

Sellafield Site Stakeholder Group
Decommissioning Sub Group
NDA Report
7th March 2011

Overview

Safety performance across Sellafield has in general been good. Reinforcement of focus on nuclear safety is being driven across the site. A number of industrial safety incidents during October through to December instigated a reinforcement of behavioural safety programme and seems to have had a benefit.

A number of INES (1) and Environmental events have occurred this year and we require SL to respond, investigate and implement appropriate corrective actions.

The CSR settlement for NDA activities prioritised legacy clean up at Sellafield. This offers funding certainty for next CSR period and allows Sellafield Ltd to firm up and accelerate high hazard work on site.

Progress has in general been good over the past 6 months. Adverse weather hindered a number of activities in December and January and caused some minor schedule slippage.

Performance Plan - Legacy Ponds and Silo

Whilst decommissioning project work has been progressing on site across the decommissioning areas the task of developing Life Time Plan (LTP) 2011, known as the Performance Plan (PP) has been ongoing. Sellafield Ltd (SL) submitted an early draft of the PP at end of October 2010 for the Legacy Ponds and Silo's which supported sanction submissions for Magnox Swarf Storage Silo (MSSS) and First Generation Magnox Storage Pond (FGMSP). The plan was submitted for the site as a whole at the end of January 2011, although SL are finalising some details which will conclude in a final submission at the end of March 2011. The dates in the PP are an improvement on LTP 2010 and will be used as the basis of measuring progress.

The PP is currently being reviewed by NDA to ascertain robustness, value for money and delivery of the mission and will be a focus of our activities, working in conjunction with the Regulators through March and into April.

Current Targets

The following are a subset of significant LP&S activities NDA monitor progress against with SL and the current status.

Magnox Swarf Storage Silo

Current Key Activities

| <i>Target</i> | <i>Performance Plan Projected Date For Completion</i> | <i>Forecast/Actual Date of Completion</i> | <i>Comments</i> |
|--|---|---|---|
| Silos Direct encapsulation Plant Tipping Trials Demonstrates how to handle the high-hazard waste | Nov 2010 | Nov 2010 | <i>Successfully completed.</i> |
| Completion of SDP Universal Mixing Vessels Trials (Phase 1) Demonstrates how to handle the high-hazard waste | Feb 2011 | Jan 2011 | <i>Successfully completed.</i> |
| Silo Emptying Plant Phase 1 Build Complete This machine will retrieve the high-hazard waste | Feb 2011 | March 2011 | After early delays with the steel assembly, it is now progressing well. Completion forecast early March. |
| Liquor Activity Reduction Radioactive liquor transfers important for hazard reduction. Export Targets: Interim 90m ³ ; Full 150m ³ and Stretch 180m ³ | March 2011 | Feb 2011 | 188m ³ achieved to date and further transfers planned before year end; dependent upon operations volume is likely to exceed 225m ³ by end March 2011. |

First Generation Magnox Storage Pond

Current Key Activities

| <i>Target</i> | <i>Performance Plan Projected Date For Completion</i> | <i>Forecast/Actual Date of Completion</i> | <i>Comments</i> |
|--|---|---|---|
| Retrievals: Manufacture of skip handler capsule This machine will help retrieve the high-hazard waste | Dec 2010 | Jan 2011 | Emergency weather conditions at manufactures facility (South Scotland) led to delay of delivery into Jan 2011. <i>Now successfully completed</i> |
| Clean & Seal D-Bay This process will clean and seal an area in the high-hazard facility | Dec 2010 | April 2011 | Additional technical testing now close to complete. The impact of regulator position is still under review. Regulatory review period being discussed. Forecast for final implementation of operations is April. |
| Sludge Packaging Plant Buffer Storage Vessel roof slab Construction step for high-hazard waste intermediate storage building | Jan 2011 | Jan 2011 | <i>Successfully completed.</i> |
| Sludge Packaging Plant Buffer Vessel 1 Manufacture Manufacturing step for high-hazard waste intermediate storage vessel | Feb 2011 | Feb 2011 | <i>Successfully completed.</i> |

Pile Fuel Storage Pond

Context

This facility is a Legacy Waste & Fuel Pond with the earliest parts of the building dating from 1940s. A Local Sludge Treatment Plant (LSTP) Buffer Facility, Treatment facility & Export facility will transfer material to Encapsulated Product Stores for long term storage with the Box Encapsulation Plant (BEP) also used.

Current Key Activities

| <i>Target</i> | <i>Performance Plan Projected Date For Completion</i> | <i>Forecast/Actual Date of Completion</i> | <i>Comments</i> |
|--|---|---|---|
| Install, Connect & Commission Pond Floor Desludging Hood Improving the movement of sludge to better containment | Jan 2011 | Feb 2011 | Weather conditions and degree of debris led to delay of final commissioning into Feb 2011. <i>Now successfully completed</i> |
| Filling the corral with sludge Improving containment of high-hazard waste in the pond. | March 2011 | March 2011 | Filling of the corral here corresponds to a half-full vessel with an operational buffer volume. Exceptionally severe weather & temperature conditions in Cumbria have led to delays, however completion date still achievable. This includes increased shift working and flexible support from other decommissioning facilities. Good progress is now being made. |
| Retrieve, segregate and transfer 5 tonnes of Intermediate Level Waste to onsite storage facility Improving containment of legacy waste | March 2011 | March 2011 | Severe weather and temperature conditions in Cumbria have led to some delays, and currently behind schedule, however confidence is good that March completion date is readily achievable. |

Pile Fuel Cladding Silo

Current Key Activities

| <i>Target</i> | <i>Projected Date For Completion</i> | <i>Forecast/Actual Date of Completion</i> | <i>Comments</i> |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Construction safety case Nuclear Safety Committee approved Significant step for high-hazard waste retrieval structure | Dec 2010 | Dec 2010 | <i>Successfully completed.</i> |
| Health Physics Building Demolished Access and space created for activities to retrieve high-hazard waste | Mar 2011 | Dec 2010 | <i>Successfully completed.</i> |

Other Notable Issues

The construction of the new Shielded Area Ventilation system has been progressing well and the new stack which is part of a continuous concrete pour has “grown” significantly and is visible from off site.

SL has recently announced a number of senior management moves and in the Decommissioning Directorate Russ Mellor is to move onto other duties and will be replaced by Jim French. We record our appreciation to Russ and wish him well for the future and look forward to working with Jim.

The Windscale site has continued its journey into the Sellafield management structure and whilst a stand alone Licensed site has come under SL Decommissioning Directorate. As such Peter Mann has returned to his parent company and again we would wish to record our appreciation for his efforts over the past 10 years and wish him well for the future.

Mark Steele
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