



West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group

PRESS RELEASE

RESULTS OF BEACH MONITORING AT SELLAFIELD

The West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group has been given the results of the first phase of enhanced environmental monitoring of the beaches near to Sellafield.

We have also been informed of the review of these findings undertaken by the Health Protection Agency. Their advice is:

“ On the basis of information provided by the Environment Agency on 6 July 2007 on the finding of radioactive particles on beaches near the Sellafield site the Health Protection Agency (HPA) considers that no special precautionary actions are necessary at this time regarding access to or use of these beaches. However HPA will continue to work with relevant authorities to keep the situation under investigation.”

This monitoring took place during May and June 2007 and used new, highly sensitive, monitoring equipment. We welcome this programme which has been able to find contaminated particles at greater depths and at lower levels of contamination than previously possible.

The items found are now being analysed to gain an understanding of their origin but the Environment Agency informs us that it is highly likely that the vast majority, if not all, of the finds relate to historic events at Sellafield.

The full findings and a briefing note from the Environment Agency are given on the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group website, wcssg.co.uk. We intend to publish all future findings from the monitoring programme on this website when they become

available. The monitoring programme and its findings is also being independently scrutinised by the WCSSG Environmental Health sub-committee.

David Moore, West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Chairman is a resident of Seascale, one of the beaches monitored under the programme. David said *“I am pleased with the findings from the monitoring programme and especially with the advice from the Health Protection Agency which clearly states that the beaches here are safe. The West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group and local parish councils have been kept informed of this programme throughout and have advised Sellafield Ltd on the timings of the programme.”*

David Moore
Chairman
West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group

17 July 2007