

**Sellafield Site Stakeholder Group  
Decommissioning Sub Group  
NDA Report  
13<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

**Overview**

Nuclear Safety performance across Sellafield has been good through the first part of the year and the site should be commended for the focus in this area although continued vigilance is required. There have been a small number of environmental events but again performance has generally been good. Concern remains in the number of industrial safety incidents, a significant number of which have been RIDDOR reportable and indeed one major injury. We continue to have dialogue with the SL to properly understand the learning and areas for improvement.

Through March and April NDA engaged in reviewing the Life Time Plan – Performance Plan submitted by SL. The Performance Plan is the schedule of activities the site intends to carry out with particular focus on the next 3 to 20 years. It is NDA intent to use this version of the plan to monitor performance for at least the next three years, subject to agreed changes. The Plan was published via a special meeting of the main Site Stakeholder Group in August.

This is a significant step for the site and allows continuity of delivery focus in the priority high hazard areas. A number of issues were raised through NDA assurance and an agreed action plan for improvement is being prepared by SL. SL/NMP have implemented a number of management changes within the Decommissioning area and our view is that these have been positive.

We are monitoring closely the potential for schedule slippage which is occurring generally across the Decommissioning area. We are focussed on a number of high profile projects and generally seeking confidence from SL that the reasons for the delays are understood and actions are being generated to mitigate and get the projects back on track. A full performance update will be provided to the next meeting of the main SSG in accordance with the process discussed at the meeting referred to above.

The following update is intended not to duplicate the Sellafield site report but to add context from an NDA perspective.

### **Pile Fuel Storage Pond**

We are generally content with progress in PFSP. Issues are being worked through regarding transfer of fuel and contaminated items from the pond. We are monitoring the activities to consolidate sludge for transfer to interim storage, which have proved problematic to date.

### **First Generation Magnox Storage Pond**

The delays with completing the D Bay crack are understood and technically we are content the team are doing the right things. However, the overall impact in terms of deliver against schedule and the cost impacts of this work are not satisfactory. We will be engaged with SL and hopefully the Regulators in a Lessons Learned exercise shortly after work is complete.

We are about to focus attention on the integration of the various projects within the FGMSPP programme to ensure all opportunities for acceleration and improvement are being acted upon.

### **Magnox Swarf Storage Silo**

We are working closing with the new head of MSSS and the Decommissioning Director on a number of challenging project delivery issues which are high on our priorities for the site.

### **Pile Fuel Cladding Silo**

We are generally content with progress within PFCS as the team has a plan we believe credible for the retrieval of materials from the Silo with the potential to accelerate. We are liaising with the SL team and their retrievals contractor to discuss the technical development and opportunities to get ahead of schedule.

### **Site Remediation & Decommissioning Projects**

We have worked with SL to ensure the historical plant clean up and hazard reduction activities continue to progress. The site has a resource capability learned from

experience in this area and whilst it may not be at the top of the site hazards, these are extremely challenging working environments which require this level of expertise.

SL have proposed the acceleration of the removal of the Pile 1 Chimney filter gallery. We have supported this activity and will continue to work closely with SL to ensure the safe execution of the works, which is the number 1 priority.

The Separation Area Ventilation project is progressing reasonably well following the completion of the stack concrete pour. Fitting out of the support steelwork within the stack, whilst not as visible as the pour still requires high standards of safety management and we pleased SL and the contractors are working well together to manage these industrial hazards. The project has suffered some delays through completion of design works and ground conditions, but these delays now appear to be under control and we don't anticipate the schedule completion date to be in jeopardy.

### **Other Notable Issues**

During August the announcement was made of the closure of SMP. This was a sad and difficult decision and a consequence of the terrible natural events in Japan earlier this year. We are closely engaged with SL to ensure all consequences of this decision are managed compassionately and appropriately.

Resource issues are under the spot light at the moment as Decommissioning are reporting shortages in key areas as a reason for a number of delays being incurred. This may be one of the potential win wins following the SMP announcement.

Security is an area which remains under continuous review. A number of enhancements will be implemented over the coming months and we are liaising closely with DECC and the Regulators and to work with SL to ensure the efficiency of high hazard clean up activities is maintained.

Operational plant performance remains strong this year with Magnox and Thorp both working on or near plan and Vit Line 3 has recently returned to service following a long outage.

**Mark Steele**  
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