

UKAEA, Windscale Report to the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group
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Date: April 2008

This report covers the period from 1st October 2007 – 31st March 2008

UKAEA

The transition of UKAEA is ongoing. The Windscale Team commenced a period of “Shadow Working” in October 2007 and this is now nearing completion. It is expected that the Windscale Site will be re-licensed to Sellafield Ltd on 1st April 2008. On this date, UKAEA Ltd (the business arm of UKAEA) will also be fully operational. Dounreay is expected to re-license in April, however, the re-licensing of Harwell and Winfrith has been delayed but a licence instrument has now been issued to the Harwell and Winfrith site which will allow the commencement of shadow working.

Safety, Security and Environment

The Windscale Team continue to work on the Safety Improvement Programme in order to promote sustained improvement in operational safety. A “Safety Pause” has been held to highlight the topic of Slips, Trips and Falls in the workplace and this has resulted in a Footwear Policy being developed and implemented at Windscale. The footwear policy specifies footwear for radiologically controlled areas and construction areas of the site. It also sets down expectations of appropriate footwear for other areas of the site.

Under the Leadership element of the Safety Improvement Programme (SIP), the Head of Site has made a number of safety awards. During the reporting period, seven awards were made to UKAEA employees or Agency Supplied Workers (ASW) and two to JCI employees in recognition of their positive attitude to considering and challenging potentially unsafe conditions and ‘going the extra mile’ to ensure the hazard was isolated and the issues resolved.

There has been one event in this reporting period. This was a broken wrist and >3 day Lost Time Accident (LTA) to a JCI employee working in a Stores building who slipped on a wet floor and fell onto the concrete floor. This event has been reported to the HSE under the RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) requirements. This is also the only case of Beyond First Aid treatment during the reporting period. Prior to the event, the site had recorded 317 days without a Lost Time Accident.

The rolling 12 month (February 07 to February 08) Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) figure has fallen from 0.95 to 0.22. This is a reflection of the enhanced awareness of safe working on the site due to the Safety Improvement Programme and the improved systematic approach to Safe Systems of Work. This performance compares well with other NDA sites (in the top 3rd of the table).

The highest dose received by a worker on the UKAEA Windscale site during the 2007 calendar year was 2.78mSv. This is 14% of the 20mSv annual limit as set by the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999, and is similar to the average annual "background" dose to the UK population of 2.6mSv. This dose was one of only two operator doses to exceed 2mSv at Windscale during 2007. At the start of a calendar year, or before the start of a particular programme of work, senior plant management discuss potential dose uptake of their personnel with their Radiation Protection Adviser (RPA). The outcome of this discussion is the setting of a Dose Restraint Objective (DRO) for each group of workers. This DRO applies to each individual worker within that group and is set at a level based on knowledge of the work to be done, its location, duration and any associated radiological hazards. The use of DROs by the plant management as a tool to monitor the radiation dose uptake of their operators, and the frequent routine dose uptake monitoring carried out by both line management and also on an independent basis by the site's Senior RPA ensures that radiation dose uptake is kept as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP) at all times."

As a direct result of the Safety Improvement Programme, people feel more personal responsibility for safety on the site and with the enhanced confidence in our 'no blame' reporting culture, we have seen the Unusual Occurrence reporting figures for the financial year increase by 22% over the same period in 2007. The largest increase relates to reports of unsafe conditions or acts in non-active buildings and outside areas. This is considered to be a very positive result of the increased awareness of the need to report such issues and enables management to act on minor hazards before they develop with the potential for serious consequences. All reports are reviewed at the daily SEAC (Safety and Environment Assistance Centre) forum for lessons for the site and wider distribution through the UKAEA Corporate Learning From Experience (LFE) process.

An enhanced focus on sickness absence by the Human Resources team and line managers has seen the sickness absence rolling 12 month rate reduce through the period. A recent slight increase is largely due to employees attending for planned surgery that is not work related. Even so this compares favourably with public and private company absence rates outside of the nuclear industry.

