

West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group  
Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of LLWR Committee  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2009 held at the Drigg Village Hall

**Attendees**

Sue Brown, Chairman	Cumbria County Council
Richard Evans	Cumbria County Council
Jimmy Naylor	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Adrian Dalton, Vice Chairman	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Kneale Thompson	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Andrew Fairhurst	Environment Agency
Eileen Eastwood	Copeland Borough Council
Mike Robbins	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
David Moore	West Cumbria Site Stakeholders Group
Cath Giel	Low Level Waste Repository
Dick Raaz	Low Level Waste Repository
Nigel Lister	Low Level Waste Repository
Donna Glasson	Low Level Waste Repository
Martin Walkingshaw	Low Level Waste Repository
Dave Rossiter	Low Level Waste Repository
Andrea Borwick	Waste Recycling Group
Ian Warner	Energy Solutions
David Laudon	Sellafield Ltd
Laurence Cook	Sellafield Ltd

**Apologies :**

Cllr Elaine Woodburn	Copeland Borough Council
Scott Anderson	Low Level Waste Repository
Paul Pointon	Low Level Waste Repository
Brian Hough	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Stephen Shepherd	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council

**Observers :**

Steve McClure	Bardon Aggregates
Keith Hitchen	Resident of Holmrook
Malcolm Touhey	Sellafield Ltd
Mike Calloway	NDA
Matthew Clark	NDA
David Collier	Golden

## **1. Welcome/Introductions/Apologies**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, asked those around the table to introduce themselves and acknowledged apologies.

## **2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

Cath Giel apologised for the confusion with regard to the distribution of the minutes of the last meeting. The Chairman allowed 10 minutes for members to read the hard copies presented and raise any issues.

Richard Evans asked that the following correction be made to

### **Page 3, paragraph 3**

*“Richard Evans added that VLLW waste sites do not require planning permission. He said that CCC had held discussions with Sellafield Ltd regarding the MWDF and making provision for VLLW cells at Sellafield Site. Sellafield were non committal and to date have not identified Sellafield as an option”.*

The Landfill Site at Lillyhall does not require additional planning permission for the receipt of Very Low Level Waste (VLLW).

There were no other comments regarding the minutes of 11/3/09. Subject to this change being included the minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

## **3. General Update of the LLWR.: Dick Raaz**

Dick Raaz appraised the group on progress during the last quarter. He reported that the East wall piling on Vault 9 is now complete and the Piling Rigg has been removed from the LLWR site. The concrete pour for delivery of the “early pad” section of Vault 9 for storage purposes had commenced, release of this early component is anticipated in July 2009.

He went on to say that a key component of the LLWR mission was to assist the NDA with the development of the National Low Level Waste Strategy and he was pleased to announce that the LLW National Strategy document was launched on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2009 for public consultation. There now follows a 3 month consultation period and members are encouraged to engage with this process.

Dick stated that it was no secret that there is insufficient capacity at the LLWR to manage the UK’s LLW requirements. He reported that LLW Repository Ltd have introduced a number of measures and recommended several initiatives that will either better manage the waste or help reduce the Nations’ needs. Dick gave a commitment to report back on progress on each initiative as and when plans developed.

Finally Dick informed the group about two ‘open days’ held at the Repository last week for residents of Drigg and Carleton Parish. He was delighted to report that over

100 people had taken LLWR up on their invitation. The majority of visitors had expressed surprise at the scale of construction activities on the site and confirmed that they had no idea about the extent of LLWR operations. The general consensus was that the 'open days' had been a success.

Keith Hitchin asked from the audience if there was a better means of communication for the WCSSG meetings rather than the Website, as some of the villagers do not have access to the internet.

*Cath Giel suggested that a Public Notice could be posted on local notice boards giving advance warning of the meetings and encouraging the general public to attend.*

Keith also asked about the Traffic Management Plan and traffic calming measures for the village.

Steve McClure, representing Bardon Aggregates, pointed out that the vast majority of construction materials for Vault 9 were being brought in by rail.

