

## West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group

### Minutes of the 12th Meeting of the LLWR Sub Committee Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2008 held at Drigg Village Hall

#### Attendees:

Sue Brown (chairman)	Cumbria County Council
Cath Giel (secretary)	Low Level Waste Repository
Kneale Thompson	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
John Jennings	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Eileen Eastwood	Copeland Borough Council
Andrew Fairhurst	Environment Agency
Richard Evans	Cumbria County Council
Sue Brett	Cumbria County Council
Dave Weatherburn	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Chris Halliwell	Low Level Waste Repository
James Millington	Low Level Waste Repository
James Fisher	Low Level Waste Repository
Mike James	Sellafield Limited

#### Apologies:

Adrian Dalton	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Steven Shepherd	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Jimmy Naylor	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Glyn Davies	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
David Moor	Copeland Borough Council
Elaine Woodburn	Copeland Borough Council

#### Observers:

David Millington	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Keith Hitchen	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Penny Hitchin	UK Monitor
Dick Raaz	UK Nuclear Waste Management Ltd
Chuck Conway	UK Nuclear Waste Management Ltd
Scott Anderson	UK Nuclear Waste Management Ltd

#### 1. Welcome/Introductions/Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, asked those around the table to introduce themselves and acknowledged the apologies.

The Chairman apologised to the group for postponing the December meeting, she explained that this had been done for a number of reasons:

- 1) To facilitate the LLWR Sub-Committee's participation in two separate BPEO workshops associated with the LLWR Post Closure Safety Case on 6/12/07 and the 17/01/08.
- 2) To follow the Vault 9 Planning Application hearing on 22/01/08 in order to discuss the outcome, and
- 3) To accommodate competition process allowing UK Nuclear Waste Management (UKNWM) to address the January meeting as the new PBO for the LLW Repository.

Unfortunately, contractual issues have resulted in delays and UKNWM are not in a position to reveal future plans for the Repository at this time. The Chairman informed the NDA that she expected UKNWM to address a future meeting of the Sub Committee as soon as was practicably possible. NDA agreed to keep the Chairman apprised of progress with regard to contract signing and in identifying an acceptable date for UKNWM to address the LLWR Sub Committee.

## **2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting held on 12/09/07**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

## **3. Update on Vault 9 Planning Application**

The Chairman reported that CCC's Development, Control and Regulatory (DC&R) Committee considered the Vault 9 Planning Application on Tuesday 22/01/08 and agreed to grant planning consent subject to a number of conditions being met. She invited Richard Evans to brief the group on behalf of the Planning Authority.

Richard Evans confirmed that a total of 20 conditions had been set against the Vault 9 planning consent. He explained that a number were specifically aimed at addressing the concerns of the Drigg community regarding impact on community life and more particularly traffic movements through the village (expressly HGVs).

Richard circulated a copy of the 'Notice of Planning Consent' and highlighted the following conditions:

- Condition 4 Traffic Management Scheme
- Condition 8 Access
- Condition 9 Working Hours
- Condition 10 Noise Levels
- Condition 11 Reversing Alarms
- Condition 12 Dust Suppression
- Condition 13 Vehicle Cleaning
- Condition 15 Lighting
- Condition 17 Landscape and Wildlife Management Scheme

He went on to say that the Planning Authority had received a presentation from the NDA and UKNWM which gave them some comfort that plans were afoot to focus on

waste reduction/minimisation. He stated that the Planning Authority welcomed any proposals that have a positive impact on waste arisings. He also recognised that new/changes to practices could not be taken forward or formalised until the new PBO was in place.

The Chairman thanked Richard Evans for his appraisal and informed the group that she had requested a presentation on the outputs from the BPEO workshops held in December and again on 17/01/08 for the Sub Committee Meeting scheduled for March. She added that a presentation on the Traffic Management Plan would be delivered by LLWR at the first available meeting following completion of the Vault 9 construction tender process.

#### **4. Update on Community Benefit Package**

Dave Weatherburn announced that after 18 months of hard work a Community Benefit Package has been agreed for the LLWR. He thanked CCC and CBC for their efforts in assisting NDA in reaching this agreement and said that it could not have been achieved without this partnership working. For those who missed the media coverage of the past few weeks, Dave explained that the package consists of a £10M contribution from NDA efficiency savings topped up with £1.5M per annum “for as long as waste is emplaced in Vault 9”.

Dave went on to explain that the NDA, in conjunction with the Local Authorities, are currently debating the most appropriate/suitable governance arrangements and delivery mechanism for managing and distributing the fund. One option under consideration is a ‘Community Interest Company’ with representation from NDA, CCC and CBC – discussions continue. He added that funding criteria will provide clear guidance on the types of schemes that would be eligible for support once drawn up.

Richard Evans commented that the funding came with conditions from Government and explained that the £10M was **NOT** in recognition of what has gone before (compensation). Quoting from an NDA letter he said “it is in recognition of the national benefit derived from the future accommodation of low level radioactive waste from across the United Kingdom at the LLWR”. Richard told the group that the Section 106 Agreement provides more detail. He also stated that it was the intention to have something set up by June/July 2008 to coincide with the commencement of development.

In concluding, Dave Weatherburn reminded those Parish Council representatives present how important a credible Parish Plan would be in assisting with drawing down funding. He asked when the Plan would be available.

Dave Millington, Parish Clerk for Drigg & Carleton Parish Council, replied that the Plan was ready for publication and would be available in the spring. He raised concern about the intention to “ring fence” £50k per annum for Drigg and Carleton Parish and stated that the Parish Council had not agreed to this amount. He said they did not wish to appear ungrateful but went on to say that £50k would not be enough to cover the aspirational themes in the Plan.

