

West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group
Minutes of the 21st Meeting of LLWR Committee
Wednesday 10th March 2010 held at the Drigg Village Hall

Attendees

Adrian Dalton, Vice Chairman	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Sue Brett	Cumbria County Council
Andrew Fairhurst	Environment Agency
Elaine Woodburn	Copeland Borough Council
David Moore	West Cumbria Site Stakeholders Group
Dick Raaz	Low Level Waste Repository
Cath Giel	Low Level Waste Repository
Paul Pointon	Low Level Waste Repository
Mike Robbins	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Dave Weatherburn	Nuclear Decommissioning Agency
Mike Calloway	Nuclear Decommissioning Agency
Scott Anderson	Low Level Waste Repository
Martin Walkingshaw	Low Level Waste Repository
Neil Shaw	Low Level Waste Repository
Donna Glasson	Low Level Waste Repository
Michael Egan	Quintessa

Apologies

Sue Brown, Chairman	Cumbria County Council
Nigel Lister	Low Level Waste Repository
Stephen Shepherd	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Eileen Eastwood	Copeland Borough Council
Mike Davidson	Allerdale Borough Council
Richard Evans	Cumbria County Council
Kneale Thompson	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Jimmy Naylor	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council

Observers

Tim Hedahl	Low Level Waste Repository
Dave Rossiter	Low Level Waste Repository
Steve Jones	Westlakes Scientific
Rebecca Wood	Westlakes Scientific
Sam Usher	Studsvik
Pres Rahe	UKNWM Board Member
Roger Coates	Independent Safety Director
Rupert Cowen	Hammonds
Andy Baker	Low Level Waste Repository

1. Welcome/Introductions/Apologies

The Vice-Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, asked those around the table to introduce themselves and acknowledged apologies.

2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting held on the 9th December 2009

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved with no amendments.

3. General update on LLWR Activities – Dick Raaz

Dick Raaz announced that members of the LLWR PBO (Parent Body Organisation) Board, UKNWM, had come to observe the meeting and proceeded to introduce them:

Pres Rahe – Chairman UKNWM

Sam Usher- Board Member UKNWM and President of Studsvik

Roger Coates - Board Member UKNWM and Independent Safety Adviser

Rupert Cowen – Legal Council UKNWM

Dick continued with an update of LLWR from the previous quarter:

- The weather conditions in January and February had been very disruptive to the construction programme with freezing temperatures, wind and rain halting activity. However, March had become very mild and the project was able to recover some time, enabling handover of a further two slab areas to the Operations Team at the Repository.
- The end of March 2010 will witness the conclusion of the data capture phase of the Environmental Safety Case (ESC) development and initiate a 'data freeze' allowing time for data analysis, interpretation and write up prior to the safety case submission to the Environment Agency (EA) in May 2011.
- LLWR's Consignor Support team has been working hard with customers across the NDA estates implement the new Waste Management Contracts which are due to commence on April 1st 2010. The Conditions for Acceptance (CFA) have been tailored to actively encourage waste reduction practices and reward those consigners who adhered to the Waste Management Hierarchy principles. This will be covered in more detail in topics being presented here today.

4. Vault 9 update – Paul Pointon LLWR

Paul Pointon presented an update on Vault 9 progress, covering the Proposed Development picture of Vault 9, details of the components of the liner and the make up of each layer. He explained, with photographs, how each section of the vault had progressed significantly since the last update back in September 2009. The bulk excavation works together with the west outer wall, secant wall, east wall and the BES bottom layer were now 100% complete. After completing 70% of the Slab floor, Areas 2 & 3 were handed over to operations on February 3rd 2010.

Paul also provided a breakdown of construction material movements, announcing that the project had successfully delivered over 90% of material by Rail taking over 7,000 HGV movements off the road and away from Drigg Village. Paul ended the presentation with the delivery schedule including the demobilisation phase from now until June 2010.

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

Elaine Woodburn thanked Paul and LLWR for all the good work done, she also praised him on the recovery programme to make up lost time on the construction phase of Vault 9.

Paul replied that a change in Birse Management had had a positive impact with increased productivity, vastly aided by the improving weather conditions. Paul also confirmed to Elaine the percentage of contractors currently working for Birse was: 130 working men, 105 Cumbria based and 25 travelling men.

Elaine asked if the 'lessons learned' were being captured for future reference. Paul replied that LLWR had established a database that was reviewed every 6 months and that a final report would be published on the completion of Vault 9 for use by both the contractors and LLWR personnel.

Dick gave an example of a lesson learned early in the project. Initially LLWR addressed Safety Issues and culture through their contractor Birse but did not control flow down to sub-contractors (more than 12 separate companies). Small mistakes and variance in practices became apparent which took several weeks to address. This led to a recommendation for early review and sharing information and best practice with other SLC's to assist future projects. It also resulted in Roger Coates, our Independent Safety Director, taking a special focus to ensure the safety conscience migrates outside the boundary fence.

Dave Weatherburn added NDA's appreciation for the huge efforts taken to bring as much material in by rail.

David Moore asked if LLWR could show exactly how many trucks had been taken off the road due to the amount of Rail deliveries actioned.

