

Chairman's report to the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group

Whitehaven Civic Hall
Thursday 2nd April 2009

The WCSSG will adopt a new approach at its April meeting in order to improve the effectiveness of the Sites Stakeholder Group. This will enable the committee to gain greater uniformity of the work programmes between the main group meetings and the sub committees.

The aim is to achieve a more integrated approach to the work of the sub-committees so that they will do much of the detailed scrutiny and the main meetings will be more focussed on progress and issues arising from the sub committees. Prior to the scrutiny meetings, each of the Chairs of the sub committees will provide a brief summary of their reports, which will include key items of interest and any issues. The Chairman will present the summary reports from the sub committees and any questions raised will be directed to the appropriate sub committee chair. This will hopefully free up more time for discussion and questions.

With regards to the minutes from our last scrutiny meeting held in October 08, an amendment was made to paragraph 42. This reflected clarification from the DfT in respect of a Prohibition Notice placed on Sellafield Ltd. Below is the clarification of the amendment made at that time.

Sellafield Ltd lodged an appeal against a prohibition notice issued by an Inspector of the Department of Transport on 9th July 2008. At Liverpool Employment Tribunal on 19 September 2008, by consent, the Prohibition Notice was affirmed with a modified schedule. Accordingly, the appeal against the Prohibition Notice and the application for its suspension by Sellafield Ltd. were treated as withdrawn by the tribunal.

The Prohibition Notice remains extant and will continue to be so until the DfT is satisfied that Sellafield Ltd has taken all steps necessary to ensure future compliance with relevant statutory provisions in relation to the matters mentioned in the notice.

Plutonium shipments cannot currently resume; nor have the requirements of the notice been met.

Levels of attendance at the various sub committees is disappointing. The Chairman wants to encourage people to attend the sub committee meetings, especially now that the focus is more towards scrutiny of the Site Licence Companies and the NDA.

Copeland and Allerdale Borough Councils have formed a Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership which includes community representatives, partner local authorities and other appropriate stakeholders. An invitation was extended to the



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WCSSG Chairman to join the partnership and he is now a member. The aim of the partnership is to make a recommendation to Copeland and Allerdale Borough Councils on whether they should participate or not in the geological disposal facility siting process, without commitment to eventually hosting a facility.

The WCSSG is entering exciting times with the very real possibility of New Build in West Cumbria. It is imperative that any plans or developments are shared with the community. It is very important, therefore, that the community is actively involved. WCSSG will be hosting a public meeting on 18th March at the Civic Hall in Whitehaven, which will provide a greater understanding of the process and timescales involved. The Chairman hopes members will attend.