

WE WANT TO KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS

Introduction – About the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group

The West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group (WCSSG) provides a forum for representation of local community interests and is the interface between the community, the site operators (currently British Nuclear Group and the UKAEA) and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). Accountability for decision making remains with the NDA but the WCSSG group exists to make the local community opinions known.

This is the WCSSG's first consultation and will enable wider local consultation in an open and transparent manner. Engagement will target the local community and members of the UK public with an interest in the nuclear industry. It will also ensure opportunities are available to national stakeholders who want to participate.

How the topics are chosen

The WCSSG will arrange up to five consultations each year, based on the issues the local community has identified.

Organising the process is the role of the Community Engagement Co-ordinating Subcommittee (CECSC) who produce a calendar of consultations, arrange workshops, and commission framework documents to explain the issues.

Up to five consultations will be held each year, chosen from topics raised by the community. The first – “**The Future of the Sellafield Site**” – was chosen as the issue most frequently asked at WCSSG workshops and events. Future topics will be chosen from your suggestions – please e-mail or write to the secretariat. Alternatively, you can give your views at any of the WCSSG main committee or sub-committee meetings.

How it works

The first stage is to ensure the community knows that the consultation process exists. We will raise awareness of each topic on the WCSSG website, in the local media, and through all the organisations who take part in the WCSSG. If you think of anybody who might be interested, please let them know!

The CECSC will commission a framework document for each consultation. This explains the issue and gives some background to the subject. This document will be

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published on the WCSSG website. Paper copies will also be available in local council offices, libraries and on request via the WCSSG secretariat (Rosina Robinson on 019467 85802).

We encourage feedback from stakeholders, and there are a number of ways you can do this:

Return the response form by;

- e-mail to secretary@wcsg.co.uk
- post to Secretary of WCSSG, Yottenfews Farmhouse, Sellafield, Cumbria, CA20 1PG
- Fax to 019467 85844
- Telephone Rosina Robinson 019467 85802

You can also take part in a workshop where the issue will be discussed in more detail. Each independently facilitated workshop will include representatives of local authorities and other stakeholder groups, but individuals are encouraged to attend. There will be a maximum number of places available (depending on the venue); in case of over subscription, the CECSC will select attendees.

Feedback will be collated into a summary report which will reflect the range of views expressed. This will be made available on the website and to everybody who took part in the consultation. It will also be sent to the NDA and to the site operators. The views you express will help the NDA in shaping their decisions, and they have pledged to let stakeholders know how their views have been taken into account.

Who does what

There are a number of different roles in the consultation process:

Stakeholders - individuals and organisations who have an interest in the subject under discussion, and who wish to make their views known.

NDA - as owners of the West Cumbrian nuclear sites, they are committed to openness and transparency. They are responsible for making decisions, and want local people's views on key issues.

WCSSG secretariat - currently provided by British Nuclear Group and paid for by the NDA. Their role is to make sure the process runs smoothly and to provide overall administrative support to the WCSSG committee.

Facilitator - an independent facilitator will aim to make sure the dialogue process is inclusive, fair and based on agreed ground rules. They will also produce a clear record of discussions.

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Evaluator - it is important to make sure that the consultation process is fair, operates within agreed ground rules, and the output is a true reflection of the views expressed. The CECSC will appoint a small group of respected local people to carry out this task.

Some consultations will require expert input and advice and the WCSSG can arrange for expert input when required.

Reporting outputs

The NDA has a policy of openness and transparency, and this principle underpins the WCSSG. All documents provided as part of the consultation process will be available to the public, either via the website or in hard copy. Stakeholders with specific needs can request information in a variety of formats, including spoken tapes (for information contact Rosina Robinson on 019467 85802).

The Freedom of Information Act and the Environmental Information Regulations apply to this process.

Meetings and workshops are open to the public and the press, unless the chairman decides to exclude specific agenda items for reasons of security etc.

A summary report will be produced as part of each consultation process. This will be available for final comment before being “signed off” by the CECSC and submitted to the NDA. Reports will be available on the website or on request via the secretariat.

Other dialogues

This is an important period for the UK’s nuclear industry, as a number of key policies on radioactive waste management are being developed. These will affect decisions about the nuclear sites, and stakeholders are encouraged to take part in the various groups’ consultations.

Further information and contact details for current consultations are available on the WCSSG website.

Consultation Timeline

The first single issue framework document will be available for consultation from the week commencing 17th October 2005 until the end of January 2006.

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A workshop is expected to be held in January 2006 to provide a further opportunity to offer views on the future of the Sellafield Site. If you wish to register an interest in attending please indicate to the WCSSG secretariat by the 2nd December 2005. Places are open to everyone but will be limited, please remember to register as soon as possible to secure a place. An invitation and relevant information will be sent to workshop attendees prior to the meeting. The aim of the workshop is to provide further information to assist understanding of the key issues and explore issues to ascertain community considerations. A summary document containing the workshop output is expected to be available by mid-February 2006, this will be posted on the web-site and available on request.

The consultation will close on the 28th February 2006. A community led group (evaluator), commissioned by the CECSC will produce a final summary document containing outputs from the workshop and community feedback. This information will be reviewed by the CECSC by the 31st March 2006. This outcome will then be submitted to the NDA and will be made publicly available.

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