

West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group

Decommissioning Sub Committee

Present

Cllr Norman Clarkson	Chairman
Mr Ron Hargreaves	Vice Chairman
Mrs Claire Tandy	Secretary
Mrs Alyson Armett	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Cllr Peter Connolly	Copeland Borough Council
Mr Joe Clark	Prospect Union, Sellafield
Mr Carl Dawson	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Cllr Mike Davidson	Allerdale Borough Council
Mr Paul Foster	Sellafield Ltd
Mr Chris Halliwell	Sellafield Ltd
Mr Peter Kenny	Sellafield Ltd
Mr Peter Mann	Windscale, Sellafield Ltd
Mr Joe Murdock	GMB Union, Sellafield
Mr Ranald Stewart	Ponsonby Parish Council
Mr Stephen Tandy	Environment Agency
Mr Rob Waters	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII)
Mr Evan Wright	West Cumbria Business Cluster

Apologies

Mr Nigel Couzens	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr Russ Mellor	Sellafield Ltd
Mr Paul Milne	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Mr Colin Sharpe	West Cumbria Business Cluster
Mrs Fee Wilson	Sellafield Ltd

1. Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed the meeting members and thanked those who had attended the December workshop for their participation. The Chairman also expressed his thanks for the visit to Sellafield which took place in January, adding that the visit was very worthwhile and highlighted the complexity of work facing the decommissioning team at Sellafield. The Chairman said that the visit had assured those representing the community that the work is

under control and in safe hands. It also highlighted that nuclear decommissioning is a slow job but safety is paramount.

2. Review of Previous Minutes and Outstanding Actions

Mr Hargreaves noted that the previous minutes had stated that it would be useful to receive a presentation on the NDA Hazard Baseline. Agenda items were determined at the workshop which was held in December and this was not deemed to be the top priority, however, Mr Hargreaves said that he felt that this would still be a useful topic to be discussed at a future meeting.

Action M3/01 Include the NDA Hazard Baseline as an agenda item for the next Decommissioning Sub Committee Meeting.

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

3. Sellafield Site Report

The Sellafield Site Report was circulated to members prior to the meeting and was taken as read, with Mr Halliwell explaining some of the acronyms which appeared in the report.

Mr Halliwell noted that the TRIR (Total Recordable Incident Rate) is a benchmark indicator which compares performance with regards to incident and injury rates against other industries. The TRIR rates at Sellafield are very low and indicate world class performance.

Mr Halliwell also discussed the spend on decommissioning projects for 2008-09, highlighting that Zone 1 (Legacy Ponds and Silos) dominates the spend on site at £259.3m compared to £45.5m at Windscale and £64.4m in Decommissioning Zones 2&3. Mr Halliwell also noted that the CPI (Cost Performance Index) and SPI (Scheduled Performance Index) were good demonstrating that efficiency savings were being made in the three areas which were reported against and delivery has either been at 98% of the scheduled work or ahead of schedule in the case of the Legacy Ponds and Silos.

Mr Clark asked why Windscale seemed to have more Environmental Objectives to achieve than the Sellafield Zones 1,2 & 3. Are Windscale overdoing things or are the other areas not doing enough.

Mr Mann said that the Environmental Objectives are not prescribed by the NDA. It may be that Sellafield Decommissioning Zones may have set fewer higher level objectives whereas Windscale's may have been split into a number of lower level objectives.

Mr Clark added that at the previous meeting, Mr Tandy had asked for better indications of progress to be included in the Sellafield Site Report and it was felt that although this report does provide progress information, there are no comparators i.e. is performance as planned or

better than planned and how is it measured.

Mr Halliwell responded that Life Time Plan for next year will provide better measurable milestones and the report for the Sub Committee meeting can reflect this. He added that nuclear decommissioning isn't a fast moving science and we need to recognise this. A lot of detailed design work is ongoing which is difficult to express in terms of progress.

Mr Hargreaves noted that the Lost Time Accidents information provided in the report demonstrated an excellent achievement for the Site.

Mr Foster added that it is the intention of the new Sellafield Executive team to deliver their commitments in an open and transparent manner. The team hope to deliver in terms of achieving NDA targets as well as delivering to the local community. The systems which are currently in place do not make it easy to extract the appropriate information for a report such as this as the systems tend to be financially driven.

