

**West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group
Minutes of the 19th Meeting of LLWR Committee
Wednesday 9th September 2009 held at the Drigg Village Hall**

Attendees

Sue Brown, Chairman	Cumbria County Council
Richard Evans	Cumbria County Council
Jane Corry	Cumbria County Council
Dave Weatherburn	Nuclear Decommissioning Agency
Jimmy Naylor	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Adrian Dalton, Vice Chairman	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Andrew Fairhurst	Environment Agency
Elaine Woodburn	Copeland Borough Council
David Moore	West Cumbria Site Stakeholders Group
Dick Raaz	Low Level Waste Repository
Scott Anderson	Low Level Waste Repository
Paul Pointon	Low Level Waste Repository
Donna Glasson	Low Level Waste Repository
Phil Holland	Sita UK
Mike Davidson	Allerdale Borough Council
Mike Calloway	Nuclear Decommissioning Agency
Karl Melville	Capita Symonds

Apologies

Cath Giel	Low Level Waste Repository
Nigel Lister	Low Level Waste Repository
Stewart Kemp	Cumbria County Council
Stephen Shepherd	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Susan Brett	Cumbria County Council
Kneale Thompson	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Eileen Eastwood	Copeland Borough Council
Mike Robbins	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Bob Churchill	Nuclear Decommissioning Agency

Observers

Tim Hedahl	Low Level Waste Repository
John Jennings	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Dave Rossiter	Low Level Waste Repository
Keith Hitchen	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Matthew Clark	Nuclear Decommissioning Agency

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 10th June 2009

All agreed that previous minutes were accurate with no amendments needed.

3. General Update of the LLWR.

Dick Raaz began by summarising LLWR's exciting last few months. In June LLWR hosted the Drigg residents at an Open Day on LLWR site. This included the site tour of the Rail sidings, Vault 8 and Vault 9 construction site. Over 100 residents came to the Open Day, and the feedback received was generally very positive. July saw the transfer of the first part of Vault 9 from Birse to LLWR. This will provide interim storage capacity for up to one year and solves the immediate capacity issue. The key to the long term capacity solution for Vaults 10, 11 and 12 etc, is the successful resolution of the Environmental Safety Case (ESC). This is due in 2011 and the LLWR ESC team are working closely with the regulators to achieve this. In August the Open days continued, this time for the LLWR's own Staff and their families. Again this was a huge success for LLWR having over 160 family and friends altogether.

Dick stated that introduction of new Segregated Waste Services for Very Low Level Waste, combustibles and metal recycling are very important to ensure best use is made of the LLWR by ensuring full implementation of the Waste Hierarchy. Formal approval was received from NDA in August and on Thursday 3rd September LLWR completed its first consignment of metal waste to the Studsvik MRF at Lillyhall. This captured another milestone for LLWR.

Sue Brown asked whether council members would be invited to visit LLWR site?

Dick welcomed anyone who wished to visit the site as part of their duties to contact LLWR to arrange a time.

4. Presentation from Paul Pointon, LLWR: Vault 9 update

Paul Pointon provided an overview of the Vault 9 design and an update on current progress. The East corner of vault 9 has now completed the bulk excavation works and the secant wall on the East side is also complete. The west outer wall is now almost complete. The floor slab is 1/5 complete, and the BES layer is 80% complete, this is slightly behind schedule due to the heavy rain over the past three weeks. Paul noted that rail deliveries to LLWR have been temporarily suspended as stock piles of materials on site are sufficient. The Port of Workington will still continue to receive rail deliveries. The partial handover on 21st July 2009 gave LLWR additional storage capacity. This storage area is separate from ongoing construction duties.

This presentation can be viewed at www.wcssg.com

Elaine Woodburn asked whether Vault 9 construction has resulted in any extra long term permanent jobs?

Paul responded that Birse have relocated staff to West Cumbria and are looking to expand further as they have now won a contract at Sellafield on the back of their Vault 9 success. G & AM Lawson will continue to work with Birse on this. Paul took an action to ask the Vault 9 subcontractors how many permanent jobs had been created.

New Action

LLWR/019/001	To ask LLWR Vault 9 subcontractors how many permanent jobs have been created as a result of the project and report back to December Sub-committee	Paul Pointon LLWR
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Dick Raaz added that the implementation of the National LLW Strategy has already created 10-12 new jobs at LLWR. By managing the LLW of 19 NDA sites efficiently and use of the correct resources the life of the Repository can be extended to 2050. These new people are working hard to implement these changes.

Adrian Dalton asked Paul why Bentonite was used in Vault 9 and why rain impacts on the schedule?

