

West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group

Decommissioning Sub Committee

Present

Cllr David Moore	Copeland Borough Council
Cllr Norman Clarkson	Cumbria County Council
Cllr Alan Holliday	Copeland Borough Council
Mr Ron Hargreaves	Community Representative
Mr Peter Mann	Sellafield Ltd
Mr Chris Halliwell	Sellafield Ltd
Mr Stephen Tandy	Environment Agency
Mr Joe Clark	Prospect Union – Windscale Section
Mrs Claire Tandy	Sellafield Ltd

1. Introduction

Cllr David Moore opened the meeting as Chairman and welcomed the members to the first meeting of the Decommissioning Sub Committee.

The Chairman explained that the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group had been restructured to reflect the changes in the nuclear industry in West Cumbria. The Windscale Sub Committee and the Calder Hall Sub Committee have been disbanded and three new sub committees have been established: The Decommissioning Sub Committee, The Commercial Sub Committee and the Socioeconomic Sub Committee.

The Chairman reported that the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) had been unable to send a representative to the meeting today but they hoped to be able to send a representative in the future. They could not name a representative at the moment. The Chairman expressed disappointment that the NDA were not represented at the meeting as decommissioning is one of the NDA's core objectives. This sentiment was agreed by the meeting members. Part of the meeting Terms of Reference also states that the role of the sub committee is one of scrutiny and therefore a representative from the NDA should be present to enable the meeting members to fully carry out their scrutiny role.

Action (M1)01 – Mrs Claire Tandy to write to Mr Bob Churchill/ Dr Ian Roxburgh of the NDA on behalf of the Chairman of the Decommissioning Sub Committee and ask for the name of the NDA representative who will attend future meetings. Also confirm the name of a nominated deputy.

2. Nominations for Meeting Chair and Vice Chair

The Chairman requested nominations for the role of Chairman of the Decommissioning Sub Committee. The Chairman noted that prior to the meeting Cllr Norman Clarkson had expressed an interest in taking on the role. Cllr David Moore nominated Norman Clarkson to the position of Chairman. This nomination was seconded by Cllr Alan Holliday.

The Chairman requested nominations for the position of Vice Chairman. Cllr Norman Clarkson nominated Mr Ron Hargreaves for the position. This was seconded by Cllr Alan Holliday.

Cllr Moore continued to Chair the meeting.

3. Terms of Reference (TORs) Discussion and Ratification

The Chairman asked for comments on the draft TORs for the Sub Committee. He drew the meeting members attention to the fact that they were eligible for out of pocket expenses if these expenses were not covered by the organisations they were representing.

Mr Joe Clark raised that he felt decommissioning strategy should also be considered by the Decommissioning Sub Committee.

Mr Stephen Tandy supported this view and said that he felt that the purpose of the meeting should also be to consider decommissioning strategy as this informs the decommissioning plans and activities. This was agreed by the meeting attendees.

With the above inclusion the TORS were ratified.

Post meeting note: Page 3, Heading "Website" – Changed Commercial Sub Committee to read Decommissioning Sub Committee.

4. Sellafield Ltd Report on Decommissioning Activities

Mr Chris Halliwell introduced himself to the meeting members. Mr Halliwell is the Programme Superintendent of Decommissioning at Sellafield Ltd and works as part of the Nuclear Decommissioning and Major Projects Group (ND & MPG) which is lead by Mr Peter Lutwyche. The Directorate has approx 2000 staff and for 2008/09 has a portfolio of £473 million.

Mr Halliwell informed the meeting members that based on current assumptions and current Life Time Plan (LTP) estimates, that decommissioning the Sellafield Site will cost in the order of £42 billion with a life span of over 100 years.

A discussion followed relating to the NDA Hazard Index and how this impacts on decommissioning plans and also the proposed end states. It was suggested that the Hazard Reduction Index should be raised as an agenda item at the next Sub Committee meeting.

Action (M01)02 – Mrs Tandy to include “Hazard Reduction Index” as an agenda item at the next Decommissioning Sub Committee meeting.

Mr Halliwell discussed the structure of the ND & MPG and detailed some of the major projects which are being focussed on within the ND & MPG team. He emphasised that safety and environmental performance are of paramount importance at Sellafield.

Mr Joe Clark noted that when Windscale was merged with Sellafield Ltd, they became part of the Infrastructure Directorate and not decommissioning although the majority of work at Windscale is decommissioning. Mr Peter Mann responded that Infrastructure, Strategy and Transition Directorate has been identified as the most appropriate place for Windscale. It is recognised that the new Parent Body Organisation (PBO) may wish to restructure in the future. The Windscale Management Team is looking at the strategic options for Windscale and anticipates that these will be discussed with the new PBO.

Some discussion followed regarding the fact that due to the Hazard Reduction Index, few projects would be completed down to ground level at this stage and it is important to demonstrate that projects can be fully decommissioned. The Windscale Advanced Gas Cooled Reactor (WAGR) is a demonstration project but now is not deemed to be “high hazard”; however, the project is nearing completion and would impact on the skyline if it were fully decommissioned. There are also major cost implications of leaving facilities under care and maintenance as often machinery can become obsolete and capability and skills can be lost.

A programme of building new plants has been embarked upon at Sellafield to enable decommissioning.

Mr Clarke also asked Mr Halliwell what the split was of work currently being undertaken as part of the strategic decommissioning plan compared to work which was required to meet regulatory requirements. Mr Halliwell commented that the major projects which were being undertaken were strategic projects but which could have an impact on regulator activity. The team ensure that they keep the regulators engaged throughout.

