

West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group Decommissioning Sub Committee

Held on 7th March 2011

Present

Susan Potter (Secretary)
Stephen Tandy (Environment Agency)
Mark Steele (Nuclear Decommissioning Authority)
Chris Halliwell (Sellafield Ltd)
Cllr Norman Clarkson (Chairman)
Ron Hargreaves (Vice Chair)
Phil Hallington (Sellafield Ltd)
Dr Robert Waters (Nuclear Installations Inspectorate)

Apologies

Ranald Stewart
Russ Mellor
Bruce Klein

Observers

Ali McKibbin

Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those present, but expressed disappointment at the low levels of attendance overall. Apologies were recorded from Russ Mellor, Bruce Klein and Ranald Stuart.

The Chairman updated the meeting members that since the last meeting of the Sub Committee, both he and the Vice Chairman had met with Mr Klein and had found the meeting to be extremely useful and informative.

The Chairman thanked the members who had submitted reports to the meeting and reconfirmed the importance of submitting reports early enough to allow members to read them prior to the meeting.

The Chairman also advised the members of Mrs Tandy's resignation as secretary to the sub committee, and placed on record his opinion that Mrs Tandy did a first class job as Secretary, that he was very sorry to see her go but wished to offer congratulations to her on her new position. This opinion was endorsed by all members present.

Actions

M501 Complete
Recognised by Mr Hargreaves that the Documents complete but don't provide an audit trail to show how the equations for SED scores are derived . Not a criticism but interested in pursuing outside the meeting. Expect paper and validation process and rest of it well documented and well described. Mr Hallington responded suggesting a meeting with Sellafield representatives. It was mentioned that the document was not in the public domain but that the underpinning was developed by Sellafield Ltd 2004.

- M6.01 Outstanding
Mr Tandy was unable to find the Terms of Reference on the website and queried whether they had been uploaded. Mrs Potter to check.
- M6.02 Complete
Mr Halliwell provided a full update.
- M6.03 To be addressed in meeting
- M3.02 Complete
The question of whether the Interactive Decommissioning Presentation could be distributed was raised. Mrs Potter confirmed that the presentation could be shown to members, but it could not be given out. Mrs Potter invited anyone wishing to look at the presentation to arrange a time that was convenient for them with her to do so.

Decommissioning Directorate Report

By comparison with site, the Decommissioning Directorate is performing well but it was noted that statistics can be misleading – we prefer a more proactive approach and trying to implement this.

Business Performance – Cost Performance Indicator of over 1.00 is good. Decommissioning is currently at 1.11. The Schedule Performance Indicator is on a scale from 0 to 1, with full delivery measured as 1.00. Decommissioning is currently at 1.00, so 100% of scheduled work is currently being delivered.

Mr Halliwell also highlighted the excellent safety performance, in particular two plants achieving 1million hours without a Lost Time Accident, and gave an overview of Decommissioning Performance against key milestones.

Mr Halliwell also gave an update on a recent event in B203, where a pool of contaminated liquor was discovered during routine surveillance checks and which contained significant levels of alpha contamination. Mr Halliwell confirmed that the investigation was still ongoing but that it appears to be condensation at this stage.

Mr Halliwell also provided updates on the five Decommissioning programmes. Mr Hargreaves questioned whether Sludge had been removed from the Pile Fuel Storage Pond ponds yet, and if so whether it was revealing anything unexpected on the pond floor. Mr Halliwell confirmed that no sludge had been removed as yet, but that emptying of the first skip had shown it contained less fuel than believed.

Mr Halliwell was asked about construction of the new stack to support the Separation Area Ventilation System. He confirmed that as construction of the concrete stack windshield was completed the tented working platform would be removed but the Alimak would remain in place for approximately one year to enable the internal flues to be installed.

The Chairman also asked for a status update on the Pile Chimney. Mr Halliwell confirmed that the headgear inside the chimney had not moved since the accident in 2003 so the intent was to remove it. The filters had been removed but filter galleries are still there and the team have

now developed a strategy to move forward and are arranging stakeholder engagement meetings. It was recognised that there are different options for Chimney, but stakeholder input was needed to progress the project.

Dr Waters confirmed that the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate were keen that progress was made before the stack degraded to the extent it was more difficult to work on.

