

To: All Members
West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group

30th May 2006

Dear Member

**Report to the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group
in response to a request raised at the meeting on 6th April 2006**

Please see attached for your information a brief report on the key steps required to be undertaken prior to the restart of the Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant at Sellafield.

The report was requested at the meeting of the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group held on Thursday 6th April 2006.

Regards

Rosina Robinson
Secretariat, West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group
On behalf of:
David Moore
Chairman, West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group

Engaging with the Community

Chairman Cllr. David Moore **Vice Chairman** Cllr. Elaine Woodburn
Secretary Shirley Williams

24 May 2006

Report to the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group in Response to a Request Raised at the Meeting on 6th April 2006

Key Steps in the Restart of THORP

1 Introduction

Following the THORP Feed Clarification Cell incident that occurred in April 2005 and the successful recovery of the leaked liquor in June 2005, preparations are now on going to return the THORP plant to a state that would enable a full plant restart, subject to regulatory and NDA approval.

This paper summarises the key steps that are required to restart operations in the THORP Plant.

2 Key Steps in the Restart of THORP

The key steps that will need to be completed before all operations restart in the THORP Plant are shown schematically in Figure 1 and can be summarised as follows:

On Plant Preparations

A new operating regime for the Feed Clarification Cell has been identified and the affected accountancy tank and pipework associated with the leak have now been isolated as part of this phase. In addition to this, modifications to other areas of the THORP Plant are being made as part of additional improvements to the plant. These will be submitted to the NII and the Environmental Agency (EA) for agreement and will then be implemented. On plant preparations will include ensuring that all the necessary procedures to operate the plant have been updated and all plant personnel have been trained to the appropriate standards. Due to the extended period of shutdown, a phased approach to start-up will be adopted allowing the operators to re-familiarise themselves with plant operations. The on plant preparations will therefore involve making the necessary arrangements to support this phased start-up.

NDA Approval

The restart of THORP is being considered by the NDA at a forthcoming Board Meeting. Approval of the Board will be required to support restarting THORP.

NII Review of Evidence Folders

Following the Feed Clarification Cell Event, Evidence Folders are being submitted to the NII by BNGSL to demonstrate that the issues raised by the NII have been adequately addressed. There is therefore a requirement for the NII to review these folders and provide confirmation that they close-out the issue.

BNGSL Internal Peer Review of Readiness

A revised safety case for the Feed Clarification Cell has been prepared and has been subject to considerable internal and external review including recognised external industry experts. This has now been submitted to the Regulator as part of the process to support restart of the THORP Plant. In addition to this, a number of modifications as part of additional improvements to the plant are to be implemented, once agreement has been reached with the NII and EA. When the

THORP management consider that all these changes have been implemented, a Readiness Inspection will be carried out on behalf of both the Chairman and the Managing Director of BNGSL, with appropriate support and independent input, to ensure that it is appropriate for operations to recommence in the THORP Plant. Both the Chairman and the Managing Director of BNGSL will then give their authority to restart all operations in the THORP Plant on successful completion of this internal review of readiness.

NII Readiness Inspection

The NII have indicated that they will also carry out a Compliance Inspection to confirm that satisfactory progress has been made by BNGSL in addressing the Regulatory requirements for restart. They have stated that this inspection will include a plant inspection as well as a review of the implementation of the revised safety case for the THORP Plant.

NII Consent via Licence Instrument

There is a legal requirement for the NII to give consent for fuel to be fed forward from the THORP Ponds to the Shear Cave to allow shearing operations to commence i.e. to restart operations in the THORP Plant. This consent is referred to as a Licence Instrument and is signed by the appropriate authority within the NII, prior to being given to BNGSL. As part of this process the Environmental Agency will also be requested to give their consent to restart.








Director of THORP Authority to Restart

The Director of THORP is accountable for the safe operation of the THORP Plant and therefore once all the relevant approvals have been received and the Director is satisfied that the people, plant and processes are ready, then he will give his authority to restart operations.

3 Conclusions

This paper provides a short summary of the key steps that will need to be completed before all operations restart in the THORP Plant and identifies the various stakeholders who are involved.

FIGURE 1: Key Steps in THORP Restart

ACTIVITY		
1	On Plant Preparations	
2	NDA Approval	
3	NII Review of Evidence Folders	
4	BNGSL Internal Peer Review of Readiness	
5	BNGSL Approval	
6	NII Compliance Inspection	
7	NII and EA Consent via Licence Instruments	
8	Director of THORP Authority to Restart	