

Notes from West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group (WCSSG)
Low Level Waste Repository Sub-Committee
27 May 2005

Members attending:

Cllr Sue Brown	Cumbria County Council
Cllr David Cook	Drigg and Carleton Parish Council
Cllr A Dalton	Drigg and Carleton Parish Council
Mr James Fisher	British Nuclear Group
Mr J Millington	British Nuclear Group
Mr Peter Mann	Head of UKAEA
Cllr David Moore	Chairman of WCSSG
Mr I Streatfield	Environment Agency
Cllr K Thompson	Drigg and Carleton Parish Council
Mr D Weatherburn	NDA Site Programme Manager
Ms Shirley Williams	British Nuclear Group, Secretariat to WCSSG
Cllr E. Woodburn	Copeland Borough Council
Cllr E Eastwood	Seascale Parish Council

Other attendees included:

Mr. R Brown, Miss A MacMillan, Mr C Carter, Mr D Millington, Mr S Shepherd, Mr Higham.

1. Welcome/Introductions:

Cllr Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were noted from Cllr Brown and Ms Williams who were required to leave the meeting early. Apologies were received from Mr. G Grint (NII).

2. Presentation on forward strategy for continued LLW operations (copy of slides attached)

Mr Weatherburn presented the NDA forward strategy for the LLW site. He highlighted that the NDA was keen to attend future sessions and welcomed continued two-way dialogue between government and the industry. He noted that by 2008, half of the civil nuclear sites would be open to competition; the indication was that the LLW site would be included. He commented that there were incentives to drive costs down through innovation and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) obligations to ensure that the taxpayer has value for money.

He noted that the NDA recognised that the LLW site is of small financial value but was of high strategic importance.

The NDA intended to revisit British Nuclear Group strategy and revisit engagement with stakeholders. In addition the intention was to accelerate the demolition of the PCM stores where possible.

It was noted that if the LLW site at Drigg was to play a key part in the NDA strategy, it was recognised that the transport system would require upgrading to facilitate the removal of wide loads being transported through the village.

Meetings were currently being held between the NDA and Cumbria County Council (CCC) to discuss planning permissions and the necessary public consultations required. The year 2009 had been identified as a critical date whereby a decision on the future use of the site would be required.

Mr Weatherburn informed the meeting that it was expected that the NDA strategy would be published in July/August for public consultation.

Cllr Cook questioned if this meant that decommissioning should be stopped now.

Mr Millington replied that options were being investigated on how to handle waste and storage of wastes from other sites. There was a legal requirement from the NII to decommission and store waste.

A comment was made that higher stacking could increase radiation levels, and that this would not be acceptable to the community even it was very low.

A question was asked regarding transport movements-what movements were to happen next year and if the movements would be by road or rail.

It was noted that a study was currently underway to set out what exactly was planned to be transported via rail and road. This would identify how many moves were required for construction materials and for material required for closure (capping material). This study was due for completion in July however the scope had been extended to include planning for Vault 9 and this could result in delivery of the study being extended by a couple of months.

3. Options for development from previous meeting (copy of output attached)

4. Presentation of Authorisation Review (copy of slides attached)

Presentation given by Mr I Streatfield (Environment Agency)

5. AOB

- Recommendation by Cllr Moore that future advertising of sub-committee meetings to be carried out via a regular programme of events.
- Action on the secretariat to arrange next sub-committee meeting for the next 6 months. Comment was made that some of these meetings should be in the evening.