Mr Halliwell continued to report that there were a number of challenges facing the decommissioning team at Sellafield. There are a number of confines that the team must work within as the site is quite small but with a high density of buildings. A number of facilities need to be upgraded to allow decommissioning i.e. upgrading of ventilation plants. Often the team have to deal with the unknown, however, through planning; developing strategy and the sequencing of activities, the team can identify the cost of decommissioning. Lessons learnt have been applied wherever possible and incorporated into designs for new plants.

Mr Halliwell also emphasised the importance of adhering to the waste hierarchy during decommissioning as this will provide opportunities for genuine cost avoidance. Currently we look elsewhere to treat our waste but we must continue to ensure that the waste treatment options are cost effective. Where a business justification can be made, it may be possible to

build treatment facilities in West Cumbria which may have a commercial and socioeconomic benefit.

N.B – Cllr David Moore and Cllr Alan Holliday had to leave the meeting and the Chairmanship of the meeting was handed over to Cllr Norman Clarkson.

The Chairman asked Mr Halliwell if he could arrange for a visit for the meeting members of the Decommissioning sub Committee to some of the Sellafield Decommissioning Facilities which may be discussed at future meetings.

Action (M1)03 – Mr Halliwell to arrange a visit to Sellafield Decommissioning Projects for members of the Decommissioning Sub Committee.

5. Windscale Report on Decommissioning Activities

Mr Peter Mann opened his report commenting that although he is employed by UKAEA, he is fully seconded to the Sellafield Ltd Team and was reporting on behalf of Sellafield Ltd who is the Windscale Site Licensee.

Mr Mann advised the meeting that Windscale had had its own sub committee up until the final meeting in March and had reported to the WCSSG Scrutiny meeting in April. Mr Mann advised that Windscale was approximately a tenth of the size of the ND & MPG portfolio with a value of approx. £45 million.

The report that had been submitted to the meeting concentrated on looking back over the past year. Mr Mann reported that the transition of Windscale to Sellafield Ltd had been conducted effectively. There had been some minor teething problems but on the whole, the business was functioning as usual. The team will continue to develop plans and strategies and will look at opportunities for gaining benefit from the integration.

A project has been set up at Windscale to ensure that embedding into Sellafield is effective. A review will take place in three months (end of June) to review progress.

Mr Mann reported that Mr Foster, the Sellafield Director responsible for Windscale, is keen not to change things unnecessarily, as the new PBO may wish to make some changes in the future. The team at Windscale will continue to work in accordance with best practice and to a high standard of safety performance.

The Windscale team is aligning with Sellafield where practicable and have recently become involved with the WANO (World Association of Nuclear Operators) approach to safety and several members of the team have undergone training.

Like Sellafield, Windscale is under funded with a shortfall of approximately 10%. The team will continue to seek efficiencies and hope to bridge the shortfall by applying innovation and efficiency savings wherever possible.

Mr Mann then updated the meeting on Windscale project performance. He advised that the WAGR project is ahead of programme and development work on the Piles decommissioning project is progressing well.

Both reactor decommissioning projects are constrained by funding, if it remains at the current level, progress will also be constrained and the end date for the projects will slip.

WAGR is now a relatively low hazard plant and therefore absorbs some of the reductions in funding; however, this is not without difficulty as if the end date for the project were to slip, the Remote Dismantling Machine (RDM) which is used in decommissioning operations may require a substantial input of capital to extend its lifespan.

The Shielded Facility, which is a unique facility in the UK, has an Integrated Safety Improvement Programme (ISIP) which will ensure the improved reliability of the facility. The facility requires adequate funding to be made available to ensure continued operations.

6. Future Agenda Items and Date of Next Meeting

A discussion took place about the future reporting requirements for the Sub Committee. The Chairman suggested that there is an integrated approach to reporting at the next meeting from the Sellafield and Windscale representatives.

Action (M1)04 Mr Halliwell and Mr Mann to discuss reporting for the Sub Committee prior to the next meeting.

It was suggested that the following items are added to the next agenda of the Sub Committee:

- Hazard Reduction Index
- Decommissioning Strategy
- High Level Decommissioning Projects – What is being spent and what has funding constraints i.e. what work cannot be progressed.
- Technical Advancements
- Safety Issues
- Environment Agency Report on Regulatory Issues

Action (M1)05 Mrs Tandy to add agenda items to the next meetings agenda as appropriate.

The suggested dates for the meeting were discussed and these will be confirmed at a later date, however, it was suggested that the meetings are held in February and September so that reports can be generated for the WCSSG scrutiny meetings.

Distribution

Meeting Attendees

Cllr Alan Clarke

Cllr Mike Davidson

Mr Joseph Murdock

Chairman:

Cllr Norman Clarkson

Secretary:

Claire Tandy

Tel:019467 72213



West Cumbria Sites
Stakeholder Group

Action Reference	Action	Action Status
(M1)01	Claire Tandy to write to Bob Churchill/Ian Roxburgh of the NDA on behalf of the Decommissioning Sub Committee and ask for the name of the NDA representative who will attend future meetings. Also confirm the name of a nominated deputy.	New Action
(M1)02	Claire Tandy to include "Hazard Reduction Index" as an agenda item at the next Decommissioning Sub Committee meeting.	New Action
(M1)03	Chris Halliwell to arrange a visit to Sellafield Decommissioning Projects for members of the Decommissioning Sub Committee.	New Action
(M1)04	Chris Halliwell and Peter Mann to discuss reporting for the Sub Committee prior to the next meeting.	New Action
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