

**West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group**  
**Minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of LLWR Committee**  
**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2010**  
**Drigg Village Hall 14.00-16.00hrs**

**Attendees**

Sue Brown, Chairman	Cumbria County Council
Andrew Fairhurst	Environment Agency
Elaine Woodburn	Copeland Borough Council
David Moore	West Cumbria Site Stakeholders Group
Dick Raaz	Low Level Waste Repository
Cath Giel	Low Level Waste Repository
Scott Anderson	Low Level Waste Repository
Martin Walkingshaw	Low Level Waste Repository
Donna Glasson	Low Level Waste Repository
Nigel Lister	Low Level Waste Repository
Jimmy Naylor	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Roy Young	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Adrian Dalton, Vice Chair	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Joanne Vanstraaten	NDA
Sue Brett	Cumbria County Council
David Moore	WCSSG

**Apologies**

Paul Pointon	Low Level Waste Repository
Richard Evans	Cumbria County Council
Mike Davidson	Allerdale Borough Council
Eileen Eastwood	Copeland Borough Council
Keith Hitchen	5 Rivers Partnership

**Observers**

Dave Rossiter	Low Level Waste Repository
John Cain	Copeland Borough Council
Stuart Bowe	PACTEC
Courtney Apperson	Low Level Waste Repository
Tim Knowles	Cumbria County Council
Dr Ian Hudson	NDA
Steve Sharp	NDA
Bob Brown	Observer

## 1. Welcome/Introductions/Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance, especially in the adverse weather conditions we are currently experiencing. The Chairman apologised for the cancellation of the September LLWR sub committee meeting, explaining that the decision had been taken because the majority of the membership had indicated that they were unable to attend. She apologised for any inconvenience this decision may have caused and asked members to note future meeting dates and endeavour to attend.

## 2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Minutes from the June meeting were approved with no amendments. The following actions are ongoing:

LLWR/023/001	Dave Rossiter to provide a presentation in March 2011 on the UK Radioactive Waste Inventory 2010 data for LLW.	Dave Rossiter
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LLWR/023/02	Neil Shaw to return in March 2011 for update on Cap design.	Neil Shaw
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LLWR/023/03	Richard Cummings to return March 2011 with the update on the ESC supporting documentation reports levels 1, 2, and 3.	Richard Cummings
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LLWR/023/04	Bob Williamson, D&C PC to provide Sue Brown a copy of any relevant and appropriate annual reports covering the projects.	Cath Giel to follow up as not received by Sue Brown
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## 3. General update on LLWR Activities – Dick Raaz

LLW Repository Ltd has been very busy since the last meeting of the Sub Committee:

- On the 29<sup>th</sup> July Vault 9 was officially opened by representatives of all three levels of local governance – County, District and Parish. LLWR thanks the Chairman of Cumbria County Council, The Mayor of Copeland and the Chairman of Drigg & Carleton Parish Council for participating in the ceremony. The site hosted over 100 guests including local authorities, regulators, customers, key stakeholders and community members, this was an exceptionally proud day for the Repository. The Vault has a footprint in excess of 22,000 square metres this roughly equates to 4 rugby pitches. Depending on the new waste service routes, industry implementation of the waste hierarchy and speed of decommissioning projects, Vault 9 could be serviceable for anything between 10 and 15 years.

- Members were reminded that the new vault has a licence for storage not disposal and that an application for change of use will be forthcoming following a favourable Environment Agency (EA) outcome from the submission of the LLWR Environmental Safety Case (ESC).
- The ESC is due for submission to the EA on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2011. LLWR personnel are currently drafting and reviewing reports/documentation to support the ESC. It is anticipated that feedback from the EA will occur in 2012 with approval hopefully following in 2013.
- On the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September, LLWR hosted two Open House days for the local community and were delighted to see many returnees with over 70 residents in attendance.
- The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) organisational restructure has consequences for LLWR with changes to the 'site facing team'. LLWR has been reassigned to Sellafield's site facing team led by Dr Ian Hudson. Steve Sharp has replaced Dave Weatherburn as Site Programme Manager and is the key interface between NDA and LLWR activities. LLWR is looking forward to continued joint working.
- Government announced the results from their Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) in October and it is heartening to note that NDA's budgets were not too badly impacted nor was LLWR forecasted activities. Congratulations go to NDA for good defence of the decommissioning programme.