Mr Hargreaves asked if the information provided on the WAGR Catchpot with regards to the pieces of debris was specific to WAGR, or did it provide lessons for other gas cooled reactors?

Mr Mann responded that there were a number of contributory effects with regards to the debris in the catchpot. The catchpot was not the same as the drawings indicated as there was space around the catchpot where additional debris could drop. Nothing particularly noteworthy was found but as decommissioning progresses, information will be shared with the industry as appropriate.

Mr Tandy asked Mr Halliwell if the DVD which was discussed on the overview tour of the decommissioning projects, could be made available to the meeting members as it may better inform them of the decommissioning projects and the work involved in decommissioning?

Mr Halliwell reported that this DVD has a restricted protective marking but he will see what can be done to make this available.

Action M3/02 Mr Halliwell to make the DVD on the Sellafield Decommissioning Projects available to the Sub Committee Members.

4. NDA Report

Mrs Alyson Arnett reported that the NDA Report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting and so could be taken as read but there were a few issues to highlight as follows:

The funding issue for this year is now looking more favourable. For the coming financial year, work is being carried out with the Sellafield Ltd Team and Regulators to confirm the position.

Mrs Arnett noted that the new Parent Body Organisation for Sellafield Ltd and the new Executive Team are in place.

There has been a reorganisation of the NDAs Site Facing Teams but the team is now almost in place with a couple of vacancies outstanding. There is still the ability for the site facing team to reach back into the wider NDA where necessary.

The NDA are helping the Sellafield Executive with the PAIS Teams in assessing a number of areas. (PAIS - Partnering, Assess, Innovate and Sustain) The purpose of these teams is to gather information and if necessary make recommendations for improvements.

Mr Clarkson reported to the meeting that he and the Vice Chairman had met with Paul Milne of the NDA earlier in the month as Paul was unable to attend this meeting.

Mr Hargreaves asked what was meant by the term "LTP Assurance Scrub" which was referred to in the report. Mr Foster reported that there had been concerns about the quality of Sellafield Ltd's LTP as the level of detail was not adequate for a variety of reasons. The new executive team at Sellafield need to ensure that the new LTP is credible and by 2010/11 the LTP should have buy in from all concerned.

Mr Hargeaves noted that the terminology used in the NDA report was often difficult to follow as there was a lot of jargon used. Alyson said that she will report this back so that adjustments can be made for future reports.

Mr Hargreaves also picked up on the point which had been raised earlier with regards to measures of performance. He added that the NDA report mentions that over 300m³ of potentially mobile material has been conditioned but there is no explanation as to whether or not this is better than expected or not as good.

Mr Ranald Stewart asked for clarification about what is meant by Site Facing Teams. Mrs Arnett explained that some members of the NDA are located on site with the site license company teams.

Mr Clark commented that he feels that the NDA are still working from hand to mouth. They are now a mature organisation but there appears to be little maturity in the processes. The hazard reduction process still is not clear.

Mr Foster commented that the priority of reducing the hazards on the site has not changed and it is still important for the new Parent Body Organisation (PBO). The hazards are evolving however and societal factors all contribute to the priorities. Site funding has been prioritised and 8/10 high hazard projects in the UK are based at Sellafield. There is a high level of fixed costs and overheads at Sellafield and these costs need to be reduced. This can be done by working more efficiently.

The question was raised as to whether the NDA has now taken a step back from the site and operations. Mr Foster informed the meeting that the NDA are involved primarily with strategy i.e. what is done; however, the site license company is responsible for how the work is carried out.

Sellafield is very interactive and there are many stakeholders to consider and the site does feed into some of the NDA strategies as Sellafield Ltd has a large part to play in optioneering and strategy. The relationship between the NDA and Sellafield Ltd is very positive and encouraging.

Mrs Arnett endorsed this view adding that Sellafield Ltd is a big part of the picture and impacts massively on the market.

Cllr Connolly then asked that future reports do not include jargon. He added that the Cllrs who attend these meetings often have to write reports for fellow councillors and the amount of jargon contained in the reports makes this difficult to do this.

