



West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group – Windscale Sub-
committee
(WCSSG – WSC)

Report for October 2006 Meeting

Issues Arising since April 2006

- Since the last meeting of the WCSSG, The Chairman of the Windscale Sub-committee has attended two scrutiny meetings of the Windscale Head of Site Community fund.

Feedback from the Windscale Sub-Committee Meeting

- The meeting of the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group – Windscale Sub-committee met at the Ennerdale Country House Hotel on Tuesday 5th September 2006.
- The Chairman commended the publications InSite Bulletin and The Windscale Annual Review which had been issued recently. It was felt that these publications were a useful update on Windscale related matters.
- Concern was expressed as to the adverse coverage in the press with regards to the NDA and the BNG sale and pensions issues. The Chairman expressed the concern of local stakeholders of the possible destabilisation of relationships built up over many years.
- Elections were held for the position of Chairman and Vice Chairman for the Windscale Sub-committee. These resulted in Mr Ranald Stewart being re-elected as Chairman and Mr Ronald Hargreaves being re-elected as Vice Chairman.
- Mr Peter Mann, the Head of Site Windscale updated meeting members on issues which had arisen since the last meeting of the group and noted that he would be submitting a full report to the scrutiny meeting of the WCSSG.
- A presentation was given to the meeting by Mr Tony Milburn, the Senior Project Manager on the Piles project. He spoke about the history of the project and the proposed plans for accelerating the decommissioning of the project at a reduced cost to the tax payer. Mr Milburn also highlighted that the NII had recently approved the new Operational Safety Case for the Pile 1 project. This means that more

conventional methods of decommissioning can be utilised which again will result in a reduction in decommissioning costs.

- Mr Stephen Haslam, the Project Manager for the Windscale Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor (WAGR) project also made a presentation to the meeting with regards to the progress which is being made on the decommissioning of the reactor. Mr Haslam highlighted that from 1st April 2006, UKAEA took over the full decommissioning programme from Magnox Electric and their contractors, BNG project Services Ltd. This has increased the staff level on the project by approximately 50 contracted staff.
- The Environment Agency had provided an update report for meeting members which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Mr Mike Scott reported that if ever issues of concern relating to Windscale were raised by the EA, the Windscale Site team responded positively and acted accordingly.

There were no further issues to add.

- The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate had also provided an update report for the meeting which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Mr Willets added that sufficient work had been completed by the UKAEA and Nexia Solutions in the Leased Operations Facility to allow an improvement notice to be closed out.

Mr Willets also noted that the NII will be responding to the NDA's discussion letter on the "Future of the Windscale Site". They believe that it could be a drawn out process to integrate two separate safety management systems.

The NII also reported that they look forward to hearing the proposals from Windscale with regards to the formation of a Site Licence Company.

- At the previous Windscale Sub-committee meeting an action was taken to invite a member of the NDA's strategy team to the meeting to clarify the NDA Strategy. Mr Jonathan Jenkins attended the meeting and made a presentation to the members on the NDA's strategy, the consultation process which preceded the publication of the strategy and the site's competition schedules.

The presentation from the NDA gave rise to the following issues:

- Site End States – The meeting felt that the information regarding the consultation process for Site End States was not clear. It was hoped that the NDA Workshop on the 10th October would clarify the process.

- Pensions – A lot of questions were raised with regards to pensions and the NDA's Combined Nuclear Pension Plan and what constitutes a comparable or no less favourable scheme. Pensions are a prime concern for employees in the nuclear industry. An action was taken for the Chairman to suggest that pensions be raised as an agenda item at the WCSSG Scrutiny meeting.
- NDA Discussion Letter – “The Future of the Windscale Site” – It was felt that the distribution of the letter should have included borough and county council representatives as the councils are a democratically elected group and therefore the feelings of the local community should be expressed. It was reported that the letter has had an unsettling effect on the Windscale staff and resolution should be sought as soon as possible.