New Action

LLWR/021/001	Paul Pointon to provide David Moore with a report of how many HGV trucks had been removed and replaced by rail movements.	Paul Pointon
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5. Planning Application – Neil Shaw LLWR

Neil Shaw delivered a presentation covering LLWR's planning application strategy for both the short and long term. He reported that the application for temporary higher stacking in Vault 8 had been amended (in February 2010) to allow the continuation of the six high stacking until 2013 and align the permission with the approval timeline for the Environmental Safety Case. He went on to say that amendments to the PCM planning conditions are due to be considered by CCC planning panel on March 30th 2010, this is to allow retention of the PCM buildings to support LLWR site operations and align with future vault construction and approval of the ESC. Neil continued his presentation with future permissions required for Trench and Vault 8 closure, ESC

approval allowing Vault 9 Disposal, and Vault 8 permanent higher stacking and future Vaults as required.

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David Moore reminded the group that higher stacking was originally opposed by the local community but granted by the planning authority as a temporary measure. He was concerned that the community views were not lost in the planning process and asked if LLWR had any plans to debate the pro's and con's of permanent higher stacking in Vault 8.

Dick Raaz replied that the Environmental Safety Case is a very important document for the safe handling of low level waste at the Repository. Acceptance of, and approval from, the Environment Agency is a key influencer in the planning considerations. We do not consider Vault 9 Disposal to be a done deal and we are continuing to work very hard with forward planning. We are aware that the visual impact is a very sensitive issue to the local community and we will work with them to address these concerns.

6. UK LLW Strategy Post Adoption Statement – Mike Calloway NDA

Mike Calloway provided an update on the National LLW Strategy consultation process and the path forward for approval. The strategy consultation document launched in June 2009 contained 14 questions to solicit stakeholder feedback on various elements of the draft strategy.

Mike explained that NDA would publish a Post Adoption Statement which is a summary of comments received and how the responses have informed the final strategy. In general there was reasonable agreement with the fundamental principles of the strategy. Some respondents reinforced the need for early dialogue and consultation with stakeholders and local communities when making waste management decisions and the wording of strategy has been strengthened in this regard. A number of suggestions for implementation of various elements of the strategy were also received which will inform implementation plans. NDA also received feedback on the need to measure the effectiveness of strategy implementation using appropriate metrics and targets, recognising that sites are at different stages of their life-cycles.

Following the consultation process the strategy has been updated and submitted to Government for approval. Once approval is received NDA will publish the final Strategy and accompanying Post-Adoption Statement. Mike noted that some elements of the strategy were already starting to be implemented, for example, metal recycling through the LLWR's segregated waste services.

Mike explained that the permitting process for VLLW landfills would be subject to an Article 37 assessment by the European Commission. Article 37 is a EURATOM treaty requirement for each Member State to inform the European Commission about any plan for the disposal of radioactive waste. In this context, radioactive wastes are released by air or water and the disposal from the installation of solid radioactive waste. A range of environmental data must be provided by the developer so that the Commission can determine whether the specific proposal is liable to result in the radioactive contamination of water, soil or airspace of another Member State. Following submission, the Commission has 6 months to make a decision.

Andrew Fairhurst added that the EA cannot grant an RSA authorisation for disposal until the Article 37 submission has been assessed and a decision received from the Commission. Councils can however grant planning applications in the mean time, although the sites would not be able to receive VLLW until the Article 37 decision had been received and an RSA authorisation granted.

Elaine asked Mike whether the comments to the 14 Consultation questions be viewed, so people have visibility of the actual responses. Mike replied that the Post Adoption Statement did not answer each individual question, there was a themed response as LLW Strategy is not site specific.

7. Copeland Community Fund – Elaine Woodburn CBC

Elaine Woodburn delivered a presentation to the WCSSG committee as Chairman of the Copeland Community Fund Board. The presentation included the breakdown of the Board membership, funding makeup and timescales, guiding principles of the fund and how the NDA Socio-Economic policy relates to each grant or loan.

Elaine explained how the three new Community Development Workers would support local community groups to advise and assist with funding proposals and went on to provide examples of projects that had been successful in receiving assistance from the Copeland Community Fund. She also emphasised that would be judged on long term sustainability and how it benefits the people of Copeland.

This presentation can be viewed at www.wcssg.com

Dick asked Elaine whether match funding was essential. Elaine replied that the Copeland Community Board does not want to be seen as a “single source” funder, she explained that consideration would be more favourable if match funding was a component of the bid because the overall impact from the project/scheme would have a much bigger impact.

Dave Weatherburn asked if a figure had been set for expenditure from the £10 million already received. Elaine replied that no set figures had been agreed at the moment.

Adrian Dalton asked where the new Community workers would be based. Elaine confirmed to the Committee that all three community workers would have an office base in the Copeland Centre. She explained that they were not restricted to geographical areas and would be available to work throughout the Borough assisting community groups in the development of their business case and identification of potential funding sources stretching from Millom to Distington.

Dave Weatherburn asked if the D&C PC had projects in mind for their £50k annual contribution. Adrian Dalton replied the D&C PC are currently working on the six Bursary applications.

8. Environment Safety Case (ESC), Engineering Optimisation Current status - Michael Egan, Quintessa

Mike started the presentation by covering the history of the ESC . The presentation covered the background into the ESC on how it was last presented to the Environment Agency (EA) in 2002. Mike continued to detail how the revised ESC report has been

transformed over the past 2 years and how the development phase will be complete in April 2010, allowing 12 months for final assessment calculations. The project is on course to deliver the ESC to the EA by the required date of May 2011. Mike completed his presentation by covering the actions relating to the overall safety strategy, design and implementation of specific controls and provisional design outcomes of the Final Cap.

This presentation can be viewed at www.wcssg.com

9. AOB

There being no other business the meeting closed.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the LLWR Sub-Committee will be held on Wednesday 9th June 2010, at 7.00pm in Drigg Village Hall