

West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group

Notes from meeting of the Low Level Waste Repository Sub-committee

14 December 2005

Attendees:

Mr David Anderson	British Nuclear Group
Cllr Sue Brown	Cumbria County Council
Cllr David Cook	Drigg and Carleton Parish Council
Cllr Adrian Dalton	Drigg and Carleton Parish Council
Mr David Davies	Copeland Borough Council
Miss Emma Dobinson	British Nuclear Group
Mr David Ferguson	Environment Agency
Mr James Fisher	British Nuclear Group
Mr Geoff Grint	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Mr John Hetherington	Cumbria County Council
Mr James Millington	British Nuclear Group
Cllr Kneale Thompson	Drigg and Carleton Parish Council
Mr Dave Weatherburn	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Observers:

Mr Mike Barks	Washington Group
Mr Nick Steciuk	Washington Group
Mr David Millington	Drigg Resident
Mrs Marjorie Higham	Drigg Resident

Welcome/Introductions

Cllr Sue Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting and took the opportunity for everyone around the table to introduce themselves.

Apologies were received from Cllr David Moore, Cllr Eileen Eastwood, Cllr Elaine Woodburn and Mr Mike Kopp.

The note from the LLW sub-committee meeting in September was passed as an accurate record

Transport and modular vaults

Mr Anderson gave a presentation to the committee on the transport and modular vaults project at the Low Level Waste Repository.

The presentation covered:

- Bulk Material Handling and External Transport
- Key quantities of material involved in the construction of Vault 9

- Key quantities of material involved in the capping of all vaults up to 2067
- Programme to extend the railhead and create a buffer store
- ‘Holistic’ planning application for Vault 9.

A full copy of the presentation is available for information.

Mrs Higham asked the committee to clarify how much material would be brought to the repository by road and how much by rail. Although it was not possible to confirm the amounts at this stage a commitment was made to provide this information at the next sub-committee meeting in March.

Action: Provide information on how much material for the construction of Vault 9 and the capping project will be brought by rail/road.

The Committee split into two groups to discuss the presentation and provide their initial feedback. In summary, the feedback given fell into three main categories:

- The committee would like some assurance that the LLW stored in Vault 9 will all be below ground. They don’t want to see an application for higher stacking in Vault 9 in the future.
- The infrastructure/roads in the village are still not suitable for heavy plant equipment. Is it possible to use other entrances to site for heavy plant?
- The local community would still like to see tangible evidence of community benefit.

Rail Sidings Update

Mr James Millington provided an update on the project to move ISO freight containers from the rail sidings. The verbal update was supported by a graph illustrating the current and projected number of containers stored at the sidings (copy of graph attached for information).

Mr Millington explained that the engineering outage had been brought forward which had led to there currently being slightly more containers on the sidings than had been predicted. Thanks to a good outage however the grouting facility is working well so we believe that there will actually be fewer containers on the sidings at the end of the financial year than we had predicted.

In response to a question from Cllr Dalton, Mr Millington explained that he was not in a position to forecast the number of containers that will be stored on the sidings in the next financial year. Once he has received confirmation of the numbers of containers which will be sent by consignors during the next financial year the graph can be updated.

Cllr Thompson asked if it was possible to store containers in the base of Vault 9 rather than on the sidings. Mr Millington confirmed that this was being investigated as an option.

Mr Ferguson asked whether we expect to receive any further large items at the repository. Mr Millington replied that consignors had not currently forecast sending

any large items. Mr Millington confirmed that he would share information on large items as soon as possible.

Cllr Thompson asked whether or not the Calder Hall heat exchangers would be sent to the repository. Mr Millington replied that the current plan is to store the Calder Hall heat exchanges in situ and not transfer them to the repository.

Lighting

Mr Paul updated the committee on the issue of lighting at the repository being visible off site. The Drigg and Carleton Parish Council had nominated Cllr John Jackson to evaluate the issue of lighting on their behalf. Cllr Jackson had since confirmed that the lighting in question has since been switched off and there were no other lighting issues at this time.

Signage

New road signs to replace the current 'Drigg Depot' signs have now been made and are ready to be installed. Cllr Brown informed the committee that she will contact the Highways Agency with a view to confirming an installation date.

Community Support

Mr Weatherburn informed the committee that the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority is developing a national approach to socio-economic support, with their strategy expected in early 2006.

Mr Hetherington informed the committee that a local group of Government experts called 'New Leaf' are looking at international best practice for local community development including legal frameworks and how it could be implemented in the UK. Their report is expected in February 2006.

Future Agenda Items

Following a discussion within the committee the following agenda items were suggested for the next meeting.

- Presentation by Copeland Borough Council on the planning process.
- Presentation by CoRWM as given to the Copeland Borough Council Nuclear Working Group.
- Presentation by Defra on their Low Level Waste Management Strategy consultation paper.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group, Low Level Waste Sub-Committee will be held on 8 March 2006 in Drigg Village Hall between 1400 and 1600.