

UKAEA, Windscale Report to the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group
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Date: April 2007

This report covers the period from 31st October 2006 – 31st March 2007

UKAEA

Following the appointment of Norman Harrison to the post of Chief Operating Officer (COO) for the UKAEA in August 2006, Mr Harrison was appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) with the UKAEA with effect from the 1st February 2007.

Following the NDA's announcement to amalgamate the Windscale Site with the Sellafield Site, work is underway regarding transition arrangements. UKAEA and BNGSL have established a single team approach between the two organisations, including the development of project team, project documentation and project objectives. To date fourteen Work Streams have been established and the joint co-operation between UKAEA and British Nuclear Group is enabling the project objectives to be delivered.

A number of overarching principles have been developed to provide a framework for the 14 Work Streams to work to:

- Transition will be managed to ensure there is no detriment to safety on either the Windscale or Sellafield sites.
- The overarching consideration will be maintaining stability and continuity for staff, agency and contractors throughout the change.
- The transition will be based upon minimum change to the organisation structure and management arrangements

Discussions between UKAEA and BNG are ongoing to determine the terms of the contract which will be let to the UKAEA to run the Windscale Site.

NDA funding guidelines have been issued to sites for 2007/08 which will allow the Windscale team to deliver the Life Time Plan (LTP) for 2007/08 submitted to the NDA in March 07.

Safety, Security and Environment

The NDA conducted an audit of Health and Safety management on the site in January and reported that they had not identified any issues that gave them cause for concern.

The UKAEA CEO set an objective for the Heads of all of the UKAEA sites to produce and implement a programme of safety improvements to achieve sustained excellence in operational safety. The programme for Windscale focuses on Leadership by Senior Managers, behavioural safety for all personnel, improvements to the management system and a stronger assurance function. The programme has been supported by the Trade Union representatives for the site and implementation of the programme to date has been received positively by staff and contractors.

There were three events in this reporting period. The Lost Time Accident (LTA) that occurred in the previous period was confirmed as RIDDOR reportable and consequently re-categorised as an Event. This gives a total of 5 events so far this financial year, 4 of which have resulted in personal injury. Our upper Safety Performance Measure (SPM) threshold for this financial year is 5 events.

- A safety interlock failed during maintenance that allowed two shield doors to be opened simultaneously. There were neither radiological consequences nor injury. The other two events this period resulted in personal injury.
- An electrician received a shock of 150 volts from a poorly installed fuseboard. No time was lost although he was sent to Occupational Health for reassurance monitoring.
- A steel erector injured his ankle when it caught in a gap in the work platform. This resulted in more than three days off work and was reported to the HSE in accordance with the RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) requirements.

Prior to the fuseboard event, the site had recorded 287 days without a reportable LTA.

The total number of UNORs raised in the reporting period is showing a reverse of a trend earlier in the year for reporting below the 2006 levels over the reporting year. UNOR numbers are now only 12% below the same period for last year.

The site has a number of Environmental Objectives to complete over the reporting year. At the end of January all of the 15 scheduled objectives had been completed. Performance in February was not as strong due to onsite

resource issues and a prolonged recruitment exercise and a recovery plan is in place.

Windscale Site

Operational Performance

Windscale continue to consistently deliver the programme of work as specified in the LTP and expect to achieve 97.5% of the agreed Performance Based Incentives (PBIs) in the financial year 2006/07.

Some notable PBIs which have been achieved in the period are:

- Removal of the WAGR Tundish
- The inclusion of Project Services Ltd scope of work into the UKAEA Windscale LTP.
- Presentation to the NDA on the Pile 1 Acceleration Plan.
- Removal and packaging of the roof timbers on the Pile 2 facility and subsequent repairs to the existing roof.
- Inclusion of the Integrated Safety Improvement Programme (ISIP) for the Shielded Facility into the Windscale LTP.

Piles Project

Some notable achievements in the period are:

- Fuel and isotope removal equipment trialled.
- Pile 2 isotope removal equipment in place on the Pile 2 cap and ready to proceed.
- Removal of the Pile 1 temperature rig and west air inlet duct.

WAGR Project

Some notable achievements in the period are:

- Recovery of 11m³ of loose pressure vessel and insulation debris from the tundish and subsequent removal of the reactor tundish.
- Characterisation of reactor bio-shield.
- Development of facility demolition strategy.

In addition, decommissioning progress is continuing in the WAGR Post Irradiation Examination Facility (PIE Facility) with 3 out of the 5 cave lines cleared and decontaminated.

Leased Operations Facility

Some notable achievements in the period are:

- Delivery of two major safety cases:
 - A category A modification allowing the Shielded Facility Operational Safety Case to be adopted.
 - The Combined Building Operational Safety Case
- UKAEA awarded the contract for engineering improvements in the Shielded Facility.
- NDA approval of baseline change proposals in relation to facility upgrades.

We are continuing to strengthen the Windscale team and the recruitment programme is ongoing. The Windscale team will be strengthened to support the Transition programme and work is currently ongoing to determine future requirements.

Forward Programme

The Windscale Team will continue to work with British Nuclear Group to ensure that the amalgamation project progresses.

The Life Time Plan submitted to the NDA in March shows:

- Decommissioning programmes on the Windscale site are now forecast to be complete by 2045 compared to 2065 in previous LTP submissions.
- It is planned that decommissioning will be complete by 2030 leaving only two waste stores remaining before the waste is transferred to the national repository.
- The acceleration of the piles decommissioning programme from 2063 to 2022. This will be achieved by removing the care and maintenance of the large radioactive structures and using innovative dismantling methods.
- Improvements in the decommissioning programmes to better account for project risks, comprehensive estimates and detailed schedules to better underpin the lifetime plan.

Stakeholder Issues & Site Visits

We were pleased to welcome two international groups to West Cumbria in the reporting period.

In October, the Windscale Team were pleased to welcome meeting members from the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to the Windscale Site. The group also visited UKAEA's Harwell and Culham Sites.

In November, members of a Technical Research Co-ordination Meeting (TRCM) of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) held their meeting in Cumbria and visited the Windscale site as part of the week's activities.

Both groups met members of the NDA and visited a number of local tourist attractions. The groups were positive in their praise of West Cumbrian hospitality and the achievements at Windscale.

The Windscale Team have participated in the programme of workshops which aim to consult with stakeholders on the Site End States of the Windscale, Sellafield, Calder and Low Level Waste Repository Sites.

Windscale was pleased to support the BNES Lecture which was held on the 6th March 07 by making a presentation on the Piles Decommissioning Project.

A number of talks have taken place within the community on the work which the UKAEA and the Windscale team are undertaking on behalf of the NDA.

The 4th meeting of the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Windscale Sub-committee was held on 6th March 2007.

Since the last meeting of the WCSSG, two scrutiny meetings of the Windscale Head of Site Community Fund have been chaired by Ranald Stewart, the Chairman of the WCSSG – Windscale Sub-Committee. Many local charities have been awarded donations from this fund in the financial year, they include; The Rotary Club of Millom, Whitehaven and District Amateur Operatics Society, The Kirkgate Centre and Age Concern.

Index of Acronyms

UKAEA	United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority
COO	Chief Operating Officer
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
NDA	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
BNGSL	British Nuclear Group Sellafield Limited
SPM	Safety Performance Measure
RIDDOR	Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations
LTP	Life Time Plan
ISIP	Integrated Safety Improvement Programme
PBI	Performance Based Incentive
WAGR	Windscale Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor
PIE	Post Irradiation Examination
TAG	Technical Advisory Group
NEA	Nuclear Energy Agency
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
TRCM	Technical Research Co-ordination Meeting
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency