NDA, CORWM, and available on the website). It was agreed that output would not necessarily set policy, but that a realistic objective would be to a reference to the conclusions in the next iteration of the relevant LCBLs.

The group felt that the process could be deemed a success if it succeeded in teasing out policy/ issue strands, and obtained a clear view of the community's priorities for early decision making on issues.

Design of the first workshop should be led by an independent facilitator, supported by members of the committee (Steve Jones, Peter Clarke and John Hetherington volunteered).

Action 3.4: SW to circulate dates for discussion session.

The committee decided that the framework document would need to be revised to reflect discussions, and Steve Jones, Tony Bishop and Phil Hallington agreed to carry out this work. Fergus McMorrow volunteered Copeland Borough Council's new Head of Sustainability and Nuclear Policy, David Davies.

Action 3.5: The above to send their availability to SW in order to arrange a meeting.

8. Any other business

Members of the public attending the Environmental Health Sub-committee commented on the amount of data that may be required by those wishing to prepare for engagement on issues. This may not be possible using the website alone. It was agreed that a public facility would improve accessibility to the local community, and that it should be located on or near the site. The Visitors' Centre would fulfil these criteria, with the additional advantage of having staff available to advise the public.

Action 3.6: SW to explore the potential for a WCSSG drop-in centre at the Visitors' Centre.

Summary of Actions

Action 3.1 – PH and to develop a common approach to reporting progress against NTWPs.

Action 3.2 – SW to send appropriate letter to the organisations outlined in the core membership list.

Action 3.3 - SW to produce an annual calendar in format suitable for distribution in various media.

Action 3.4 - SW to circulate dates for discussion session.

Action 3.5 – The above to send their availability to SW in order to arrange a meeting.

Action 3.6 – SW to explore the potential for a WCSSG drop-in centre at the Visitors' Centre.