Mr Tandy advised that the Environment Agency had also had discussions with Mr Mellor, Executive Director, Decommissioning, and that a number of options had been discussed however he stressed that ongoing engagement with Stakeholders was vital.

Risk Reduction Indicators

Mr Halliwell gave the members a presentation on Risk Reduction Indicators and how acceleration would be managed. Mr Halliwell emphasised that while hazards are not going to be removed in the short term, it is possible to reduce risk and plans are directed at trying to do so through tools such as the Performance Action Improvement Plans.

Cllr Clarkson queried whether accelerating work would put more pressure on people, to which Mr Halliwell clarified that the aim was to get everyone to feel accountable for delivering activities. Dr Waters also confirmed that the intention was not trying to pressurise people to achieve the unachievable, but more to encourage interaction between people on ongoing basis.

Mr Halliwell gave a short overview of the Safety and Environmental Detriment scores, of which five of the top nine most potentially hazardous facilities are within Decommissioning. The focus on starting retrievals early was outlined, as was the fact this would result in an increase in risk in some cases, however it was agreed that it is often necessary to increase risk in the short term to progress, provided that this is managed very carefully.

Mr Hargreaves stated that there were a lot of risk reduction activities being undertaken, and that it was possible to see progress, even if, at this stage it was mainly aimed at making future decommissioning activities easier.

There was then discussion between the members about future decommissioning priorities for the site. Mr Hallington stressed that interim states were also a matter for discussion over what represents a good step change. This will be addressed in future when the NDA Strategy 2 is signed off and the impact of future states on the plans begins to be explored

(M7)02 – Mrs Potter to upload presentation onto website, subject to security clearance.

Mr Waters made an observation that the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate will look to see underpinning of dates, to ensure that milestones and targets are achievable. Mr Hallington responded to this, pointing out that the nature of the nuclear industry and Sellafield Limited's own history is that if we underpin completely it limits our ambition. Rather we need to use both underpinned targets and milestone opportunities to drive our performance and keep challenging ourselves to do even better.

Cllr Clarkson questioned how closely the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and Sellafield Limited worked together on site, and was reassured by Dr Waters that there was a close working relationship, but that controls were in place to make sure both parties were happy with potential actions.

Mr Tandy highlighted the flexible regulatory permissioning as evidence of the working relationships between Regulators and Sellafield Ltd.

NDA Report

Mr Steele introduced himself to the members and gave a short resume of his background, following his replacement of Ms Armett as the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority representative.

Mr Steele reported that work with Sellafield Limited on Performance Plan was already taking place. There were more reviews to complete, to date both parties were working together to develop plans. All of four main LP&S facilities dates are an improvement to LTP10, and the Performance Plan a significant step forward for site. Fundamentally it will be a plan in which people will have confidence and will be delivered. The first two sections submitted are being reviewed for robustness, and resource levels/engagement with supply chain types of activities are also being reviewed. Mr Steele reported that the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority is also starting to develop targets for next year with Sellafield Limited and will provide updates on these through this group in future.

Mr Steele congratulated Sellafield Ltd on the construction of the SAV stack, and commented on Russ Mellor moving on and being replaced by Jim French, recognising the work that has been carried out during Mr Mellor's time as Director.

Mr Halliwell also raised the Integration of Windscale step, moving it a step closer to Sellafield Limited Management arrangements. He also asked for his appreciation for Peter Mann to be noted, which was endorsed by the chairman and members.

Clr Clarkson questioned whether the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority was happy with the outcome of the last year. Mr Steele reflected that it had generally been a good year for Sellafield Limited and that the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority / Sellafield Ltd relationships were good overall. Mr Hargreaves commented that constructive tension between all parties has to be there and is a good thing, provided that each others boundaries are also recognised.

Nuclear Installations Inspectorate Report

Dr Waters started by raising an issue that had not yet been addressed, namely the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate concern about the deferral of work, particularly in relation to aging facilities, stressing that deferral was not always the low cost option and that the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate would like evidence that deferred plants will be managed to minimise deterioration as they have not received any evidence as yet.

