

LLWR UPDATE TO THE WCSSG MEETING 01/10/09 APRIL 2009 – SEPTEMBER 2009

Prepared by R.D. “Dick” Raaz, Managing Director LLW Repository Ltd

LLWR has been making great progress through Spring and Summer. In June we hosted a large contingent of the residents of Drigg & Carleton Parish to an open house event at the site to review current activities and to see progress on Vault 9 Construction. Over 100 visitors attended, the majority of which had never been on the LLWR site before.

Vault 9 construction continues at a fast pace and achieved a major milestone on 21st July 2009 when the “island slab” was turned over to LLWR Site Operations for use in storing low level waste (LLW) from across the UK. This innovative solution to providing space for waste shipments for approximately one year has “solved the short-term capacity gap” that everyone was worried about. This space will more than fill our needs until Vault 9 is completed and placed in full service early next year.

Another major milestone was achieved on 3rd September with the first metals shipment to the Studsvik Metal Recycling Facility in Lillyhall. This will lead to recycling of the metal rather than disposal at the Repository. Similar efforts including incineration and alternate disposal of very low level waste (VLLW) to other disposal facilities are known as Segregated Waste Services, and are key to reducing the ultimate cost of disposing of LLW from the NDA’s decommissioning activities. When applied across the entire NDA estate for the remainder of this century, we expect the net savings to amount to more than £1B for the UK taxpayer.

Other efforts include good progress on the Environmental Safety Case which must be submitted to the Environment Agency in May 2011. Part of the data for that effort is a validation of the hydro-geological model used to determine the performance of the repository and we have completed installing 14 new boreholes around the facility to collect that information. That project came in ahead of schedule and well under budget.

LLWR has completed the huge majority of transition work scheduled for the new management team. Most of the special review task teams have come and gone and we are now fully staffed to the new contract work scope. Several key staff members have travelled to the United States to integrate our staff into “reach back” capabilities, Strategic Planning and parent company safety programmes.

Dick Raaz
14.09.09