

**Chairman's brief on process for defining the End State for the Sellafield site
WCSSG meeting 5th October 2006**

The NDA has asked the WCSSG to support its process for deciding on the End State for the nuclear sites in West Cumbria.

As part of its national strategy, the NDA wants to review the End States for each of its sites, and considers it very important that the local community has the opportunity to have its say.

The aim of the project is to come up with a solution that satisfies the desires of the community and which is technically and commercially feasible. The NDA also has to make sure that the local picture lines up with the national perspective.

We're kicking off the West Cumbrian part of this picture here today. The WCSSG will run the consultation, and our objective is to ensure as many people as possible have a chance to take part.

Throughout October we will be publicising the consultation – we're calling it the Future of the Sellafield Site – and I would ask everyone here to encourage friends, colleagues and neighbours to take part!

Stage 1 of the process will be a series of workshops, events and a web-based consultation looking at the possible end use or uses of the nuclear sites. You will remember we held a workshop at the Lakes College in January on a similar topic, and the output from that will also be fed into the debate.

Stage 2 involves specialists from British Nuclear Group and the UKAEA who will examine the technical requirements needed to achieve particular end uses whilst continuing to protect people and the environment. They will also look at the implications of each End State, including cost, risk safety and environmental implications.

Stage 3 is a consultation on the output from the other phases, looking at which options are preferable to others, and perhaps why some options may not be feasible. The output from this will be a report to the NDA stating which End State solutions are acceptable to stakeholders and identify those that are not acceptable.

The NDA will use this information to draw together views from each of its 20 sites and reconcile this with outcomes from other strategic initiatives to ensure that they reflect national as well as local requirements. The draft strategy that results from this process will be published for public consultation and only then will it be submitted to Government for approval and adoption as Government policy.

This is an important opportunity for this community to have its say on how the nuclear sites will be re-used for the benefit of our children and their children's children. I hope we all take this seriously and take part in the debate.