Richard Evans confirmed that actual HGV deliveries to the site were much lower than forecasted in the Traffic Management Plan submitted to CCC. He believed this was in part, due to the fact that some deliveries had been transferred to rail.

In response to Keith's question, Dick replied that the traffic calming measures were being resourced through Capita and that progress was slow. He asked if anyone could bring any influence to bear to speed things up.

Keith Hitchin requested a copy of the report from Richard Evans CCC.

#### **New Action**

LLWR/18/001	Richard Evans to provide Keith Hitchin with a copy of the report.	Richard Evans
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#### **4. Presentation from Dave Rossiter, LLWR : Progress on National LLW Strategy.**

Dave Rossiter delivered a detailed presentation covering the background to, and the work that has been done, to develop the Draft National Low Level Waste Strategy Document. The document was launched for public consultation on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June and runs for a 3 month period until 11<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

Key strategic aims appearing in the strategy are:

- Safety and environmental excellence.
- Continued capability and capacity for the management and disposal of LLW.
- Facilitate continued hazard reduction and decommissioning.
- Best use of the UK Low Level Waste Repository.
- Provide best value.

The strategic aims are encapsulated in 3 strategic themes:

- Application of the waste management hierarchy for the management of low level waste.
- Making best use of existing assets.
- Opening up and exploitation of new routes.

The document has 7 main sections and 14 consultation questions.

Dave explained that the LLW Strategy Group (a multi-disciplinary and multi-representational group) had met a total of 6 times at venues across the UK in order to assist LLWR and the NDA in the development of this strategy document. Presentations have been delivered to a number of key stakeholders including the WCSSG LLWR Sub Committee.

He also explained how LLWR's operational strategy is key to the National Strategy development work because it shows how it can be implemented.

This presentation is available at [www.wcssg.co.uk](http://www.wcssg.co.uk), and all documents regarding National Strategy are available at [llwrsite.com](http://llwrsite.com).

*The Chairman asked whether adopting metal treatment processes and incineration would add or detract from the carbon footprint.*

*Dave Rossiter explained that there was a net benefit in treating waste as opposed to disposal and gave the example of energy consumption of recycling metal as a definite net carbon benefit. He added that incineration balances out as cost neutral and summed up by saying that there are definite benefits from volume reduction.*

*David Moore referred to a slide in the presentation which states the forecasted amount of LLW as 3million cubic metres and asked how much is generated by non-nuclear industries and whether they are as far advanced in developing their strategy.*

*Matthew Clark (NDA) replied that the majority of waste comes from the nuclear industry with a small amount- approximately 25,000 cubic metres - attributable to non-nuclear industry. He explained that DECC are hoping to consult on the non-nuclear industry strategy towards the end of the year.*

*David Moore followed with a supplementary question asking if the figures quoted included provision for Dounreay. David Rossiter confirmed that the new facility at Dounreay had been accounted for in the Strategy document.*

*The Chairman requested a hard copy of the 14 questions appearing in the Consultation document and Matthew Clark agreed to forward a hard copy to the Chairman.*

**New Action**

LLWR/018/002	Matthew Clark to forward a hard copy of the LLW National Strategy consultation document to Sue Brown.	Matthew Clark, NDA
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*The Chairman proceeded to ask the group how they would like to engage with the consultation process and it was agreed that individual responses would be submitted and that this would be followed up with a group response (should it be deemed necessary) at the next Sub Committee meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2009. The Chairman asked the NDA if a late group submission would be acceptable given the closing date of 11.09.09. The Chairman also asked how the consultation process captures individual responses and how the community find out whether their comments have been taken on board. She asked NDA to provide a written response.*

***New Action***

<i>LLWR/018/03</i>	<i>NDA to provide a written response explaining the consultation process and how consultees' comments are captured/acknowledged.</i>	<i>Mike Calloway NDA</i>
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**5. Presentation from Laurence Cook : Sellafield Sites : LLW Strategy**

