

NEWS Committee

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December 2006

West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group:

In September the first West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group committee newsletter was distributed to members.

This is the second edition which aims to update members on activities that have taken place outside of the scope of the main scrutiny meetings.

Several local community forums have replied that they have found it very informative.

All feedback will be welcomed, so if you have any views as to what you would like to see covered in the newsletter let the secretariat know either by calling 019467 85802 or e-mailing secretary@wcssg.co.uk

End uses / states for the Sellafield sites

In the last edition of this newsletter, we reported that the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority had asked the WCSSG to support its process for deciding on the end uses/states for the nuclear sites in West Cumbria.

Work is ongoing and all members have received their invitations to the meeting on Thursday 4th January 07 where we will be kicking off the first of three workshops to ascertain peoples views on the end uses.

Publicity has been achieved via 45,000 leaflets sent to households in the local community as well as invitations to all those who were involved in the process in January 06, public notices have been and will continue to be displayed weekly in the Whitehaven News, the Times and Star, the North West evening mail and the Barrow Advertiser. Information has also been posted onto the WCSSG website at www.wcssg.co.uk. As part of the process the Chairman has attended review meetings with the NDA to update on the process.

Throughout phase one three workshops are being held and facilitated by Westlakes Scientific Consulting. Please inform as many people as you can to help promote the process:

Thursday 4th January 07	- Cleator Moor Civic Hall	- 1200 1700
Saturday 6th January 07	- Drigg Village Hall	- 1000 1400
Wednesday 10th January 07	- The Oval Centre, Salterbeck	- 1600 2000

If people would like to attend any of the above workshops, please register with the secretariat at the above contact number and e-mail address.

Calendar of Events:

The calendar of events for 2007 is included with this newsletter. In order to save on production and distribution costs it has been decided to send out one calendar to cover a 12 month period rather than two 6 monthly editions. Every effort will be made to ensure that the meetings take place, however, it is recommended that if no correspondence is received in advance of any of the scheduled meetings you should ring the relevant secretariat to confirm the meeting is still going ahead. Contact details are included on the calendar.

National stakeholder group:

Four members of the WCSSG attended the NDA's National Stakeholder Group meeting at the NEC in Birmingham on the 7th and 8th of November. Sue Brown, Norman Clarkson and Carni McCarron-Holmes joined Chairman David Moore for the two-day event which was the last one facilitated by the Environment Council.

The main themes of the sessions were information flow from the NDA, working together as SSGs and what is the way forward with the national process.

On the second morning, workshops were held and WCSSG members attended those on socio economic issues, stakeholder engagement and NDA contract competition.

In the main sessions, there was much debate around the upcoming competition for the Sellafield contract and with the contract for the LLWR already having begun, WCSSG is in the forefront of this important aspect of the NDA's mission. For David and his colleagues, the priority was all about stakeholders getting involved in the competition process to ensure the local community gained maximum benefit from it.

During the discussions it was clear many of the other group chairmen had little knowledge or awareness of Sellafield or what goes on at the site. So David has invited all the SSG chairmen to come to Sellafield early in the New Year to visit the site and appreciate the diversity of the activities there. He is hoping to set up the visit in January or February.

Windscale integration

The NDA has officially announced the integration of the UKAEA Windscale site and the Sellafield site. The WCSSG was involved in August in a discussion with the NDA and made a formal response to those discussions.

Despite WCSSG concerns that not enough information was available to determine whether the integration would be the best way forward, the decision was made to go along this route. WCSSG wants to ensure and made its thoughts clear at the last scrutiny meeting in October that it is paramount that any integration must be done with due consideration to both the workforce and safety. Work is currently ongoing with the site operators and the NDA to move forward with this work.

WCSSG involvement with bidders for LLWR

The Chairman and members of the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group have been invited to take part in the process of deciding who the new contractor for the Low Level Waste Repository will be.

David Moore, Elaine Woodburn, Sue Brown and members of the Drigg Parish Community met with the bidders this month and questioned them about their intentions regarding the socio economic impacts in the local community should they be chosen as the contractor of choice for the LLW site.

Members have signed a confidentiality agreement which refrains them from discussing any of the content of the meetings they are involved in, but David Moore was able to comment that he was pleased that the WCSSG had been invited to be involved and felt that it had sent a very important message to any new contractor that it would need to satisfy the local community that it was willing to enter into two way dialogue in an open and transparent way.

Merry Christmas

The Chairman and Secretariat would like to thank all members of the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group for their commitment over the past 12 months and would like to wish them a very happy Christmas and New Year.



West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group

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