Mr Tandy added that the regulators have been working with the NDA and Sellafield Ltd in relation to the Sellafield Site specification and asked if the NDA or the Site License Company had anything to add to members?

Mrs Arnett said that that the NDA Strategy Directorate were looking at national strategies which will result in site specific strategies which will then result in more detail in some areas e.g. Plutonium Strategy. Implementation plans will follow on from the detailed strategies. Site specific strategy will be considered in the Life Time Plans.

Mr Tandy noted that the Environment Agency is supportive of this work.

Mr Tandy then asked if the meeting could be updated about the work of the PAIS teams at Sellafield. The Environment Agency have expressed that they would be happy to interface with the PAIS Teams and review any recommendations arising from the process.

The meeting was updated that there are 18 PAIS teams in total on site. PAIS stands for Partner, Assess, Innovate and Sustain. The teams are comprised of members of Nuclear Management Partners respective organisations i.e. Areva, Amec and URS and also consist of members of the Site License Company. Mr Halliwell added that he is the sponsor for the Decommissioning and Waste Management PAIS Team.

The teams have been established to assess working practices across site with the intention of making recommendations for improvements. The teams are undergoing site tours and are currently at the information gathering phase. The teams hope to achieve outputs in 4-6 weeks. All recommendations will need to be ratified by the new Executive Team prior to implementation.

The work of the PAIS teams is currently ahead of schedule. Data gathering has been expedited and it is envisaged that feedback will be received by March 2009. It is worthy of note that we the Sellafield Ltd Team is exporting as well as importing knowledge as part of this process as some things are done extremely well at Sellafield.

Mr Clark noted that the Decommissioning PAIS team had visited Windscale earlier in the week and had said that they were “blown away” by the Piles Project and the model the team is operating.

Mr Waters added that the NII have a small team of inspectors who will engage with the PAIS Teams.

5. Environment Agency (EA) Report

Mr Tandy updated the meeting with the Environment Agency’s report, noting that concerns over progress on clean up and decommissioning remain, however, they appreciate that the new PBO and NDA are working together with regulators to find the best way forward.

The EA noted the slippage against the NII specifications and emphasised that it is important that the high hazard issues are addressed in a timely manner.

Mr Tandy noted that funding remains a concern, as there are shortfalls which impact on the timely risk reduction of the high hazard facilities. This risk reduction should not be delayed for any extended period of time.

Mr Foster updated the meeting that with respect to the legacy ponds and silos, civil and structural work has taken place to assess the impact of any delay in carrying out work.

The EA attended the Decommissioning Workshop which was held in December 2008 and supported the outcomes of the workshop. They also participated in the site visit in January 2009 and felt that it gave a good, balanced view of remote and hands on decommissioning within zones 2 and 3. Mr Tandy added that he was very impressed with the focus of staff on waste management and the waste management hierarchy during the visit. Mr Tandy added that he felt it was important for the Decommissioning Sub Committee to visit the Decommissioning Zone 1 facilities e.g. Legacy Ponds and Silos, to understand the hazard and risk these facilities pose.

6. NII Update Report

A written report was circulated to the meeting members and a verbal update was provided by Mr Waters. Mr Waters said that the NII supports the EA’s views on decommissioning of some of the legacy plants at Sellafield and the issues surrounding funding. Mr Waters added that the NII are waiting to see proposals for 09/10 and will continue to engage with the NDA and

the Site License Company on this issue. Mr Waters added that funding is not a regulatory issue unless it impacts on regulatory expectations.

Mr Waters said that Sellafield Ltd continues to make progress on operational nuclear safety improvements across the Legacy Ponds and Silos project and the NII are satisfied that work is underway in Zones 2 & 3. He added that a lot of underpinning work is taking place on these projects. Mr Waters also added that good progress is being made by the Site License Company to meet the Improvement Notice relating to the “alpha facilities”.

The Chairman said that he would like to see information reported at future meetings in relation to improvement notices and the work that is ongoing in relation to these. The Chairman asked how the NII are made aware of issues etc and Mr Halliwell added that interactions with the regulators take place on a routine basis. Mr Waters added that issues are also identified via site visits.