#### **4. Update of Environment Agency Workstreams - Andrew Fairhurst, EA.**

Andrew Fairhurst began his presentation with an overview of the role of the Environment Agency, this covered the objectives, regulations, safety legislation, policy and obligations. The EA work closely with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), who are also responsible for regulating nuclear safety. Andrew described in detail what the EA's requirements are at LLWR, these included inspections, improving standards, assessing applications for permits and providing advice on environmental issues.

With effect from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2010, the Radio Substances Act 1993 (RSA93) has been replaced with the new Environmental Permitting Regulations (ERP). The overall intent is to simplify regulatory regimes and reduce regulatory burden and cost to industry and the UK tax payer. The key changes to the ERP include new application forms, new terminology eg: BAT (Best Available Technique) which replaces BPEO (Best Practical Environmental Option) and changes to consultation processes.

The EA intends to issue a variation later this month to allow PCM transfers to Sellafield until 2022 inline with planning permission and allow transfer of LLW to other permitting sites representing the BAT, facilitating better waste management.

Andrew also described the Waste Quality Checking Laboratory (WQCL) which is based at Winfrith in Dorset and has been operating since 1991. The facility costs £650,000 per year to run and has recorded no major non-compliances during its operation. A review has been undertaken to determine the future of WQCL – and a decision has been taken to close the facility as it is no longer suited to the types of waste being handled. The EA have decided to re-focus the sampling and checking regime by closing the facility at Dorset by August 2011 and moving to the use of specialist service providers for ongoing checking/analysis programme.

Andrew concluded the presentation with an overview of review dates and timescales for the LLWR ESC which is due 1<sup>st</sup> May 2011.

This presentation can be viewed at [www.wcssg.co.uk](http://www.wcssg.co.uk)

David Moore asked why the PCM permit was to be extended until 2022 and queried whether this was necessary.

Scott Anderson explained how the date of 2022 was an end date to cover the last phase of decommissioning of the magazines at LLWR enabling the site to utilise the decommissioned and demolition waste as profile material in the final cap where appropriate and practicable.

Roy Young asked how many checks currently happen at the WQCL.

Andrew Fairhurst replied that WQCL currently covers 22 sites so checking will be increased by attending individual sites compared to the existing small number of random checks. Audits currently represent 5-10% of movements, it is anticipated the new regime will increase this percentage rate to 50%.

Sue Brown would like to invite Andrew Fairhurst back in September 2011 to cover the subject of Community Engagement in ESC Consultation.

LLWR/023/05	Sue Brown asked Andrew Fairhurst to return in September 2011 to explain in depth the ESC consultation reviews and comments	Andrew Fairhurst
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#### **5. Progress update Environment Safety Case- Dr Richard Cummings, LLWR.**

Richard Cummings began his presentation by explaining what the LLWR Environment Safety Case (ESC) is: “a collection of arguments, data, assessments and information to demonstrate environmental safety now and into the long term future” he described how the future of LLWR depends on the ESC meeting the EA’s requirements and expectations. Richard detailed the Guidance on Requirements for Authorisation (GRA) and how this assists the ESC content both now and post closure.

The updated status of the ESC included the completed development of the data freeze which occurred in April 2010 allowing for final hydrogeological and near-field calculations, analysis and document production ready for submission on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2011.

It also included an explanation about the 3 tier structure of documentation:

Level 1 documents = Safety Argument

Level 2 documents = Evidence/Evaluations

Level 3 documents = the Basis

These documents will be available to view on the LLWR website ([www.llwrsite.com](http://www.llwrsite.com)) in May 2011.

LLWR/023/06	Richard Cummings to present the ESC at the June Sub Committee Meeting following May submissions to EA.	Richard Cummings
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This presentation can be viewed at [www.wcssg.co.uk](http://www.wcssg.co.uk)

## **6. Update of LLW Strategy: Government Approval- Joanne Vanstraten, NDA**

Joanne Van Straaten provided an overview of the UK Nuclear Industry LLW Strategy. The strategy was approved by Government in August 2010. The strategy was developed in response to the 2007 Government LLW Policy. The strategy moves away from the historical 'one-size-fits-all' approach of disposal at LLWR to a more flexible approach that include application of the waste management hierarchy, making best use of existing assets (such as LLWR), and utilising new fit-for-purpose waste management routes. This will provide continued capability and capacity to support the nuclear industry over the long-term.

