

West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group
Minutes of the 24th Meeting of LLWR Committee
Wednesday 9th March 2011
Drigg Village Hall 14.00-16.00hrs

Attendees

Sue Brown, Chairman
David Moore
Dick Raaz
Cath Giel
Donna Glasson
Roy Young
Sue Brett
Paul Pointon
Eileen Eastwood
Claire Gallery-Strong
Nicholas Blackburn
Dave Millington
Steve Nicholson
Neil Shaw

Cumbria County Council
West Cumbria Site Stakeholders Group
Low Level Waste Repository
Low Level Waste Repository
Low Level Waste Repository
Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Cumbria County Council
Low Level Waste Repository
Seascale Parish Council
Low Level Waste Repository
Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Prospect Union Rep
Low Level Waste Repository

Apologies

Andrew Fairhurst
Elaine Woodburn
Adrian Dalton, Vice Chair
Richard Evans
Mike Davidson
Jimmy Naylor
Scott Anderson

Environment Agency
Copeland Borough Council
Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Cumbria County Council
Allerdale Borough Council
Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Low Level Waste Repository

Observers

John Cain
Stuart Bowe
Tim Knowles
John Jennings
Tom Branthwaite
Graham Love
Lewis Evans
Ian Campbell
Keith Hitchen

Copeland Borough Council
PACTEC
Cumbria County Council
Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Low Level Waste Repository
Turley Associates
Turley Associates
URS/Scott Wilson
Drigg & Carleton Parish Council

1. Welcome/Introductions/Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting held on the 8th December 2010

Minutes from the December meeting were approved with no amendments.

3. General update on LLWR Activities – Dick Raaz

Dick Raaz updated the committee on the past three months activity at LLWR.

- There has been a huge flurry of activity to deliver performance based incentives (PBI's) due by the end of March.
- Vault 9, completed summer 2010 and now fully operational for storage until such time as we submit an application to the EA for disposal authorisation.
- The Planning Strategy will be coupled to the Environmental Safety Case (ESC) as this gives permit for the site. There will be no physical change to the site until the ESC is complete and been accepted by the Environment Agency.
- The 11Kv Electrical project is scheduled to be complete by March 31st. The new substations replace existing stations that have served the site for the past 50 years. Four wide loads are required to come to the repository for this upgrade, one has already been delivered which leaves three more in the month of March.
- Metal treatment is going extremely well, with an estimated total of 1000tne having been recycled to date.
- The first combustible waste shipment is due this month and again this is another excellent example of implementation of the Waste Hierarchy.

Sue Brown asked if LLWR was going to accept Exotic wastes now or in the future. Dick Raaz replied that LLWR has no plans to accept this type of waste.

Sue then asked if the New Build waste would be accommodated at LLWR, with Dick replying that there would only be very small amounts of LLW from this activity, this is accommodated in forecasts but will not happen for many years.

4. LLWR Planning Strategy: Neil Shaw, LLWR

Neil Shaw delivered a very detailed strategic overview of where LLWR is going with the Planning Strategy for the site.

The UK Strategy for the Management of Solid Low Level Radioactive Waste from the Nuclear Industry was published in August 2010. It provides a clear and up-to-date strategy for LLW Management:

- LLWR is central to the UK Strategy
- LLWR is a key asset for LLW producers.
- Need to ensure continued capability and disposal for the long term at the LLWR, subject to the verification of the Environmental Safety Case (ESC)

The purpose of the ESC is to demonstrate the Post-closure safety of the site for LLW disposal and to properly protect people and the environment. The ESC requires the

installation of various engineered features and other works which form part of the post closure and optioneering works planning application.

The planning application comprises:

- Retention of Vault 9 for waste disposal
- Higher stacking of waste in Vault 8 and 9
- Formation of new disposal vaults (9a -14)
- The phased formation of a single landscaped capping system over the existing disposal trenches, the existing and proposed vaults
- Vertical secant and cut-off walls
- Ancillary and temporary works

Proposals ensure ongoing LLW disposal capacity, the works proposed enable the ESC to be fully implemented.

