

**Chairman's sub-committee meeting held on
Friday 24th March 06
Sella Park House**

Attendees:

David Moore	-	Chairman, West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group
Ron Hargreaves	-	Vice Chairman, Windscale sub committee
Ranald Stewart	-	Chairman, Windscale sub committee
Sue Brown	-	Chairman, LLW sub committee
Steve Jones	-	Vice Chairman, Environmental Health sub committee
Norman Clarkson	-	Chairman, Calder Hall sub committee
Elaine Woodburn	-	Chairman, Community Engagement Co-ordinating sub committee
Tony Johnson	-	Vice Chairman, Calder Hall sub committee
Rosina Robinson	-	Representing WCSSG secretariat

Apologies:

David Cook	-	Chairman, Emergency Planning sub committee
John Haywood	-	Chairman, Environmental Health sub committee

Concern had been raised at the CECSC about the difficulty in attempting to achieve consensus amongst such a diverse group of people as the WCSSG when the group felt the need to respond to consultations both locally and nationally. As a first attempt when the WCSSG had responded to the "NDA Draft Strategy" it was felt to have been a good first attempt but that a more 'fit for purpose' process could have been used to encourage more involvement from members of the community.

The action from the meeting was to convene a Chairman's sub committee to discuss the way forward for the process and also, given that the WCSSG had been in operation for 12 months a review of the terms of reference for the group to ensure that it is achieving its objectives.

Discussion revolved around the following:

Is the WCSSG achieving its stated purpose?

Two areas of concerns had been raised:

- **Scrutinising the operators, the NDA and the regulators**

Discussion took place regarding the above and whether the group was equipped / established in such a way to encourage scrutiny.

It was felt that in order to achieve better scrutiny the sub-committees would be better placed to scrutinise in detail their particular areas. The input from regulators would be required at all the sub committees.

Given that the WCSSG represents 4 nuclear sites in the North West, there should be thought given to the set up of one or several Sellafield sub committees, each of the 4 sites would then have a forum in which to be scrutinised. This should be raised at the main WCSSG for a decision and volunteers asked for.

The main focus of the WCSSG scrutiny meetings should be to question the main SLC's and the National Decommissioning Authority – (NDA), input from NDA should also include feedback from the National Stakeholder Groups.

It was felt that the 'set up' for the main scrutiny meetings should be changed to encourage more in depth debate and questioning as follows:

The WCSSG has over 40 members who all currently sit around a horse shoe table during the proceedings of the main scrutiny meetings. A suggested way forward was for a core representative, ie: the WCSSG Chairman, the Chairmen of each of the 6 sub committees, the representative from the operating sites, BNG and UKAEA, a member of the NDA and the 2 regulators (EA and NII) along with the secretary of the WCSSG should sit at a table. The remaining members of the WCSSG and any observers would sit in rows in front of the main table.

The two meetings currently held in January and July were considered to be of little benefit and should be utilised as two further scrutiny meetings per year. (ie: 4 main scrutiny meetings per year). This would also give an opportunity to capture the National Stakeholder Group contributions. It was noted that the sub committees that at present only meet twice a year would only be expected to report into 2 of the main WCSSG meetings (April and October).

Discussion took place about questioning particular issues with sufficient rigour and depth. The example used was the recent prosecution of AEAT re flask transport. The WCSSG Chairman suggested that he would raise the concern at the main meeting, but

he would convene a special committee alongside representatives from Copeland Borough Council, who had also agreed to scrutinise this event to look in depth at the issue and report back at the following main WCSSG meeting. Volunteers would be called for to sit on the committee and the operators would be asked to provide technical experts. He could see this system working for any issue that caused sufficient concern.

- **Scrutinise and input into the prioritisation of work programmes**

The Chairman pointed out that the NDA has a prioritisation process and questioned whether the committee understood this process and how the group could input into it. The question was raised whether the committee should have a representative sitting on the prioritisation process group who would be responsible for feeding back to the committee?

Action: **Cllr Woodburn thought that there was a member of Copeland Borough Council who already sat on the group and agreed to confirm this with the Chairman's sub committee. If there was a representative from CBC then Cllr Woodburn would request a regular feedback report**

Response to consultations:

This agenda item was as a result of concerns raised by Martin Forwood (Cumbrian's Opposed to a Radioactive Environment – CORE) at the CECSC meeting on 24th February. A letter had since been received from Martin which the group discussed.

The points raised in the letter were:

- **The process used to respond to the NDA's strategy document**

The letter was discussed and it was pointed out that all members of the WCSSG were given the opportunity to respond to the draft response to the NDA strategy and those comments made were incorporated into the final response. Discussion then focused around the process to be used for consultations. It was felt that the CECSC had spent a lot of time identifying issues that it wanted to consult on ie: the future of the Sellafield Site and AGR fuel and had put a lot of energy into preparing framework documents for the consultations.



Though it was recognised as a good attempt to respond to community concerns, it was meaning opportunities were being missed to respond to consultations being run by other organisations. Also the timing for the consultations were out of line with other organisations (ie: the site end points), the CECSC began its consultation process earlier than the NDA which now meant it had to attempt to re-align with the NDA's timescales.

As an aside of this it was recognised that there was a need to set up a sub-committee that would consider the options for the site end states. After further discussions it was agreed that given the importance of the topic that it would be the Chairman's sub committee who would lead on this process, recognising that the commitment needed for this would mean holding a lot more meetings. It was further agreed that we would need to meet before inviting the NDA to discuss the process the sub committee would need to follow.

It was agreed that the remit for the CECSC should not be to instigate their own topics for consultation, but rather to identify which consultations were due, by who and when.

Once a list of forthcoming consultations were identified, the CECSC would discuss which consultations it wished to respond to and following approval by the WCSSG would be the WCSSG's tool to provide opportunity for involvement not only from members of the WCSSG but by any local community representative that wished to be involved.

This could include a period of postal / electronic feedback, workshops, visiting various groups.

The CECSC would require committed resources to enable it to carry out this work and an action was taken by Cllr Woodburn to produce a work scope of what resource the group would require in order to deliver its workload.

Action: Cllr Woodburn to produce a work scope to identify the level of resource required to deliver workload of CECSC

Action: Rosina Robinson to arrange meeting with David Moore, Elaine Woodburn and Shirley Williams to discuss resources for WCSSG



Action: Rosina Robinson to e-mail all members of the WCSSG to request dates of any consultations they were carrying out. This would allow an annual timetable of consultations to be drawn up for consideration by the CECSC

- **The establishment of a Sellafield sub committee**
(discussed earlier)
- **Input from Ramsden dock liaison committee**

The WCSSG Chairman had already discussed this with the Chairman for the Ramsden dock liaison committee who could see no difficulty with providing a representative at the WCSSG to update on transport issues.

- **Correspondence received – should it be added as an agenda item to meetings?**

The Chairman agreed that he would identify who had written to the WCSSG and what the status of the reply was at the main scrutiny meetings.