

# NEWS Committee

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June 2007

## End states for the Sellafield and LLW sites:

Welcome to the June edition of the WCSSG 'committee news'.

The WCSSG has been running a process on behalf of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to look at the community views on the 'Site End States' for the Sellafield and Low Level Waste Sites.

Previous editions of the newsletter have reported on the progress made throughout the various stages of consultation.

The final report from the WCSSG on the preferred options for the end states has now been delivered to the NDA outlining the community views and opinions.

WCSSG Chairman, Cllr David Moore describing the process said: 'This has been a long and sometimes quite difficult and technical subject for members of the committee and community to 'get their heads around'. Given the complexity of the issue, I feel that the WCSSG has done an excellent job in pulling all of this together. I also want to mention the site operators' contributions, as without their technical input, the process would have proved very difficult indeed and of course it goes without saying that there would be no consultation without people there to consult with, so I want to thank all those who gave up their time to attend the workshops or complete the questionnaires.

Westlakes Scientific Consulting was commissioned to facilitate the workshops and produce the reports on behalf of WCSSG. The final report can be found on the website at [www.wcssg.co.uk](http://www.wcssg.co.uk)

## Congress 2007

Lessons learned during the Site End States process featured in a special stakeholders workshop at the Congress 2007 conference held in Manchester in June.

The three-day event, attended by nuclear operators, suppliers and regulators from all over the world, concentrated on "Building a Future for Nuclear" and included presentations on decommissioning progress and the market for new reactors.

Stakeholder discussions included a presentation on the National Stakeholder Forum by Richard Mrowicki, head of stakeholder relations at the NDA, and the recommendations of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management by CoRWM member Mark Dutton.

WCSSG secretary Shirley Williams summarised key learning points from the Site End States consultation in West Cumbria, particularly the difficulty in making the issue relevant to the local community. "Talking about events happening so far into the future made it difficult to interest people", she said. "However, West Cumbria is the country's expert community and we did get a good level of discussion and debate".

## Emergency arrangements

The Emergency Planning sub committee and the Low Level Waste Sub Committee held a special joint meeting on Wednesday 13th June at the Village Hall at Drigg.

The meeting was convened to discuss the implications of the downgrading of the security classification for the Low Level Waste Repository and also to examine the implications with regard to the emergency arrangements.

Emergency arrangements currently fall under the auspices of the existing 'Sellafield and Drigg' emergency plan, however, a new plan has been prepared for the new LLWR SLC which will need to demonstrate that it is in command of its own emergency arrangements.

A presentation was given by Nigel Lister from the LLWR accompanied by Dave Harris representing Civil Nuclear Constabulary, covering the new emergency arrangements and the level of security required at the site following the removal of the remaining Plutonium Contaminated Material (PCM).

The LLWR will no longer require 24hour police cover following removal of PCM as the level of risk is greatly reduced and the change in categorisation means that policing by CNC is no longer an Office of Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) requirement.

Future arrangements are currently being reviewed including the continued use of CNC but in a different capacity, or the use of a private security firm. Although members of the sub committees expressed their concern at the idea of a private security firm being used, no decision has yet been made.

## National Stakeholder Group Meeting:

The Chairman reported at the last Scrutiny meeting of the WCSSG in April that the July meeting would be postponed in order for WCSSG representatives to attend the NDA's National Stakeholder Group meeting which has been arranged for the same day.

Arrangements are being made for the Chairman, David Moore, Vice Chairman, Elaine Woodburn, Chairman of the Low Level Waste sub committee, Sue Brown and Allerdale Borough Council representative Carni McCarron-Holmes to attend the NSG meeting on 5th and 6th July.

The meeting will take place in Manchester over two days and will include an informal dinner on The Thursday evening. The main aim of the event is to input into the NDA's draft engagement plan.

There are currently no plans to reschedule the July WCSSG meeting. Members will be advised in advance of any changes to the calendar of events.

## Environmental Health Sub-Committee Meeting

The Environmental Health Sub-Committee held its meeting at Cleator Moor Civic Hall on 31st May. British Nuclear group Sellafield Limited (BNGSL) presented its initial assessment of radioactive discharges and measurements of radioactivity in the environment in 2006 for the Sellafield site and for the National Low-Level Waste Site.

The Chairman, Professor John Haywood reported that over many years, successive improvements in Sellafield effluent handling had reduced discharges very effectively. However, this meant that historic discharges in Irish Sea sediments constitute the largest part of Sellafield radioactivity in the environment. Discharges in the current decade account for less than a fifth of the 0.19 millisieverts radiation dose received by the most exposed group of local seafood consumers in 2006. The dose contribution from historic discharges will decline only slowly because it depends on gradual movement of sediments away from West Cumbria and the Irish Sea.

Presenting a report on BNGSL's Effluent Strategy, Mr Neil Marsland said that BNGSL has continued to seek improvements in effluent handling in order to meet UK government's international commitments under the OSPAR convention. These aim to ensure that discharges occurring after 2020 should not contribute more than 0.02 millisieverts to annual doses for groups like the most frequent sea food consumers. Current plans for operation and decommissioning of nuclear reprocessing on the Sellafield site have been the subject of a comprehensive computer model. The model predicts that the OSPAR commitment will be fulfilled by 2012.

Mr Tim Parker presented a progress report on an exploratory programme of enhanced monitoring for radioactive particles on local beaches. A handful of radioactive objects had been found none of which presented any significant risk to beach users. However, EHSC recognises that the presence of even mildly radioactive particles on beaches is not a comfortable thought and was pleased to learn that further work is scheduled.

The latest update is for a further 80 hectares to be monitored between September and March. This is in order to avoid school holidays and has been agreed with local parish councils.

The Environment Agency is fully up to date on current progress and with the future programme. The schedule for beyond March 08 will be specified in the CEAR (compilation of EA requirements).



## West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group

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