

HSE/NII Report to the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group Emergency Planning Sub Committee – 8 March 2010

Introduction

This is a summary of the areas that have been the focus of regulatory effort over the past six months, and a forward look to those areas where effort will be spent in the future.

Areas Covered

Sellafield and Windscale Licensed Sites - Merger of Emergency Plan

The combined Sellafield & Windscale Emergency Plan has been submitted to NII for Approval. NII is currently reviewing the submitted Emergency Plan documentation.

Sellafield Site Siren

The introduction of the eight new siren masts is a welcome improvement.

Unfortunately, the new siren may not be fully available for the Level 1 Exercise in May 2010 as originally planned.

OSCAR 9 – National Level 3 Emergency Exercise

OSCAR 9 took place on 24 September 2009 with the aim of testing the emergency plan for a nuclear accident at Sellafield involving an off-site release of radiation. A multi agency team coordinated the response and NII scrutinised the conduct of the exercise. At the hot debrief, which was chaired by NII, no issues were identified that required urgent remediation and several areas of good practice were evident. Issues that require attention will be progressed by the OSCAR Steering Group.

Sellafield Severe Accident Management Strategies (SAMs)

Inspections in 2009 indicated that little progress had been made in developing arrangements for understanding and addressing the potential severe accidents that could affect the Sellafield site. NII has written to Sellafield Ltd on this matter and discussions will be held with Sellafield Ltd to find an acceptable way forward.

Sellafield Ltd Emergency Preparedness

Sellafield Ltd is presently drawing up an improvement plan with the aim of developing an emergency response organisation that is able to consistently deliver high performance when responding to incidents and events on the site. Sellafield Ltd is also developing emergency exercise reviews that will identify key learning points from emergency exercises so appropriate remedial measures can be put in place.

Level 1 Demonstration Exercises

Sellafield Emergency Exercise ‘Kingfisher’ was held on 22 October 2009. A team from NII observed this Level 1 demonstration exercise, and the team concluded that the exercise was an adequate demonstration of the site emergency arrangements.

Key findings from the exercise are given below:

- Evidence of improved command and control.
- Good forward look to establish the worst scenario.
- Failure of the automatic telephone alert system.
- The lack of challenge presented by the scenario.

Discussions have recently taken place with Sellafield Ltd on the above findings. Sellafield Ltd is taking steps to improve command and control and the automatic telephone alert system. Sellafield Ltd is also working with NII to develop more challenging scenarios for future exercises

Focus of Future Regulatory Effort

- Improvements to emergency arrangements.
- Improvements to Severe Accident Management Strategies.
- Production of a challenging scenario for the level 1 Exercise in May 2010.
- Approval of the combined Sellafield/Windscale Emergency Plan.
- Combined safety and security demonstration exercises.

IDT 24/2/2010

TRIM 5.1.3.943

TRIM 4.4.2.574