

**Report to the West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group Emergency Planning Sub
Committee on Emergency Exercises**

Introduction

This is a summary of the issues arising from the formal exercises held by the Site Emergency Planning Office for the period since the last meeting. The dates for exercises planned for the period up to the next meeting are listed at the end

Exercises Held

There were two exercises, as follows:

- 3rd October 2006 A full site Roll Call and Communications exercise in support of the Level 3 off site exercise OSCAR 8.
The issues from this exercise were:
- Very challenging exercise – extendibility scenario, Used Carlisle North Cumbria Emergency Control Centre
 - Good exercise of early phase i.e. before the off site emergency centre is established.
 - Strategic Team Leader spent a lot of time being distracted by Nuclear Installations Inspectorate on International Nuclear Event Scale rating.
 - Site Emergency Control Centre need to recognise the impact of their decisions on the outside world.
 - The site siren "stuck on", sounding for some 30 minutes.
 - Confusion at **District** – who should make decision to evacuate, we advise Penrith make decision
 - Information given to public was it over the top? “clothes in bags” etc
 - Good communications appraised for site personnel in general
 - The Site Emergency Control Centre top team drove actions well
 - The Strategic Management Centre was busy dealing with external issues thus allowing the Site Emergency Control Centre to respond to the event on site.

- 21st November 2006 A full demonstration site exercise (level 1) for the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII). This was based upon a criticality and a secondary release from a reprocessing building during silent hours. The NII stated that the scenario was both realistic and challenging and was considered by the NII to be a well prepared test of the BNGSL emergency response. However, due to the failure of the criticality reception centre to quickly and adequately deal with and process staff, serious knock on effects were caused to the emergency response. As a consequence, NII did not consider this exercise to be an acceptable demonstration of the sites emergency preparedness for this scenario. The issues from this exercise were:
- Roll call completed quickly and easily.
 - Silent hours manning of the emergency arrangements went well.
 - The problems in Criticality Assembly Area were the lack of Command & Control leading to a failure to give sufficient priority to monitoring key personnel, together with the inherent delays in the personnel monitoring regime itself and the large number of personnel coming through the facility. These delays meant that the Incident Control Centre and Access Control Point had insufficient time to demonstrate their capabilities.
 - Not always 2 way communications from Site Emergency Control Centre and Incident Control Centre e.g. when Sellafield Emergency is declared.
 - The Criticality Assembly Area Command & Control facilities are too small and combined with Building Control Point.
- 27th February 2007 A full site communication exercise\security exercise. This report has been written before the exercise has been held. A report will be presented at the next meeting.

Future Exercises.

- 22nd March 2007 This will be a full site demonstration exercise (level 1).
- 5th June 2007 This will be a full site demonstration exercise (level 1). This will be the re-demonstration exercise of the exercise held 21st November 2006
- 21st November 2007 This will be a full site demonstration exercise (level 1).