

## **LLWR PROGRESS REPORT TO WEST CUMBRIA SITE(S) STAKEHOLDER GROUP – OCTOBER 2010**

Dick Raaz, Managing Director, LLW Repository Ltd

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### **Vault 9**

Since the last WCSSG Scrutiny Meeting LLWR have celebrated the completion of Vault 9 with an official opening ceremony which was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2010. We were delighted to share this major achievement with over 100 guests including community leaders representing Parish, District and County Councils and key stakeholders from industry and the regulatory community. It was a very proud day for LLWR but more importantly a significant milestone in bridging the Nations' short to medium term Low Level Waste capacity gap and a triumph for community engagement with over 90% of construction materials being diverted from road to rail delivery. This sets the scene for future projects and operational activities at LLWR.

### **Environmental Safety Case**

In previous reports I have kept you apprised of progress on the Environmental Safety Case (ESC). A successful outcome for this project is crucial to continued operations at LLWR and every effort has been made to develop this safety case in line with regulatory requirements and stakeholder aspirations.

We have committed considerable resource to this project, conducting a root and branch review of all previous work undertaken, appointment of a new Project Manager and Technical Team and utilisation of a new and better value competitive contracting strategy enabling us to bring in the best 'Tier 3' contractors to work for the project. Closer working and improved interaction and communication with our Environmental Regulators the EA has, we hope, increased their confidence that an ESC which meets their stringent requirements will be delivered.

We have spent the past year improving the design of any future vaults and the closure engineering of the Repository, including the final cap over the trenches and vaults. This has been achieved through an optimisation process and the LLWR Sub Committee has had the opportunity to input into the design development of the Final Cap.

We are now undertaking our final assessments and developing the documentation to support the 2011 ESC, required by the Environment Agency by May 2011.

### **ACCELS**

The NDA has requested that the LLW Repository enhance its role as the "National Integrator" for LLW waste management within the NDA estate. We are convinced that substantial savings (approximately £2B) to the NDA lifecycle baseline can be achieved by taking an integrated approach. The first phase of this work commenced at the beginning of the year

with a desk top exercise which required SLC's to evaluate identified opportunities within their respective baselines and determine more cost-effective alternative approaches in LLW management. A number of Integrated Project Teams comprising LLWR, NDA and SLC managers have been formed to review the cost reduction opportunities and develop a forward plan for implementation.

We are about to embark on Phase 2 of ACCELS which involves the implementation of these opportunities and the formal revision of site plans to reflect the integration and savings in the LLW Management arena.

### **Stakeholder Engagement**

As part of our stakeholder engagement strategy we encourage an 'open house' policy. The past six months has witnessed a significant increase in visitors to the LLWR site. We are eager to host all interested parties who would like to better understand our missions, our operations and our plans for the future. Anyone interested in visiting LLWR should contact our Stakeholder Relations Manager, Cath Giel on 019467 22238 or her assistant, Donna Glasson on 019467 22205.