Discussions continued relating to risk reduction and plant modifications in relation to the Sludge Treatment and Packaging Plant. Mr Stewart noted that Mr Waters had indicated that a slippage in timescales represented an increase in risk. He continued by saying that in relation to the Sludge Treatment Plant on site, there have been some delays. This plant is important as the sludge from the ponds will be removed and processed through this plant. Any delay increases the risk.

Mr Halliwell added that in relation to the Sludge Treatment Plant, assumptions had to be made in the design phase and as the building progresses some modifications are required. It is better practice to make the modifications as they are identified and risk slight delays rather than trying to back fit once the plant is built.

7. Sellafield Site Strategy

Mr Foster opened by noting that the presentation would be made available to members and could be appended to the minutes.

Mr Foster updated the meeting that the new Executive Team have now been in place for two months and have ideas about how they want to work going forward. Following on from the discussions on the PAIS teams, Mr Foster added that it was expected that by April there would be more detail available. The Executive Team aims to achieve the NDA mission through sustainable world class performance and through open and transparent partnering with stakeholders. In essence Sellafield Ltd aims to:

- Deliver the NDA Plan safely and be the site of choice for future missions.

Mr Foster added that Sellafield Ltd currently employs some 11,000 staff and the next five years worth of work is worth £7.6bn with a lifetime cost of £57.8Bn. There will be 79,000m³ of Intermediate Level Waste for Disposal and 74,000m³ of Low Level Waste for disposal so this

is a huge challenge.

Stakeholders can expect to see consistent decision making with backed up and justified decisions.

Mr Foster said that there are many interdependencies on site and conflicting demands on assets and these need to be balanced with national and site priorities.

Sellafield Ltd aims to have an integrated strategy agreed with the NDA which will address the following key issues:

- Hazard Reduction
- Safety
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Programme Management

Nuclear Management Partners (NMP) wants to do a good job and be seen to do a good job and it is important that they do the right things whilst bringing transparency and clarity to the process.

It is important to minimize the environmental impact of operations, whilst maintaining and increasing security on site and in relation to the control of nuclear materials. Sellafield Ltd has a massive part to play in the West Cumbria Economy and the Site License Company, NDA and regulators are all trying to achieve the same ends and the site does have regulatory and contractual commitments to fulfil.

The vision for Sellafield Ltd is to reduce hazards in a planned and prioritized way.

Mr Foster explained the flow of strategy as follows:



Part of the site strategy recognises the need to generate revenue to fund decommissioning so that it can progress to avoid costly delays, obsolescence of equipment and to avoid losing the skills and expertise currently employed.

The main priorities for the site are:

- Safety and Security
- Hazard Reduction of High Active Liquor
- The ponds and silos.

These priorities are under constant re-evaluation and ensure that Sellafield carries out safe, value for money hazard reduction with visibility to stakeholders.

A lot of things are done well at Sellafield and it is important that we do things better to improve efficiency; streamline reporting systems and setting people to work systems. The site must focus on doing more value added work and look at new approaches to waste management and best practice.

Mr Foster concluded that by April, there will be more information available to better measure progress which can then be reported on at future meetings.

The Chairman said in response to Mr Foster's presentation that he is pleased that ongoing work will be transparent and the Chairman expressed confidence in Mr Foster and the Sellafield Ltd Executive. The Chairman also asked if Mr Foster could prepare a written report which can be sent out to the committee against which the committee can measure and consider progress. The Chairman concluded that it had been a useful presentation.

Mr Hargreaves added that the NDA, Regulators and the Site License Company do seem to be working together and priorities do seem to be coming together.

Mr Wright raised the issue that WAGR (Windscale Advanced Gas Cooled Reactor) is no longer a "hazardous" plant but the value of changing the skyline should not be underestimated. Maintaining the skills on plant is also extremely important.

Cllr Davidson asked what would happen if the reprocessing facilities, which are currently used to reprocess Magnox fuel, are decommissioned. Mr Foster responded that it is still the plan for Magnox reprocessing plants to continue until the Magnox fuel has been reprocessed.