As part of the transition process, the site has set up three new departments as an expansion of the previous Safety and Environment Team. The three departments are Assurance, Operational Safety Services and Waste & Environment. The roles of these departments are closely aligned with similar parts of the Sellafield Organisation and have been in place throughout shadow working.

The Waste and Environment Team have worked extremely hard with Sellafield colleagues to satisfy the Environment Agency requirement to incorporate the Windscale Discharge Authorisation into the Sellafield Authorisation.

The site has produced a list of Environmental Objectives and Targets for 2007-08 as required under ISO 14001 certification. All objectives due by end of February 08 have been completed. It is anticipated that all objectives will be achieved by the year end.

Appropriate levels of Security are implemented on the Windscale Site. An updated security plan that recognises the transfer of ownership of the Nuclear Site Licence has been accepted by OCNS for implementation on 1st April 2008.

Operational Performance (1st October – 31st March 2008)

The Windscale Life Time Plan for 08/09 has been submitted to the NDA ahead of schedule. This represents the culmination of many months of hard work by a significant number of the Windscale team.

At the end of February 08, the Scheduled Performance Index (SPI) figure for Windscale was 0.98. The forecast for the year end is 1.00. This figure is used to assess the amount of work completed when compared with the plan. At the end of February, 98% of the work which was expected to be undertaken had been completed.

At the end of February, the Cost Performance Index (CPI) stood at 1.10 with a forecast of 1.11 for the end of the financial year. A value greater than 1.0 indicates that work has been completed under budget.

The delivery of the Windscale Performance Based Incentives (PBIs) has been good with 92% of the fee available during 2007/08 already earned.

Piles Project

During the period, the Windscale Piles, SA Robotics Decommissioning Test Facility has been established. The facility has been used to demonstrate the Prototype Fuel Channel Retrieval Tool (FCRT) and associated equipment which is proposed to be used on the decommissioning of the fire damaged Pile 1 reactor. The facility was used throughout a series of media visits in September/October and will now be used to test the prototype equipment and to train staff in the use of the equipment prior to deployment in the reactor.

During the periodThe Piles Decommissioning Team has also completed a second intrusive survey of the Pile 1 reactor to gain further information on the condition of the core and the contents of the Fire Affected Zone (FAZ) within the reactor. The findings of the surveys have indicated that approx. 90% of the core is undamaged and can be dismantled using the equipment which is being designed. The evidence from the surveys will be fed into the design and safety case process so that remedies to dismantle the remaining 10% of the core can be devised. Further surveys will be carried out to enable Fuel and Isotope removal design and development work to be based on factual evidence.

WAGR Project

The plan to recover from equipment breakdowns earlier in the year is starting to show positive results with significant improvement in schedule position on barrel removal during the month. This improvement is expected to continue for the remainder of the year with the project anticipating completion of all scheduled works.

Transfer Tube survey work is now complete including additional work required to core out grout within one tube to complete survey.

Lower Hemisphere removal work is now on schedule for completion by year end.

Ventilation modifications and bio-shield opening works have now been approved and are due to commence in Period 11.

Pressure vessel mock-up modifications to mount the manipulator over the mock-up for the gas baffle removal trials are nearing completion.

Leased Operations Facility

UKAEA and Nexia Solutions have continued to develop a joint 'Strategic Plan' based around an agreed goal of 'optimising the throughput of the facility during the various phases of improvement'.

This document was significant as it provides an overview of the key Safety Improvements (including shutdown periods), legacy waste removal, commercial operations, their interdependencies and when normal operations would be achieved.

It also allowed a common understanding of what had to be done, facilitated stakeholder dialogue, aided optimisation, prioritisation and integration of emergent work.

To support the management of the various activities a joint Programme Board was formed with representatives from both organisations. This has provided a formal framework to take a holistic view of the totality of the work necessary to return the operational capability required to satisfy the diverse stakeholder expectations.