Paul replied that Bentonite Enhanced Soil (BES) is used as a Vault liner as it is impermeable to water. Because of this the Bentonite does retain rain water and at the moment some flooding is occurring within the construction site following heavy rain. In addition concrete cannot be layed over the wet BES. Managing this excess water within the Vault 9 site is currently quite difficult as there are no manholes or drains. Water has to be collected, settled, pumped out and discharged. Paul noted that extending the working hours in good weather would help with the BES and the concrete works returning to schedule, this issue will be raised with the Parish Council and the CCC.

David Moore asked if any of this water was radioactively contaminated ?

Paul replied that the water was not radioactively contaminated- it is purely rainwater.

Richard Evans asked whether the parish council had received any complaints about noise?

Keith Hitchin responded that he was not aware of any complaints about noise. Paul Pointon responded that noise levels are monitored by LLWR and that LLWR had not exceeded any planning levels. The extra working hours requested by Birse may continue into early October.

Richard Evans added that CCC would take into consideration the noise levels of the extra working hours. John Jennings noted that Drigg is very quiet village especially in an evening there may be more chance of any noises being heard.

4. Presentation from Karl Melville, Capita Symonds: Traffic Calming

Karl started his presentation with a background into the Calming Measures requested by LLWR and the Drigg residents. Site surveys have been completed and the scheduled works for the next 3 months including commencement for installation in November 2009. The new Speed Indicator Device (SID) signs will help improve the calming issues in the village. LLWR will cover the cost of the signs and the cost of maintenance for 10 years. Locations of the SID's were shown in detail and updating the original paintwork on the speed humps (Dragons Teeth) would also be done within the schedule of works. Work is expected to be completed by December.

This presentation can be viewed at www.wcssg.com

Elaine Woodburn asked what a Section 278 agreement was?

Karl explained that it was a standard highways agreement.

Elaine Woodburn asked how much this scheme was costing and who was paying? Elaine also noted that Copeland Borough Council was not aware that Drigg had a significant problem with speeding traffic compared to other areas.

Karl replied that the cost is between Capita and the client. CBC is not being asked for payment towards this project. David Moore also questioned whether the proposed scheme was overkill and why Drigg is receiving all this work when Seascale village has been refused twice for Traffic Calming measures. Again David was not aware of any significant speeding problems through Drigg. Several members of the audience noted that there was still a speeding problem with some HGVs and delivery vans passing through the village on their way to Seascale.

Karl noted that as Service Manager for the Highways he would be more than happy to review the issues raised by David Moore and visit Seascale.

New Action

<i>LLWR/019/002</i>	<i>Karl agreed to arrange to meet with Cllr David Moore and visit Seascale to review traffic issues at a mutually convenient date</i>	<i>Karl Melville and David Moore</i>
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Elaine Woodburn asked whether these signs were part of the Vault 9 planning permission ?

Richard Evans responded that as part of the Vault 9 permission, there was a requirement to review traffic calming and signs but not details on actual measures to be implemented. Dick Raaz added that as a new village resident he appreciated the traffic situation and that the local roads are not ideal for any HGV's. Dick added that whilst most of the traffic is not necessarily bound for LLWR efforts are being made to minimise the impact on the village as far as possible.

Sue Brown raised the issue of the timescale for the Calming Measures, but unfortunately nothing can speed up the process, it all takes time.

Keith Hitchen explained that local roads around the village had deteriorated significantly and noted that the paintwork had not been updated for the last three years. Keith asked when the road was last inspected and whether it was still fit-for purpose?

Karl replied that all roads are inspected as to their “fitness for purpose” every year. The Area committee for Highways inspect B roads. Karl agreed to take the issue to the Area committee.

New Action

LLWR/019/003	To consider inspection of local B-roads for deterioration and damages. To provide response to December sub-committee	Karl Melville
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5. Presentation from Mike Calloway, NDA: National LLW Strategy Consultation.

Mike introduced himself as NDA’s Head of Lower Activity Waste Management, standing in for Jo Fisher while on maternity leave. Mike updated the Committee on the LLW Strategy consultation document that was released on June 5th 2009 and is due to close on the September 11th 2009. The consultation document has 7 main sections and 14 consultation questions. Over 2000 stakeholders were notified of the launch and up to 100 responses are expected. A consultation review panel within NDA has been established to help analyse and review the responses. The panel will consider each comment received and develop a response to each question. To date NDA had received 20 responses and final numbers would be confirmed after closing date. Mike noted that responses to date has been broadly supportive with key themes around stakeholder engagement and planning issues. The NDA response to the consultation comments will be published both electronically and in hard copy and the final draft LLW Strategy will be submitted for Government approval in early 2010.

This presentation can be viewed at www.wcssg.com

Elaine Woodburn was surprised that with 2000 people being notified, there were so few responses and asked whether NDA expected a significant number of late responses.