Laurence Cook delivered a presentation detailing Sellafield Ltd's Low Level Waste Strategy. He explained that the main theme running throughout the strategy is waste avoidance or reduction. Laurence explained that Sellafield Ltd were hoping to access the supply chain options for metal treatment and recycling etc and were not intending to re-create existing processes at the Sellafield site. He confirmed that Sellafield Ltd would work in conjunction with the agreed LLW National Strategy and NDA before taking any initiatives forward and that he could envisage the need to form partnerships to address specific issues. He also confirmed that compaction at the WAMAC facility was an important element in the Sellafield strategy and identification of additional/alternative disposal routes.

Ensuing discussions revealed that Sellafield were interested in the way landfill routes for the disposal of very low level waste were developing through the LLW National Strategy work, also in waste treatment routes and waste segregation. Laurence confirmed that Sellafield have some capacity at Sellafield through CLESA but that they would need to review operations and waste forms.

In concluding Laurence confirmed that Sellafield would revisit their LLW Strategy next year to ensure that it aligns with the National LLW Strategy.

This presentation is available at [www.wcssg.co.uk](http://www.wcssg.co.uk).

*David Moore asked if disposal at Sellafield is for VLLW and how it fits into end states.*

*Laurence Cook replied that 100,000m3 capacity for VLLW exists (CLESA) and will last for approximately 10 years. He confirmed that additional facilities would be required to meet the needs of Sellafield.*

*David pointed out that the CLESA area was not identified as an institutional controlled area in the End States process but it contained contaminated materials which the community would expect to be managed.*

*Laurence Cook stated that material from CLESA would be moved to the institutional controlled area at the appropriate time.*

*The Chairman asked if the demand for increased compaction would result in a bigger or additional WAMAC type facility.*

*Laurence Cook replied that waste segregation would reduce the requirements on WAMAC so the current facility would be more than adequate.*

*Richard Evans stated that CCC have over the years received a differing reports on waste volume quantities, and asked how confident Sellafield Ltd were of the current figures.*

*Laurence Cook replied that characterisation of waste is a complex process which has been difficult to forecast. He explained that there is now a dedicated team in place and the forecasts are more accurate than they were 3 or 4 years ago.*

*Dave Weatherburn explained that waste characterisation was a national problem and not unique to Sellafield. He explained that NDA have initiated a site improvement team to address the characterisation issues and work with LLWR to find a solution.*

## **6. Presentation from Martin Walkingshaw, LLWR: Segregated Waste**

Martin Walkingshaw delivered a detailed presentation on the progress LLWR have made in implementing the new segregated waste service.

He explained that all consignors had signed on to the new mission. A new codes and colour system has been introduced to make it easier to identify contents in ISO's e.g.

- Blue S1 = Metallic Waste
- Yellow S2 = Combustible Waste
- Grey S3 = Very Low Level Waste

A vastly enhanced Consignor Support Team has been recruited to deliver the mission including a Transport and Logistics Team who will be looking at a multi-modal transport service with better utilisation of rail.

To date 22 segregated waste consignments have been identified and are currently being processed. 4 metal treatment projects have been issued for quotation and 6 individual projects ranging from heavy gauge drums to glove box base plates have been initiated.

This presentation is available at [www.wcssg.co.uk](http://www.wcssg.co.uk).

*David Moore enquired what incentives LLWR were offering consignors to segregate waste and how much extra cost was involved.*

*Martin Walkingshaw replied that consignors have a legal requirement through the BPEO process to treat waste and that cost was not a deciding factor.*

*Sue Brown asked how LLWR checked that they were receiving what consignors claimed to be sending.*

*Martin Walkingshaw replied that the Conditions for Acceptance (CFA) combined with EA audits and a sample check on a percentage of containers was used to verify consignments.*

*Jimmy Naylor enquired whether segregated waste treatments would result in additional HGV movements through the village and whether LLWR would become a holding bay for storage*

*Martin Walkingshaw replied that a commitment had been given to CCC that any onward movement would be via rail. He also stated that in the short term LLWR may act as a holding depot until direct routes opened up between the consignor and the supply chain.*

**7. Presentation jointly from Andrea Borwick, Waste Recycling Group and Ian Warner, Energy Solutions.**

A joint presentation was delivered by Andrea Borwick of WRG and Ian Warner from Energy Solutions regarding WRG's landfill facility at Lillyhall and their aspirations to provide alternative disposal routes for the nuclear industry's VLLW.