Mr Hallington stressed that it was important to distinguish between genuine deferrals and late activities of Performance Plan from LTP 10. Mr Hallington also pointed out that some of the changes to plans are not deferrals but events actually being recognised where they have always been i.e. retrievals, and that the drive behind the Performance Plans currently being developed was to make sure delivery dates were underpinned, with all targets fixed against Performance Plan dates, rather than the old Life Time Plans. Mr Hallington stressed that there

were a number of issues to manage even given the funding settlement, and that the focus on High Hazard work means that we may have to implement deferrals on other projects.

Dr Water responded by requesting that Sellafield Ltd check the impact of deferrals to ensure they do not impact on safety cases i.e. delays to demolition.

Dr Waters commented that a number of Pilot projects were well underway within Decommissioning and that the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate were interested in learning from them.

The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate are continuing to monitor both the Voluntary Severance programme and the Organisational Review Self Evaluation process.

Dr Waters discussed the Improvement Notice on the Magnox Swarf Storage Silo during routine inspection by site NII inspector and reported by Sellafield Limited and confirmed that the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate was satisfied that Sellafield Limited had responded positively

In respect of Licence Specification 325(b), the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate were seeking further evidence of work done to meet requirements of the specification.

The Chairman queried why the Improvement Notice was issued. Dr Waters confirmed that the decision was based on the seriousness of the event and what action the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate thought was necessary to ensure Sellafield Ltd learned any lessons. Dr Waters commented that this issue was disappointing to find, as previous improvement work had already been carried out. The safety system on this occasion was not acceptable hence the tough stance.

Mr Hallington pointed out that there was an internal expectation on Sellafield Ltd to report openly and honestly. In the distant past statistics on Reportable Events had been perceived negatively. This continues to be addressed, and whilst the culture surrounding awareness of reporting has changed it remains important to encourage openness. Dr Waters agreed that Sellafield Ltd was moving towards International Standards of reporting 'Blame free culture', but this was not the same as 'no accountability'!

Mr Hargreaves also raised a question about why the 55 te crane was being changed from a 10te load limit, back to it's full rating. Mr Hallington responded saying that Sellafield Limited had a very conservative approach to lifting equipment, and this had been an interim position for this crane whilst some features were proven.

Cllr Clarkson then raised a question on Calder Hall about further expenditure that may arise due to corrosion, now that the steel piping had been exposed after the removal of asbestos lagging. Dr Waters confirmed that the plant was not designed for current conditions, and that cold and corrosion are now a significant problem. Dr Waters was satisfied however that Sellafield Limited are investigating and taking action where required to maintain the integrity of the facility structure.

With regards to the transition of Windscale into the Decommissioning Directorate, Dr Waters noted that Sellafield Limited have prepared a Management of Change document due to significant manning changes. He noted that the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate is monitoring what is happening there and are satisfied with change to date.

Environment Agency Report

Mr Tandy reported that the Environment Agency Report had been circulated to meeting members, and made comments on the following sections as detailed:

- 3.1.1 The Environment Agency is working with areas to develop Performance Plans. Do hope to see incremental improvements.
- 3.1.2 Pushing for public version
- 3.1.3 Environment Agency pleased with current reviews
- 4.1.1 The Environment Agency has been in discussions to ensure Sellafield Limited improvement plans address these.
- 4.1.2 Sealed penetrations – further information required by Cllr Clarkson on the types of seal being used. Mr Tandy confirmed that this depends on type of hazard/risk.
- 4.1.3 Encouraged by success of Liquor Activity Reduction trials. Discussions with Sellafield Limited re. moving to the older compartments in the facility are ongoing.
- 4.1.4 Discharges new returned to normal levels but still looking for causes.
- 4.4 Local Effluent Treatment Plant continues to perform well, significantly decreasing radioactive discharges
- 4.5 Environment Agency continuing to engaged with Sellafield Limited/Nuclear Installations Inspectorate on result of deferrals. Need to ensure robust care and maintenance programme in place for deferred facilities.
- 4.6 Environment Agency supportive of Best Practicable Environmental Option – some recommendations do recognise need for stake engineering given importance of pile to site history.
- 4.7 The Environment Agency welcomes the initiative taken by SR&DP to open up areas of land for future use.
- 4.8 Sellafield Limited recently provided justification for management of trenches. Further requirements returned

Mr Tandy also reported that the re-emergence of regular meetings with project teams was another very positive move forward, as it aligns Regulators and Sellafield Limited early.