8. Skills Strategy

Mr Carl Dawson, National Graduate Programme Manager for the NDA attended the meeting to make a presentation to the meeting on the NDA Skills Strategy as requested following the workshop in December.

Mr Dawson advised the meeting that the Skills and Capability Strategy is a national high level strategy with the mission to ensure that there is a skilled workforce to carry out decommissioning and clean up operations. The “Skills Pyramid” depicts the areas that the NDA work with to develop skills and covers working with schools and colleges, vocational training, degree level and PhD and Masters level (often in conjunction with work placements).

The NDA Skills and Capability Strategy is in line with Life Time Plans and each site has their own skills strategy which determines what work is being undertaken to ensure a sufficiently skilled workforce to carry out Life Time Plans. The strategy also requires the sites to plan for the longer term skills requirements for the business.

Mr Dawson highlighted some of the resource gaps for Sellafield Ltd but noted that these were not specific just to Sellafield. Resource gaps are similar at other nuclear sites.

Mr Dawson noted that the National Skills Academy for Nuclear demonstrates a joint approach with industry to training and skills development. To date there is an excellent number of companies involved with the Academy.

Mr Dawson added that Energus (previously known as the Skills Academy) is due to go online in April 09.

Cllr Connolly, noted that retaining people once they have been trained can be an issue. Copeland Homes have been set a target to improve their facilities however; they are finding it difficult to retain their skilled tradespersons as they are looking for higher paid work elsewhere once they have been trained.

Mr Murdoch said that it is important that the gap analysis is carried out at site and that people are re-trained and re-skilled to match the opportunities that are available.

It was suggested by Mr Wright that some of the lower hazard decommissioning projects could in fact be utilised to re-train people but some of the minor jobs cannot go ahead due to funding.

Mr Foster added that it is often difficult to make time available for re-training as people still have priority tasks to carry out as part of their day jobs.

Mr Hargreaves asked who is considering the topic of new build and the skills which will be required for the future. The bigger picture needs to be considered in relation to the skills which will be required for new build i.e. construction, fuel manufacture etc.

9. Any Other Business

Mr Peter Kenny had attended the meeting with the intention of making a presentation on

decommissioning strategy. Mr Kenny was thanked for attending but this presentation was deferred until the next meeting.

The Chairman asked the observer if there were any comments. Mrs Hitchen said that the acoustics were not good in the meeting room and it had been difficult for her to hear and as a consequence, she did not feel able to ask questions.

The date of the next meeting will be held on 10th September (not the 8th September as published).

The Chairman thanked the members for the good and informative meeting.

Distribution

Meeting members and attendees.

Chairman:

Cllr Norman Clarkson

Secretary:

Claire Tandy

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West Cumbria Sites
Stakeholder Group

Action Reference	Action	Action Status/Comments
(M1)01	Claire Tandy to write to Bob Churchill/Ian Roxburgh of the NDA on behalf of the Decommissioning Sub Committee and ask for the name of the NDA representative who will attend future meetings. Also confirm the name of a nominated deputy.	Complete The NDA were written to and responded. Awaiting name of representative.
(M1)02	Claire Tandy to include "Hazard Reduction Index" as an agenda item at the next Decommissioning Sub Committee meeting.	Complete This should be carried over to the next meeting for discussion. See (M2)01
(M1)03	Chris Halliwell to arrange a visit to Sellafield Decommissioning Projects for members of the Decommissioning Sub Committee.	Action Withdrawn A date was previously arranged but cancelled. Alternative arrangements will be made.
(M1)04	Chris Halliwell and Peter Mann to discuss reporting for the Sub Committee prior to the next meeting.	Complete
(M1)05	Claire Tandy to add agenda items to the next meetings agenda as	Complete

	appropriate.	
(M2)01	Report to the WCSSG that it was disappointing that the NDA were unable to send a representative to the meeting to discuss the NDA Hazard Baseline agenda item and carry this agenda item on to the next meeting agenda.	Complete
(M3)01	Mrs Tandy to include the NDA Hazard Baseline as an agenda item for the next Decommissioning Sub Committee Meeting.	New Action
(M3)02	Mr Halliwell to make the DVD on the Sellafield Decommissioning Projects available to the Sub Committee Members.	New Action