

Report from the Decommissioning Sub Committee to the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group

The inaugural meeting of the Decommissioning Sub Committee was held on 9th June 2008.

The meeting was initially chaired by Cllr David Moore, Chairman of the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group until a Chairman was elected at the meeting.

Cllr Norman Clarkson was appointed at the meeting as Chairman of the Decommissioning Sub Committee with Mr Ron Hargreaves appointed as Vice Chairman.

The meeting membership comprises elected members from Copeland and Allerdale Borough Council, Cumbria County Council, Environment Agency, Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and Sellafield Ltd including representation from Unions.

During the first meeting, the Terms of Reference (TORs) were discussed. Minor amendments were suggested and with these amendments, the TORs were ratified by the meeting members.

At the initial meeting, reports were submitted by Chris Halliwell and Peter Mann covering the decommissioning activities at Sellafield and Windscale respectively.

Agenda items for future meetings of the Decommissioning Sub Committee were suggested and agreed.

The second meeting of the Decommissioning Sub Committee was held on 16th September 2008 and was chaired by the meeting's Vice Chairman, Mr Ron Hargreaves.

The agenda for this meeting listed the following topics:

- NDA Hazard Baseline
- Sellafield/Windscale Site Report
- Environment Agency Report

The meeting members feel that NDA representation at the Decommissioning Sub Committee meetings would benefit the overall meeting discussions.

Unfortunately, apologies were received from the NDA for the September meeting and therefore the agenda item, NDA Hazard Baseline was not covered. The Hazard Baseline can influence decommissioning strategy and the meeting members recognise the possibility for tension between the NDA's high level decommissioning strategy and the aims and objectives of the Sellafield Ltd site at a local level. The Hazard Baseline is an important topic which the

meeting would like to cover. This issue is being raised at the WCSSG with a view to encouraging the discussion to be carried out at the next meeting of the Decommissioning Sub Committee in order to inform the meeting members and the community in relation to decommissioning priorities.

Disappointment was also expressed at the meeting in relation to the overall meeting attendance, especially among the elected representatives. This meeting is an excellent opportunity to inform stakeholders and the wider community of the ongoing work on the Sellafield Site in relation to decommissioning and also offers the meeting members the opportunity to raise questions and discuss issues with representatives from the Sellafield Site Operator. It was felt that if meeting members were unable to attend the meeting, they should at least submit apologies and it would be beneficial for a nominated deputy to attend in their place.

At the meeting, the EA and NII raised the issue that due to funding constraints within the industry, there is the potential for regulator expectations not being met on the licensed site. This is an issue which is being discussed at a strategic level with the NDA, EA and NII. The EA and NII also continue to work closely with Sellafield Ltd to ensure that any proposed changes to the Lifetime Plan, which may have been a result of constrained funding levels, are planned and fully justified with appropriate regulator buy in.

The meeting members were updated at the meeting on the work which has been carried out in relation to the Windscale Transition into Sellafield Ltd. The re-licensing of Windscale to Sellafield Ltd was carried out within prescribed timescales and both the Windscale and Sellafield Teams worked together as one team to achieve the aim of transition by re-licensing the Windscale Site to Sellafield Ltd on the 1st April 08. A Transition Embedding project was established at Windscale following the initial Transition to ensure that where possible, the team were operating in a “business as usual” manner. The embedding project continues to evaluate the benefits of future integration into Sellafield Ltd to ensure that any future integration is in accordance with best practice and has a genuine business benefit. The meeting congratulated the Windscale and Sellafield teams on the effectiveness of their work.

Due to the wide ranging nature of the decommissioning projects being undertaken at Sellafield, it may be opportune to examine a number of topics in depth. The Decommissioning Sub Committee meeting members hope to draw up a list of topics which will be added to future meeting agendas. The outcome of these discussions can then be fed back to the main WCSSG committee.

Distribution

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