

Report to the West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group Emergency Planning Sub Committee on Emergency Exercises held on the Windscale Site during the period March 2008 - August 2008

Introduction

Under the terms of its Nuclear Site Licence, Windscale Site of Sellafield Ltd is required to stage an annual Level I Demonstration exercise to be witnessed by HM Nuclear Inspectorate. Windscale is also subject to the Nuclear Industry Security Regulations 2003 and is required to stage an annual counter terrorist (CT) security exercise to be witnessed by inspectors from OCNS. This report summarises the findings of the Level I and CT exercises held during the reporting period.

Exercises Held

29 May 2008: Exercise 'Guillemot'

Exercise 'Guillemot' was the annual Counter Terrorist exercise as required under the Nuclear Industry Security Regulations. The exercise was witnessed by inspectors from the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS)

The exercise was designed to test::

- the initial response to the discovery of a home-made explosive device found in a cloakroom locker
- the response interface between the licensee and the Civil Nuclear Constabulary in such circumstances.
- The management of the evacuation of a significant number of site occupants from the vicinity of the device.

The dummy IED (Improvised Explosive Device) was discovered in a contractor's personal change locker during a monitoring survey following an assumed contamination incident in the Leased Operations Facility. Advice from the CNC resulted in the need to evacuate all personnel within 100 metres (over 100 persons) to a safe location. Once all persons had been safely relocated and accounted for and the CNC had initiated their own arrangements for dealing with the device, the exercise was terminated.

At the subsequent debrief with OCNS, the inspectors expressed their satisfaction with both the planning and staging of this exercise, and the response of the Windscale and Nexia Solutions emergency teams involved.

16 July 2008: Exercise 'Wheatear'

Exercise 'Wheatear' was the annual Level 1 demonstration exercise for the Windscale licensed nuclear site and was witnessed by HM Nuclear Inspectorate. A specific objective for this exercise was to test the arrangements for managing a sizeable number of personnel who are assumed to become contaminated as a result of the assumed incident. The scenario postulated an accident on the LSTP construction site in which a crane moving a large steel girder fails and demolishes a mobile access platform carrying 2 workers and collides with a nuclear fuel flask being transported along the road adjacent to the construction site. The collision with

the flask is assumed to fracture a water level valve resulting in the loss of a small volume of mildly contaminated water to the road surface. The response to the situation required an effective working relationship between Windscale emergency teams, Nuvia Health Physics personnel and the Sellafield Fire & Rescue Service and utilised contemporary methods for Command & Control to achieve this.

In the subsequent debrief HM Nuclear Inspectorate indicated their satisfaction with the Windscale response arrangements and made special mention of the enthusiasm and commitment shown by all the players.

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