

**Report to the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group
from the Community Engagement Co-ordinating sub-committee**

**Questions to be fielded at the next meeting on
Thursday 6th April 2006**

By

**Cllr Elaine Woodburn
Chairperson, Community Engagement Co-ordinating sub-committee**

The purpose of the CECSC, which meets monthly, is to enable the community to have a direct voice in the planning and execution of the NDA scope of work in West Cumbria.

The last report given to the WCSSG scrutiny meeting in October 05 highlighted that the CECSC had decided to explore the issue of 'the Future of the Sellafield site' as its first consultation.

Therefore the main priority over the past few months has been to engage with the local community on this issue. A framework document was drafted along with response forms and posted onto the WCSSG website. Those people that had registered onto the website to receive information on consultations were alerted to the 'Future of the Sellafield Site' consultation and invited to respond.

As a result of this, we received a number of responses from a variety of community representatives and several people registered to attend a workshop on the issue.

Phase two of the consultation was in the format of a workshop which was held on 25th January 06 at the Lakes College and was independently facilitated by Westlakes Research Institute. Invitations were sent to a diverse range of organisations including, the Youth Council, CORE, local supply chain, tourism board, churches forum, amongst others.

A report to include the workshop output and the responses received from the website is currently in draft form and will be available on the website in the very near future.

The NDA has now announced its intention to consult on 'Site end States'. The CECSC will feed this communities findings from the consultations into the process that the NDA has put in place.

Since the last meeting, the WCSSG has also responded to the NDA's consultation on 'The NDA draft strategy'. Concern was raised at the CECSC about the difficulty in attempting to achieve consensus amongst such a diverse group of people as the WCSSG and it was felt that although the WCSSG had responded to the consultation, a more 'fit for purpose' process could have been used to encourage more involvement from members of the community.

At the time of writing this report, a Chairman's sub committee has been arranged to review the process for submitting WCSSG views on consultations.

The future scope of work for the CECSC will be discussed then recommendations made after the Chairman's sub committee. Although it is anticipated that changes

will need to be made to the present CECSC to ensure wider community consultation on national and NDA issues that are of concern to the local community. Consideration will have to be given to ensure that the committee is not running ahead of consultations that are being run by other organisations.

The committee stated at the onset that this sub committee would need a flexible process that could adapt to the changing needs of the local community and the industry. It would seem that in a time when numerous consultations, that will affect this community are being considered then we need to review how we best ensure the community have an input into these.



workshop held on 25th January – ‘The future of the Sellafield Site’

List of Acronyms

CECSC	-	Community Engagement Co-ordinating sub committee
CORE	-	Cumbrians opposed to a radioactive environment
NDA	-	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
WCSSG	-	West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group