The phased scheme shows works starting from 2012 and completing in 2079, and demonstrates how the restored site will eventually look. The proposed package of site optimisation and closure has been discussed with planning officers from Cumbria County Council and will be submitted to the Waste Planning Authority in May 2011 in line with the submission of the ESC to the Environment Agency. Further discussions and work are required in the following areas:

- Approval of the ESC and alignment of timescales
- Agreement of long-term implementation controls
- Agreement of an appropriate package of community benefits.

This presentation can be viewed at www.wcssg.co.uk

David Moore noted that the application timeframe up to 2080 includes higher stacking and future vaults, both contentious areas for the local community, he expressed concern about the opportunity for communities to properly engage with the process. Neil explained that there will be break points in the planning application which will dictate what additional information CCC will require.

Sue Brett confirmed that Cumbria County Council planning officers had had a pre-application meeting with LLWR and had weighed up the pros and cons of LLWR submitting a planning application that covered building all the vaults versus one that only covered building the next vault. This had been discussed with LLWR and it would be up to them to decide what form their planning application would take. However, submission of the application would only be the starting point for further discussion and the application would not be determined within the statutory number of weeks.

LLWR/024/01	To update the committee on the strategy and break points in the LLWR Planning application	Cumbria County Council Planners
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Keith Hitchen asked, who do you see as the local community?
Neil replied, the Cumbria Community

Keith Hitchen continued that the road surveys that had been conducted by CCC were basic and posed the question “is the B5344 appropriate for HGV’s to travel” he also expressed concern about the current condition of the road surface.

John Cain asked what working hours would be used in the planning application. Neil replied they would stay the same as Vault 9, Monday-Friday with the occasional weekend.

Dave Millington asked if Vault 9 was the benchmark, will there be improvements to come. Neil stated that the lessons learned from Vault 9 construction and indeed any operations at LLWR would, where appropriate, be applied to this phased development. In fact, each phase will probably generate improvements

5. Roles and Responsibilities of the NII: Nick Blackburn, NII

Nick Blackburn gave an overview of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) roles and responsibilities.

The NII will become an Agency of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on 1st April 2011, the HSE have a day to day responsibility for enforcing Health & Safety legislation, investigate accidents and operates a permissioning regime for particular hazards. The scope of the NII’s responsibilities includes, Nuclear Power Stations, Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing Plants and Radioactive Waste Management Facilities. They work within the UK Legislations which include Health and Safety at Work Act (HSW) 1974 and the Nuclear Installations Act (NIA) 1965. The NIA requires that certain nuclear activities require a license before they are carried out. Licenses are issued by HSE to individual sites and HSE attach conditions to the site license in the interest of safety. There are 36 License Conditions to set safety targets or goals but it is the responsibility of the licensee to show how they meet these goals. Everyone working on a nuclear licensed site must comply with the requirements of the nuclear site license.

The NII completed various inspections at LLWR between 2010-2011 which included, training Suitably Qualified and Experience Persons (SQEP) and Duly Authorised persons (DAP). Ongoing projects include PCM Decommissioning and Contaminated Land. Gaining confidence in LLWR’s procedures and processes that satisfy NII’s requirements will result in a reduced presence on site because of the low hazard it poses.

This presentation can be viewed at www.wcssg.co.uk

6. Drigg & Carleton Bursary – Dave Millington, Secretary of Bursary Fund

Dave Millington delivered a verbal update to the committee, this was the first ever presentation given to the WCSSG on the Drigg Bursary Fund. The Drigg & Carleton Bursary fund was launched in September 2009 with the support of LLWR. The aim was to enhance community sustainability through education and training to help improve quality of life. The Bursary is governed through the Drigg Charity, and consists of trustees from the Parish Council who have recently been joined by 3 independent members. There is a sub committee comprising of a panel of 5 who adjudicate and make recommendations on applications.

