

Report to the West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group Emergency Planning Sub Committee on Emergency Exercises

Introduction

This is a summary of the issues arising from the formal exercises held by the Site Emergency Planning Office for the period since the last meeting. The dates for exercises planned for the period up to the next meeting are listed at the end.

Exercises Held

There were two site exercises, as follows:

11 March 2010 A Roll Call and Communications exercises which the site holds twice yearly. The exercise was designed to demonstrate the adequacy of the roll call and communications aspects of the Sellafield Ltd site emergency arrangements and the sites criticality emergency arrangements for the separation area. The main on site issues were:

- Good response at Criticality Assembly Area processing over 600 personnel, aided by one evacuating plant segregating and prioritising their personnel.
- Recent improvements to evacuation plans helped to reduce the number of evacuees arriving at the Criticality Assembly Area. Further alleviation needed from those evacuating from the clean-side.
- Further improvements needed in command and control of the general building management in the Criticality Assembly Area tested.
- The speed and quality of communication to the workforce needs improvement.
- Good Roll Call of Site personnel.
- Site Emergency Control Centre performed well against a challenging scenario.

27 May 2010 A Level 1 exercise which the site is required to hold twice yearly. The exercise was designed to demonstrate to the NII the adequacy of the Sellafield Site emergency arrangements. The main issues were:

- Overall command and control good, now needs to be sustained across the Site.
- Prompt evacuation and Roll Call of the incident plant.
- Completion of the Site Roll Call was timely.
- Imbalance between Conventional and Nuclear Safety led to delay in initial re-entry into the incident plant.
- Security in some plants impacting on ability to access some Separation Area building for sheltering.
- Incident Control Centre and Access Control Point facilities commended.

Future Exercises

13 October 2010 Counter Terrorism annual exercise
4 November 2010 Level 1 demonstration exercise.