Dave Weatherburn stated that he was aware that the Parish Council has written to Richard Waite at the NDA seeking clarification on the Drigg & Carleton element of the funding. Dave also reminded the Parish Council that they were not restricted from approaching the larger fund for assistance.

John Jennings said that Drigg and Carleton Parish Council were unhappy with the level of engagement they have had with the Local Authorities regarding benefit to the village and stated that they had been excluded from the process.

Dave Weatherburn reminded the group that initial talks with the Parish Council had broken down and Copeland Borough Council was negotiating on behalf of the Borough.

Richard Evans explained that detailed negotiations had taken place between the NDA and the Local Authorities because the funding was attached to a Section 106 Agreement and that a specific figure for Drigg and Carleton had only been reached in the latter stages following consideration of best practice in the UK and abroad. Richard was of the opinion that the ring fenced sum was the best that could be achieved, recognising that negotiations focussed on the complete package which benefits West Cumbria including Drigg and Carleton Parish.

Dave Millington informed the group that the Parish Council had written to CBC on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2008 seeking clarification and discussion on how the fund will work. He appealed for a simple pragmatic approach for governance of the ring fenced funds for Drigg and Carleton Parish.

The Chairman asked who would be developing the process for the fund. Richard Evans replied that the Local Authorities were under pressure to come up with a solution, they were looking at mechanisms to maximise interest. The Chairman expressed a wish for the Drigg & Carleton community to be involved in shaping the framework for the fund.

The Chairman announced that a new Socio-Economic Sub Committee had been set up which would probably carry out a scrutiny role with regard to the Community Benefit Fund, she asked if anyone knew how this would work. Richard Evans emphasised that the LA's are adamant that this funding is additional funding to the NDA's socio economic funding package for the County and must be governed accordingly.

Keith Hitchen referred to a letter from the NDA dated 18/01/08 to Mr S Gorman of CCC regarding the community fund. He stated that the Parish Council had been hampered by NDA's non-availability and therefore felt unable to engage with the negotiation process. He added that the Parish Council were trying to develop relationships and that they should be the first port of call for consultation – the local community is the host community.

Dave Weatherburn apologised for the breakdown in communication and said that it would be addressed. Dave offered to ask Richard Waite to give a presentation to Drigg & Carleton Parish Council. It was agreed to continue discussions about the Parish Council grievances outside this meeting.

On a final note, Dave Millington confirmed that Copeland Borough Council have committed to meeting Drigg & Carleton Parish Council at a date to be agreed.

## **5. Update on Competition Process**

Dave Weatherburn explained that at the end of November 2007 UKNWM moved from Preferred Bidder status to Selected Bidder. Issues surrounding nuclear indemnity have impacted on competition timescales and whilst the NDA are confident that they have managed a good process with a clear auditable trail on the decisions made they are still awaiting a “green light” from government – they hope to have this in the coming weeks. The intention is for the contract to be signed in March 2008 with the new PBO taking up position in April 2008. Dave gave assurances that any resulting changes to the Life Time Plan (LTP) will be covered by the Change Control process.

Dave explained how governance arrangements prevented UKNWM from formally engaging with stakeholders and recognised the frustration this situation was causing. He asked people to be patient saying they were approaching the last hurdle. He offered an extra meeting but this was declined on the grounds that stakeholders were already heavily committed.

## **6. Sellafield LLW Consultation**

Mike James delivered a presentation on Sellafield Limited’s BPEO consultation of Low Level Waste Arisings. The presentation was very well received and covered the issues facing the nuclear industry in dealing with waste arisings and the options available for dealing with these issues.

Mike described a number of types of waste generated at Sellafield:

- Oils
- Metals
- Process Waste
- Asbestos
- High volume, low activity waste

He explained that one of the key drivers is volume reduction to the LLWR and detailed the key challenges to achieving this:

- Reduction of LLW
- Disposal Route
- Reduce hazard
- Free up space on Sellafield Site
- Increase application of hierarchy of waste management.

The consultation is addressing, amongst other things, three key questions:

- What can we do with the waste
- Where can we deal with the waste
- Which waste should we manage

Mike went on to describe in detail the various options/alternatives available for dealing with radioactive nuclear waste issues and explained that reports and associated documentation covering the three workshops held to date were available on the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group Website: [www.wcssg.co.uk](http://www.wcssg.co.uk). He added that the final workshop would be held in February followed by a review of outputs and report back in March. From April through to winter 2008/09 the team would be developing projects for the treatment of Low Level Waste including a robust business case, this would feed into the development of a LLW strategy.

The Chairman thanked Mike for a comprehensive presentation and complimented him on his ability to portray a complex issue in an easy to understand manner. She went on to question Mike about the capacity of the existing Sellafield incinerator.

Mike replied that the incinerator treats solvent from the waste treatment plants but compared to a conventional incinerator its capacity is very small.

Richard Evans welcomed the approach Sellafield are adopting and asked how much liaison had taken place with other sites.

Mike James replied that UKAEA Windscale along with other SLCs have been in dialogue with Sellafield to see how they are addressing waste forms and sharing ideas. He added that Windscale does not impact on the headline figures.

Richard Evans asked Dave Weatherburn how the Sellafield work fits into the NDA waste strategy forum. Dave Weatherburn confirmed that the work was being taken into consideration and that Sellafield along with the PBO would be fully involved.

## **7. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the WCSSG LLWR Sub Committee will be held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008 at 2.00pm in the Drigg Village Hall.