The first action the committee took was to send out letters to all residents raising the profile of the scheme and encouraging applications. To date they have had an excellent response, 7 awards were granted in the first year and 8 awards in the current financial year with 2 pending. Awards have been made in the following areas, medical training, engineering, sports, arts and music have all been given awards from the Bursary, the biggest success story is of a Mountain Leadership course which has now developed into a new business enterprise.

David Moore congratulated the Bursary fund on the achievements so far, but asked the question, where does the money come from?

Dave Millington replied that LLWR donates part of the monies, there are other sources that contribute towards the bursary but no funds have come from the Copeland Community Fund.

7. Drigg Beach Project – Claire Gallery-Strong, LLWR

Claire Gallery-Strong gave a verbal update to the committee on how the Drigg Beach Project was developing.

The Drigg Beach Project committee was already up and running when LLWR were approached for support. Claire Gallery-Strong and Martin Walkingshaw, LLWR employees and local residents, were asked to join forces with the committee and support the local community project. It wasn't just funding that the committee required, resources, ideas and technical support was high on the priority list. Alan Bell, project leader, invited Claire and Martin to a meeting back in November where the subject was drainage issues on the beach road. Mike Palmer also LLWR was drafted in to give his engineering expertise on the drainage requirements. Mike worked closely with the project leader and can now confirm that the drainage works are complete and working brilliantly.

The next part of the project involves improvement of the Beach Car-park, resurfacing, pedestrian access gates and other basic improvements including rubbish bins. AMEC, one of LLWR contractors has volunteered its expertise and guidance on what would be best practice for these improvements.

Sue Brown asked, within what radius is LLWR prepared to help. Dick Raaz explained that the more LLWR impacts on the community the stronger the link will be, proximity to the site is a plus, but we are willing to look at each request on individual merits.

8. Update of LLWR Site Projects – Paul Pointon, LLWR

Paul Pointon updated the committee with developments on the LLWR site. The PCM (Plutonium Contaminated Material) Decommissioning project was described in detail, explaining how each magazine retrieval would be approached and decommissioned. Work has commenced on the cleanest magazine first, leaving the most contaminated magazine to the end, this maximises learning and assists progress. A basic floor plan of a magazine was shown with each section highlighted to represent categories of contamination, followed by colour photos of the inside of magazines and operations taking place.

The decommissioning strategy is divided into three stages:

- **Initial:** Gross clean-up, wastes and building characterised, non-essential equipment removed.
- **Interim:** Decontamination, clearance monitoring, shutdown and removal vent systems.
- **Final:** Demolition, material recycling and reuse

This strategy will maintain multiple work fronts (eg multiple buildings) as various phases of decommissioning occur.

The manning levels required to cover the PCM Project was explained, this showed how local labour was being used.

11Kv Upgrade Project started in November 2010, this is to install four new electrical substations and a new earth ring main around LLWR. The contract was issued to ATG Group of St Helens, using Thomas Armstrong as the sub contractor providing local labour. Each substation needs to be delivered to LLWR through Drigg village, so far one delivered and three more to follow. Works are due to be completed by March 2011.

An update of the New Waste packages which have been trialled at LLWR, included the TC02 Reusable container, the DL01 Disposable liner and the soft sided packages. All trials have gone extremely well, and the presentation showed colour photographs of the trials taking place. The TC02 has been granted a transport license and can now be used outside the fence.

The LLWR Main Office building has had major roof repairs together with some road repairs around the site, again this work was completed by Thomas Armstrong.

This presentation can be viewed at www.wcssg.co.uk

David Moore asked if the soft sided packages would be used for LLW and put in the Vaults. Paul replied that this package was in the very early stage of the feasibility study.

Dick added that the soft sided package would be more suitable for VLLW, as the current HHISO has 20% wasted space, the disposal liner is part of the LLW disposal scheme.

Schedule of meetings 2011:

Wednesday 08/06/11, Drigg Village Hall, 7.00-9.00pm

Wednesday 14/09/11, Drigg Village Hall, 2.00-4.00pm

Wednesday 14/12/11, Drigg Village Hall, 2.00-4.00pm