

**Report to the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group
Progress of the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) Sub Committee
September 2008 to March 2009**

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Chairman, Low Level Waste Repository Sub-Committee**

This report covers the period September 2008 to March 2009 and is intended to communicate the progress made by the Low Level Waste Repository Sub Committee during that period.

Topics covered during the past 6 months have revolved around:

- Vault 9 Construction/Traffic Management Plan
- Security Arrangements
- Post Closure Safety Case/Environmental Safety Case
- LLW National Strategy Development

Vault 9 Construction/Traffic Management Plan

Commencement of construction of Vault 9 began on 22nd September 2008. The Sub Committee have had regular updates on progress and are content that the planning conditions and principles of the Traffic Management Plan are being adhered to - we will continue to keep a close eye on both operational and construction activities. We understand that partial handover of Vault 9 is scheduled for end April 2009 and that progress against programme is running to time.

It is noted that a wide load delivery to the Repository impacted on traffic movement through Drigg village on 30th January 2009, a parked car close to a pinch point in the village brought the delivery to a standstill, unfortunately the driver of the car was not contactable and the delivery had no alternative but to wait until the driver returned to the vehicle. Management of traffic flow etc was immediately initiated and a full investigation into the incident has taken place with implementation of actions arising to ensure that this type of thing does not happen in the future. I am pleased to say that the Repository were quick to respond and issued a formal apology to the community through the Parish Council. On a positive note, at the time of writing the Repository have successfully managed the receipt of 3 out of 5 wide load consignments from the Nuclear industry without incident.

The commitment of LLWR to maximise rail transport and minimise HGV movements through the Village has resulted in the construction of a temporary rail facility at Millom close to Ghyll Scaur Quarry. Rail deliveries from this facility are now being made which will alleviate traffic congestion on the A595.

Commencement of Vault 9 Construction triggered payment of the Community Benefit Package and I understand that the Local Authorities are in receipt of a cheque for £5M with the second instalment due in the new financial year. We have been told that the "Fund Board" are currently agreeing governance arrangements and funding

criteria and expect to make an announcement in the near future. We are mindful of community expectations and will monitor developments with interest.

Security Arrangements

As previously reported, LLWR have gone through a period of huge change over the last two years, not least with their security arrangements. The Sub Committee set up a task and finish group to work with LLWR to ensure that the concerns of the community would be addressed in any new security arrangements on the site. Legion - a subsidiary of Royal British Legion - were awarded the contract for guard force at the LLWR and commenced work on 1st October 2008. To date the transition from CNC to Legion has been seamless and we hope that this continues to be the trend.

Post Closure Safety Case/Environmental Safety Case

We have received presentations from both LLWR and the Environment Agency (EA) on this issue. The EA were able to share their initial findings on the Operators Schedule 9 Requirement 2 submission (data supporting the Environmental Safety Case scheduled for submission in 2011) at our last meeting and were complimentary about the quality of the submission and work done to date but were mindful that there was still a long way to go. We will continue to monitor as work streams develop.

Part of the work stream supporting the Environmental Safety Case is the RECALL 2 study that recently received national press coverage. The Sub Committee have been kept fully apprised of progress against this work stream and are pleased that LLWR are exploring all avenues at their disposal to build a full and comprehensive picture of historic waste inventory in the trenches.

LLW National Strategy Development

The last two Sub Committee meetings have featured presentations on the development of the National LLW Strategy. As the strategy emerges we have sought assurances from the NDA that the community/stakeholders will have an opportunity to comment and fully engage with the process and that concerns/issues/wishes will be addressed. Formal consultation on the strategy is scheduled to commence end of April and the Sub Committee will be fully involved in this process.

Future Meetings

Future meetings will continue to monitor progress on Vault 9 and Repository operations. Efforts will concentrate on key deliverables identified in the LLWR Life Time Plan with the focus falling on National LLW Strategy and Post Closure Safety Case/Environmental Safety Case in the near term.

Sue Brown
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