

West Cumbria SSG – Decommissioning Sub-Group Meeting 10th February 2009

Funding 08/09

The issues around funding for this financial year are now predominantly resolved. NDA & SLC are in agreement that the funding shortfall required to support the expenditure to 31 March 2009 will be around £10-35M. There has been good performance in the revenue generating elements of the NDA estate which means the shortfall can be funded adequately.

Funding 09/10 & 10/11

NDA and the SLC have agreed a converged position on the basis of the LTP scope for years 09/10 & 10/11.

The converged position has been arrived at via an iterative process. The SLC has accepted that there are deliverability constraints and moved from its 07/08 position and now requires considerably less funding.

The LTP Assurance Scrub scheduled to take place between Mar 09 and Mar 10 will further confirm the deliverability capability of the SLC.

In arriving at the converged position there has been frequent engagement with regulators. The regulators are still concerned as the converged position shows slippage against the achievement of license specification dates.

Greater certainty on the emerging position will be achieved on completion of the LTP Assurance Scrub scheduled to take place between Mar 09 and Mar 10. The regulators have committed to continued engagement in the process of LTP development.

The SLC is undertaking a safety, security and environmental impact assessment, an engineering assessment that will confirm whether the converged position is tolerable from a risk perspective. The schedule for this work will be available end Jan 09.

Site Facing Team (SFT)

NDA reorganisation of the Site Facing Team is ongoing and still on schedule to be completed by 31 March 2009. The changes have been brought about by the change of contract on the Sellafield site, a change in the way the relationship with the SLC will be managed and a willingness for NDA to become less involved in the detail and take a more strategic approach.

When completed, the reorganised team will remain the same in number but will be strengthened in the contract, project controls and strategy/engineering areas.

Support to PAIS (Partner, Assess, Innovate, Sustain)

Sellafield are fully underway with their PAIS initiative. NDA recognise the significance of this process and are supporting with members of the Site Facing Team and making reachback capabilities available to the teams. It is expected that there will be a strong focus on the decommissioning elements within this process.

Hazard Baseline

Since the submission of LTP 08 the SLCs have been going through a period of consolidation and concentrating on embedding the operation of the hazard baseline into their day job.

Progress has been made on waste processing and conversion. Key points are:

- A reduction of over 800m³ of potentially mobile in-situ material.
- Over 300m³ of potentially mobile material has been conditioned.
- The current amount of potentially mobile material that is in process has increased.
- The volume of immobile material that has been conditioned has increased by 20m³.

Due to the nature of the way that SED is calculated, changes in the score will not become evident until a considerable amount of material has been converted.

At an NDA / national level we have undertaken the following:

- Held a meeting with the SLC internal audit functions to discuss the cross SLC audit / review of the information submitted as part of LTP 08. This would verify whether there has been a consistent approach to the interpretation and implementation of the hazard baseline requirements. There was agreement that a review should be carried out but it is likely to be an Assurance led activity with findings reported through to Internal Audit on completion.
- Reviews of PCP-05 – Change Control, WI-14 (LTP reviews) and EGG 06 (Hazard Baseline Requirements) are in progress. This will reflect shift in the management of hazard baseline from a creation / development phase to embedding it into the day job.

Areas for future development:

- Ensuring that the Site Programme Managers have brought into the hazard baseline and realise the significance of it.
- Improving the definition of when and in what format we require updates to support the NDA's reporting processes.

Sellafield:

Sellafield has showed some progress in the physical work off of material against the submitted baseline in LTP 08. The main areas of progress have been on HAL, PCM and B241 floc immobilisation. It should be noted that WTC production was significantly less than anticipated as a result of the extended shutdown during the year and the subsequent limit on throughput required by NII.