They began by providing background information on the two companies stating that WRG are the owner of the largest landfill portfolio in the UK. During 2008 WRG managed to treat, recycle and dispose of > 10 million tonnes waste. They are responsible for over 70 household waste recycling centres and over 100 landfill sites.

Energy Solutions have nuclear facility management and decommissioning experience on all Magnox sites except Calderhall and have bases in both the UK and the USA.

They believe that the combined expertise and experience in waste management and supply chain operations provides a strong foundation for the management of VLLW at Lillyhall. They described the types of wastes received at the Lillyhall facility including Asbestos and exempt radioactive waste in the form of NORM waste (naturally occurring Radioactive Material) - Lillyhall received the UK's largest consignment of NORM waste in 2004 - and talked the group through their stakeholder engagement plans.

This presentation is available at [www.wcssg.co.uk](http://www.wcssg.co.uk).

*The Chairman enquired whether WRG had attended any of the Neighbourhood Forums and what type of reception they had received. She also asked how the Local Councils were responding.*

*Ian Warner responded saying that they would be happy to attend any forum and added that Distington Parish Council had not raised any objections to their proposals during discussions. He believed that the general feedback had been positive.*

*Sue Brown asked if receipt of VLLW would require site expansion.*

*Richard Evans explained that an extension would require planning permission and pointed out that the current permission expires in 2014 and will need to be renewed. He went on to say that whilst CCC do not currently have a policy position on disposal*

*of VLLW at conventional landfill sites, a paper will be going to the Cabinet and full council for consideration in the very near future. He stated that everything possible should be done to reduce waste and added that there was concern about placing radioactive wastes in conventional landfill sites. The preference would be to dispose of VLLW at or near the sites of origin.*

*Ian Warner replied that Lillyhall is the closest licensed landfill site to the Sellafield Site.*

*David Moore asked if it was appropriate for CCC to adopt a stance particularly as they were the Waste Planning Authority – he was concerned that it could pre-determine any planning application. David also called for a pragmatic approach to VLLW as it extended the life of the LLWR.*

**8. AOB**

Dave Weatherburn informed that group that LLW Repository had been subjected to rigorous scrutiny through numerous audits throughout the their first year of operation and he was pleased to announce that LLWR are in a good place and doing well.

Richard Evans told the group that CCC’s core strategy document in the MWDF had been adopted at the end of April and was at the end of its 6 week ‘call-in’ period with no challenges. The consultation period for the siting process which mentions VLLW and identifies Lillyhall, Keekle and land near to Sellafield, closes on 6/07/09 with the main consultation taking place in October 2009.

Sue Brown asked if the Community Benefit payment was concluded.

Dave Moore said that the offer letter was with the Finance Dept waiting for the return of the D & C PC signatures, funds will be released once sanction is received.

Sue Brown would like to know the process for applicants and the selection criteria. NDA agreed to brief at the next Sub Committee meeting in September.

***New Action***

<i>LLWR/018/04</i>	<i>NDA to brief the September LLWR Sub Committee on the application process and funding selection criteria for the Copeland Community Fund.</i>	<i>Bob Churchill</i>
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**Topics for September meeting:**

- LLW National Strategy update - NDA
- VLLW Keekle Head - SITA
- Vault 9 progress - LLWR
- Traffic Calming Measures - Capita
- Copeland Community Fund - NDA

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm in Drigg Village Hall

**Future Meetings**

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at Drigg Village Hall at 2.00pm