Good progress has been made on delivery of the key elements of the Integrated Safety Improvement Programme including work on Plant Building Structures work and design completion of the two replacement cranes and Posting Interlock Modifications.

Support to the above operations and to Nexia Solutions operations/emergent work has required significant safety case documentation production and approval.

A detailed Lifetime Plan has been submitted to the NDA covering the planned work identified to sustain operations of the facility to 2025. The necessary resources have been engaged to enable the safe delivery of the increased scope that this work entails.

Recruitment

During the period, recruitment has been ongoing to support the Windscale Team in the delivery of the Windscale Life Time Plan in accordance with UKAEA recruitment procedures. From 1st April 2008, once the Windscale team has amalgamated with the Sellafield Site, recruitment will be carried out in accordance with Sellafield Ltd procedures.

Forward Programme

The Windscale Team will continue to deliver the programme of work in accordance with the Life Time Plan.

Further integration into Sellafield Ltd will also be an important element of the work in the coming year.

Stakeholder Site Visits

During the period, the 50th Anniversary of the Windscale Pile 1 fire took place. As a result, there was a period of intense media interest with visits from the following groups being hosted at Windscale and the SA Robotics Decommissioning Test Facility:

- ITN – Lawrence McGinty
- Trades Media
- Local Media
- National Media
- International Media

The Pile 1 Decommissioning Test Facility has also been used to engage with other members of the stakeholder community on the work which is ongoing to clean up the fire damaged reactor. The team were pleased to be able to welcome members of the WCSSG, GENII and the Windscale Retired Employee Community.

In addition, a programme of school visits was also initiated with visits taking place from the following schools:

- St Benedicts RC High School
- Wyndham School
- Workington Sixth Form
- St Gabriel's School, Bury

Visits from the following persons/organisations have also been hosted during the period:

- Wayne Cocroft – English Heritage
- The Academic Staff from Manchester University and the Dalton Institute
- Post Graduate Students from Birmingham University

During the period, a number of visits have also taken place from members of the Sellafield Team to assist with the Transition Project.

Sponsorship

Windscale were pleased to be able to sponsor the successful Cumbria Pride Awards.

Windscale is also pleased to be able to sponsor the annual North Lancashire & Cumbria Cricket League Vigodny Cup. This is the 4th consecutive year that this event has been sponsored by UKAEA Windscale.

Head of Site Community Fund

Two meetings of the Head of Site Community Fund have been held during the period and as a result, the following charities have been awarded donations:

- Black Combe Casuals Junior Football Club
- Cockermouth/Keswick Youth Hockey Club
- Cumbria Mariners American Football Club
- Friends of Gosforth School

- Mayor of Copeland Charitable Fund
- Beckermest Village School
- Whitehaven in Bloom
- Allerdale Leisure Under 8 Football Team
- Beckermest Nursery
- Grassroots Community Horticulture
- Whicham Parish Council
- Millom Railway and Scale Modellers
- Holker Old Boys Junior Football Team

At the recent Windscale Staff Transition Event, over £3500 was awarded to local and national charities. The main local beneficiaries of the funds were Cumbria Young Carers and Grassroots Community Horticulture, both of whom were awarded over £500 each.

Index of Acronyms

UKAEA	United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority
SIP	Safety Improvement Programme
ASW	Agency Supplied Workers
JCI	Johnson Controls
LTA	Lost Time Accident
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
RIDDOR	Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations
TRIR	Total Recordable Incident Rate
RPA	Radiological Protection Adviser
DRO	Dose Restraint Objective
ALARP	As low as Reasonable Practicable
SEAC	Safety and Environment Assistance Centre
LFE	Learning From Experience
NDA	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
SPI	Scheduled Performance Index
CPI	Cost Performance Index
PBI	Performance Based Incentive
FCRT	Fuel Channel Retrieval Tool
FAZ	Fire Affected Zone
WCSSG	West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group