At the heart of the strategy is the waste management hierarchy. Efficient application of the hierarchy will minimise the volume of waste requiring disposal, bring environmental benefits, and significant cost savings to the UK taxpayer.

The strategy provides a framework waste management decisions by waste producers and implementation of the LLW strategy needs to be fully integrated with strategies for higher activity wastes and non-radioactive waste.

Development of the strategy has involved extensive consultation with a very broad range of stakeholders at many levels. Now that the strategy is approved NDA will focus on implementation. This will include providing the right information to support decision-makers.

Elaine Woodburn noted that there was opposition to some elements of the strategy such as allowing VLLW to be disposed outside of existing nuclear sites and asked what consideration had been made of the impact on Copeland.

Joanne explained that a number of assessments were undertaken to support development of the strategy including a full Strategic Environmental Assessment. This included assessment of impact on local communities, not specifically for Copeland. Joanne noted that disposal of VLLW to landfill was nothing new and had been occurring for over 30 years. However, she recognised that this was an emotive issue for communities and pointed out that no preference to options had been given in the strategy. She also pointed out that the NDA strategy cannot limit the options set out by Government in the 2007 LLW policy which allows consideration of this route by individual waste producers.

Elaine asked whether there were any studies that demonstrate why the VLLW could not be disposed on the site of origin.

Joanne noted that some very preliminary studies had been done in the past in various forms but it was not comprehensive or all in one place. NDA and LLWR are in the process of developing guidance for sites on the development of business cases for such facilities.

Dick Raaz noted that we need to keep all options open and recognise issues such as contaminated land as the potential volumes significantly exceed LLWR capacity.

Sue Brett asked whether the business case guidance rules out onsite disposal.

Joanne noted that the guidance document was currently only in draft form and does not rule in or out any particular option. It sets out the requirements and key issues that a site should consider in order to make a business case. Dave Rossiter noted that onsite disposal was not ruled out; however, other than the facilities currently operating, the business case was yet to be conclusively demonstrated. In addition, it should be recognised that not all sites will be technically suitable for an onsite disposal facility. Joanne agreed that NDA and LLWR would look at the wording in the document to make this clearer.

Tim Knowles noted that VLLW disposal to landfills was one area where stakeholder engagement could have been improved.

## **7. Update on Combustible Waste Service- Martin Walkingshaw, LLWR**

Martin Walkingshaw began the presentation with a list of customers who currently use LLW Repository's Waste Service treatments, the list was made up of NDA sites, Public Sector, Private sector and third parties. LLWR waste services include Packaging, Metallic's, Supercompaction and LLW, with the recently added Combustible service.

Martin explained that the combustible treatment solution delivers vast volume reduction in waste and demonstrates BPEO/BPM/BAT - which applies to all waste treatment routes.

This new Combustible Waste Treatment service has four service providers:

- Abbot Nuclear Consulting
- Nuvia
- Energy Solutions
- Studsvik

The first Incineration consignment is due for shipment in January 2011.

Each provider is using various treatment facilities both UK and overseas, for example Studsvik are using Nyköping in Sweden and Tradebe in Fawley, UK.

The Metal Waste Treatment Service has three service providers, again using both UK and overseas facilities.

- Energy Solutions
- Nuvia
- Studsvik

The highlights since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 were, 220t of treated Metallic Waste, orders now already in place for additional 284t of Metallic Waste and diverted approximately 20 HHISO's equivalent from disposal. The largest consignments were from the Medical Research Council and Sellafield.

David Moore asked what happens to the metal once cleaned up.

Martin noted that the metals are sold to the treatment facility and deducted from the LLWR final invoice. Treated metals are returned to the commercial market and residual waste – a reduction in volume of 95% returned to LLWR for disposal.

## **8. AOB**

Sue Brown noted that a consultant, David Collier of Golder Associates would be conducting a report for the restructure of the WCCSG this will be available for January 2011 meeting.

Sue Brown left the meeting at 15.50pm due to weather conditions. Adrian Dalton D&C PC took over as Chair and concluded the business of the day. Meeting closed 16.15pm

Schedule of meetings 2011:

Wednesday 08/03/11, Drigg Village Hall, 2.00pm

Wednesday 08/06/11, Drigg Village Hall, 7.00pm

Wednesday 14/09/11, Drigg Village Hall, 2.00pm

Wednesday 14/12/11, Drigg Village Hall, 2.00pm