Mr Hargreaves queried whether the Environment Agency had any immediate concerns about corrosion at Calder Hall. Mr Tandy responded saying that theirs were similar to those raised by Dr Waters – it would be better to take things out sooner than rather than later. However as potential issues only emerging now, it was not appropriate to comment now.

Mr Hargreaves also raised the boreholes being sunk locally by North West Water, and asked if these had any impact on Sellafield Limited? Mr Tandy confirmed that Copeland Borough Council had provided information about reinforcing the local water supply ,after the last meeting.

Sellafield Site Overview

Mr Hallington highlighted the following areas from the Sellafield Site report:

Safety, Security and Environmental impact process – Phase 2 of work has been completed, taking account of infrastructure, analytical services, steam, water etc. The Regulators have independently renewed the evidence submitted and we are awaiting feedback.

Total Recordable Incident / Lost Time Accident and International Nuclear Event Scale rates improved from last year, starting to make no accidents at all a realistic expectation for site. Significant large areas of site becoming accustomed to not having LTA's – dismantling the myth that things just happen.

Overview of progress

- Thorp now at 335 tonnes sheared
- Magnox – issue of pipebridge stopped work recovery work underway. Resumption early in next financial year.
- Sellafield MOX Plant – achieved targets a year early (rod reclaim) the balance of 16 assemblies made on schedule was also very encouraging.
- Waste Vitrification Plant – has had a range of issues this year, which has limited throughput. They are being resolved thoroughly, with a view to reinforcing the availability of plant for future years
 - Metal recycling – more than double the year target (cleaned on site and free released).
 - Floc recovery – will get into green by end of financial year
 - SIRP – putting cans into new storage is a good success story. Using mobility to manage dose uptake to plant workforce.

Projects

- Evap D good progress. Preparing for arrival of modules by barge .
- SAV Chimney well underway. This is a key enabler and is hugely significant to other projects
- SPRS – 1st cans in and now an active and very robust facility
- EPS3 now back on track on revised programme. Lesson learned that even on relatively simple projects there is no longer the same levels of skill in supply chain now as in past and we need to bear this in mind as an Industry.

Organisation Changes

Bill Poulson – Todd Wright	Done
Fran Williams – Kliss McNeil	Done
Russ Mellor – Jim French	Ongoing
Mike Johnson – Tom Foster	Ongoing
Tony Green – Dawn James	Ongoing

Changes reinvigorate the organisation. Important to ensure that we get benefits from this approach. We have a Performance Plan to deliver, not a new plan every four years!

Any Other Business

The Chairman expressed disappointment at the poor attendance levels for the meeting, particularly from the Trade Unions and Local Councils.

(M7) 03 It was agreed that Mrs Potter would arrange a visit for the Chairman and Vice Chairman to the LP&S facilities not previously visited.

Outstanding and New Actions

Action Reference	Action	Status
(M5)01	M5 Action 1 – Alison Armett to send the SED mathematics to Claire Tandy for onward distribution to meeting members as required	
(M6)01	Mrs Tandy to arrange for the updated ToRs to be added to the website	Outstanding
(M6)02	Mr Halliwell to provide the storyboard and pictures on the work carried out on B243 to Mrs Tandy for circulation to the meeting members	Complete
(M6)03	Mrs Tandy to include an agenda item to the next meeting on Risk reduction indicators	Complete
(M7)01	Mrs Potter to ask Pile Chimney Project Team to set up a meeting to discuss B6 Strategy with all affected stakeholders.	New
(M7)02	Mrs Potter to upload presentation onto website, subject to security clearance.	New
(m7)03	Mrs Potter to arrange a visit to LP&S for the Chairman and Vice Chairman	New

Chairman – Cllr Norman Clarkson
 Secretary – Susan Potter
 (019467) 79641

Distribution

Susan Potter
Ronald Stewart
Russ Mellor
Mark Steele (Nuclear Decommissioning Authority)
Ali McKibbin
Bruce Klein
Chris Halliwell
Norman Clarkson (Chairman)
Ron Hargreaves (Vice Chairman)
Phil Hallington
Rob Waters (Nuclear Installations Inspectorate)
Stephen Tandy (EA)