Mike explained that some individuals notified are from the same organisations and it was normal for this type of consultation to receive a single collective response on behalf of each organisation rather than individuals.

Elaine also questioned whether generic responses to comments were appropriate and whether all consultation comments would be published.

Mike Calloway noted that some of the comments received were very similar from different organisations and hence generic responses would cover all of the issues raised. There will be a report to show how the themed answers are collated and addressed.

Richard Evans informed the committee that CCC support most of the National Strategy, however there are concerns about disbursement of VLLW disposal facilities away from existing nuclear sites. CCC would prefer disposal closer to the point of origin, on land on or adjacent to, existing sites. Richard noted that the Cumbria Minerals and Waste Development Framework site nomination was due for another round of consultation on Thursday 17th September 2009 and will be open for 4 weeks. Richard noted that, this will now be the 6th time, over 4 years and that hopefully agreement will be achieved.

6. Presentation from Phil Holland, SITA UK: Proposal for the Keekle Head Waste Management Centre.

Phil began his presentation with an insight into SITA UK and Endecom which has been set up as a separate subsidiary company to service the nuclear and oil and gas markets. The site at Keekle Head is a derelict open cast coal mine 5 miles from Whitehaven and 1 mile from Pica. SITA have agreed an option to purchase and develop the site, subject to obtaining planning permission. CCC are currently taking enforcement action to ensure the site is restored. SITA are proposing a 'purpose built' modern disposal facility for VLLW. This waste would mainly come from Sellafield site but could also potentially come from other NDA sites outside of Cumbria.

The proposed development will consist of lined cells or trenches with weather protection and would receive sealed bags and drums of VLLW. The site would have a capacity of around 1 million m³. These covered cells would work on a basis that two cells would ever be open at one time. The facility will probably be a nuclear licensed site regulated by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII).

Phil stated that the proposal supports the National Strategy for LLW and only lower levels of waste would be disposed at Keekle Head. The presentation continued with the works timetable, this included the 18 months preliminary investigations already done, exploratory drilling complete, and planning permission to be submitted by end of 2009. SITA are currently engaging in stakeholder discussions. Local meetings are due in October, posters and leaflets circulating locally to communities, any responses to enquiries will be welcomed.

These landfill activities would start in 2012 and operate for up to 50 years if this proposal goes ahead. Nuvia have been engaged as consultants to complete the risk analysis. Phil stated that SITA did not expect any significant dose impact compared to natural background levels.

This presentation can be viewed at www.wcssg.com

Elaine Woodburn asked CCC about the status of the Enforcement action to restore the Keekle Head site.

Richard Evans replied the first job is to pump out the water and that the site would be restored to green field status over the next year.

Elaine Woodburn asked whether a health impact study was required as part of the planning application?

Richard Evans replied that CCC had requested this. Phil Holland confirmed that this will be part of the planning application.

Adrian Dalton questioned whether import of waste from sites such as Chapelcross outside of Cumbria was appropriate and that he hoped this would be excluded within the planning conditions similar to the situation at Dounreay.

Phil Holland responded that SITA had looked at simple geographic boundaries of those sites nearby and that Scotland may decide to develop their own repository anyway.

David Moore asked how long institutional control would be required ?

Phil Holland responded that this was currently not certain but that institutional control may be required for up to 300 years.

Richard Evans stated that he believed that such VLLW disposal developments may deter investment within West Cumbria, creating a social and economic impact in an area that already has problems with its economy.

Elaine noted that the area already had a number of nuclear facilities and that Copeland Borough Council opposed this development.

7. Update on Community Fund

Dave Weatherburn apologised that Bob Churchill would not be attending the meeting but stated that the Community Fund Project Board now has authority to transfer the first £50,000 to Drigg & Carleton Parish Council. In addition the second payment of £5 million is due from NDA in November. It was noted that some formalities have not yet been concluded for the Copeland Community Fund. This issue will be raised again in the next meeting in December 2009 when the NDA will be happy to conclude.

Elaine Woodburn added that any future payments to the D&C PC, should go through correct channels. She pointed out that John Clarke of the Community Board and the Project board has the authority to agree release dates for future payments to D&C PC following receipt of the annual report of accounts.

Keith Hitchen asked who decides what the Parish get each year ?

Elaine Woodburn responded that there is a legal framework in place that ensures the Parish will get its money, however the board needs information to release it.

8. AOB

Elaine Woodburn informed the committee that the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely West Cumbria Partnership have developed an information leaflet which will be going out in October to inform the public about the process.

David Moore reminded the committee that the new West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group website was up and running and web-alerts of updates are now available.

Next Meeting

Wednesday 9th December at 2.00 pm, Drigg Village Hall

Future Meeting

Wednesday 10th March 2010 at 2.00 pm, Drigg Village Hall.